

# The Riddle of THE RIDERLESS HORSE

By Jean & Cyril Casalis

## CHAPTER IX MALCOLM WINS

Cornelle was already dressed by the time the first gleams of the rising sun reached the rondavel window.

"I can't get over this business of Mortimer," he began, when he had roused Malcolm to face the new day. "I'd like to talk to you. I think we should go straight to the police and explain how Maraka sees it."

Malcolm thought for a moment before answering. It was perfectly natural that Cornelle should want to lay every shred of evidence before the police, but, after all, all that they had to reveal was Maraka's reading of the marks on the bridle and saddle. Was it likely that evidence of that kind, founded on nothing more solid than a native's reasoning from marks which the sergeant had already examined and explained, would carry any weight?

Maraka's suspicions appeared to him far more plausible than the sergeant's explanation, and if all the evidence was to be pooled he felt that further investigation should be carried out in collaboration—native and police working towards a common goal with, as events had shown so far, a pull on the native side, was it even remotely possible? The answer was, decidedly, no.

"Look here, old boy," he said. "I know that I've been in the country for only five minutes, but it seems to me that if you ask the police to accept as subtle a theory as this one—especially coming from a native—you wouldn't get much thanks for your pains. Besides the first thing the police would want to do, would be to put a plain clothes man on the job, and just think of a stranger in these great wide sun-washed spaces of yours—you might just as well broadcast that you knew something pretty serious was up. It may seem cheek on my part, but I think if there's anything in Maraka's idea, we are the only people to get to the bottom of it."

Cornelle was still unconvinced when Maraka himself interrupted, bringing in Malcolm's early morning tea. Malcolm decided on a bold stroke, even if it meant an outrage on local convention to ask a native's opinion in front of his employer. He put the point to Maraka, and the cook, unaware that Cornelle held opposite views and that he was, in effect, giving a casting vote in an argument—a thing which his native wariness would never have let him do—replied simply: "The police him no good, Bas."

Thus it was that Cornelle eventually agreed to a policy of laissez faire, despite the fact that he recognized him, and Adhemar's, responsibility to Mortimer's parents.

"All right, then," he said as he left the rondavel. "For the present we'll keep this dark, and I hope we're doing the right thing."

Breakfast was not a cheerful meal, for Adhemar was worrying over Mortimer and over the letter he must write to Mortimer's father. Cornelle had business to transact at Campsie, and Malcolm, in order to distract the old man, persuaded him to go too. They found Channing just setting out for his lands, and he at once carried off Cornelle to see the bear that he wished to buy, leaving Cynthia to entertain Malcolm and Adhemar.

"I have been telling Mr. Green what a pretty place you have, Cynthia," said Adhemar formally; "and with your permission I should like to show him the 'khotlo.' It's the show place of this very pretty farm," he added to Malcolm.

Cynthia offered to go with them, and they set out for the valley generally

known by its Sesuto name of "khotlo." They walked through the orchards, and as they emerged from the canopy of pink and white blossom they could see, across a fairly narrow but deep valley, the farm natives' village, with its thatched huts clustering haphazard on broken rocky ground. To the left of the village the valley widened to meet a sort of tributary valley coming from the direction of Bon Espoir, then took a wider sweep and opened out, some five hundred yards further on, into the high-banked Caledon River.

Walking along the edge of the main valley, which now became increasingly wooded with weeping willows and poplars, they reached a point where it narrowed to a gorge choked with the silvery tops of poplars.

"You'd hardly believe it," said Adhemar, "enthusiasm as over some treasure, but under this is a cave."

"Let's go down," said Cynthia. "You must see it, Mr. Green."

They descended by a steep winding footpath between high rocks, that ended in a kind of long irregular passage, walled in on one side by the trunks of poplars, and on the other by solid rock in the depressions of which were faint remains of many Bushman paintings. But Malcolm was no palaeontologist.

"Call this a cave?" he said. Cynthia laughed. "It's hardly a cave," she admitted. "The real cave is further on, and I hope you'll think it exciting enough, though it isn't really, because it is just a mass of burrows for rock rabbits and wild cats."

**TUNNELS, SNAKES AND CAVES**  
The passage, which was quite seventy yards long, ended in a narrow tunnel beyond which the big trees came to an abrupt end, and they entered a miniature jungle of scrub composed of stunted poplars, natural bush, and tall grass. High boulders formed a maze of passages, but they followed a narrow well-worn path which wound through them, coming out a hundred yards further on into a small clearing, on the right of which gaped the low, wide mouth of the cave.

