

The RING and the MAN

WITH SOME INCIDENTAL RELATION TO THE WOMAN
By CYRUS TOWNSEND BRADY
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SYNOPSIS.

A foolish young tenderfoot becomes fascinated with the bold, artful wife of a drunken prospector in a western mining town. They prepare to elope in a blinding blizzard but are confronted by the man's husband. He is shot by the wife, but the chivalrous boy pins a note to the body taking the crime upon himself. In their flight to the railroad station the woman's horse falls exhausted; the youth puts her on his own and follows hanging to the stirrup strap. Seeing he is an impediment, the woman thrusts her escort into a snow drift and rides on. Half-frozen he stumbles into the railroad station just as the train bears the woman away. Twenty-five years later, this man, George Gormly, is a multi-millionaire in New York. He meets the woman, Haldane, a beautiful and wealthy settlement worker, and co-operates with her in her work. Gormly becomes owner of a steamship line and finds himself frustrated in pier and track extension plans by grafting aldermen, backed by the Gotham Traction company. An automobile accident brings the Haldanes to his country home. Gormly announces that he will be mayor of New York and redeem the city from corruption. Mr. Haldane in a long desired interview with Gormly, makes an indirect proposition to compromise the fight which the latter has been waging in the newspapers against the Gotham Traction company, and which Haldane is suspected of being the head. Gormly boldly announces his plan of campaign to Haldane, who rides to Haldane's place, carrying word of the auto accident. The next morning he refers to the ride of the night before as a mild compared to one he experienced in his boyhood days. The papers announce his candidacy for mayor. The political declaration of the merchant has produced a tremendous sensation. The minority party, seeing in him a possible Moses, make overtures looking to the Government of his candidacy by the city. Gormly, however, rejects all proposed alliances. A meeting of the Sachem Society at the "Ring," is held at the Haldane home. Many political dignitaries and henchmen are present and ways and means are advanced to dampen Gormly's mayoralty aspirations and sidetrack his candidacy. The younger Haldane is proposed as an opposition candidate; the whole machinery of the city's detective force is to be used to dig up something damaging to Gormly. Haldane, Jr., refuses the nomination and announces that he will support Gormly. The reigning party then decides to name a non-partisan ticket for the purpose of dividing the Gormly forces, and at the same time rush through a Freight Traction company franchise, without which the Sachem Society would be helpless.

CHAPTER X.—Continued.

"I offer \$10,000,000 for this franchise. If it be granted me, I shall guarantee to operate the road in the interests of the people, and turn over all the profits above six per cent. on my investment, to the people themselves. Let there should be any doubt of my ability to make good," continued the merchant, "I beg to say that I have in my hand a forfeiture check for one-fourth of the amount in question, which is certified to by the City of Gotham National bank."

"The gentleman is out of order," remarked the presiding officer as soon as he could recover his equipoise. "We are not auctioning off public franchises to the highest bidder. We are granting this one in the interests of the public to the company which has already served the people so well and has assumed the burden of the great system of which this is the necessary connecting link."

"Sir!" cried Gormly, amid a chorus of groans, hisses and cheers, "I protest against—"

"Any other interruptions from the speaker," came quickly from the chair, "and any further expressions of approval or disapproval from the spectators, will result in the clearing of the room by the sergeant at arms."

"I call," said one of the aldermen, "for a vote on the resolution."

"Those in favor of the granting of the franchise will say aye," immediately said the chairman.

There was a furious chorus of "Shame! shame!" from a great number of spectators in which the feeble "ayes" were scarcely heard.

"Those opposed," went on the voice of the chairman, trembling with excitement, "will signify it by saying no."

A thundering shout of "Noes" rang through the hall, the few in opposition making up by their vociferation for their small numbers.

"The ayes have it," said the chairman, hammering on the desk with his gavel!

"Division! Division!" clamored the opposition.

