

The DOOM TRAIL by ARTHUR D. HOWDEN SMITH

CHAPTER VI—Continued

"Above everything else, I must know what is happening at Jagara," he said. "The Doom Trail may wait. The news which Ta-wan-nears brought of the intent of the French to replace Joncaire's trading post with a stone fort is the most menacing tidings we have had since the peace was signed. It makes manifest what I have always contended: that there can be no real peace whilst we and the French sit cheek by jowl, each striving for more power than the other.

"Peace on paper there may be; but the French will be breaking it, as they have done in the case of Joncaire's post and as they now plan to do by building a fort upon English territory. I must know what they do there, Master Ormerod. I must know beyond a doubt. I must have a man I can trust who will see for himself on the spot."

"Surely, Corlaer—" "Corlaer cannot speak French. Moreover, if he could, his face is known along the whole frontier. He and Joncaire are old opponents. This you must go. Masquerade as a Frenchman. There are plenty of lads who go out every year to Canada to have a try at the fur trade. You should be able to pass for one of them. At any rate 'tis worth the attempt."

"Tis well worth trying," I agreed. "Also, 'tis possible I may pick up some news of the Trail from Joncaire."

"Possible," he assented; "but keep the Trail in the back of your mind. This fort which concerns me now. For look you, Master Ormerod, if I secure peace the French meditate in earnest to grave a breach of the treaty 'twill strengthen by so much my case indeed to stir the Iroquois to hostilities against him, as Peter suggested."

"I will do what I may," I promised. "Tis well. And do not expect me to accept advice from Corlaer and the Indians. They are schooled in the forest's craft. Good-by, sir, and be vigilant."

He gave me a hearty clasp of the hand and bowed me out. In the street Corlaer awaited me. "Der tide is flooding," he said, and without another word set off at a good round pace.

We came presently to a wharf at the foot of Deye street, where lay the sloop Betsy, her sails unstopped, land-lines slack. She cast off as we stepped aboard, and presently I was looking back over her stern at the dwindling skyline of the quaint little city.

On the fourth day the river bore us through a country of low, rolling hills and plains that lifted to mountainous heights in the distance. There were farms by the water's edge, and sometimes the imposing mansion of a patron with its attendant groups of buildings occupied by servants, slaves and tenants.

On the fifth day we sighted in the distance the stockades of Fort Orange, which the English were beginning to call Albany, nestling close to the river bank under the shelter of a steep hillside. We made the tottery pier, and hastened up into the town, delegating to the master of the sloop and his boy the task of conveying our baggage to the tavern. We learned that Murray had spent but twenty-four hours in the town and was gone two days since.

We spent the forenoon in purchasing for me the regular trappings of the frontiersman—moccasins of ankie height and leather leggings and shirt, all Indian in manufacture. The weepers Juggins had supplied me were warmly praised by my comrades. For the rest there were slim stores of salt, sugar, powder, flints and ball to be packed upon our backs. My garments of civilization I made into a package which I consigned to the innkeeper's care.

We took the road to Schenectady. It was the last white man's road I was to see, and I long remembered its hued surface and the sunlight coming down between the trees on either hand and the farms with their log houses and storckades.

"The road stops here," I said to Ta-wan-nears. "How shall we go on?" "The road of the white man stops—yes," he answered. "But the road of the Ho-de-no-sau-nee begins."

"What is that?" He made no answer, but kept on his way until we were under the bole of the first of the forest trees.

There at my feet was a deep, narrow slot in the earth, a groove some eighteen inches wide and perhaps twelve inches deep, that disappeared into the gloom which reigned under the interlacing boughs overhead. It did not go straight, but crookedly like a snake, curving and twisting as it changed to meet a mossy boulder or a tree too big to be readily felled or uprooted. As I stooped over it I saw that its bottom and steeply sloping sides were hard-packed, beaten down by continual pressure, the relentless pressure of countless human feet for generations and centuries.

Ta-wan-nears instantly led the way into the groove of the trail, and as if instinctively swung into an easy loping trot. I followed him and the Dutchman brought up the rear.

It was cool under the trees, for the sun seldom penetrated the foliage, dense already although it was only the fag-end of spring. And it was very silent—terribly, oppressively silent.

"Walk in my tracks, brother," he said.

"Down!" he rasped. "Down! The time is scant!" At the foot of the pine he snatched up his musket without a word, and turned into the green tunnel that debouched upon the screen of the trail.