It certainly was an extraordinary place. To reach it, one had to climb up a kind of uneven rock terrace about four feet high, which formed the floor of the cave. Beyond the entrance the rocky roof rose to a natural arch, quite seven feet high, and extended to a depth of over ten yards; but the most remarkable feature was that the faces of the huge slabs of rock, forming the floor, were inverted replicas of the portions of the roof, suggesting that they had once formed part of the enormous arch.

"By Jove, this is more like a cave," said Malcolm admiringly. "And a good sized one, too."

"You've only seen half of it," said Adhemar, pointing to a black hole low down in the rock wall as the back. "This is only the veranda. Come inside."

Scrambling through the opening, they descended into the inner cave, across whose sandy floor ran a little stream. It was dark and chill, and moss grew on its low, moist walls. By the light of a succession of matches Malcolm managed to get an idea of its dimensions. It was quite as big as the outer cave, though at either end it narrowed down to what looked like entrances into small tunnels.

"How far does it go?" inquired Malcolm.

"My brother Joseph," Adhemar answered, "tried to find out many years ago, because the natives used to say

that one passage came out at the river, and the other on the next farm. He crawled about for a whole day, and had to go to bed the next day with a very bad cold. He found nothing at all, and he said it was just native superstition as usual."

"John tried too, you know, Mr. Recouille," Cynthia said, "and he didn't find anything, either."

"Joseph," continued Adhemar, "couldn't get one native to go with him. They all said a big snake lived in her, and it would suck you in and carry you away to the river. Native superstition," he added, reflectively, "has logic; that snake is the same favour river snake, which makes them dislike the river at night."

"Is that why they dislike being told to come and cut wood in the 'khotlo'?" asked Cynthia.

"Of course—and they swear the snake has been seen here."

Adhemar's fund of snake stories was not yet exhausted when they emerged from the cave and crossed the valley. From its farther side the whole of the surrounding country came into view again, and they could see the sandy course of the main road to Brandfontein as far as the boundary of van Stellen's farm to their rear, and, on rising ground to their left, the Campsie pump, with its protecting system of concrete and barbed wire fencing.

"You seem to value your water supply, Miss Channing," remarked Malcolm.

Old Adhemar chuckled, and Cynthia laughed. "It's John's pet scheme," she replied. "As a matter of fact I don't blame him—whatever the neighbourhood says," she added meaningfully to Adhemar.

"Campsie is a good farm, but we've had wretched luck with water. We've put down four boreholes, Mr. Green, and always missed it, and we've just got to be resigned to this system of pumping by hand every day, for a windmill or an engine would simply pump the fountain dry and then fill all the pipes with air. As a matter of fact, that's why John has put up all these entanglements; it's to prevent passing natives from interfering with the pump."

**"WHERE IS VAN STELLAN GOING?"**

"True, dear Cynthia," said Adhemar tolerantly, "but your John goes too far in his economic. It is as if he finds happiness in making himself a martyr to water. That is why we others smile in our hearts, even though you have our deep sympathy in your bad luck. The trough, for example, at which the whey-cart horses must be watered every day, by that unfortunate individual of a Tom, when he comes back from the cheese factory at Brandfontein—it is nothing but false economy. After all, the water they drink comes out of the tank, and has therefore already been pumped up from the fountain. If the horses drank it more conveniently at the stables, the only extra cost would be the wear caused in the pipes. You must agree, dear Cynthia, it is a kind of martyr, that."

"Oh, I know, Mr. Recouille; yet John is a good farmer."

"Oh, everyone knows that good old Chan is an excellent farmer. It is, after all, funny what little inconsistencies we all have. Consider, for a moment the ways of our old friend van Stellen."

He broke off abruptly. As if to make his consideration practical as well as figurative, he had turned, as he spoke, towards the distant van Stellen homestead. A wagon fitted with an arched tent, relic of the days of the vooftrekker's nomadic life, was at that very moment starting from the house. The crack of the driver's whip came faintly to their ears.

"Now where can that old man be going at this hour?" Adhemar exclaimed, surprise and curiosity in his voice. "But of course—Nagmaal; that is what is taking him out."

"Nagmaal? What's that?" Malcolm asked.

"Communion Service," Cynthia answered. "The Dutch Reformed Church celebrates it every three months, and all the farmers go into town for it."

## About Safeguarding the Health of Canada

Interesting Sidelights on Public Health in Address by Dr. R. E. Wodehouse.

Toronto, December 10th—When the time comes that the voters in democracies decide that they want a medical service for the masses, then the Government will provide it, was the opinion expressed here on December 1st, by Dr. R. E. Wodehouse, O.B.E., Deputy Minister of Pensions and National Health. He pointed out that the Canadian Government was constantly assembling data from all available sources on the subject of medical care for all having incomes under certain fixed amounts. What form the service would assume would be evolved, but the speaker did not think the matter of whether there would be such a service or not would be settled by anyone except those who had the votes.

