The Vanishing Fleets

BY ROBERT NORTON

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ILLUSTRATED BY A. WEIL

SYNOPSIS.

"Vanishing Fleets," a story of what might have happened on the Washington with the United States and Japan on the verge of war. Lady Hillier, secretary of the British embassy and Miss Norma Roberts, chief aide of Inventor Bottles, are introduced as lovers. The government is much criticized because of its lack of preparation for strife.

CHAPTER I—Continued.

"Listen," he commanded, again leaning toward her. "There is something which makes me think you love me. I shall ask nothing more of your father or of your plans, because I want to insure you secure position." He frowned at the waiter, who came toward them and then retreated.

"Norma," he went on, "there is to be war. Your country is unprepared. It will be overrun by an enemy that is ruthless and that will come in to conquer. The end may not be defeat, but as certain as death this country will writhe and suffer before it can regain the ground it will lose in the outset. Can't you see that? Can't you understand what it will be for you and your father here under such conditions? Don't you know that for your very safety you must leave? As my wife, or even my betrothed, I can make the way so much easier for you! Give me the right, dear, give me the right!"

"It is impossible," she replied, turning toward him again, and he looked hurt. "It is the very danger of war that makes it so. You don't know how much I wish I could say yes to you; but it's impossible; I must be with my father. I owe it to him. He can't go away, nor can I leave him. So until the way is clear we can be friends only, and no more."

He sat stunned for a moment, vainly striving to understand a circumstance or combination of conditions which could have dictated such an answer. Then the thought came that perhaps the girl before him was making a sacrifice to some lawful menace, and it could be only one thing—the threatened insanity of her father. But what had the war to do with that? Perhaps she would never be more to him if her father went insane, because then she would say no because of her very love for him, and the fear for posterity. Their happiness, then, was to depend upon the condition of an old man's mind.

"Norma," he asked, softly, "is it insanity?"

She turned toward him in amazement, not fathoming his line of reasoning. "I can tell you nothing more." She spoke as one under stress and suppression. "You must ask nothing more. You must take my love on faith or not at all until you know it is time for you to tell me again that I am necessary to you."

He felt that it was a crisis with them, and slowly thought of what he might say to break away this barrier or induce her to remove the embargo. They sat looking into the distance; but before he could formulate an argument the sound of a horse's hoofs madly clattering over the pavements caught their attention. It came nearer and nearer, and then past them on the street below a man in soldier's uniform flashed by. They looked at each other wonderingly, half starting to their feet, and as they looked a sudden pandemonium broke forth.

From an alleyway nearby burst an army of newsboys, the streets suddenly became alive with pedestrians, belched forth from cafes and hotels, and above all other sounds came the cries of "Extry! Extry! War broken out! War! War! War!"

She turned away from him as if in those cries were an irrevocable sentence of misery, parted the vines and stood silently looking out into the night, and he knew without seeing that in her eyes were tears.

CHAPTER II.

The Sword of the Samurai.

The nation was in a turmoil. Throughout the night and the following day the newspapers of the country sent forth a more or less trustworthy recount of the opening of hostilities. It had been known for weeks that the transports of Japan guarded by her entire navy had assembled off Nagasaki. It had even been reported that they had sailed away for southern waters; but this had met with later denials. The blow had fallen as swiftly as would that of a rattlesnake that for weeks had been coiled and sinuously moving its head in preparation for attack.

Strangely enough the first reports of war came from foreign sources; but they were undoubtedly official, having been imparted by Japan to her ally, Great Britain. The bulletins issued by the London papers bore the undoubted ring of semi-official utterances. That of the Daily Mail, cabled in full to the American press, read:

"Japan, reluctantly abandoning hope of peace by ordinary methods, has been driven to the extreme recourse and has officially declared war against the United States of America."

Within half an hour after the issuance of this bulletin a second announcement was made, which took no cognizance of the fact that the official declaration must have been preceded by decisive action:

"The Japanese war office has been advised that on the 27th instant at noon the Philippine islands were compelled to surrender to the Japanese fleet, which appeared off Manila. Not only did the city itself capitulate, but possession of the entire islands has been given over. The Japanese government announces with due modesty that it has gained a complete and unqualified victory without the loss of a man."

