

The Junior Client

By WALTER JOSEPH DELAHEY

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It was summer dullness in the law courts and I was lolling in a chair at the office window, trying to decide upon a brief vacation away from the dust and din of the city. I had been in practice for a year and had done moderately well in a money way. I turned from my idle survey of the street as I heard a footstep in the hall outside. A lad of about fourteen stood reading the inscription on my door: "Robert Lane, Attorney at Law."

"If you please, sir," he said, advancing timidly, "are you Mr. Lane?"

"That's my name," I replied, noting that the boy was very pale and seemed laboring under some unusual strain of agitation.

"Then I would like to ask your advice. I have just been discharged from employment. They accuse me of something I never did—stealing. They paid me and I have ten dollars in my pocket. How much of it would you want to tell me what I am to do?"

His eyes were fearless, his attire neat, his whole presentation that of an intelligent and honest youth. I noted how much he tried to control the quivering lip and maintain the open manliness that seemed natural to him.

"We won't talk of a fee, my lad, at this stage of the case," I said. "What is the trouble?"

Briefly he told me. He was Hal Barton, and had been working for two months in the wholesale jewelry establishment of Morse & Co. For some time past it was current talk that the house was missing various articles from their stock. They had made a search of the desks of the various employees. In his own, they claimed, they had found a watch and chain done up in a handkerchief.

"I never saw it before, and the handkerchief was not mine," explained the lad. "The manager was cross and obstinate. He simply told me to draw my pay and leave. I think it very unjust. It spoils my chances of other work, and if my sister Inez doubts my innocence it will break my heart. Won't you help me with your advice?"

I rather greeted this sensational break upon my loneliness as a panacea for ennui and proceeded promptly to interrogate my youthful client. At the end of half an hour I was fully convinced that Hal Barton was just what he purported to be and a victim of untoward circumstances. He was averse to going home with his doleful story. He and his sister, Inez, were orphans, both working for a living, and I discerned that the lad had been brought up in the right way. I determined on immediate action. I went promptly to

the store of Morse & Co. and was soon closeted with the manager.

The latter admitted that he had acted rather harshly with Hal, but put up the plaint that their mysterious losses were becoming an item that was serious. He showed me Hal's desk and the watch and chain and the handkerchief. He stared at me strangely as I asked permission to retain the latter article.

"Going to do some detective work?" he inquired.

"I am, if it will prove the innocence of a lad you have wronged," I answered gravely. "I ask a week to act in that capacity, but at no charge to you."

Then I went back to the office and offered to go home with Hal. He was overjoyed at the proffer. We found his sister working on a dress. The first glimpse I had of that lovely, ingenious face a new interest came into the case for me. I told my story and that of Hal. Not for an instant did Inez Barton doubt the innocence of her brother, and both seemed relieved and glad that I extended my friendly aid. I asked Hal to call at my office the next morning.

"Do you recall anyone with Morse & Co. who is given to the use of perfumery?" I asked Hal. "—a man, for this is a man's handkerchief. And his name, according to the initial, begins with C."

"C? C-a-r-r-Carr! Oh, Mr. Lane," instantly cried Hal, "he is our inventory clerk. He wouldn't steal!"

"I didn't say that he would, Hal," I replied. "The handkerchief suggests him, though, it seems. Never mind—forget that. Tell your sister I will report progress in a day or two," and my mind as full of Inez as of my self-imposed mission, I took up the trail of Walter Carr forthwith, learning from Hal sufficient of his routine to map out my plan of action.

I brought joy and relief to the humble Barton home the last day of that week. With eyes bedewed with grateful tears Inez Barton listened to my story. It was a simple one. Every day Walter Carr went for his lunch to the same restaurant. Every day he was met by a young man. Every day they hung their hats on the same hooks, and one day I noticed that when the meal was finished Carr took the hat of his confere, both of the same size and make, and another day I managed to make off with the Carr hat, and nestling under its inner band were two fine gold chains.

It was not at all easy to forget the Bartons. After the complete vindication of Hal and the recovering of a large amount of plunder from Carr's accomplice, I remembered them so well that I continued my visits to their pleasant home, and in June Inez was all my own.

Indian Runner ducks and eggs for sale or trade for chickens. Phone Red 34 or call at 703 west Eleventh street.

