THE GREAT K&A TRAIN ROBBERY

By PAUL LEXSTED 1920, Author of The Hawker Series, etc.

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CHAPTER II—Continued.

"What made you think that?" she demanded.

I never was a good hand at inventing explanations, and after a moment's seeking for some reason, I blurted out, "Because I feared you might not think it proper to use my car, and I wanted to be very pleasant that made you think it."

She took my simple fumble very nicely, laughing merrily while saying, "If you like that well enough to call Mr. Gordon, and don't mind the lack of a chaperon, get a scout for your golf, too." Then, a little more, she offered me half the laprobe when I was seated beside her.

I think she was pleased by my offer to go away, for she talked very pleasantly, and far more intimately than she had ever done before. She told me about her family, her Chicago flats, her friends, even her thoughts. From this I learned that her older brother was an Oxford graduate, and that Lord Rallies and his brother were classmates, who were visiting him for the first time since he had graduated. She asked me some questions about my work, which led me to tell pretty much everything about myself that I thought could be of the least interest, and it was a very pleasant surprise to me to find that she knew one of the old crew, and had even heard of me from him.

"Why," she exclaimed, "how absurd of me not to have thought of it before! But, you see, Mr. Gordon always speaks of you by our first name. You ought to hear how he praises you."

"Trust Harry to praise any one," I said. "There were some pretty good fellows on the old team—men who couldn't keep their hold of their oars, and would slug every chance they got; but Harry used to leave them wasn't a bad one, was among the lot."

"Don't you think it very lonely to live out here, away from all your old friends?" she asked.

I had to acknowledge that it was and told her the longest part was the absence of pleasant women. "If you arrived, Miss Cullen," I said, "hadn't been a lonely woman in four years." I've always noticed that a woman would rather have a man flattee and praise her frock than her beauty. A well-dressed man apparently by no exception, for I could see the remark pleased her.

"Don't women ever get eastern gowns?" she asked.

"Any quantity," I said, "but you know, Miss Cullen, that it isn't the gown, but the way it's worn, that gives the artistic touch." For a fellow who had devoted the last seven years of his life to grades and fuel and rebates and pay rolls, I didn't think that bad. At least it made Miss Cullen's mouth dimple at the corners.

The whole evening was so enjoyable, so unlikeably that I almost believe I should be talking yet, if interruption had not come. The first interruption of it was Miss Cullen's giving a little shiver, which made me ask if she was cold.

"Not at all," she replied. "I only—what place are we stopping at?"

I started to rise, but she checked the

She talked very pleasantly.

movement with a hand, lean, trouble yourself. I thought you would know without moving. I really don't know to know."

I took out my watch, and was startled to find it was twenty minutes past twelve. I wasn't so green as to tell Miss Cullen so, and merely said, "At the time, this must be Sandera."

"Do we stop long?" she asked.

"Only to take water, I told her, and then went on with what I had been speaking about when she shivered. But as I talked it slowly dawned on me that we had been standing still some time, and presently I stopped speaking and looked out, expecting to recognize something, only to see alkali plains on both sides. A little surprised, I looked down, to find no siding. Being hastily, I looked out forward. I had no sooner fastened on each side of the truck, but that meant nothing, as the trainmen crew, and the most part, passengers, are very apt to alight at every stop, but that meant some-thing was that there was no water tank, no station, nor any visible cause for a stop.

"Is anything the matter?" asked Miss Cullen.

"I thing something's wrong with the engine," I replied, rising as I spoke, "I said, "and, if you'll excuse me a moment, I'll go forward and see."

I had barely spoken when "bang! bang!" came two shots. They were both fired from an English "express" my rare told me, for no other people in this world make a mauserish bowlizer and call it a rifle.

Hardly were the two shots fired when "crack! crack! crack! crack! crack! crack! crack!" came from Winchesters.

"Oh! what is it?" cried Miss Cullen.

I think your wish has been granted," I answered hurriedly. "We are being held up, and I'm afraid I'm going to lose to—"

My speech was interrupted "Bang! bang!" challenged another "express," the shots so close together that it is almost simultaneous "Crack! crack! crack!" returned the Winchesters, and then there fell silence followed I down a clear inference I said to my "That is an end of your John Bull."

CHAPTER III.

A Night's Work on the Alkali Plains.

