

THE WOMAN with TWO SMILES

or Maurice Leblanc CREATOR OF Arsène Lupin

CHAPTER 46
THE MARQUIS started.
 "What! They dare to accuse me? What's this nonsense you're talking? Who accuses me? And of what?"
 He addressed Raoul with great irritation, as though still as once he saw him in the light of an enemy about to attack him.
 He repeated harshly:
 "I'm asking you—who dares accuse me?"
 "Valthez."
 "What! That scoundrel?"
 "That scoundrel is holding over your head an imposing array of documents which he intends handing over to the police as soon as it is well enough."
 Antoinette had grown very pale and looked worried.
 Gorgere's mask of passivity had slipped aside, and he was listening eagerly.
 The Marquis d'Eriemont commanded Raoul haughtily:
 "Speak, monsieur. . . I command you to speak. . . What does that rogue dare accuse me of?"
 ". . . Of having murdered Elisabeth Hornain!"
 A dead silence followed these terrible words. But the enson on the marquis' face suddenly relaxed, and he laughed lightly.
 "Please explain," he said.
 Raoul began:
 "It seems that 15 years ago you knew, monsieur, a certain shepherd of Volvic called Gassiou, a half wit, and that you used to go and chat with him when you were staying with the de Jouvelles. Now Gassiou had one talent—he was a remarkable shot. He could bring down game with a stone from his sling, and everything fitted in with your having paid that half-demented man to kill Elisabeth Hornain with a stone from his sling while she, at your express request, was singing in the ruins."
 "But it's preposterous," espulated the marquis. "I should have no reason to commit such a crime! Why should I have killed the woman I cared for?"
 "To keep the jewels she had entrusted to you just before she sang."
 "But her jewels were imitation!"
 "No, they were real. And that's just the one point in your conduct that's

obscure, monsieur. They had been given to Elisabeth Hornain by an American millionaire."
 "That was too much for the Marquis d'Eriemont. He leapt up in a towering rage:
 "It's a tissue of lies!" he cried. "Elisabeth was true to me! And that's the woman I'm supposed to have murdered—a woman I worshipped, whom I've never forgotten! Wasn't it for her, out of memory for her, that I bought this chateau, so that the spot where she died should belong to no one but me? And if I came here from time to time, wasn't it to pray for her among those ruins? Had I murdered her, was it likely I should have returned to a spot haunted by ghastly memories of my crime? No, the accusation is abominable!"
 "Bravo!" exclaimed Raoul, rubbing his hands together in satisfaction. "Ah, if you only replied like that a bit earlier, what a lot of useless suffering might have been saved! Bravo, again! And please don't forget, monsieur, that I for one never for one moment believed the vile accusations of that scoundrel Valthez, nor the tissue of lies he had woven together. Gassiou—and his famous sling! It's blackmail, nothing but ingenious blackmail, that might oppress you terribly, and that we must fight with all our might. And there's only one remedy against it, and that is the truth, and nothing but the truth with which we must be able to confront the law today."
 "But I don't know the truth of the matter!"
 "Today, it seems to me that everything 'Neither do I. But as matters stand depends entirely on the frankness of your answers. Really and truly, were the jewels that disappeared real or imitation?"
 "There was no longer any hesitation in the marquis' reply.
 "They were real."
 "And they belonged to you? You entrusted an inquiry agency to recover an inheritance for you? Am I right in supposing that the origin of the d'Eriemont fortune was derived from an ancestor who had been a Nabob in India, and who converted his vast wealth into diamonds and precious stones of rare beauty? Isn't that right?"
 "Perfectly true."
 "And I further conclude that if the heirs of Nabob d'Eriemont never mentioned the existence of those necklaces and rare gems, it was to avoid paying the tremendous duties entailed?"
 "I imagine so."
 "And you, I take it, lent them to Elisabeth Hornain?"
 "Yes. For I was going to marry her when she got her divorce. I was so proud and fond of her, that I loved to see her wearing them."
 "Did she know their real value?"
 "Yes."
 "And did every jewel she was wearing on the day of her death really belong to you?"
 "All but one string of pearls that I had given to her for her own, and that was extremely valuable."
 "You had made her a present of it?"
 "I sent it to her through my jewelers."
 Raoul nodded.
 "Don't you see how easy it was, monsieur, for Valthez to get a hold over you? Just suppose Valthez had found a document declaring the pearls to be his aunt's exclusive property, what a terrible thing it would have been for you!" and he added: "Now, all that remains to be done is to find those pearls and the other jewels. One thing more—tell me, on the day of the tragedy, did you yourself take Elisabeth Hornain to the bottom of the steps leading to the upper platform of the ruins?"
 "I took her rather higher up than that."
 "Exactly, you went with her as far as the horizontal alley of laurels that we can just see from here, didn't you?"
 The marquis nodded.
 "And you both remained hidden from sight slightly longer than it took you to cover so short a distance?"
 "Yes. I hadn't had a chance to talk to Elisabeth alone during the fortnight we had spent at the chateau together—we stopped and kissed."
 "What happened after that?"

