The Vanishing Fleets

By Roy Norton

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ILLUSTRATED BY A. Weil

SYNOPSIS.

"Vanishing Fleets," a story of "what might have happened," opens in Washington with the United States and Japan near war. Guy Hillier, secretary of the British embassy, and Miss Norma Roberts, chief aide of Inventor Roberts, are introduced as lovers. Japan declares war and takes the Philippines. Guy Hillier starts for England. Norma Roberts leaves Washington for the Florida coast. Hawaii is captured by the Japs. All ports are closed. Tokio learns of missing Japanese fleet. England's fleet mysteriously disappears. The kaiser is missing. King Edward of England is confronted by Admiral Bevins of the United States. The "Dreadnaught, biggest of England's war ships, is discovered at an impassable point in the Thames. The story now goes back to a time many months before the war breaks out. Inventor Roberts exhibits a metal producing a ray which overcomes friction when electrified and is to be applied to vessels. Roberts evolves a great flying machine. The cabinet plans a radioplane war against Japanese. Plans start is made for the scene of conflict. After maneuvering the airships descend, and by use of strong magnets lift their warships, one by one, from the sea. The vessels are deposited in the United States. The British fleet accepts American hospitality and is conveyed to the United States. The kaiser is taken on a trip-his first visit to America-thus accounting for his disappearance. King Edward is brought to America on a radioplane for conference with the president. They agree to work for world peace. Announcement of the secret of the radioplane is made in Central park, New York, to the wonder of millions. The king meets his men. He departs in an airship for London. Half way across the Atlantic the radioplane seating the kaiser is met.

Arms in Hand to Defend Buckingham.

CHAPTER XXII.—Continued.

He had worked with his hands, shared the annoyances of his companions, and known the joys of independence and self-support. He had discovered the trappings of courts to be shallow emblems and tawdry when contrasted with the true coats of primitive nature. He had learned that men when stripped of outward rank and position were very similar, and could demand only such respect from their fellows as they were entitled to by merit. Honest companionship which sought no other return was a priceless treasure. And now with this new view of life, stronger in health and unjaundiced in mind, he was glad to ally himself and his empire in a movement which promised advancement without conquest and gain without aggression. The drums of war sounded very hollow, and their unmusical beatings were dying away in the distance, going to inglorious silence and disuse. It was better so!

In response to an order from Bevins, a servant with noiseless feet and deft hands brought refreshments to them. The king rose, and the others immediately stood.

"Before we part company and resume our way to our homes," he said, "I shall ask you to drink my toast." He stood erect, lifted his glass high in the air until the lights above caught the quivering opalescent liquid in their rays, and then in a voice of extreme reverence said:

"Gentlemen, to the ruler of that greatest of all kingdoms, Peace, his excellency the president of the United States."

CHAPTER XXIII.

Peace Is Declared.

The world had become an instrument attuned to the breaking pitch, and awoke to have every string within it played upon in a day. It was a royal tune in which city after city was called upon to contribute. London, which had passed a sleepless night, was astir before dawn, aroused into a pitch of terrific excitement by the return of the Roberts, which swooped down from the air aglow with light, and courting notice.

At the iron gates in front of the palace, where the sentries were briskly tramping to and fro until called together by the descent of the radioplane, the Roberts came to the ground with every searchlight playing into the air. The alarm had been given before she came, and guards were turning out from their barracks and hurrying to the palace on the run, with arms in hand to defend Buckingham from the oncoming monster. Not until it was near the ground was it discovered that from the prow floated three flags, the Union Jack, the Stars and Stripes and the white banner of truce.

In hasty formation the soldiers faced the place where the machine with its starling eyes would alight, and rank on rank presented a stubborn front to the visitor. Their astonishment was incalculable when they recognized as the first man to emerge from the side of this unexpected craft the missing king, followed by the prime minister and the head of the navy, as well, all smiling, and all taking quick cognizance of the array of defenders.

The ranking officer of the guard recovered his poise, gave the command and the soldiers saluted, after which he stepped forward in response to the king's beckoning and received instructions for the safeguarding of the Roberts. Bevins and the secretary of state, as they walked through the iron gates, guests of the British nation, heard the quick precise steps of men marching to form a square round their craft, and pictured to themselves the curiosity which would be aroused when the day broke.

