

WIDE WATERS

By CAPTAIN A.E. DINGLE

BEGIN HERE TODAY

Alden Drake, formerly a sailor, grown soft and flabby through a life of idle ease, ships aboard the clipper Orontes as "boy," under the command of Jake Stevens, whose enmity he incurs because of a mutual love for Mary Manning, daughter of the owner, who is a passenger. At Cape Town, Stevens is superseded as captain by Drake, whose lawyers have seen to the purchase of the Orontes during its cruise. Stevens is reduced to the rank of chief mate.

The Orontes, due partly to Jake's disobedience of orders, is run on the rocks in the Straits off Java. Mary slips away from the ship with Ike, the steward, and later Jake goes to join her ashore.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY

Lulled by the murmur of the tide on the shore, and the soft crooning of the night breeze, Jake slept soundly for all his problems. He failed to hear the stealthy tramp of many feet. A line of men stepped cautiously by him without seeing him, and went towards the boat on the beach. Jake only awoke to the snarling challenge of Ike Sainly. Then, swiftly awake, he became aware of the gathering about the boat.

He ran down, bursting in among the riot that seemed to centre there. "Lor' lumme! Stooard, it's hus!" exclaimed young Tubbs desperately. Ike menaced his head with the axe.

"Git back! Tyke yer 'ands orf the boat!" warned Ike, and his weapon swished through the air murderously. Stevens pushed forward.

"Get back there! What does this mean? Who's here?"

"Blime, it's Mister Stevens, blokes!" cried Sims, and the crowd drew back with many a muffled whisper and scarcely-muffled chuckle.

"What is it, Ike?" called Mary, from her shelter.

"There's th' Judy!" whispered Sims hoarsely, digging a forefinger jocosely into Tubbs' ribs.

"Don't be frightened, Mary," Jake called to the girl. Then with a ferocity that abashed the men, for the

ain't been treated none too good, Mister Stevens. We only done the same as you. We swum for it, too. And we're ready to foller you if you—"

"Don't wyste bref on 'im!" growled a voice in the dark. "Them rats runnin' over th' deck finished me. To 'ell wiv 'im. Let's tyke the boat an' git on our way fer Anjer."

Voices joined in agreement. The crowd began to move. Ike uttered a yell, and the starlight glittered on his axe-blade.

"Come on, chaps!" shouted a man on the outside of the little mob, and before Ike could reach him his hands were upon the boat. Another hand tore down the sail.

"Shove orf, me sons! We kin get strytened out afloat!"

"Hands off!" roared Jake, and plunged headlong at the man tearing the sail awning down. He struck fiercely at the dim face, and the fellow toppled back into the lapping tide. Ike struck with his axe, and the edge gashed the gunwale of the boat not an inch clear of another hand.

"E's a bloody murderer!" gasped the lucky one who had escaped. Then there was a rush. Something struck Jake on the head and he pitched across the boat gunwale. Ike screamed, for desperate hands seized his axe and rendered him powerless for harm, although he still clung to the handle. Jake stumbled to his feet again, all but stunned, and beat at faces that snarled at him. He heard Mary cry out and fought madly to reach her.

Heavy clubs of driftwood hammered upon his skull. He felt as if wheels whirled inside his head. Ike screamed, but those ruffians were not to be driven off by screams. The boat moved, too. They were launching the boat, and Mary was in it. He fought well, but he had been sadly dazed by that first tremendous blow. He called upon exquing where brawn bade fair to fail.

Head down, and arms protecting it, he charged clear of the gang, and swiftly turned upon them.

"Back, you rats! Hands off, or I'll shoot you full o' lead! Quick, you!"

He must be the men behind the large hotels that only half a world are capable

need a b-at tonight, and I prefer not to lose another."

(To be continued.)

Which Wins— Crook or Bank?

Crib-cracking Versus Safe-making is a Struggle Not Yet at an End

In New York a sixty-storey skyscraper is rising, and at its heart is a mammoth vault, an armored fortress of steel and concrete. Behind the doors of that vault may lie \$1,000,000,000. Every human and mechanical device will be employed to guard that treasure. Will it be safe?

"I put that question to a distinguished vault engineer, who has built some of the strongest vaults in existence. His answer amazed me.

"Give me a million dollars with which to build a vault," he said, "and there would still be half a dozen men in the world who could open and rob it!"

