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The Golden Sands Riddle

By Alexander Campbell

CHAPTER IV MORNING AFTER

Peter Crosby woke from a fantastic dream in which a big man with a diamond on his little finger chased him down long unending corridors. He smiled and then memory leaped up. He recalled Mr. Monte's parting gesture, and the heap of banknotes lying where they had been carelessly flung between the two glasses on the table. It all seemed too remote, incredible; and yet it had actually happened. When Mr. Monte had gone, he had remained staring at the notes in a dazed fashion. Then he had grabbed them up, stuffed them in his pocket, and rushed out, almost knocking over a waiter who got in his path. "Hey!" he yelled. "Hey! Come back!"

But Mr. Monte had gone. Peter's first impulse had been to go to the Orient Hotel. The only thing that had deterred him was the thought that he might encounter Lucy Carr. In his excited frame of mind, he would not know what to say to her; and if he told her the story, she might think he had gone crazy.

He had compromised by telephoning the hotel, and asking for Mr. Monte. He was informed that Mr. Monte had gone out, and had not yet returned.

He had asked the hotel to tell Mr. Monte to ring him as soon as he got in. Then he had gone into his room to await the call.

He locked his door, and took out the notes. They looked genuine. He counted them. He had suddenly become the owner of a thousand pounds.

He paced his room restlessly, but no call came from Mr. Monte. An hour passed and in that time he had a chance to think of many things.

Supposing—he could not put the thought from him—supposing Mr. Monte's tip were genuine? He had heard of such things. In this country of gold, men became millionaires and paupers overnight. Suppose these shares did go up? Suppose they doubled their value? He would be the richer by a thousand pounds, after he had paid back his strange benefactor's loan.

A thousand pounds would give him enough capital at least to make a start with these experiments that he had long planned on paper, a beginning with that new device which might cut down the costs of gold-mining.

If he did not seize this chance, he might struggle on for years, earning a fairly decent salary, but with his talents gradually going to waste.

What were the shares? Golden Deeps. He was a mining engineer, not a financier. He had heard of Golden Deeps. Hadn't there been a sudden fall in their value years before? Yes; he had it now.

All gold-mining ventures are highly speculative. Heavy losses almost cancel out sudden rewards. Like any other venture Golden Deeps had started off with rich prospects—an easily worked reef at little depth, and an apparently rich ore. Then quite suddenly, the vein had petered out. They had been comatose for years.

If then there had been a fresh find, changing the whole situation of the mine, Monte's story became less fantastic. If his information

Men of 30, 40, 50

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were correct, then his gesture could be partly understood. For he would have nothing to lose. Provided Peter were honest, he was sure of getting his money back. And besides, he looked like the sort of man who had money to burn, and would enjoy making an impulsive, quixotic gesture—especially when it would cost him nothing.

Peter came to a sudden decision. He glanced at his watch. Then he went downstairs and rang up the Orient Hotel.

Mr. Monte, he was told, had not yet returned. He thought of asking for Sir John Carr. Monte had said he was a friend of the family. But it was difficult to associate that rough diamond with the urbane Sir John. And Lucy's father might ask questions that it would be difficult to answer.

He spun the dial again instead, and when he got the exchange, asked for a trunk call to Morton and Downey's offices, Johannesburg.

Ten minutes later a perspiring young man put down the phone and wiped his brow. "Phew!" he said. The name of Monte had worked magic. Without raising the slightest difficulty, and without asking a single question, Messrs. Morton and Downey had agreed to purchase 1000 worth of Golden Deeps shares on behalf of Mr. Peter Crosby.

Peter, sitting up in bed, remembered these things; and he suddenly leaped out from the sheets. "Idiot!" The paper would tell him the best—or the worst.

The newspaper, even now, was peeping a corner under his bedroom door. With trembling fingers he pulled it towards him, and eagerly turned the pages. The news came up and hit him in heavy, leaden type.

He sat down on the bed and, with some difficulty, lit a cigarette.

Then he read carefully through the long message.

As he read, he realised that the thing exceeded his wildest dreams. He had been toying with the idea of making a thousand pounds! He laughed.

