

# The Affair at Flower Acres

BEGIN HERE TODAY

Douglas Raynor is found shot through the heart in the early evening on the floor of the sun room of Flower Acres, his Long Island home. Standing over the dead man, pistol in hand, is Malcolm Finley, former sweetheart of Raynor's wife, Nancy. Eva Turner, Raynor's nurse, stands by the light switch. Then Nancy, her brother, Orville Kent, Bina Gannon, friend of Finley, Miss Mattie, and the maid, are called to take the case out of the hands of Detective Eshelms and to the floor of the sun room after the murder.

## NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY

"Oh, yes, they are nowadays. I can see it—she closed her eyes—I can see it—she curves around—yes, the right foot—the right side of the foot."

"And the footprint was pointed toward or away from Mr. Raynor?"

"Toward him."

"Miss Raynor, your testimony is valuable, indeed. You have unusual powers of observation and of description. The footprint has been washed away?"

"No," Miss Mattie shook her head. "It has not, but so many people have looked at it, and measured it, and fussed over it, that it is partly obliterated."

"Does that mean somebody came in—from outside—and shot my husband?" Nan asked.

"Not necessarily, Mrs. Raynor," Wise said. "It may be it was a footprint made in the afternoon—had it been raining?"

"No," Miss Raynor said—"but the gardens are often damp, and a footprint would be possible."

"Was the footprint mud?" asked Zizi sharply.

"I'm not sure," Miss Mattie said, thoughtfully. "It may have been merely the impress of the rubber sole on the stone floor of the room. It was dust rather than mud, anyway."

"Probably the footprint of a servant," Wise said, as he rose from his chair and strolled about. "You see, if there had been an intruder from outside, he would have left more than one footprint."

"No," Orville Kent remarked, "there was no floor space just there except between the rugs. Other footprints would have been on the rugs and so unobservable."

"You incline to the outsider theory, Mr. Kent?" the detective inquired.

"Yes," Orvy said. "I realize now that such a man might easily have escaped my observation."

Orvy was nervous as usual, twisting up a bit of paper he was holding.

"I think," he went on, throwing the paper aside, and picking up a burnt match, which he proceeded to worry—"if you will turn your attention to some one outside this household, Mr. Wise, you will get on the right track sooner."

"Perhaps so," and Wise nodded acquiescently. "Tell me what you saw when you arrived, Mr. Kent. The room was lighted then?"

"Oh, yes. They all stood in the doors—as you've already heard described. My sister—"

"Did you notice her first?"

"Yes—I think I did. I saw her white scarf face, and I sprang toward her, fearing she was going to faint. Then I saw the body of my brother-in-law on the floor—"

"Why do you say the body—did you then know Mr. Raynor was dead?"

Kent stared.

"Of course not. I only saw that he lay on the floor. But, in view of all we have learned since, it seems natural that I should refer to that stricken form as the body. No, at the moment, I had a confused notion that he had had a stroke—or some thing like that."

Orvy's voice as even, but his fingers were nervously working. The family were used to these nervous manifestations, but the detective looked at him curiously.

"You gathered most of the crop of Gannon information—but not all. That old codger has a hold on the great man—on Douglas Raynor, that made Raynor afraid of him. On the other hand, he was in some way afraid of Raynor. So—I got all this from the maid—they used to argue over something in their spoke in low voices and behind closed doors. She listened. But all she could get was

## Some Palestine Live Side Issues

Ibn Saud, King of the Hedjaz—The Dead Sea and Its Potential Wealth—The Canaanites, the Zionists and the Arabs

"On the main question there can be no going back on our word. In the hearing of all the world we promised this home to the Jews. With tact at all times, with economy if possible, with firmness when men are brutalized by passion, we must labor to deserve the mandate that we claim."

—Mr. H. N. Balfour, in the News Leader.

In the text of the British Mandate approved by the League of Nations, the character of the British undertaking is seen to be twofold:—

"His Majesty's Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, and it goes on to qualify this with the proviso:—

"It being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine."

The obligation to carry out these undertakings is accepted by and imposed upon Great Britain in the Mandate; and it ought to be clearly reaffirmed forthwith that she stands upon the Mandate. She undertakes to safeguard the free exercise of all forms of worship; but equally to exercise such supervision over religious bodies . . . as may be required for the maintenance of public order."