"Those in favor," continued the chairman, disgusted at being compelled to put the administration thus on record, but powerless to prevent it "will stand up."

Amid shouts and cries and disorder never before equaled, the members of the administration got to their feet. The whip that had been cracked over their heads had been used to effect. Some of them were mere ignorant tools; others were able to understand what they were doing. They all voted alike. A score of alert reporters from carefully prepared lists were checking off the votes.

"The ayes have it; the ordinance is passed," cried the chairman triumphantly, after the noes had been called to their feet and counted.

"I move," said Alderman Hellman, "that we do now adjourn."

The motion was carried with a rush, and instantly the spectators began a wild scramble from the hall. Among the first to leave was Gormly. The corridor and stairs were packed with people who had been unable to gain admittance to the chamber, but had learned what was toward.

When Gormly's well-known figure was seen in the doorway, a great shout of acclaim rose from the multitude.

Gormly had not intended to speak; but the opportunity was too good to be lost. As he descended the steps, the cheering changed into a demand for a speech from him. No hustings had been prepared, but by the curbstone stood a big, high-powered automobile. It was filled with people. Livingstone Haldane sat in the chauffeur's seat. The place beside him was vacant.

"Up here, Mr. Gormly!" he cried, pointing. Without observing who was in the tonneau, Gormly clambered up to the seat and stood on it. He was thus lifted sufficiently high above the crowd.

"Fellow citizens," he began as the cheering subsided and the multitude gave him opportunity to speak, "you know that in order to complete the ring of oppression which holds the city in its iron grasp under the name of the Gotham Freight Traction company, it was necessary that the old franchise of the New York Street Car company expiring today should become the property of that company. Through the franchises they already enjoy, they have created an institution that will enable them to continue their predatory practices—"

"Talk English!" shouted a voice from the crowd.

"Thank you, my friend," answered Gormly. "Which will enable them to steal from you your money, your earnings, your investments, your profits, your capital, whatever you have for the next one hundred years. They



"Mr. Chairman, I Offer Ten Million Dollars for This Franchise."

have sold bonds to pay for the building of the road; not one cent of their own money has gone into it. They have issued stock to themselves to double or quadruple the value of the investment, and they are determined to make you pay interest, large interest, on that stock as well as on the bonds. But, in order that they can carry out this nefarious and thieving proposition, they must secure this franchise which expired today, otherwise their traction lines will be incomplete, will end in the air, there will be no connection between its ends; for the territory covered by this franchise is so situated that if the lines are to be connected it must be through this territory. Consequently this franchise is the most valuable of the few remaining properties of the people. You own it; it belongs to you. It's your last chance to get your rights. If you hold it, they are at your mercy.

"This franchise, the possession of which means so much to you, is about to be given away. The council has overwhelmingly passed an ordinance granting it, without restrictions, to the Gotham Freight Traction company for the space of one hundred years. Will you sanction that?"

The square was now seething with excitement. Gormly's clear, powerful voice carried to the extremes of the crowd. His plain, practical presentation was simple enough for all to understand. He paused at this juncture and surveyed the crowd. A voice suddenly cried a shrill negative, and instantly the word was caught up and a great thundering chorus of "No, no!

Never!" rolled through the park with ever increasing volume and vehemence.

Gormly had looked back, he could have seen the windows of the city hall crowd with aldermen, white faced and anxious, listening to that tremendous and even furious negative.

"Let's get the aldermen out here!" cried a voice in a pause in the commotion, "and show 'em what we think!"

There was an instant response to the suggestion. The people made a wild surge toward the entrance of the city hall. The multitude could easily have degenerated into a mob. But Gormly checked it. His control was admirable.

"No, gentlemen," he cried, "no, men and citizens of New York. We must do things lawfully. The grant has not been signed by the mayor. Believe me, they will not be insensible to this protest. Let it be repeated in every local organization; let every member of the board of aldermen be warned by his constituents not to press this bill, to reconsider his action at once."

