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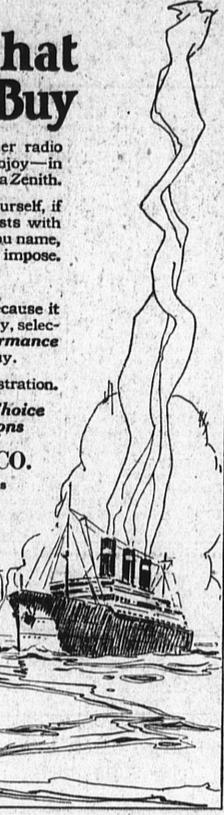
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Carson and Cravens Streets
Torrance
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Costs More — But Does More



The SKELETON FINGER

By Headdon Hall
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BEGIN HERE TODAY

SIR DUDLEY GLENISTER, accused of the murder of his cousin, George Glenister, arranges with a moving picture company to burn an old mill on his estate, in which he is holding—NORMAN SLATER, an enemy, a prisoner. He visits Slater just prior to setting fire to the building, with the intention of using a horsehip on the captive, but—ALEX, a friend of Slater and Slater's sweetheart, Kathleen Glenister, also a prisoner in the mill, breaks into Dudley's plans and rescues the prisoners.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY

"I'll pin my hat on," said Kathleen briskly.

But before she had accomplished the feat, Alex, growling like an angry mastiff, sprang to the door, and Norman uttered a cry of dismay.

For a waft of acrid smoke had drifted into the room, and from below there reached them the crackle of flames.

"He's done us!" said Alex. "My fault for being soft-hearted. I ought to have put him right out and not been so bally kind."

"Anyhow," remarked Kathleen calmly, "it will be plain proof that he murdered George. I told Hinkley what he had threatened to do. If he isn't hanged for that murder he will be for this."

A fierce exaltation shone in the girl's face. The two men looked at her with awe. In the hour of her own extremity, while a furnace raged in the one exit from the mill and death was very near to her, she could think of the vengeance she had striven so hard to win and yet hoped might fall.

"I'm glad you feel like that, Miss," said Alex, with a note of restrained admiration blended with pity. "I'll make what's coming to you come easier."

Then he ran out onto the landing and peered over the rotting balustrade down the well of the staircase. The pungent fumes nearly choked him.

"Our only chance," he coughed, and ran back into the room.

And ran back into the room.

CHAPTER XXV

The Heroism of Mr. Colne

WE PARTED from Inspector Wragge and Mr. Stephen Colne as they started from Colnebrook Towers to walk through the woods to the clearing, where the statesman had promised the detective evidence of his own guilt, and it has been shown that these two men, each eminent in his own calling, reached their destination at the critical moment when Mr. Fabian Wommersley's electric apparatus had been turned on.

The pedestrians halted at the unexpected sight, Wragge casting a sidelong glance at his companion as if to make sure that it was as great a surprise to Mr. Colne as it was to himself.

"A queer go," said the inspector thoughtfully, "this is what you brought me along for, sir?"

"No-o-o," was the long-drawn reply. "What do you make of it?"

"Picture artists faking a film," said Wragge; and for once his tone lacked the deference he habitually used toward the cabinet minister. And he added with a still more marked absence of respect: "Looks a bit rocky, sir, for this wonderful evidence of yours that's going to dish the Beechwood baronet. This show couldn't have been started without his sanction, and murderers don't squint electricity on their guilty secrets."

"What had we better do?" said Mr. Colne feebly.

"Why, join the crowd and probe the mystery," said Wragge.

So it was that they advanced into the clearing, projected by the Amphibian. Syndicate's apparatus, incidentally so frightening "Miss Maud Blair" that in her sudden start she canted over the mill-wheel on which she was posed and got herself jammed by it against the masonry of the dam. Unconscious of the part they had played in causing the catastrophe, they stood on the bank watching Mr. Wommersley's curious antics.

It was only when the tall man rushed out onto the dam that there had been an accident, and when John Grimes brought his daughter to the bank and laid her down Wragge stiffened in all his fibres as he recognized the injured actress as Mrs. Simon Trikey of Lipscombe Road, Brixton. At the instant of his own recognition he was conscious that Mr. Colne convulsively gripped his arm. Wragge was at pains to conceal the thrill of excitement that was nearly destroying his composure.

"You know the woman, sir?" he asked, turning his voice to an inquiring note.

"I know her?" queried Mr. Colne as if in defense of his dignity. He laughed a little, as if it was a case for amusement rather than resentment. "I am afraid that I have neglected my opportunities, Wragge, for cultivating cinematic professionals—if I ever had any."

The inspector's hand stole gently under his companion's arm, as though to guide him nearer the casualty.

"It seemed not impossible that you might know her, sir, for if I am not mistaken she is a native of these parts," said Wragge, "the daughter of Sir Dudley's keeper—the man who has just brought her to the bank."

