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Men's Rain Toppers
Regular value, \$10.00. Friday and Saturday, \$4.99

Youths' Rain Toppers
Regular value, \$9.00. Friday and Saturday, \$4.49

Boys' Rain Toppers
Regular value, \$5.50. Friday and Saturday, \$3.99

Union Clothing Company

26 - 28 Charlotte St., opp. City Market
ALEX. CORBET Manager

THE LONELY GUARD,

—BY—
NORMAN INNES,

Author of "The Surge of War" (London Magazine, Eveleigh Nash, 1900; "Parson Croft" (Eveleigh Nash, 1901).

(Continued)

It was only the thought that the man had won the heart of Elsa von Rohn that embittered my sense of triumph.

As I stood spell-bound, mad with jealousy, yet exultant, I heard von Wegen and his cousin approaching the door.

"Then I have your countenance, Inez, your influence in support of my cause," he repeated.

"My countenance, yes," replied the lady tentatively as she paused in the doorway. "But my influence?" she laughed merrily. "What cares Elsa for me, thinkest thou? Nay, a man must plead his own part with a woman, say I."

I shrank against the wall, pinning my faith to the curtain's shadow. I scarce dared breathe as those two lingered in the gallery. And then, to my dismay, clear from the garden rose the voice of the younger sister calling—

"Inez, Otto, why linger ye amid the musty books this summer night?"

In a moment von Wegen had turned, in another he was beside me, leaning forth from the window, while his companion stood watching him in the middle of the gallery.

Narrowly she watched him—I marked her—as though weighing the worth of the man, her cheeks flushed, her lips trembled and then her brows knit and her face grew very hard; and as the Count jested with her that was beneath, fear of discovery gave place to loathing for this knave, whose puerile threat my fingers were itching to grip.

It would have been the merest child's play to have seized him and flung him over the sill to the flower-borders at her feet. Heaven be thanked, some good angel held my hand; that hour, or the deed would have been done, and my folly must have been visited on my own head.

At last the soldier turned with a parting jest and with the elder Countess disappeared down the privy-stair that led to the ladies' apartments. I crept forth from amidst the folds of the curtain with forehead moist and heart beating, stole noiselessly along the gallery, to start on meeting Father Johann on his way to the library.

"So, my son, thou here?" said the priest, "high and low I have been searching for thee."

"And I for thee, and found thee not, father," I replied thinking the good man could not but remark my trembling voice.

The latter, however, appeared to notice nothing.

"Then each has found the other and all is well," said he with his hand on my shoulder. "Come, I will prove thy strategy at chess, that is if thou wilt so far indulge me."

What was I to do? A short half-hour had dispelled my longing for game, for the priest's company for aught else save my own thoughts. I would have looked myself in my own chamber to unravel my course of action, to solve the riddle of my comrade's treachery, to hit on a plan for exposing his guile, for thwarting his purpose in the matter of his cousin, for ridding me of his presence forever. And with my brain in a whirl, I yielded to the priest, followed him blindly to his chamber next the library, set me down before him with the chessmen betwixt us, and strove to mate his king.

Good lack, how my pieces felt that night, a bishop, a pair of knights and then the queen, and ere I had collected my wits, ere the wild beat of my heart had died, the game was lost and the priest was showing me my errors of play.

We played again, I striving to concentrate my thoughts and fix them upon these warriors, red and white, but with no better success. I was playing ill indeed, nor could my opponent blink the fact.

"Thou art weary," said he, calling check for the fifth time.

"Nay, father, I could play till midnight," I protested as I struggled with a hopeless situation.

"Then thou wouldst waste precious hours, my son," he rejoined, completing my ruin by the capture of my sole remaining castle. "Thy play is ill to-night."

"Nay, 'tis thy luck."

He shook his head and swept the ivory pieces aside.

"Let us talk," said he, rising and snuffing the candles, "that is if thou art not weary?"

Wearily I nodded. I had known for two days and a night, no sleep and much toil, but weary, no. My head was heavy, my eyes aching, haggard my cheeks doubtless and pale, yet I could not have slept for a kingdom.

"Let us talk, then, father," I replied, doing my best to stifle a groan.

And we talked, on this and that. I know not what, nor cared I, as may be imagined I had little share in the conversation.

