

The Grand Babylon Hotel

By ARNOLD BENNETT.

(To Be Continued Tomorrow.)

PART ELEVEN. (CHAPTER IX—Continued.)

Theodore Raskole opted, with peculiar glee, that there ought to be no extraordinary difficulty in getting hold of Jules' steam launch. There are hundreds of men between St. Katherine's wharf and Blackwall who literally know the Thames as the suburban householder knows his back garden. By these experts of the Thames the slightest unusual event on the water is noticed and discussed—a whiff of Jules' steam launch. They will guess shrewdly upon the price paid and the intentions of the new owner with regard to it. Raskole went to the customs house for a high official whom he had entertained once in New York, and who had met him in London on business at Lloyd's. In the office of the great man a long conversation took place. Then the official touched a bell button.

"Desire Mr. Hazell to speak to me," said the official to the boy who answered the summons.

"Mr. Hazell," said the high official, "is an examining officer. He has a boat on the river and a couple of men, and the right to board and examine any craft whatever. What Mr. Hazell and his crew don't know about the Thames between here and Gravesend isn't knowledge. Now, Mr. Raskole, the high official continued, "Mr. Raskole wants you to help in a little private expedition on the river to-night. I sent for you because I think I can rely on you to regard it as entirely unofficial and not to talk about it."

"I think I grasp the situation," said Mr. Hazell, with a slight smile.

Raskole took him to the launch and explained to him the object of the expedition.

That night, just after dark, Theodore Raskole embarked with Hazell in one of the black painted customs wherries, manned by a crew of two men. The wherry had instructions to drop slowly to the Pool, as the wide reach below the Tower is called. These two men had not been previously informed of the precise object of the expedition. Hazell judged it expedient to give them some notion of it. "We expect to come across a rather suspicious steam launch," he said. "My friend here is very anxious to get a sight of her, and until he has seen her nothing definite can be done."

"What sort of a craft is she, sir?" asked the stroke oar, a fat-faced man.

"I don't know," Raskole replied, "but as near as I can judge, she's about 60 feet in length and painted black. Her screw seemed to move with a rather irregular, lame sort of beat."

Both watermen burst into a laugh.

"Oh," said the fat rower, "I know what you're after, sir—it's Jack Everett's launch, commonly called 'Squirm.' She's got a four-bladed propeller, and one blade is broken off short."

"Ay, that's it, sure enough," agreed the man in the bows. "And if it's her you want, I needn't bring up against Cherry Gardens pier this very morning."

Hazell explained to the millionaire that the "Squirm" was one of the most notorious craft on the river. It appeared that when any one had a nefarious or underhand scheme afloat which necessitated river work, even the launch was always available for a suitable monetary consideration.

By the time they reached Cherry Gardens pier, a thin night fog had swept over the river. As the customs boat scraped down past the pier all its occupants strained eyes for a glimpse of the mysterious launch, but nothing could be seen of it. The boat continued to float idly down stream, the men resting on their oars. Then they narrowly escaped bumping a black "Squirm" sailing vessel at anchor with her stern pointing down stream. This ship they passed on the starboard side. Just as they got clear of her bowsprit the fat man cried out excitedly, "There's her nose!" and he put the boat about and began to pull back against the tide. And surely, amidst the confusion, the "Squirm" was comfortably anchored on the starboard quarter of the Norwegian ship, hidden nearly between the ship and the shore. The men pulled very quietly alongside.

Hazell stepped to the bow deck of the launch. "Anyone aboard?" Raskole's sole board him cry out, and a woman's voice answered, "I'm a customs examining officer and I want to search the launch." Hazell shouted, and disappeared into the little saloon amidships. It seemed to the millionaire that Hazell had been gone hours, but at length he returned, "Can't find anything," he said, as he jumped into the boat, and then privately to Raskole: "There's a woman on board. Looks as if she might coincide with your description of Miss Spencer."