"Not one of the Keepers shall return to tell Murray how his brothers died," he said.

"What is it?" I asked, and so completely had the spirit of the forest taken possession of me that I whispered the words.

"Something is following us," he answered. Corlaer put his ear to the bottom of the trail, and a curious expression crossed his face.

"Ya," was all he said.

"Message Sticks" Open Books to Aborigines

One of the mysteries of the aboriginal of Australia is the ease with which he reads "message-sticks" regardless of whether they have been written by one of his own tribesmen or a member of a distant tribe with which he has never come into contact.

Decrease Seen in Bovine TB.

Million "Reactors" Have Been Eliminated in Various Sections.

The Department of Agriculture, through the bureau of animal industry, has just announced that federal inspections show tuberculosis among cattle and swine has decreased generally. According to the report, since 1917 more than a million "reactors" to the bovine tuberculosis tests have been removed from the cattle of the United States. Because tuberculosis poultry have been infecting swine, the report says, fowl tuberculosis is now receiving special study.

Text of Announcement. The full text of the announcement follows: According to charts prepared in the bureau of animal industry, United States Department of Agriculture, bovine tuberculosis has shown a general decline since 1916, and tuberculosis of swine has decreased since 1924. The charts, which are based on records of federal meat inspection, cover a sufficiently large number of animals to be considered representative of conditions in the cattle and swine industries in the United States.

Through the improvement of the tuberculosis situation is shown, infection among cattle and swine received at federally inspected packing establishments is still rather extensive. Records for the fiscal year 1926 show that nearly 14 per cent of swine showed tuberculosis to some extent, though lesions were of a minor nature in a large proportion of the cases. The corresponding figure for cattle was 1.3 per cent for the same period. In 1916 about 2.3 per cent of cattle showed infection, 1 per cent more than last year. In 1924 about 15.2 per cent of the swine inspected were diseased. Reports from field workers indicate that the large extent of infection among swine is caused partly by tuberculous poultry. Accordingly, fowl tuberculosis has been receiving special study by tuberculosis-eradication officials.

Coincident with the decline of this disease among cattle and hogs, a decreasing human death rate from tuberculosis is shown by a recent report of the Department of Commerce. The low death rate of children under four years may be attributed in part to the aggressive campaign for testing tuberculous cattle and disposing of reactors. Since 1917, when the present tuberculosis campaign was undertaken, more than a million reactors have been removed from the cattle of the United States.

Better Soil Fertility by Using Rotation Plan

The Ohio experiment station has doubled the average crop yields on its farm during the last few years. For a number of years that institution has been getting an average of 70 bushels of corn, 30 bushels of wheat and 2.5 tons of clover hay per acre. These crops have been obtained on fields that have been in a three-year rotation for a quarter of a century, consisting of corn, wheat and clover. Prof. F. E. Bear of the soils department of the station says that not only must a rotation of that sort be faithfully carried out in order to obtain such yields, but that a lot of other things must be done as well. This is expressed in the following words: "The rotation must include clover and alfalfa or some other legume at least once every three years. The crops must all be fed or enough concentrates must be fed to compensate for the hay or grain sold on the barnyard must not leak. Acid liquids must be saved. Hot fermentation of the manure must be stopped. Acid phosphate must be used regularly. Limestone must be applied as required. Then high yields are guaranteed."

Straw Contains Much of Phosphorus and Potash

Straw contains a great deal of phosphorus and potash as well as organic matter. These are all essential materials for plant growth. Their continuous destruction or loss through burning straw stacks will finally necessitate replacing them through commercial fertilizers—and commercial fertilizers are expensive.

The only time a straw stack should be burned is when it is full of weeds. In such cases more damage is often done by returning the weed seeds to the land than the benefit derived from the straw as a fertilizer.—Extension Service, Colorado Agricultural College.

FARM NOTES

If we plan ahead, we should never get far behind. Sudan grass is the best nonlegume to use for hay pasture. The formalin treatment for oat smut is well known to farmers and scarcely needs to be restated. Crop rotation can be practiced usually with no outlay of money, whereas the use of commercial fertilizers requires an expenditure of money. Cyanide gas reduces rat population in corn cribs, barns, etc., as quickly and effectively as anything yet discovered, recent trials in many Iowa counties indicate.

Eat Lots of Apples

The American people lead the world as apple eaters. Although we fall considerably short of the proverbial "apple a day," we average about three apples a week per capita. The British consume an average of two apples a week per capita. The consumption of this fruit is comparatively light in Europe.

