

# An Awkward Situation

By JAMES OLIVER

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"Ha! Very capable work. What is that name in the corner?" inquired St. Clair, the famous painter, inspecting the work curiously with his short-sighted eyes.

"Rennie, Mr. St. Clair."

"Rennie? I never heard of him. But he'll make his mark some day, if he keeps on like that."

It was at the annual exhibition of the Amateurs' club. Rennie had been painting for five miserable years. His works had gone to the Fifth avenue dealers, and brought him just enough to keep him from starvation. Patient, loving Muriel, in their home town, might have to wait indefinitely before he could send for her to be married.

For three years Rennie had exhibited at the club, but never before had his painting even been noticed. This year St. Clair, kindly old man, had accepted an invitation to attend. His words filled Rennie, who was waiting near, with joy. St. Clair had noticed the worth of his work. A word from St. Clair would make him famous.

The next day he carried his picture back to his garret. And he sat down and thought over the scheme that had been hatching in his brain.

He was desperate. Things had been going worse than ever with him. Muriel, faithful as she was, had begun to grow impatient. She wanted to come to him, to share his poverty, she said. It was the letter of a lonely girl, beginning to doubt her lover's loyalty. For the first time she had begun to doubt—Rennie could read that between the lines.

He would take his picture to St. Clair—not the one the famous painter had praised, but his masterpiece of the wild horses, over which he had spent five months. It was unsigned, it was unfinished—only he knew that he had managed to catch the vital



Things Had Been Going Worse Than Ever With Him.

spirit of the steeds. St. Clair could not but praise it. He had heard extravagant reports of his generosity to struggling artists. A word from him, and fame would be his, and money, and Muriel.

Filled with the inspiration, he gathered his big picture under his arm and hurried through the streets to the painter's studio on Madison avenue. But when he reached it he saw that St. Clair was holding some sort of reception. People were flocking in and out, women fashionably dressed and men attired in silk hats and frock coats.

Rennie stood upon the sidewalk in indecision, holding his picture. He knew that if he turned back he would never gather courage to repeat his exploit. Emboldened by his need, he entered, and, in the hall, standing among a crowd of guests, was St. Clair.

The old man appeared to take in the situation at a glance, for he came up to Rennie and held out both his hands cordially.

"Won't you come into my studio?" he inquired, and, dismissing his guests for the moment with his courtly manner, he led the way into the elevator, which ran swiftly up to the top of the house, where it stopped in front of an open door.

"Now, sir?" inquired St. Clair, blandly, yet looking keenly upon his guest.

"Mr. St. Clair," the young man burst out impetuously, "you were kind enough to praise my picture, 'Lantern Light,' at the Amateurs' club yesterday."

"Indeed, I remember it very well, Mr.—Mr. Rennie," said the old man.

Then Rennie was amazed at the torrent of words that flowed from his lips. He told him everything, about his desperate struggle, even about Muriel, and ended by saying how a few words of praise from him would make his fortune. "And I have brought you my masterpiece," he ended naively.

St. Clair was much moved. He laid his hands in a fatherly manner on Rennie's shoulders.

"I won't offer an opinion now," he said, "because I am under the influence of the story that you have told me. I want to get the dispassionate view of a critic. Will you trust your picture with me until tomorrow?"

Stammering out his gratitude, Rennie withdrew. His last memory was of the old man's kindly smile and the warm shake of the hand. All that afternoon he trod upon air.

He hardly slept that night, and the next morning waited feverishly for the postman. St. Clair had promised to write him a note as soon as he had examined the picture. Of course the letter could not be any possibility arrive till afternoon, but Rennie was in that state of elation when the impossibility seems certain.

He paced the streets after the postman had gone, waiting for the next delivery. At the news stand he picked up his morning paper. On the front page he read the news of St. Clair's death. The old man had had a stroke of apoplexy the evening before.

Rennie let the paper fall from his hands and tears of mortification streamed down his face. His last hope gone! St. Clair dead, on whom all had depended!

It was three days before he recovered sufficiently to go for his picture. But, to his amazement, he was refused admission. The butler referred him to St. Clair's lawyer, who listened to his story with a quiet smile.

"You must realize, Mr. Rennie, that unless you can bring some proof that the picture is yours . . . have you any proof? You did not sign it, you say?"

"But it was not finished," cried Rennie.

The lawyer shrugged his shoulders. "All Mr. St. Clair's paintings are to be sold," he said. "You will have to take legal action in the matter. And, frankly, young man, no jury will believe you unless you have some evidence to bring forward. More than that, you will run the risk of a prosecution for perjury."

