

The IRON TRAIL

BY REX BEACH

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CHAPTER X. O'Neil's Men Have Faith.

O'Neil's talk with Mrs. Gerard upon her arrival from Hope was short and businesslike. Neither by word nor look did he show that he knew or suspected anything of the real reason of her break with Gordon. Toward both her and Natalie he preserved his customary haughtiness, and their first contact soon disappeared. Mrs. Gerard had been plunged in one of those black moods in which it seems that no possi-



They Discussed the Wonderful Change in Their Fortunes.

ness. He was cool and calculating, but interference roused him to an almost insane pitch of passion. Fickle in most things, he was uncompromising in his hatreds. O'Neil's generosity in affording sanctuary to his defiant mistress struck him as a personal affront, and it fanned his dislike of his rival into a consuming rage. It was with no thought of profit that he cast about for a means of crippling O'Neil.

Dan Appleton entered the bungalow one evening, wet and tired from his work, to find Eliza pacing the floor in agitation.

"What's the matter, Sis?" he inquired, with quick concern.

His sister pointed to a copy of the Review which that day's mail had brought.

"Look at that!" she cried. "Read it!"

"Oh, your story, eh?"

"Read it!"

He read a column and then glanced up to find her watching him with an angry eye.

"Gee, that's pretty rough on the chief, kid! I thought you liked him," he said gravely.

"I do! I do! Don't you understand dummy? I didn't write that. They've changed my story—distorted it. I'm furious!"

Dan whistled softly. "I didn't suppose they'd try anything like that, but they did a good job while they were at it. Why, you'd think O'Neil was a grafter and the S. R. and N. nothing but a land grabbing deal!"

"How dared they?" the girl cried. "The actual changes aren't so many—just enough to alter the effect of the story—but that's what makes it so devilish. For instance, I described the obstacles and the handicaps Mr. O'Neil has had to overcome in order to show the magnitude of his enterprise, but Drake has altered it so that the physical conditions here seem to be insuperable, and he makes me say that the road is doomed to failure. That's the way he changed it all through."

"It may topple the chief's plans over. They're very insecure. It plays right into the hands of his enemies, too, and, of course, Gordon's press bureau will make the most of it."

"Heavens, I want sympathy, not abuse!" wailed his sister. "It's all due to the policy of the Review. Drake thinks everybody up here is a thief. I dare say they are, but how can I face Mr. O'Neil?"

Dan shook the paper in his fist. "Are you going to stand for this?" he demanded.

"Hardly. I cabled the office this morning, and here's Drake's answer," she read:

"Stuff colorless. Don't allow admiration warp judgment. Can you beat that?"

"He thinks you've surrendered to Murray, like all the others."

"I hate him!" cried Eliza. "I detest him!"

"Who? O'Neil or Drake?"

"Both. Mr. O'Neil for putting me in the position of a traitor and Drake for pressuring to rewrite my stuff. I'm going to resign, and I'm going to leave Omar before Murray/O'Neil comes back."

"Don't be a quitter, sis. If you throw up the job the paper will send somebody who will lie about us to suit the policy of the office. Show 'em what where they're wrong; show 'em what this country needs. You have your magazine stories to write."

Eliza shook her head. "Both the magazines and the whole business!" I'm thinking about Mr. O'Neil. I-I could cry. I suppose I'll have to stay and explain to him, but—then I'll go home."

"No! You'll stay right here and go through with this thing. I need you."

"You? What for?"

"You can perform a great and a signal service for your loving brother. He's in terrible trouble!"

"What's wrong, Danny?" Eliza's anger gave instant place to solicitude. "You—you haven't stolen anything?"

"Lord, no! What put that into your head?"

"I don't know, except that's the worst thing that could happen to us. I like to start with the worst."

"I can't suck in the jungle any more. I'm a bad loser, sis."

"Oh! You mean—Natalie? You—like her?"

"For a writer you select the most foolish words. Like, love, adore, worship—words are no good anyway. I'm dippy; I'm out of my head; I've lost my reason. I'm deliriously happy and miserably unhappy. I—"

"That's enough!" the girl exclaimed. "I can imagine the rest."

