"SALADA" TEA

ORANGE PEKOE BLEND

350

"Pekoe" comes from the Chinese word "Pak-ho", meaning silver hair, which was applied to the tip leaves on the Chinese tea bush. Tip leaves are wiry in shape. In India they were more orange in colour, so were called "Orange Pekoe" (Pak-ho).

The SKELETON FINGER

by Headon Hall

BEGIN HERE TODAY.

Sir Dudley Glenister is suspected of the murder of his cousin, James Glenister, when a crow drops a skeleton finger on the estate, and Kathleen Glenister, sister of the dead man, in her attempt to prove Sir Dudley guilty, calls upon Mr. Simon Trickey. While there Mrs. Trickey's husband dies suddenly, but before James Wragge, detective, can investigate, Dr. Wilson issues a straight death certificate but Wragge gets possession of a small book.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY.

On his second arrival at the mining camp Trickey had discovered that George Glenister had disappeared from Lone Wolf City some two months after his first visit. There was a little cemetery, mostly containing the nameless graves of gold-seekers who had "died with their boots on." Bar-room affrays were a nightly occurence and it had been easy in that careless community to identify from hearsay one of these fallen adventurers with the missing heir to the Glenister baronetcy.

Trickey had put up a wooden cross bearing the name of George Glenister and had paid the editor of the local news-sheet five dollars for inserting a belated paragraph recording the death of the English prospector after a general shindy at the Coyote saloon.

Doubtless the obituary notice had been planted on the family solicitors, whose representative would have been readily gulled by the inscription on the grave.

But here was where the illuminative powers of the diary fell short of the lightning. It contained no proof that George Glenister was dead— to say nothing of his having met a violent end in America or in England. The only link connecting him with the corpse found in the chalk-pit at Beechwood was the ring on the skeleton finger.

Wragge had read the pages devoted to Trickey's first mission carelessly and he now turned back and read them over again. One item had escaped his notice, nor had it been included in Kathleen's account of the information Trickey had imparted to her. The entry consisted of only a few words, but the keeper of the diary had underlined them.

"It is rumored in Lone Wolf City that G. G. has struck a gold mine but that he is hung up for want of capital."

The detective closed the book, lit his trusty briar and leaned back in his chair.

Mrs. Coningsby's antecedents would have to be looked up. The lady of the purple aigrette! What was her interest in the diary and how did she happen to be there at the time of the ex-clerk's death? Was she there on behalf of Sir Dudley Glenister, and if so was her motive in serving the baronet financial or amatory?

The inspector admitted to himself as he would have admitted to no one else, that he was in a fog, though there were several threads to be followed up. So far as he could see they none of them led with any certainty to a conviction for murder against Sir Dudley Glenister. They could probably get him on a charge of fraud and procuring false evidence, but that —Wragge frowned at the reflection— would not hang the baronet of Beechwood Grange.

And that was the task that had been demanded of him by two people, one of whom he could afford to disregard. Miss Kathleen Glenister's thirst for vengeance against the hypothetical slayer of her brother did not count, but Mr. Stephen Colne's mandate lay like lead on Wragge's soul. The cabinet minister's scarcely veiled threat of ruin in the event of failure was overwhelming. Wragge knew that he had the power to carry it out.

CHAPTER IV.

THE OLD MILL HOUSE.

Through the Beechwood properties ran a purling trout stream, broadening in some of its reaches into a river. On the bank of one of these wider sections, opposite the clearing where stood the head-keeper's cottage, a deserted mill reached its lichen-covered gables amid the tree tops.

To this picturesque desolation Sir Dudley Glenister came from the Grange through the woods on the third morning after his thrashing by Norman Slater in Lady Marrable's drawing room. John Grimes, who had been watching from his garden, joined his master by way of stepping-stones across the brook. Grimes took a key from his pocket and unlocked the door of the dwelling house attached to the mill.

They came to a truly gruesome place.

"You'll have to mind your steps on the ground floor, sir," he said as he led the way into the interior. "The flooring is rotten."

"It is the upstairs I want to see," said Sir Dudley shortly.

John Grimes mounted a narrow staircase, the baronet following. A big brown rat eyed their ascent from the landing and scampered away squealing when he had got over his surprise. So they came to the bedrooms, long ago occupied by the miller's family, and Sir Dudley looked into them all in turn. Finally he entered the largest room, which looked across the stream towards the keeper's cottage.

"This will do," he muttered. Then he turned on the saturnine keeper. "I want this room fixed up to receive a guest," he said. "You will buy some common furniture, just simple necessaries, and have them delivered at your cottage as if they were for your own use. Then you can bring them over here after dark."

"No need to buy it, sir," was the reply. "There's a roomful of stuff at my place that's been out of use since my daughter went away."

"Good!" said Sir Dudley. "That will save incurring the curiosity of outsiders. Now there is another thing. I want a strong lock fitted to the door and iron bars placed across the window. Are you competent to do those jobs yourself without calling in help from the town?"

