

# A TALE OF RED ROSES

By  
**GEORGE RANDOLPH CHESTER**

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## SYNOPSIS

Sledge, a typical politician, becomes infatuated with Molly Marley, daughter of a street car company president. He sends her red roses.

On Molly's invitation Sledge attends a party. Before the crowd disperses Molly thanks Sledge for his kindness, and then he proposes marriage. Her refusal is treated as only temporary by Sledge.

Molly attends the governor's ball, and her attractiveness results in her climbing the dizzy heights of popularity. The notable respect accorded Sledge, however, perplexes her.

Sledge moves for the car company's reorganization. He asks Marley for Molly's hand, but she refuses. Having financially ruined Bert Glider, Sledge threatens to do the same to Marley.

Marley's loans are ordered called by Sledge. Foeber, who receives a salary for keeping quiet about the public fund scandal, confesses during Sledge's questioning and is roughly handled.

Molly becomes angry at her father's obvious fear of Sledge. He tells her to marry him, but she refuses and suggests a fight on Sledge, which encourages Marley.

Sledge visits Bozzam, and a heated argument arises. The chief finds Bozzam working against him. The reorganized railway company stockholders meet. Marley presides, and Sledge is present.

The two votes of Marley and Bert Glider are sufficient to carry the amendment to the resolution for the purchase of the franchise for \$50,000 cash.

Sledge receives an announcement of the engagement of Molly and Glider. Bozzam tells Marley Sledge decided not to sell the franchise at any price, and that he is financially dead.

## CHAPTER X. The Quarrel.

SLEDGE'S first step toward "picking up the beans" was to send Bendix down to round up the Third ward and then to lock himself in the president's room of the First National for an hour, at the end of which time he sent for Davis.

"I want \$750,000," he directed.

"Yes, sir," hesitated Mr. Davis; then he added apologetically, "You know we expect the bank inspector to surprise us day after tomorrow."

"Wire him to put it off ten days," ordered Sledge.

"I suppose you'll fix us up with a temporary acknowledgment of some sort and be ready to turn over some securities in that time."

"Any way you say," agreed Sledge indifferently, and fell again to such deep musing that he did not hear Davis' elaborate explanation of how the thing would be managed.

Presently Davis, who carried a penitentiary sentence to bed with him every night in case anything happened to Sledge before morning, brought him some papers to sign, and the felony was committed—simply, neatly and with no apparent effort.

Sledge, bearing his certificate of deposit, went over to the Merchants' bank, where he transacted a little equally expeditious business with President Johnson, who, with his forehead corrugated like a washboard, took Sledge's check and gave him a receipt for it; then the boss went to see Bozzam.

"You sold those franchises yet?" he demanded.

"Not yet," replied Bozzam. "But I'm going to. Look here, Sledge, why not be reasonable about this thing? Fifty thousand is all we can get. Why not take it, give us one fifth and let us get away. We're disappointed, but we're not saying anything."

"Aw, hang up!" rapped Sledge. "You told Bendix you had a right to sell it and was going to. Why didn't you?"

"I've been waiting because I wanted to act with your consent," Sledge chuckled.

"You mean Marley was afraid to buy until I agreed?"

"He would rather have you satisfied," admitted Bozzam.

"Well, I ain't," announced Sledge. "We don't sell."

"Not at all?" asked Bozzam, revealing the secret worry under which he had labored ever since the meeting.

"Nix!" replied Sledge. "We keep 'em and build. Dig up for your stock."

Bozzam merely blinked. This was a blow so unexpected that he could scarcely comprehend it. Moreover, it was a blow beneath the belt.

"Dig up?" he faintly repeated.

"Two hundred thousand cash," Sledge rumbled. "I dug." He tossed Bozzam a receipt from Johnson, the secretary of the Ring City Rapid Transit company showing that Benjamin F. Sledge had paid \$750,000 cash for 7,500 shares of stock in that live corporation.

"Here's the stock," added Sledge, throwing down one lone certificate for the entire amount.

"You don't mean that you're going to make a bona fide company out of this?" Bozzam incredulously questioned.

"The money's in the bank. Make good or let go."

Bozzam felt his circulation stopping. "We can't let go," he blurted in acute pain.

