

TURKS STOP THE RANSOM.

Governor of Raslog Refuses to Permit Exchange.

American Dragoman Conveys Money for Release, but Porte Fears to Be Involved in Liability.

London.—(Special).—The Constantinople correspondent of the London Daily News wires:

"The attempt to secure the release of Miss Stone has failed for the present, though the money was taken to Raslog.

"The Turks had promised to place soldiers and a messenger at the disposal of the American dragoman, Gargiulo, but insisted, against his wishes, on sending fifty soldiers as far as Raslog, where the local governor refused to let messengers or money out of sight, adding that he would not allow the money to be paid on Turkish soil. Thereupon Gargiulo telegraphed to Constantinople for instructions, and was ordered to remain where he was, the negotiations meanwhile proceeding with the porte.

"The brigands naturally refused to meet Gargiulo with Turkish soldiers in sight.

"The American legation's information is that the cordon of Turkish troops has been largely increased on the Bulgarian frontier and that the porte fears it would be made liable in consequence of payment being made on Turkish soil."

Raslog, near Djuma.—(Special).—A representative of the press here has had an interview with the delegates who have been negotiating for the release of Miss Stone and Mrs. Tuller. They said that their negotiations with the brigands had been unsatisfactory and that they had intended returning to Constantinople. Before starting, however, they say they received fresh information which induced them to renew their communications with the brigands and that these negotiations are now proceeding.

Washington, D. C.—(Special).—Unless Miss Stone's captors have abandoned her, despairing of being able to safely surrender her to the agents who have been trying to ransom her, she is not yet at liberty. It is quite certain that the ransom money has not been paid down, and that the agents referred to have completely lost touch with the brigands, who have been frightened off by the appearance of Turkish soldiers in their neighborhood. The efforts to secure the woman's release will not be abandoned, but it is feared that they must be renewed in another direction, the present line having been broken.

WINDOW AND GLASS MEN ORGANIZED.

Cincinnati, O.—(Special).—Forty representatives of the Federation Co-operative Window Glass company, representing over 800 pots, held a meeting here. The factories represented are the principal independent plants in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. The principal business of the meeting was for the reorganization of their company, which was originally formed last May. At the meeting the following officers were elected: President, J. R. Johnston; treasurer, W. L. Monroe; secretary, L. M. Mamberg.

A committee was appointed to take out a charter under the laws of New Jersey for the organization of a strong company similar to that formerly operated by the American Glass company.

The capitalization of the new company will be \$500,000 and the various plants will pay into the company \$300 per pot for working capital.

This company, together with other organizations of a similar character, will control over 90 per cent of the window glass industry. The headquarters are in Muncie, Ind., and Philadelphia.

STEEL TRUST MEN MAKE REPORT.

New York.—(Special).—The stockholders of the United States Steel corporation have been served with a report of the company's business for the first ten months of its existence.

The balance sheet of November 30 shows that the accounts aggregated \$45,283,463, the bills receivable \$3,821,463 and the cash on hand \$55,315,527, making a total of \$104,406,444. The inventory, which includes finished product, steel, manufacturing stores and miscellaneous supplies, materials, labor and expense involved in unfinished contracts, aggregates \$95,000,000.

The liabilities November 30 were \$60,200,000, and the surplus of the combined companies which form the corporation is \$174,444,229. The cost of the companies has been \$1,429,044,000.

The report concludes that the business of the company is now practically on a cash basis and that practically all accounts are now closed within thirty days after completion of the orders and contracts.

Report Irregularities.

Washington, D. C.—(Special).—The senate committee on public lands has made a favorable report on the irrigation bill recently agreed upon by the senators and members of the house of representatives from the semi-arid states. There was no objection to the committee and the motion to report the bill was carried unanimously, but Senator Barry reserved the right to offer other amendments when the bill is taken up in the senate.

INQUIRY ON THE TREASON ACT.

Washington, D. C.—(Special).—Senator Rawlins has introduced a bill making inquiry of the secretary of war whether the "new treason act in the Philippines" has been passed by the Philippine commission.

