

The VALE OF ARAGON

By FRED McLAUGHLIN

Author of "The Blade of Picardy"
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THE STORY

In the city of New Orleans, in 1821, Loren Garde, recently an officer under General Jackson, is surprised by the appearance of three figures, in ancient Spanish costume, two men and a woman whose beauty enchants him. Representing the arrogance of the elder of the two men, Garde fights a duel with him with swords, and wounds him. He learns his opponent is Adolfo de Fuentes, colonel in the Spanish army in Venezuela. Garde overhears a plot to overthrow Spanish rule in Venezuela. Discovered, he fights, but is overpowered. Garde finds himself a prisoner on the Santa Lucroela, ship bearing arms and ammunition for the Venezuelans. On board are the conspirators, the lady of his love, her brother Polito, and De Fuentes. From the girl, Garde learns her name is Dulce Lamartina. He loves her, but does not reveal his love. The vessel is wrecked and Garde reaches the Venezuelan shore, alone. He encounters a stranger and sees Dulce with De Fuentes and Polito. Learning his history, the stranger, who is Captain Monahan of the British legion under Bolivar, urges Garde to join the Venezuelans, but his mind is set on again seeing Dulce. Monahan directs him to friends in Caracas. There Garde, supplied by Monahan with the secret sign of the patriots, is welcomed at the revolutionary headquarters. With a companion, Manuel, Garde goes to the cathedral, where the wedding of Dulce and De Fuentes is in progress. Dulce recognizes him and leaves De Fuentes at the altar. She is torn from Garde's arms. He escapes.

CHAPTER V

Adios

Even as I entered the spacious home of Thomas Carrasco a file of soldiers deployed and surrounded it. Verily, Morales moved swiftly—and I knew I would never win free of Caracas. Yet, I had held her in my arms again, had lost myself in the sweet depths of her eyes, had heard her call my name, had felt the touch of her fingers. To my starved soul that was very much indeed, so I laughed gaily as the good Tomas, all of a tremble, hurried into my comfortable quarters. "Do they seek thee, Senor—these soldiers?" "Aye, Tomas; I am very valuable to them, for I have just disarranged a wedding, and I have put a lasting hurt into the heart of Colonel Fuentes." "Ah, misfortune, Senor; it will bring death to all of us!" "Not so, Tomas; this will bring death only to a poor French sailor who would feast his soul upon the beauty of a lady. This inn of yours is open to any traveler who has money to pay for accommodations. You know nothing of me; I shall assure them." As a sergeant and five soldiers—and Lieutenant Polito—marched in from the patio I chose the side of the room farthest from the window, that I might stand as much as possible in the gloom. The sergeant turned to Polito, who shook his head and touched his bandaged throat with caressing fingers, then the sub-officer addressed me: "Are you the devil, Senor, who has put a spell upon the Senorita Lamartina?" "There is too much flattery in your words, sergeant," I said. "You assign too much power to me, and I think it is the Senorita who has cast a spell upon all of us." Polito started and stared. "What are you called, Senor?" "Timoleon Sourdez," said I, choosing at random the first name that came into my mind, "a sailor raised in the Indies, who will work for anybody, on any ship, at any time. I am a floater—that's all." "How came you, Senor, in the cathedral?" "I sat alone, this morning, in the Plaza San Jacinto, while people passed to the great church. A swarthy sailor, doubtless having sympathy for my loneliness, led me in so that I might view the wedding of the beautiful lady of Spain and the wise Colonel Fuentes. If evil has been wrought in the cathedral, Sergeant, it is no work of mine." "Yet you—" "The Frenchman, Senor, is ever a lover; and if I stared at her is it anything a thousand others were not doing?" "Yet she—" "Ah, must I let her fall, fainting, to the carpeted aisle; would that have been the act of a Frenchman? We are a chivalrous race, Senor, and we offer our arms—and our hearts—at all times. May one do less?" Polito swung his legs, a half-smile on his handsome face. The sergeant shrugged his shoulders helplessly and turned toward his superior. "If the lieutenant desires to question him—" "Not at all," said Polito. His voice was a hoarse, rasping whisper, yet so plying an effort sent him off into a paroxysm of coughing. "The Senor Lieutenant has an atrocious cold," I ventured. Whereupon he smiled at me in the friendliest manner. "I was in a storm," he explained. "I am sorry, and your head—" "Is doing nicely, thank you; it came in contact with a spar." He studied my face for half a minute. "Things might be worse, Senor." "A philosophic view indeed," said I, "and one in which I cannot share, for soldiers at this moment surround my place of abode." He laughed, a sorry effort, but suf-