"It was a fatal mistake for her to come to Omar and to this very house every day. I might have recovered from the first jolt if I'd never seen her

again, but"— He waved his hands hopelessly. "I'm beginning to hate O'Neil."

"You miserable traitor!" gasped Eliza.

"Yep; that's me! I'm dead to loyalty; lost to the claims of friendship. I've fought myself until I'm black in the face, but it's no use. I must have Natalie."

"She's crazy about O'Neil."

"Seems to be for a fact, but that doesn't alter my fix. I can't live this way. You must help me or I'll lose my reason."

"Nonsense! You haven't any or you wouldn't talk like this. What can I do?"

"It's simple. Be nice to Murray and—aud win him away from her."

"Is that all? Just make him love me?"

Dan nodded. "That would be fine if you could manage it."

"Why—you—I—" She gasped uncertainly for terms in which to voice her indignant surprise. "Idiot!" she finally exclaimed. "You simply can't be in earnest."

"I am, though." He turned upon her eyes, which had grown suddenly old and weary with longing.

"You poor, foolish boy! In the first place, Mr. O'Neil will hate me for this story. In the second place, no man would look at me, I'm ugly!"

"I think you're beautiful."

"With my snub nose and big mouth and—"

"You can make him laugh, and when a woman can make a fellow laugh the rest is easy."

"In the third place, I'm mannish and—vulgar, and besides—I don't care for him."

"Of course you don't, or I wouldn't ask it. You see, we're taking no risks. You can at least take up his attention, and—when you see him making for Natalie you can put out your foot and trip him up."

"It wouldn't be honorable, Danny."

"Possibly. But that doesn't make any difference with me. You may as well realize that I've got beyond the point where nice considerations of that sort weigh with me. If you'd ever been in love you'd understand that such things don't count at all. It's your chance to save the reason and happiness of an otherwise perfectly good brother."

"There is nothing I wouldn't do for your happiness—nothing. But—oh, it's preposterous!"

She continued to scout suggestions that she could help him by captivating O'Neil and stoutly maintained that she had no attraction for men. Nevertheless when she went to her room she examined herself critically in her mirror.

In the days before O'Neil's return she suffered constant misgivings and qualms of conscience, but the sight of her brother reveling, expanding, fairly bursting into bloom beneath the influence of Natalie Gerard led her to think that perhaps she did have a duty to perform.

She was greatly embarrassed nevertheless when she next met O'Neil and tried to explain that story in the Review. He listened courteously and smiled his gentle smile.

"My dear," said he finally, "I knew there had been some mistake, so let's forget that it ever happened. I brought you a little present."

Slowly she unwrapped the parcel and then with a gasp lifted a splendidly embroidered kimono from its box.

"Oh-h!" Her eyes were round and astonished. "Oh-h! It's for me!"

It was a regal garment of heavy silk, superbly ornamented with golden dragons, each so cunningly worked that it seemed upon the point of taking wing. "Why, their eyes glitter! And they'd breathe fire if I jabbed them! Oh-h!" she stared at the gift in helpless amazement. "Is it mine, honestly?"

He nodded. "Won't you put it on?"

"Over these things? Never!" Again Miss Appleton blushed, for she recalled that she had prepared for his coming with extraordinary care. Her boots were even stouter than usual, her skirt more plain, her waist more stiff and her hair more tightly smoothed back. "It would take a fluff party to wear this. I'll always keep it, of course, and—I'll worship it, but I'm not designed for pretty clothes. I'll let Natalie wear it!"

"Natalie has one of her own done in butterfly and I brought one to her mother also."

"And you bought this for me after you had seen that fendish story over my signature?"

"Certainly." He quickly forestalled her attempted thanks by changing the subject. "Now, then, Dan tells me you are anxious to begin your magazine work, so I'm going to arrange for you to see the glaciers and the coal fields. It will be a hard trip, for the track isn't through yet, but—"

"Oh, I'll take care of myself! I won't get in anybody's way," she said eagerly.

"I intend to see that you don't by going with you. So make your preparations, and we'll leave as soon as I can get away."