The resolution cites a circular purporting to give the language of the act. One provision makes the concealment of treason against the United States or the Philippines punishable by a fine of \$1,000 and imprisonment for seven years. Another provides a fine of \$2,000 and imprisonment for two years for uttering seditious words, and a third provides a fine of \$1,000 and imprisonment for one year for persons belonging to secret societies having for their object the promotion of treason. Another prohibition is against advocating the independence of the Philippines or their separation from the United States, "whether by peaceable or forcible means."

The penalty for the infraction of this requirement is a fine of \$2,000 and imprisonment for a year. The resolution went over for future consideration.

Senator Patterson has introduced a bill providing for the union of Oklahoma and Indian Territory and their admission into the union as a state, to be called Oklahoma.

The senate in executive session today ratified the extradition treaties recently negotiated with Denmark and Belgium and the treaty affecting the descent of property between the United States and Guatemala.

FIND \$45,000 IN FORGED PAPER.

Lincoln, Neb.—(Special).—Secretary Royce of the state banking board, who went to Bellwood, reported from there that the condition of the Platte Valley bank, closed, is in much worse shape than first disclosed. Secretary Royce says at least \$45,000, possibly more, of the rediscounted notes disposed of by the bank prove to be forged paper. The bulk of these notes are held by Lincoln, Omaha, Chicago and New York banks, but not in a sufficient quantity by any one, he thinks, to prove seriously embarrassing.

A. H. Gould, the cashier and manager, was taken to David City, the county seat, and is in jail. H. R. Gould, the president, is secretary of the State Bankers' association. He has only a nominal interest in the Bellwood bank, and has for some time had no part in its management.

Two months ago the Bellwood bank was burglarized, the alleged crackmen wrecking the vault, taking it, it was said, \$3,000. It is now charged that the robbery was a fake, and that Cashier Gould was instrumental in wrecking the vault and himself circulated the story that there had been a robbery.

"The banking board estimates the deposits to be \$40,000, mainly by merchants of Bellwood and farmers in the vicinity."

GIRL IS HER OWN AVENGER.

Geddes, S. D.—(Special).—An attempt at murder was made at Wheeler, S. D., last week, after the state had failed to prove a case against Clyde Patterson, Miss A. Seidler, the complainant, shot Patterson in the back and shot again, but the second bullet missed him. At the time the corridors of the court house were filled with people attending court. A doctor probed for the bullet, which he could not find. The deed was done with a .32-caliber revolver.

Amanda Seidler had sworn out an information against Clyde Patterson, accusing him of reduction. The case was called in the circuit court. Judge Smith dismissed the case on account of a defect in the indictment. As the parties were leaving the courtroom Amanda drew a revolver and fired to shots at Patterson, the first taking effect in the back just below the shoulder blade, ranging down and is supposed to be lodged about the kidneys. The second missed. The doctors have failed to locate the bullet, and Patterson is in a critical condition. The girl has not been arrested and public opinion is so strong in her favor that it is doubtful if she will be.

STEEL TRUST EARNS EIGHTY MILLIONS

New York.—(Special).—Some remarkable things are made public in an additional report of the billion-dollar steel trust this morning. Among them are the earnings of the company, its surplus, and the price paid for launching the corporation. J. P. Morgan and an underwriting syndicate, for launching the trust, received stock in the corporation to the par value of \$129,997,500. Surplus on the day balance was made was \$174,444,229.

The net earnings for nine months were \$84,799,250, and the dividends paid at the same time aggregated \$41,960,706. Morgan & Co. paid in securities of the big trust, nearly \$500,000,000 for the control of the Carnegie concern, the plans of which, if carried out, meant a war of giants in the steel trade.

Among other interesting features of the report is an explicit statement that although higher prices could have been obtained, the companies have firmly maintained the position of not advancing, believing the existing prices sufficient to yield a fair return.

Decides For Omaha Road.

Springfield, Ill.—(Special).—In the United States circuit court Judge Humphrey entered a decree contrary to that entered by Judge Ames Thayer in the United States circuit court for the western district of Missouri in the case of Samuel Fordyce and Webster Withers, receivers of the Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf Railroad company and others against the Omaha, Kansas City and Eastern Railway company et al, to dissolve a mortgage of the road.

REPEALS THE WAR TAXES.

Bill is Authorized by Ways and Means Committee.

Available Cash for Beginning of New Fiscal Year is Over One Hundred and Seventy-Four Million.