The Golden Deep engineers had struck one of the richest deposits of ore in the century, the paper stated. The Rand had once again made history. Lucky shareholders who had gone to bed the previous night, the owners of worthless share certificates, had awakened to find themselves rich. The value of Golden Deeps had soared within a few hours to ten times their value.

Mr. Monte's thousands had multiplied ten-fold. Peter was now the richer by ten thousand pounds.

He laid the paper aside, and dressed slowly and carefully—chiefly as an exercise of self-control. Then he sought Messrs. Morton and Downey on the phone. He got through after little delay.

"Mr. Peter Crosby speaking," he said, and was aware that he was breathless. "About these shares."

"Ah yes, Mr. Crosby," said a pleasant voice. "A thousand pounds, wasn't it? Congratulations. Now, sir, do you want to hang on to the shares, or sell? If you desire to sell, we can easily find a client."

Peter hesitated, but only for a fraction of time. He was an engineer, not a gambler. What had petered out was a cracked bubble once might do so again.

"Sell," he said promptly.

"Very good, Mr. Crosby," said the voice.

During breakfast, Peter went out into the sunshine. His first duty was clear. He must seek out Mr. Monte. (To be continued)

WILMOT VALLEY

Report of Wilmot Valley School for April and May is—

- Grade X—1. Kenneth Clark.
- Grade IX—1. Earle Clark.
- Grade VIII—1. Gertrude Huestis, and Eileen Waugh.
- Grade VII—1. Kenneth Huestis, 2. Gordon Huestis.
- Grade V—1. Leigh Curtis.
- Grade IV—1. Gwendolyn Clark.
- Grade III (Sr.)—1. Beulah Jardine.
- Grade III (Jr.)—1. Gerald Huestis.
- Grade II—1. Betty Huestis.
- Grade I—1. Doris Agnew.

Leod, 2. Velma Ford, 3. Robert Macdonald.

Grade IV—1. Helen MacRae, and Marion Macdonald (equal).

Grade II—1. Morrison Ford, 2. Wendell Ford.

Grade I (Sr.)—1. Ian MacRae, 2. Owell Ford.

Grade I (Jr.)—1. Elwood Ford.

Perfect Attendance: Chester Macdonald, Arnold MacRae, Luella MacLeod, Marion Macdonald, Helen MacRae, Ian MacRae.

Teacher: Kathleen E. Macdonald. (Patriot please copy)

Hore-Belisha Blasts Gov't

EDINBURGH, June 6 (CP)—Raising the curtain of forthcoming parliamentary debate on the defeat in Crete, former War Secretary Leslie Hore-Belisha in a speech here today accused the government of doing the public with "the narcotic of false confidence in the future."

Mr. Hore-Belisha at the same time proposed a common citizenship for the British Empire and the United States as "the most hopeful assurance of the determination of the democracies to establish a new order," and he suggested an "allied council" to direct the industrial efforts of the United States and Britain similar to the military council in the first great war.

Addressing the Scottish National Association Mr. Hore-Belisha described the British defence of Crete as a military disaster, adding:—"We suffer defeat after defeat, and always for the same reasons—lack of appreciation, lack of preparations and imperfect execution of the project. Each reverse is glossed over by the same series of incompatible explanations, and the narcotic of false confidence in the future is invariably applied."

"The bare description of what our Imperial forces have undergone in Crete arouses not only the deepest emotion but the most serious foreboding."

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MORE PEOPLE RIDE ON GOODYEAR TIRES THAN ON ANY OTHER KIND

WASHINGTON, June 6 (AP)—

Three strikes on the Pacific coast were publicly "condemned and denounced" today by the Labor Advisory Committee of the office of Production Management soon after President Roosevelt said he is considering new steps to reduce work stoppages which delay United States defence production.

Sidney Hillman associate director of O. P. M. made public a resolution adopted by the Labor Advisory Committee which asked an immediate end to these strikes—

In the shipyards in the San Francisco Bay area; at the North American Aviation Corporation plant at Inglewood, Calif.; and of lumbermen in the Puget Sound area.

OUR BOARDING HOUSE



YOU FORGET, RUBE--HE STILL HAS A THUMB

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