Wonderful Slot Machine.

Most people are familiar with the machines which sell chocolates and chewing gum. An interesting development in this field is a large apparatus that dispenses bottled beverages, sandwiches and chewing gum. Its cooling chamber has space for the accommodation of 96 bottles, while a precooling compartment, in which bottles are chilled from the ice, has an equal capacity. In order to encourage patrons to return empty bottles to the machine a stick of gum is discharged when a bottle is placed in the receiver provided for it. A counterfeit detector rejects spurious coins. A complete record of all transactions is kept by a sales-registering mechanism. The only attention the machine requires is that involved in stocking and icing it.

Untasted Emergency Ration.

A correspondent, writing from the front before the fighting came to an end, said that the emergency ration supplied to our soldiers still remained a mystery to them. Few indeed have even tasted this scientific life-saver of which the army boards are so proud.

It looks like ground oatmeal; but it is said to be the last word in concentrated calories and protein. It contains the juices and sustaining parts of all meats and vegetables known to man, with a little gluten thrown in. Most soldiers have not dared to taste it. A court martial threatens anyone who eats the emergency ration unnecessarily, and almost never, so they say, did any soldier find it necessary. Hot meats from rolling kitchens were virtually always to be had.—Youth's Companion.

Farm Products by Parcel Post.

Wilmington, Del., is to receive farm products by parcel post truck service. The service between that city and Salisbury, Md., began recently, two large army trucks bearing eggs, butter, fish, oysters, crabs, berries and such direct from land or sea to the consumer. Stops are made at every town along the route which can claim a post office. Provision has also been made for acceptance of parcel post material for New York, transfers to be made at Chester; and through truck service from Wilmington to Philadelphia will be established.

A Little Learning.

"Do you subscribe to the theory that a little learning is a dangerous thing?" "Yes," replied Gadspar. "I thought I knew enough about my automobile to take it apart and put it together again, but this bill of \$154.17 from a repair shop proves that I didn't."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Dull, lifeless eyes, colorless lips, sallow, yellow cheeks, give a girl little chance for a "man" these days. Don't lose heart, just take Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea—helps to make you attractive and fair. Don't delay, begin today. J. O. Patterson.

You are Interested in Fair Telephone Earnings

When you have money to lend you naturally seek that investment which promises the highest return with the same degree of safety. So do other people.

Because all investors do this, it is necessary that the earnings of the telephone companies be such as will promote confidence rather than discourage the investment of money in their securities.

Telephone companies when privately operated have no guarantee against losses, nor are they assured any specific rate of return upon their investment.

The rates of telephone companies must be such as will produce sufficient revenue to pay their employees fair wages, maintain and operate their property in a manner that will insure good service, and pay the investors a reasonable return on their money.

The destruction or serious impairment of public confidence in the securities of telephone companies by too low rates or too exacting public regulation would discourage investment in the telephone business.

And extensions and improvements necessary to meet the constantly expanding need of the public for telephone service can only be made through the investment of new money in the business.



Nebraska Telephone Company

Strike Spreading in Germany

The general strike is spreading throughout Germany. Clashes between government troops and the workmen have taken place in several cities and many casualties have resulted. The uprising is said to have been instigated by the Spartacists for the purpose of weakening the government as the first step in a third great revolution.

The government was fully aware of the impending strike and is taking measures to deal drastically with the uprising. The entire Rhineland, where fifty thousand miners are on strike, has been placed in a state of seige by the government, thus cutting off food shipments and coal supply from the rest of Germany.

It is stated that this action may interfere with the payments made to the allies for food shipped into Germany. The miners are stubbornly maintaining their positions and preparing to fight for their cause.

Analyses of a number of white commercial sugars have been made by the United States Bureau of Standards recently to determine their contents in sugar, moisture and reducing sugars. These analyses have developed the fact that many manufacturers are producing sugars of such purity that the highest sensibility of measurements is required to distinguish them from perfectly pure sugar. In order to provide for a need emphasized by these cases, new methods of color determination are being developed which will be more delicate and accurate than those now in use. In connection with these analyses the interesting fact appears that beet sugars are of equal purity to cane sugars.