Rennie went out in a daze. He saw the truth of the lawyer's words. There was nothing that he could do.

A week later the auction came. Critics were enthusiastic over the large number of paintings that was to be put on the market. But of them all none excited greater enthusiasm than the unfinished work to which the critics gave the name "The Wild Horses."

Rennie attended the auction. The bidding quickly passed the average of five thousand dollars, at which the other pictures had gone. A dealer from the West offered seven thousand. Finally, after a spirited competition between him and Rennie's own dealer, the picture fell to the latter for twelve thousand.

And MacDrew had paid Rennie an average of fifteen dollars apiece.

Rennie went out of the auction room and wrote a letter to one of the papers. The newspaper refused to print it. It had no doubt that Rennie was an impostor, and, anyway, the editor felt that such a case should be aired in the law courts.

Rennie waited another day. Then he sat down and wrote a long letter to Muriel. It was the hopeless letter of a man who has been bowled over by the buffets of fate. He told her the facts of his struggle, culminating in the loss of his painting, and released her from their engagement.

But before he had risen from the table there came a knock at the door. Rennie opened it, to find an elderly woman, attired in black, standing before him.

"I am Mrs. St. Clair," she said. "Mr. Rennie, a terrible injustice has been done you, and it would have slipped from my mind had not our lawyer told me about your claim. He thought you were an impostor, but as soon as he told me I remembered.

"Mr. Rennie, my husband was the best and justest man in the world. On the night he died—the stroke came very suddenly, you know—he was trying to speak to me. He was paralyzed and he could only mumble, but I managed to make out what he was trying to say. He said that a picture in his studio had been painted by—you couldn't catch the name, but it was yours—and that, in case he died, he didn't want it to be sold as his, especially since you had left no address, and he had given you no receipt for it.

"I have written a letter to the newspapers, and meanwhile the money for the painting must go to you."

Rennie did not know how he replied. He remembered taking her hands in his and thanking her a thousand times. And when she left it was with the understanding that Rennie was to consider her his friend—always, she said.

Hardly had she gone before the postman brought a letter—from Muriel this time. Opening it, Rennie read that she loved him, he must never think otherwise, and she would wait a dozen more years if necessary.

"Only I hope to see you, dear, almost as soon as you get this letter," she said, "because my uncle has left me five hundred dollars, and I am taking the morning train to New York, and I want you to meet me at seven o'clock in the evening at the station. And, dearest, remember that five hundred dollars will go far, and what is mine is yours."

Rennie had never been so happy as when he was wildly sprinting to meet the seven o'clock train. And he knew in his heart that Muriel would never return, alone, to Freeport.

**Biggest Borrower.**  
New York is the largest city borrower in the world. It borrowed more than \$50,000,000 in 1913. It is also the largest land owner within the city limits, holding property valued at \$1,425,491,300.

## U. S. STAND MAY HIT BLOW AT WAR

### Freedom of Seas Would Remove One Cause of Fight.

## ANXIOUS TO END WAR

### Germany's Answer On Arable Key-note—If This Is Satisfactory, Appeal To England Would Follow.

Washington.—Growing belief exists in official and diplomatic circles here that general peace negotiations may be set in motion among the belligerent nations of Europe if the United States succeeds in reaching a perfectly satisfactory understanding with Germany.

That Germany's sudden change of front toward this country and her willingness, as set forth by Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador to the United States, to make her submarine warfare comply with the demands of the United States have made a profound impression abroad is a fact reflected in all the dispatches coming here from the European capitals. Assuming that Germany's promises are genuine, world-wide opinion would seem to have conceded that the United States has attained a position of powerful influence from which to address new offers of mediation to the warring powers.

**Next Protest To England.**  
It is a forgone conclusion here that as soon as the German controversy is put finally to rest, the United States will address to Great Britain a vigorous demand for relief from the hardships imposed on American commerce by the British orders in council and contraband decrees. In doing this Secretary Lansing will be in position to inform Great Britain that Germany has removed the chief excuse which the British Foreign Office has pleaded in justification of its own unprecedented restrictions against neutral commerce, namely, the excuse that Germany was conducting an illegal form of submarine warfare justifying extreme retaliatory measures. It is expected that on the basis of the success he has met with in dealing with Germany, Mr. Lansing will insist that Great Britain modify her orders in council and contraband decrees and permit American cotton and American foodstuffs to reach Germany. Should Great Britain, too, concede, it is believed that the United States, by getting the two countries, through her, to agree to a modus vivendi for the protection of neutral rights in the war zone, will have paved the way for general peace negotiations.