"As Elisabeth intended to sing certain songs demanding great simplicity, she asked me to look after the jewels for her. I would not take them. She did not insist, and watched me leave the ruins. When I had reached the end of the laurel walk, she was still standing there motionless."
 "Had she still got the jewels on when she reached the upper terrace of the ruins?"
 "That I can't say for certain. None of the eye-witnesses was able to speak with any certainty on that point. We only discovered that the jewels were missing after the tragedy."
 "I see. But Valthez's story runs differently. He says that at the time of the tragedy Elisabeth Hornain was definitely not wearing the jewels."
 "Then they must have been stolen when she went from the laurel walk to the upper terrace," concluded the marquis.
 "There was a silence; then Raoul said slowly, emphasizing each word:
 "Those jewels were not stolen!"
 "What! Do you really mean she was not robbed? Why was she murdered, then?"
 "Elisabeth Hornain never was murdered!"
 (TO BE CONTINUED)

Adjournment Given in Abitibi Co. Case

Application for Declaration of Bankruptcy Held Over at Osgoode Hall, Toronto.

At Osgoode hall, Toronto, Mr. Justice W. E. Middleton on Tuesday granted a two weeks' adjournment of the hearing of an application of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario for court orders which would provide for liquidation of the affairs of the Abitibi Power and Paper Co., Ltd., under the Bankruptcy Act instead of under the Winding Up Act.
 The orders would permit of consideration of claims of the commission to rank as unsecured creditor of the company for large sums of money, under contracts with the company and its subsidiary, Ontario Power Service Corporation, Ltd.
 The motion of the Hydro Commission, on whose behalf Lewis Duncan, K.C., appeared asks the court to vary orders Mr. Justice G. H. Sedgewick, judge in bankruptcy, made September 26, 1932, after he had granted a receiving order against Abitibi Power and Paper Co. on the petition of Canada Packers, Ltd., and appointing Frederick C. Clarkson, Toronto, custodian of the assets of Abitibi Power and Paper Co.
 The orders which the Hydro Commission wishes to have reviewed provided that the power and paper company might be wound up under the Winding Up Act, instead of the Bankruptcy Act, and appointed F. C. Clarkson, provincial liquidator.
 Further, the Hydro-Electric Power Commission's motion seeks an order setting aside orders of the master of the Supreme Court directing creditors of Abitibi Power and Paper Co., Ltd., to prove claims on or before November 10, 1932, and appointing F. C. Clarkson, permanent liquidator of the pow-

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er and paper company.
 Finally, the commission asks an order directing Frederick C. Clarkson, as custodian of the assets of Abitibi Power and Paper Co., Ltd., under the receiving order Mr. Justice G. H. Sedgewick granted in September, 1932, to call a first meeting of creditors of paper company for the purpose of electing a trustee of the assets of the company, appointing inspectors and ascertaining the wishes of unsecured creditors with respect to the administration of the affairs of the company.
 G. D. Whitherspoon represented the Abitibi Power and Paper Co., Ltd., and E. T. Guest represented the holders of Abitibi bonds.

Motor Car Accidents Cause Injuries Recently

A correspondent writing from Iron-quois Falls says that a number of near-serious motor accidents were reported there recently. In the most serious of these, I. Stewart, Ansonville, was seriously injured when a car in which he was a passenger and driven by Louis Ogden, turned over near Barber's Bay. Stewart received serious chest hurts when crushed beneath the car. He was taken to the Anson General hospital at Ironquois Falls.

J. St. Jean and party, Ansonville, narrowly escaped injury when a car owned and driven by Mr. St. Jean turned over in a ditch on the Monteith road. No person was injured.

A car bought by J. Cemir the day previously was damaged when it stalled on the steep Jacob's Hill, near Ironquois Falls. The vehicle backed over the side and Mrs. Cemir and a child jumped out before the car left the road. Mr. Cemir was uninjured.

A widely circulated story that a man was seriously injured when struck by a car driven by a woman on the Porquis Junction road was checked by provincial police, who were unable to verify the report.

Unusual Action by the Cochrane Legion

Resolutions Passed to the Effect that Legion Refuse to Take Part in Celebration.