Thus it was that within an hour after their arrival a crowd was collecting which outdid the one that assembled to view the Dreadnought on the day of her return. The strange and silent Roberts, resting in the roadway and floating the American and English flags, which had been intertwined by the fingers of a friendly breeze, was of greater interest than any other sight within memory. It was rumored through the throng that the king had returned; but the explanation of his absence was yet to come. For once officialdom did not hesitate, but sent to the newspapers of the city the full account of the visit to the United States, together with the reasons and results, and also the story of the fleet which had been given up for lost. It was intimated that the official overtures of the United States would be made known at a later hour of the day through due channels, and thus the air was charged with expectancy.

In the meantime Berlin too had been given its time of tumult. The return of the emperor had been no less astounding; but he with characteristic energy had no sooner stepped within the doors of his palace than he called his secretaries and dictated a complete explanation of his own disappearance, together with a statement of what had transpired in the United States and a summary of the proposals for peace which had been formulated. The Norma waited for a brief time only, and then in full sight of an immense gathering of spectators turned her nose homeward to carry her report to Washington.

This news was cabled to London, where its dissemination gave another impetus to speculation, and before it had subsided the world's cables resumed operations.

An operator in a transatlantic cable office, who for weeks had sat before his silent keys, saw a livid signal flash, and sprang excitedly to respond. Across the depths of the ocean came the words:

"All embargos are removed. The United States of America gives greeting, and reiterates the message which was the first to be transmitted, 'Peace on earth. Good will to men.'"

Events were now moving with such prodigious rapidity that wherever wires of communication ran men left their occupations and waited for whatever other remarkable information might be forthcoming. For once the nations seemed in such close touch that they reached out to each other to tell their own part in the unfolding of the great mystery. The whole civilized world knew speedily that the kaiser had been carried away by accident, that his health had been improved, and that he bore nothing but good will toward his captors. London transmitted the complete story of the taking of the British fleet, elucidated the Dreadnought's singular return, and also made known that the king and his associates had visited and been detained in Washington by their own volition.

In the United States the night had passed with most exceptional activity. The sight of the Roberts leaving New York had been heralded from coast to coast, and the administration, besieged for information, yielded to the popular demand and gave out the history of the war, including the account of the invention and the creation of the plant on the Florida key. The little inventor and his daughter were thrown into the limelight, and exaggerated accounts of their marvelous work were spread over pages of extras wherever newspapers were printed. The public insistently clamored for news, more news, throughout the hours, and seemed never satiated.

All eyes were turned to the president, who finally, in desperation, declined to make any further statements, and announced that details would have to come in later sequence, when time could be given to their dictation.

From the great republic the cloak of mystery and inaction was thrown aside and the cordons to the north and the south were being dissipated as if by magic. That menacing line of blue along the Canadian border was crumbling with greater rapidity than it had been formed. Here and there through the air swept 50 radioplanes carrying improvised passenger accommodations, the sun showing them as flashing birds of blue carrying the hosts of the guard back to their armories, whence they might return to their homes and occupations of peace. And the nation maintain its invulnerable power. Thus it was that the rail ways were still permitted to exist and no hardship worked save in the readjustments of capitalization, which losses fell mainly upon those who had accumulated watered stocks by the very inflation which was now punctured.

As if to knit the world together in international harmony, the culmination came in a message addressed to all nations which was penned by the hand of the president himself. It was his proposal for the maintenance of peace, and read as follows:

"That war and its barbarisms may for all time be done away with, the United States of America submits that:

"By the grace of God it has been placed in possession of such power that it could not only conquer the world, but destroy the inhabitants of other nations. This has been fully demonstrated. It has no desire to utilize its strength unjustly, but purposes to exert it for the benefit of all men.

"It considers territorial greed to be the real impelling motive in nearly all international wars. Therefore it requests all nations become signatory to an agreement in perpetuity that under no circumstances shall there be any invasion of the territory of one country by another, and that all boundary lines shall remain as now established, except they be changed by the mutual and amicable agreement of the adjoining powers to which they belong.

"Questions involving national dignity can be adjusted by better means than war, as can nearly all other questions which from time to time arise between governments, hence the United States urges that full powers of adjudication and arbitration be vested in a standing commission representing each nation, which shall have for its seat of office some place upon which the several number may agree.