### POLK TO BE COUNSELOR.

### Secretary Lansing Announces New Member Of State Department.

Washington.—The selection of Frank L. Polk, corporation counsel of New York city, to be counselor of the State Department, was formally announced by Secretary Lansing. The President has tendered the position to Mr. Polk, who has accepted. Mr. Polk will succeed Mr. Lansing, who became Secretary on the resignation of William Jennings Bryan last June. The counselor's office has been vacant since Mr. Lansing took his place in the Cabinet and there has been much gossip as to who would fill it.

## ARABIC SURVIVORS SAIL.

### St. Paul Leaves Liverpool With All Berths Occupied.

London.—The American Line steamer St. Paul, which sailed for New York from Liverpool Wednesday, had on board a number of survivors of the steamer Arabic. Virtually all the berths on the St. Paul were occupied. A number of passengers who had engaged accommodations, however, canceled their passage at the last moment owing to what were considered here the more acute relations between the United States and Germany arising from the sinking of the Arabic.

## PRUSSIAN LOSS 1,740,836.

### Latest Casualty List Includes Names Of 42,245.

Amsterdam, via London.—The Prussian casualty lists, from number 362 to number 309, give the names of 40,245 killed, wounded and missing, according to the Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant. The total number of Prussian losses published up to August 24 amounts to 1,740,836 killed, wounded and missing, says the paper. To the above must be added the Bavarian casualty list No. 214, the Saxon list No. 184, and Wuertemberger list No. 247 and the naval list No. 44.

## ACCUSED OF WRECKING BANK.

### President and Cashier Alleged To Have Taken \$100,000.

Houston, Texas.—H. J. Bolton, president, and B. B. Taylor, cashier, of the Wharton National Bank, of Wharton, Texas, were charged with conspiracy to embezzle and misapply funds of the bank amounting to \$100,000. The institution was closed recently by the Comptroller of the Currency. The accused officials were held in bonds of \$15,000 each.

## 3 POWDER MILLS BLOWN TO PIECES

### Explosions at Wilmington, Del., and Action, Mass.

## TWO KILLED AT THE DU PONT

### Officials Of the Du Pont Powder Company Do Not Believe the Explosion At Their Two Mills Caused By Any Deliberate Action.

Wilmington.—With terrific reports which could be heard for miles two powder mills of the Du Pont Powder Company, at its Brandywine plant three miles west of this city, exploded Sunday morning, killing Lawrence Cunningham, aged 45, married, of Henry Clay, and Hugh Gillespie, 35, of Hazleton, Pa. The cause has not been determined. Several hundred pounds of powder of a powerful brand were stored in each mill. The first mill to go up was a fuse plant, the blast from which caused the explosion of the second mill nearby.

The two victims were employed in the fuse mill. Only one body was found, but whether it is that of Cunningham or Gillespie it is impossible to tell, it being mangled and burned beyond recognition. The other workman was blown to atoms, the only remains found being a few bits of charred flesh hanging to the branch of trees across the Brandywine Creek from the mills. Both mills were completely destroyed, being swept clean from their foundations. The force of the explosion hurled pieces of machinery, shafting and large stones a considerable distance in all directions and trees were either uprooted or twisted as if in the path of a cyclone.

## ACTON PLANT CRIPPLED.

### Powder Explosion Believed Result Of Plot To Halt Work.

Acton, Mass.—With a shock that was felt within a radius of 40 miles, the glazing mill of the American Powder Company, which, since the outbreak of the European war, has been working to its capacity, blew up early Sunday. So far as known nobody was killed.

The actual money loss to the company was not heavy, but it was stated that work on large orders probably would be held up for several weeks. Property-owners in the surrounding towns, particularly in Maynard, were heavy losers because of the shattered windows.

The mill had been closed down since Saturday afternoon and the police of this town and Maynard expressed the belief that the explosion had been caused with intent to cripple the plant.

## FRANCE TAKES KING'S ESTATE.

### Property Of German Princes Will Be Administered By State.

Paris.—The property rights of three German princes in the estate of a French king have been taken over for the period of the war by the Government. The property in question consists of the interests of Prince Pierre Auguste, Prince Auguste Leopold and Prince Louis Gaston, of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, in the Association of the Forest of Dreux. The society was organized to administer the undivided property of the heirs of King Louis Philippe.

## TO INCREASE RANGE OF GUNS.

### Main Batteries Of Battleships To Have Elevation Of 30 Degrees.

Washington.—Main batteries of American battleships hereafter will be given an elevation of 30 degrees, practically doubling the present angle of fire, according to a decision reached by Navy Department experts. It is said, after close study of all available information on naval engagements of the European war. Wherever possible ships now under construction and those already in commission, it is understood, will be similarly fitted.