Dr. Wodehouse's address was given before the Royal Canadian Institute and covered the subject of "Safeguarding Canada's Health." He gave a most comprehensive review covering the wide ramifications of the Department of Pensions and National Health.

Among the interesting explanations given was a description of the methods used in narcotic drug control. Narcotics were not manufactured in Canada but were sold under license. There were 110 licensed wholesalers in Canada and every grain purchased had to be accounted for.

"The tracking down of the illicit trafficker is most intriguing," said the speaker, "and the co-operation between the enforcement officers of various countries is entirely satisfactory. The cleverness of the underworld and their agents of supply as unfolded in the departmental files is as exciting a record as any dime-thriller. The officers deal with the most ruthless of international crooks and are confronted by interests making millions of dollars out of the added traffic." He recited numerous cases illustrating the difficulties of controlling the use of narcotics. The examination at Customs for illicit importations was constantly carried out, even the X-ray and fluoroscopic screen being used.

Another activity of an international character was the supervision of shellfish areas. Sanitation of international waterways was also an important responsibility. Laboratories both in Canada and other countries, for the production of smallpox vaccine and similar laboratory medicinals were subject to inspection and license by the Department. Its sanitary engineers inspected all water and food storage facilities on international carrier, the U.S. Public Health Service reciprocating.

Quarantine and immigration activities were also described. The Department maintained medical officers in Paris, Antwerp, Hamburg and London for the medical inspection of immigrants, who know before they sell their belongings and buy their tickets whether they are to be subjected to the hardships of other days. Immigrants, however, who within five years of their arrival come under medical care and are deemed to eventually have to become dependents of the state, are deported. Hotel and hospital accommodation of not less than 500 beds was maintained at Canadian seaports for assembling deportees; ships of the respective lines which brought them to Canada must carry them back free of charge.

Dr. Wodehouse after outlining the care taken in the enforcement of the Food and Drugs Act and many other branches of the Service, referred to the establishment of three new divisions of activity, their real function to be co-operative by invitation of the several provincial health departments—the Maternal and Child Hygiene Division, the Industrial Hygiene Division and the Publicity and Education Division.

Referring to grants made by the Federal Treasury to national voluntary organizations, Dr. Wodehouse stated that the amounts from the inception of the Department of Health in 1919 to the Spring of 1938 totalled \$1,285,350, with which he coupled grants to Provinces of \$2,000,000 for assisting in the combat of venereal diseases. As to national voluntary organizations in the public health field, he said:

"I think they are indispensable. They can do many things in a way not permissible to official bodies. They can obtain money and co-operation a federal government could not even solicit, let alone receive. Some people choose to keep harping on the possibility of overlapping, particularly in educational efforts. I maintain you cannot too often repeat in many forms, the much needed health messages of to-day. The receipt of grants by the organizations may limit their inclination to urge certain measures of advance upon the Government, but this has not uniformly affected the Canadian organizations, at all times."

The loan of personnel from the Federal Department was the most effective means of assisting Provincial Departments of Health in their problems. Dr. Wodehouse paid tribute, too, to United States laboratories for their generous assistance in training Canadian workers and completing laboratory work. The Department of Health saved other Departments large sums by purchase of medical supplies and by supervision of sick leave for the entire Civil Service. Since the institution of this service four years ago, absence on account of sickness had been reduced by a value of approximately \$600,000 a year.

As to social services provided for ex-service men, the speaker said: "The Federal Government has 80,083 disability pensioners at present, with 17,954 dependants. It has 15,192 veterans in receipt of War Veterans' allowances with 226 dependant wives. It issues on the average \$178,000 a month

in unemployment assistance to small pensioners. It has 2,500 men and nursing sisters in hospital every day of each year. It has 803 cases requiring artificial eyes and approximately 3,000 glass eyes, either being worn or ready to replace breakages, already made to suit each eligible soldier. A pensioner with a disability assessed at 5 p.c., may enter hospital and receive full treatment and compensation totalling 100 p.c. pension or more while there. The total amount spent for all ex-soldier services by the Federal Government since the War to the 31st of March 1938 is \$1,047,055,047. This year, we established that at the age of 52 years, the pensioners have a longer expectancy of life than the civilian population. It seems to pay to give people the equanimity of mind that at least they and their dependants will not be allowed to want."



(by James W. Barton, M.D.)