Later—It is announced by the Japanese government that the parole of all officers and men of the United States army in the Philippines has been accepted, and the men of the vanquished army have been allowed to sail for San Francisco on board foreign ships, which were lying in the harbor at the time of surrender."

From every quarter of the land came insistent demands for official news from the government, coupled with requests for detailed accounts of the defeat. The administration replied with the brief statement that no verified report of the action in the Philippines could be given out at that time. It did state, however, that the official declaration of war had been duly received, that the Japanese ambassador had been withdrawn, the legation closed and that the officials would leave New York for their own country that evening, sailing by way of Liverpool.

Public clamor gave way to popular indignation. The country was aflame with war spirit. Guardsmen gathered in their armories, awaiting official bulletins and the expected call to arms; and yet no orders came. The governors of several states telegraphed to the war department for advice; but their only satisfaction was in the following message sent broadcast by the secretary of state:

"The government, recognizing the patriotism and readiness of the National Guard of the United States, does not at this immediate moment desire its services. It is well to bear in mind, however, that a sudden call may be issued at a later date and to be prepared for emergencies. It wishes to announce further that in its judgment there will be no necessity for fighting on land, and that the situation is completely under control. So far there have been no casualties reported from the Philippines."

Whatever may have been the state of the public mind before the issuance of this declaration, the country now gasped with amazement. Some of the more violent and outspoken journals demanded of the men at Washington a statement of what they purposed to do in this emergency, and the most radical intimated in no uncertain terms that incompetent administrations were subject to impeachment. But to all of this outburst the government officials met directly interested presented only the same calm, placid and indifferent front. There was nothing to be detected in their demeanor to indicate that any action whatever had been taken.

The various members of the diplomatic corps, even to the highest of the foreign ambassadors, gathered no new information. They were invariably told, first, that the United States knew there had been a declaration of war; second, that the United States knew that the Philippines had been surrendered; third, that no orders had been issued up to that hour for the sailing of any fleet, but that it was expected orders would be given before the day was over. The men of the foreign representation one and all felt a gentle rebuff tantamount to being told that the United States was attending strictly to its own business and desired neither to be advised nor to be compelled to answer questions.

None felt this more keenly than the members of the British legation, and Guy Hillier in particular. His meeting of the night before with Miss Roberts had not terminated satisfactorily, but had come to an abrupt close when he bade her good night at the door of her home, and with all his questions unanswered. Since that moment there had been little time for him either to brood over the situation or to conjecture over her strange attitude.

The Ambassador Rose from His Seat.

Throughout the early morning he hurried this way and that, receiving visitors and answering requests for information from Great Britain. His superior, heated and exasperated, broke in upon him almost as he was starting to call up Miss Roberts' residence.

"Guy," the ambassador said, "we are in a country of lunatics. There is something in this government's attitude that is inexplicable. It can't be that they are all cowards, and yet I have something to show you."

The ambassador, drew a handkerchief from his sleeve and wiped the perspiration from his forehead, after which he reached a large pudgy finger over to the secretary's desk, pressing there on a pearl-topped electric button.

"Walters," he said to the usher who came into the room in answer to the summons, "neither Mr. Hilliier nor myself is here, and we won't be back for an hour; that is what you are to say without exception." Then as the attendant bowed himself out he beckoned the secretary to follow him into the seclusion of his private office.

"Hilller," he began, throwing a paper on the desk before the secretary, who had seated himself on the opposite side, "read that."

The secretary saw before him a code telegram neatly interpreted between the lines. It was evidently an official order addressed to a fleet commander at Callao, Peru.

"What do you make of that," he asked in a tone of great disgust, and then, as Hillier started to question him, put up his hand for silence. "No, it doesn't matter where I got it, or how I had it decoded; it is genuine, all right."

The secretary stared at him with a look of blank interrogation on his face, while the ambassador rose from the seat into which he had thrown himself only a moment before, leaned over his desk, resting himself on the knuckles of his clenched hands, and said:

"That is an order from the secretary of the navy positively commanding all the vessels owned by the United States in Pacific waters to return without delay to Baltimore. It's a shame, that's what it is! The other nations of the world should intervene and prevent this country from committing suicide. Conditions are extraordinary that I don't dare intrust anyone but you to make a report of the situation, and you have got to do that in person."

He walked up and down the room excitedly for a few moments, freely expressing his perplexity over the turn of events, and ended by abruptly ringing for a timetable and a sailing list, which he consulted before again addressing himself to his secretary.