Washington, D. C.—(Special).—The ways and means committee by unanimous vote has instructed Chairman Payne to prepare a bill repealing all the war revenue taxes, except the tax on mixed flour. The action taken was in the form of a resolution to the effect that the bill should provide for the repeal of the remaining war taxes to take effect on July 1, 1902, except that the repeal of the duty on tea should go into effect January 1, 1903.

The only division in the committee was in amendments proposed by democratic members. Representative Richardson of Tennessee proposed an amendment to put trust-made articles on the free list. This was defeated by a party vote, as was the amendment by Representative Robertson of Louisiana to continue the tax on "bucket shops."

Chairman Payne made the following statement on the proposed repeal:

LARGE CASH BALANCE.

"The treasury now has an available cash balance of something over \$174,000,000. It is not likely that this will be increased materially during the present fiscal year, as the treasury is buying bonds at a rate that will use up the surplus to accumulate between this and the end of the fiscal year, June 30 next. The secretary of the treasury's report estimated a surplus for this year of \$100,000,000 and subsequent results seem to confirm this estimate. The committee, therefore, thought it was entirely safe to repeal the remainder of the war revenue tax, amounting to \$68,000,000, and the tax on tea, amounting to \$9,000,000, in the aggregate \$77,000,000, at this time."

"This will leave a surplus estimated upon this year's receipts and expenses of \$22,000,000 or \$23,000,000 for the year, while we will start upon the next fiscal year with \$174,000,000 available cash in the treasury. The committee deems it wise to have the repeal of the tax on tea take effect on the first of January next, in order to enable those, especially retailers and small dealers, who have stocks of the duty-paid goods on hand to dispose of them before the change takes place."

"We can provide a rebate on the tobacco tax and guard against any fraud upon the revenue, for the reason that the internal revenue department has this trade under close surveillance and can and will take an account of the stock in the dealers hands on the first day of July next. But this will be impossible as to teas, which come in as customs duties and of which the government has no account, save as they are imported in large quantities by the importers. Continuing this tea tax to the first of January will give us six months' revenue in the next fiscal year upon tea and will make the ultimate reduction for the next year considerable less than \$75,000,000."

The bill will be presented to the house as soon as it can be prepared. The repeal will affect the remaining special taxes imposed by the war, viz: On bankers, brokers, grain dealers, pawnbrokers, custom house brokers, theaters, museums, circuses, etc., billiard rooms and bowling alleys, playing cards, dealers in and manufacturers of tobacco.

The reduction on fermented liquor will amount to 60 cents per barrel; that on tobacco and snuff will be 2 cents, bringing the rate back to 6 cents per pound, as before the war. The rate on cigars and cigarettes was changed last year, but the further change now made will bring the rates back to those existing prior to the war.

The repeal under schedule A of the law will include the tax on bonds, debentures, etc.; certificates of stock, sales or agreements, stock transactions, inland and foreign bills of exchange; bills of lading, indemnifying bonds, certificates of profit, brokers' contracts, custom house entries, warehouse entries, steamboat passage tickets.

COAL MERGER IS CONSUMMATED.

Minneapolis, Minn.—(Special).—The Journal declares the proposed merger of the coal trade of the northwest has been practically consummated. The plan contemplates but one selling agency in this city and one in St. Paul. This will put all the retailers out of the business. The anthracite and bituminous branches of the trade have been separately consolidated, and now they are to be brought together. It is thought the same plan will be followed by the promoters of the big combine in other large districts.

Wine From Dead Betrothed.

Omaha, Ia.—(Special).—Mary Christensen has secured a verdict for \$6,000 in her breach of promise suit against a dead man. She sued the estate of Frank Crum, who died last summer, for \$7,000, claiming he had postponed the date of their marriage and finally died before the new date fell without wedding her. It was proved conclusively that he intended to marry her, and the suit was begun as the best legal way to recover a portion of the property lost by him.

IS DETERMINED TO ENFORCE THE LAW.

St. Paul, Minn.—(Special).—Governor Van Sant has replied to the petition from Minneapolis business men who asked him to cease his fight on the so-called railroad merger. The letter is addressed to Jenney, Semple, Hill & Co., and the governor says:

"I beg to acknowledge receipt of a petition from you and numerous other gentlemen doing business in the city of Minneapolis proposing that no immediate action be taken against the Northern Securities company, and that 'a fair opportunity for testing by experience whether good or evil will come from that company.'"

