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By The Law of Tooth and Talon

By MERLIN MOORE TAYLOR

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Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.

Louie Vogel, a notorious criminal, is offered $5,000 by Lebrun to kidnap Judge Graham, terror of evil-doers. As Lebrun leaves "Silver Danny's" saloon, he is observed by Ralph Charlton of the Department of Justice who has dubbed him "The Gray Wolf." Vogel takes the $1,000 given him to bind the compact to Stella Lathrop, a country girl he had found starving in the city and befriended. Stella is now earning honest wages in a factory and refuses to marry Vogel unless he gives up his evil ways. She has, however, fallen a convert to Bolshevism. Vogel carries out his pact. Judge Graham lies bound in a shack some miles out of the city. "The Gray Wolf" demands that the Judge should let certain prisoners off with merely a fine. Threats of death for himself and torture for his son have no weight with the just Judge. Charlton becomes suspicious of "The Gray Wolf" and Vogel. Stella Lathrop joins the Inner Council. Charlton visited Stella to find out if she knew of Vogel's whereabouts, and when leaving the hotel saw Lebrune break into her room and Vogel rush to her rescue.

CHAPTER VIII.

Stella Takes a Hand.

Almost in the instant that "Big Louie" charged through Stella's doorway and laid violent hands upon her annoyer, he recognized that it was none other than Lebrune. The bullet from the automatic which "The Gray Wolf" whipped from his pocket as the door fell in passed between Vogel's arm and his body and buried itself in the wall. Before Lebrune could fire again the gunman was upon him in a whirl of berserker rage. He seized his employer by the throat, shook him until he felt his body growing limp within his grasp, then hurled it from him into the hall beyond. He did not know whether he had killed Lebrune or not. He did not care. At that moment the thought uppermost in his mind was that this woman whom he loved had been hurt, for in a glance he had sized up the overturned furniture, her clothes almost torn from her body and the livid marks upon her neck where "The Gray Wolf's" sinewy fingers had pressed. But finding that Stella was not bad'y injured and that a crowd was gathering and pushing through the doorway he calmed himself, explaining that she had been attacked by a drunken stranger and that he had come upon the scene just in time to take a hand. The crowd melted away. Such things were every-day occurrences in their lives.

Even as he consoled the girl, Vogel's mind was rapidly running over the position in which he was placed. There came to him the fear in that moment that at last he had perpetrated that dreaded "slip," that Lebrune would be thirsting for revenge for his rough handling and Vogel saw most clearly just how Lebrune could go about getting that revenge. It was the thing which Vogel himself might have done had conditions been reversed. An anonymous telephone call to the police hinted that Judge Graham was to be found in the abandoned shack and that "Big Louie" was his jailer. Vogel could see the hounds of the law baying on his trail immediately. He knew that but one course lay open to him to insure his safety and that was in immediate flight. Still he always had played fair with those of his fellows who served him well and he balked at the thought of making off in an effort to save his own skin and leaving the two men guarding the old judge to bear the brunt of things when the police descended on the shack, as he had every reason to believe they would. No, he must warn them first. Then it would be every man for himself.

"Listen, honey, and don't ask me no questions," he said to Stella, the moment they were alone. "I've got to beat it out of here and disappear for good. That dog that I jest now threw out of here has got the goods on me, and he'll set the bulls on me hotfoot. And once I'm gone I dassen't come back. So I'll tell you good-bye here and now. My dreams is all blowed up and I can't never have yu like I hoped. Give me jest one kiss to remember yu by, girl, before I go."

"Louie, take me with you. Take me with you," she cried. "I can't let you go and never see you again."

Her arms went around his neck and she clung to him tightly.

"No, no, honey. Don't tempt me," he said passionately even as his arms went about her and he crushed her yielding form to him. "I've got to be far away from here in an hour from now and I must give my pals a chance to make their getaway. It means I cut down on my own chances, but they've got a right to have some chance and they won't get it unless I give it to 'em. No, honey, you can't go. Good-bye."

But already she had wrenched herself free of him and was throwing over her torn garments a one-piece dress. Without stopping to button it she picked up a light coat and jammed upon her head the first hat she laid hands upon.

