

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 Inventor Roberts, are introduced as lovera. Japan declares war and takes the Philippines. Guy Hillier starts for England. Norma Roberts with military officers also leaves Washington on mysterious expedition for the Florida coast. Hawaii is captured by the Japs. All ports are closed. Tokyo learns of missing Japanese fleet and whole world becomes convinced that United States has some powerful war agency. England decides to send a fleet to American waters as a Canadian protection against what the British suppose is a terrible submarine flotilla. Hillier is also sent to Canada to attempt to force his way through American lines with a message. British fleet departs amid misgivings of English. Fleet mysteriously disappears. Hillier makes a failure of effort to deliver message to the president. fort to deliver message to the president. War between Great British and Germany is threatened. The kaiser disappears. King Edward of England is confronted by Admiral Bevins of the United States, and upon promising to present the missing British admiral, the monarch agrees to accompany Bevins on tour, which the latter was all uppearer the agent of war ter says will uncover the agent of war and end all conflicts. The Dreadnaught, biggest of England's warships, is discovered at an impassable point in the Thames, much to the mystery of the kingdom. The story goes back to a time many months before the war breaks out. and Inventor Roberts visits the president and cabingt, telling of and exhibiting a metal production. This overcomes fric-tion when electrified and is to be applied to vessels to increase speed to over 50 miles an hour. A city for the manufacture of the mysterious discovery is built up on the coast of Florida and Norma Roberts

CHAPTER XV. The Great Discovery.

From the shore came a dull, moaning sound, now rising, now falling, but incessant, as if some gigantic animal, stricken and suffering, was shricking the anguish of its death throes to the solitudes of the keys and the waste of waters round them. The frightened birds took flight to the north to escape the weird monotone, and the timid animals of the forest cowered in fear; but the men of the island looked at one another exultantly, with mutual congratulations on the rapidity which was to cast the plates was be-

Days and nights of unremitting toil gleaming mass of iridescent white. had followed that first landing; machine shops had been completely in- whispered to a man beside him. "He man! Wake up! We've got to make stalled, power plants perfected, and has fused that plate in less time than it go!" buildings for the men erected; addi- it could be done by any means I ever tional supplies had been received; and another gunboat, the Columbia, morphoses his metal." augmented the patrol which passed ceaselessly round the keys, guarding stopped its quivering and the inventheir secret and warning inquisitve tor with hands clasped behind him spair, with trembling hands placed the fishermen to avoid the waters; corps of expert smelting men from the mines of the west had joined the colony-and all for this, the casting of the first plate, which was to take

In the assay rooms there had been the constant testing of crude metals, sheet of metal lost its color and beand apportioning them and discarding came dark. "Old Bill" Roberts those which were inferior. Trained hands were those that worked over the cooling sprays began dissipating thembucking boards and manipulated the selves over the surface, sending up delicate scales which would register the tiniest mark of a lead pencil with by diminishing steam. as great accuracy as they would a bound weight. Everywhere about the plant were men who wrought with pre- voice, turning to the engineers, "and cision and interest, bound together in if some of you will help me carry it the great enterprise until differences to the testing tank you may see me in station were forgotten and all were prove the first plate on which hangs as a family praying for success.

"Old Bill" Roberts, assisted by his daughter, had permitted no foot but theirs to enter the room where his apparatus was installed, and no hand but theirs to touch its complicated to revolve it in the water and demonmechanism. With the love of a creator he had spent the last hours threw a switch, and the sheet began to fondling its cold, unresponsive parts move. Before him was a dial, and beand adjusting it, and then stood and neath it a scale of friction pulls watched, as a mother watches her showing the resistance offered by norfirstborn, the initial movements of the mal metal. He fastened his eyes on great masterplece which was a mys. the indicator with a look of strained tery to all the world but him and watchfulness. Slowly the needle