"Gentlemen—" he held up a piece of paper. One of the tall lights in the square illuminated his face and figure. His every action was distinctly visible to the multitude—"I have here in my hand a check, certified by the City of Gotham National bank, for two and one-half millions of dollars. Before this ordinance was passed this evening, not ten minutes ago, I offered this sum of money as a forfeiture, binding me to pay ten millions for the franchise in question. I offered to subscribe to an agreement which would limit my own returns to six per cent. upon my investment; and promised that the people should have every cent of profit over and above that legitimate amount. The offer was refused; that check was declined, but it still holds good. I make the offer not merely to the cringing, subservient, whipped-into-line aldermen, but to you, the people."

"What're you going to get out of it?" asked a voice.

"I am going to be elected mayor of

The square was in a tumult again, which even Gormly for the moment was helpless to control.

Now Hon. Peter D. Warren was in the city hall. He had heard all that had been said, and witnessed all that had been done. Although he was a briber and a corruptionist, he was not without courage. It seemed to him that the psychological moment for his advent had arrived. Therefore, he hastily made his way through the aldermen, and boldly appeared on the outside steps back of Gormly. He was recognized at once. The mayor stood quietly, a little pale, but apparently undaunted. He waved his hands for silence. Gormly assisted him in quelling the tumult. The mayor stepped to the extreme edge of the portico; but before he could begin his speech, the same burly voiced man who had been such a useful adjunct to Gormly interrupted him.

"We don't want to hear any speech from you tonight, Mr. Gormly," he roared, his great voice compelling attention, and as he spoke he sprang up on the steps of the automobile and faced the crowd, "we want you to ask the mayor of this city if he's going to sign the bill granting the franchise. But before you do that we want you to tell him what we citizens of New York think of the proposition."

Through the crowd at this moment came charging a platoon of police, at the head of which was the chief himself. The men handling their sticks shouldered their way roughly through the people groaning, raging, swearing, about them. Connell laid his hand on the speaker and sought to drag him from the automobile. The man struck back violently; clubs flashed in the air. The multitude in another instant would have been a mob. Gormly it was who came again to the rescue.

"These," he promptly interposed, raising his voice, "are peaceable citizens discussing a great public question. I appeal to you as mayor of this city to call off the police. Take your hand off that man's collar, Connell," he shouted, "or by the living God I'll turn this mob upon you and there won't be a rag left of you and your bluecoats!"

He stepped down to the body of the car as he spoke; and before the chief realized what he was about he seized him by the collar and threw him backward. It was a magnificent exhibition of strength and nerve and courage.

"Call them off," he shouted to the mayor, "or I won't be answerable for the consequences!"

As soon as he stepped, the roar of the mob began. Some were there who thought they had never heard a sound so terrible and so menacing. The mayor, not without good sense, came to the rescue.

"So long," he said in his powerful, finely modulated voice, "as these people do nothing, they shall not be interfered with. March your officers up here to the steps of the city hall, chief!" he cried.

There was nothing for Connell but obedience. Shaking his baton fiercely at Gormly, he gave an order to his men, and, followed by the curses and groans of the multitude, they marched up the steps of the city hall and grouped themselves about the mayor.

"I want to tell you," cried Gormly, mounting to the seat again and now thoroughly aroused, his voice ringing like a trumpet, "that you have no need of police protection in the presence of the people of New York."

"Let me speak!" said the mayor.

"No!" thundered the crowd. "We don't want to hear you speak!"

"Mr. Mayor," said Gormly, "these people want to express an opinion to you. Fellow citizens, those who are in favor of endorsing the action of the council in granting the franchise to the Gotham Freight Traction company will say aye."

Every henchman, every follower, every ally, every official present, cried, "Aye!"

It made a brave showing until the negative was put, when such a roar of disapproval arose that it was like the breath of the gods and fairly shook the ancient stones of the hall.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Uncle Sam and His Divorces.