"Where's she at?" The man in the bows interrupted Hazell. Following the direction of the man's finger, both Hazell and Raskole saw a dinghy slip away from the forefoot of the Norwegian vessel into the mist.

"It's Jules, I'll swear," cried Raskole. "After him, men. Ten pounds apiece if we overtake him."

"Lay down to it now, boys!" said Hazell and the heavy customs boat shot out in pursuit.

The boat was moving at a rapid pace with the tide. Raskole looked about him anxiously, but for a long time he could see nothing but mist and vague nautical forms. Then suddenly he said, quietly enough: "We are on the right road; I can see him ahead. We're gaining on him." In another minute the dinghy was plainly visible, not 50 yards away, and the sculler—sculling frantically now—was unmistakably Jules. Gradually they began to overtake the dinghy. As they came up, hand over hand, the dinghy's nose swerved aside, and the tiny craft passed down a water lane between two anchored mineral barges. They went on, but it was an empty dinghy which emerged from between the barges.

"It's all right," said the man in the bows. "If it's 'im you want, we've only got to step on and take 'im off."

"That's all," said a voice out of the depths of the nearest barge, and it was the voice of Jules, otherwise known as Mr. Tom. Tom had appeared silently behind Jules, and two small arms with a vicious shove precipitated him into the water. He fell with a fine gurgling splash. It was at once obvious that swimming was not among Jules' accomplishments. He floundered wildly and sank. When he reappeared he was dragged into the customs boat. Rops was produced, and in a minute or two the man lay ignominiously bound in the bottom of the boat. Before Raskole parted company with the customs boat that night Jules had been safely escorted into the Grand Babylon

Tax System Attacked at Educational Meet

Cleveland, O., Feb. 27.—Tax systems were attacked today by several speakers during general sessions of the National Education association convention in discussions on progress in solving school financial problems.

Pointing out that wealthier communities spend the larger amount per pupil whereas in some other manner the poorer communities have the highest tax rate, Dr. George D. Strayer of Columbia university, said: "If opportunity and burden are to be equalized the state must levy a tax upon the property or incomes of all the people, or in some other manner secure revenues by a system of taxation which bears with equal weight upon all."

Professor Strayer also advocated giving boards of education complete control of finances of the school system, contending that it would bring a larger tax rate, larger percentage of the total municipal tax rate devoted to schools and a larger expenditure per pupil in average daily attendance.

John H. Beveridge of Omaha, president of the department of superintendence, said a lack of definiteness in the course of study wastes the time of pupils and teachers, making it difficult for the teacher to keep the pupil mentally awake and morally alert and give him the social contact needed for citizenship.

Four Men Arrested in Investigation of Robbery

Four men were arrested yesterday afternoon for investigation in connection with the holdup of the office of the Merchants Express and Transfer company, 502 South Fourteenth street, last Friday.

They are John Babula, Chicago, Ill.; Edward Neary, 1802 Douglas street; Harry Mohander, 2304 1/2 Charles street, and Frank LaBuy, Chicago.

Bob Nabs 14 More.

Forty-seven men arrested Monday by General Prohibition Agent Bob Samardick gave bond of \$1,000 before United States Commissioner Boehler yesterday.

Douglas County to Spend \$1,000,000 for Paving

Douglas county will spend \$1,000,000 for paving during the coming summer, the board of county supervisors decided yesterday after consideration of the paving program.

Coupled with the plans for the expenditure of money was consideration of the sale of \$1,000,000 worth of bonds as part of the \$3,000,000 paving program laid out three years ago.

Advertisement for bids will begin in the near future, the board announced, and work will be pushed as rapidly as possible.

Not a Fire.

After a record of 26 calls in 12 hours recently, the Omaha fire department had a rest period Monday night. No alarms were turned in between 7:08 p. m. night and 9:10 a. m., a period of 13 hours and two minutes.

Motorist Hurt in Collision; Reckless Driving Charged

V. F. Kuncel, 1244 South Thirteenth street, was arrested yesterday on a charge of reckless driving when his car collided with a motorcycle delivery wagon driven by John Murphy, 5051

South Fortieth street, at Eighteenth and Webster streets. Murphy was bruised about the face and legs. He was taken to St. Catherine hospital.

