

Mystery of a Lost Ring

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The main incident of this story was given me for a fact.

The loss of Sophie Brock's engagement ring was a mystery. Less than a week after Clarence Howes had given it to her she went to bed one night with it on her finger, and when she woke up in the morning it was gone. The bedding was searched and shaken; the bed was taken apart, but the ring did not appear.

There was no evidence of burglary except that the sash of a window in Sophie's room, which had been closed when she went to bed, was found in the morning raised.

The persons in the house besides the servants were Sophie's father, mother, a younger brother, aged ten, and her cousin, Winifred Loomis, about her own age. Sophie and Winifred were the only persons sleeping on the floor from which the ring had disappeared. Winifred was an orphan and had been taken in for charity. She was studying to become a teacher. There was no possible explanation of the ring's loss except Winifred had taken it off her cousin's finger while the latter slept. But this did not account for the open window. Besides, Winifred was regarded by all who knew her as an upright, conscientious girl.

As to the theory of the theft by a servant, it was impossible, for the doors leading from both Sophie's and Winifred's rooms were locked and bolted, though the two rooms communicated and the door between them was open.

When Sophie told her lover of her loss she intimated she believed that for some unknown reason Winifred had coveted the ring and had yielded to a temptation to take it off her finger while she slept. Howes remonstrated against throwing suspicion upon any one without proof, especially Winifred, whom all loved and respected. Indeed, so earnestly did he enter upon Winifred's defense that Sophie took his action for a clue. It suddenly appeared to her that she had a rival in Winifred—that her rival could not endure to see her wearing a ring on her finger which had been given her by the man she (Winifred) loved, and this was her motive for stealing it.

What we fear we are apt to bring to pass. Howes was a manly fellow, and the moment suspicion, which he considered unjust, was thrown upon Winifred he became interested in her and in the solution of the mystery by which she suffered. He questioned Winifred closely upon every detail, and one day Sophie came upon the two unawares while engaged in an animated conversation. Sophie's glance at the couple caused both to blush. She passed on without a word, and the result of the encounter was a new complication. Sophie was now sure of her explanation of the mystery and was doubly sure that Winifred had captured her lover.

Of all social conditions, the most ex-

asperating is one involving things known and not spoken. Howes knew that he was suspected of being on terms with Winifred that were not acceptable to his fiancée. Winifred knew this and that she was suspected of having stolen the ring. Sophie knew that both the others were aware of these things, and yet all this knowledge was ignored between the trio. On the surface Howes and Sophie were lovers; under the surface Howes and Winifred were fast being drawn together by an irresistible power, sympathy in one, gratitude in the other.

Howes received a brief note from Sophie breaking her engagement without giving any reason. It drew color to his cheek and a flush to his eye. He replied, accepting the situation without comment. Winifred remained a member of the Brock household. Why shouldn't she? No one had openly accused her. No one treated her any differently than before the mystery. Nevertheless she lived a wretched life, counting the days till she should be equipped to earn her own living.

One night she awoke suddenly from sleep. The full moon was shining into the room, and by its light she saw her cousin in her room standing before a mirror combing her hair. Winifred asked her what in the world she was doing that for. There was no reply, and in another moment Sophie passed into her own room. There she threw up a window and leaned over the sill, looking out. Winifred, realizing that she had to deal with a sleepwalker, and not daring to leave her at the window, led her to her bed. Sophie lay down without awakening, and Winifred watched beside her.

While Winifred lay awake she thought. The loss of the ring must be in some way connected with this somnambulism. Might not her cousin have dropped the ring in the room or out the window? The next morning she revealed what she had seen. Sophie, regarding the story as made up to exonerate Winifred, received it with silent scorn. Winifred searched her cousin's room when Sophie was absent and found—nothing. Howes searched the grounds, also without success.

This was in midsummer. One day in October the gardener was pulling up some withered vegetable stalks in the kitchen garden in the rear yard and found the missing ring. It recalled to him that one night while standing at his door he had seen some one throw something from a window of Sophie's room. Sophie had thrown the ring from her window while asleep.

The explanation came too late to effect a reconciliation between Sophie Brock and Clarence Howes. He married Winifred Loomis.

