

The March of the White Guard

By SIR GILBERT PARKER.

CHAPTER III.—(Cont'd.)

Immediately after, at a sign from the Sub-factor, Cloud-in-the-Sky began to transfer the burning wood from one fire to the other until only hot ashes were left where a great blaze had been. Over these ashes pine twigs and branches were spread, and over them again blankets. The word was then given to turn in, and Jeff Hyde, Gaspe Toujours, and Late Cascaellan lay down in this comfortable bed. Each wished to give way to their captain, but he would not consent, and he alone. Cloud-in-the-Sky wrapped themselves in a blanket like mummies, covering their heads completely, and under the Arctic sky they slept alone in an austere and tenantless world. They never know how loftily sardonic nature can be who have not seen that land where the mercury freezes in the tubes and there is light but no warmth in the smile of the sun. Not Sturl in the heart of Australia with the mercury bursting the fevered tubes, with the finger-nails breaking like brittle glass, with the ink drying instantly on the pen, with the hair falling off and fading, would, if he could, have exchanged his lot for that of the White Guard. They are in a frozen wilderness that stretches away to a world where never voice of man or clasp of ice or sound of bell is heard. It is the threshold of the unvisited country, to that untouched north whose fields of white are only furrowed by the giant forces of the elements, on whose frigid breath no fire is ever lit, a place where the electric phantoms of nightless land pass and re-pass, and are never still, where the magic needle points not toward the north but darkly downward, downward—where the sun never sets, where the warm hands to him who dares confront the terrors of eternal snow.

CHAPTER IV.

Nice Captain, leave me here and push on to the Manitou Mountain. You ought to make it in two days. I'm just as safe here as on the sleds and less trouble, a blind man's no good. I'll stay a good while, while you're gone. My eye will come back. My foot is a mark well.

Aspar Hume said: "I won't leave you alone my man. The best way to get you is to get the best of you." "I'm as safe here as on the sleds and less trouble, a blind man's no good. I'll stay a good while, while you're gone. My eye will come back. My foot is a mark well."

Aspar Hume did not sleep well at first that night, but at length oblivion came. He waked to feel Jacques striking at his blankets. It was noon, Lake Cascaellan and Cloud-in-the-Sky were still sleeping—inanimate bundles among the dogs. In an hour they were on their way again, and toward sunset they had reached the foot of Manitou Mountain. Abruptly from the plain rose this mighty mound, blue and white upon a black base. A few straggling pines grew near its foot, decaying latitude, as the mountain itself defined the inclinations of geographers and geologists. A hat was called. Late Cascaellan and Cloud-in-the-Sky looked at the chief. His eyes were scanning the mountain closely. Suddenly he paused. Five hundred feet up there is a great round hole in the solid rock, from this hole the smoke comes a fabled smoke, Aspar Hume's eyes were fixed on the hole. The other two see. Cloud-in-the-Sky gives a wild whoop, such a whoop as only an Indian can give, and from the mountain there comes a moan after a faint peep of the sound. It is not an echo, for there appears at the mouth of the cave an Indian who sees them and makes feeble signs for them to come. In a few moments they are in the cave. Aspar Hume enters, Cloud-in-the-Sky and the stalwart black-painted Indian who had beckoned them speak to each other in the Chitank language, the jargon common to the Indians of the west.

Aspar Hume saw a form reclining on a great bundle of pine branches and he knew what Rose Lepage had prayed had come to pass. By the flickering light of a handful of fire he saw Varre Lepage—rather what he was, a shadow of himself, a heap of feeble bones. His eyes were shut, but as Aspar Hume, with a quiver of memory and sympathy at his heart, stood for an instant and looked at the man whom he had cherished as a friend and found an enemy, he saw the lips of Varre Lepage moved and a weak voice said, "Who is here?"

"A friend." "Come near me friend," Aspar Hume made a motion to Lorie Cascaellan, who was heating some liquid at the fire, and he came near and stooped and lifted up the man's head and took his hand. (To be continued.)

Legs and Necks.