"Sure not," said Sledge, lifting his



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heavy upper lip to snarl at him vindictively. "You cheap crooks thought you could double cross me. You bought stock in Bert Glider's name. You loaned Marley enough to buy control. Any way you fix it you lose."

Bozzam reflected over that statement carefully. He viewed it from every angle. He twisted and slanted it and turned it upside down to look at the bottom. It was a flawless statement, sound and solid in every particular, and he admired it.

"I believe everything they ever said about you," he acknowledged and laughed pleasantly. "Now, let's get down to cases, Sledge. How can we compromise this mess?"

"Nothing doing. No double crosser ever gets away from me."

"So I've been told," commented Bozzam, smiling with keen appreciation of some unbidden joke. "It seems to me this is now up to Moodson," and he touched a bell.

A girl entered.

"Send Mr. Moodson in, please," said Bozzam, and Sledge looked at his watch.

Mr. Moodson arrived and took a chair opposite Sledge and on the other side of Bozzam, his mouth so tightly closed that one wondered how he could induce himself to eat. He looked at his watch, but held the face toward him like a poker hand and dropped it stealthily back in his pocket, as if he feared that some one might get the time of day away from him.

"I've a queer little puzzle for you, Moodson," said Bozzam cheerfully. "Mr. Sledge has determined to make a bona fide company out of the Ring City Rapid Transit, and of course will not sell the franchises. He has put up his \$750,000 and requests us to put up our \$200,000 to complete the capitalization. He knows that you financed the drama at the recent stockholders' meeting; that you bought 1,000 shares of stock for \$35,000 and loaned \$50,000 on \$200,000 worth of Marley's. Now, here is the case in a nutshell: If you put up the \$200,000 to pay for the stock in this new company it will drive the other one out of business, and you can get half a cent a pound for your \$85,000 worth of stock certificates in the old company. If you don't make good on this subscription you get exactly the same price for your old stock as you would if you did. Now, what is the answer, in view of the fact that Mr. Sledge is absolutely implacable and means to do us harm? I shall leave you gentlemen to discuss the question."

He left the two experts in silence, facing each other glumly across his desk, and went into the adjoining room, where he surprised the meek little stenographer by sinking on the arm of a bench and laughing noiselessly until he grew purple in the face.

Timbers came in, looking much distressed for a fat man, and surveyed Bozzam in astonishment.

"Slip me the good one," he begged.

"I need a laugh worse than I ever needed a drink on the 4th of January."

"We've stung Moodson!" snorted Bozzam. "For that matter, we all get stung, but I'm willing to lose my end of it in order to see that inhuman ghoulish get his."

Timbers grinned to his full capacity, which was much.

"I didn't know you hated Old Gloom as bad as I do. Where did he go to die?"

"Have a look," offered Bozzam, pointing to the frosted glass partition. In a corner of one of the panes there was a little clear space made by the scaling of the glass, and to this Timbers applied his eye. Moodson's face had turned a sallow yellow and had taken on an expression as if he had just swallowed quinine, but beyond this he had not moved, and neither gentleman had said a word. Sledge, sitting in comfortable enjoyment, waiting, and Moodson suffering intense contraction of all his vital organs.

Timbers leaned against the woodwork to chuckle. Bozzam drew him kindly away.

"Let me look," he requested. "Besides, you're shaking the partition." Bozzam incredulously questioned.

"The money's in the bank. Make good or let go."

Bozzam felt his circulation stopping. "We can't let go," he blurted in acute pain.

"Sure not," said Sledge, lifting his

this pathetic hour?" inquired Timbers.

"Hand him his," snickered Bozzam.

"Why does anybody get fussy with Sledge? He turns one little trick and unwhiskers the whole bunch of us, clear down to the village heart-breaker."

"Fancy Bert?" guessed Timbers.

"Where does that barber's pride come in?"

"I don't think son-in-law pulls off his amusement park, does he?" Bozzam reminded him, reaching for the telephone.

"Hello, Marley!" he called. "I'm surprised to hear your voice."

"Why?" inquired Marley stiffly, being constitutionally opposed to anything in the nature of diphany and being always severe with Bozzam for that very reason.

"Because you're dead," Bozzam informed him. "Hadh't you heard it yet?"

"I don't understand you," reproved Marley. "I'm very busy just now, Mr. Bozzam."

"What's the use?" laughed that gentleman. "Nothing you can do will save your scalp. Sledge has just decided not to sell those franchises at any price."