When he had gone the girl said aloud:

"Eliza Violet, this is your chance. It's underhand and mean, but you're a mean person, and the finger of Providence is directing you." She snatched up the silken kimono and ran into her room, locking the door behind her. Hurriedly she put it on, then posed before the mirror. Next down came her hair amid a shower of pins. She arranged it loosely about her face and, ripping an artificial flower from her party hat, placed it over her ear. Then she swayed grandly to and fro while the golden dragons writhed and curved as if in joyous admiration. A dozen times she slipped out of the garment and, gathering it to her face, kissed it; a



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dozen times she donned it, strutting about her little room like a peacock. Her tippled nose was red and her eyes were wet when at last she laid it aside.

From Tuesday's Daily.

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Attorney C. E. Tefft of Weeping Water was in the city today looking after a few legal matters at the court house for a short time.

Barney Wampler and family and Sam Dean and family departed this afternoon for Omaha where they will make their home in the future.

Mrs. Georgia Creamer and sisters, Mrs. Jennie Rhoden and Lulu Wolf were in the city for a few hours today looking after some matters of business.

Ed S. Tutt came up this morning from his home at Murray and spent a few hours here visiting with friends and looking after some matters of business.

M. D. Pollard, John Whiteman and Allen Cox, of Nehawka, were in the city today advertising the big A. O. U. W. picnic that will be held in that place on Saturday, August 5th.

C. M. Chriswiser of Nehawka was among those going to Omaha this morning where he will visit for a few hours in that city attending to some business matters of importance.

L. D. Hiatt of Murray was in the city last evening for a few hours looking after some business matters and returned home with James Tigner who had been in Omaha for the day.

James H. Herold of Lincoln is enjoying a short vacation here visiting with his mother and his many old friends. Mr. Herold is now employed at the Rudge & Gunzel Co., at Lincoln as one of their department managers.

J. W. Newell and wife of Chicago arrived in the city this morning for a short visit with their relatives and friends in this city. Mr. and Mrs. Newell are expecting to be among the visitors here during the "Home Coming" week.

Harry Reed and T. W. Fleming, of Weeping Water motored to this city this morning to attend to some matters of business in the county seat, and visit with friends for a short time.

Dr. C. S. Boggs and wife and J. F. Boggs and wife of Filley, Neb., who have been here visiting with Edgar Boggs and wife departed this morning for their home. J. F. Boggs and wife are the parents of Edgar Boggs, and Dr. Boggs an uncle of the young man.

Local News

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GOOD AUTO DEALS

—TO—

OMAHA

The cost of Bridge Tolls for Round Trip using our Commutation Books

Auto and Driver, round Trip.....	50c
Extra Passengers, each.....	5c
\$10.00 Book.....	\$5.00
\$5.00 Book.....	\$2.50

Commutation Books Good any time and Transferable.

PLATTSMOUTH Auto & Wagon Bridge Co.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

State of Nebraska, IN COUNTY COURT.

In the matter of the Estate of Sarah E. Van Doren, deceased.

Notice is hereby given to the creditors of said deceased that hearings will be had upon the claims filed against said estate, before the County Judge of Cass County, Nebraska, at the County Court room in Plattsmouth, in said county, on the 14th day of August, 1916, and on the 14th day of February, 1917, at 10 o'clock a. m., each day for examination, adjustment and allowance.

All claims must be filed in said court on or before said last hour of hearing. Witness my hand and seal of said County Court, at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, this 13th day of July, 1916.

ALLEN J. BEESON, County Judge.

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE COUNTY OF CASS, NEBRASKA.

In the matter of the Estate of Edward G. Doyce, deceased.

To all Persons Interested in the Estate of Edward G. Doyce, Deceased:

You are hereby notified that there is now on file in the County Court of Cass County, Nebraska, the final report of George E. Doyce, as administrator of the estate of Edward G. Doyce, deceased, and also exceptions thereto, and statement of said administrator, and a hearing will be had upon said report, said exceptions and said statement, on or before said last hour of hearing. Witness my hand and seal of said County Court, at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, this 13th day of July, 1916.

ALLEN J. BEESON, County Judge.

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE COUNTY OF CASS, NEBRASKA.

In Re-Estate of David L. Amick, Deceased.

