



Inconfessed

By Mary Hastings Bradley
W.N.U. SERVICE
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SYNOPSIS

Lella Seton, young and beautiful and an expert on paintings, is commissioned to go over the collection of paintings in the home of the wealthy Kellers in New York, where a party is in progress. From her window she witnesses a man in another room strike a woman. Shortly after Mrs. Keller sends up word, asking her to join the party at dinner. Lella hastily dresses and goes down. She is seated between Mr. Deck, a critic, and Monty Mitchell, a noted lawyer. Introductions follow. There are Mr. Harriden, Miss Letty Van Alstyne, Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Watkins and Prince and Princess Rancini, guests. Lella finds she is taking the place of Nora Harriden. Dan Harriden leaves the table, and Mitchell explains he has gone up to see how his wife's headache is. He returns shortly. Deck, saying he must put in a call, leaves. Upon his return, he begs Lella to secretly take a message to Nora "to take no steps until I see you." Lella consents. Lella finds the Harriden rooms empty and so informs Deck. Coming out she passes Letty. Harriden asks Princess Rancini to run up and see his wife. The princess reports the absence of Nora. Search is fruitless. Harriden admits that he had a row. Anson, maid, reports seeing Deck near Nora's room. Letty tells of seeing Lella come from the room. Lella accuses Harriden of having struck his wife. This Harriden denies. From the Harridens' window Lella sees what proves to be Nora's lifeless body. A ghastly head wound caused death. Dan says she was lying on her bed when he went to dinner, and when he ran up later the room was dark. Thinking she was asleep, he left without seeing her. Mrs. Keller comes upon a pool of blood in the closet. A diamond chain is missing. Donahay, police inspector, questions the guests. Harriden brands Lella's story of seeing a man strike a woman a lie. Anson tells of seeing Deck outside the Harriden door. Deck says he passed by in seeking a lost handkerchief. Elkins, a servant, tells of overhearing Deck threaten Mrs. Harriden earlier in the day.

CHAPTER V—Continued

Donahay's head was thrusting out on his thick neck like a turtle's.

"Well, Mr. Deck?"

His silence agonized me. And then he said, "I don't remember," and his lips twitched in a mockery of a smile.

"You don't remember?"

"Not a word. I was quite tight before dinner. . . . I haven't the faintest recollection of anything said downstairs."

Donahay ground out, "Yet you remember that you went up early to your room, you said?"

"Oh, I remember that," Deck said jauntily. "I got to my room all right," he went on, "and the cold water revived me. But everything that went on downstairs is just a total loss."

"Do you happen to remember," said the inspector with terrible sarcasm, "any reason why you could have said the words you have no recollection of saying to Mrs. Harriden?"

Deck was silent.

"What was between you?" Donahay shot out.

"Friendship," said Deck.

"I know that I felt I could not bear to look at Harriden, and yet I looked at him and saw him standing, like a man of stone, his grim, blunt profile toward that younger man. The sheer beauty of Deck seemed somehow insolent and flaunting before that husband's haggard eyes. I felt a sharp cleavage of sympathy . . . terror for Deck and anguish for that bereft man's pain."

It was the easing of a physical strain when Harriden turned and walked out of the room.

I remember a dull surprise at finding it was only half-past two when I was in my room.

I was so spent emotionally that I was conscious of nothing but a crushing depression. There was no denying the reality of Elkins' high-strung words.

And I had my own corroboration of Deck's desperate message. Take no steps.

For all my exhaustion I could not sleep; my thoughts kept milling about in confused conjecturing. Had Deck been the man at the window had he followed her up to finish the quarrel there?

It might have been Deck, I thought. He might have slipped away when he heard Harriden come in the next room—she might have promised to meet him as soon as possible in the gallery. Then she did not come. Perhaps her husband had stayed too long in the room.

What was their quarrel about, I wondered, my temples throbbing heavily against the pillow. Was she threatening to leave him—was he mad with jealousy? The sorriest woman on God's earth. . . . Had he gone up from dinner to carry out his wild threat?

Oh, no, no, no! Only to see her, to plead with her. For he had sent

was the big entrance hall, except for a policeman at the front door. In the drawing room Donahay was behind his usual table. He nodded in response to my good morning, then jerked his head toward a couple of young men at a table at the far end of the room and sent me to have my fingerprints taken.

That was to be expected, I thought, and certainly I had nothing to worry about, except that I was rather interested in the process of print taking, for I knew something about the work, so I fell into chat with the two young men. It was just a formality, they said; there was nothing to be gained from all this print taking unless they got the print of some insider, for all the household had been over the room.

