

The Riddle of THE RIDERLESS HORSE

By Jean & Cyril Casalis

CHAPTER XV MARAKA SAYS MURDER

During their late breakfast Malcom could hardly control his impatience. He must get hold of Maraka immediately. He must know whether his wild suspicions had any foundation.

The meal was over at last, and he caught Cornelle's arm as Adhemar deep in thought, walked out of the room.

"Cornelle," he said in a low voice "we must get hold of Maraka at once. He didn't follow us for nothing—those overcoats were an obvious blind, not curiosity as you thought. He's found out something and I saw him do it."

"Now then, Malcom," said Cornelle deprecatingly, "you're off again!"

But Malcom was not to be put off. "If you don't talk to Maraka, I will," he announced, "and Cornelle gave in. They went out of the house by the back door, and as they passed through the kitchen Cornelle beckoned to Maraka, who followed them to Malcom's room."

"What is it now, Maraka?" Malcom asked point blank as the cook came in.

"Oh, Baas," said Maraka, and pointing to a newspaper in his pocket he drew out a scrap of newspaper, unfolded it with great care, and handed it to Malcom, and he bent over it towards the light, with Cornelle looking over his shoulder, saw that it held a few strands of rope.

"Strands of frayed rope," announced Cornelle. "What's in that?"

"Let the Baas look well. Let the Baas look at the kind of rope him is." Cornelle carried the packet to the window.

"Cotton rope," he admitted; "but I don't see that it means anything."

"Baas," pointed out Maraka, "him rope plenty soft rope; him rope plenty quick and plenty fast; and him cost plenty much money."

There was no gaining that fact. Few are estate farmers use cotton rope, except perhaps for the head-stalls of sheep stock, and even then the bare minimum is bought.

Maraka went on.

"Maraka him go with the boy of Baas van Stellen while the Baas sit in the buggy. And the boy him stand so, as him say, 'Just here lie Baas Japie when the old Baas him call me in the thought; and just here is the mark when him horse fall.' When that black boy him plenty pleased, telling me careful, Maraka him look at the stone behind where Baas Japie him fall with him horse; and in corner of him same Maraka him find little piece of the rope, Baas."

"These old stone fencing posts?" asked Malcom.

"To Baas, him stones for the wire. Then Baas, Maraka him go to other

stones on him other side of him road, and him look again—more little piece rope, Baas. So Maraka him say to that very black boy: "When you kill him sheep?" And the black boy him say: "We not kill sheep here." "You no kill sheep?" Maraka him say; "then what you fasten to him stone with rope?" But that black boy him got plenty hard head, Baas. Maraka him plenty sure, Paas, if him hit the boy with plenty big stick on him head, just little piece dust come out. "We fasten nothing with rope," him say; "my Baas him got no rope—him like rein; rein him plenty strong." And that black boy him laugh, Baas, plenty pleased. Then Maraka him look again, and him see the rope him so high from the ground."

He stooped to indicate, with his hand, the height from the ground at which he had found traces of frayed rope. It was a little more than a foot.

Maraka paused.

"Yes?" said Malcom. His suspicions were crystallizing into certainty; yet he wished, rather than put them into words, to hear them corroborated by someone else.

"Maraka him know nothing, Baas," the cook said humbly. "But when Maraka him say, 'Baas Japie him ride plenty well; Triplaar him plenty good horse,' Maraka him say, 'Why, then, Triplaar fall?' And when Maraka him find rope on stones, behind where Triplaar fall, Maraka him say again, 'Why?'"

"Exactly," put in Malcom. "Why?"

"That is all Maraka him know. Baas. Maybe the ground him speak if so much plenty rain not come. Maybe Baas Japie him ride in plenty hurry. Maybe him come slow. Maraka him not know."

"Maraka is potty over his business as you are," said Cornelle scornfully, when the servant had gone.

"You may say what you like, Cornelle, it is an odd business, as you yourself said this morning. Two good riders, on two good horses, gone west in the most absurd manner and both leaving behind them tiny scraps of evidence—but mighty suspicious."

Cornelle was silent, and Malcom pressed home his advantage.

"There's something I haven't told you yet—something that Japie told me in Brandfontein that day when you and your pater went to Maseru."

Cornelle looked slightly surprised.

"He was hot and bothered over my silly stunts on their farm and he told me there was something fishy going on round here. But it was the river he was thinking of."

"The river?"

"Yes—the river. He said that he'd seen signals there at night when he went to put out night-lights."

"WE'LL WATCH THE RIVER"

Malcom proceeded to explain.

"Now let's see," he said, "what Maraka's story means. This rope, one foot from the ground, at the only opening to the land towards the river. On old van Stellen's showing Japie had gone to the river on his fishing gear.