of the plant, warned that the crucial came to a standstill, while a look of test was at hand, gathered round the doubt and perplexity crept over the door of the innermost room, until invited in by the inventor, and then slowly entered and found standing places at a safe distance from the intricate mass, whose polished knobs. twisted bars and gleaming tubes seemed to them a tangled riddle. Norma, garbed in the stained khaki speed of revolution and the scale of swered: "Yes, I'm all right now; but his storehouse, and returned with a wrapper which she wore in the laboratory at home, hovered here and there round the apparatus, lightly try. She put her arm over his shoulder as dawned upon them that the plate had structible by heat, and a resistant to ing an adjustment or closely inspect. if to shield him. "But something been forgotten. It was manifestly un- any form of radioactivity, which he ing a joint, her face grave, calm, and self-possessed. Her father, his thin old face drawn into a scowl of con- it over." centration, busied himself likewise, and made the final connections. So behind and looked them calmly in her back to where the cruel agent the workmen dismissed. The conneccareful was he that he even inspected their faces, while the inventor, dazed stood, and then one and all started tions were made in identically the the duplicate apparatus which stood and uncomprehending, ran his fingers back with exclamations of amazement. same way as in the previous test, exas a reserve at the other end of a through his shock of white hair and casting mold, but which it was not his gazed at the telltale dials as if hyping their hopes had disappeared! attached to the upper plate above the intention to use except in case of notized by two staring eyes. emergency. Satisfied that all was in readiness, he beckoned to two assis- periment is a failure!" sauts, who trundled in the first com- Those among them who had been dered by the slivered ends of twisted backed off into the corner, until posite plate and deposited it in its slightly skeptical smiled at one an- and shattered wood, and beneath this stopped by the farthermost partition. bed. He made the connection with other, while those whose belief had was a yawning hole several feet deep the electrodes in a few minutes' deft been more firm looked sympathetical- broken electric wires, and the great work, and then straightened up and ly at this slip of a girl, who faced them slab of metal. looked about the room, where all was all in steady defiance, her trust in her Norma, as if the excitement of the He that hath so many causes of joy, still and expectant.

The wondering engineers saw him shaken and unfaltering. wave his daughter back a short distance as though fearing for her safety, dressing one of the engineers, "are structure, and leaned against it. down upon his little handful of thorns, watched him take a final look over his yourself a scientist and an experi- Brockton pulled off his cap and Enjoy the blessings of this day, if God tubes. Ettle indicators here and there voice that reached them all. throb with a life of its cwn, uncanny rounding her father, giving them they had built all their hope. "Old will be and what will never he, can and mysterious because of its silence. words of encouragement.



"Gentlemen," She Said, "the First Experiment Is a Failure."

"Fusion!" one of the engineers beard of. That is the way he meta-

The rays died out, the apparatus stood intently watching the now cooling metal. Within the laboratory all was silence. From the adjoining buildings came the regular sound of hammers, and from somewhere off toward the cabins a man's voice was raised in a song of soldiery. The pressed a button above his head, and

brief splutterings and clouds of rapid-"It's cool enough now to handle," he said in an oddly constrained tone of

the fate of our country." In an awed hush of expectancy they all volunteered; but only three men were needed to hold it while it was attached to the great arms which were strate its resistance. The inventor point swung round as the arms gained Engineers and officers from all parts the maximum of speed, and then it

scientist's face. "Norm." he called, huskily-"Norm! Was everything all right? Is everything working true?"