"Except Dick," said a heavy voice beside us.

I started, and found Harriden staring down at us out of red-rimmed eyes. The man's face looked as if years instead of hours had passed; the deep lines in it were accentuated till they seemed like seams.

"Deck wasn't in the room after the murder—and don't you forget that," he admonished grimly.

I was impatient to see Deck. I thought of phoning to his room, then I remembered that a policeman might be listening in—I thought of getting in touch with Monty Mitchell and trusting him with a message. But Donahay detained me then with more questions, and I had to go over what I had said before and tell him more about myself and how I happened to be there at all. At the end he told me I must appear at the inquest on Sunday morning.

I went out in the hall and wandered about a little irresolutely, thinking that if I kept out in sight I might encounter either Alan Deck or Monty Mitchell without having to phone and betray my eagerness to the officials. As a pretext for lingering I read the papers over and over.

The headlines were sensational—Society Beauty Murdered—and the first pages were filled with stories of Nora's life, and there was one account of the famous yellow diamond chain. The pendant on it, it was stated, was a flawless jewel which had been worn on the turban of a royal Turkish family, for

I WAS too astonished to speak; I stood staring at the dress, then a recollection of the last time I had seen it, lying over a chair in my room near the door, swept my mind back, in a flash, to those noises in the night. I blurted, "Why, there was some one there—there was some one there!"

Hurriedly I tried to tell them about it, about my waking and my fright, and my conclusion that it was just the steps of a policeman moving about outside, and as I stammered out the story I saw disbelief in their faces and could hardly blame them for it. Oh, the idiot that I had been not to have phoned some one at once!

It seemed too mad to put into words. Carefully I controlled my voice which was shaking with excitement and said stiffly, "But you must see what this means—that the one who stole those diamonds was in this house last night—that he must be still hiding about—"

"We've combed this house with a fine tooth comb, young lady," said Donahay, "and there's no one in it except those whose names we know. Nobody has got out of here during the night or this morning. It's been surrounded."

"Then he's here now," I said.

"He's here, all right," Donahay echoed with ominous finality. "And he isn't going to get away."

Monty Mitchell said thoughtfully, "A pity you have let this find be known. The thief, whoever he was, might have meant to hide the stones only till the first flurry of searching died down. He could feel reasonably sure that Miss Seton wouldn't be wearing that dress tonight, too light and gay and all that, so he thought he had a good temporary hiding place."

I was passionately grateful for his words and for his coming and standing by me, as if casually.

"Why do you imagine he chose that dress for a hiding place?" asked Donahay very slowly as if picking his way.

"The position of the room, for one thing," said Mitchell. "It was near the art gallery, and its door was visible from the gallery door—later on the gallery would have been a good lurking place till he saw his chance to nip in and retrieve the jewels. I rather think he meant to retrieve them," he went on thoughtfully, screwing up his black eyebrows, "for they are too valuable to ignore. . . . You said the dress was right by the door, didn't you?" he asked of me.

"On a chair by the door," I repeated.

Donahay glanced up and said, "Does it strike you as feasible, Mr. Mitchell, that any one who committed murder for those diamonds would take a chance on losing them afterwards?"

(TO BE CONTINUED)

The Turkish Home

The typical Turkish home is described as a spacious square room with a fireplace at one end and a prayer closet and doorway at the opposite end. As only men are permitted to go to the mosque to pray, the women of the family use the closet for prayer five times daily. The large room is used for all purposes by day and at night is the family sleeping quarters. Beds used for beds are folded up and placed on shelves in the daytime.



"I Think You Are Wanted by the Police."

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Congressional Quizzers Stir Dr. Townsend to Wrath—Landon Has Big Bunch of Delegates—Guffey Coal Act Declared Invalid.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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FOR two days Dr. Francis E. Townsend replied mildly to the questions of the house committee investigating the activities of the organization behind the old age pension movement which the doctor started. Then the Californian lost his patience suddenly, refused to answer any more "nonsensical" queries, spoke of "thick-headed congressmen" denounced the committee for its "unfriendly attitude" and asserted the administration was a "hostile force" behind the inquiry.



Dr. F. E. Townsend.

He declared he would form a third party after the November elections. Finally Doctor Townsend told the committee: "I am retiring from this sort of inquisition and I do not propose to come back except under arrest. And I do refuse absolutely to make any further statement regarding this movement to this committee."

Escorted by Gerald K. Smith, former adherent of Huey Long, and another man, the Californian fled from Washington to Baltimore. The committee decided to ask the house to cite him for contempt.

When he was questioned regarding large sums contributed by Townsend club members the physician said the contributors had faith in him and that "we need millions to promote a movement of this kind and we will get them."