NOTICE

To Ruth M. Amick, Theodore L. Amick, and to all other persons interested:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in the above court alleging the death intestate of David L. Amick, a resident and inhabitant of Cass County, Nebraska, on May 17th, 1916; that he left his surviving as his sole and only heirs at law, the above named persons, and praying for the appointment of Theodore L. Amick as administrator; that a hearing will be had upon said petition at the office of the County Judge, Court House, Plattsmouth, Cass County, Nebraska, on August 15th 1916, at 10 o'clock a. m., before which hour, all objections thereto, must be filed and at which time orders will be entered in accordance with finding of the Court thereon.

By the Court this 20th day of July, A. D. 1916.

ALLEN J. BEESON, County Judge.

W. A. ROBERTSON, Attorney.

LEGAL NOTICE.

Notice to Non-Resident Defendants, Personal Representatives and All Persons Interested in Their Estate.

J. V. Hinchman, if living, if deceased, the unknown heirs, personal representatives and all persons interested in the estate of J. V. Hinchman, P. M. Moss, if living, if deceased, the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives, and all persons interested in the estate of P. M. Moss, Alfred D. Jones, if living, if deceased, the unknown heirs, personal representatives, and all persons interested in the estate of Alfred D. Jones, and the unknown heirs, personal representatives, and all persons interested in the estate of Josephine Clifford, the unknown heirs and devisees, and all persons interested in the estate of Ella V. Davis, deceased.

You and each of you are hereby notified that the title of said petition, filed on the 23rd day of June, 1916, filed in the District Court of Cass County, Nebraska, wherein you and all you are defendants, the object and prayer of which petition is that the claim, interest, title and interest of each and every one of you in and to:

Lot 4 (4) five (5) and six (6) in block eight (8), in White's Addition to the City of Plattsmouth, and Lot 4 (4) in block eight (8), in the City of Plattsmouth, Cass County, Nebraska, be declared invalid and of no force and effect; that the title of said plaintiffs, in and to said real estate, and all interest therein be quieted as against you and each and every one of you, and against any and all claims of each and every one of you, and against the claim of each and all of you, and that if you are adjudged and decreed that each and all of you are entitled to said real estate, you shall, if living, and if dead, the heirs, devisees, legatees, and personal representatives of each and every one of you, have no right, title, claim or interest in or to said real estate, and shall be forever barred from claiming or asserting any right, title, interest or estate in and to said real estate or any part thereof, and in fact other and further relief as to the court may seem just and equitable.

You and each of you are further notified that you are required to answer said petition on or before Monday, the 25th day of August, 1916.

F. G. FRICKE, Plaintiff.

C. A. RAWLS, Attorney.

800 ACRES LAND FOR SALE

\$20 per acre if taken at once. Write Bert Ostrom, Max, Neb.

NOTICE

Our Side Board Prize contest will close August 1, so those having any coupons on hand will please exchange the same for numbers.

Lorenz Bros.

Your last chance to buy a John Deere Iron clad wagon complete and an Indiana wagon complete and two extra boxes as less than wholesale factory prices, to be sold at private sale Saturday, July 29.

J. L. Barton & Co., Plattsmouth, Neb.

The name—Doan's Kidney Pills confidence—Doan's Kidney Pills for kidney ills. Doan's Ointment for skin itching. Doan's Regulets for a mild laxative. Sold at all drug stores.

John Miller and bride returned to this city last evening and will make their home at Mrs. H. J. Streight's apartments in the Henry Boeck building.

Mrs. J. W. Jones and babe, who have been here for the past few weeks visiting at the home of Mrs. Jones' mother, Mrs. Adah Moore, and family, departed this morning on the early Burlington train for their home at Shenandoah, Ia.

Mrs. W. F. Moore came up this morning from her home east of Murray and departed on the early Burlington train for Omaha where she will visit her grandson, Walter Hensel, at the hospital in that city for a few hours.

Bilious? Feel heavy after dinner? Bitter taste? Complexion sallow? Liver perhaps needs waking up. Doan's Regulets for bilious attacks. 25c at all drug stores.

Cameras for Rent—Weyrich & Hadraba.