He'd gone down on horse back, so he had to come back that way. That's important, Cornelle; unless he cut down the fence, it was the only way by which he could get back on horseback. Thus, if a rope was placed there, it could have been for only one purpose—to trip up his horse."

"Maraka," he went on quickly, "said something just now about not knowing whether Japie was in a hurry or not. I's pure guessing, of course, but it seems to me he was in a hurry—at least, his fall must have been worse, and more likely to kill him, if he was in a hurry. Now what does that suggest? Was he running away—and was he being chased?"

"That seems a lot for a little bit of frayed rope," said Cornelle dryly, refusing to be swept away by Malcom's rising excitement.

"Bits of rope indeed!" exclaimed Malcom warmly, "in any detective problem it's always these small points that matter."

"Good heavens, Malcom," Cornelle said angrily, "this isn't a mere detective story. They were friends of mine."

"Sorry old man, I don't mean it that way. You know I'm all out to get to the bottom of this business, and I'm absolutely certain that the police view—as well as the verdict they'll bring at the inquest on Japie is wrong. If I've seemed cold-blooded, I didn't mean to be. You must remember I didn't know Mortimer and I met Japie only once—though I liked him."

"That's alright," said Cornelle, as quickly mollified as he had been offended.

"There's one thing you seemed to forget," resumed Malcom, "remember that although Mortimer had an accident on the road, his body was found in the river, and that although Japie fell near his house he'd just come from the river. Japie, too, had seen those signals at the river, and he himself seemed to think that the funny goings-on were down there. It's the river we've got to keep an eye on."

"Going back to this rope business," Cornelle said; "Supposing Maraka's right, what good would it have been to anyone who was after Japie, to trip up his horse? The chances are a hundred to one that he wouldn't be killed."

"The chances are a thousand to one that he would have been enough for Mortimer. Take it from me, Cornelle, whoever is working this scheme knows something about his job. He acts quickly and apparently to some purpose."

"But," argued Cornelle, "if Japie was being chased the people after him must have been on something faster than Tripaar."

"That's true. Unless they'd got a start on him."

"Somebody chasing somebody else," said Cornelle weighing his words, "and getting a start on him?"

"You don't get me. Supposing you wanted to catch somebody, and you saw him sitting a good horse while you had to use your poor flat feet, what would you do? You'd go on in front, on the road you knew he must take and you'd waylay him."

"Why waylay a harmless chap like Japie, anyway?"

"For the same reason that Mortimer was done in."

There was a moment's silence.

"Gad, what a fool I've been!" exclaimed Cornelle suddenly. "A crass criminal fool! You mean that what Mortimer saw and wanted to tell me about, wasn't just his flowers?"

"Well, you see," Malcom replied quietly, "Japie had seen signals, and he was out on the hunt."

He had at least won his point. Cornelle was converted.

"Then it's the river we'll watch," he said. (To be continued)

Haileybury Family Holds First Re-Union in 40 Years

(From The Haileyburian)

One of Haileybury's old residents, Mrs. Philip Montgomery, had the most enjoyable Christmas this year that she has had for more than forty years, when all members of her family gathered at her Brewster Street home for the great festival, spending Sunday and Monday together before some had to leave for their homes in widely separated points. Incidentally it was some 14 years since the seven sons and daughters of Mrs. Montgomery had met together, and on the last occasion it was not at Christmas time.

For the reunion, H. E. Montgomery and his brother, W. T. came down from Timmins, while the third male member of the family, A. C. Montgomery, arrived from Findlay, Ohio. The daughters are Mrs. McCool and Mrs. Gallbraith of Toronto, and Mrs. Dafeo and Mrs. F. Carnegie of Haileybury. The seven, with Mr. F. Carnegie, made up the family party.

Funeral Service Saturday for Arvi John Johansson

The funeral service for Arvi John Johansson, the late manager of Elanto Co-operative Restaurant and Boarding House on Third Ave., who died Thursday morning in St. Mary's Hospital, was conducted by Rev. A. I. Heinonen, minister of the Timmins Finnish United Church, Saturday, Dec. 31st, at 3:30 p.m. in the Funeral Chapel of Walker's, Timmins.