"I thought you were the duly authorized agent, empowered to act," protested Marley.

"I was as long as it was a phony company," explained Bozzam. "But Sledge has just played a low down trick on us."

"How could he? What has he done?"

"Put up his money. Made the company legitimate. He's going to build," Marley surprised Bozzam.

"I had expected that," he calmly announced. "Suppose he does?"

"Oh, nothing," answered Bozzam, with a wondering glance at Timbers. "He'll just put you out of the business, that's all."

"I don't see how," insisted Marley, his voice now pompous again. "You must remember, Mr. Bozzam, that I am now in absolute control of the Ring City Street Railway company and can use to the advantage of the company and of myself, for the first time in my career, my training and ability in management. I fancy that I can protect myself, even against strenuous competition."

"Goody, old friend," said Bozzam, in his tremolo. "You may not know what has happened to you, but I do, and I'll send you a bunch of lilies in the morning."

He turned from the telephone in numb amazement.

"He actually doesn't know he's hurt," he puzzled. "He's been president on his own vote just long enough to get enlargement of the coco. How's the quarrel?"

"Fierce!" grinned Timbers, turning from the peephole. "Sledge has just looked at his watch, and only a minute now I expect to see Moodson move a toe."

"They're wonders, both of them," enjoyed Bozzam. "I'm still admiring how many of us second rate yeggs Sledge nailed to the wall with this one pin—Moodson and you and me, fancy Bert, and Marley and about a million poor lollups of stockholders."

"That stock would make good cigarette lighters," agreed Timbers. "If Moodson hurries, though, he can sell the shares he put in Glider's name."

"But he can hold the bag for the \$50,000 he loaned Marley. I don't know how Sledge will do it, but he'll make that stock worth nothing a share and put a curse on whoever holds it."

"Hush!" warned Timbers. "I think Sledge is reaching for a cigar. No; it's only his watch. That's twice."

Bozzam crowded him away from the peephole.

Five minutes more passed into eternity, and the silent wonders still sat rooted in the selfsame spot; then Sledge suddenly got up and passed out of the door and went down to the depot and took the 2:30 train for the state capital.

(To be continued.)

Them German little Crownprinz.

From dead again he arose,

He was killed by English papers,

As everybody knows.

Now he let blow his mighty trumpets

To make them Frenchman dance

But every step goes backward,

Not once do they advance.

Them Frenchmen would do better

And take another stand.

Go to them little Teuton

Reach friendly him the hand,

And say "Come on, thou little Dutchman,

We will be no longer fools.

We will send them hungry Englishmen

Far back to their own shores.

"And then if we stick together

On land and on sea,

We can make that mighty ocean

For every nation free." A Dutchman.

Garrett, Pa.

From the number of request being received daily at the Department of Agriculture for bulletins on poultry raising, it would seem that there is to be a big increase among poultry raisers in the State this year.

Wyoming and Montana are the leading states for the sheep industry with Pennsylvania in nineteenth place. For swine Iowa and Missouri lead with Pennsylvania twenty-second.

In tobacco growing Pennsylvania ranks sixth, being led by Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia, Ohio and Tennessee.

## CARRANZA NOT TRUSTED BY U. S.

### Washington Prepares to Meet Any Eventuality

## VILLA DIVIDING HIS FORCES

### Proposal of Carranza For Mutual Right to Cross Line Probably Will Be Accepted With Restrictions.

Growing distrust exists in official circles concerning the attitude which the Carranza government will assume toward the American expedition into Mexico to capture Villa, following the invasion of American territory at Columbus, N. M., last week and the killing of nineteen persons and the partial burning of the town.

Unofficial dispatches quote American refugees arriving at El Paso from Chihuahua City as stating that Carranza soldiers there were going about the city shouting "death to the gringos." About fifty Americans are said to be at Chihuahua City. Other dispatches from the border said the Carranza authorities at Juarez were declaring that no American forces would be permitted to go through that city.

Secretary Lansing made public the text of a note, accepting General Carranza's proposal for a reciprocal arrangement between the two governments and announcing that the United States held this arrangement to be now in force and binding upon both parties. General Funston will carry out his task under this agreement.

Plans for the troop movements have gone ahead without regard to the diplomatic exchanges.

