

# BLACKSHEEP!

By Meredith Nicholson

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"It has been in my mind for a day or two that May must be wondering what's become of me. I always write to her, you know; and she imagines me in the Rockies. There must be a stack of mail waiting for me at Banff; I must wire to have it forwarded."

"You needn't necessarily give up the trip."

She turned her head to dodge an overhanging bough and he caught a glimpse of her face; she was crying; and new and world-shaking emotions were stirred in him by the sight of her tear-wet cheek.

"Do you know," he said, "when we talk about clearing up things I'd forgotten about that buried treasure. I think it would be a mistake for me to leave without exhausting all the possibilities of finding your grandfather's buried gold. I wonder if poor Carey knew any more about it than you do!"

"I'm sure he didn't. There are holes here and there in these woods that he dug in his search." "Why!" she exclaimed, stopping short and glancing about thoughtfully, "that's strange."

"We're lost, I hope!"

"Not lost; but there was a fork in the trail and I must have made the wrong turn. I don't remember that I ever saw that fallen tree before."

"That old fellow must have made a mighty crash when he went down. I'm sure that I never came this way before."

"Here's an old scar," said Archie, "where some one must have blazed the tree years and years ago. It's the mark of an ax or hatchet. And look! Three other big trees bear the same mark. They define a square and must have been made for some purpose!"

Discussion of the markings brought them immediately into accord. Isabel was perplexed to find herself in a spot she had never visited before though she had spent the

previous summer on the land, planning the camp, and thought she knew every foot of it. She peered into the pit torn by the roots of the huge tree. The sunlight glistened brightly upon something that lay half hidden in the earth.

"Oh, how wonderful!" she cried and placed a gold piece in his hands. They knelt together, tearing up the weeds and loosening the earth. It was Archie who quickly found a second coin, a ten-dollar gold piece stamped 1859. With a stick he dug into the hole and soon they had made a little heap of bright coins, laughing like children with each discovery. A deeper probe resulted in the unearthing of a splintered chest plank evidently torn from a chest that had contained the money.

"Of all the astonishing things that ever happened this is the most utterly paralyzing!" exclaimed Archie jubilantly.

Using the board as a spade he scooped out a capful of coins—gold, American, English and French which the Southerner had buried in the northern wilderness.

"It won't do to leave this place unprotected, and we must stop or we'll have more than we can carry. We must bring Putney back to help. It's my guess that there's a chest of money at the foot of each of these blazed trees."

"And pretty good hiding places, too, where the gold might have remained forever if—"

"If you hadn't been hating me so that you lost your way!"

They stood with the heap of gold between them, the bewilderment of discovery in their eyes.

"This is the end of the rainbow and the gold lies at our feet!" he said, and he took her hands, and the one still wearing the bandage he held very, very gently. "Love we know to be better than much fine gold; and wouldn't it be a pity for the finding of these coins to mark the very end,

with nothing beyond! And life is so big and wonderful I want your help to make mine of some use."

She looked at him long and searchingly, and her eyes were so grave, their questioning seemed so interminable, that he did not know until she spoke that her lips had trembled into a smile.

"If you can forgive me," she said; and she laid her hands upon his shoulders, lightly as though by their touch she were investing him with her hope in life renewed and strengthened, and giving pledge that they would walk together thereafter to the end of their days.

In the loveliest of Colorado's valleys you may, if you exercise your eyes intelligently note three houses in the Spanish style, with roads that link them together as though publishing the fact that the owners of the surrounding ranches are bound by the closest and dearest ties. As an adjunct of his residence Putney Congdon maintains a machine shop where he finds ample time for experiment. The Archibald Bennetts are learning all there is to know about fruit culture; and they are so happy that they are in danger of forgetting the existence of cities. Farthest of the three homes from the railroad, and where the hills begin, Philip and Ruth Van Doren chose their abode. And you may see them any day that you care to penetrate to their broad pastures, riding together, viewing with contemplative eyes the distant peaks or the cattle that are the Governor's delight, a link, he says, between the present and the olden times when the world was young. And often at night, when they are not with the Congdons or the Bennetts, they ride for hours in silence, so great is their happiness, so perfect their understanding, so deep their confidence in the stars.

(The End)

## MAN AND INSECTS BATTLE FOR WORLD

### MENACE OF TINY HORDES

Man's Strongest Rivals for Supremacy are Always Increasing, Say Experts; Must Be Conquered

Men vs. insects — a fight to the finish — supremacy of the world the reward.

The battle is being fought in every civilized country, and today the shock troops in the California gector issued a call for reinforcements, according to a report from Berkeley, Calif.

Warning that millions of dollars in crops are being destroyed annually, that orchardists and vineyardists take steps to combat the attacking myriads of insects.

Not that California losses from insect pests are greater than those of other states. On the contrary, the destruction is lighter in some respects than elsewhere.

Constant Battle

But a constant battle must be waged if the losses are to be held to their present level, and extraordinary efforts must be put forth to reduce them.

Professor S. J. Holmes once declared insects were man's strongest rivals, due to their amazing capacity for organization.

Even now the insect hordes are organizing for the annual spring drive, their goal the fertile fields of grain and flowering orchards, vineyards and truck gardens.

The codling moth, grape leaf hopper, purple scale, red spiders, white fly, woolly aphis, black scale — like allied armies have joined forces to set upon their hereditary enemy — man.

New Armies Born

New armies will be born. The black scale alone will reproduce from 1500 to 2000 young, each of which have but one object in life — to attack and destroy citrus trees.

At Davis farm, a department of the college of agriculture, the general staff of the army organized to repulse the myriads of hungry invaders is preparing today for the next drive. J. L. Stahl of the Pomology division suggests that farmers everywhere in the state literally go to war to protect their crops. Comparable to the war-time training school, a short course to teach the best methods of combatting insects of every description is to be given at Davis farm.