ficient. "A temporary arrangement, I think. Perhaps they imagine that the tall sailor, who has really offered only the Frenchman's worship to beauty, might escape—like a moon-wraith."

A wild surge of joy went over me. Polito knew me, he was my friend, he was telling me that I would be free! I could have thrown my arms around him. "And the guards, Senor Lieutenant—" "Have been placed there by order of Colonel Fuentes, and will be removed, therefore, only by his order. I shall see him, however, within the hour."

"I pray, Senor Lieutenant," I said fervently, "that I shall cause no further disturbance—if, indeed, I have been the cause of any. When my guards have been removed I shall take the way to La Guaira, where some ship—" "Now, watching his face, I saw that Polito did not brighten at this prospect, and I was glad, for, so long as the Senorita Dulce remained in Venezuela, there would I remain. "Adios, then," said he.

I heard, in less than an hour, the crisp bark of orders and the sounds of shod feet on the stones of the patio; sounds that, fading swiftly, told me that the guards had gone, and that I was free again. Yet, free, I hesitated to leave Caracas, even if I were permitted. If I were free why should I go, why should I leave the Senorita, who was still the Senorita, and not yet the Senora de Fuentes? I could not hope to disarrange another wedding, and if Dulce were willing to marry Adolfo today why should she be unwilling tomorrow? Yet she did not love him; of that I felt very sure. Why, then should she marry him at all?

While I pondered thus, accomplishing nothing, a subtle fragrance filled the room. I dared not believe my senses. The Senorita? It could not be. Dulce would not come to see me here. I was dreaming; my insane worship had touched my brain, and I would see her, doubtless, all the rest of my life. I had heard of such a thing, or read of it, and had laughed. A slim figure stood in the doorway, a figure all in lacy black, with a heavy veil that effectually concealed the features. One might not have known whether she were dark or light, but I knew.

"Again, Senorita," I said, bowing over a slim hand, "you find me in a prison. The visit of an angel could not have been—" She touched my hair with trembling fingers. "It was light, was it not, Senor? I have dreamed of your hair as being light! was all that just a dream—and am I dreaming now?" "I hardly know what has been real, and what—" "Did I not see you first in the moonlight, Senor, hatless, and with a strange light in your eyes? Did you not come to my aid when I called, and did not you find me in the storm? Did not your eyes draw me away from the altar? Are you now only the spirit of the man who was lost in a raging sea?"

I tried to laugh. "I am only a sort of shadow, Your Majesty, which will follow you everywhere. Wherever you go there will I go, for you are the star of my hope; your voice—" "You are mad, Senor. You—you came to the cathedral, then, to—" "I went to the cathedral to stop the wedding."

"Mother Mary!" she gasped. "And I went to the altar with Adolfo to save you. You should have left the city ere this. They offered to sell me your life, your freedom. Why did you not go when you had the opportunity?" "My life, and my freedom, belonged to me. You speak in parables, Your Majesty."

Now her blue eyes—a haunting fear in their depths—sought my face. "Oh, I am ashamed," she sobbed, "ashamed. I would save your life because you have offered so much. They told me you were a prisoner in the dungeon, and were awaiting execution, and that I—" "Your Majesty," I said, helpless before her, "Your Majesty . . . I feel very, very happy—and very humble." "It was little enough for me to do, for you had saved—" "If you do not love Adolfo, it was too much for you to do."