Striving for Large Increases of Crops

Of Importance to Recognize Three Factors.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.) It is frequently pointed out by the bureau of soils of the United States Department of Agriculture that the nation will have to depend upon the cultivation of the soil for about one-third of its combined wheat, corn and oats produced; upon crop rotation for another third, and upon the use of manures and commercial fertilizers for the other third. It is logical that cultivation aids both rotation and fertilization, that rotation aids in rendering fertilizers more effective, and that fertilizers increase the value of rotation.

Recent experiments in Illinois, however, bring out the fact that rotation and the use of fertilizers, when practiced together, may interact to the extent that their conjoint effects, as measured in terms of crop increases, may be not only equal to but greater than the sum of their separate effects.

The average yield of corn obtained without fertilizers and rotation in this particular experiment was 23.4 bushels per acre. The gain due to using fertilizers and lime was 9.2 bushels per acre, and the gain due to rotation alone was 27.8 bushels, or practically three times that obtained from the fertilizers and lime. The total increase effected by conjoint rotation and the use of fertilizers was 44.2 bushels per acre, or 7.2 bushels greater than the sum of their separate increases.

Other experiments have corroborated these results, which emphasize the importance of recognizing all three factors in striving for permanent soil productivity.

Ten Good Commandments for Successful Farmer

The following so-called ten commandments for the farmer, compiled from reports on an assignment to students in farm crops, Iowa State college, are interesting and contain a good deal of practical common sense: 1. Thou shalt have no other business before farming. 2. Thou shalt not deny thy farm lime, but give it manure, legumes and phosphorus, also. 3. Thou shalt not permit thy fields to scatter weeds and diseases to provoke thy neighbor's wrath. 4. Thou shalt keep a record of thy crops and thy flocks so that thou mayest know wherein thy profit lieth. 5. Thou shalt beware of the seed of strangers for thou knowest not what it may bring forth. 6. Thou shalt sow what the people desireth, for great is the reward thereof. 7. Thou shalt watch thy neighbor and procure for thine own fields those seeds which profiteth most in thine own community. 8. Thou shalt not permit thy seed to fall on poorly prepared ground, but be wise that thine efforts increaseth thy yields. 9. Thou shalt cast new seed upon thy pastures and disk them also that they may bring forth many fold. 10. When thou hast done all these things put thy trust in God, expecting a bountiful reward, for no man can do more.

Manure Should Be Taken Directly to the Fields

There is only one place where manure can be exposed to rains, and yet not lose its value. That is on the field. If the manure is comparatively free from noxious weed seeds, this is the very place for it, hauled and distributed direct from the barns, and if no field is ready for it, manure will benefit the pasture. While piling manure in the field puts the plant food there, it gives the spots that the pile covers, the major portion. I saw one hundred and ten planes are constantly in working order. In 1925 the German commercial air service carried approximately 133,639 passengers and 6,000 tons of freight. In 1925 the commercial service in passengers and freight carried and miles traveled tripled its volume of business over the preceding year.

European Air Lines

There are 42 commercial air lines operating daily to all parts of central and eastern Europe, including Moscow. Seventeen lines radiate from Berlin. There are many small companies, all now consolidated with the Deutsche Lufttransport. There are 129 commercial planes and 160 pilots. One hundred and ten planes are constantly in working order. In 1925 the German commercial air service carried approximately 133,639 passengers and 6,000 tons of freight. In 1925 the commercial service in passengers and freight carried and miles traveled tripled its volume of business over the preceding year.

Chinese Official Journal

The Tsen-Tse-Kwan-Pao of Peking, China, recently celebrated its thousandth birthday anniversary, and is said to be the oldest newspaper in the world. A recent article says that "every issue of this newspaper has been carefully preserved and filed in the official archives of the palace at Peking. The penalty for making a misstatement in this newspaper has been decapitation, and it is said that more than a few of its editors have suffered this fate in the past. Since the revolution the paper has changed its title to Tsen-Fon-Koun-Pao, which means "Official Government Journal."

Eradicate Deadly Weed

Recently 17 boys of a county home were severely poisoned as a result of eating leaves, roots and flowers of the water hemlock, reports Hygeia Magazine. This plant grows in swamp land, along irrigating ditches and in meadows, and is known as cowbane, snake-weed, wild carrot, wild parsnip and death of man. The boys found it growing in a swamp near the playground. Since it has little if any usefulness and is poisonous to men and animals, farmers and others in charge of open lands should do everything possible to eradicate it.