LOUISE C. FARRELL.

Crazy.

"We find the prisoner not guilty by reason of insanity."

"But the plea was not that of insanity," remarked the court.

"That's just the point we made," rejoined the foreman. "We decided that any man who didn't have sense enough to know that an insanity plea was the proper plea must be crazy."—Philadelphia Ledger.

President's Message

(Continued from Page One)

Its most effective effort in the shape of an appeal to the old doctrine of states' rights.

The proposal to make the national government supreme over, and therefore to give it complete control over, the railroads and other instruments of interstate commerce is merely a proposal to carry out to the letter one of the prime purposes, if not the prime purpose, for which the constitution was founded. It does not represent centralization.

I believe that the more farsighted corporations are themselves coming to recognize the unwisdom of the violent hostility they have displayed during the last few years to regulation and control by the national government of combinations engaged in interstate business.

Labor.

There are many matters affecting labor and the status of the wageworker to which I should like to draw your attention. As far as possible I hope to see a frank recognition of the advantages conferred by machinery, organization and division of labor, accompanied by an effort to bring about a larger share in the ownership by wageworker of railway, mill and factory. In farming this simply means that we wish to see the farmer own his own land. We do not wish to see the farms so large that they become the property of absentee landlords who farm them by tenants not yet so small that the farmer becomes like a European peasant.

The depositors in our savings banks now number over one-tenth of our entire population. These are all capitalists who through the savings banks loan their money to the workers—that is, in many cases to themselves—to carry on their various industries. Postal savings banks will make it easy for the poorest to keep their savings in absolute safety. The regulation of the national highways must be such that they shall serve all people with equal justice. Corporate finances must be supervised so as to make it far safer than at present for the man of small means to invest his money in stocks. There must be prohibition of child labor, diminution of woman labor, shortening of hours of all mechanical labor. Stock watering should be prohibited, and stock gambling, so far as is possible, discouraged. There should be a progressive inheritance tax on large fortunes. Industrial education should be encouraged.

Protection For Wageworkers.

There is one matter with which the congress should deal at this session. There should no longer be any paltering with the question of taking care of the wageworkers who, under our

present industrial system, become killed, crippled or worn out as part of the regular incidents of a given business. The object sought for could be achieved to a measurable degree, as far as those killed or crippled are concerned, by proper employers' liability laws. As far as concerns those who have been worn out, I call your attention to the fact that definite steps toward providing old age pensions have been taken in many of our private industries.

Pending a thoroughgoing investigation and action there is certain legislation which should be enacted at once. The law passed at the last session of the congress granting compensation to certain classes of employees of the government and should be made more liberal in its terms. In this respect the generosity of the United States toward its employees compares most unfavorably with that of every country in Europe—even the poorest.

The terms of the act are also a hardship in prohibiting payment in cases where the accident is in any way due to the negligence of the employee. It is inevitable that daily familiarity with danger will lead men to take chances that can be construed into negligence.

I renew my recommendation made in a previous message that half holidays be granted during the summer to all wageworkers in government employ.

I also renew my recommendation that the principle of the eight hour day should be rapidly and as far as practicable be extended to the entire work being carried on by the government.

The Courts.

I most earnestly urge upon the congress the duty of increasing the totally inadequate salaries now given to our judges. On the whole, there is no body of public servants who do as valuable work nor whose moneyed reward is so inadequate compared to their work. Beginning with the supreme court, the judges should have their salaries doubled.

It is earnestly to be desired that some method should be devised for doing away with the long delays which now obtain in the administration of justice and which operate with peculiar severity against persons of small means and favor only the very criminals whom it is most desirable to punish.

At the last election certain leaders of organized labor made a violent and sweeping attack upon the entire judiciary of the country, an attack couched in such terms as to include the most upright, honest and broad minded judges no less than those of narrower mind and more restricted outlook. Last year before the house committee on the judiciary these same labor leaders formulated their demands, specifying the bill that contained them, refusing all compromise, stating they wished the principle of that bill or nothing. They insisted on a provision that in a labor dispute no injunction should issue except to protect a property right and specifically

provided that the right to carry on business should not be construed as a property right, and in a second provision their bill made legal in a labor dispute any act or agreement by or between two or more persons that would not have been unlawful if done by a single person. In other words, this bill legalized blacklisting and boycotting in every form. The demand was made that there should be trial by jury in contempt cases, thereby most seriously impairing the authority of the courts. All this represented a course of policy which, if carried out, would mean the enthronement of class privilege in its crudest and most brutal form and the destruction of one of the most essential functions of the judiciary in all civilized lands.