"Get out of here as quickly as you can!" he ordered. "Go to your rooms, throw what stuff you need into a bag, and take the first train you can get for New York! I shall meet you at the station here and give you such reports of conditions as I can write in the meantime. When you get to New York, go as quickly as you can to the Cunard dock, from which the Lucania is due to sail early in the morning. I shall hold her up until you arrive. Deliver my letters in person to the foreign secretary's office in London, and answer such questions as you can regarding this remarkable situation and this incomprehensible government. These matters are too important to admit of delay and ordinary official reports. Go quickly!" he concluded, almost shoving Hillier through the door. "I'll attend to everything here. Don't let these letters out of your sight!"

The secretary hurried away to make preparations for his departure, leaving the perturbed ambassador to prepare his reports. He called a cab and drove to his apartment, intent on first telephoning to Miss Roberts. His man met him at the door and handed him a letter addressed in a familiar hand, which he hastily tore open and read as he stood in the open doorway.

"Dear Guy: I have been called away very suddenly, and am going to my father. He needs me now more than ever. I cannot alter anything which I told you last night, nor can I add anything, save to say that some time, somehow, God willing, we shall be together again. Under circumstances where I can tell you all the truth. It will do no good to write to the old address, for I shall not be there. I have left no means of our communicating. I fear, for an indefinite time. It is always within the realms of possibility, when war is on a land, that friends may never meet again. If such should be our case, I pray that you will remember this even up to the last—I loved you. Good-by.

NORMA."

Stunned by this unexpected missive, he hurried to the telephone, and in a fever of haste and anxiety called up her home, only to be told that she had departed in the earlier hours of the morning after receiving a message presumably from her father. He could learn nothing further of her. He was stopped as if by an insurmountable wall. He cursed the fate which separated them and the order which sent him away without giving time to see her and admonished himself to quell rebellion at the thought for a moment of refusing to act as king's courier, resolving rather to resign from his position and abandon his post, but he was bound by the training of years and the demands of duty, and at the last moment boarded the train which was to take him from the country and the woman he loved.

And even as he went the object of his solicitude was speeding away into the south on a special train.

The train consisted of only two Pullmans and a dining car. Before it in its southern flight the way seemed always open, and hour after hour it rushed onward, drawn by the most powerful locomotives that could be obtained. Norma was the only woman passenger aboard; all the others were grim-faced, sun-tanned men of the sea, who had been summoned to Washington from various navy yards and ships within the month. Of all on board she was the only civilian, and yet the one whom the government seemed most anxious to transport. The officers themselves gathered into little groups, discussing the war which had opened so abruptly and speculating as to why in such an important crisis they had been ordered from their posts of duty to report for further advices and sealed instructions at so unimportant and isolated a seaport as the small one on the coast of Florida to which they were heading.

Another singular feature of this journey was that all aboard, from the distinguished admiral to the junior lieutenant commander, were by order, in the plainest of civilian dress. That it had been the intention of the war department to maintain their identity secret was proved by the comments of a railway official who stood near one of the coaches while waiting for a change of locomotives.

"You understand, don't you," he said to a man apparently a train dispatcher, standing beside him, "that this train has the right of way over everything? Sidetrack the flyer if necessary to get this through. There can't be anything in front of her, and the only limit to her time is the speed of the engine that pulls her. I understand it's a party of secret service people in the employ of Uncle Sam going to Cuba. That's all I know about it, and it's in line with everything else you naturally can expect from such a lot of insane men as they seem to have in Washington."

They whirled away from the station, looking at each other blankly, and wondering what the outcome of all this mystery could be. Every action so far was without precedent. There was a disposition on the part of some of them to bemoan the fate which had detached them from their ships at a time when the country was to be defended and glory won; but this was brought to a sudden end by grim old "Fighting Bob" Bevins, the admiral, who reprimanded them for daring to criticise their superiors or their orders.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Just So.

"Second thoughts," remarked the moralizer, "are always best."

"That's right," rejoined the demoralizer. "By the time you think them the chap who might have mopped up the sidewalk with you is several blocks away."

Real Estate Exchange

Of WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL

Exchange Bank, Birmingham, Mich.

The following is a partial list of Farms, City and Village Lots, and Real Estate generally which we have for sale. As our list is constantly changing, we request that parties will write us if they do not see what they want in this list.