—Daily Chronicle.

There are naturally many influences at work in Palestine and the public is slowly becoming aware of their significance. On the point of the immediate situation, the general view held is that expressed by the Times:

**Firmness First**

"Apart from considerations of justice and of our responsibilities as a mandatory, there is a plain reason of the political kind why firmness and wisdom are in this case indispensable. Everybody who has any acquaintance with the East knows how concessions made apparently to violence affect the Oriental mind."

"They are invariably attributed to weakness or to fear. The Moslems of Palestine are already appealing to the Moslems of India; the Jews of Palestine are appealing to the Jews in the United States. Their friends and co-religionists beyond the ocean are watching anxiously for signs of vacillation on the part of the Mandatory Power."

"If she were to flinch from doing her duty in Palestine, fresh attempts to wrest new concessions from her would quickly follow. And they would not be confined to Palestine. The example Palestine had set with success would be studied and followed in other lands by all the fermenters of disorder. Palestine is a test case; if we waver, or hesitate, or to change our accepted policy there would soon be greater dangers to confront elsewhere."

"There is a difference between making Palestine the national home of the Jews and establishing a national home for the Jews in Palestine," asserts the Scotsman. "The first interpretation was not accepted in 1921. It is the interests of British rule in India and other parts of the East, it is important that the Moslems should be treated fairly, and that whatever is done should be done impartially, and should not be thought to be the result of Jewish influence. The contract with Jewry must be fulfilled, but there are also obligations to the Arab population in Palestine which cannot be ignored."

**To Ignore These Signs**

"There is great excitement in many parts of the Arab world," points out the Daily News, "expressing itself in vehement demonstrations and calls for 'unity in the Arab countries under the kingship of Ibn Saud.'"

"To ignore these signs would be to blind ourselves to the combustible elements of the Arab nature and the possibility of a senseless Holy War emerging from the sudden racial flare-up in Palestine."

"It is of the utmost importance that the British Government should possess itself of vital information upon all Arab movements outside Palestine. It is above all important that it should get into friendly touch with Ibn Saud, King of the Hedjaz."

The attitude of that great Arabian monarch will give the clue to the riddle. It is within his power to keep the peace or to break it. He exercises an immense influence over a wide expanse of Arab territory."

"He is a religious enthusiast, with a magnetic personality; and the few Englishmen who have made his acquaintance have been impressed with his courage, his administrative skill and his honesty."

"To come to a proper understand-

ing with Ibn Saud would be to reduce our task in Palestine and to remove a far-reaching menace."

"While most of us were under the impression that racial and religious differences lay at the root of the present trouble, it is interesting to read of another cause," comments the Sheffield Daily Telegraph. "The President of the National League, the body which claims to voice Arab opinion on Palestine affairs, propounds a new theory."

**The Dead Sea Problem**

"All the better, he asserts, centres in the Dead Sea and its illimitable potential wealth. The grievance consists in the fact that the development of this has been entrusted to a Zion-ist, and the suggestion is made that Britain should keep a firm hand on the control of the future of the Sea, sharing out the proceeds of development equally between Jew and Arab."

"This seems rather a belated stand to take up. The Dead Sea for centuries has been in Arab hands, but it has been permitted to remain just what its name implies. No sooner do outsiders come upon the scene and exploit its wealth than in steps the Arab with his claim to participate in a wealth he is ignored in the past and does nothing to develop to-day. We must look further afield for an explanation of the recent disturbances. Not Dead Seas but living hatreds and jealousies are at the bottom of them all."

The Sunday Times calls attention to still another factor in the difficult situation. It says:—

"The religious differences between Jews, Moslems, and Christians in Palestine, which has always been a storm-centre of controversy through the ages, are not the sole cause of the unrest. The Mandatory Power has seemed to minimize or ignore."

"It should be remembered that the native peasantry—the Canaanites, as they may be called—are a primitive folk, mostly very poor and shiftless, whereas the Zionist immigrants are for the most part educated people from Western Europe and America, who work hard and are building up modern industries."