The wageworkers, the workmen, the laboring men of the country, by the way in which they repudiated the effort to get them to cast their votes in response to an appeal to class hatred have emphasized their sound patriotism and Americanism.

Courts Impaired by Judges.

But the extreme reactionaries, the persons who blind themselves to the wrongs now and then committed by the courts on laboring men, should also think seriously as to what such a movement as this portends. The courts are jeopardized primarily by the action of these federal and state judges who show inability or unwillingness to put a stop to the wrongdoing of very rich men under modern industrial conditions.

There are certain decisions by various courts which have been exceedingly detrimental to the rights of wageworkers. This is true of all the decisions that decide that men and women are by the constitution "guaranteed their liberty" to contract to enter a dangerous occupation, or to work an undesirable or improper number of hours, or to work in unhealthy surroundings, and therefore cannot recover damages when maimed in that occupation and cannot be forbidden to work what the legislature decides is an excessive number of hours, or to carry on the work under conditions which the legislature decides to be unhealthy.

There is also, I think, ground for the belief that substantial injustice is often suffered by employees in consequence of the custom of courts issuing temporary injunctions without notice to them and punishing them for contempt of court in instances where, as a matter of fact, they have no knowledge of any proceedings. Provision should be made that no injunction or temporary restraining order issue otherwise than on notice, except where irreparable injury would otherwise result, and in such case a hearing on the merits of the order should be had within a short fixed period, and if not then continued after hearing it should forthwith lapse. Decisions should be rendered immediately and the chance of delay minimized in every way.

The courts are to be highly commended and staunchly upheld when they set their faces against wrongdoing or tyranny by a majority, but they are to be blamed when they fail to recognize under a government like ours the deliberate judgment of the majority as to a matter of legitimate policy when duly expressed by the legislature. The people should not be permitted to pardon evil and slipshod legislation on the theory that the court will set it right. They should be taught that the right way to get rid of a bad law is to have the legislature repeal it and not to have the courts by ingenious hair splitting nullify it.

People Themselves to Blame.

For many of the shortcomings of justice in our country our people as a whole are themselves to blame, and the judges and juries merely bear their share together with the public as a whole. It is discreditable to us as a people that there should be difficulty in convicting murderers or in bringing to justice men who as public servants have been guilty of corruption or who have profited by the corruption of public servants.

The huge wealth that has been accumulated by a few individuals of recent years, in what has amounted to a social and industrial revolution, has been as regards some of these individuals made possible only by the improper use of the modern corporation. Corporations are necessary instruments of modern business. They have been permitted to become a menace largely because the governmental representatives of the people have worked slowly in providing for adequate control over them.

Real damage has been done by the manifold and conflicting interpretations of the interstate commerce law. Control over the great corporations doing interstate business can be effective only if it is vested with full power in an administrative department, a branch of the federal executive, carrying out a federal law. It can never be effective if a divided responsibility is left in both the states and the nation. It can never be effective if left in the hands of the courts to be decided by lawsuits.

The courts hold a place of peculiar and deserved sanctity under our form of government. Respect for the law is essential to the permanence of our institutions, and respect for the law is largely conditioned upon respect for the courts. But we must face the fact that there are wise and unwise judges, just as there are wise and unwise executives and legislators. When a president or governor behaves improperly or unwisely the remedy is easy, for his term is short. The same is true with the legislator, although not to the same degree. With a judge who, being human, is also likely to err, but whose tenure is for life, there is no similar way of holding him to responsibility. Under ordinary conditions the only forms of pressure to

which he is in any way amenable are public opinion and the action of his fellow judges. It is the last which is most immediately effective and to which we should look for the reform of abuses.

Forests.

