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THE REFUGEES

By A. CONAN DOYLE,

Author of "The Return of Sherlock Holmes"

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upon foot. They have been cached among the woods all day between Poitou and Ste. Marie."

"Then we have come through them?"

"Yes, we have come through them. They would keep their camp today and send out scouts. Brown Moose and his son were among them and struck our trail. Tonight"—

"Tonight they will attack Ste. Marie!"

"It is possible. And yet with so small a party I should scarce have thought that they would have dared. Well, we can but hasten back as quickly as we can and give them warning of what is hanging over them."

And so they turned for their weary backward journey, though their minds were too full to spare a thought upon the leagues which lay behind them or those which were before.

Dark as it was, Du Lhut walked as swiftly as during the sunlight and never hesitated about the track. His comrades could see, however, that he was taking them a different way from that which they had gone in the morning, for twice they caught a sight of the glimmer of the broad river upon their left, while before they had only seen the streams which flowed into it. On the second occasion he pointed to where on the farther side they could see dark shadows.

"Iroquois canoes," he whispered. "There are ten of them, with eight men in each. They are another party."

"How do you know that they are another party?"

"Because we have crossed the trail of the first within the hour."

De Catinat was filled with amazement at this marvelous man who could hear in his sleep and could detect a trail when the very tree trunks were invisible to ordinary eyes. Du Lhut halted a little to watch the canoes and then turned his back to the river and plunged into the woods once more until they came to the edge of a moonlit clearing. Du Lhut was about to skirt this, as he had done others, when suddenly he caught De Catinat by the shoulder and pushed him down behind a clump of sumac, while Amos did the same with Ephraim Savage.

A man was walking down the other side of the open space. He had just emerged and was crossing it diagonally, making in the direction of the river. His body was bent double, but as he came out from the shadow of the trees they could see that he was an Indian brave in full war paint, with leggings, loin cloth and musket. Close at his heels came a second, and then a third and a fourth, on and on, until it seemed as if the wood was full of men and that the line would never come to an end. Last of all came a man in the fringed tunic of a hunter, with a cap and feather upon his head. He passed across like the others, and they vanished into the shadows. It was five minutes before Du Lhut thought it safe to rise from their shelter.

"By Ste. Anne!" he whispered. "Did you count them?"

"Three hundred and ninety-six," said Amos.

"I made it 402."

"And you thought that there were only a hundred and fifty of them!" cried De Catinat.

"Ah, you do not understand. This is a fresh band. The others who took the blockhouse must be over there, for their trail lies between us and the river. In their camp there are now nearly 600 warriors. Unless we warn them at Ste. Marie these devils will lay some trap for them. Their parties are assembling by land and by water, and there may be a thousand before daybreak. We must push on and give our warning."

"They had one who was dressed like a white man," remarked Amos.

"Aye, and the most deadly of the lot. His father was a Dutch trader, his mother an Iroquois, and he goes by the name of the Flemish Bastard. By Ste. Anne, I have a score to settle with him, and I may pay it before this business is over."

CHAPTER XXII.

DAY was just breaking as the four comrades entered the gate of the stockade, but early as it was the censitaires and their families were all afoot. De Catinat burst through the throng and rushed upstairs to Adele, who had herself flown down to meet him, so that they met in each other's arms. Together, with his arm around her, they ascended to the great hall.

"Ah, monsieur," said the old nobleman, with his courtly bow, "I am indeed rejoiced to see you safe under my roof again, not only for your own sake, but for that of madame. You are doubtless hungry and weary. When you are yourself again, I must claim my revenge in piquet, for the cards lay against me the other night."

But Du Lhut had entered at De Catinat's heels with his tidings of disaster.

"You will have another game to play, M. de Ste. Marie," said he. "There are 600 Iroquois in the woods, and they are preparing to attack."

"Tut, tut! We cannot allow our arrangements to be altered by a handful of savages," said the seigneur. "I must apologize to you, my dear De Catinat, that you should be annoyed by such people while you are upon my estate. Now, when I played piquet last with De Lannes of Poitou"—

"De Lannes of Poitou is dead, and all his people," said Du Lhut. "The blockhouse is a heap of smoking ashes."

The seigneur raised his eyebrows.

"I always told him that his fort would be taken unless he cleared away those maple trees which grew up to the very walls. They are all dead, you say?"

"Every man."

"And the fort burned?"

"Not a stick was left standing."

"Have you seen these rascals?"

"We saw the trail of a hundred and fifty. Then there were a hundred in canoes, and a war party of 400 passed us under the Flemish Bastard. Their camp is five miles down the river, and there cannot be less than 600."