"I could fix the lock all right," said the keeper. "I ain't so sure about the bars. Seemingly, Sir Dudley, your guest isn't one that will take much exercise?"

"None at all," was the curt rejoinder. "What about the bars, then?"

Grimes walked to the diamond-paned window and looked down. "Unless the party has got wings there ain't no bars needed," he said. "It's a plumb drop into the mill-race. No foothold for a ladder, and anyone as jumped would be drowned for sure."

Sir Dudley by personal inspection confirmed the statement. Though the mill itself was rotten the artificial channel that had furnished power to the derelict wheel was as deep and strong as ever. The best of swimmers would have been hard put to it to stem the current without being swept into the wrecked wheel.

"We will let the bars go," he said. "The risk will be less than having them made and fitted by a gossiping blacksmith. Now, as to a second guest chamber, Grimes. It may not have to be occupied, and it need not have the modest comforts I am providing for this. Is there any place where a gentleman who is not very friendly to me can be accommodated?"

The stolid face of the keeper yielded no sign.

"There is the old grain store, on the ground floor of the mill, sir," he replied. "It's got no window and it's swarming with rats, but it would hold anyone as could put up with the damp."

"Show it to me," Sir Dudley commanded.

They descended the stairs, and, passing into the mill proper, came to a truly gruesome place, a veritable dungeon reeking with foul odors and echoing the lap of the mill-race against its outer walls. Sir Dudley lit a succession of matches and peered round.

"This will do," he said. "Better put a new lock here, too. Now when can you be ready, Grimes?"

"I ought to have three days, sir."

"You can have them, and you will get due notice before the place is wanted."

Sir Dudley strolled into the footpath leading to the Grange, and John Crimes, a sour smile on his lips, turned to close the outer door of the mill. Then the keeper made his way to the bank across the weir and started to recross the shallower stream by way of the stepping-stones. He was about half way over when the shrill voices of women drew his gaze to his cottage door.

That stern task-mistress his angular wife, the only being under the stars of whom he stood in dread, was embracing and volubly chattering to a fashionably dressed widow lady, the freshness of whose "weeds" bespoke her bereavement as recent. John Grimes lifted one hand to shade his eyes.

"Damned if that widder woman ain't our Sally!"

CHAPTER XV.

THE EMPTY DRAWER.

Miss Maud Blair approached the great front door of Beechwood Grance with some diffidence.

Recognition by Sir Dudley had no terrors for her. The present baronet had succeeded to the estates after her departure for fresh fields of conquest. During his rare visits in Sir Philip's time when he was plain Mr. Dudley Glenister, she had never chanced to meet him.

Old Hinkley, the butler, who would probably open the door to her, was a different proposition. He had been familiar with her from childhood and she remembered that he was a shrewd observer.

With the idea of getting it over, as one makes a dash for the dentist's knocker, she took the last few steps almost at a run and pulled the old-fashioned bell-chain hard. The ponderous door slid back on well-oiled hinges and Hinkley of the pink face and white whiskers confronted her.

(To be continued.)

NURSES WANTED

The Toronto Hospital for Incurables, in affiliation with Bellevue and Allied Hospitals, New York City, offers a three years' Course of Training to young women, having the required education, and desirous of becoming nurses. This Hospital has adopted the eight-hour system. The pupils receive uniforms of the School, a monthly allowance and traveling expenses to and from New York. For further information write the Superintendent.

SUN LIFE SETS NEW RECORD

Canadian Company With World Wide Organization a Great Credit to This Country. Increase in New Business For Year Greatest on Continent.

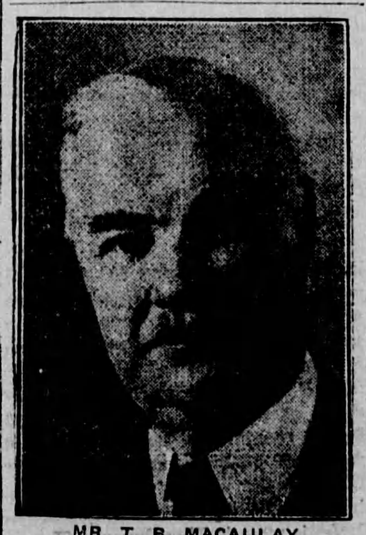
The strength and solidity of our large insurance companys, banks, etc., is a source of great pride to all Canadians, and it is in the best interests of the country that these institutions remain Canadian in ownership and not pass to foreign control, as have many of our large business enterprises.

The extraordinary expansion of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada during the last few years has caused its annual report to be awaited with unusual interest, not only by the policyholders of the Company, but by a large section of the general public.

The annual report which the President has just submitted, and which appears in this issue, must have surpassed the expectations of the most sanguine. The total amount of assurances in force with the Company now approaches the billion and a half figure, $1,487,000,000, an increase for the year of over $231,500,000. The total net income for the year exceeded $100,000,000—five times what it was ten years ago and more than $23,000,000 in excess of the income for the previous year.