"Marriages in Spain, Senor, are not arranged by those most interested. As I sat through the passage of the leaden hours a darkness settled on my prison, and on my soul as well. I waited with the dull fatalism of the condemned for the coming of him who would see to my execution. Having lost the Senorita, there was nothing more that I could lose; life without her would be a futile thing, a vain effort, empty of all that which should make a life worth while. A full moon, thrusting above the rim of the eastern hills, had just begun to spread its golden mantle over the city when Adolfo came; his guards, eight in number, stationing themselves outside my door that led into the patio. The recklessness that comes to one whose hours are numbered had laid a spell upon me.

"Well," I cried gaily as he entered, "if it isn't the stranded bridegroom!" He stabbed me with a baleful eye. "You might not deem that quite so clever, Senor, if you had known I am familiar with your English." (TO BE CONTINUED.)

Fear Spread of Cancer Through Tarred Roads

The system of tarring roads has come into great vogue throughout France and several objections have been raised. In the first place, it is said that the dust arising therefrom gradually strangles the trees along the roadside, and a more serious matter is that Doctor Forveau of Courmelles has uttered a cry of alarm and awakened the fear that tarred highways may cause an increase of cancer. He bases his fears on the existence of experimental cancer in mice succeeding local applications of tar on the skin and on cancers observed in workmen who handle tar. Doctor Forveau fears that the dust of the road, when composed of siliceous granules with sharp points and

edges, and impregnated with tar, may cause traumatism of the mucosa of the respiratory and digestive tracts, capable of producing cancer, just as pulmonary tuberculosis may be facilitated in cutters of millstones by the siliceous dust that they inspire.

Now, although I was sure this visit of the Senorita Lamartina would be my death warrant—for Adolfo would know whether she had gone—I laughed in the fullness of a great joy, for I knew that De Fuentes had lost. "Has the air of Venezuela, Your Majesty, tarnished your tin soldier, or perhaps the moonlight of New Orleans—" "Can you jest so, Senor, when you must know they are seeking you out even now? You should never have come here; there is danger here for you."

"Assuredly; yet wherever the Senorita goes—" "Caracas is filled with your enemies."

"Aye, and I have friends here, Senorita, the best friends that man ever had—fervent patriots who are working for the freedom of a great empire; men whom Spain will never conquer, soldiers who follow a man of destiny."

An expression of sadness touched her eyes. "Yet you told me, Senor, that you did not serve Bolivar."

"I did not serve him then, Your Majesty, but since that time, I have looked upon the dead city of Tucayan, and a people who can sanction such an act of senseless brutality—" "Ah, Senor, this nightmare of murder . . . This Bolivar who has brought about all the wars, and the killings. Would you serve this vulture, Senor?" She caught the lapels of my rough jacket in trembling fingers. "Senor," she said breathlessly, "my father spent his life in the service of Spain, and Polito, my brother, will doubtless do the same. One's country is one's life. Did you come to Venezuela, Senor, to offer service to Bolivar?"

"As you very well know, I followed the Senorita Lamartina to Venezuela. "Did you journey to Caracas to serve Venezuela?" "I saw the Senorita riding toward Caracas, and I followed her, as I would always."

"Did you visit the cathedral today because of your love for the fervent patriots?" "I heard the sounds of marching men, and knew that the guards had returned. This, then, was the end. "I would not hurt you, Senorita, yet I must tell you; I would tell you that my worship for you has been a sort of glory in my life, that your face has filled my dreams, that your voice has seemed—" "Please, Senor, I cannot—" "Under happier circumstances, Your Majesty, I could have offered very much, but with the soldiers waiting to take me to the dungeon, I can only tell you that I love you, can only offer gratitude to you for the joy my worship has given me."

She faced me, her eyes shining with tears. "There have been too many soldiers in my family, Senor, for me to love an enemy of Spain."