## BALTIMORE REDUCES TAXES; METHOD USED

### OBTAINS BETTER SERVICE

Special Committee of Experts Appointed by Mayor Study Problem and Work Out Practical Plan

It has remained for the city of Baltimore, Md., to adopt a method of securing tax reduction that is the most practical and logical yet proposed. Under this system, the city of Baltimore has reduced its tax rate per hundred dollars of valuation from 1924 to 1927 inclusive as follows: \$2.90, \$2.58, \$2.48, \$2.39. During this same four year period the city wiped out a deficit of \$1,130,000 and in addition met the demands of a growing population by increasing school appropriations \$400,000, fire protection \$300,000, a new pension system \$500,000, school teachers, \$330,000.

Actual Reduction

Here is actual tax reduction plus increased service to the taxpayer. How was this done? Anyone interested should get a copy of the mayor's message to the members of the city council, dated May 9, 1927. Briefly the idea which brought about these remarkable results was this: a Baltimore businessman pointed out that in every city an examination of the tax rolls will disclose from ten to fifteen individual taxpayers head the list in the total amount of taxes annually paid to the city government; that these large taxpayers are generally the best managed and most successful private corporations; that a study of the internal operation of these taxpayers will show that they usually have one or more men whose business it is to follow the expense dollar to find ways and means of getting more at the same cost or the same result at less cost; that the one expense dollar not followed in this way in the past has been the tax dollar, although through this outlet goes a very substantial portion of the earnings of such taxpayers.

Proposal Made

It was proposed to the city of Baltimore that if the mayor would invite the ten or twelve largest taxpayers to lend the city of Baltimore the men they employ to follow their expense dollar, the city of Baltimore agreeing to open wide all city departments for their studies and the studies of their representatives, the city of Baltimore further agreeing to adopt recommendations that would produce more efficient or economical methods — that this was the real way to introduce business methods in city operation. The mayor agreed to this program and appointed a special committee on efficiency and economy comprised of thirteen members picked from the leading industrial, business, public utility and railroad companies in Baltimore, including the chairman of the public service commission and the city solicitor.

From a disorganized city government with departments overlapping, with no uniform system of accounting, employing labor, collecting money, paying bills, collecting taxes, or carrying on its business, this committee put Baltimore on as sound a business basis as the best managed corporation.

Practical Program

We have all talked about instilling business methods into government. It has remained for Baltimore to adopt a practical program along such a line and to profit marvelously with governmental authorities to bring about similar results. If this plan were adopted generally the savings to the taxpayers would be enormous.

PRESENT CONDITION OF ILLINOIS STATE FUNDS

Large Sums Paid Out of Treasury in Four Months; Balance Dec. 1

Approximately thirteen and one-half millions have been paid out of state treasury during the past four months, mostly for public improvements, according to Garrett D. Kinney, state treasurer. A balance of \$38,362.92 is shown for December 1, as compared to \$51,756,000 for July first.

Interest paid into the state treasury during the ten months tenure of office of Treasurer Kinney totals \$827,955.76, setting a new high mark in the history of the state for any equal period.

The total bonded indebtedness of the state of Illinois is placed at \$145,279,000, or which approximately \$97,000,000 is in state highway bonds, and \$48,279,000 in soldiers' compensation bonds.

The politicians are hustling to Washington looking for their share of the pie, but many will get only lemon pie.

Some people favor a universal language, but it takes most of us all the time we can spare to listen to those who can talk nothing but English.

The store and postoffice clerks have not expressed any dissatisfaction because Christmas comes but once a year.

Anyway the cause of music will be promoted at Christmas, by giving the children plenty of tin horns and drums.

Misleading Boss: Before I can engage you, you'll have to pass an intelligence test. She: Intelligence test? Why the advertisement said you wanted a stenographer.

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## SEE PROSPERITY GAINS IN ELECTRICITY USE

Increasing prosperity and good times in business is indicated by a recent report of the geological department of the United States department of commerce.

The report states that the production of electricity by public utilities during October was the highest in the history of the electric light and power industry, averaging 222,700,000 kilowatt-hours per day. Illinois' share in this vast power output was 541,559,000 kilowatt-hours. Of this 96.3 per cent or 521,565,000 kilowatt-hours were produced by coal-made steam, practically all of the coal being mined within the state.

Economists and business forecasters are using electricity production as one of the major factors in arriving at their estimates of the nation's financial affairs.

## ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY EARNINGS

The Anglo-Persian Oil company in which the British government has a substantial holding has acquired an interest in the "Olex," a German oil distributing concern, thereby enabling the company's products to enter the German market, it is stated in the Anglo-Persian company's annual report published in London.

The productive capacity of the main Persian field is being expended in bringing in further large producing wells. Production is being maintained in the Argentine, but "further drilling in Albania has failed to add deeper resources of oil to those of the poor quality previously found in the upper horizons."

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THIS STATE

Illinois had a total wealth of \$24,009,000,000 in 1925, according to recent figures of the national industrial conference board.

Illinois has four varieties of each: birch, maple and elm trees.

Illinois has 8 1/2% of the manufactured gas consumers in the United States, who use 12% of the nation's total output.

The lowest temperature recorded in Illinois is 29 degrees below zero.

Electric light and power customers in Illinois outnumber the populations of 22 states.

The University of Illinois furnished the army, navy and marine corps with 3280 trained officers during the world war.

Free schools in Illinois were established by Thomas Jefferson.

The number of telephone stockholders who own five shares or less is larger than the number of total stockholders in any other company.

## DON'T MISS

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Edward White's great serial in this paper.

## The Highland Park Press