F. E. Thompson Retires as Fire Chief at Liskeard

Mr. F. E. Thompson recently retired as fire chief of the town of New Liskeard, the resignation to take effect at the end of 1938. Mr. Thompson was fire chief at New Liskeard for more than twenty years. At the nomination meeting at New Liskeard last week reference was made to the resignation and a resolution was passed expressing the appreciation of the ratepayers for the valued services given by Mr. Thompson in his capacity as fire chief. The motion was moved by A. E. Stephenson, of The Speaker, and seconded by Mr. W. G. Nixon, M.P.P., both men in special position to know and appreciate outstanding public service. The resolution was carried unanimously by the large gathering present. It is pleasing to note that New Liskeard appreciates Mr. Thompson's services as fire chief. It is interesting also to note that the outside world also has occasion to know the good work of Mr. Thompson as fire chief. There is not a record of New Liskeard in the matter of fires and fire losses to suggest the value of the chief, but there is also the record of the New Liskeard fire brigade, a body of fire-fighters who, like the brigade in Timmins, have won a provincial reputation for efficiency. In addition to these things, there is also the record of F. E. Thompson as secretary of the Temiskaming Firemen's Association, the value of this organization to the whole North being worthy of special mention at any time.



That Body of Yours

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

Treating Ingrown Toe-nails in the Early Stage

It is unfortunate that many physicians give little or no attention to the foot ailments of which their patients complain—painful arches, corns, bunions.

When it is realized that the entire weight of the body—100 to 250 pounds—rest on the feet and that in the simple act of walking the front part of the foot and toes have to lift and carry forward all this weight, some idea may be gathered of the great pressure on the toes. Instead of leaving the work of corns, ingrown toe-nails, and other defects to the chiropodists, although many chiropodists are skillful and use safe or antiseptic measures at all times, the physician should think of the feet as of any other organ of the body, because aside from the inconvenience and interference with work and play of foot defects, there is the depressing effect upon the whole nervous system.

As ingrown toe-nails often give patient and physician considerable annoyance and concern, Dr. Carl J. Helfetz, St. Louis, gives some helpful suggestions in the American Journal of Surgery.

"The main underlying cause of ingrown toe-nail are ill-fitting footwear and improper cutting of the nails. The nails should be allowed to grow to considerable length and then cut straight across."

"The symptoms and signs of ingrown toe-nails are conveniently divided into three stages: (a) inflammation and redness, (b) inflammation and a little moisture (thin at first), and (c) formation of new or granulation tissue."

In the early stages of ingrown toe-nail, Dr. Helfetz suggests careful packing of absorbent cotton moistened with alcohol, between the edges of the nail and the soft parts. Use a small flat instrument. Colodion is then applied to the cotton and allowed to dry. If a sufficiently wide shoe or a cut out shoe is worn, the packing changed weekly, and the nail allowed to grow long enough so that it can be correctly trimmed, its lasting cure can usually be obtained.

Many with ingrown toe-nails have tried packing the absorbent cotton between the nail and the skin, but have neglected to cover the absorbent cotton with colodion and the cotton has been pressed out between the nail and the skin.

As the second and third stages require more intensive treatment and operation, they should be under the care of a physician.

Health Booklets Available

Eight helpful health booklets are now available for readers of the Advance. They are: Eating Your Way to Health (No. 101); Why Worry About Your Heart? (No. 102); Neurosis (No. 103); The Common Cold (No. 104); Overweight and Underweight (No. 105); Food Allergy (No. 106); Scourge (gonorrhoea and syphilis) (No. 107); and How is Your Blood Pressure? (No. 108). These booklets by Dr. Barton may be obtained by sending Ten Cents for each, on desired, to The Bell Library, 247 West 43rd St., New York, N. Y., mentioning the Advance, Timmins (Registered in accordance with the copyright Act).

Twenty Years Ago

From The Porcupine Advance Files

In 1918 the Timmins Fire Brigade had forty calls, a dozen or so of this number, being false alarms. The Advance quoted Fire Chief Jorland as saying that it was far better to take a chance and send in an alarm where there was no serious fire than to take the other kind of a chance and wait before sending in an alarm where there was a fire. "The chief thinks that it is better that there should be a score of false alarms, rather than one fire should gain headway through lack of attention. The value of this policy is proven by its practical success and advantage to the welfare," said the Advance. The more serious fires of the year included: Jan. 2, 7:50 p. m. at 45 Fourth avenue, Mattagami, outside of town limits, house burned down; June 14th at 5:30 p. m. fire at Mr. E. Pritthead's; June 20th 5 p. m. explosion of gas lamp in E. J. Meyer's drug store; July 30th, 3p. m. fire at C. G. Williams' house; Sept. 21st, at midnight, fire at E. Clouther's house, 2 children burned to death; Sept. 19th, 63 3rd avenue, house of R. Greou destroyed by fire; Nov. 19th, 9:15 p. m. fire at Mrs. Abou's store; Dec. 14th, 3a. m. fire at Mrs. Mack's, third avenue. The Advance also made reference to the attendance of the volunteer firemen at practice and fires, a point being allowed for each fire in the year. J. D. MacLean, P. S. Taylor and Morris Dahier tied for first place with 34 points each. W. Borland came next with 27 points. A. G. Luxton with 24. G. Smith with 21 and J. Riley, S. Shub, N. E. Wadsworth, M. Katz, D. Louki, J. Petchersky, A. G. Carson, A. F. Carriere, J. K. Moore, P. Jeffries, I. K. Pierce, J. T. Easton, W. Allaire, J. Morrison, with under 21 points each.

