

# The VANISHING FLEETS

BY ROY NORTHON

ILLUSTRATED BY A. WEIL

SYNOPSIS.

"Vanishing Fleets," a story of "what might have happened," opens in Washington with the United States and Japan on the verge of war. Guy Hillier, secretary of the British Embassy, and Miss Norma Roberts, chief aide of the inventor of the airplane, are introduced as lovers. At the last moment Japan declares war. Japan takes the Philippines. The entire country is in a state of turmoil because of the government's indifference. Guy Hillier starts for England with a secret message and is compelled to leave Norma Roberts, who with military officers also leaves Washington on mysterious expedition for an isolated point on the Florida coast. Hawaii is captured by the Japanese. The Japanese fleet is fast approaching western coast of America. Since Japanese spy discovers secret preparations for war, Guy Hillier is shot down just as he is about to get away from Japan. The Japanese fleet is about to attack America. Tokyo learns of missing Japanese fleet and sends word to the United States. England decides to send a fleet to American waters as a Canadian protection against the British suppose to a terrible submarine fleet. Hillier is also sent to Canada to attempt to force his way through American lines with a message to the president in order that protection for the fleet may be assured. Japan appeals to Britain for aid. British fleet departs, and subservients of English Fleet mysteriously disappears, a sailor picked up on a raft being the only evidence of the loss. Powers begin to fear for their safety. Hillier makes a failure of effort to deliver message to the president.

## CHAPTER IX.—Continued.

The motor car was placed at Hillier's disposal as promised, and before night fell he found himself back in his room at the hotel no worse and no better for his experience. For ten days thereafter he made useless attempts to forward his message by every means that his ingenuity could suggest. Once he allowed it out of his hands, trusting it through extremity to the care of a fisherman, and on the following day, with seals unbroken, it was returned to him by a polite officer of the United States army in civilian dress. Were it not for the gravity of his task he would have come to regard it as a joke, a boy's game of prizes, a base or tag, in which he was always "it."

And then, as if to reproach him for his failure, there came from the clearness of the sky a swift and terrible thunderbolt. It was a message from England reporting the disappearance of that immense fleet which was to follow on his heels, and depended upon the delivery of his message for its immunity from attack. He had taken too long!

Stunned by this overwhelming disaster, shuddering in each nerve, and with every fiber of his body quivering, he sought the seclusion of his room, threw himself upon his bed and buried his face in the pillows. Repeatedly there ran through his mind the self-reproach that had it not been for his failure this shocking toll of war might never have been collected. An armada of greater strength than that which had fought off Cape Trafalgar had sailed gallantly out to its doom, trusting to him to avert disaster, and he in this hour of stress, when the fate of nations hinged upon his resource, had proved inefficient! Over and over he reviewed the struggle he had made to accomplish his mission, but found even in this stern self-criticism no flaw of endeavor. But in his hour of bitterness he thought that God might have more kind.

## CHAPTER X. An Emperor Disappears.

Such was the effect of the strange happenings of May and June that the poise of all Europe seemed trembling and unstable. Men who in all their lives had respected law and society began to question the value of communal authority; when even the most carefully reared power proved unable to protect itself against what appeared to be only one invention. Taxation had created government, which in turn had devised armies and navies and expended more and more money in their equipment. It had now been demonstrated that the discovery of some new force, some one engine of destruction more powerful than any other known, could destroy the values of navies and armies in a day. And yet in this frame of mind, where anarchy seemed less terrible and governments at best but weak organizations, the greed for aggrandizement and conquest reasserted itself.

In Russia the revolutionists took heart and hoped to possess the land. In the Balkans, reeking with the blood of past strife, new forces were forming for independence. Rulers of neighboring powers studied the map of Turkey, dreaming of what portion might be seized. China, rehabilitated by aggression by Japan herself, regretted a compact with the smaller country which prevented its seizure, now that it was so terribly weakened.

But the most threatening attitude of all was that of Germany toward Great Britain. The Hohenzollerns, a line of warriors, still held the ancient throne, and the kaiser was ambitious for his country's advancement. An astute ruler of exceptional capacity, he already had advanced Germany's flag of trade beyond all seas, and by this means alone practically dominated all of South America. In all earlier days of this trade conquest the United States had been busied in her home enterprises, saying to herself that when the chose she could find a way to take the traffic of the southern continent with ease. With her eyes swaddled in silly egotism, she had waited



Told Them They Might Search Him.

until too late, and then, when her bandages were removed, suddenly learned that commercial brains were not confined to America alone. The sleeping giant had lost commercial supremacy in a continent which was hers by right of location and needs, to a race of industrious workers across the sea.