Naturalists assure us that, with a few exceptions, there is a marked equality between the lengths of the necks and of the legs of both birds and quadrupeds. Whether they be long or whether they be short is determined, it seems, chiefly by the manner in which the animal feeds. Crocodiles, lizards and fish have virtually no necks. Fowls that feed in the water also offer an example of this correspondence between the members, with the exception of swans and geese.

The first postage stamp was printed in Great Britain in 1840; it was black in color.

CROP AND TRADE CONDITIONS THROUGHOUT THE DOMINION

Bank of Montreal Annual Meeting.

Complete Reports Submitted on Conditions in Various Provinces of the Dominion at Annual Meeting of the Bank of Montreal Will Be of Special Interest to Mercantile and Farming Communities.

The Annual Meeting of the Bank of Montreal complete reports were submitted by the Superintendents of the Bank, dealing with trade and farming conditions in the various provinces of the Dominion. These reports cover the particular operations carried out in the various sections of the country and the account became of very special interest to the mercantile and farming communities desirous of keeping in touch with the important developments that are occurring throughout Canada. Our Superintendents' reports are as follows:

Ontario.

Manufacturing in Ontario has been limited only by shortage of supplies and disturbances in labor. Government credits for goods sold to Europe have stimulated manufacturing, and domestic demands have been insistent. New industries have been started, and a number of successful manufacturing concerns in the United States have been making enquiries with the intention of locating in Ontario.

Ontario farmers have been steadily bettering their position in recent years, installing modern equipment and improving their modes of living. The past year has been one of fair crops and high prices. A wet spring was followed by an exceptionally dry summer, and grain crops with the exception of fall wheat, fell below the average. Root crops were good; corn and tomatoes were a record yield; the season was poor for all fruit except grapes. (These production shows a falling off. There is a shortage of apples; sheep raising is on the increase. The cattle situation is somewhat unsettled, owing to the limited amount of feed available for carrying through the winter.)

The production of lumber has been seriously affected owing to shortage of labor. 1919 has been an excellent marketing year, with heavy sales to Great Britain and the United States. A steady domestic demand for all classes of lumber. Prices have been unusually high, there is no accumulation of stocks on hand, and notwithstanding the scarcity of labor and increased costs of operating, the year has been a successful one. Pulp and paper have been in large and increasing demand, with soaring prices for the latter.

Mining production during the year has been curtailed. The demand for nickel fell off after the Armistice, strike lessened the silver output.

Both these situations are improving and larger production has taken place in the gold mines.

Both wholesalers and retailers report it easy to sell goods. Credits are shortened and bad debts negligible. Larger expenditures were generally made by municipalities this year in an effort to overtake works postponed during the war.

Population shows a general increase, with a tendency to drift to urban and manufacturing centres.

There has been a continued extension in hydro electric power during the past year, and works at Nipigon and Chippewa, as well as at other places less important, will within the next two years add very largely to the available power for manufacturing and other purposes throughout Ontario.

Generally speaking, the year has been one of great activity throughout the Province.

Prairie Provinces.

During part of the past season extensive areas in Saskatchewan and Alberta experienced, in common with the North-Western States, severe drought, and loss of crops, that owing to good yields in other areas and to high prices, the value of grains raised exceeded that of the year 1915, when the heaviest crops in the history of the West was produced.

When Fatigued

Acup of OXO is both refreshing and invigorating.

Ready in a minute—the mixture you want.

OXO

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

When Fatigued

Acup of OXO is both refreshing and invigorating.

Ready in a minute—the mixture you want.

OXO

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

When Fatigued

Acup of OXO is both refreshing and invigorating.

Ready in a minute—the mixture you want.

OXO

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

When Fatigued

Acup of OXO is both refreshing and invigorating.

Ready in a minute—the mixture you want.

OXO

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

When Fatigued

Acup of OXO is both refreshing and invigorating.

Ready in a minute—the mixture you want.

OXO

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

When Fatigued

Acup of OXO is both refreshing and invigorating.

Ready in a minute—the mixture you want.

OXO

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.

Who's the Order? The Order is for the members of the Order of the OXO.