"Love is not a matter of nationality." "No," she said sadly, "it is a madness, a wretched insanity."

She held out her hand and I pressed the fingers against my lips. "Ah, Senorita, I love you so!" "Dios!" she gasped. "Today I tried to buy your liberty, and you didn't need it; tomorrow, when you need it, I shall try again, for you have offered so much. You will be free, then, to serve—" "Ah, Dulce mia, may I—" "Adios, Senor."

As I sat through the passage of the leaden hours a darkness settled on my prison, and on my soul as well. I waited with the dull fatalism of the condemned for the coming of him who would see to my execution. Having lost the Senorita, there was nothing more that I could lose; life without her would be a futile thing, a vain effort, empty of all that which should make a life worth while.

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Maze Has Attractions

Herodotus tells of an Egyptian maze renowned 2,300 years before Christ. Whether the labyrinth was designed originally as an ingenious means of recreation, or as a no less ingenious means of inflicting psychological torture, is not determined. It might serve either purpose. Showmen at fairs and expositions have found it a profitable attraction.

News Review of Current Events the World Over

National Government Under MacDonald Supplants British Laborite Cabinet—Gifford Organizes Campaign for Relief in America.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD



Stanley Baldwin

GREAT BRITAIN'S economic and financial crisis has resulted in the formation of a national or coalition ministry which is expected to hold office for only a few months and in that time to work out the grave problem of balancing the budget. Prime Minister MacDonald found himself caught between the two fires of the demand by the Conservatives and Liberals for reduction of the dole and the absolute refusal of the trades union congress to accept that expedient for the financial relief of the country. Eight members of his cabinet of Laborites resigned, so Mr. MacDonald gave up the struggle and hurried to Buckingham palace where he handed to King George the resignation of the entire ministry. The king, who had rushed back from Scotland, called Stanley Baldwin, the Conservative leader, and Sir Herbert Samuel, acting leader of the Liberals, into conference and it was decided that a national government should be formed.

At the suggestion of Mr. Baldwin, Mr. MacDonald was persuaded to resume his place as prime minister, and a cabinet, small as in war time, was selected, these being the members:

Laborites—Mr. MacDonald, Philip Snowden, J. H. Thomas, and Lord Balfour.

Conservatives—Stanley Baldwin, Neville Chamberlain, Sir Samuel Hoare, former chancellor of the exchequer, and Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister.

Liberals—Sir Herbert Samuel and the marquis of Rending.

Eight other ministers without cabinet rank were appointed.

In a radio address Mr. MacDonald defended the proposed reduction of the dole.

Mr. MacDonald is denounced in some Labor circles as a traitor, and elsewhere is being hailed as almost a hero. He seemingly has sacrificed his personal ambition and perhaps his political future to help his country out of its financial straits.

The London Daily Herald, chief organ of the Labor party, charges that the fall of the Labor government was dictated by the United States Federal Reserve bank. A condition to the granting of further credits, it says, was a drastic reduction in the dole. This was flatly denied by Snowden and others. High officials in Washington said they had not heard that an additional loan had been asked of the federal reserve system by the British government. It was their belief that the coalition ministry would be able to rescue the nation from its difficulties.

WITH headquarters in the great building of the Department of Commerce in Washington, Walter S. Gifford, head of the American Telegraph and Telephone company and now director of national relief, is rapidly getting ready his organization for the strenuous work of combating unemployment and distress throughout the country. His able assistant is Fred C. Croxton, acting chairman of the emergency committee on unemployment which has been busy since last fall gathering information. And the 52 members of the advisory committee named by President Hoover, representing all sections of the land, are rendering such service as they can. Then, too, there are many capable volunteers, and also hired experts to handle technical matters in connection with the great campaign for funds that is planned.