The consolidation of the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern Railway companies, through the organization of the Northern Securities company, is clearly a violation of state statutes.

I obligated myself, when I was inaugurated governor of the state, to enforce the laws thereof.

It is my bounden duty to prevent, if possible, the consolidation referred to, because such consolidation is in violation of the clear and unmistakable provisions of the laws which have been on the statute books for over a quarter of a century.

Not only is the letter of the law, but also the settled policy of this state against the consolidation of parallel and competing railroad lines. Competition in the matter of rates has always been and ever will be beneficial to the people, and no specious argument or statement from those desiring to do away with such competition is sufficient to meet plain facts derived from common experience.

However, the question of whether the law is wise or unwise does not confront me.

The law exists and has been violated; my duty is plain.

I therefore must respectfully decline to comply with the requests contained in your petition and shall continue as vigorously as possible to vindicate the laws of the state.

VERY GOOD PROSPECTS FOR PEACE.

Manila.—(Special).—The general outlook for pacification in the archipelago everywhere outside of the island of Samar, has never been more favorable since the original outbreak of the Philippine insurrection than at the present time. The insurgents have been broken up into small bands and are everywhere fleeing for shelter. They surrender daily, or are captured or killed.

The policy of reconcentration and the stern measure of closing the ports to commerce have accomplished everything expected of them. General Chaffee still hopes that by the end of February the island of Samar alone will remain not pacified.

Those provinces bordering on the provinces of Batangas and Laguna, in southern Luzon, have been patrolled by the native constabulary, who have done excellent work and who have received the commendation of General J. Franklin Bell, commanding in those provinces.

General Chaffee has taken effective steps to make sure that there will be no friction between the military and civil authorities.

OMAHA DEALERS IN THE COMBINE.

Kansas City, Mo.—(Special).—At least ten large wholesale dry goods dealers on the Missouri river have entered into a combination as a result of which their entire traffic from New York and New England will be controlled by one man, D. L. Thomas, at one time contracting freight agent of the Burlington in Kansas City and for the last several years agent for that road in New York. The combine is understood to include five Kansas City houses, three in St. Joseph and two in Omaha.

The traffic of these ten firms, and of such others as are in the combine, will be absolutely controlled by Mr. Thomas from his headquarters in New York. This means that he will route practically all of the dry goods shipped from New York and New England to the Missouri river and the railroad lines which may fall under the ban of his displeasure will be effectually stopped from participating in this business.

PRESIDENT CANNOT ACCEPT PRESENTS.

Washington, D. C.—(Special).—In the present opinion of the officials here President Roosevelt cannot accept any present from either Emperor William or Prince Henry without authority from congress.

An examination of the precedents is said to disclose the fact that while in many instances presidents apparently received presents from abroad, they never have retained these except by express authority conferred by congress. In the other cases, where the gifts have not been returned to the donor, the presents have been deposited by the president in the department of state or in the Smithsonian institution.

A large number of medals and articles of value may be seen in the library of the state department, the gifts of foreign rulers.

Krige at Lincoln.

Lincoln, Neb.—(Special).—Jan Krige, the former Boer officer, addressed a crowded house here. He was introduced by Judge Cornish, in the absence of Mayor Winnett. Krige compared Joseph Chamberlain to Cato, much to the benefit of the latter. He urged President Roosevelt to stop the shipment of horses and mules from New Orleans to South Africa, and called on Governor Savage to call for subscriptions for the suffering Boer women and children.

THEY CHEAT THE CONDUCTORS.

How Some People Scheme to Get Out of Paying Street Car Fare.

"It's the street car conductors who have the fine opportunity to see the feet of letting others than the parents teach children to tell the truth," said a conductor on a Brooklyn car who had just had a struggle with a group of elders and youngsters going to Coney Island.

There were four grown persons and seven children in the group and they were bound out for a Saturday evening at the island, the children in clean white dresses and the adults brushed up after the day's work.

The man at the head of the party first paid four fares. The conductor asked him who was to pay for the children and he forked over another fare for the tallest girl in the lot, who appeared to be at least 12 or 13 years old.