5.

Elegant house and lot 66 feet front and 20 rods deep on Maple Ave. East. (half an acre). Plus barn and every convenience, hot water heat, bath, closet, etc. Can be bought for what the building cost. Will exchange for improved city property for portion of the purchase price.

66

Good, comfortable, cozy, old-fashioned house with 66 feet front on Martin Street. Fine location, plenty of room, and the price is only $1,200.

73

One acre on Saginaw street, just south of land owned by John German, 80 feet frontage. Anyone wishing to purchase will find this a bargain. For particulars inquire of Mollie G. Smith or at the Exchange Bank.

103

Eighty-acre farm in White Lake township, w ¼ of s e ¼ of section 22, 70 acres cleared, 10 acres timber and blackberry swamp. Don't laugh; this swamp netted the owner over $150.00 last year. Has fine 7-room house, good barn, house of 7 rooms, good neighborhood; 4½ miles from Milford, 3 miles from Commerce; proposed electric road comes within a mile of the house. Price, $2,000.

114

Fine farm in the Township of Southfield; 38 acres, of which 35 are cleared and the balance in good maple timber. Two acres of orchard; buildings worth $3,000, and the exceptionally fine place can be bought for $6,000. Nuf ced.

126

Vacant lots 16, 17, 18 & 19 of William's Subdivision, Royal Oak village. Extra deep. Only $400 each. Terms easy, with small payment down.

147

Nice little home for someone of small means. It is on lots 11 and 12 of S. A. Secor's Subdivision of West Side Park, Birmingham. Has a good bathroom and house never dry. ¼ mile east of Rochester Electric railway. Description: R. F. L. All cash and no grumbling will buy it at $750. Hurry up!

No. 167

Wants to trade for 80 or 60 acres on or near electric. Ninety-four acres one-mile s of southeast st Nels, Troy township, three buildings appraised at $8,000 insured for $7,700; flowing well piped to barn; farm well adapted for stock or dairy; 1¼ miles from electric at Troy Corners. Price is $60 per acre.

No. 171

Finest building site between Birmingham and Pontiac, on electric railway, just north of Bennett's Hotel, Troy township; three lots of such men as Booth, Barbour, Kudlicott, Brady Shaw, Conklin, and others. Large acres nearly half of which is timber, and pretty little branch of River Rouge runs through the place. Fine soil with giant elms and oaks overhanging. No build ing agent or banker, but orchard of 4 acres and 32 feet front by 150 feet deep. You have the cream you must expect to pay for it.

179

Seven-room cottage on west side of Bates street, 42 feet front, 120 feet deep. You couldn't build the house for $5,000, and that's all we ask for it. City water, wood shed, and fruit trees and evergreens. One of the best bargains we have. Show it to you any time.

180

Farm in Avon township, 32 acres of good clay loam, all cleared but 4 acres of woodlot. Price, $100 an acre, small amount down. For sale or exchange for small farm.

185

Corner lot, 100 feet front on Maple avenue, 132 feet deep; one good building, insured; plenty of small fruit. A bargain for $3,000, one-half cash down.

187

House and lot, in Campbell Subdivision, Birmingham; buildings insured. Come in and ask the price, and let us surprise you.

188

One of the best-arranged and finest-equipped residences in the village, and in absolutely the best location—East Maple Avenue, two blocks from church; bath, toilet, hot and cold water, city gas, 10 rooms, 2 stories, rebuilt last year, better than new. Large lot, 100 feet front by 264 feet deep. Make an offer. Plenty of room for chickens and cows, barn, fine orchard, etc. Why rent? What else do you want, anyhow? Will sell house and 32 feet front by 150 feet deep for $8,800. One of our best bargains.

193

Thirty-five-acre fruit farm, 1¼ miles north on Birmingham, on town line; 6 buildings, insured for $1,300. All fenced and cross fenced, and good dark loam. Last year this farm produced 123 bushels raspberries, 20 bushels blackberries, 111 bushels strawberries, 10 tons hay, etc. A gravel road runs by the door, and there is an inexhaustable supply of gravel, is worth almost the price of the farm for that alone. Waste land and under a high state of cultivation. Worth looking at anyhow. Price $6,000; terms easy.