Do You Know What It Was In "The Miracle Man" "Humoresque" "Over the Hill" and "Dream Street" That You Liked and Made Them Great Successes?

NO?

It Was Something That You Did Not See On the Screen!

Here Is One That Has It In a Different Way—

Edwin Carewe presents **MIGHTY LAKA ROSE**

A Symphony of Life in the High and Low Places by Curtis Benton. Directed by Edwin Carewe.

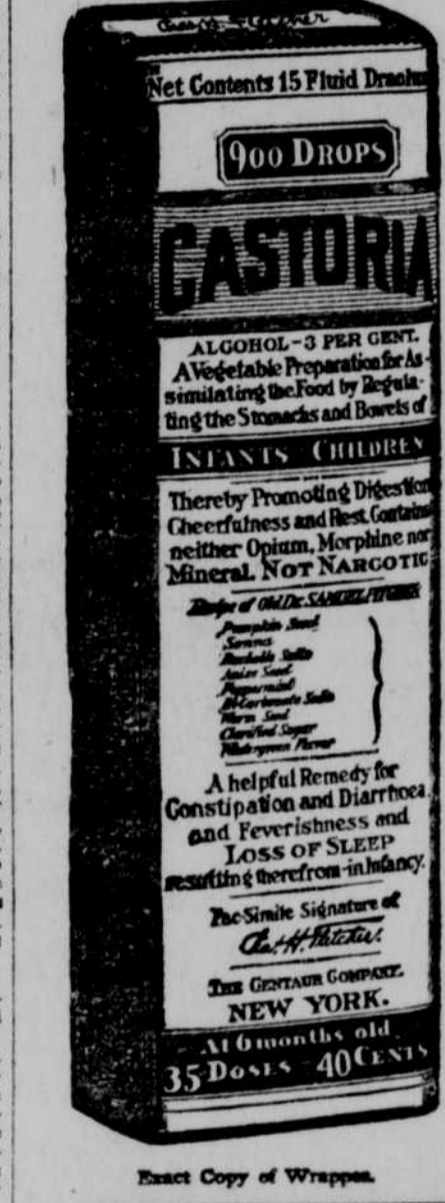
SEE IT SUNDAY AT THE **RIALTO**

When Baby Complains.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS a baby has of expressing any pain or irregularity or digression from its normal condition of health and happiness. A short sharp cry, a prolonged irritated cry. Restlessness, a constant turning of the head or of the whole body, fretful. In these and other ways a baby tells you there is something wrong. Most mothers know that a disordered stomach, or bowels that do not act naturally are the cause of most of baby's sufferings. A call for the doctor is the first thought, but in the event of any delay there should be ready at hand a safe remedy such as Fletcher's Castoria.

Castoria has been used for baby's ailments for over 30 years and has merited the good will of the family physician in a measure not equaled by any other baby's medicine because of its harmlessness and the good results achieved.

And remember this: Castoria is essentially a baby's remedy and not a cure-all for every member of the family. What might help you is too often dangerous when given to a babe.



Children Cry For Fletcher's CASTORIA

Let's Think It Over.

There is such a thing as saying too much on any subject, and the "grand-stand" talker sooner or later becomes a bore. The truth is always welcomed, and the truth reiterated and confirmed is more than welcome—it reaches your innermost soul.

Fletcher's Castoria is all its advertising has claimed for it. Scrutinized by the microscope of public opinion and used for over thirty years it stands without a peer in the hearts of thoughtful, cautious, discerning Mothers. And once used, mother love—there is no substitute for mother love—will scorn to try a "substitute" or a "just-as-good".

Masquerading under many names drugs that are injurious to the tender babe have found their way into some households, but the light of experience soon casts them out. Are they cast out before it is too late?