Mr. Lansing also made public a statement issued in the name of President Wilson, reiterating that every step being taken by the administration is based on the deliberate intention to preclude the possibility of armed intervention in Mexico.

Villa with his bands is believed to be heading for the fastnesses of the Sierra Madre, further south. He is seeking to get into a wild country where the pursuit of the American troops will be most difficult.

It is impossible to obtain any specific information concerning the movements of the different columns or the leaders of the bodies of troops that are to invade Mexico.

From dispatches received, however, it was estimated that General Funston will throw about 7,500 men into Mexico on his first movement of the punitive expedition.

From military stations throughout the west and south additional regiments are being hastened to the border at the request of General Funston.

Orders calculated to complete every arrangement necessary for the movement of the American forces into Mexico have been issued by officers of the general staff and heads of the various bureaus of the war department. Nothing has been omitted in the program recommended by General Funston.

President Wilson is seriously considering the advisability of calling out five regiments of national guard cavalry to go to the border to do patrol duty there in place of the regular soldiers who are being sent into Mexico in pursuit of Villa.

In case the president calls on the national guard, cavalry regiments from New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio and Illinois, all regarded as crack regiments, will be chosen for patrol duty at the beginning.

Major General Tasker H. Bliss, chief of the mobile army division, informed Secretary Baker that machinery had been perfected to meet any contingency that might arise incident to the Mexican campaign and could be set in motion at a word. Similar reports came from the adjutant general, the inspector general, the quartermaster general, the surgeon general, the chief of ordnance and other divisional officials.

Every move by the department to execute the president's order has been cloaked in secrecy. Sunday was a day of activity for the first time since the mobilization of the army on the Mexican border two years ago. Secretary Baker postponed his visit to his family at Cleveland and spent the day conferring with officials of the general staff. Direct telegraphic communication between the department and the border was established.

## WILL PAY MEAT PACKERS

### Britain Agrees to Reimburse Americans For Seized Cargoes.

From unofficial but reliable sources it is learned that the long-standing cases of the American packers, involving the detention by the British government of large quantities of meat products shipped from the United States to the neutral countries of north Europe, have been adjusted.

While details of the settlement are lacking, it is known the British government has undertaken to secure the exporters against loss by a system of long-time contracts.

Estimates of the value of the cargoes seized by the British government, or detained on the ground that they ultimately were destined to Germany or Austria, aggregate from \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000. For many months the packers have been conducting negotiations directly with the British government to secure reimbursement.

## KEYSTONE PARAGRAPHS

When Thomas Bertrand of Beaver Falls visited his chicken coop he discovered that thieves had broken in and stolen a rooster and two hens. On the floor, partly hidden in straw, he found a gold-filled hunting case watch which the thieves evidently had dropped. A local jeweler valued the watch at \$18.

Foreigners attending a funeral at Monongahela, Pa., unfurled a red flag and 200 of them marched to the cemetery, the band playing "Onward, Christian Soldier." The state police detachment was notified after the funeral, but no further developments are expected.

Walervja Zastawj, aged eleven, died at the Allegheny general hospital, Pittsburgh, as the result of injuries suffered when she was struck by a train near the Fort Wayne station of the Pennsylvania railroad. The child was playing around the station when she was struck.

Mrs. Martha Werlinch, aged twenty-three, of McKees Rocks, died in a hospital as the result of self-inflicted gunshot wounds in the chest. Pneumonia developed after the girl had been released from the hospital in February and she was returned to the institution.

Charles J. Rodgers, aged sixty-nine, and Thomas Sera, fifty-nine, of New Castle, were killed by a freight train on the Pennsylvania railroad while going to work. Rodgers leaves his widow and five children. Sera had a wife and seven children.

Declaring they are capable of conducting public affairs and that they have more initiative than the men, women of Wolfstown, a suburb of Washington, have launched a campaign to secure fire protection for their homes.

Pittsburgh passed the million-dollar mark in postal savings deposits in February with \$1,073,851 standing to the credit of 6,543 individual depositors. The gain for the month, \$105,685, was the largest in the history of the postoffice.

As a result of a broken neck received when he fell from a Pennsylvania railroad train at Summer station, John Monahan, aged thirty-six, a railroad employee, died in the Allegheny general hospital in Pittsburgh.

Mistaken for a burglar, Della Taylor, aged seven, was shot fatally by her foster father, Arthur Gray, a farmer, in the Gray residence at Zediker, three miles east of Washington. The child died an hour later.