Cornstalks for Horses

The feeding of cornstalks to horses that are idle during the winter will probably not cause them definite injury although there is very little feed value to them. If you have a considerable amount of this product on hand feed one-half as much oat straw as usual, making up the balance with the cornstalks. When spring time comes and you are ready to put your horses in condition for their season's work, the cornstalks and the straw should both be dropped and a good quality hay substituted for them.

Musicians Found Much of Interest on Tour

Funchal One Spot. Unouched by War

Funchal, on the island of Madeira, historically is one of the most peaceful spots in the world. It has had uninterrupted peace since its discovery by Zarco in 1418. Three times it has been captured by British fleets, but each time returned to Portugal on conclusion of peace. Men have been free to plant and decorate and build there, unscourged by wars, according to Warren H. Miller's "All Around the Mediterranean." They brought grapes from Crete in 1420 and sugar cane from Sicily in 1452, and have been most industrious within their ever since. The result has been many miles of terraces for vines and great plantations inland for sugar cane. Many generations have devoted their efforts to beautifying these lands without molestation. Continued freedom from wars in Funchal has given the people so much time for work that even the pebbled streets are laid in patterns interlined with geometric designs in white stones.

"The day of our first concert, the soundpost of my violin came unglued and nothing would make it stick. I tried everything I could think of, but to no avail, so I simply had to tell them that there would be a concert but no violin."

"Sumatra seemed to be the hottest place in the world. A violin will go to pieces there any time. I had to play with clamps on mine to keep it together, which, you may imagine, did not improve the tone."

"In the Fiji Islands we heard a native chorus of 600 with the most marvelous basses I have ever heard anywhere. They have an amazing sense of harmony, like the American negro, but much more intricate. They learn tunes from a phonograph, and then harmonize themselves. They were learning the Tannhauser overture while I was there, each member of the band memorizing harmonies from the phonograph."

"I was asked by a rich native how much my charges were for a concert and when I told him the next question was: 'How long will the concert be?' 'About an hour,' I said. 'Oh!' he replied. 'But I can hire a man who will play for four hours for that amount without taking his bow off the strings!'"—John Alan Haughton in Musical America.

A Regular Butcher

One day little Betty heard her mother giving a detailed account of a recent tonsil operation to an afternoon caller. "Yes, I had a perfectly dreadful time. My doctor was a regular butcher," said Mrs. B.— "To her surprise, a few days later she overheard the following conversation between her small daughter and a little neighbor girl: 'Some day I am going to have my tonsils taken out.' 'Are you going to the hospital like my sister did?' 'No,' replied Betty, 'I am just going down to the butcher shop where mother had hers cut out.'"—Indianapolis News.

Insects on Increase

For a century and more scientists have been listing and classifying insects found in the various countries, hoping they might have, some time, a complete list of the insect family, but the task seems to have no end, new species being found in all lands, so many, in fact, that more than 6,000 are being listed, each year, says Nature Magazine.

The scientists tend strongly to the belief that new species are being provided by some means, for each year discoveries are made of which no scientist in the past ever heard and man must admit in the bug listing business he is a long way behind.

Forest Trees Will Grow Readily From Good Seed

Tree raising is not a long-time proposition as many people believe, according to Chester A. Lee, Extension Forester, Colorado Agricultural college. "One can grow his own trees from seed. Seed of the ash, hackberry, box elder, hony locust, Russian olive, and the evergreens are now ripe. Before gathering a quantity of seeds, cut a few of them in two and see that they are full of meat. Where a good percentage of the seed is sound, pick as many as desired and plant in accordance with the suggestions outlined for each species in 'The Farm Nursery for Forest Trees.'"

Repentance

"Marriage is taken far too lightly," remarked Edwin L. Kennedy, character actor. "Only the other day, two acquaintances of mine, who weren't even out of high school, were in court, the judge delivered them a lecture, and finally asked the repentant bride when she first thought seriously of marriage. 'Two months after the ceremony,' was her reply."—Los Angeles Times.

Speaking of Love

She—Don't you ever speak of love? He—(tactfully)—Er—yes. Lovely weather, isn't it?

Few Are Without Faith in Mascots

The use of mascots, whether to bring good fortune or ward off evil, is age-old and universal. They were an element in the romance of the Middle Ages, when the armored knight carried into battle, for his protection and encouragement, the charm which his lady love had blessed with her prayers.