"Miss Maud Blair" had fainted, and John Grimes, clumsily trying to restore her to consciousness, only recognized her as the cabinet minister and the detective drew near.

"My God! It's our Sally!" broke from the big man in velvet.

NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT

PURSUANT TO STATUTE, and to the Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the City of Torrance, California, directing this notice.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that said Board of Trustees in open session on the 18th day of January, 1926, publicly opened, examined and declared all sealed proposals or bids for doing the following work or improvement in said city, to-wit:

The grading, paving and construction thereon of Cement Concrete curbs and walks on portions of Martine Avenue, as more particularly described in Resolution of Intention No. 260, introduced and adopted by said Board of Trustees on the 26th day of October, 1925, and on file in the office of the City Clerk of said city.

Reference is hereby made to said Resolution of Intention for a description of said work and for a description of the district to be assessed for the costs and expenses thereof.

Bonds will be issued for the cost of said improvement as provided by law and set forth in said Resolution of Intention.

Reference is also made to plans and detailed drawings for said work on file in the office of the City Engineer of said city and to Specifications No. 24 and Ordinance No. 13 on file in the office of the City Clerk of said city.

For further particulars reference is hereby made to said Resolution of Intention.

And Notice is also hereby given that said Board of Trustees thereafter, on the 27th day of January, 1926, awarded the contract for said work to the lowest regular responsible bidder, to-wit: GEO. R. CURTIS PAVING CO., Inc., at the prices named for said work in its proposal or bid, on file in the office of the City Clerk of said city.

Dated this 28th day of January, 1926.

A. H. BARTLETT,
City Clerk of the City of Torrance, California.

Atwater Kent To Give Radio Folks Treat on Sunday

When radio music lovers tune in on KXN Sunday evening, Feb. 7, to enjoy the second Atwater Kent concert-artist program, they will hear the pure lyric tenor of Allen McQuhae, clear, confident, captivating, caroling the Celtic songs he loves to sing.

Allen McQuhae (pronounced McQuay), in his kaleidoscopic climb from wild Irish adventurer of the Canadian Northwest to distinguished concert tenor of national fame, affords material for a romantic "Western" in himself.

BRIEF NEWS

Tens of thousands of Loyal Illinoisans are waiting for the picnic in Sycamore Grove Park, Los Angeles, all day Friday, Feb. 12.

All who ever lived in Wisconsin are invited to meet for the great picnic reunion all day Saturday, Feb. 13, in Sycamore Grove Park, Los Angeles.

Members of the "Royal Order of Fleas" of San Pedro who were guests Saturday evening of Lawrence Stalcup of Elgin street included Kenneth Pollard, Charles Erwin and Ocie Abbott.

Mrs. and Mrs. Hiram E. Hickman of Weston street attended the installation ceremonies of the Royal Arch Masons in San Pedro recently, when Mrs. Hickman's son, Paul Beaver, was seated as high priest.

Mrs. L. C. Walker of Narbonne avenue entertained the Los Angeles Bridge Club of Los Angeles, of which she is a member, at luncheon today.

Sponsors Mr. and Mrs. Chris Jones, Mrs. C. H. Clark and Mrs. J. A. Boecker were present at a meeting Wednesday evening of the Harbor City Campfire Girls.

Mrs. Wade Coryell of 25th street entertained the Lazy Daisy Club at luncheon Tuesday.

Mrs. J. H. Worthington of Chestnut street is reported on the stock list.

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at

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PETERS' SWEET CHOCOLATE, Large 1/2-lb. Cakes, 29c. You know Peters'—"High as the Alps in Quality."

Imported French Olive Oil Reg. \$1.50 Grade Special, One Week \$1.29 Qt.	THOMPSON'S GRIPPE AND COLD TABLETS Reg. 25c Special—17c Box
RIM Tooth Paste Reg. 50c Tubes SPECIAL—39c	NORWEGIAN COD LIVER OIL 6-oz. size, Reg. 35c Value Special, One Week 23c
NAZOJELL A Catarrh and Cold Jelly Reg. 25c Tube SPECIAL—17c	Todco Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil Reg. \$1.00 Bottle SPECIAL—69c
ELIXIR OF IRON, QUININE AND STRYCHNINE TABLETS Reg. \$1.25 Bottle SPECIAL—89c	

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The Rexall Drug Store

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Women's Clubhouse, Engracia Ave.

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St. Paul and Minneapolis

through Pullmans daily

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Standard Pullman Daily
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Ar. St. Paul - 7:40 a.m.
Ar. Minneapolis - 8:25 a.m.
Connections from San Pedro at 8:45 a.m.

Via CONTINENTAL LIMITED
Standard Sleeper Daily—Tourist Sleeper Mondays and Thursdays
Lv. Los Angeles - 5:15 p.m.
Ar. St. Paul - 7:45 p.m.
Ar. Minneapolis - 8:25 p.m.
Connections from San Pedro at 3:10 p.m.

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