"I'm ready," she announced. "For Louie, I've got to run, too. I ain't done nothing crooked knowingly, but that fellow that you threw out has got me, too. And if he aims to be revenged upon you he'll try it on me, too."

"We ain't got no time for explanations," said Vogel. "If lyu say yu have reasons to make a run for it I've got to believe yu. If yu are lyin' to me now I'll know it later and I won't never forgive yu for it. But if yu are tellin' the truth be at the door downstairs in ten minutes from now and I'll pick yu up in the car."

Stella was waiting in a mixture of impatience and fear when he drove up. Leaving the engine running, he dashed into the hotel, dropped a bill upon the desk to settle for the rent which he and Stella owed and, without waiting for his change, rushed out, climbed into the car beside her, threw in the clutch and sped away.

Stella was in a cold sweat as they shot through the streets, turned corners on two wheels and escaped accidents by hairs' breadths. For she had told Vogel the truth. In the moment that he had begun to tell her that his only avenue of safety lay in fleeing from the wrath of Lebrune she realized that she, too, was in the same predicament. It was unthinkable that "The Gray Wolf," if he set the law upon Vogel because of their clash in her room, would permit her to escape the consequences of her rejection of his advances. Being the cause of the severity with which Vogel had handled him, she had no hopes that Lebrune would be content to avenge himself upon the one and not upon the other. She knew that she could never confide in Vogel about the Inner Council because she did not hold her oath before it lightly, even though she now knew that it had been given through misunderstanding of the real purposes of this radical organization with which she had allied herself.

She breathed more freely when they were out of the heavier traffic of the streets and were spinning along a macadam road leading toward the city limits. But not so Vogel. Surreptitious glances over his shoulder had revealed to him that they were being followed by a big black car. He had turned corners and doubled on his trail once to make sure that he was right and still the black car hung grimly to his trail, adjusting its speed to that of the car which he was driving but never having any difficulty in keeping it in sight. At every moment he expected to hear a fusillade of shots in his rear calling upon him to halt, but none came and this puzzled him. Once out on a country road, he opened wide the throttle but he could not shake off the pursuers. The big black car kept at the same distance in his rear.

"We are being followed and we may be near the end of the rope they're givin' us," he said quietly but loud enough to be heard above the roar of his opened cut-out.

"I thought so," she replied just as calmly. "It's the black car back there, ain't it?"

"Yes, keep yer eye on it," he ordered, and she twisted in her seat to maintain a constant watch upon the pursuers. Suddenly there was a loud report from the big black car.

"They're started shootin' now," commented Vogel without turning his head. Then she startled him with an exultant cry and he slowed down that he, too, might twist about and look behind. They saw the pursuing car swerve drunkenly along the roadway, leave it, careen on the edge of the ditch at its side, then plunge over the bank.

"They've gone and we've still got a chance," said Vogel and opened up the throttle again. "D—d lucky it was them had the blowout and not us." He set himself grimly to getting out of the car every ounce of power which it possessed, and its wheels fairly spurned the road beneath them.

Vogel turned off along a narrow, rutty road and followed it for two miles before he left it, drove through a fringe of dense woods and paused before an abandoned looking, weather beaten building which in days gone by had been a home of some sort.

"If they follow us here they will have to be some trackers," he remarked as the car jolted to a stop and two evil-looking men emerged from the back to greet them.

"Listen!" Stella's keen ears had detected a sound as yet unheard by the men. Far down the road on the other side of the trees a motorcar was chugging along at low speed, evidently finding the going rough in the rutty road. Then they plainly heard it drawing nearer. It was coming through the trees toward them.

"They've trailed us. It's the cops," cried Stella.

But Vogel's hearing was more acute. Too, he had sighted a gray roadster body between the tree trunks.

"No, it's not the cops. It's him," he corrected her. He never had learned Lebrune's name. But both the girl and his hirelings knew to whom he referred. "He means business. Stell, you go into the house and get under cover in the basement. Tom and Jerry, scatter behind some of these here trees. Don't take a hand in no argument unless he gits me. Then make him beat it and give the girl a chance."

Immediately they carried out his instructions. Vogel himself, scorning protection of a tree or other shield, took a position out in the open. In each hand he held one of the heavy revolvers taken from the holsters strapped to his belt.