His testimony developed that Doctor Townsend, his brother, Walter Townsend and Gilmour Young own the assets of the Townsend organization, estimated now at about \$60,000, and that Townsend club members have no property right in them. Doctor Townsend testified he has received about \$68,000 in salary, dividends from the Townsend weekly and expenses, but now had only about \$300 and his wife about \$200 to show for their efforts.

GOV. ALF LONDON captured nearly all the New Jersey delegates to the national convention, defeating Senator Borah about 4 to 1 in the popular vote. This victory gave the Kansan a total of more than 200 votes to start with at Cleveland, and his manager, John Hamilton, claimed he would have at least 300 of the 501 votes necessary to nominate and would win on the second or third ballot.

The statement by Herbert Hoover taking himself out of consideration for the nomination is generally judged to have helped Landon. With Mr. Hoover out of the picture it will be difficult to hold California, Texas, and other potentially Hoover votes away from Landon.

James A. Farley, postmaster general and also Democratic national chairman, told the Michigan Democratic convention he believed the Republican Presidential nominee will be "the governor of a typical prairie state" and that his election, if he won, would be a "perilous experiment." Farley criticized the man he did not name as devoid of experience in national affairs, and predicted that if he is the Republican standard bearer "even Kansas" will not be in the Roosevelt doubtful column.

About twenty of Pennsylvania's delegation to the Republican convention were pledged to support the popular choice of the state, which turned out to be Mr. Borah, no other name being officially entered at the April 28 primary. The delegation, which is uncommitted, has now voted that those members must keep their pledge on the first ballot or until it becomes manifestly impossible for their choice to win. This action was taken on motion of former Senator David A. Reed.

CONSTITUTIONALITY of the railroad retirement system was contested before the District of Columbia Supreme court by attorneys representing the class I railroads and 289 lesser railway enterprises. The lawyers argued that the pension law and a tax law enacted at the same time are together "substantially the same" as the "unconstitutional railroad retirement act of 1934."

The two separate acts, one providing pensions and the other taxing the income of railroads and employees, were passed last year after the Supreme court ruled unconstitutional the 1934 law in which a levy and a pension system were combined.

The government contended that the alleged relation between the two acts could not be proved, and that the railroads were suing, in effect, to enjoin collection of a tax. Such a suit, the government contended, was barred by federal law. The government further defended its railroad retirement system as an ex-

ercise of its constitutional power "to provide for the common defense."

POSTPONEMENT of action on the Patman-Robinson chain store bill until next session was urged on the house rules committee in a letter from six powerful farm organizations.

Charging the bill would restrict operations of farm co-operatives by preventing them from receiving wholesale discounts, the letter warned also that higher consumer prices would result from enactment. The measure, already passed by the senate, prevents price discriminations by manufacturers to big customers.

The letter was signed by representatives of the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Grange, the National Co-operative Council, the National Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation, the Farmers' National Grain association, and the Northwestern Farmers' Union Legislative committee.

SIX members of the Supreme court of the United States ruled that the Guffey act to control the bituminous coal industry is invalid, and another of the New Deal experiments goes into the discard.

This is the act which President Roosevelt urged congress to pass notwithstanding doubts of its constitutionality "however reasonable."

Five justices—Sutherland, Butler, Van Devanter, McReynolds, and Roberts—joined in the majority opinion which invalidated the whole act. Justices Cardozo, Brandeis, and Stone joined in a dissenting opinion in which they upheld the act. Chief Justice Hughes held in a separate opinion that the act was constitutional with respect to the marketing provisions but unconstitutional with respect to the labor regulations.

The court in the majority opinion held that there is no authority in the Constitution for the control of the coal industry attempted in the Guffey act. The act was not valid either under the commerce clause or the welfare clause. Power was unlawfully delegated to set up a coal code similar to the codes of the invalidated NRA and the regulations establishing working hours of miners were a violation of the fifth amendment prohibiting the taking of property without due process of law. Mining, the court declared, is a local industry, the state jurisdiction whereof the federal government has no authority to invade.

Senator Guffey of Pennsylvania, author of the act, lost little time in introducing a substitute measure, concentrating on price fixing and omitting the labor provisions which were outlawed by the Supreme court. John L. Lewis, head of the United Mine Workers, declared that organization would "join in requesting congress to enact the bill at once." He thought the measure would "operate to maintain the equilibrium of the coal industry pending further study of stabilization of the industry."

A plea to all coal operators to support the new bill was made by Charles O'Neill, legislative chairman of the National Conference of Bituminous Coal Producers.