"You are fortunate in escaping them."

"But they were not so fortunate in escaping us. We killed Brown Moose and his son."

"Excellent! Excellent!" said the seigneur, clapping gently with his dainty hands. "You have done very well indeed, Du Lhut. You are, I presume, very tired?"

"I am not often tired."

"Then perhaps you would pick a few men and go back into the woods to see what these villains are doing?"

"I shall be ready in five minutes."

"Perhaps you would like to go also, Achille?"

His son's dark eyes and Indian face lit up.

"Yes, I shall go also," he answered.

"Very good. And we shall make all ready in your absence. Madame, you will excuse these little annoyances which mar the pleasure of your visit. Next time that you do me the honor to come here I trust that we shall have cleared all these vermin from my estate. You will excuse me now, as there are one or two things which demand my attention. De Catinat, you are a tried soldier, and I should be glad of your advice."

It was bright daylight now, and the square inclosure within the stockade was filled with an anxious crowd who had just learned the evil tidings. The scouting party under Du Lhut and Achille de la Noue had already left, and at the orders of the seigneur the two gates were now secured with huge bars of oak fitted into iron staples on either side. The children were placed in the lower storeroom with a few women to watch them, while the others were told off to attend to the fire buckets and to reload the muskets. The men had been paraded, fifty-two of them in all, and they were divided into parties now for the defense of each part of the stockade. On one side it had been built up to within a few yards of the river, which not only relieved them from the defense of that face, but enabled them to get fresh water by throwing a bucket at the end of a rope from the stockade. The boats and canoes of Ste. Marie were drawn up on the bank just under the wall and were precious now as offering a last means of escape should all else fail. The next fort, St. Louis, was but a few leagues up the river, and De la Noue had already sent a swift messenger to them with news of the danger. At least it would be a point on which they might retreat should the worst come to the worst.

And that the worst might come to the worst was very evident to so experienced a woodsman as Amos Green. He had left Ephraim Savage snoring in a deep sleep upon the floor and was now walking round the defenses with his pipe in his mouth, examining with a critical eye every detail in connection with them. The stockade was very strong, nine feet high and closely built of oak stakes, which were thick enough to turn a bullet. Halfway up it was loopholed in long, narrow slits for the fire of the defenders. But, on the other hand, the trees grew to within a hundred yards of it and formed a screen for the attack, while the garrison was so scanty that it could not spare more than twenty men at the utmost for each face. His face darkened as he thought of the young wife who had come so far in their safe keeping and of the women and children whom he had seen crowding into the fort.

"Would it not be better if you could send them up the river?" he suggested to the seigneur.

"I should very gladly do so, monsieur, and perhaps, if we are all alive, we may manage it tonight if the weather should be cloudy, but I cannot spare the men to guard them and I cannot send them without a guard when we know that Iroquois canoes are on the river."

"You are right. It would be madness."

"I have stationed you on the eastern face with your friends and with fifteen men. M. de Catinat, will you command the party?"

"Willingly."

"I will take the south face, as it seems to be the point of danger. Du Lhut can take the north, and five men should be enough to watch the river side."

"Have we food and powder?"

"I have flour and smoked eels enough to see this matter through. As to powder, we have all our trading stores to draw upon."

"We have not time to clear any of these trees?" asked the soldier.

"Impossible. They would make better cover down."

"But at least I might clear that patch of brushwood round the birch sapling which lies between the east face and the edge of the forest. It is good cover for their skirmishers."

"Yes; that should be fired without delay."

To be continued.

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Aug. 30 From Toronto to Sarnia on G.T.R. and all stations north to and including Can. Pac. Stations Toronto to Owen Sound.

Sept. 4 From Toronto and east, to and including Sharbot Lake and Kingston, also north of Toronto and north of Cardwell Jct. on G.T.R. and north of Bolton Junction on Can. Pac.

ONE-WAY SECOND-CLASS TICKETS WILL BE SOLD TO WINNIPEG ONLY

Representative farmers, appointed by Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta Governments, will meet and engage laborers on arrival at Winnipeg.

Free transportation will be furnished at Winnipeg to points on Can. Pac. and Can. Nor. Rys. where laborers are needed, east of Moose Jaw, Kamsack and Swan River, (including branches), and **at one cent a mile each way** west thereof in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

A certificate is furnished with each ticket, and this certificate when executed by farmer showing that laborer has worked thirty days or more, will be honored from that point for a second class ticket back to starting points in Ontario, at $18.00, prior to Nov. 30th, 1907.

Tickets are good only on special Farm Laborers' trains and will be issued to women as well as to men, but will not be issued at half fare to children.