In the Christmas issue of The Advance twenty years ago it was possible to announce that the influenza epidemic was apparently over in the Porcupine. "There are a couple of new cases reported during the week," said the Advance, "but they are not of dangerous type, and all the old cases are well on the way to recovery. The disease certainly seems to be over, in any epidemic form at least. Since the epidemic commenced about three months ago, there have been 100 deaths in the district. Forty-six of these were in Timmins, though this number included several from outside places. In South Porcupine there were 28 deaths, some of these being from outside places. In Schumacher the deaths totalled 13, in Moneta, 6; in Mountjoy, 3; and in other places in the immediate district, 4."

At a meeting of the Schumacher Board of Trade twenty years ago, on motion of Messrs. J. Musket and P. Cooper, a very hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Dr. Muterer and J. B. Hutchison and all others who gave assistance for the efficient and capable manner in which they handled the recent influenza epidemic. The Schumacher Board of Trade also suggested that there should be two candidates elected from Schumacher for the township council. A ratepayers' meeting at Schumacher about the same time suggested J. B. Hutchison as reeve and J. Monaghan, J. Ferguson, J. Musket, J. B. Hutchison and J. Hawley as good candidates for the Tidale council for 1919.

A letter received twenty years ago from Sergt. Widdifield said that the company to which he was attached in France had lost six men by death from influenza, and that even so it escaped better than the most of them. All the Porcupine boys were reported by Sergt. Widdifield as all right again, though Bill Sampson and Charlie Redford had been seriously ill for a time.

Orange Pekoe Blend "SALADA" TEA

but made good recoveries.

The specials at the Empire Theatre for Christmas twenty years ago included "The Trail to Yesterday" and "The Christian," not to mention Charlie Chaplin in a "Dog's Life" the same week.

"Regular patrons at Fat's Cafe," says The Advance twenty years ago, "took advantage of the Christmas season to make occasion for a little presentation to Miss Ida Landers, as a token of the respect and appreciation in which this popular young lady is held during all the year. Miss Landers was presented with an elegant solid leather purse with some appropriate 'filling,' and accompanied by a brief address, signed by a large number of the regular patrons of the restaurant, expressing the general esteem in which the young lady is held and appreciation for the unfailing good service and courtesy shown at all times by her."

Twenty years ago The Advance announced the resumption of the Pullman service on the T. & N.O. to Timmins, with Nos. 46 and 47 to run through to here after the New Year.

Twenty years ago a petition was circulated asking the council to amend the early closing bylaw to six o'clock instead of seven at night. The petition was signed by all but three of the merchants.

A number of Timmins business men were defrauded twenty years ago by a slick stranger who sold them show cases at a ridiculously low price, explaining that the cases were ones that were in nearby towns, and were to be returned to the company because the parties buying them had not paid for them and sooner than pay the express charges back to the south the companies were giving big bargains. The local merchants paid deposits on the bargains, but later could not find the slick stranger, the company or the

show cases. The same trick was worked in other towns in the North, but the game was spoiled by the publicity given by The Advance.

Much of the time of the police court twenty years ago this Christmas time was taken up with a dispute between a local merchant and a wholesale house in regard to some cabbages. The merchant claimed the cabbages were injured by frost and returned them. The wholesale refused to accept the return and the cabbages were left outside where they sure did spoil. The whole sale and the chief of police claimed the cabbages were not in bad condition when returned and some of the lawyers suggested that Chief Wilson or Jack Tierney be accordingly soaked for allowing food to spoil in this time of war. The charge against the merchant was dismissed and the matter ended there.

Prisoners Well Treated at New Industrial Farm

The following item is from the Montreal correspondent of The New Liskeard Speaker.

"The work on the Industrial Farm buildings keeps on steadily and by next summer there will be accommodation for over one hundred inmates. At present about fifty can be looked after. The discipline is good and the treatment of the prisoners humane, by the capable staff, under the able direction of the officer in charge, Mr. A. McCloskie. Some inmates asked to be allowed to stay on at time of discharge, this being a compliment to their treatment here and a knock at the economic system which holds so poor a prospect of work to those men, many of them mere strip-lings."

Chicago Daily News: It is possible for fireside chats to backfire.

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