The old man's tongue ran on, deep in tales of other days, of old peoples and dead kings. Now he was prating of the poets and lawgivers of ancient Greece, now of the state of Rome of the consuls, of dictators, Caesars, bringing them forth one by one as some puppet-master at a village fair.

I answered yes and no as the humor seized me, to the old man's wonder and evident disappointment.

He grieved, forsooth, that I cared not for these phantoms, for these bubbles long-primed, when my brain was on the rack for the probing of a living infamy. What cared I for those policies, those schemers of long ago, when face to face with the difficulty of an hour?

Dead were the loves of Helen and Trojan Paris, dead Anthony's weakness Cleopatra's rage, dead and buried with those storm-whipt laboring breasts. But hearts there were, hearts true, hearts Heaven, and hearts false, gnawed by those same old fires throbbing fiercely as ever throbbeth heart of yore, hearts set on the deed that is evil, hearts aflame for the right.

(To be Continued.)

FUSILIERS PREPARING FOR THE QUEBEC TRIP

Major Hartt, commanding the 62nd Fusiliers, has issued the following regimental orders:

No. 1—The annual training of the regiment will commence on April 6.

No. 2—Recruits of all companies will parade at the drill shed on each evening of Monday, Wednesday and Friday, commencing Monday, March 30.

The regiment will be going to the Quebec celebration in July and will commence recruiting. It is expected every company will be up to full strength.

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Syrup of

Red Spruce Gum

A safe, sure and prompt cure for Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Bronchial and Throat Affections. 25c. and 50c. a bottle. At all drug stores.

GOVERNMENT COMMISSION CONDEMNS THE DEPARTMENTS

Incompetence, Disorganization and Dishonesty Intimated in Connection with Marine and Fisheries—Commission Claims that Appointments Should not Depend Upon Political Pull.

Ottawa, March 26.—The report of the Civil Service commission was laid on the table of the commons today. It is a voluminous document and covers a wide range of subjects—the salaries, hours, cost of living and efficiency of the civil servants are treated of. The report also goes into the cost of living in Canada at present and what it is likely to be in the future, the work of the public accounts committee of parliament and the organization and discipline of the departments.

There are recommendations for reform, not only of the departmental methods but those of parliament itself. Some of the departments come in for severe criticism notably the departments of militia and of marine.

To attract good men to the service and to retain them there is a recommendation for an increase in the salaries of from twelve and a half to twenty per cent, both for employees at Ottawa and for those which are in the outside service.

They advise that the civil service act be repealed and fresh provision made to govern examinations and entrance to the service.

Salaries Too Low.

With reference to salaries the commissioners consider that the lowest ranks of the service are paid less than they would receive in outside occupations and less than modern conditions demand. No efficient deputy head should be paid less than \$3,000 a year.

Chief clerks and first class clerks should have an annual increase of \$100 until a maximum is reached.

With regard to the lower grades they say it is difficult to obtain proper assistance at a minimum salary of \$700, unless the service is altogether recruited from Ottawa.

They recommend instead of a minimum salary an entrance salary of \$700. They recommend that temporary employees be classed, as in England, as writers and as vacancies occur they shall be promoted.

In the matter of pay and promotion every officer in the service should be treated on his merits. The service should be entirely free from political favoritism or patronage. Appointments should only be made by merit after competitive examinations.

A permanent commission of three should be created to deal with the question of the service to supervise the examinations.

The commissioners are of the opinion that salaries should be dealt with immediately. They cannot recommend general increases, but they would suggest taking votes for granting increases to deserving officials and that for eastern Canada, both in the inside and outside service, such increase might be at the rate of 15 per cent for officials, whose salaries are under \$1,500, and 12 1/2 per cent for salaries about that rate, and for the western provinces, where no doubt a greater need prevails, these scales should be 25 and 20 per cent to the same proportions of incomes and all provisional allowances should cease.

When a young man of great efficiency appears it is to the advantage of the country that it should get the full benefit of his capacity as soon as possible. To secure this, he should have swift promotion.

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PAIN

Pain in the head—pain anywhere, has its cause else usually. At least, so says Dr. Shoop, and to prove it he has created a little pink tablet. That tablet—called Dr. Shoop's Headache Tablet—cures blood pressure away from pain centers. It is effective, charming, pleasingly delightful. Gently, though safely, it surely equalizes the blood circulation.