Statement of Ownership

(Required by Act of Congress of August 24, 1912.)

I, Ira L. Bare, do solemnly swear that I am the editor, publisher and sole owner of the North Platte Semi-Weekly Tribune, published at North Platte, Neb., that said paper and printing plant is owned and controlled solely by me, that there are no bond holders or mortgagees or others holding any interest whatever in said newspaper and printing plant.

IRA L. BARE.
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5th day of April, 1919.
W. H. MUNGER,
(SEAL) Notary Public.

Implements for Sale.

I have one riding John Deere lister almost new, one McCormick 5-foot mower, one 8-foot disc harrow, one nearly new grind stone. These implements can be seen at the Sodgett place on east Front street.

MRS. LARSON.

The Percheron Stallion

"Lord Birdwood"

Will make the season of 1919 at the J. I. Smith farm at the Baker school house four miles west of North Platte. "Lord Birdwood" was foaled June 15, 1916, bred and raised by D. A. Goodrich, of Bellevue, Neb., weighs 1900, perfectly sound and is recorded by the Percheron Society of America under the record number of 91802.

SERVICE FEE—\$12.50 to insure the mare with foal.
Care will be taken to prevent accidents but should any occur the owner of the horse will not be responsible.

CLAUDE MOORE,
Owner.

AMERICA'S WAR DEBT.

Although the debt of the United States after four years of civil war was \$2,675,000,000, or less than half one of our five Liberty Loans, the wages, profits and wealth of the country have grown so enormously since then that the larger indebtedness of the present moment is easier for the country to pay than the two billions of 1865.

While it is true that our war debt is eleven times greater than our obligations of the Civil War, it has also been roughly estimated that our present

wealth is eleven times greater, although the population is but five-fold larger. If our taxes were to be calculated relatively to the Civil War they should be over five billions a year, and our Liberty Loans should be forty billions, instead of about half that, deducting our loans to our allies. The gross debt of the United States at the present time represents only eight per cent of the national wealth.

FOR SALE.

Barn 16x20 in good condition, newly painted. Would make a good four room house. Also double sheds. Inquire at New Method Tire Shop.



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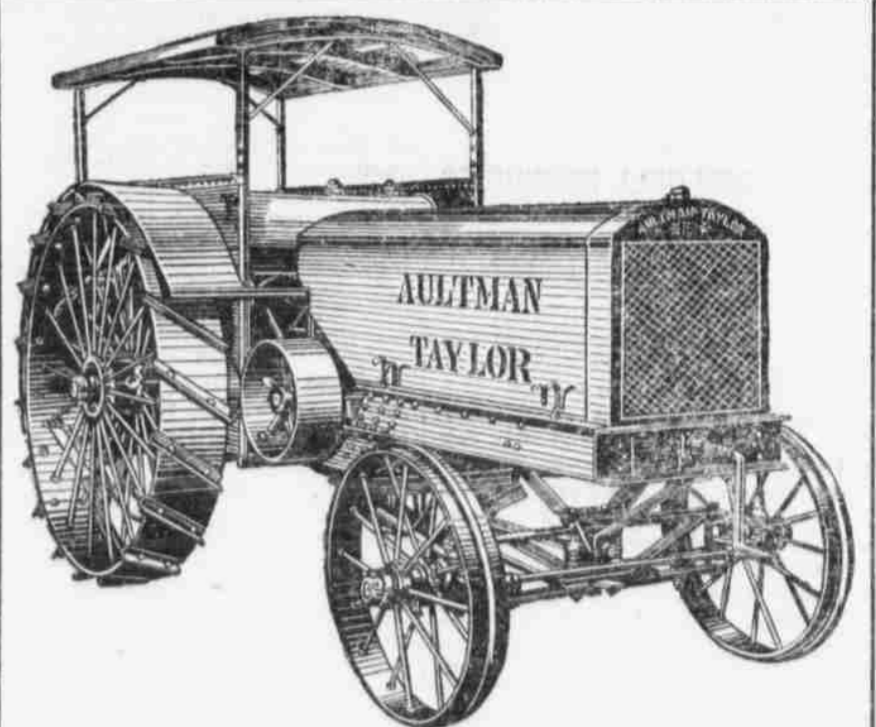


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