Word from Cochrane suggests an unusual attitude on the part of the Canadian Legion, to say the least. This word suggests that the Legion in that town is refusing to take part in the celebration of Cochrane's 25th Anniversary and the opening of the memorial park in that town. The Legion in Cochrane has been prominent in connection with the memorial park and also in regard to the celebration. Now the Legion is reported as dropping out as a protest against the treatment of the soldiers. It seems peculiar to say the least that the Legion at Cochrane should wait until this late date to put forward its threat. All the facts must have been as fully apparent three months ago. There do not seem to be any new facts to warrant the situation. However, there may be some measure of explanation in the personality of the present head of the Cochrane Legion. This is J. Lanning, who has had a rather checkered political career. Recently Mr. Lanning was in Timmins where he asked the local Legion for assistance to build a Legion building at Cochrane. It may be noted that all the Legion branches in the North have been appealed to in connection with Cochrane's big days on June 30th and July 1st. Most of the branches have agreed to send delegations to the memorial park opening. Nothing that has transpired recently would seem to justify the branches in changing their plans. The full text of the despatch from Cochrane in regard to the matter is as follows:
 "A bombshell partially exploded celebration plans of the town for the Cochrane Semi-Jubilee, to be held June 30 and July 1, when the Canadian Legion Branch No. 89, passed a resolution to the effect that it will take no part in the ceremonies.
 "Giving as reasons for the action the fact that returned soldiers are living in conditions featured by want, misery and general demoralization and that there is an indifference to these conditions by authorities, the Legion branch, in a circular resolution, states that solemn obligations and promises made with reference to employment of ex-service men in Civil Service positions and their retention in office throughout changes of administration, falling proof of inefficiency, dishonesty, or other corrupt practices, have been violated federally, provincially and municipally within the past year. This has resulted in the unjust dismissal of nearly 500 returned soldiers from office. Hundreds are being denied the right to earn an honest livelihood, the resolution states.
 "And with authorities ignoring pleas, protests and delegations, the Canadian Legion at Cochrane drafted the following resolution:
 "First, that, as a protest to the injustice and indifference detailed above, Branch 89 of the Canadian Legion take no official part in the public and solemn ceremonies to be staged in the town of Cochrane on June 30 of this year on the occasion of the dedication of Memorial Park to the memory of our comrades who fell overseas during the Great War.

"Secondly, that we believe we do little honor to the memory of our fallen comrades by a public display of such solemn ceremonies which have resolved themselves during recent years, into a hollow mockery, in view of the neglect and cruel treatment that continues to be meted out to the wounded, war-wrecked comrades who returned, and that such ceremonies merely afford opportunities for official representatives and others, who have failed in their duty to the living, to glorify themselves and further their selfish aims and ambitions by displaying a vulgar pretence of honouring the dead."
 "And be it further resolved: That copies of this resolution be given to the press, to all branches of the Canadian Legion in the northern zone, to the office of Provincial Command and to Reverend Canon Scott, chaplain of the Canadian Forces during the Great War."
 "The situation is a serious one for the celebrations committee and it is hoped that some means of taking care of the legitimate grievances of this branch of

the Legion will be found.
 "If the Cochrane branch persist in their resolution, one of the most distinguished men in Cochrane on June 30 will be Canon Scott but it is hoped drastic action resolved will not be necessary.
 "This branch of the Legion have endeavoured to have their grievances taken up for considerable time. Letters in connection with their grievances have been unanswered by responsible parties, even when sent by registered mail."
 APPOINTED TRAVELLING MISSIONER FOR FAR NORTH
 According to a despatch from Cochrane, Rev. W. B. Williston, former rector of the Protestant Cathedral, Cochrane, has been appointed travelling missioner of the northeast Moosonee mission which includes all mining areas north of the Height of Land. Mr. Williston will commence his duties in June.
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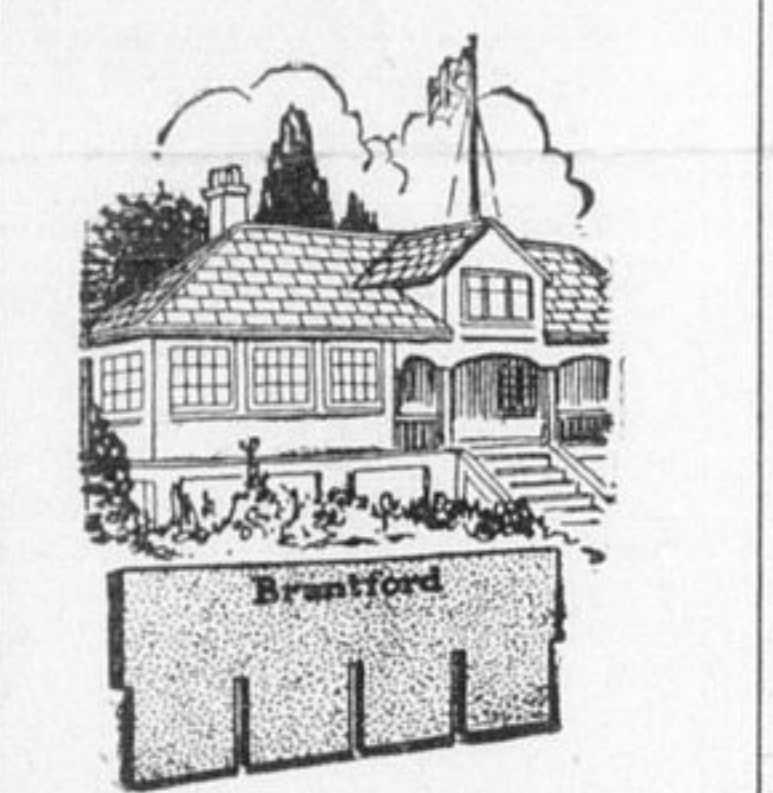
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