MOTHERS SHOULD READ BOOKLET THAT IS AROUND EVERY BOTTLE OF FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

GENUINE CASTORIA ALWAYS Bears the Signature of

Chas. H. Fletcher

THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY.

Empress

Last Times Today

AGNES AYRES

—in—
"A Daughter of Luxury"

A Paramount Picture in Conjunction with Big Time Vaudeville

RIALTO

NOW SHOWING

Charles Chaplin

in
"THE PILGRIM"

and
DOUGLAS McLEAN

in
"Bellboy"

AUTO SHOW

AUDITORIUM

ALL THIS WEEK

Admission 50c Including Tax

9:30 a. m. to 10:30 p. m.

BEE WANT ADS BRING RESULTS

12 HOURS surcharged with

EXCITEMENT SUSPENSE MYSTERY

all happening in

"ONE WONDERFUL NIGHT"

at the

WORLD

Next Saturday

Orpheum

ORPHEUM CIRCUIT VAUDEVILLE

Matinee Daily, 2:15. Every Night, 8:15

NOW PLAYING

The International Actor

MR. LOU TELLEGEN

Presenting His Own One-Act Play "BLIND YOUTH"

Scanlon, Deenan Bros., Guy & Pearl & Scanlon

Fred Moore & Leo Kendall

Allan Shaw — Cummings & White

Topics of the Day — Asop's Fables — Pathé News

WALTER C. KELLY

The Virginian Judge

MATINEES 15c to 50c. Plus U. S. Tax. NIGHTS 15c to \$1.00.

Last Day **MOON** Last Day

FRANK MAYO "The Flaming Hour"

New Show Tomorrow

NEIGHBORHOOD THEATERS

HAMILTON - . . . 40th and Hamilton

TOM MIX in "UP AND GOING"

VICTORIA - . . . 24th and Fort

ALL-STAR CAST in "RED HOT ROMANCE"

GRAND - . . . 16th and Blaney

ALL-STAR CAST in "BROAD DAYLIGHT"

Buffalo Bill—Chapter 15

Vaudeville—Photoplays

WORLD

NOW PLAYING

A Worth-While

Six-Act Bill

Headed by the All-Girl Revue

Fashion Plate MINSTRELS

STARTING SATURDAY

The Fascinating Star of the Greenwich Village Follies

Cecil Cunningham

NOW PLAYING

Strand

Unusual Different Fascinating

"JAVA HEAD"

LEATRICE JOY JACQUELINE LOGAN Raymond Hatton. Geo. Fawcett.

WHEN IN NEED OF HELP TRY OMAHA BEE WANT ADS.

Close Your Lips—

LAST TIMES FRI. **SUN** Last Three Days

"THE MAN WHO PLAYED GOD"

Can Read Them!

"OMAHA'S FUN CENTER" MAT. & NITE TODAY PRE-WAR PRICES

Gaiety

Sliding" BILLY WATSON'S HILARIOUS JUBILEE COLUMBIA

Featuring in Its Fun Than Any Car on Display BEAUTY CHORUS OF JOY RIDERS

821 Mat. & Nite Times Headline Today Circus

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

The 'ad that goes straight to every corner of the town.

The Forum of the People

The "Want" Ad section of The Omaha Bee is a forum of the people of Omaha.

The management of The Omaha Bee realized that Omaha was in need of a newspaper where the average layman could fill his wants at the lowest possible cost, consequently our rates for "Want" Ads—the people's wants—were lowered several months ago.

That Omahans appreciate this move is proven by the fact that The Omaha Bee now carries a page of legitimate "Want" Ads each day. They realize that here they secure as good—if not better—results than they do through any other Omaha newspaper—and at less cost.

If you have not been taking advantage of the low rates which The Omaha Bee "Want" Ad section offers you, NOW is the time to come to this forum. Telephone your next order to AT lantic 1000 and secure better results at lesser cost.

Read and Use Omaha Bee "Want" Ads—the Bee-line to Results.

The Omaha Morning Bee—THE EVENING BEE