Nor had Germany neglected her fight for trade at home. There, too, she found egotists, so swollen with self-sufficiency that by disastrous tariff methods they had been bested. England, failing to protect her producers had driven her own farmers and carriers from the field, until, as one disgruntled farmer said: "You can't pick up a cabbage in a stall which don't bear the words 'made in Germany.'"

And if a new crown was needed for the kaiser, Germany would have stood a fair chance of looking the order. In a natural revulsion which had reached fever heat before the Japanese-American war broke out, England was trying to obstruct this encroachment. The feeling thus engendered between the two nations culminated in one of envy on the part of Great Britain and one of hatred on the part of Germany. The kaiser, calmly reviewing times and conditions, decided that the time had come to strike.

England, with power sadly diminished through the loss of her great fleet, and at the mercy of the United States in her richest colony, stood open to attack. While she was still mourning defeat, Germany took exception to the tariff laws in a very carefully worded message. It was one that under normal circumstances would have provoked demands for apologies, or, in a refusal of such, almost instant war. But now the lion was driven to temperize. That the kaiser hoped for an open rupture and intended to leave no stone unturned for such an outcome, was demonstrated by his sending more curtly worded notes.

The English press retailed these to the public, and accused the kaiser of deliberately plotting war with a foreign country to offset the spread of socialism which threatened him at home, hoping by combat abroad to reunite his own people.

The kaiser demanded an apology from the British press; but Englishmen were not accustomed to bending the knee, even though the lack of flexibility might cause the loss of life. Lacking nothing in bravery, they reluctantly faced a crisis rather than brook humiliating domination. Their answer therefore was bellicose.

Germany at once began an ominous assembling of her fleets in strategic waters from which on a moment's notice they might sail forth. France stood diplomatically aloof, hoping perhaps that when the world had wearied of fighting she might be in a position to gain by plunging into the fray. Alsace Lorraine was still mourned, and her monument in the Place de la Concorde draped.

Then, at the very moment when it seemed that England would be compelled to beat back an invading army from her shores there came an unexpected blow. The British press had been predicting a declaration of war within 24 hours, when the change took place. At the first day's delay the world informed wondered, and when two days had passed, and finally three, it became certain that some very unusual event had taken place in Berlin.

Rumors began to creep to London, to Paris, and soon the whole world knew, despite Germany's attempts to

keep the matter a secret, that on the very eve of a crisis the kaiser, the most dominant figure in Europe, had disappeared. Nor was that all.

As if to emphasize the fact that it could have been through no mental aberration that he had gone, the chancellor of Germany had disappeared at the same time. That something inexplicable had taken place was known within a few hours after the kaiser and chancellor were last seen. On the night of their disappearance they had been closeted together with the most trusted military adviser of the empire. This latter officer, fatigued by duties which had tried him beyond his years, had left the consultation at midnight. In the room where it was held there was a telephone used only by certain privileged ones, who by means of a stated signal to the switchboard operator, could gain communication. Who these were none but the kaiser knew.

This operator told the secret service men of the empire that a few minutes past midnight he had answered a call and received the password which caused him to make the desired connection with the emperor's telephone, and a conversation of some minutes ensued, which, owing to the arrangement of the instruments, he was unable to hear.

The guards of the palace were called to the council room and instructed by the kaiser in person to admit a man who would present a plain card within a few minutes. They reported that a carriage drove up to the outer gates and a gentlemanly appearing stranger who spoke perfect German handed out a slip of pasteboard on which nothing whatever was printed or engraved. Fearing, despite their master's instructions, that the man might be an anarchist, the guards had hesitated, whereupon the visitor, reading their suspicions, told them that they might search him if they wished, which they did. This was carried out with even more than ordinary care, and the man was found to have absolutely nothing in his pockets. He was dressed in the regulation dinner suit, as if he had lately come from some club.

Still suspecting something unusual

in such a singular visit and admission at this hour of the morning, the guards escorted him to the council room and waited at attention in the doorway when his presence was announced. To their surprise the emperor smiled as if in recognition, bade his visitor "Good evening" in English, and dismissed the soldiers. Reassured by this action, the men had resumed their accustomed posts, regarding no more of the matter, and regarding it simply as one of the unusual appointments which are made in such troublous times.

In less than an hour, during all of which time the guard at the door had heard voices in seeming conversation participated in by the three persons with the room, he heard the emperor and the chancellor burst into most unusual and hearty laughter. A few minutes later he was surprised when the emperor came from the room and went to his dressing chamber, from which he emerged in the plainest of civilian clothing, after which he beckoned to his two companions.

His imperial majesty cautioned the guard to let no one know that he was leaving or of the nocturnal visitor, and, still accompanied by the unknown man and the chancellor, passed from the palace. From this on he was traced to the very carriage door, which was closed behind the party by another attendant. The vehicle drove away in the night, the glow of the men's cigars being the last thing noticed by the man who escorted them, thus showing that all were on very friendly and intimate terms.