She took a step behind him, and with a look no less worried than his own stared at the dials indicating the resistance. "Yes, father," she re- don't mind me. What of the plate?" sheet of peculiar insulation which was plied, gently, "everything is all right." must have gone wrong somewhere clse. Come away now and let us think share with them the first knowledge huge plate. The second plate was

father, herself and their invention un- discovery had acted as a tonic, re- and so great, is very much in love with

appliance, and then throw a switch. mentalist. You of all present know scratched his head in a puzzled way, sends them; and the evils of it bear Brilliant streaks of purple, of unknown how easy it is for a tiny mistake to and Jenkins removed the glasses from patiently and sweetly; for this day reds and glaring whites, raced each rob delicate work of definite result." his nose and began nervously polish- only is ours, we are dead to yesterday, other in quick succession through the There was a note of appeal in her ing them. The other engineers gaped and we are not yet born to the morsparked out malevolently, and the ma- As if with one accord they rushed back to the hole wherein to all appear- into one day's thoughts the evil of chine seemed to leap, strain and forward, grasping her hand and sur- ances was buried the thing on which many, certain and uncertain, what

of their work. The blast furnace the plate, saw it glow a dull red, pass admiral which aroused them to re the cherry stage to a dull pigeon newed action. "Pshaw, Bill! That's blue, and then suddenly burst into a nothing," he growled. "Here! We've got more plates cast. Throw another on, and give it a try-out. Wake up.

> Jenkins and two others rushed to the adjoining room and brought in a second slab of metal, and the old inventor, giving himself a shake as if pulling back from the very vortex of desheet of insulation and made the new connections with the plate.

"Norm," he almost whispered, "you look it over and turn the current on this time. Somehow my eyes seem to have gone back on me."

Again they watched from a distance sistant, and I will." the steady movements of the assistant, who without a tremor threw on the current, held it in leash, and directed it as if within her hand she held the clutch of a friend. Once more they riving sound, and a column of dust shot up into the air and bellowed out sudden shock, and instinctively sprang shored up by the carpenters; then to her aid.

In mortal fear that some disaster had overtaken her, some unknown injury from that apparatus whose voltage was as deadly as that which sweeps through a murderer's chair. they picked her up and carried her out into one of the draughting rooms two immense castings weighing many and laid her limp form on a table.

anxiety tore open her corsage and ran his hand over her heart. "She's slowly pushed in low-wheeled cars on not dead!" he whispered, hoarsely, which rested the huge pieces of metal. current or something I don't under- arm, reached slowly down, and in a

A long breath of relief encircled the room. Not until she recovered consciousness and sat weakly up was the suspense mitigated.

"Feel better, little girl?" the old adforward with solicitous inquiries. She looked at them for a moment,

regained her mental control, and anof what had been accomplished; so

"Gentlemen," she said, "the first ex- it had reared its squatty length was beneath. Brockton, seeing that the now a ragged hole in the floor, bor- currents were about to be applied,

leased herself from the supporting sorrow and peevishness, who leses all "You, Mr. Jenkins," she said, ad- arms, walked to the shining brass these pleasures, and chooses to sit at each other, at the inventor and then row. But if we look abroad and bring Bill" Roberts stood by its edges, look- load will be as intolerable as It The group of men peered curiously at It was the gruff voice of the old ing down and examining the broken unreasonable.—Jeremy Taylor.

wires, a picture of perplexity or de spair. He came back and crowded through their midst, examining a connection and tracing out one of the strands, and then stood in listless attitude, his brows drawn into a frown, and his arms hanging loose and pendulous from his shoulders. The time stretched into minutes, and Jenkins and Norma, began a discussion, to which the others listened, striving to understand the phrascology of electrical science, of which many of them had little more than the layman's knowledge. Suddenly a sharp cry came from the inventor.

They looked to the other side of the room, whither he had retreated, and beheld him jumping up and down like a madman. His fists were clenched and thrust into the air, where they opened clawlike and waved a tremolo of excifement. "I've got it!" h screamed. "I've solved it!"

They drew back from him, fearing that failure had loosened his brain; but he rushed through the group, ex citedly calling for men to repair the break. The admiral, unused to his periods of enthusiasm, stared at him blankly, his lower jaw unconsciously dropping until his mouth yawned in cavernous suspense. In his mind nothing but insanity could account for this outburst.

Norma, on the other hand, laid a restraining hand on his arm and said: Father, what's the matter? What is it?"