The conductor's palm was still extended. The man said there was no more fare to pay. A man with him lost his nerve just there and tendered a fare for another of the children and the conductor pointed to a third child and asked how old she was. The father shook his head and said that she was not seven. The mother kept still. Not so the child herself. She shook her head at her father and announced that she was seven. She was underaged and might pass for less than six. But her fare had to be paid.

There was more head shaking when the conductor pointed to a fourth girl but her nearest companion, the tall girl whose fare was first paid, declared with approving look at the man sitting next the head of the party that that girl was not entitled to half-fare privileges, and reluctantly another five cents was produced. The conductor went away, but presently returned from a reconnoitering expedition a few seats off where two children of the party had found seats, and he demanded two half fares. With a very tired expression, but without an effort at opposition, the two men of the party went down simultaneously into their trousers pockets and wearily extended handfuls of small coins toward the conductor for him to help himself, which he did, taking six cents from the hand nearest him. One member of the party rode for nothing. The conductor smiled as he handed the change, four cents, to the man from whose hand he had taken a dime.

"You know if the car was mine," he said pleasantly, "I wouldn't be so lousy carry 'em and call myself lucky. But as it is different."

Red Tape Illustrated.

A correspondent passing hurriedly into the room of the committee on rivers and harbors pulled the knob off the door.

"How can I get that fixed, do you think?" asked the congressman. "Shall I get the carpenter or the locksmith?"

"The locksmith, I suppose."

"No, sir. Were I to send for the locksmith he would tell me to consult the architect of the capitol. He has no authority to fix door knobs. Door knobs are permanent fixtures and are solely within the jurisdiction of the architect of the capitol."

"Do you see that bookcase there?" said the committee secretary. "I caused the carpenter to paste some cloth on the inside of the glass doors in order that the books might not show. He did the work, but when he had finished I noticed that he had not cleaned the glass before he had put the cloth on. The thing looked so disreputable that I asked him why he had not cleaned the glass. He told me the glass was a permanent fixture and that he had no authority to touch it, but that the plating of the cloth upon it was a temporary matter and was entirely within the province of his labor. The whole thing got to done all over again."—Washington Cor. Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"The Aluminum Age."

Expert Nicola Tesla, in a recent paper predicted the immediate advent of the aluminum age," thus frightening some timid holders of copper stocks.

For the assurance of the latter the Journal declares that both iron and copper have long lived of usefulness ahead of them. It will not even concede that aluminum will supersede copper in electrical work, where it might be expected to make itself felt, if anywhere. "It is true," says the Journal, "that aluminum has been tested for electrical work in some places, and has been found to answer well. But the supply will have to be much larger than it is at present to affect the consumption of copper in any appreciable degree. The price of aluminum has been reduced from time to time, and it is now allowing for the very much lower specific gravity of aluminum—actually cheaper for a given bulk than copper. The manufacture remains a limited one, however, and increases very slowly, not even responding in any degree to the opportunity offered by the high price and great demand for metal for electrical work."

"Balloon Scaffold."

M. Letorey, the French architect, has applied the captive balloon to the cleaning or decorating of cupolas, high roofs, towers or monuments. The balloon can be raised or lowered from a wagon by windlass, and it can be steered by stays from the side of the envelope. It has two platforms, or "nacelles," one at the top and the other underneath, and these communicate by ladder up a central tube. The "balloon scaffold," as it is called, might be useful and safe in many operations such as now require stepladders. For instance, the wreathing of Nelson's column and also in wireless telegraphy as an aerial station.—Washington Times.

The Sultan promises no crown, coronation being unknown in Turkey

A curious psychological study is suggested by the young man who needed money for his marriage, and accordingly went off and killed an express messenger and robbed the car, taking the plunder to his sweetheart to keep for the honeymoon. It sounds like a medieval romance.

Leaving aside all moral considerations, from a merely practical point of view the enterprise was so hazardous, the chance of escaping so infinitesimal, it is hard to imagine a sane man undertaking it. And assuming the one chance in a thousand, what could be the feelings of the man entering upon married life with the consciousness of such a crime as the price of it?

One can almost regret the quick detection that left no opportunity to watch the workings of conscience. If there ever was a chance for a remorse and self-betrayal we read in the story books it would have been in this very striking case. There was evidently some moral defect in the youth's make-up worth the attention of the criminologists. From the point of view of the public security, we must rejoice that he was promptly put under control.