"Two widely different types of civilization have been suddenly brought into contact in a small country, and the adjustment of the relations between them constitutes a very serious and delicate problem. It may easily be imagined that the cultured Jew looks down with contempt on these ignorant peasants and non-

## Every tiny leaf is a storehouse of flavour

# "SARADA" TEA

ORANGE PEKOE BLEND

"Fresh from the gardens"

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## "We've Got The Ships—"

### And We Still Build More New Ones Than All Our Rivals Put Together

When the Bremen made her famous voyage and succeeded in beating all previous records for the Atlantic crossing, there were people who shook their heads and talked darkly about "the beginning of the end" for British shipping.

Then an amazing thing happened. The veteran Mauretania, which had held the Atlantic record for over twenty years, beat her own previous best by nearly five hours. True, she was still four hours behind the Bremen; but the latter, a brand-new boat, had crossed in ideal weather conditions, while the Mauretania had the weather against her.

In these circumstances the Mauretania's feat is one of the best advertising coups which British shipbuilding could wish for. There has been no previous case of a steamer attaining her highest speed after twenty-two years of work on the high seas, and the fact that the great Cunarder has accomplished this shows how well and truly her builders did their job.

**Lesson That Won't Be Lost**

The lesson is one that will not be lost on the shipping world. Indeed, even before this feat of the Mauretania's, the tonnage of merchant ships under construction in Great Britain and Ireland was showing an upward trend. At the end of June there were 365 vessels of 100 tons and upwards under construction in British yards, the tonnage being 1,453,906. This was an increase of 37 vessels and 96,533 tons as compared with March and of 93 vessels and 251,286 tons as compared with June, 1928.

More important still, we are now building just over half of the total tonnage that is under construction in the world's shipbuilding yards. At the end of June the proportion was 51.2 per cent. for Britain and Ireland, and 48.8 per cent. for all other countries combined.

These are encouraging figures for British shipbuilders, especially in view of the fact that foreign competition has never been keener or more formidable. But there is no room for pessimism concerning an industry which is doing more business than all its rivals put together.

**Our Up-to-date Fleet**

True, we are not yet back to our pre-war position. In the twelve months before the War our share of the world's shipbuilding was 57.2 per cent. of the total tonnage under construction. But we are regaining lost ground, and the tonnage we are now building is considerably more than what we had on the slips twenty years ago, in 1909, when we had nothing like the present competition to face.

So far as shipping is concerned this country also maintains her old pre-eminence. The gross tonnage of steamers and motor-ships owned by Great Britain and Ireland at the end of June last was 20,046,000. The only other country which anything like approached this figure was the United States, with 11,036,000 of sea-going tonnage. The world's total tonnage was 66,408,000.

Of our tonnage 22½ per cent. is less than five years old, as against 3½ per cent. in the United States. We can also claim that 83½ per cent. of our tonnage is under twenty years old, as against 71 per cent. in the case of vessels owned abroad.

**Speed King Coming Along**

We also seem to own most of the big ships. There are in the world 425 steamers and motor-ships of 10,000 tons and over, and of these we own no fewer than 237. We can also claim that we own 55.4 per cent. of the big liner tonnage of the world, counting in liners of 15,000 tons and upwards.

So, even apart from the fact that the Oceanic, to be built at Belfast for the White Star Line, should meet the challenge of the Bremen and regain for us the blue riband of the Atlantic, we are holding our own, both in shipbuilding and shipping.

But when the Oceanic is completed, it should astonish the world. For much experience has been gained and immense progress has been made since the Mauretania was designed. And if, in those days, we could turn out a ship capable of so wonderful an effort after the lapse of twenty-two years, what can we do to-day?

**Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (Lib.):** This country cannot afford to be accused of giving official sanction to the illicit traffic in liquor across the boundary. Our national reputation is not improved and our friendship with the neighboring country is not strengthened when Canada is attacked as the ally of law-breakers. The Dominion must be freed of any such imputation. It may be true that the supply of strong drink available in the United States will be scarcely affected by any action this country will take. That is not Canada's business. Canada's business is to keep clear of anything like a tacit alliance with the rum running fraternity.

Excited gent, in stand, looking through glasses: "They're off! Embarrassed friend: "Don't be silly, old man; the race is won." Excited gent: "I'm talking of the bookies."

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