"We've been working in the dark!" he answered vehemently, and then with the jubilation of a boy but in a calmer tone continued: "By an accident we have discovered powers in our combination of electricity and metallurgy that we have not dreamed of, and which, if we can control them, make the resistant armor we came down here to manufacture as useless as a wocden hull!"

The admiral suddenly dropped his bulk to a stcol. "Good God!" he gasped, "are you mad?"

Norma, like one from whose eyes a hoodwink has been suddenly removed. and appearing almost to have read her father's mind, put her hand out to his shoulder and looked at him searchingly. A slow grin of great exultation swept over the lean old face into which she peered, drove the wrinkles into the corners of the eyes, and a mass of radiating furrows round the mouth.

"You've guessed it." he said and then turned to the admiral. "Brockton, you don't know what that hole meant; but in an hour from now I'm going to show you. That is, Norma, my as-

Then in a sudden frenzy for work he asked them all to leave until he sent for them, and they, wondering and speculating on his next endeavor. obeyed. Only the workmen, who had saw the metal cool, the sprays turned descended into the cavity and were on, and then came a dull, grinding, preparing to hoist the plate and mold, and the admiral, by special invitation, remained. The clang of hammers reover the room. They saw her fall sounded hollowly through the room back unconscious as if from some as the timbers beneath the floor were came the setting of another and larger tank than the one which had been so unexpectedly driven into the earth. The smaller plates which had been intended only for experimental purposes were exhausted, and therefore they had nothing on which to operate save tons. Wide sliding doors rolled back, Her father in a burst of terrible and workmen from the foundry, with straining muscles and clinging toes. "She's been knocked out by a wild A steel crane projected its ungainly Titanic grasp picked up one piece, moved it into position over the new bed, and deposited it in a great basin whose material indicated that it would be able to withstand any heat.

The acmiral in boyish exuberance miral asked, and the others pressed would have thrown wide the door; but the investor, remembering the other contretemps, forbade. The latter busied himself for a few minutes in They smiled at one another as it of his own invention, almost indefair that she of all others should not placed with great care on top of the lowered squarely on top of this. She turned to the waiting officers as a guard of honor they supported clamped for additional security, and The plate on which they were build- cept that one electrica! apparatus was Where the insulated tank which held insulation and the other to the one (TO BE CONTINUED.)

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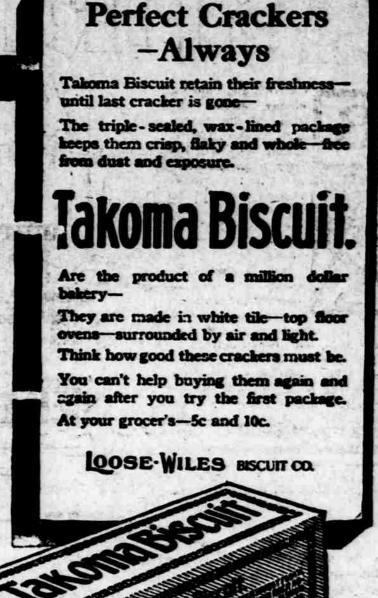
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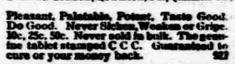
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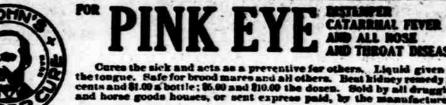
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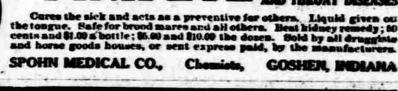
on the stomach. The next morning he passed four pieces of a tape worm. He then got a box and in three days he passed a tape-worm 45 foot long. It was Mr. Matt Freck, of Millersburg. Dauphin Co.. Pa. I am quite a worker for Casentes. I use them myself and find them beneficial for most any disease caused by impure blood." Chas. E. Condon, Lewiston, Fa., (Miffilm Co.)



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