Such statistics as are available for 1927 indicate that the aggregate new business of all the companies operating in North America last year barely exceeds the total new business of the previous year. The increase in the new business of the Sun Life of Canada, on the other hand, was twenty-three per cent. Assurances in force on the books of the Company have doubled in four years—new business has trebled in that period.

This wonderful expansion has been paralleled by a great increase in the already proverbial strength and resources of the Company. The assets have been increased by over $56,000,000, and now reach the impressive total of over $400,000,000. The Company's assets approximate the amount of the total assurances in force only eight years ago.



MR. T. B. MACAULAY
President
Sun Life of Canada

The wisdom of the Company's investment policy is reflected in the fact that it has no arrears in interest or dividend on either its bonds or preferred stocks, while the dividends accruing in its common stocks are greatly in excess of those payable on those stocks at the time of their purchase. The care and foresight exercised in this branch of the business is indicated by an appraisal of company securities, the market value of which has increased by over $19,000,000 during this year.

The surplus earned during the year amounted to over $38,500,000. The Company has followed its conservative policy with respect to this surplus and deducted $5,000,000 from the market value of its securities as a further provision against possible future fluctuations, the total amount set aside for this purpose now standing at $10,000,000. The account to provide for unforeseen contingencies has been increased by $1,500,000 and now amounts to $12,500,000. The sum of $1,000,000 has been written off the Company's properties; an additional $500,000 has been set aside in anticipation of the greater longevity of annuities—the total provision under this head now being $2,000,000. Another $50,000 has been set aside to provide for claims with respect to total disability cases as yet unreported. $11,000,000 has been paid or alloted as profits to policyholders during the year, and over $6,000,000 has been contingently allotted to deferred dividend policies issued prior to 1911 and to five-year distribution policies to provide for profits accrued but not yet payable.

After making these liberal deduction and allocations, over $11,000,000 has been added to the undivided surplus, which now stands at more than $45,000,000.

There is good news again for the participating policyholders of the Company in the announcement that the scale of dividends to be paid to policyholders during the year commencing April 1st next will be again increased—this for the eighth successive year. The interest rate on dividends left with the Company will be maintained at 5½ per cent. per annum during the new dividend year.

There were paid to policyholders and beneficiaries, in respect to death claims, matured endowments, etc., during the year over $42,000,000. The Company has paid out since its organization, under this head, over $300,000,000.

It is indicative of the efficiency and morale of the world-wide organization of the Sun Life that the increases in its income are from every department of its business and from every territorial division, namely, Canada; United States; South America and West Indies; Great Britain, South Africa and the Near East; China, Japan, India and the Far East. Such a showing is not alone a tribute to President Macaulay ,but a striking proof of the high quality of the personnel of his organization.

The Head Office building in Montreal is to be increased to mammoth proportions, the first unit of the new building being now under construction. This building is designed, when completed, to accommodate 10,000 employees. Almost equally interesting is the action of the Company this year in purchasing one of the most central sites in London, just off Trafalgar Square and adjoining Canada House. Here is being erected what wil be undoubtedly one of the finest office buildings in the world's metropolis and from which the business of the British Isles will be administered.

PARIS TO GET POWER FROM FAR-AWAY RIVER

Government to Harness Dordonne—Expects 90,000,000 Francs Yearly From Sale of Current

Paris—France, under the leadership of Andre Tardieu, Minister of Public Works, is working hard in the development of its natural resources.

Recently an extensive electrification of the railroad in the southern part of the country has been completed and now a scheme has passed the first stage for harnessing the River Dordonne, in the centre of France, to supply Paris with electric current.

The Senate passed the necessary appropriations of 328,000,000 francs and the bill will be rushed through the Chamber before the close of the session.

Of 600,000,000 kilowatts, which it is proposed to obtain, 400,000,000 will be brought to Paris and the sale of electric current is calculated to produce 90,000,000 francs a year.

Part of the work on the water-power development is being done by using German materials delivered as reparations payment.

Doctor—"You say you have dreadful pains—are they worse at night?" Patient—"Probably—but I cannot tell." Doctor—"Why not?" Patient—"I am always asleep then."

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MAKE BETTER HOME MADE BREAD

The Reminder.

A Negro preacher was denouncing the sins om his congregation.

"Bredern and sistern, Ah warns yo' 'gainst de heinous sin of playin' dice! Ah charges yo' 'gainst de black rascality of liftin' pullets. But above all else, bredern an' sistern, Ah demolishes yo' 'gainst de crime of melon-stealin'."

A brother in the back seat made an odd sound with his lips, rose and snapped his fingers. Then he sat down again with an abashed look.

"Whoffo', ma fren'," said the parson, sternly, "does you get up an' snap yo' fingers when Ah speaks ob melon-stealin'?"

"Yo' jes' remin's me, parson," the man in the back seat answered meekly, "whar Ah lef' mah knife."

Minard's Liniment for asthma.

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