If there is any one duty which more than another we owe it to our children and our children's children to perform at once it is to save the forests of this country, for they constitute the first and most important element in the conservation of the natural resources of the country.

Shortsighted persons, or persons blinded to the future by desire to make money in every way out of the present, sometimes speak as if no great damage would be done by the reckless destruction of our forests. It is difficult to have patience with the arguments of these persons. Thanks to our own recklessness in the use of our splendid forests, we have already crossed the verge of a timber famine in this country, and no measures that we now take can, at least for many years, undo the mischief that has already been done. But we can prevent further mischief being done, and it would be in the highest degree reprehensible to let any consideration of temporary convenience or temporary cost interfere with such action, especially as regards the national forests, which the nation can now at this very moment control.

[The president here cites in support of his contentions the great destruction wrought in China by the denudation of the forest areas.]

What has thus happened in northern China, what has happened in central Asia, in Palestine, in north Africa, in parts of the Mediterranean countries of Europe, will surely happen in our country if we do not exercise that wise forethought which should be one of the chief marks of any people calling itself civilized. Nothing should be permitted to stand in the way of the preservation of the forests, and it is criminal to permit individuals to purchase a little gain for themselves through the destruction of forests when this destruction is fatal to the well being of the whole country in the future.

Inland Waterways.

Action should be begun forthwith, during the present session of congress, for the improvement of our inland waterways—action which will result in giving us not only navigable but navigated rivers. We have spent hundreds of millions of dollars upon these waterways, yet the traffic on nearly all of them is steadily declining. This condition is the direct result of the absence of any comprehensive and farseeing plan of waterway improvement. Obviously we cannot continue thus to expend the revenues of the government without return. It is poor business to spend money for inland navigation unless we get it.

Such shortsighted, vacillating and futile methods are accompanied by decreasing water borne commerce and increasing traffic congestion on land, by increasing floods and by the waste of public money. The remedy lies in abandoning the methods which have so signally failed and adopting new ones in keeping with the needs and demands of our people.

In a report on a measure introduced at the first session of the present congress the secretary of war said, "The chief defect in the methods hitherto pursued lies in the absence of executive authority for originating comprehensive plans covering the country or natural divisions thereof." In this opinion I heartily concur.

Until the work of river improvement is undertaken in a modern way it cannot have results that will meet the needs of this modern nation. These needs should be met without further delay, and the plan which promises the best and quickest results is that of a permanent commission authorized to co-ordinate the work of all the government departments relating to waterways and to frame and supervise the execution of a comprehensive plan. The time for playing with our waterways is past. The country demands results.

National Parks.

I urge that all our national parks adjacent to national forests be placed completely under the control of the forest service of the agricultural department, instead of leaving them, as they are now, under the interior department and policed by the army.

Pure Food.

The pure food legislation has already worked a benefit difficult to overestimate.

Secret Service.

Last year an amendment was incorporated in the measure providing for the secret service which provided that there should be no detail from the secret service and no transfer therefrom. It is not too much to say that this amendment has been of benefit only, and could be of benefit only, to the criminal classes. The amendment in question was of benefit to no one excepting to criminals, and it seriously hampers the government in the detection of crime and the securing of justice. It prevents the promotion of employees in the secret service, and the further discourages good effort. In its present form the restriction operates only to the advantage of the criminal, and to the disadvantage of the honest.

The chief argument in favor of the provision was that the congressmen did not themselves wish to be investigated by secret service men. Very little of such investigation has been done in the past, but it is true that the work of the secret service agents was partly responsible for the indictment and conviction of a senator and a congressman for land frauds in Oregon. I do not believe that it is in the public interest

to protect criminals in any branch of the public service, and exactly as we have again and again during the past seven years prosecuted and convicted such criminals who were in the executive branch of the government so in my belief we should be given ample means to prosecute them if found in the legislative branch. But if this is not considered desirable a special exception could be made in the law prohibiting the use of the secret service force in investigating members of the congress. It would be far better to do this than to do what actually was done and strive to prevent or at least to hamper effective action against criminals by the executive branch of the government.

Postal Savings Banks.