Lebrune brought the roadster to a stop that made the brakes squeal with its violence. Evidently he was taken aback by the warlike preparations of his tools.

"Stay where yu are," yelled Vogel. "If yu come any nearer I'll begin to pumpin' lead at yu."

"What's the idea?" yelled back Lebrune.

"The idea is that I don't take no stock in yu, mister," replied the gunman. "I'm off the job. I'm blowin' away from here and I don't want no more truck with yu. Now start the benzine buggy back toward town and move fast. If yu ain't on yer way agin the time I count ten these babies o' mine are goin' to make yu think the 'war ain't over. One, two, three," but already Lebrune had thrown in the clutch and was backing the gray roadster for a turn.

"I'll get you for this, you double-crossing crook," he roared. A bullet spat against the frame of the car dangerously near to him and he stepped on the accelerator and drove at reckless speed across the rough ground.

"He's gone," said Vogel. "Now yu fellers better make tracks for town. He'll have the bulls down here upon us sure. Here's the coin I promised yu for the job." He handed a bill to each of his henchmen. "Jest keep yer mouths shut, and yu'll be all to the good. Blab what yu know and we'll all be doin' a stretch down below. So long."

He watched them out of sight through the trees, then turned into the house.

"It's all right, Stell," he called down the stairs to the cellar. "Come on and we'll be puttin' the road behind us."

"Oh, Louie, there's an old man down here and they've got him all tied up. He liked to have scared me silly when I seen him."

Vogel swore.

"I clean fergit him," he admitted. "Well, we ain't got no time to be foolin'. Come on. Leave him be. The bulls'll be here soon enough as it is, like as not, and they'll turn him loose. I hate to think of some of 'em copping the thousands reward for him, but coin ain't in it with me when it comes to dodgin' a bit behind the bars. Come on."

"He's such an old man and looks bad, too," said Stella, "and he reminds me of my dad down in The Cove. Suppose the cops don't come, Louie. He might die. Let's turn 'im loose, Louie, and give 'im a lift down to the road anyhow."

"Nothin' doin'," replied the gunman positively. Then he lowered his voice and whispered: "That's Jedge Graham yu been readin' about in the papers. He ain't never seen me yit, and I don't want him to. It's the same as a life trick if that old devil ever recognizes me as one o' his kidnappers. I been takin' good care that he don't get one good look at me."

"Then he can't identify you as ever havin' a hand in it," she declared. "And, Louie, I ain't a-goin' to leave him here alone. Can't we take him with us?"

"Fer the love of God, what for?" demanded Vogel. "We ain't got no time to fool with him, I tell you. Air you comin'?"

"Not without him," was the firm reply. And Stella promptly sat down upon the topmost step. "If he goes, and we can make it I can show you where we can hide for years and never be caught. If we want to we can drop him at some town we go through. But if he stays, I stay. That's final."

"D—n you for a stubborn mule," said Vogel. Then he noticed the firm set of her lips, the square jaw and subsided to grumbling acquiescence in her plan. "All right, all right, sister, we'll haul him aroun' with us, but like as not it'll mean a pinch for both of us. I wonder now if they hang a man fer kidnappin' a United States jedge?"

He stumbled down the stairs into the cellar and proceeded to untie Judge Graham's bonds and to remove his gag. "Come on, ol' timer," he said jocosely to stifle his own trepidation and fears. "Yu're goin' to take a little joyride with the lady and me. Why, the darned old fool's dead to the world." He bent over and shook the motionless form and was relieved to find that the Judge was still alive, even though he was unconscious. Between them they carried him up the steps and out of the house and stowed him away in the back seat of the car.

"Yu get in with him and keep his head on yer lap and keep him covered up," he ordered. "They won't be lookin' for three of us. Perhaps the old geezer will help us in the getaway after all."

Thus, with the old man's head pillowed upon her lap, and Vogel driving as fast as the car could stand and still hang to the road, they began their journey for the safe retreat which Stella had in mind. Judge Graham's condition did not change, so far as they could notice, and Stella opposed leaving him to the mercy of strangers. So he remained with them.

(To be continued.)

Minard's Liniment Relieves Colds, etc.

Summer Labor-Savers.