Mr. Gifford spent the week end with Mr. Hoover at the Rapidan camp and they discussed the problem thoroughly in all its phases. The President received telegrams from Governors Emerson of Illinois, Rolph of California, Tudor of Maine and Winant of New Hampshire and from other individuals assuring of their cooperation with the relief group. Governor Roosevelt of New York sent a message concerning unemployment to the state legislature which met in special session primarily to handle other matters.

Plans worked out by the President and Mr. Gifford call for complete organization of the entire country for the relief task the nation must face this winter. All relief agencies are to be welded into one system so there will be no duplication of effort and no section of the country will be neglected. Under the direction of the Washington organizations communities which have not yet begun to prepare for the winter are expected to make new efforts to obtain funds with which to supply local needs.

The President and Mr. Gifford were in agreement that the relief load must be carried by combined state and community effort. While the federal gov-

ernment will aid in organizing relief activities and in the drive for funds, every attempt is to be made to frustrate all attempts to pass "dole" legislation.

Senator Couzens of Michigan has generously offered to donate \$1,000,000 to the jobs of Detroit providing \$9,000,000 can be raised from other sources.

In the effort to avoid a winter shortage of food in drought sections the American Red Cross is sending fall garden seed to tens of thousands of rural families.

SEVERAL congressmen, speaking on behalf of American shipping interests, are protesting against the deal made between the federal farm board and the government of Brazil, because the 25,000,000 bushels of wheat which will be traded for coffee will be transported to Brazil in Brazilian vessels. Chairman Stone of the farm board said nothing could be done about it, as the negotiations had been closed. Representative Frank L. Bowman of West Virginia declared the action of the board in allowing Brazil to arrange the transportation was a "colossal economic blunder" and in violation of the spirit of the merchant marine act. The American Steamship Owners' association sent a protest to President Hoover.

Probably, as Mr. Stone says, nothing can be done in this instance, but it is more than likely that if the board makes sales of wheat or cotton to China and other countries, American shipping interests will be protected.

EVERY family man employed by the Ford Motor company at Iron Mountain, Mich., will have to cultivate a garden next year if he expects to retain his job. Such is the edict of Henry Ford, who thus hopes to relieve his employees from the effects of the temporary business depression. He believes other companies throughout the country will take similar measures. He has been studying the problem while on a tour of inspection and is convinced there is no use trying to help men who do not try to help themselves by raising vegetables for their families.

"When the people of our country learn to help themselves they will be benefited far greater than they would be by unemployment insurance, as is being suggested in congress," Ford said. "If our agriculture plans are adopted throughout the country such a thing as the dole system need never be thought of."

Family men who have no available space for gardening, Ford said, would be supplied with land by the company, which would provide expert advice for those not familiar with garden work. He added that an investigation would be started soon to determine which of his employees needed instruction.

THERE were indications that the campaign in the Southwest to force the price of crude oil up to \$1 a barrel would be successful, but the fields of Oklahoma and east Texas were still kept closed tight by the militia and those of Kansas were shut by order of the state public service commission. Several big oil companies made overtures to Governors Murray and Sterling, but both said the lid would stay clamped down until the major purchasers met the price of \$1 a barrel. Meanwhile the prices paid for oil moved steadily upward in the states named, and also in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Louisiana and Arkansas.

California refiners profited by the shortage caused by the shut down, shipping gasoline in large quantities to the east coast. A curtailment program is in effect there too, and producers are drawing from their storage tanks to supply the eastern markets.

DAY by day the flood disaster in central China grows worse. Dispatches describe the terrible conditions in the valley of the Yangtze where all the country except the hills-tops is under water, junks sailing unobstructed over hundreds of towns and villages. Uncounted thousands of the inhabitants have drowned and hundreds of thousands of others are starving or dying of pestilence. On every bit of land that is still unroofed are throngs of refugees without food, drink or shelter and most of them beyond help. The three great cities of Hankow, Wuchang and Hanyang are in desperate state, threatened with complete destruction, and Anking, Kiukiang and other cities are little better off. The tea crop of central China has been utterly ruined.