An explosion of gasoline in the kitchen of Willard Cole's home, Edinboro, caused a fire that resulted in the death of Mrs. Hawkins, mother-in-law of Mrs. Cole. Two children of Mr. Cole had narrow escapes.

B. R. Murtland of Youngwood is dead and Romano Ritenour of New Scranton is in a serious condition at the Westmoreland hospital at Greensburg as the result of a freight train wreck at Cowansburg.

Word has been received at Mercer of the appointment of the following justices of the peace: D. J. Kerr, Lackawanna township, and George W. Magee, Delaware township, both Mercer county.

The Carbon Steel company has leased for one year the bar mills of Morehead Brothers, Tenth and Main

## Children Cry for Fletcher's

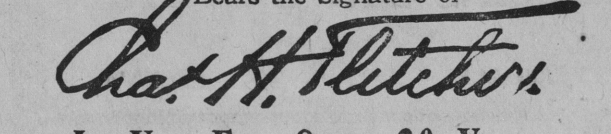


The Kind You Have Always Bought, and which has been in use for over 30 years, has borne the signature of and has been made under his personal supervision since its infancy. Allow no one to deceive you in this. All Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but Experiments that trifle with and endanger the health of Infants and Children—Experience against Experiment

## What is CASTORIA

Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. It destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. For more than thirty years it has been in constant use for the relief of Constipation, Flatulency, Wind Colic, all Teething Troubles and Diarrhoea. It regulates the Stomach and Bowels, assimilates the Food, giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

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The Kind You Have Always Bought

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streets, Sharpsburg, and the company will manufacture bar steel of all grades and sizes.

One of the first train loads of immigrants seen at Conneville in a year passed through over the Baltimore and Ohio railroad. The special consisted of five coaches loaded with Norwegians.

Incendiaries are believed to have started a fire which destroyed the Polish Catholic church and the adjoining parsonage at Hermitage, near Irwin, entailing a loss of \$10,000.

Seven of the twelve new mills recently erected at the plant of the Standard Tin Plate company at Canonsburg are in operation, giving employment to about 500 men.

It cost Westmoreland county \$366.75 in automobile hire in addition to \$500 as a reward to capture Charles Douglass, a condemned murderer, who broke jail Jan. 24.

Rose Reed, aged thirty-four, who escaped with three other prisoners from the county jail at Mercer, Pa., Feb. 23, has been arrested at McKeesport.

Willis Huffman, aged twenty-two, Greene county's largest man, died of typhoid fever at his home near Oak Forest. He weighed 414 pounds.

Falling asleep in a chair with her four-week-old infant in her arms, Mrs. Clarence Leicy of Lancaster accidentally smothered the baby.

A state employment agency has been opened at Altoona by Jacob Lightner, director of the state bureau of employment.

Henry Priester, a miner, aged forty-seven and married, was killed by a freight train at New Bethlehem.

The annual convention of the Prohibition party of Washington county is in session at Washington.

Triplets, two girls and a boy, were born to Mrs. Annie Reiss in a Pittsburgh hospital.

A PERFECT SPECIMEN

Young Woman's Offer to Prove It Declined by New York Judge.

In her breach of promise suit for \$10,000 against Ward Hall Ream, who has recanted his promise of marriage for eugenic reasons, Miss Sigma Ahlgren, a physical culture teacher, offered to show in a New York court what a fine specimen of womanly beauty she is.

Justice Colahan declined Miss Ahlgren's offer. Not to be denied, she submitted her family history to prove that she is one of nine perfectly healthy children and the daughter of good and robust parents now living in Vexio, Sweden, the place of her nativity.

The defendant insists that Miss Ahlgren has incapacitated herself for the duties of motherhood by a fondness for cocktails and other beverages. In reply to this the plaintiff contends that she never drank liquor until Ream invited her to dinner and suggested cocktails.

Two Greenwich (Conn.) physicians signed certificates which attested that they had never seen a more magnificent specimen of womanhood.

Over seventy per cent. of all the buckwheat raised in the United States is raised in Pennsylvania and New York with the Keystone State leading by a margin of about half a million bushels over New York.

TRY OUR FINE JOB WORK

Children Cry  
FOR FLETCHER'S  
CASTORIA