194

Fifty acres in Township of Troy, adjoining the Joy Stock Farm; 5 buildings, good house, basement barn, plenty of small fruit, including an excellent fruit; 4½ miles from Flint Division D. U. R. 3 wells and fine spring. Price $4,000.

Two

Fifteen acres in Township of Royal Oak; no buildings, good soil, and would make a pretty fine tune; new land, well drained; clay loam, sandy top soil; corner of the 9½-mile road and Campbell road; ½ mile east of electric road. Addition A, Hudson and Duffield tracts, which are held at $500.00 per acre; 1¼ miles north of State Fair grounds. Price $300 per acre; will exchange for Detroit property.

196

Six acres, part of s w ¼ of n w ¼ of section 36, Troy township, new barn, fair house, well dug, loam, fine flowing well; 2 miles east of Flint electric road, 1 mile east of New Hudson; good farm for somebody. Price $625.

198

Ten acres 1 mile east of Royal Oak village on eastern line of Mollie G. Smith's subdivision. Price $1,300. The place is well fenced, and the soil will enable you to build the kind of house you may require.

200

One hundred and twenty-six acres near Birmingham; good buildings, well fenced, fine orchard, fine water; 1 mile from Birmingham and through the farm; ¼ mile from Birmingham Park. Worth looking at. Price $10,000, and the terms are easy. Farms are as good as they have sold within the past year, in the immediate vicinity, for $100 per acre. Let us take you to see it. It will please you, and if you don't buy we won't grumble.

201

Fine 2-story residence on Maple Avenue, corner of High Street; 8 rooms, fine fruit, best deep bothwater heater, hot and cold bath, toilet, soft and city water; every convenience found in the residence of the most modern character. Large lot, 66 feet and best neighborhood in town. House would cost at least $8,000 to build today, and we can build it for less and see what they say. You can buy this beautiful home for $7,800, and have your own way about payments. Ask the man at the bank.

203

Forty acres on the line of the Flint electric, at Harris Corners, in Troy Township. Excellent soil, clay loam, no waste. One of the pleasantest locations for building a nice country residence. The place is held for more than we can get, but we make an offer of $2,400 cash, and we will see what we can do for you.

208

Five acres and 4 good buildings, making a nice little home near the little Village of Southfield. House, barn, chicken house, etc., within 200 rods. The buildings cost, more to build than the price asked for the place, and are well worth looking at. The price is $1,000, and $200 cash will take care of it, and the balance you can pay at your leisure.

209

Five homes with good barn on Townsend Street. Good 5-room house, plenty of fruit, beautiful maple trees on south side make it a shady, restful residence. Price, $2,500. Will sell house and lot alone, and $2,300 will buy it if you take it right off the last. Owner is leaving town, and that's the reason.

211

Just an acre of land. Have read that book that says money grows on trees? Well, you might try it with this. There is room for a couple of fruit trees on this little house with 4 rooms, in Southfield village. Price only $700. Will throw any time before April 1, and that date is if you insist.

213

Fine little farm of about 75 acres in Royal Oak, on the line of the Rochester Electric, 1 miles north of Royal Oak; fare to Detroit 15c; good cellar and 120 feet deep; good pure water; 1-acre bearing apple orchard; 2 buildings, insured for $1,575, and $4,000 will buy it, subject to a small mortgage, which can run at the pleasure. Will exchange for improved Detroit city property.

214

Decidedly the prettiest lake farm in this county of lakes. Situated on Wing Lake, noted for its excellent fishing, 4 miles west of Birmingham; 10-room house with furnace; good water; fine new barns; fences in good shape; 2 acres of young peaches, 4 acres bearing peaches, and 4 acres apple orchard, which bore 700 bushels of marketable apples the past year. Rural delivery, 'phone, Daily mail and telephone service. Abundance of excellent water piped to house and barns and piped to house and other buildings. Eighty acres under the plow. If you will let us take you to see it and you pay it has to be seen to be appreciated, we'll have you for a ride on the lake, catch you a nice string of bass, and we'll show you it's as twice the interest and it's worth it, too. Try it.

216

A new, modern dwelling, constructed by a well-known builder for his own use, from best concrete blocks; hollow walls, 2 stories high, in one of the best locations in our village. Lot 66x180 feet, large apple trees; bath, water-closet, hot and cold water, oven-pool, hot-air furnace, 9 rooms beautifully finished in hard wood; large attic. Owner's reasons for selling. Price $8,800. Let us show it to you any day—any time.