"The United States, having faith in the Anglo-Saxon race as representing one of the most peaceful and conservative, has formed an offensive and defensive alliance with Great Britain through the personal efforts of the king and his prime minister. These two governments have no desire to act as peace officers for the world but pledge themselves to place at their power at the command of the international commission for the enforcement of its findings."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Uncontrollable.

It is stated that the heart of a vegetarian beats 58 times a minute and that of a meat eater 75 times, but who can count the beats of a hear whose possessor beholds for the first time an apple-cheeked, bright-eyed California maiden when she comes from the perfumed fields in the rosy morn laden with golden poppies?—Los Angeles Herald.

Ha! Ha! So Funny.

"A firm uptown," said Joakley, "has got up something new to enable you to pick your teeth."

"A new sort of toothpick?" queried Conkley.

"Well, it's a catalogue showing photographs of the handsome false sets they manufacture."

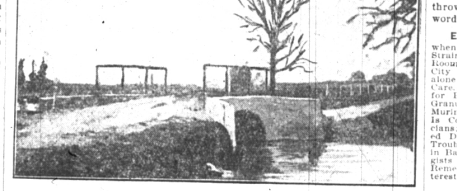
STRONG CONCRETE CULVERT BUILT AT MODERATE COST

Good Roads Are One of the Essentials to Farmers in Traveling from Place to Place, Whether on Business or Pleasure—By A. J. Sager.

It is by the wagon ways that the farmers generally pass from place to place, for business or for pleasure, and those wagon ways appear to-day far worse than we should expect to see them, with the great wealth and advanced civilization the people have attained.

The farming class, that has had charge of the public roads for the last 100 years or more, has been slow to learn that the soil made by nature through grinding or pulverizing rock with some humus or vegetable matter, when it is wet and mixed up, is mud, and when very dry and worn by public travel is dust, says a writer in Hoard's Dairyman. For six months out of a year, if an earth road is properly constructed, with crowned center for surface drainage and deep side ditches for subdrainage, by adding a little new soil each year, or as often as worn out, the earth or soil road will be good until the bad roads season; then it will be out of commission, as it is to-day. But if the road engineers will go deeper into the bottom of the ditches after the subsoil below the road grade after any system, the perfectly crowned surface will compact, and with a T-rail road drag to go over the road after a long, continuous rainstorm, the new subsoil road material will coalesce and press down for a compacted mass and make the next gradings to a sand-clay, gravel or stone road for light traffic on the less traveled crossroads.

Civilization owes few greater debts than that to John Luden Macadam. The historian Macaulay tells us that of all inventions, the alphabet and printing press alone excepted, those



A Substantial Culvert.

inventions that bridge distance have done the most for civilization." Lord Bacon said: "There be three things that make the nation great and prosperous: a fertile soil, busy workshops and easy conveyance for man and goods from place to place."

Macadam defined the road as "an artificial flooring forming a strong, smooth, solid surface, capable of carrying the greatest weight, over which carriages may pass without meeting any impediment."

Many failures have been made in the building of sand-clay roads, and the first cause of failure is the want of perfect drainage. It is customary to give to the sand-clay road a little greater crown than is given to a macadam or stone or gravel road, especially where the grade is above three per cent. If the subsoil upon which the road is built is clay, it is important that the bottom of the side ditches should be 18 inches or more below the crowd or middle of the traveled track. The better the surface is cared for—i. e., the smoother the surface is kept—the less the crown required. The more level the road, other things being equal, the easier to travel on. If there is not enough crown the water cannot easily reach the side ditches, and hence the road soon becomes water soaked. The crown can be too great, so that the traffic keeps continually in the middle of the road, wearing the middle out hollow and retaining the water until evaporation takes place, instead of shedding it into the ditches. Again, if the earth is piled too high in the middle the side slopes will be washed into the side ditches, which not only damages the road but fills up the side ditches. The crown should be more on steep grades than on the more level portions, since on the grades the line of steepest descent is not perpendicular to length of the road, and consequently the water, in getting from the center of the road to the side ditches, travels obliquely down the road grade, instead of following the track and washing the hill lengthwise.

Another cause of failure is the want of thorough mixing. There may be a proper amount of sand and clay placed upon the road, yet if it is not thoroughly puddled and mixed to saturation in every place the road is not likely to withstand public traffic. It will become loose in some places and muddy in others. Such variations may occur every few feet, and even at the same place one wheel track being in loose sand and the other in mud. Where this condition occurs more good, tough clay should be incorporated in the first and more sharp sand in the second section.