In every clime, among people of all creeds and classes, some particular form of mascot has been individually or collectively cherished. At the head of the list, perhaps, says Miss St. John Montague, may be placed the little bone found in the shoulder of the tiger, which is supposed by Europeans and natives alike to be powerful in attracting good luck, and is eagerly sought after by those who believe in its value.

Its apparent uselessness in the tiger's body—"all upon its own" and literally "at a loose end"—has made its existence a mystery, which has begotten this belief in its power.

Don't Forget Cuticura Talcum

When adding to your toilet requisites. An exquisite face, skin, baby and dusting powder and perfume, rendering other perfumes superfluous. You may rely on it because one of the Cuticura Trio (Soap, Ointment and Talcum), 25c each everywhere.—Advertisement.

Old-Time Sports in Rural Bavaria

Bavaria is the most old-fashioned part of Germany, and one may see in some remote villages customs that have survived for hundreds of years. Recently a new Catholic priest was ordained in the little village of Rosshaupten. As usual, the religious part of the ceremony was followed by all kinds of worldly festivities, including the climbing of the "maypole."

The highest tree in the local wood was felled for the purpose. The branches were lopped off, the bark was peeled and a green wreath of pine branches was hung around the topmost sprig.

It is no easy matter to shin up such a tree, over a yard in circumference near the foot. Indeed, it is so dangerous an undertaking that married men were forbidden to make the attempt.

"Dandelion Butter Color"

A harmless vegetable butter color used by millions for 50 years. Drug stores and general stores sell bottles of "Dandelion" for 35 cents.—Adv.

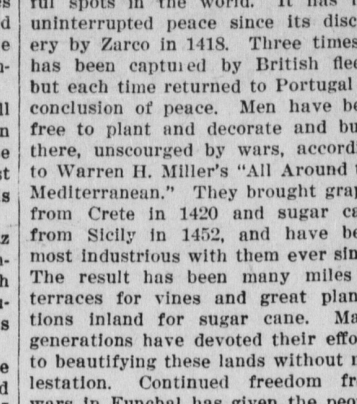
Priceless Bible Found

Parts of a hand-written Hebrew Bible said to be more than 1,000 years old have been discovered in the Jewish synagogue of Buchara, a town in the Russian province of Georgia, according to reports from Leningrad. The discovery was made by the famous Russian scientist Luria. The sheets were found imbedded in the walls of the synagogue, as if they had been hidden for safe keeping. All of them were carried at once to Leningrad, where they will be studied by a committee headed by Professor Kozloff.

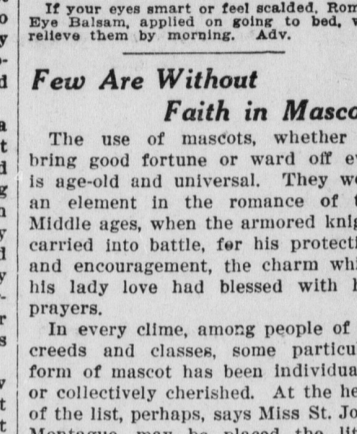
Lions Stalk on Highways

In East Africa the drought has been so severe that wild animals have invaded the towns and settlements in search of water. At Nairobi the inhabitants have only to stroll a short distance out of town to encounter herds of buffalo and rhinos and it is a frequent occurrence to meet all manner of big game including lions on the roads leading from one town to another.

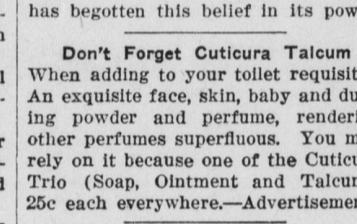
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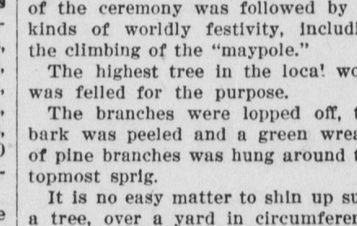
THE FEAT



GE



FOOY! FOOY! ROTTEN!



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Mickie's Corner

EDITED BY MICKIE HIMSELF

KIDS, I AM GOING TO DIVIDE ALL THE BOOKS AMONG THEM. WHAT WILL SEND IN THE THREE BEST NAMES IN MY 8x4 DOG NAME CONTEST!

Mickie Stoshenko, Ill.

BUDDIE HORSE

By PERCY © by the McClure