## FITTING YOUR FEET FOR LIFE

One of the helpful things that was learned during the examination of recruits for overseas service was the importance of having normal feet—free from pain and discomfort. One may have brains and ambition, but to be unable to be among others because of painful feet not only interferes with business and social progress but the constant nagging of the nerves affects the general health and happiness of the individual.

As most of these were young men who were presenting themselves for service, it can be seen that their foot defects were not due to any heavy work that was being placed upon them but because as little children and later as growing boys in their teens, proper footwear was not provided by their loving but thoughtless parents; the narrow trim shoes for growing boys and girls did not allow the proper width for the growing feet.

In writing on the subject "Fitting the Feet For Life", Beulah France, in Hygia, states:

"Nor are teen age youngsters the only ones who are guilty of foot indiscretions. While college girls and boys show sense about shoes as a rule, graduates who enter business leave footness behind them. Men as well as women suffer all too needlessly from hammer-toes, calluses, corns, bunions, and ingrowing toenails due to ill fitting shoes. It is difficult to understand why a woman is willing to ruin her posture, her gait, her facial expression and her outlook on life by wearing patient gesture, many a harsh word spoken, many a lined and wrinkled face, may be traced to the owner's feet."

If you have any foot defects, common sense should take you to an orthopedic physician who can give you safe and scientific advice.

Walk correctly. Do not toe either out or in, but straight ahead. If you cannot do this, your doctor will tell you whether he advises a leather lift on one side of your shoe's heels, or form of correction.

If you have no foot defects or discomforts, keep conditions that way by wearing shoes wide and long enough for your feet, keep soles and heels from running over by soles and heels repairs before they become absolutely necessary.

**Health Booklets Available**  
Eight helpful booklets by Dr. Barton are now available for readers of The Advance. They are: Eating Your Way to Health; Why Worry About Your Heart; Neurosis; The Common Cold; Overweight and Underweight; Food Allergy or Being Sensitive to Foods and Other Substances; Scourge (gonorrhoea and syphilis); and How Is Your Blood Pressure? These booklets may be obtained by sending Ten Cents to cover cost of service and handling, for EACH one desired, to The Bell Library, 247 West 43rd St., New York, N.Y., mention The Advance, Timmins. (Registered in accordance with the Copyright Act.)



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### Striking Colours In Christmas Cards

Religious Motifs Popular in 1938 Cards.

(By Mrs. Cornelia Beckman)  
Besides the many Christmas card designs of religious inspiration, there is an infinite variety of other type of designs.

As the designs keyed to the religious significance of Christmas have, prophetic to our spiritual needs this year, shown a marked increase, so have the designs in striking color achievements of red, white and blue. One dramatic design shows a white Christmas tree with bright red candles against a panel of blue. Another shows a white Christmas bell circled with blue and tied with a dashing red bow. Roof-tops are silhouetted in blue against a lighter blue sky while a swooping aeroplane in red writes in white "Merry Christmas."

The traditional emblems of the season are, of course, with us again, many with the conventional treatments. Strikingly the new note in this year's Christmas cards is a clever combination of an old-fashioned motif and a modern rendering and interpretation of this motif. The Christmas coach, for example, may be used against a modern background, or it may become a streamlined train speeding its passengers home for Christmas, or a smart car or an aeroplane.

Christmas candies are very popular for designs this year... perhaps because they especially lend themselves to modern silhouette treatments and to the new colour combinations. Christmas trees, wreaths, branches of holly, Santa Claus, snowmen (and snowmen this year, too!), the ever-popular Christmas lantern... we find them all, but usually with some new design treatment, some new colour or colour-combination, which gives them an up-to-date garb.

Besides the usual number of designs of English inns and other English scenes, such as hunting and coaching scenes, this year we have charming cards in authentic colours, of America's famous inns and historic hotels—cards that show fine examples of American architecture, entire buildings and details of Colonial doorways and mantel designs. Many of these American designs are etchings and engravings, beautifully executed and of a generous size that suggests framing... a combination of gift and card.

Cards destined to be treasured for many a year are the cards of romance with their messages of sentiment... to Mother, to Father, to Sister, to Brother, to Wife, Husband, Aunt, Uncle, Her, Him.

The pet lover still has simple and elaborate designs of animals. Scotties, of course. There are, too, an unusual number of designs featuring cats, black and white penguins, amusing little monkeys and squirrels, and very distinguished reproductions in natural colour of American birds by Audubon.

An interesting commentary on the Christmas card designs this year is that, just as the number of cards keyed to the religious significance has shown a marked increase, so the number of trying-to-be-funny or wise-cracking cards has shown a marked decrease.

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## BARGAIN COACH EXCURSION

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15th, 1938**

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Tickets will be valid to leave destination points, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21.

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