One of the miseries of summer work is caused by flies which are not only "horrid" but a real menace to the health of the family. There are precautions which can and should be taken to keep flies from breeding on the place but the greatest help to the housewife in keeping them out of the house is to have every window screened, full length if possible, every door screened, and best of all, have the porches screened.

A comfortable baby means less work and less work mean a more comfortable mother, so two devices which will be of help in the care of baby are also suggested as summer labor-savers for mother.

The first of these is a screened coop where baby can sleep comfortably, free from flies.

A fence of netting about three feet high and a diameter of fifteen feet will give the toddler a place where he can exercise without needing to be watched every second. A sand box and a low swing can be placed inside this playgarden and the little fellow who must have lots of activity can get it without getting in mother's way. He will be safe from dangerous accidents.

A fireless cooker used with the oil stove makes it possible to prepare dishes which require long-time cooking without constant care and watching by the housewife. It also means a great saving of fuel.

A tightly built box, old trunk, galvanized-iron ash can, candy bucket, tin lard can, lard tub or butter firkin makes a successful container. In selecting the container, the housewife should take into consideration the size of her family and make the cooker large enough to hold the cooking utensils she generally uses.

The inside container or nest which holds the vessel of hot food may be a bucket of agate or galvanized iron or heavy tin. This nest should be deep enough to hold the radiator and the cooking utensil which contains the food. Straight sides to the nest are desirable. It should be neatly and carefully covered.

The packing or insulation should be of some material which is a poor conductor of heat. The following materials may be used: shredded newspaper, hay, excelsior, ground cork, steel wool or asbestos cement.

The nest should be wrapped with sheet asbestos and a sheet of asbestos fitted over the bottom. It is also a good plan to line the outside container with sheet asbestos.

The outside container should be large enough to allow three and one-half inches of packing below and around the sides of the nest. If a cooker is being made with two nests, six inches of packing should be placed between the nests. Pack into the bottom three and one-half inches of the packing. Be sure that the packing is tamped very firmly.

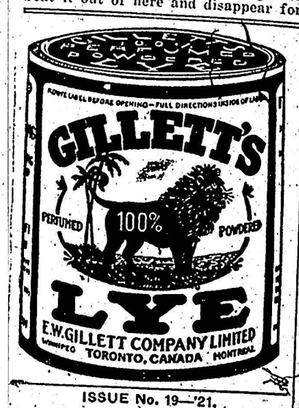
Place the nest or inside container wrapped with asbestos on the packing in the container and put the packing tightly and firmly between the nest and the container until it reaches the top of the nest.

Finish the top with a sheet of asbestos or with plaster of Paris or with asbestos cement. The plaster of Paris and asbestos cement should be allowed to harden thoroughly before using the cooker.

Make a cushion to fill completely the top of the container. This cushion is filled with packing and should be about four inches thick, solid enough to retain heat.

The container, too, should have a lid. The whole outside may be painted.

The best results will be obtained with the cooker by using a soapstone radiator which holds the heat longer.



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And find ourselves in Springland once again,
Roam the dear haunts of youth where Love was born,
And smile through tears at Winter's dream of pain;
For we must hold that Beauty never dies,
That pain alone is mortal, and the years
Bear us on wings beneficent and wise,
That joy moves round in cycles with the spheres.

The Sun that brought the first glad dawn of Spring,
And ripened the sweet fruitage of our prime,
Shall sure return, and with his coming bring
Yet fuller life from soil enriched by time:
Dead leaves augment life's resurrection powers,
And all the summers past shall strengthen ours.

—J. Lewis Milligan.

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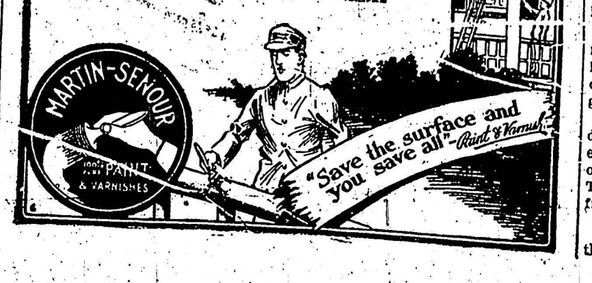

NORTH MANITOBA MINERAL BELT

PROVINCE HAS GREAT INDUSTRIAL FUTURE

Adequate Railroad Facilities Needed for Full Development of Rich Discoveries.