217

Farm of 30 acres on Section 1, Troy; 8 buildings, 4 acres beach and maple timber, 22 acres cleared, 3 acres orchard; 2½ miles from Rochester line D. U. R. Can be bought for $2,400, and that's only a trifle over $80 per acre. $1,000 cash will buy it, with the balance on long time at low rate of interest. Seems as if that ought to fit most almost any body.

219

Tidy little place for some one with moderate means. Corner Chestnut and Palm, Campbell Addition. Lot worth at least $500, and the house is insured for $1,200, that's $1,700, and prices are advancing all along the lines in that location. If you come right away we will consider an offer of $1,500, and if that is too high after we have shown you over the premises, we will introduce you to the owner and you can make your own terms. Tha

222

Two-story tenement or terrace, on the east side of Woodward Avenue. Two distinct 3-story houses of 8 rooms each. Furnace, water-closet, bath, hot and cold water, city water and gas; each independent of the other. Rents for $18 per month each. Forty dollars per year will pay all taxes and insurance. Good barn on the premises, and the lot is 70 feet front on the best frontage on Woodward, and 150 feet deep; room for a nice garden; can live in one apartment and have a steady income from the other. This is something to ponder over. Come and let us help you ponder. Always at your service. If you can't call, write.

227

Five acres just outside of the corporation limits of Birmingham, about 1½ miles from Woodward Avenue, on the Pontiac electric line; one large house, $2,600 to build today; 8 rooms, 2-story house, basement barn $2,000, other buildings $1,000; 3 acres of fruit, 2 acres of which is enough to amply secure will take it. Cost of the land double the price we ask for the five acres, and that's one of the best bargains in the world. Nuf Ced. Well, we'll prove it to you if you'll let us.

229

A pleasant and sightly farm of 71 acres in West Bloomfield, ¼ mile from the Northwestern electric road, 2 miles from Walled Lake; 5 buildings, well worth $5,000, and the price is $6,000—and it is well worth it. Soil sandy loam and clay loam; under high state of cultivation. Better investigate.

230

Seventy-one-acre farm in Township of Troy; good buildings, well fenced and drained, well watered; branch of River Rouge runs through the farm—never dry; ¼ mile from good school; 2-story house, basement barn $2,000, other buildings $1,000; 3 acres of fruit, 2 acres of which is enough to amply secure will take it. Cost of the land double the price we ask for the five acres, and that's one of the best bargains in the world. Nuf Ced. Well, we'll prove it to you if you'll let us.

231

Two-story, 7-room house in good repair; well cistern, cellar, fruit, etc. House would cost more than $5,000 to build—and that's all we ask for it (see No. 230). Corner of Maple Avenue and Martin, on Chester Street. Terms easy.

232

Farm of 87½ acres, just outside the Village of Birmingham, on the D. & P. electric line; 1½ fare to Detroit; 5 buildings, all new; 60 acres all cleared; two acres; four buildings, all in good condition. Best open location between Birmingham and Pontiac.

233

Farm of 107 acres, one hour's ride from City Hall on Jefferson Avenue; 1,000 feet on Lake St Clair; 2 acres of apple orchard; splendid buildings The price is very low.

234

Farm of 77 acres, 60 rods from D. & P. electric road, 1½ miles from Birmingham; 7-room house; 2 acres of fruit. This farm can be purchased very cheap.

236

Forty-six acres, all improved, no buildings, good land, well drained; 1 acre from Pontiac; 1 mile from Birmingham; a nice piece of property in a nice place. Worth the money, for a little over $50 per acre will buy it.

237

Four vacant lots in the Randall Addition. Excellent building location in a rapidly improving part of the village. If you want to buy one of these lots for $100 cash you can do so, and then if you want to build a house and are lacking in funds, come and see us about it and we will make arrangements at low rates and easy terms.

238

Vacant lot on Woodward Avenue, on street car line, 50 feet front and 132 deep. One of the best building places on this popular street in the village, and—$200 will buy it for cash. Want to build on it and don't have the money to have the cash? Come and see us about it, and we can arrange matters. Come and see us anyhow.

239

Vacant lot in Castle's Plat; price $300, and will exchange for Detroit vacant.