The conveyance itself was traced for several miles into the country, through the fact of its having passed several other rigs. There was nothing in its appearance to distinguish it from any other, and only the fact that the streets at that time of night were deserted enabled the officers to gather any idea of its direction. Others had been observed; but all were identified and accounted for, and it was by a process of elimination only that the one carrying the kaiser and his companions was tracked. The return journey of the vehicle, if such there had been, was not noticed, and therefore led to the theory that somewhere within the empire the kaiser and chancellor were being held prisoners.

The puzzling feature of the occurrence was that the emperor must have been acquainted and even on terms of friendship with the man who deceived him away. No anarchistic attempt could be deduced from the situation, because with the careful search that had been made it was certain that there could have been no assassination unless a most remarkable concealment had been made of all evidences of the crime. Nor was it even tenable that the party had crossed the border line, because in a condition of threatened war all travelers were being closely watched.

Over every foot of the empire and into the most inaccessible portions, search was being made for the place where the nation's ruler and the chancellor might be held; but so far there had been nothing whatever that threw even the faintest ray of light on their whereabouts. The attempts of the secret service men and members of his majesty's family to keep his disappearance a secret failed, and indeed was unnecessary, for the people themselves had to be enlisted in a quest involving the whole country.

It was at this juncture that a Roman horse trader, scenting a reward, offered his services and a suggestion to the police which was promptly acted upon. He described having met the carriage which was supposed to have taken away the emperor, and, following the instincts of the horseman, he scrutinized the animals more closely than the conveyance. He said he was walking round a turn in the road, and was almost run over before he had time to gain a free way. One of the horses almost brushed him in passing, and he noticed not only a singularity of gait, but a peculiar white mark on the animal's flank.

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## PLAN GREAT CANAL SCHEMES

Immense Waterway to Connect the Baltic and Black Seas.

Canals more wonderful than those of Panama and Suez are already in prospect. The early summer is to see the commencement of an inland waterway that will dwarf them both into comparative insignificance. This is the long-projected Baltic and Black sea canal, which will intersect Russia from north to south, a distance of 1,000 miles, and the total estimated cost of which is put officially at \$500,000,000, although it will probably largely exceed even this sum.

Another wonderful canal scheme which is being enthusiastically taken up in Italy, contemplates nothing less than the joining by the means of Genoa and Lake Com...

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## MONEY MADE IN LIVE STOCK IN CENTRAL CANADA.

W. J. Henderson, visiting Seattle writes the Canadian Government Agent at Spokane, Wash., and says: "I have neighbors in Central Canada raising wheat, barley and oats for the past 20 years, and are now getting from the same land 20 to 30 bushels of wheat per acre, 40 to 60 bushels of oats.

"It was the first week of May when I got my tent pitched, but the farmers all around had finished putting in their crops, so I only got fifteen acres broke and seeded. They advised me as it was late not to put in much wheat, so I put in five acres of wheat and ten acres oats, one-half acre potatoes and vegetables. All kinds of vegetables grow well up there, sweet corn, tomatoes, onions, carrots, peas, beans, cabbage. My wheat yielded about 20 bushels per acre, for which I got 76 cents, others got 80 cents; oats threshed 35 bushels per acre, for which I got 35 cents per bushel. You see I was three weeks late in getting them in, still I was satisfied.

"From my observation, there is more money made in stock, such as cattle, horses and sheep, as prices are high for such, and it costs nothing to raise them, as horses live the year around out on the grass. In fact, farmers turn their work horses out for the winter, and they come in fresh and fat in the spring. Cattle live out seven or eight months. They mow the prairie grass and stack it for winter and give oat straw. My neighbors sold steers at \$40 each, and any kind of a horse that can plow, from \$150.00 up. I raised 60 chickens and 5 pigs, as pork, chickens, butter and eggs pay well and always a good market for anything a man raises, so I have every reason to be thankful, besides, at the end of three years I get my patent for homestead. I heard of no homestead selling for less than \$2,000, so where under the sun could an old man or young man do better?"

## NOT FOR HIM.



"Now, boy, this is important! It's an invitation to dinner!"

"Thanks, boss. But I can't accept. Me dress suits in hook!"

## The Prince of Grumblers.

When Mr. Beeton asked if he did not find many unreasonable people among his summer boarders, Farmer Joy quickly assented.

"Lots an' lots are never satisfied anyway," he said. "No matter what's done for 'em, there'll always be something wrong somewhere."

"Now last summer," he went on, with a gleaming eye, "we had a man here that was so fond of grumblin' that one day he actually called for a toothpick after he'd had a glass of milk."—Youth's Companion.

## Middle Course the Best.

Lobster and champagne for supper—that's high jinks. Sawdust and near coffee for breakfast—that's hygiene. Between these two eminences, however, there's room for some genuine living.