The discovery of va[illegible] in Northern Manitoba and [illegible] one of the most promisin[illegible] mineral belts has change[illegible] and prospect of the n[illegible] province, and from be[illegible] agricultural provin[illegible] world's finest farming [illegible] closure of sources of pro[illegible] eral revenue forecast a [illegible] industrial importance. Th[illegible] dustry in this vast re[illegible] regarded as other than [illegible] stages of development, [illegible] hampered by its remo[illegible] tled areas and the [illegible] ation facilities, every [illegible] something to reveal in [illegible] discoveries, and much [illegible] work has been undert[illegible] pleted. The value of [illegible] duced in Northern Ma[illegible] amounted in value to $[illegible] production for 1920 [illegible] Commissioner Wallace [illegible] tory at around $600,000.

Approximately three [illegible] total area of Manitoba [illegible] brian, a formation which [illegible] gave rise to the develop[illegible] bury, Cobalt and [illegible] was little prospecting [illegible] fore 1912 when the [illegible] was opened up, and the [illegible] Railway gave access to [illegible] areas of the northern [illegible] vince. Successful pro[illegible] since that time be[illegible] a wide area, the more [illegible] tricts of which are The [illegible] the Rice Lake area.

Development at [illegible]

Since 1915, develop[illegible] rapid in The Pas mineral [illegible] million tons of low [illegible] have been explored by [illegible] ing at Flin Flon Lake [illegible] ing actively developed [illegible] copper is being exp[illegible] Lake to the smelter at [illegible] more than 7,000,000 [illegible] ready been realize[illegible] prospects are [illegible] the prospected bel[illegible] at Flin Flon will lead [illegible] to the establishment [illegible] industry. Gold [illegible] Herb Lake, and [illegible] development work is [illegible] in four other sections.

During 1920, develop[illegible] The Pas mineral be[illegible] mainly to the west[illegible] ends. There was [illegible] mond drilling at [illegible] deal of interest arose [illegible] coveries at Elbow Lake [illegible] prospecting done in [illegible] territory, and active [illegible] was carried on in the [illegible] body by the Lenny [illegible] Company for the Thomp[illegible] Production of the Mann[illegible] went through the Trail, [illegible] totalled more than [illegible] per, gold, and silver [illegible] small production of gold [illegible] mine and trial-mill ru[illegible] Northern Manitoba and [illegible] ties. As far as copper [illegible] concerned in particular [illegible] a tendancy to await rail[illegible] consequent upon the [illegible] Flin Flon property be[illegible] considerable expenditure [illegible] made on other copper p[illegible] tensive exploration has [illegible] established the fact that [illegible] ore body of very large [illegible] the Flin Flon deposits [illegible] come increasingly impo[illegible] Province of Manitoba.

Active Prospective Pro[illegible]

The development of the [illegible] Manitoba mineral area in [illegible] considered as satisfactory [illegible] of the general situation, [illegible] production may not have [illegible] startling proportions, [illegible] been achieved which can [illegible] mated statistically, in the [illegible] good publicity received [illegible] fluential interest around [illegible] for instance, of members [illegible] vincial legislature to the [illegible] promises to show good re[illegible] trip was to these men a w[illegible] velation of the possibi[illegible] velopment in the north [illegible] vince. Full development [illegible] tion from this rich mineral [illegible] be attained until ade[illegible] facilities have been prov[illegible]

Man Wanted.

Mr. Johnson was the be[illegible] ger of a big concern and [illegible] to travel a great deal in [illegible] much to the displeasure [illegible] ter, Dorothy, aged nine.

"Daddie," she asked, "Why [illegible] stay at home and work [illegible] little girls' daddies do?"

"Why, I'd love to, Dorothy," [illegible] father, with a smile, "but [illegible] I have to earn a lot of m[illegible] care of mother and you an[illegible] get enough work at home to [illegible]

"Daddie," continued Do[illegible] don't believe you have ever [illegible] enough. Why, I see just lots and lots of signs all the time. Man Wanted. This very morning there was one in front of the hardware store."

Guns were used by the Eng[illegible] at the Battle of Crecy in 1346.