I hurried Miss Cullen into the vestibule, and opened the door, took down my Winchester from its rack.

"Do not leave me," she told me, "and will tell my darkies to bolt the doors behind me, so that I can be here as 'in Chicago.'"

In another minute I was on my front platform dropping down between the two cars, I crept along beside the dead hand-car, and I found a special. After my previous conclusion, my surprise at finding no judged a bit. Further and I found the two Brittlebars in the middle of the platform, in the most exposed position possible. I joined them, muttering, "Why don't you think about providence and fools like drawled Cullen, "Here's Mr. Gordon, just in time for the party by Jove."

"Well," bragged Lord Rallies, "we've had a hand in this deal, Mr. Superintendent, and we shall have to stay and see the end of it."

Meanwhile time there were twenty passengers about our group, all of them asking questions, which made it the more difficult to learn just what had happened, but as far as I could gather the bravura together, the power pistols curiously had been amazed by the bandits, who, looking out, had just been a single man with a rifle, standing by the hand-car, and, turning from themselves, Lord Rallies let fly both barrels at him, and in turn was fired upon for the first four shots I had heard. The shooting had brought the rest of the bandits, combining off the rare, and the captain and Cullen had fired the rest of the shots at them, and they retreated. I didn't stop to hear more, but pressed forward to see what the bandits had got away with.

I found two express agents tied hand and foot in the corner of his car, and, telling a brakeman who had followed me to see to them, I hurried on to the engine, to find it in a state of confusion, among the gunshot and scorching powders, while water trickled over the floor were a great many dents in the boiler. Bitterly I asked him if he could tell whether mail had been taken, and, after a minute, he said he thought it had, but he hadn't had time to look.

Leaving him to the care of the barrel, I began asking questions. Jim Jeffers was half hysterical, and, for the most part, answered the mail car, and while one man had gone the 'phone, the other had tried and hard and had got him. Two men had gone forward and done the same, and the express agent. Another had climbed over the tender and ordered the run her to hold up. All this was regular programme, as I had explained to Miss Cullen, but here had been a variation which I had neared of which I couldn't fathom the object. When the train had been stopped, the man in charge had been ordered the fireman to clamp his fire, and then to take a club and a lantern, and threatening to burn through the cab, if he or my fireman made any attempt to quit, and my second was to start a new fire and get up steam as soon as he was possible. From all I could learn, there were eight men concerned in the attempt, and, as I said, the robbery had been a pleasement why that number should have allowed themselves to be scared off so easily.

My wonderment grew when I called on the conductor for his tickets. There showed nothing but two from Albuquerque, one from Laguna, and four from Coolidge. This latter would have looked hopeful but for the fact that it was a party of three women and a man. Going forward I found the conductor, a give anything, for the conductor was able to account for every one, as well as the mail, and for no baggage got off at some point. My only conclusion was that the robbers had sneaked onto the platforms at Sandera; and I gave the crew a good dressing down for their carelessness. Of course they insisted it was impossible, but they were bound to do that.

Going back to 97, I got my telegraph instrument, though I thought it a waste of time, the road agents being always careful to break the lines. I told a brakeman to climb the pole and cut a wire. While he was wriggling up, Miss Cullen joined me.

"Do you really expect to catch them?" she asked.

"I shouldn't like to be one of them," I replied.

"But how can you do it?"

"If you understand better, Miss Cullen, if you know this country. You every bit of lower is in use. In ranches, and those fellows can't go without food. Some are wounded, warring. So we shall have word of them, wherever they go.

"Line out, Gordon," came from overhead at this point, making Miss Cullen jump with nervous fear.

"What was that?" she asked.

I explained to her, and, after making connections, I called Sanders.

I found the clerk tied to a post.

Much to my surprise, the agent replied, "I was so astonished that for a moment I could not believe the fact. Why, I thought I knew Jim Jeffers, which I ever heard," I remarked to Miss Cullen.

"But, to what respect?" asked Albert Cullen's voice, and, looking up, I found that he and Lord Rallies and the passengers had joined us

"The road agents make no dump over fire," I said, "and yet they haven't cut the wires in either direction. I can't see how they escape us."

"What fun," cried Miss Cullen

"Fun!" Lord Rallies echoed.

Perseverance Wot.