I again renew my recommendation for postal savings banks, for depositing savings with the security of the government behind them. The object is to encourage thrift and economy in the wage earner and person of moderate means. It is believed that in the aggregate vast sums of money would be brought into circulation through the instrumentality of the postal savings banks. Postal savings banks are now in operation in practically all the great civilized countries with the exception of the United States.

Parcel Post.

In my last annual message I commended the postmaster general's recommendation for an extension of the parcel post on the rural routes. The establishment of a local parcel post on rural routes would be to the mutual benefit of the farmer and the country storekeeper, and it is desirable that the routes, serving more than 15,000,000 people, should be utilized to the fullest practicable extent.

Education.

The share that the national government should take in the broad work of education has not received the attention and the care it rightly deserves.

I earnestly recommend that this unfortunate state of affairs as regards the national educational office be remedied by adequate appropriations.

Census.

I strongly urge that the request of the director of the census in connection with the decennial work so soon to be begun be complied with and that the appointments to the census force be placed under the civil service law, waiving the geographical requirements as requested by the director of the census. The supervisors and enumerators should not be appointed under the civil service law for the reasons given by the director.

Public Health.

The dangers to public health from food adulteration and from many other sources, such as the menace to the physical, mental and moral development of children from child labor, should be met and overcome. This nation cannot afford to lag behind in the worldwide battle now being waged by all civilized people with the microscopic foes of mankind. The first legislative step to be taken is that for the concentration of the proper bureaus into one of the existing departments.

Statehood.

I advocate the immediate admission of New Mexico and Arizona as states. This should be done at the present session of the congress. The people of the two territories have made it evident by their votes that they will not come in as one state. The only alternative is to admit them as two, and I trust that this will be done without delay.

Foreign Affairs.

This nation's foreign policy is based on the theory that right must be done between nations precisely as between individuals, and in our actions for the last ten years we have in this matter proved our faith by our deeds. We have behaved and are behaving toward other nations as in private life an honorable man would behave toward his fellows.

Latin American Republics.

The commercial and material progress of the twenty Latin American republics is worthy of the careful attention of the congress. No other section of the world has shown a greater proportionate development of its foreign trade during the last ten years, and none other has more special claims on the interest of the United States.

Panama Canal.

The work on the Panama canal is being done with a speed, efficiency and entire devotion to duty which make it a model for all work of the kind. No task of such magnitude has ever before been undertaken by any nation, and no task of the kind has ever been better performed. The men on the isthmus, from Colonel Goethals and his fellow commissioners through the entire list of employees who are faithfully doing their duty, have won their right to the ungrudging respect and gratitude of the American people.

Ocean Mail Lines.

I again recommend the extension of the ocean mail act of 1891 so that satisfactory American ocean mail lines to South America, Asia, the Philippines and Australasia may be established. The creation of such steamship lines should be the natural corollary of the voyage of the battle fleet. It should precede the opening of the Panama canal.

The Philippines.

Real progress toward self government is being made in the Philippine Islands. The gathering of a Philippine legislative body and Philippine assembly marks a process absolutely new in Asia, not only as regards Asiatic colonies of European powers, but as regards Asiatic possessions of other Asiatic powers, and indeed, always excepting the striking and wonderful example afforded by the great empire of Japan, it opens an entirely new de-

Suits Worthy of Paris Artists

LITTLE details distinguish a Paris importation from the usual "shoppy" suit. This year there is the "Directoire" cut, the raised waist line, the sheath skirt effect, the high standing and lay-down collar, the patch pocket, the long sleeves, etc.

The "Bischof" models we are showing embody all these features. These goods are designed after the best creations of the leading foreign artists. You could go walking in Paris or Vienna and be in the reigning fashion with any one of these suits.

Come in. You can see the snap and smartness of these garments the instant you look in our mirrors. The wear is guaranteed both by us and the makers.

Plainly it is to your interest to make your selections now before the choicest patterns are taken. To give you even a greater inducement to come at once we have marked the most desirable garments far below their regular values.

We illustrate a few of the many we are showing. Look for the trade-mark "B. S. & S." in every garment.



NEW MODELS

are arriving daily. See the new Directoire Backs. Fine Broadcloth coats that were \$12, This week

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Come in all colors, Brown, Blue, Green and Black. Ask to see them while they last.

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