Some congressional leaders, however, thought it unlikely that the new Guffey bill could be passed at this session.

HERBERT H. LEHMAN announced suddenly in Albany that he would not be a candidate for a third term as governor of New York, saying: "I feel the time has come when I may ask release from the cares and responsibilities of the governorship." But leaders of the Democratic party, including President Roosevelt, National Chairman James A. Farley and Senators Wagner and Copeland undertook to persuade Mr. Lehman to run for re-election. They all agreed that his retirement would be a loss to the state and the party and that he should be "drafted."

The immediate political result of the governor's surprise action was that New York again became a doubtful state for the Presidential campaign. In the minds of many politicians. The morale of Republican leaders in the state improved, and Democrats began speculating as to which of a group of five or more candidates could be groomed for the gubernatorial nomination this fall if Lehman persisted in his determination.

MRS. SARA DELANO ROOSEVELT, aged mother of the President, fell while on a visit in New York some days ago and is laid up at Hyde Park with an impacted hip and cracked bone. She made light of the injuries but Mr. Roosevelt was gravely concerned. He spent the week-end with her mother.

GENERAL rejoicing marked the inaugural of Dr. Miguel Mariano Gomez as president of Cuba—the first elected by the people since Gerardo Machado. The new executive, a lawyer and revolutionary leader who has twice been mayor of Havana, took the oath of office in the ball room of the President's mansion in the presence of 400 foreign and Cuban officials. The guns of Cabanas fortress across the harbor fired a twenty-one gun salute and on the signal all public buildings were illuminated and thousands of merry-makers began parading the streets.

President Gomez appeared on a balcony and told the shouting throngs that he would do his best to maintain a constitutional government "by the Cubans and for the benefit and interest of all Cubans." In his first message to congress he assured the nation that personal rights would be respected. Among his policies he listed "ample tolerance to all ideas, ample guarantees for all rights and sufficient energy to maintain order and the necessary strength against offenders against the laws."

THE resettlement administration headed by Rexford Guy Tugwell was declared by the District of Columbia court of appeals to be "clearly unconstitutional delegation of power," in a case involving a model community project in Somerset county, New Jersey.

Going beyond the issue before them, the justices of the Appeals court called the entire relief appropriations act of 1935 into question. The act was invalid and hence RA was invalid, according to the court. Legally, however, none of the rest of the act will be affected by the decision because the other multitudinous activities of the New Deal under the appropriation were not before the court.

BENITO MUSSOLINI advised Prince von Starbemberg of Austria not to start any domestic trouble because he was ousted from the cabinet by Chancellor Schuschnigg, and when the prince returned to Vienna the cabinet fixed things up neatly by decreeing that the country should have three fuhrers, Schuschnigg, the unofficial dictator, becomes national leader of the fatherland front; Eduard Baar von Barenfels, the new vice chancellor, is national commander of the front militia; and Starbemberg continues as sports leader and head of the Northern Protective association.

DR. ANTON PAVELIC, alleged leader of Ustashi, the Croatian terrorist organization, and accused as one of the "master minds" in the assassination of King Alexander of Yugoslavia in Marseilles, has been set free by the Italian authorities. Released with him was his lieutenant, Eugene Kvaternik. The two were arrested at Turin in October, 1934, soon after the murder of Alexander, but the French authorities who were working on the case were never permitted to question them, and an Italian tribunal refused the request of the French government for their extradition to France for trial.

JOSE LUIS TRUJADA SORZANO was forced to resign the presidency of Bolivia by a junta of army officers and Socialists who staged a bloodless coup d'etat in La Paz. Col. German Busch, acting chief of the general army staff, leader of the coup, will be at the head of the government until Col. David Toro, hero of the war with Paraguay, returns from the Chaco, when Toro will be installed as president.

The immediate objective of the new administration was complete settlement of a general strike which the officers asserted was imperiling the country's economic stability. The labor federation quickly suspended the strike movement, expressing solidarity with the army-Socialist coup.

NATIONS that are especially hard up might consider the method said to be employed by Rumania. A Bucharest newspaper asserts that government employees have been paid largely in counterfeit money, vast quantities of bogus 100 lei pieces having been issued in sealed bags by the ministry of finance. That ministry then announced that the counterfeit coins would not be redeemed and that persons who passed them would be prosecuted.

SECRETARY OF WAR DEERN allocated nearly \$138,000,000 for river and harbor improvement projects throughout the country that had been recommended by the engineering corps.

Of this sum, \$103,453,839 will be used for entirely new waterway and port improvement while \$34,408,150 will be employed in maintaining existing river and harbor facilities.



Sen. Guffey



Dr. Pavelic