"Nor are these men Houdinis, or Jimmy Valentines who open tumbler locks with sandpapered fingers. They are experts in the use of two of the most terrible safe-breaking weapons known—the 'fluxing rod' and the 'oxygen lance.' Against these latest potential tools of safe breakers, no absolute defense is known. The financial world is waiting to see if any super-criminal will dare to use them. Nothing is 'impossible' in the never-ending battle between safe makers and safe breakers," says Henry Merton Robinson in Popular Science.

"Burglar-proof" vaults have performed under great and revolutionary changes in the past fifty years. From the days of the eighties, when a bank's idea of the last word in security was a four foot thick door studded with cannon balls and bolted home into their vault's framework . . . which door was incidentally pried out completely by thieves to the tune of nearly three million dollars . . . to the up-to-date strong-box such as described at the commencement of this article is a far cry. The progress of the opposed sciences of safe-making and safe-breaking has been an interesting one through the phase of the "stepped" door, the introduction of nitro-glycerine and the "soup man," the cone door machined so closely that that artist could not get his "soup" into the cracks, and finally . . . last stage but one . . . the oxygen-acetylene torch, which will bite through a six-inch steel plate in a few minutes.

"To-day science meets the threat of the 'cutter-burner' with composite walls that embody materials resistant to heat, drills, and explosives. Yet even such walls cannot meet the new threat of the 'fluxing rod' and the 'oxygen lance.' The first is simply a stick of soft steel which the expert operator holds against the metal to be burned. Then he applies the oxygen-acetylene flame to the tip of the fluxing rod, which oxidizes so rapidly that the temperature can be raised to unbelievable heights.

"The 'oxygen lance' has been known for some time. It consists of a long small iron pipe through which oxygen gas is forced. The business end of the pipe is heated red-hot by a cutter-burner. The hot iron ignites in the oxygen stream and flares so fiercely that it will burn its way straight through anything. Blast furnace men use the oxygen lance to cut away steel from the tapholes of the

Although a safe breaker might have entered it in less time, it is doubtful if he would have cared to tackle the job.

"With the design of such formidable vaults the advantage lies temporarily with the protectors of money rather than with the thieves. Still, there is always the threat of some unexpected development in the safe cracker's art, or of some super-criminal with the skill to use the means now known. It is against this possibility that the vault builders are constantly matching their wits in their thrilling war against the unseen.

Freedom of Knees, However, Thing of the Past by Spring, Says Costumer

Are they wearing 'em long? In an attempt to settle the great question, for the time being at least, a timid reporter was told to take a walk around town, look the girls over, and report whether they were wearing long or short skirts. Such fun!

The survey revealed that Miss Toronto likes them long, short and medium, but the short are in the majority. A daytime stroll around the shopping district shows that knees are still an open secret, although one ladies' store manager predicted that four inches of extended skirt will soon place all knees, dimpled or other wise, in retirement.

"Paris says about four inches below the knee, and, although Toronto girls are not taking quickly to the new style for business wear, we notice that for evening wear, they prefer the ankle length dresses," he said.

Says Change is Gradual

Another manager stated that the change to long gresses was coming gradually and predicted that by next spring business dresses would be worn three and four inches below the knee.

"The newest style calls for flares and drapes instead of the usual pleats. Girls buying dresses now are interested in the long ankle dresses for evening wear, but are gradually talking to the shorter length for business. Manufacturers are not making the extremely short ones any longer," he stated.

Asked if he thought girls would become independent and make their own short dresses, he said that by next spring they would be so far behind the style if they ventured out with their knees exposed that independence would soon be forgotten. "You know what women are like," he declared, greatly over-estimating the reporter's education in this regard.

Shorts Still Have It

Observations at one place in Toronto revealed that for afternoon street wear, short skirts were far in the majority. Of one hundred girls counted passing this corner, sixty-five were wearing short dresses exposing their knees; twenty-seven had dresses of medium length, and eight wore long dresses; although only three were the ankle-length "creations."

Another half-hour at another place, emphatically established the fact that they prefer them short. Seventy-three wore short dresses, while twenty-five preferred them medium, or slightly below the knees; and two wore "longs."

Long or Short, Medium, Any Kind Will Do

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At night it is different. A visit to the large hotels shows that the Paris styles are being taken to kindly by all girls attending social functions. The rows are high in the sides of

No premiums with Salada but finest quality instead

"SALADA" TEA

'Fresh from the gardens'

WHAT *New York* IS WEARING

Illustrated Dressmaking Lesson Furnished with Every Pattern

By Annebelle Worthington

A novelty printed silk crepe in brown and beige tones that you can easily make in two hours. The scarf collar is in the beige shade plain silk crepe with insets of plain brown crepe that are simply pieces cut square and applied at ends for decorative purpose. Plain bias crepe in brown shade finishes ends of sleeves that are dart-fitted below the elbows and edge of flaring skirt.