If you have a headache, it's blood pressure. If you are sleepless, restless, nervous, it's blood congestion—blood pressure. That surely is a certainty, for Dr. Shoop's Headache Tablets stop it in 20 minutes, and the tablets simply distribute the unnatural blood pressure.

Brush your finger, and doesn't it get red, and swell, and pain you? Of course it does. It's congestion, blood pressure. You'll find it where pain is—always. It's simply Common Sense.

We sell at 25 cents, and cheerfully recommend

Dr. Shoop's Headache Tablets

THEY WELCOMED THE DEBATERS

WOLFVILLE, March 26.—When Acadia's victorious debating team arrived home from Halifax Saturday evening, they received the warmest welcome ever accorded a returning team by the students of that college. The win over Dalhousie on Friday night was the fifth of an unbroken series of victories, which gives to Acadia the championship of the five year maritime intercollegiate debating league.

At the station, the debaters, Messrs. McCutcheon, Warren and Kierstead, together with A. B. Balcom, who in the four preceding years led the team to victory, were hustled into a barouche, trimmed with Acadia banners and bunting. Headed by a band and a bodyguard of students dressed in military uniforms, the debaters were paraded about the streets, followed by a crowd, variously at from six to eight hundred.

The procession halted opposite the residence of President Hutchinson and demanded a speech. The president responded in a very appropriate and felicitous manner. A little farther on a stop was made and a rousing speech elicited from Principal DeWolfe, of the seminary. Driven up before the ladies' residence, in response to loud and persistent calls, the debaters heartily thanked the students' body, particularly the ladies, for the support given the team on Friday evening, when 250 Acadia students were present at the debate in Halifax.

VICTORIA, March 25.—Five hundred Hindus met yesterday in the Sikh temple and after many exciting speeches protesting against their exclusion and deportation from Canada, and emphasizing the fact that this would be a "strong weapon in the hands of those preaching sedition in India," sent the following cable to John Morley, secretary for India:—"We protest against deportation and exclusion from Canada. As British subjects we claim protection throughout the empire. If our interests are overlooked by others, those in India must necessarily resent your government's neglect."

The cablegram is signed by Uday Ram, who is a nephew of Dr. Davis Chand, a Hindu of high caste, who came to British Columbia to spy out the land, but who is not agitating in India.

HOUSE BURNED AT ST. STEPHEN

Residence and Barns owned by Late Albert Jackson Destroyed last Night.

St. Stephen, N. B., March 26.—About 10 o'clock this evening fire broke out in the residence of the late Albert Jackson, of Mayfield, about three miles from this town, and owing to a heavy wind which was blowing, the house, two barns and two wagon houses were burned to the ground.

The younger boy had just retired to his room when he discovered the fire upstairs and before any help could be obtained the fire got beyond control.

Most of the furniture was saved but all the buildings and about ten or fifteen tons of hay were completely destroyed. The loss is estimated at about \$5,000, partially covered by insurance.

UPSET IN HARBOR

Their boat upset by a drifting buoy, John Dawson and Albert MacKay were nearly drowned off York Point slip yesterday at noon. The two fishermen were rowing across the harbor when a partly submerged buoy, which it is reported has been drifting about the harbor for several days, struck the bottom of their craft, overturning the boat and sending them into the water.

Fortunately a second boat, rowed by Edward Dawson and Frank Hogan, was close behind and they rescued their comrades. There has been complaint concerning the buoy, and action is threatened if it is not properly anchored.

A pool match will be played in the Real Estate pool rooms, 143 Mill street, this evening by Lewis H. Ramsay and Leonard Dryden for the amateur championship of the maritime provinces. The match will be for 100 points, and will start at 9 o'clock sharp. Ramsay has yet to be defeated, and Dryden won the championship on last Friday from the Halifax man.



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You cannot eat too much of

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Canada's Most Delicious Confection.

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The Most Elaborate and Beautiful Display OF PARIS HATS

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HATS FOR LADIES, MISSES and CHILDREN, from the most famous French masters to the clever and becoming and most moderately priced Hats in the Marr underpriced Store. A store, by the way,

Famous for Its Beautiful and Exclusive Styles at Very Low Prices

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Canada's Premier Piano

The Gerhard Heintzman

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