Almost every twelfth marriage in this country ends in a divorce. About two-thirds of the divorces are granted to the wife. Thirty-nine per cent. of divorces are due to desertion. The marriage rate in southern states is larger than in the north. America (with the single exception of Japan) leads the world in the number of divorces. The divorce rate is three times as large as it was in 1870. Of the divorce cases that come up only 15 per cent. are contested, and 75 per cent. of the divorce applications are granted. Uncle Sam not only has a high divorce rate, but has the highest marriage rate on earth, his only rivals in the latter line being Hungary, west Australia and Saxony. Ireland has the lowest marriage rate and Sweden the next lowest.

Great Care of Children.

The ancient Egyptians devoted great devotion to kiddies. They were carried about wrapped in large soft cloths, big sheets like cheese cloth, easily washed and dried. After weaning nothing except cow's milk was good enough until they could chew good and well. Infants lived in open air and naked up to the fifth year; barefoot till ten. Very lively games, hoops, balls and dolls are found often in graves. After the tenth year they were taught reading, writing and arithmetic, three to four hours a day in their schools, long—7,000 years—ago, and yet we moderns think we are the whole business.

Harmonious Boasting.

"Mrs. Homely keeps her house in print."

"Yes, and she takes care to publish it."

NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS

Confronted by Currency Legislation



WASHINGTON.—Recently there has been a distinct revival here of interest in banking and currency legislation. There are at least three reasons for this, which may be enumerated as follows:

1. The announcement that an organization to be known as the National Citizens' league is being formed to advocate some sort of federal reserve association.
2. The organization in New York City of the National City company, with capital stock of \$10,000,000, as an adjunct of the National City bank, and for the purpose of acquiring and holding stock in other banks.
3. The movement on the part of the insurgent Republicans in the senate, and supported by some of the Democrats, to compel the national monetary commission to close its affairs and report to congress not later than January 1, 1912.

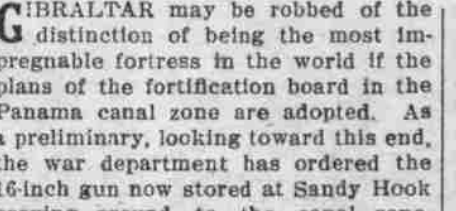
The activities mentioned would indicate that banking and currency legislation will become a live topic in the autumn, and probably will receive much attention at the next long session of congress. It is not believed, however, there will be any legislation soon.

The prevailing view is that it will take congress several years to decide what it wishes to do about the creation of a national reserve association.

It is evident that the conservative Republicans in congress will have a plan of their own; that the insurgent Republicans will have views which they will wish to embody in a bill, and that the Democrats also will desire to present a measure. So it would seem that there is likely to be much discussion of various plans during the next 12 months. Neither political party will, it is assumed, be ready to proceed with this subject on the eve of a presidential campaign.

Persons who have been here recently representing the bankers that are particularly interested in the formation of the citizens' league, say the league hopes to be able to establish branches in every city of consequence in the country by December 1. A particular effort is to be made to interest business men, merchants, manufacturers, and others. The promoters of this organization seem to have an impression that if they can bring about the formation of branches of the league in the cities of the country, they will be able to wage a campaign in favor of legislation that will impress itself on senators and representatives in congress. At any rate, large plans are being made. This league also intends to work with the view of keeping the subject out of politics, as much as possible.

Plans for the Canal Fortifications



GIBRALTAR may be robbed of the distinction of being the most impregnable fortress in the world if the plans of the fortification board in the Panama canal zone are adopted. As a preliminary, looking toward this end, the war department has ordered the 16-inch gun now stored at Sandy Hook proving ground to the canal zone.

Although the gun was constructed ten years ago, no more powerful weapon has been produced in the world. Its range is beyond 16 miles and its projectiles, aero-torpedoes, weigh 2,400 pounds, and could easily destroy a battleship before it reached a point near enough to do damage to the canal locks or other portions of the waterway. Later on more guns of this caliber will be placed there.