Frost is another cause of failure and one more difficult to deal with than any heretofore mentioned, and should be treated, when the foundation is wet, with tile.

Failure is sometimes due to the kind of sand selected. None except sand made up of angular grains is adapted to sand-clay road making. Sand with grains which are worn off round or sand which has been ground up by the action of wheels or water until very fine is unsatisfactory and often worthless. When the road surface becomes worn and dusty in dry weather or muddy in wet weather there should be added more good, tough clay and coarse, sharp sand, which will add cementing material and may be made hard by sprinkling and rolling or by dragging with a road drag after every heavy, long-continued rain just as the material begins to dry sufficiently to work smooth under the drag. The use of round sand should be avoided, as a perfect bond cannot be effective and the road cannot resist the rolling action of wheels, the tendency being much the same as when pressure is applied to a mass of marbles. Care should always be taken to select the sharpest and cleanest sand that can be found.

Clays containing iron and lime are the best and sedimentary or chalky clays, as they are commonly known, are the poorest for road-building purposes, because of the fact that this particular clay does rarely iron or lime sufficient to cement or bind the material together.

A GOOD METHOD OF TESTING SEEDS

Farmer Should Make a Most Thorough Test of Them Before Planting.

In the state course of study issued by the North Dakota agricultural college, the following directions are given for testing farm seeds. An even 100 seeds are selected of any given grain, tested in the following manner:

"Invert a small pie plate in an ordinary dinner plate, then pour a small amount of water into the dinner plate; place a double cotton flannel cloth over the pie plate wide enough to reach from side to side and long enough to reach into the water from both sides of the plate. The cloth will carry water to the seeds placed between the folds of the cloth as a lamp wick carries oil, and in sufficient quantity to sprout the seed. Another dinner plate should then be placed over the pie plate and cloth to prevent too rapid evaporation of the water. Seeds tested in this way under ordinary temperatures can be quite better results than they would had they been planted in the field, where varying temperatures, depths of covering, and moisture obtained act as a drawback to the full germination of the seed. These facts should be taken into consideration when trials are made."

Seed testing is so simple that there is really no reason why every farmer should not make a test of a portion of any crop that he intends to plant. Many crops fail because the seed is poor. Where a person tests the seed before planting he has reasonable assurance of just what he can expect.

Where the germinating quality of the seed is questionable and the fact is found out in time it is a comparatively simple matter to reject it and replace with other seed as compared with the expense and difficulty of making such a change after the seed is planted.

In making tests of seed it is always well to make a selection of average quality. In this way the test is not likely to be deceptive by indicating unwarranted results in germinating quality.

Get Full Value of Manure.—To get all the value out of stable manure it should be taken to the field as soon after it is made as possible. My plan is during winter, just as soon as there accumulates a load, it is hauled to the meadow and put on thinly as a top dressing. There is nothing equals a good manure spreader for this work. Any farm that produces 100 or more loads of manure per year should not be run without one.

The manure is used also for top dressing corn, just after the first cultivation. When scattered thinly about six cords per acre increases the yield about 25 to 40 per cent. To let manure lay in the barnyard, where the stock may run over it and the winter rains and snows fall upon it, is to leach the best part away, is very poor policy. But where manure accumulates in the stalls or feeding shed until bare spring there can be no objection.

The Value of Cow Peas.—They can be grown as far north as Dent corn can be grown, and on land so poor that clover would not catch at all. They are called a poor man's clover, because you can get such quick results. A crop of cow peas can be grown in three months, and it will be fully equal to a two year's crop of clover. You can sow the peas any time from May to August and can get a good big crop following an early crop taken off in June or July. Plowed under after the first frost, they will leave the ground in elegant shape for a crop next year. The seed costs about $2.50 per bushel and should be drilled in at the rate of one-half bushel per acre.

Breeding Corn.—Prof. H. A. Moore says that painstaking in breeding corn has raised the average corn production of Wisconsin from 25 bushels per acre in 1901 to 41.2 bushels per acre in 1907. This increase is worth striving for in every state and on every farm.

EASE.

Brother Sitdown—Dat's a mighty short stub yer smokin', Dusty.

Dusty Dodgework—Yep! I knows it; dat's de way I allers like 'em; you don't hev ter pull de smoke so far!

RASH ALL OVER BOY'S BODY.