## FRANK INQUEST FUTILE.

### Jury Returns Verdict That Lynchers Are Unknown.

Marietta, Ga.—Without being able to elicit from any one of 11 witnesses a single clue as to the identity of any person connected with the lynching of Leo M. Frank, a coroner's jury returned a verdict that Frank came to his death by hanging at the hands of parties unknown. City and county officials testified that they had endeavored diligently to get at the facts of the lynching, but that so far their efforts had been of no avail.

## BAD SMASH UP ON N. & W.

### Fireman Killed and Passengers Injured In Collision Near Gary.

Bluefield, W. Va.—Norfolk and Western passenger train No. 1 was in collision with a freight train near Gary, W. Va. The passenger cars were smashed and the engines locked together and rolled down the bank. Fireman T. M. Bailey was caught under the engine and instantly killed. A score or more of passengers were injured.

## MEXICANS MAY HOLD ELECTIONS

### Desire to Select President in Peaceful Way.

## DEMAND OF U. S. IS HEEDED

### According to Advices Favorable Letters Have Been Received From All Of the Mexican Leaders Except Carranza.

Washington.—The Pan-American conference on Mexican affairs will shortly be reassembled to consider carrying out the peace plan proposed to the various factions in the republic. Favorable replies have been received from Villa, Zapata and their military leaders and the influential civic authorities and prominent citizens to whom the note was addressed, with the exception of Carranza and his military commanders. The great majority express a desire to meet in a peaceful way and select a provisional president who will be acceptable to the United States and the other American republics.

Although Secretary Lansing would say nothing about the conference just held, a general idea of what transpired is known. The replies thus far received were considered. A tentative arrangement was made looking to an early reconvening of the conference, when the tenor of the responses will be made public, and the Mexican people will be told to call their convention and elect their man. This convention naturally will not be held in Carranza territory. The State Department is advised that if the Mexican representatives are permitted to meet un molested they will give voice to their real choice for the first time since the overthrow of Diaz.

The United States will give official recognition to the new President and his government and extend its moral support. Similar action will be taken by the Latin-American republics. The provisional government will be permitted to buy arms in this country if necessary to sustain itself and an embargo will be established against the exportation of munitions of any kind to Carranza.

El Paso, Texas.—General Pascual Orozco, wanted by the Department of Justice for defaulting his bond, when held with General Huerta on charges of conspiracy to violate American neutrality, was here spent the forenoon with his family at his residence and disappeared 15 minutes before Department of Justice representatives appeared there to place him under arrest.

## 62 AIRMEN DROP BOMBS.

### French Squadron, In Raid On German Arms Factory.

Paris.—Sixty-two French aviators flew over a German arms factory to the north of Saarlouis, throwing down a total of more than 150 shells. Thirty of these were of large calibre. The report of the raid says:

"On August 25 an aerial squadron, composed of four groups and including a total of 62 aviators, flew over the heights of Dellingen. Here there is a factory where shells and armor plate are made. The location of this plant is to the north of Saarlouis, in Rhenish Prussia, 30 miles southeast of Treves. The aviators threw down with precision over 150 bombs, 30 of which were of large calibre."

## 19 SHIPS SUNK IN WEEK.

### U-Boats Send Down 14 Steamers Of 47,698 Tons In Two Days.

London.—During the week ending August 25, 19 British merchant vessels, with a total tonnage of 76,000, and three fishing vessels were destroyed by submarines or mines. The week was one of the most successful German under-water craft have had since the commencement of the war. Fourteen steamers, with a total gross tonnage of 47,698, were sunk by German submarines August 19 and 20. The largest of them was the Arabic. Ten of the vessels were British and four sailed under neutral flags.

## GERMAN RESERVIST HELD.

### Gustav Kopsch Arrested For Taking Pictures Of Fortress.

Washington.—Gustav Kopsch, a young German employed as an instrument maker by the Carnegie Institution here, was arrested by agents of the Department of Justice, charged with violating the Federal law for protection of the national defenses by making pictures of military reservations. He was held in \$5,000 bail, and will be sent to Norfolk for trial in the United States District Court there.

## MRS. EDITH SPRECKELS WEDS.

### Frank W. Wakefield's Bride A Few Hours After Divorce.

Honolulu.—Mrs. Edith Spreckels, who Wednesday secured a final decree of divorce from John D. Spreckels, Jr., of San Francisco, was married here Thursday to Frank W. Wakefield, also of San Francisco. The ceremony was performed at a hotel where Mrs. Spreckels had been residing by Gilbert Waller, presiding elder of the Reorganized Mormon Church.

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