240

Small house with lot 80x180, $1,000 cash. Large house with lot 60x180 and all ordinary conveniences for $2,300, or will sell you both lots, both houses and about 2¾ acres of land, on south side of Maple Avenue, for $4,000.

241

Fine new house with all modern conveniences, within 300 feet of the west side of Woodward Avenue; 8 rooms, bath, toilet, hot and cold water, fruit. You could not build the house for $9,000, and that's all we ask for the premises. Well worth looking at.

243

Farm of 160 acres, Saginaw county, 2 miles from Fergus Station, on the C. & W. P. Clay loam, good buildings valued at $6,000, and $6,000 will buy the farm if you want it right away. This place is within 2 miles of active coal mines, and there is a rich coal deposit on the farm. Fergus Station is 6 miles to Owosso; 4½ miles to Chesaning; 16 miles to Owosso; 4½ miles to Charlotte and 22 miles to Lansing. Soil is drained, good fences, and altogether worth the money.

244

If you could buy an acre and a quarter of land with a brick house, 6 rooms, bath, hot and cold water, bath, water closet, furnace, and every possible convenience, chicken house, barn, with plenty of fruit and cement walks—and the house cost $8,500 new—for $2,000 on easy terms, you'd call it a snap, wouldn't you? Well, we can do it. Come on and we'll show you.

245

Lot 7, Block 1, of Campbell's Subdivision, Village of Birmingham, Mich., on the corner of High Street and Forest Avenue. Without doubt the most desirable lot for building purposes on this very popular subdivision. Price $225; but there are other things that we would like to whisper to you. Come and let us take you to see the property.

246

One hundred and twenty-seven acres in the Township of Troy; 5 buildings worth $6,000, 7 acres of timber, 5 acres of orchard; well watered; timber runs cross through the farm); no marshy land in 120 feet above the river; fine cedars, 4 wells, 2 good houses, 2 barns in good repair, well fenced, and only 4 miles from the City Village of Rochester. Will trade for a smaller farm or will consider an offer of $8,500, with one-third cash. Take you to see it any old time at all.

247

House, barn, and about an acre of good garden land on north side of Saddle Street. Good, old-fashioned house, and a new barn at a cost of $1,000. Party has decided to go West and wants to sell this place cheap to get a decided sacrifice. And the man at the bank about it.

248

Comfortable house, nearly new, in good location in Whitehead & Mitchell's Subdivision. House would cost more than $1,000 to build this red-hot minute; and we only ask $1,000 for the house and two lots. There is a mortgage of $600 which can run. The building is insured for $700. Owner lives in Detroit and wants to sell.

249

Nice, warm, old-fashioned house on the south side of Maple Avenue, among the best class of residences in the village. Plenty of room for a good garden, and it can be bought very cheap. Why not? Well, just come and talk it over with us; and after you look the premises over you will make us an offer anyhow.

250

Now, here is a "Bonger!" House, barn and chicken house, with two acres of land on yesterday afternoon of Woodward, opposite Hunter's Park, known as "Elmcrest." Two cisterns, bath, toilet, furnaces, furnace room, good hot-air furnaces, two grates and mantels, one of the best equipped lot of buildings in the village, city water, drains, fine shade trees and beautiful lawn. Excellent location for $4,000. $3,500 cash will buy it, and the balance of purchase price can be had on long time at low rate of interest. Without exception, this is the finest location and the best lot of buildings on our list; and the price is right.

251

House and lot in Campbell's Subdivision; corner lot 60x210, fine hedge on front and side, cellar, city and cistern water, bath, toilet, hot and cold water on front and side; cherries, peaches, pears, crab apples. All bushy and some small trees. $1,400 will buy it, and terms can be made so that it won't take a million-naire to handle it. Come on.

252

Eight acres of land in Newaygo county, Michigan, listed "A. No. 1 sandy soil," no buildings, 10 acres oak timber; price $25 per acre. We don't know anything to investigate. We're ready to answer all questions you may ask—wise or otherwise.

253

Two hundred acres of sand and sandy loam, 40 acres of mixed timber, 20 acres cleared; two buildings of little value; 4 miles from Ovid, and prices are advancing all along the lines in that location. If you come right away we will consider an offer of $1,500, and if that is too high after we have shown you over the premises, we will introduce you to the owner and you can make your own terms. Tha

255

One-hundred-acre farm in Royal Oak township, a mile east of Starr Station on Rochester line D. U. R.; 8-room house; wind-mill supplies clear, cold spring water to all buildings; natural gas well supplies heat and light to all buildings (been running for 15 years); 7 good buildings, fine orchard, farm well fenced, row of fine maples along entire front, good roads, good neighborhood. Will exchange for Detroit improved property.