Awful, Crusted, Weeping Eczema on Little Sufferer—A Score of Treatments Prove Dismal Failures.

Cure Achieved by Cuticura.

"My little boy had an awful rash all over his body and the doctor said it was eczema. It was terrible, and used to water awfully. Any place the water went it would form another sore and it would become crusted. A score or more physicians failed utterly and dismally in their efforts to remove the trouble. Then I was told to use the Cuticura Remedies. I got a cake of Cuticura Soap, a box of Cuticura Ointment and a bottle of Cuticura Resolvent, and before we had used half the Resolvent I could see a change in him. In about two months he was entirely well. George F. Lambert, 139 West Centre St., Mahanoy City, Pa., Sept. 26 and Nov. 4, 1907."

Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., Sole Props., Boston.

A Frank Opinion.

Once a youth thought it his solemn duty to learn something about Henry James, due to the great admiration of his frivolous friends, he picked up "The Wings of the Dove" and disappeared into its pages.

Two weeks later he was thinner, but still at it, when one of the afore-mentioned frivolous friends came into the room, and, for the first time showed interest.

"Say," he observed, "is The Wings of the Dove' a collection of short stories or one long story?"

The deliver into James glanced up from the pages.

"One darned long story," he replied, throwing his whole soul into the words.

Eyes Are Relieved By Murine

When Irritated by Chalk Dust and Eye Strain, incident to the average School Room. A recent Census of New York City reveals the fact that in that City alone 1,928 School Children needed Eye Care. Why not try Murine Eye Remedy for Red, Weak, Watery, Watery Eyes, Granulation, Pink Eye and Eye Strain? Murine Doesn't Smart, Soothes Eye Pain. Is Compounded by Eye Specialist Physicians. Contains no Injurious or Prohibited Drugs. Try Murine for your Eye Troubles. You Will Like Murine. Try It in Baby's Sore Eyes. Scaly Eyelids. Druggists Sell Murine at 50c. The Murine Eye Remedy Co., Chicago. Will Send You Interesting Eye Books Free.

Too Wise.

"Will you take a chance on kissing a pretty girl?" asked the young lady with the raffle tickets at the church fair. The crusty and confirmed bachelor held up his hands in horror. "What, me!" he gasped. "No, indeed, I don't take any such chances as those. Chap took a chance like that one time and six months later he married the young lady."

A Cure For Colds and Grip.

There is inconvenience, suffering and danger in a cold, and the wonder is that people will take so few precautions against colds. One or two Laxa-Pheasant Tablets (be sure of the name) taken when the first snuffly feeling appears, will stop the progress of a cold and save a great deal of unnecessary suffering. Druggists and dealers generally sell these tablets, price 25 cents. If you cannot get them send to Orator F. Woodward, Le Roy, N. Y. Sample free.

Seeking to Be a Comforter.

"You are consuming a great deal of valuable time with your tariff argument."

"Yes," answered Senator Sorghum, "I find satisfaction in trying to demonstrate that here is one case where the consumer doesn't pay the tax."

And Saves Time.

"He lets his wife do just as she pleases."

"Nothing startling about that."

"No; but he does it without an argument."

A Rare Good Thing.

"Am using ALLEN'S FOOT-EASE, and can truly say I would not have been without it so long, had I known the relief it would give my aching feet. I think it a rare good thing for anyone having sore or tired feet.—Mrs. Matilda Hollwert, Providence, R. I." Sold by all Druggists, 25c. Ask to-day.

Respect for the past is not bigotry, and we are to beware of the danger of changing too much, as well as that of not changing at all.—Sydney Smith.

Kill the Flies Now

before they multiply. A DAISY FLY KILLER kills thousands. Lasts the season. Ask your dealer, or send 25c to H. Somers, 149 De Kalb Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

After having been so mad he couldn't say things a man begins to boast of his wonderful self-control.

Pain and swelling seldom indicate internal organic trouble. They are usually the result of local cold or inflammation which can be quickly removed by a little Hamlins Wizard Oil. Try and see.

The American eats more than his own weight in sugar every two years.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup.
For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

As soon as a man marries, his sins decrease.

DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS
CURE ALL KIDNEY DISEASES
OR MONEY BACK
$.75 "Guaranteed"

GALL STONES or any LIVER DISEASE, no matter how old-chronic. Will tell cure of a dollar free. Address C. COVEY, M. D., Lansing, Mich.