"I was in the office of an American company in a German city some ago," said Wilfred M. Male. "While I was there a wire agent came in with a message for the office, and, among some sechows. Bline was. The round Bline was a German, and was irritated by the fellow's persistence, finally ordered him out of the office.

"In five minutes the agent was back, and blandly asked the cashier if he would send some very excellent sherry. By this time Uncle Sam's representative was in a rage, and he kicked the wire man through the door and down the stairs, to the great amusement only a little while elapsed before the drunken gentleman appeared, and with a broad grin asked should some rare old brandy be sent.

"By the Stars and Stripes, quoth the cashier, this time, I'll see the earthquake! Isn't one kicking a day enough for you?

"Ordinarily yes, but your Honor suffered in Germany, and, for the time that I thought a little good brandy would come in nicely. I'm sorry—He got an order!"—Washington Post.

Automobile Travel in Desert.

From Tonopah it is doubtful the distance is twenty-seven miles, but Goldfield is a good twenty-five miles all desirable desert. The means of transportation between the two is an automobile stage. From Tonopah to Goldfield the fare is $2.50, from Goldfield to the fare is $25. The Goldfield-Bullfrog trips are made by both and they take about two hours to a down hours, according to the skill of the chauffeur and the stability of his machine. Owing to the rough roads, the trip is considerably the longest. When a serious one occurs the chauffeur reaches under his seat and takes out a pistol, with which he disappears across the desert, which is seldom more than a few miles from the roads, and returns in a little time, strangely enough, in communication with the home office, and, if the damage is slight, the company will send out another automobile. Each machine is equipped with a telephone, but with a few exceptions.

A Royal Jest.

King Alfonso of Spain is such a joke even when he himself is its object. He was recently asked by his attendant the nine-tonpleasant specimen of a bachelor's quarters, and, as these are continually indulging as to his marriage His majesty's joke was perfect, named the Neophar, which is a musical mood and with no obvious reference to his own position among the rumor mongers, he had the Neophar performed. Pretty good new name is Queen.

Dentists have lost four dots have let the gossips loose on a fresh lack. They are now busy with the ladies of Paris, who have shown some canine five letters.—Paris Figaro.

ILLINOIS NEWS

Chaine Some from over the state, specially selected for our readers.

FIFTEEN YEARS FOR MURDER

Jury Finds N. S. Hahn Guilty of Killing Frank Chronkite.

The jury at Galesburg in the case against N. S. Hahn brought in a verdict finding Hahn guilty of the murder of Frank Chronkite and fixing the penalty at fifteen years in the penitentiary. The evidence showed that at the time of the murder Hahn was a guest at Chronkite's home. The men drank liberally of whisky After dinner, Hahn, who was alleged to have been crossed because Chronkite sold some hogs to another man instead of to him, drew a revolver, and after warning Chronkite that he was going to die shot him twice. It was shown Hahn's defense was that Chronkite was about to assault him with a whisky bottle, but this was disproved.

MINE WORKERS REJECT PLANS

Vote Down Project to Increase Salaries and to Create a New Office.

A large number of delegates of the United Mine Workers of America, at Springfield, several days ago, spoke in favor of raising salaries of state officers in case the organization should increase in the scale this year. President Perry strongly opposed the proposal, however, and it was dropped. In behalf of the boosting proposal, the contention was made by the miners organization that it was not fair and unfortunate to create the office of second vice president of the organization and that the office to be filled by a boosting engineer. The convention voted down the proposal.

TAX LEVY IS NOT AVAILABLE

Work at Libertyville Must Cease Unless Officials Can Make Loan.

Officials of Libertyville have just learned that they can not levy a special tax for the Libertyville Tuberculosis Sanitarium, and, as a result, the village tax is being collected now. As the sanitarium is being supported by donations and some other small sums coming in, no work has been stopped, although the village work must cease, electric lights be turned off, and other expenditures practiced until another tax levy is available.

Decision on Inheritance Tax.

The Supreme court of Springfield decided that reciprocal legacies must be taxed as separate legacies, the immediately after the death of the testator, and not as part of the estate of trust. The decision, which was given in the matter of the estate of Ellen Ryan, of Peoria, is considered important in view of the number of big estates left by husbands and wives who have left their all or a part of the property to a period of years. The will of Mr. Kingman provided that a certain amount of life insurance and residue of the estate be held intact for ten years. The decision means that the inheritance tax should be paid at once and the Supreme Court sustains the lower.