256

Eight-room house, good barn and two acres of excellent land on west side of Southfield Avenue, in the Village of Birmingham; one of the best-equipped and tidiest homes in the village. Building would cost $9,000 to build today (it is not practically new), and the whole outfit can be bought cheap and a trifle more than that. Want to secure it will get it, and you can have your own way about payments on balance!

257

Just what everybody wants! Don't wait a minute or you'll be too late. Fine house and barn, with 3 other good buildings, all nearly new, an acre of fine orchard, lots of small fruit, buildings insured for $2,400. Location excellent for all; 1½ miles from Pilot Electric, an hour's ride from Detroit. Price $3,000, and—well, that's all. Half cash, 5 per cent school district and stones. Take you to see it any old time.

258

Lots 23 and 24, Buell's Addition, Birmingham. Price $400 for both lots. Terms, $25 cash; balance on contract.

260

Eight-room, 2-story house on Southfield Avenue, Lot 50x132 feet; hot and cold water, cellar, orchard, fences, pine stables, barn, carriage house, chicken house. Within four blocks of electric line.

Completely equipped shop for general repair work and manufacture of gasoline engines, both marine and automobile. $1,800 cash will buy it; balance on easy terms.

262

Nine lots on the Merrill Plat, formerly owned by M. I. James. Finest location in village. Terms easy and prices low.

263

Forty acres just outside of village. Fine buildings; brick house. Everything in excellent condition. Ideal country home. Has been sold for $300 per acre, and it's worth it. Make us an offer. Take you to see it any time.

264

Nine acres, no buildings, on south side of Willow Avenue, between Woodward and Pierce (outside of our corporation), and $1,350 will buy it on easy terms.

265

Eighty-acre farm in Ionia county, Town of Easton. Will exchange for small farm near residence. Property is described as w ½ of s e ¼ of sec 36, town 7 n r 7 w. Nine buildings, insured for $2,250 mortgage of $8,500, which can run $2,500 easy. Will sell for balance, 6 miles from Ionia; 9-room white brick house, all kinds of fruit, no hills or waste land; excellent soil. This offer is good for 30 days only, and you'd better get busy.

266

What would you think if we would offer you a fine modern room of 11 rooms, with toilet and bath room, etc., for you to build when material was cheap, 1 lot 80x132, and a nice little home for $2,400? And terms easy at that. Well, we can do it. If you don't think the price is reasonable, compare than we ask for it, we will convince you in about a minute if you will call at the bank and ask any man. The property is located in the Village of Birmingham, on the corner, and in one of the best locations in town. Honest, we mean it. This is one of the best bargains we have on our large list.

JACK THE OLDEST DOG ALIVE.

He Was Born Nineteen Years Ago, But Refuses to Think of Dying.

Jack, a mongrel terrier, but a breed worth while, has been so used to fighting for all his life that he won't think of it. Not he; he refuses to think of it, says the Boston Globe.

His father was a cross between an Irish terrier and a skye terrier and his mother a smooth-haired fox terrier. Glorious combination, a terrier of the terriers. He was born in Newton Lower Falls in March, 1889.

Bought for $5, his owner, to keep the peace in the family of Noah A. Plympton of Wellesley Hills, said that he had brought him home for the baby. On this point Jack does not agree. When he was he admitted to the household, which he has ruled since to such an extent that the members are grateful that he does not know about the discussion which so nearly kept him from the place where he belonged.

Faithful, affectionate, good to look at, with his expressive eyes and shaggy hair, intelligent to a degree, good-tempered, though quick to resent an insult like the accident of having moved one's foot anywhere near him, Jack has been a endearing companion and a devoted friend.

And Jack has had the unique honor of being present at a Wellesley college function, to which no man ever has been admitted. He came home decked out with ribbons.

Ungodly Refinement.

Refinement which carries us away from our fellowmen is not God's refinement.—Beecher.

Troubles Minimized.

A clever man turns great troubles into little ones and little ones into none at all.—Chinese.