Style No. 2961 that is just the best dress ever for general dressing occasions can be copied exactly in the medium size with 3/4 yard of 39-inch material, 1/2 yard of 35-inch contrasting and 1/2 yard of 35-inch bias binding for collar trimming. Sizes 16, 18 years, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust.

The two-piece circular skirt is seamed at sides and finished at hem with bias binding and it is ready to attach to bodice, that has been seamed at sides and shoulders. Sleeves are now set into armholes and collar stitched at neckline. Presto! Your dress is made! Try it and be convinced.

Later for Fall, select one of those lovely sheer woollens in heather brown mixture or mauve-red tones and use plain harmonizing silk crepe for scarf collar, and you'll be the proud owner of one of the smartest dresses of the season. A comfortable dress too, for while it has warmth, it is quite as light in weight as silk. A dress that can be worn for sports or for luncheon at a fashionable restaurant.

Black crepe satin with collar of white silk crepe or made of the reverse of the crepe is fashionable and serviceable.

Canton crepe, plain silk crepe, crepe de chine, georgette crepe, crepe marocain and wool crepe appropriate.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS. Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such

READING.

They who have read about everything are thought to understand everything, too; but it is not always so. Reading furnishes the mind only with materials of knowledge; it is thinking that makes what we read our own. We are of the ruminating kind, and it is not enough to cram ourselves with a great load of collections—we must chew them over again.

EVIL

The world is bad enough to darken and distress my noble mind; yet thank heaven, the words of Schiller are still true, that "No man can love evil for evil's sake as he can love for goodness' sake."

"Woe to you when all men speak well of you."—Stanley Baldwin.

Minard's Wards Off Grippe.

Plotted to Kill Entire Belgian Royal Family

Communist Agent Confesses Conspiracy to Bomb Train on Way to Rome For Wedding

Brussels, Belgium. — A widespread anti-Fascist plot which took "violence" for its watchword was described by Brussels police the day before Christmas after the arrest of two young Italian radicals.

The secret organization, which police said was prepared "to kill prominent Fascists, in Italy," was indirectly linked to the recent attempt to assassinate Crown Prince Humbert on his visit to the Belgian capital. Police said documents showed the organization extended to Paris, Berlin and other cities.

Two youthful Italians, Luigi Berneri and Pasquale Rusconi, were arrested. Berneri was said to be an associate of Fernando da Rosa, who is held for attempting to kill Crown Prince Humbert.

Police denied reports published here that Berneri had confessed a plan to assassinate the Belgian Royal Family about the time of Princess Marie Jose's marriage to Prince Humbert January 8. The reports of such a plot, involving a purported plan to bomb the royal train, were widespread despite the police denial.

Police said Berneri arrived here to organize anti-Fascists in an armed league. Several automatic revolvers were seized when he was arrested. Another revolver was found in the home of Rusconi, an associate of Berneri, and Rusconi was arrested later on a charge of false passport papers. He was released.

Among evidence to show that Berneri was plotting attacks on prominent Italian Fascists was a photograph of the Italian Minister of Justice, Alfredo Rocco, who will arrive here on Friday.

"If we encounter any Fascists we will kill them," Berneri was quoted as saying.

Police said the organization apparatus was extensive and that Paris headquarters were merely centres of action.



LOOK OUT!



2961

Ship at Half Cost Price Turned

London, Jan. 10. — Sir Charles Lewis, Commandant of the Royal Air Force, has superintended the construction of the airship by Messrs. Vickers Limited, at Howden, Yorkshire, since recently, that either the Government must come forward with a definite program over no less than five years which in his opinion would cost at least \$15,000,000, or the better leave airships alone. Amplifying the above report, national particulars concerning building of R-100, given in Mr. Burney's speech, followed. Sir Dennistoun told the group had lunched on the airship, dirigible had cost \$2,220,000 contract which they had with Government was for \$1,500,000 a capital grant of \$250,000 expenses of the hangar. In fact, been much greater expenditure in adapting the shed and this had cost the firm another \$250,000. This meant that a commercial firm had contributed \$700,000 to aeronautical science and airship development. Again.