Chinaman Kills Benefactor.

Charles Joe, keeper of a Chinese restaurant at Galesburg, was shot and killed by a Chinaman named Ong Hong. Ong Hong has been with Joe for years, and, it is thought he was paying his physician to give him poison that would get him out of the way, Ong Hong's mind has evidently been affected by Joe's kindness. Joe had given him free board and paid for his medical attention.

Pullman Company Loses Suit.

William T. Hardin has been given a verdict of $225 in a suit at Mattoon against the Pullman company for $1,000. Hardin was injured from a Pullman car in a wreck. He was going from Topeka to Wichita, Kan., a the account company offered to pay $225 if he would sign a release and be the thankful people. The Pullman offered to guard the Hardin and the Celia took his ticket, like into court.

Three Weddings in One Family.

Albert E. Hall, of Chicago, and Rosa Kaiser at Prospect Park, Ill., at the same time a brother of Mrs. Hall married Miss Sadie Kaiser, a sister of the other bride. Feb. 22, a brother of the brides, the girls jointly married Mrs. Margaret Fisher, the brother of the brides, and the triple wedding creates much interest The principals are well known and popular.

Refused Pension, Takes Poison.

Having failed to secure a pension because he was considered able, he covered he was a deserter from a New York regiment, Jacob Ruff, 78, of Hillsboro, Ill. Miner committed suicide at Rockford by taking laudanum.

Dentists Elect Officers.

The Central Illinois Dentist Dental society held a meeting in Paris, which was attended by a banquet. President Hoover of Shelbyville made the principal address. The officers elected for the ensuing year are President, Dr. J. D. Reid of Paris, vice president, J. C. H. West of Paris, secretary, Dr. W. M. Shaw of Taylorville, treasurer, Dr. J. E. Hoover of Shelbyville, librarian, E. P. Ames of Shelbyville. The next meeting will be held in Shelbyville on the last Tuesday in September.

WAR ON CHEAP DISINFECTANTS

State Board Seeks Sweeping Reforms in Methods Employed.

The state board of health is endeavoring to secure sweeping reforms in the methods of disinfection after an outbreak of contagious and infectious diseases.

In spite of the fact that the board has given wide publicity since 1910 to the fact that cheap, crude and ineffective disinfectants in common use are worthless many of the health officers in the state continue to employ the use antediated apparatus or have purchased new devices, which are equally ineffective.

In beginning to crusade against ineffective disinfection, the board has sent out circular letters to the health officers throughout the state calling upon them to abandon apparatus now in use and to adopt methods which will give the people some guarantee of safety.

Stress is laid upon the uselessness of lamps for the production of formaldehyde from wood alcohol and generators of gaseous formaldehyde, as a solution of formalin under pressure. Particularly objectionable is the apparatus which is driven through a keyhole into infected rooms operation which is described as complicated and expensive.

In the recommendations sent to the health officers all methods of formal dehyde disinfection are condemned with the exception of one which has occupied the attention of the board for several months. This method is a simple combination of formaldehyde and potassium permanganate, which, without any special apparatus, by which all forms of bacteria and the seas germs are destroyed quickly and effectively over a wide range of atmospheric conditions and with wide range of temperature

The experiments conducted in the laboratory of the board have proved the process unexplicably effective. The chemicals used are inexpensive and no apparatus is required except a large pail or vessel such as may be found in any household.

The state board of health will wage a determined warfare upon the men who now in use and will make every effort to secure the adoption of the approved method.

CHURCHES TAKE UP POLITICS

Ministers in Oak District Carry Local Issues into Pulpit.

Representative John R. Castle of the Fifty-third district is said to have succeed himself. He is opposed by George M. Hindley, also of the Republican party. Mr. Castle failed to answer a list of twenty-nine questions submitted to by the local ministers and read at a public meeting at Sandwich Methodist church, which is attended by the church element. In almost every point in the district there are retail ished the unique precedent of carrying a political movement into Sunday service.

Preparing for Erection of Tanks.

A gang of men and teams have been set to work breaking ground on the spot recently leased by the Standard Oil company at Casey, where the company will locate its tanks and pumps. The ground which is being made ready for the tank builders is a sixty-acre tract.

DIVIDED ON PRIMARY LAW CASE

Report That Supreme Court is in Hopeless Deadlock.