## A Domestic Eye Remedy.

Compounded by Experienced Physicians. Conforms to Pure Food and Drug Laws. Wins Friends Wherever Used. Ask Druggists for Murine Eye Remedy. Try Murine in Your Eyes. You Will Like Murine.

## Small-minded men regard faith as a theory; large-minded men use it as a practical working power to get things done and done right.—Ruskin.

Sore throat leads to Tonsillitis, Quinsy and Diphtheria. Haulius Wizard Oil used as a gargle upon the first symptoms of a sore throat will invariably prevent all three of these dread diseases.

## The man who ruined the Roman people was he who first gave them treats and gratuities.—Plutarch.

## ONLY ONE "BROMO QUININE"

That is LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE. Look for the signature of E. W. GIBBEY. Used the World over to Cure a Cold in One Day.

## It is a difficult task to speak to the stomach because it hath no ears.—Cato.

You always get full value in Lewis' Single Binder straight five cigar. Your dealer or Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill.

## Crooks understand the art of getting out of financial straits.

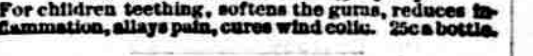
To restore a normal action to liver, kidneys, stomach and bowels, take Gardine Tea, the mild herb laxative.

## The things you really stand for are revealed to those you run after.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

## No man can own any more than he can carry in his own heart.

## Ask for the Baker's Cocoa bearing this trademark. Don't be misled by imitations. The genuine sold everywhere.



Registered U. S. Pat. Office

## Ask for the Baker's Cocoa bearing this trademark. Don't be misled by imitations. The genuine sold everywhere.

It is true that the civilized world is gradually shedding its superstitions, but the process is slow. We have in this country the finest hospitals in the world, surgery and pathology are in a high state of development, but we have countless citizens of more or less education, who carry potatoes in their pockets to cure rheumatism.

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## CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of

*Dr. J. C. Hathorn*

In Use For Over Thirty Years

## CASTORIA

THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK.

ALCOHOL—3 PER CENT

Vegetable Preparation for Assimilating the Food and Regulating the Stomachs and Bowels of INFANTS & CHILDREN

Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral NOT NARCOTIC

Recipe of Old Dr. SAMUEL PITCHEE

Pumpkin Seed, 1 lb. 1/2  
 Licorice Root, 1 lb.  
 Sassafras, 1 lb.  
 Cloves, 1 lb.  
 Nutmeg, 1 lb.  
 Mace, 1 lb.  
 Cardamom, 1 lb.  
 Aniseed, 1 lb.  
 Wintergreen, 1 lb.

A Perfect Remedy For Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, Worms, Convulsions, Feverishness and LOSS OF SLEEP

Fac-Simile Signature of *Dr. J. C. Hathorn*

THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK.

At 6 months old 35 Doses—35 CENTS

Guaranteed under the Food and Drug Act.

Exact Copy of Wrapper.

## For Croup, Tonsilitis and Asthma

A quick and powerful remedy is needed to break up an attack of croup. Sloan's Liniment has cured many cases of croup. It acts instantly—when applied both inside and outside of the throat it breaks up the phlegm, reduces the inflammation, and relieves the difficulty of breathing.

## Sloan's Liniment

gives quick relief in all cases of asthma, bronchitis, sore throat, tonsillitis, and pains in the chest. Price, 25c, 50c., and \$1.00.

Dr. Earl S. Sloan, Boston, Mass.

## For DISTEMPER

Spohn Medical Co., Chemists and Bacteriologists GOSHEN, IND., U. S. A.

## SICK HEADACHE

Positively cured by these Little Pills.

They also relieve Distress from Dyspepsia, Indigestion and Too Heartly Eating. A perfect remedy for Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsiness, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Coastal Tongue, Pain in the Side, TORPID LIVER. They regulate the Bowels. Purely Vegetable.

SMALL PILL. SMALL DOSE. SMALL PRICE.

Genuine Must Bear Fac-Simile Signature

REFUSE SUBSTITUTES.

## DEFIANCE Cold Water Starch

makes laundry work a pleasure. 16c. pkg. 10c.

Associated with *Thompson's Eye Water*

W. N. U. OMAHA, NO. 5, 1909.

## PISO'S

### CURE THE CHILDREN'S COUGH

before the constant hacking tears the delicate membrane of throat and lungs, exposing them to the ravages of deadly disease. Piso's Cough Syrup straight to the seat of the trouble, stops the cough, soothes the lungs, and quickly relieves subacute conditions. Because of its pleasant taste and freedom from dangerous ingredients it is the ideal remedy for children. At the first symptoms of a cough or cold in the little ones you will see sorrow and suffering if you GIVE THEM PISO'S CURE

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