Super-dreadnaughts, according to the calculations of ordnance experts, can be sunk easily by the 16-inch gun at distances of 16 miles from the mouth of the canal. This is not the limit of the range of the great gun, but it is about as far as "hits" can be made.

The projectile of the gun is virtually an aero-torpedo. It will weigh 2,400 pounds and will carry about 150 pounds of high explosives. There is not the least doubt that even at an extreme

range of 15 or 16 miles the projectile will penetrate the heaviest armor plate on the largest battleship. After the projectile has passed through the armor plate the 150 pounds of high explosives which it contains will be discharged. The detonation would create a miniature earthquake and destroy a city.

What is sought by the war department and the joint board is to equip the fortifications with such powerful guns that the enemy's fleet can be kept so far from the canal that it cannot drop shells or projectiles into the waterway. A large projectile fired over the fortifications dropped into one of the locks or dams might close up the canal for a year or so. The forces on the canal must not only keep the enemy from reducing the fortifications but from doing damage to the waterway.

Many Inquiries are Left Unfinished



THE special session of congress came to an end with many investigations unfinished, leaving many of the committees that were conducting inquiries to report next winter.

When the senate voted to conduct a second investigation into the election of Senator Lorimer, the expectation was that the inquiry could be finished in time for a report from the committee at the special session, but the best this committee hopes for is to be prepared to make its report when congress reassembles on the first Monday in December.

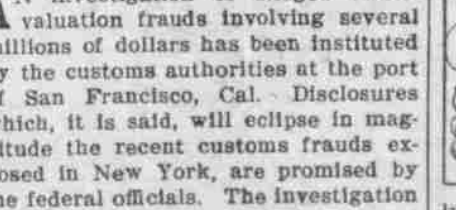
The senate special committee on the "third degree" also made headway slowly. A joint committee of the senate and house that has been investigating the question of employers' liability and workmen's compensation

has taken a great deal of testimony, which is being printed for distribution among persons who are particularly interested in this subject.

The Democrats of the house have laid out enough investigation work to keep many committees busy until midsummer next year. The Democratic leaders intimate that it is their intention to keep up the investigation business until the next session of congress gets out of the way of the national convention of the political parties.

The inquiries into the affairs of the steel trust and the sugar trust have attracted wide attention, and have developed valuable information—information to which not only congress is entitled, but which the people ought to possess. These two major investigations have, it is said, only begun. Each of the inquiries is to continue for months. The committee will get down to work again in the fall, and if they continue to find "pay dirt" they will continue their researches far into the session that is to begin in December.

Pacific Coast Has a Customs Scandal



AN investigation of alleged undervaluation of dollars has been instituted by the customs authorities at the port of San Francisco, Cal. Disclosures which, it is said, will eclipse in magnitude the recent customs frauds exposed in New York, are promised by the federal officials. The investigation centers around some of the biggest importers of Oriental wares in the United States, and it is alleged that some government officials are involved.

The government activity includes the principal seaports of the entire Pacific coast and extends to Japan, where secret service agents have been busy for the last few months amassing evidence of the alleged frauds. Held at the custom house in San Francisco there are at present 500 cases of Oriental wares consigned to a single firm. The goods, which consist principally of crockery, alleged to be vastly undervalued, are being held, pending the determination as to exact-

ly what course shall be pursued by the government. A similar consignment billed to the same firm is being held at Seattle.

The government authorities first received information of the alleged undervaluation of wares imported by the firm involved from other importers. They complained that they were unable to compete with the firm in the sale of a certain class of goods. They further complained that the firm was driving chinaware offered from Germany from the market of this country.

Acting on information received, the customs authorities were ordered to detain shipments en route from Japan and consigned to the firm in question. Similar action was taken at Seattle.