According to reports emanating from the state house the Illinois Supreme court which has been postponed to court is course, is irrevocably tied up in the primary law case. The court is said to be evenly divided 3 to 3 on the question of the law's constitutionality. The seventh member of the court—Justice James H. Hickes of Taylorville—has been indisposed for four months, and it is doubtful if he will be able to resume the case before his term of office expires. In which event there is no likelihood of a decision at the April term even, unless one of the justice changes his opinion before adjourning to court to course a brief statement was made to the effect that it had been hoped to decide the case at the present term, but owing to conditions it was impossible to do so

SITE AND $50,000 FOR COLLEGE

Millionaire Makes Offer to Trustees of St. Viator's College.

No definite plans have been reached for the rebuilding of St. Viator's college, the institution of the Canadian stroved by fire recently. Work on the new Science building will be delayed for the winter. In order that the building may be used as a dormitory and refectory, the school for the little tots have left for their homes, pupils of the college have been dismissed for the remainder of the school year. Father Cannon of Fathers and Father Durkin of Rantoul have offered the college trustees $50,000 in cash and twelve acres of land near Urbana as a site for the college, the offer being made in behalf of an Illinois millionaire, whose name is kept secret. The offer is being considered, but it is generally thought the college will remain in Bourbonnais. A church may be built at Urbana, however.

Child Neurites Parents.

Reconciled by marital love for their children, the parents of Harold of Paris and his divorced wife, Pauline B. Boyd of Chicago, are reunited under the roof of the home of the bride in that city. The reconciliation of the parents of Harold and Boyd had the privilege of paying occasional visits to the boy, which originally led to a revival of interest in the mother, and an understanding was eventually reached which led to the reunifing of the family.

Frable Quits Lincoln Asylum.

Dr. Frable, who for the last several years has been assistant superintendent of the asylum for feeble minded at Lincoln, has tendered his resignation to Governor Lowden, but will remain in office until the place can be filled under the civil service act. Governor Lowden has made against the doctor, but an investigation by the board of charities proved the allegations groundless

Diphtheria and Smallpox.

Hard diphtheria is prevalent in Woodford county. Two deaths have occurred and all patients are in a critical condition. Physicians refuse to attend the victims and families are barring their own dead. Cullen is concerned over the increase in smallpox, seventeen cases being quarantined, the disease was investigated by a state health officer

OLD CATHOLIC COLLEGE IS BURNED.

St. Viator's college at Bourbonnais, which was destroyed by fire, Friday, is one of the oldest Roman Catholic institutions in the state, having been founded in 1868 by Father Cannon, the predecessor of Very Rev. M. J. Marsile, who is now the head of the institution, and the silver anniversary of whose ordination to the priesthood was enthusiastically celebrated at the institution at the commencement last June. The college, roster bears the names of over 250 students, most of whom are now prominent in the southern number about ninety-five, which has been very active since its organization, and nearly has reached its capacity, have been from the latest financial report obtained shows that its income in 1903 was $20,000.

Retail Hardware Dealers.

The eighth annual meeting and exhibition of the Illinois Retail Hard ware association closed at Chicago There were 160 exhibitors and 100 of them were from down state Officers elected for the ensuing year were as follows: President, Frank M. McKenney, Rockford; vice president, Charles Dillon, East St. Louis, secretary, Leon D. Nish, Edgin. Resolutions were adopted favoring the Kenyon bill and opposing the Hitchcock bill to create a railroad rate legislation.

Ward Hall Burns.

The Ward hall, a building of the Ward Hall association, closed at Chicago. There were 160 exhibitors and 100 of them were from down state Officers elected for the ensuing year were as follows: President, Frank M. McKenney, Rockford; vice president, Charles Dillon, East St. Louis, secretary, Leon D. Nish, Edgin. Resolutions were adopted approving President Roosevelt's action in the matter of trusts and railroad rate legislation.

Bodies Found in Race.

A body taken from the mill race at Rockford was identified by one of John Olson, who disappeared last Thanksgiving day. It is believed he committed suicide.

Gersburg Gets Convention.

The Fifteenth congressional convention held Galesburg as the place for the convention May 16. No opposition was shown to the nomination of Congressman George Prince

Man's Body Found in Rock.

A body taken from the mill race at Rockford was identified by one of John Olson, who disappeared last Thanksgiving day. It is believed he committed suicide.