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JOKE ON THE CHICKENS.

At Cape Nome They Are Exhausted Trying to Keep Regular Hours.

Anything more miserable than the life of a chicken up in the Cape Nome district cannot be well imagined, according to a letter received from W. J. Harden, at present prospecting there. At the date Mr. Harden wrote the sun set at 11:30 and rose again at 1:15. "The chickens cannot live here," Mr. Harden explains, "dying of exhaustion walking about waiting for the sun to set. They are up again at sun-rise, and a week of that sort of thing lays them out dead. We pay \$2.50 each for cold storage chickens."

In the winter season it would be just as tough on the bird, for the sun stays away as long during the winter as he reigns in summer, and four hours daylight is all they get.

Referring to the Cape Nome boom, Mr. Harden says it is too late for anyone else to go. Everything is pre-empted. "Some of the prospectors have taken as high as 150 claims, and I know of one instance where a man has 178. He will not be able to do the assessment work on all of them and these are the only inducements left."

According to the mining laws, in a quartz mine a prospector must sink ten feet for which the government allows \$10, and as the annual assessment must be \$100, that work complies with the requirements of the location right. On placer mines, such as those at Cape Nome, \$10 worth of work must also be done. Harden does not say what the rich sands are doing, but he took two rockers north with him, and by going over the sands already washed he manages to take from \$1 to \$3 dollars a day, "and we keep the rockers going all the time," he writes, "because there is no night here."

Speaking of the high prices charged in the over crowded district, he says "tea is 2 cents a cup; so is coffee. I paid \$10 a day at the hotel for seven days, and there were four of us in the party, making \$280. Lumber is \$150 a thousand and they cannot deliver it quick enough at that price. Beds are \$4 a night. Beef sells at 75 cents a pound, and Bacon at 35 cents. Long shorners get \$1.50 per hour and carpenters get \$5 a day and their board. Gamblers pay \$20 to the men they hire at their tables and gambling runs wide open."

The Iron Crown of Lombardy.

Italy's royal crown, traditionally known as the "iron crown of Lombardy," is probably the oldest diadem in existence. For 1,500 years it has been the symbol of a living power among the nations of Europe.

It was formed by the skillful hands of Roman goldsmiths early in the 6th century and sent by Pope Gregory the Great to the Gothic Queen Theodolinda when she had freed Lombardy of the Arian heresy. The outer circle is composed of six equal parts of beaten gold, joined together by hinges and set with rubies, emeralds and sapphires uncut, as they came from the mines, on a ground of blue and gold enamel. Within the circle is the iron band which, despite its age, does not bear a single speck of rust. In this great store is set by the admirers for the iron band, so tradition has it, is formed from a nail that was used at the crucifixion.

This band is three-eighths of an inch broad and one-tenth of an inch thick, and from it the crown derives its name. This celebrated iron nail, in original form, was given to Constantine by his mother, Empress Helena; thence it found its way into the possession of the highest rulers of the church, at whose direction the crown was made.

In later years it was used at the coronation of Lombard kings, primarily at that of Agilolphus at Milan in 591. The last sovereign who wore the crown was Napoleon I. In May, 1805, he assembled at Milan the dignitaries of the empire, the representatives of his royal and imperial allies and a splendid circle of marshals and generals and in their presence placed it on his head, repeating the motto of the "iron crown," "God has given it to me; woe to him who touches it." This same jeweled emblem of might and power graced the front of Charlemagne and a long succession of German emperors, ending with Charles V. It was once removed from the cathedral at Monza by the Austrians, while they were retreating from Lombardy in 1859. They took it to Mantua and subsequently to Vienna. There it remained until the treaty which ceded Venetia to Italy in 1866, when it was restored to its old home in the Monza sacristy, and there it rests to-day amid the other treasures of Theodolinda, her jeweled comb, her golden hen and seven chickens, the symbols of Lombardy and its provinces, and the crown of her husband, Agilolph.

The Man Who Murdered to Marry.

A curious psychological study is suggested by the young man who needed money for his marriage, and accordingly went off and killed an express messenger and robbed the car, taking the plunder to his sweetheart to keep for the honeymoon. It sounds like a medieval romance.

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