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For full particulars see nearest C.P.R. agent, or write C. B. FOSTER, D.P.A., C.P.R., TORONTO

There are unfortunately too many boys and girls in the country, in town and city, more in the latter than in the first, who are prone to look upon work as beneath them. There are many of them on the threshold of maturity who retain the same views and habits which found encouragement in their earlier years. What becomes of this class of people? Some of them are awakened to the stern requirements of life and after a hard struggle overcome the habit and learn to work, to save, and to prepare for the inevitable rainy day. Many of them, however, become human drift wood until they reach the stage when they are only fit to recruit the great hobo army. Then they speedily reach the conclusion that things are unequal in this world and the advantages are all with the rich, and that a poor man has no show—forgetting that they themselves and possibly their parents are entirely to blame for their want of success.—Ex.

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A probable exhibit at the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, Aug. 20 to September 9, is a working model of the mono railway invented by an Englishman named Brennan, and is expected to revolutionize traveling and lead to the developement of transit at 200 miles an hour at a fraction of the present cost of operating.

Over two hundred years ago the faithful Jesuit Fathers Jean de Brebeuf and Gabriel Lauemant suffered a cruel death at the hands of the Iroquois Indians at a spot near the present site of Waubaushene and today a shrine was dedicated to their memory by His Grace the Most Rev. Dennis O'Connor, D. D. Archbishop, of Toronto, and thousands of people will attend the ceremony in connection with the blessing of the new edifice which is supposed to stand upon the exact spot of this early tragedy. We hope to be able to give a full report and other interesting details in connection with the establishment of the shrine at Martyr's Hill as it is now known in a later issue.—Midland Argus

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It is with pleasure that I give you this unsolicited testimonial. About a year ago when I had a severe case of measles I got caught out in a hard rain and the measles settled in my stomach and bowels. I had an awful time and had it not been for the use of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy I could not have possibly lived but a few hours longer, but thanks to this remedy I am now strong and well. I have written the above through simple gratitude and I shall always speak a good word for this remedy.—SAM. H. GWIN, Concord, Ga. For sale at Parker's Drug Store.

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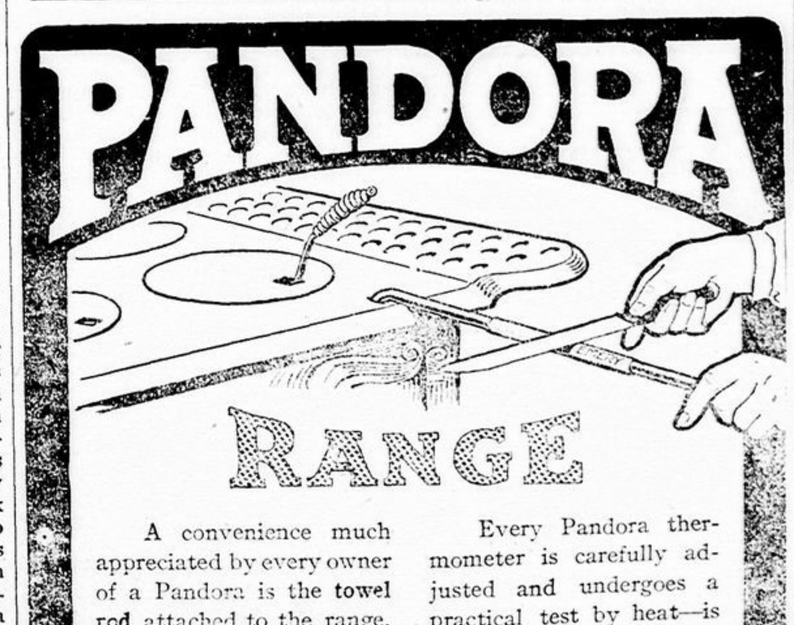

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It's always there handy for you. You need waste no time hunting around for the easily misplaced "steel." Bright idea, eh?

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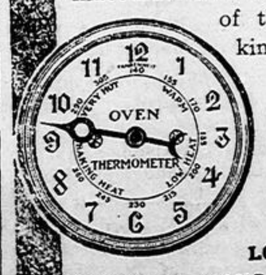

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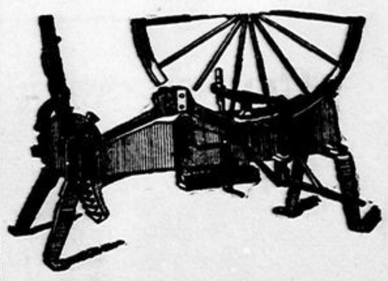

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