Survivors of the recent floods in Vera Cruz, San Luis Potosi, Tamaulipas and Guanajuata, Mexico, are now confronted with worse horrors than drowning. With the receding of

the waters has come an outbreak of yellow fever, dysentery and other diseases; and as if this were not enough, hordes of snakes are traversing the mud covered lands, attacking everyone in their path.

NEW YORK city, aroused to fury by the exploits of its gangsters which rival or surpass those of Chicago's gunmen, has started on a campaign to rid itself of those thugs. The police force was told to arrest all known or suspected criminals. A great mass meeting was held in Madison Square garden and the speakers, who included Bainbridge Colby, blamed prohibition and crooked politics for the gang outbreaks. The city administration was bitterly denounced, Mayor Walker coming in for some hard slaps.

OPPOSITIONERS of prohibition are rejoicing in the acquisition of an important recruit to their ranks. He is Samuel Vauclain, steel magnate and locomotive builder, one of those captains of industry whose opinions are generally held in high respect. S. Vauclain. For years Mr. Vauclain was a strong supporter of the dry law on economic grounds and because it abolished the saloon. But he now declares the speakeasy has nullified the benefits of the law, the attempts at enforcement are failures, and the Eighteenth amendment should be repealed. The national treasury should collect much of the millions now going to the bootleggers, Mr. Vauclain avers, and he supports, to some degree, Senator Morrow's plan which would restore to each state the power to enact its own dry laws.

Somewhat the same plan was advocated by Senator Robert J. Bulkley of Ohio in an address before a big Democratic rally in Kenton, Ohio, in which he declared the right to control liquor traffic should be returned to the sovereign states. Outlining a plan for resubmission of the Eighteenth amendment to the states, Bulkley said he hoped such a plan would be placed before constitutional conventions rather than state legislatures. He urged a plank for the Democratic party "which would take prohibition out of national politics once and for all."

Incidentally, Senator Bulkley is still looked upon as a possibility for the Democratic nomination for President.

ISIDRO AYORA, President of Ecuador since 1929, resigned immediately after his cabinet quit their posts as the aftermath of a "peaceful revolt" among the officers of the Chimborazo garrison. Before stepping down, Ayora appointed Col. Larrea Alba as minister of government and he assumed the Presidential powers in accordance with the constitution. Ayora took refuge in the United States legation in Quito.

THREE hundred economists, industrialists, labor leaders and government officials were present when the world social economic congress began its sessions in Amsterdam, Holland, in the chair as presiding officer was C. H. Van der Leeuw, an eminent Dutchman who is president of the International Industrial Relations association. There were delegates from 20 countries, 35 of them representing the United States.

The topic for the first session was "The Present Paradox—Unemployment in the Midst of Economic Progress," and, to start with, a five-year world prosperity plan was outlined by Dr. Louis L. Lorwin of the Brookings institution in Washington. He said that a general five-year moratorium on all war debts and reparations payments was the first necessary step to give the world a breathing spell from what he termed its most aggravating and dangerous post-war problem. Such a moratorium would leave open final settlement of the debts and reparations question, he said, but the presumption would be in favor of further extending it, and a final cancellation if the effects proved as beneficent as expected.

An entire session of the congress was devoted to hearing first hand reports from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning the experience of the Russians in economic planning.

PROHIBITION DIRECTOR WOODcock, after investigation of charges, has ordered all dry agents to cease the employment of women in gathering evidence, either as informers or companions. He says it is unnecessary, thereby disagreeing with McCampbell, the New York enforcer.

COLONEL AND MRS. LINDBERGH arrived safely at Kasimigaura naval base in Japan, near Tokyo, and proceeded to the capital where they were accorded a tremendous welcome by government and citizenry alike. They planned to remain in Japan about two weeks and to fly from there to China. Afterwards they may go on to Manila, and it is thought they are likely to continue on around the world. However, the colonel declared in Tokyo they had no fixed plans.