

# The SEVEN DIALS MYSTERY

By Agatha Christie

## INSTALLMENT XIV.

The girl shook her head.

"It was too dark to see much. I think he was a big man—but that is about all."

"And now you, Mr. Thesiger." Battle turned to him. "You struggled with the man—can you tell me anything about him?"

"He was a pretty hefty individual—that's all I can say. He gave a few hoarse whispers—that's when I had him by the throat. He said, 'Lemme go, gunvor,' something like that."

"An uneducated man, then?"

"Yes, I suppose he was. He spoke like one."

"I still don't quite understand about the packet," said Lorraine. "Why should he throw it down as he did? Was it because it hampered him climbing?"

"No," said Battle. "I've got an entirely different theory about that. That packet, Miss Wade, was deliberately thrown down to you—or so I believe."

"To me?"

"Shall we say—to the person the thief thought you were?"

"This is getting very involved," said Jimmy.

"Mr. Thesiger, when you came into this room, did you switch on the light at all?"

"Yes."

"And there was no one in the room?"

"No one at all."

"But previously you thought you heard some one moving about down here?"

"Yes."

"And then, after trying the window, you switched off the light again and locked the door?"

Jimmy nodded.

Superintendent Battle looked slowly round him. His glance was arrested by a big screen of Spanish leather which stood near one of the bookcases.

Brusquely he strode across the room and looked behind it.

He uttered a sharp ejaculation, which brought the three young people quickly to his side.

Huddled on the floor, in a dead faint, lay the Countess Radzky.

### COUNTESS RADZKY'S STORY

The Countess' return to consciousness was very different from that of Jimmy Thesiger's. It was more prolonged and infinitely more artistic.

Artistic was Bundle's word. She had been zealous in her ministrations—largely consisting of the application of cold water—and the Countess had instantly responded, passing a white, bewildered hand across her brow and murmuring faintly.

It was at this point that Bill, at last relieved from his duties with telephone and doctors, had come bustling into the room and had instantly proceeded to make (in Bundle's opinion) a most regrettable idiot of himself.

He had hung over the Countess with a concerned and anxious face and had addressed a series of singularly idiotic remarks to her:

"I say, Countess. It's all right. It's really all right. Don't try to talk. It's bad for you. Just lie still. You'll be all right in a minute. It'll all come back to you. Don't say anything till you're quite all right. Take your time. Just lie still and close your eyes. You'll remember everything in a minute. Have another sip of water. Have some brandy. That's the stuff. Don't you think, Bundle, that some brandy—?"

"For God's sake, Bill, leave her alone," said Bundle crossly. "She'll be all right."

And with an expert hand she flipped a good deal of cold water on to the exquisite make-up of the Countess' face.

**The Countess Revived**

The Countess flinched and sat up. She looked considerably more wide awake.

"Ah!" she murmured. "I am here. Yes, I am here."

"Take your time," said Bill. "Do not talk till you feel quite all right again."

The Countess drew the folds of a very transparent negligee closer around her.

"It is coming back to me," she murmured. "Yes, it is coming back."

She looked at the little crowd grouped around her. Perhaps something in the attentive faces struck her as unsympathetic. In any case, she smiled deliberately up at the one face which clearly displayed a very opposite emotion.

"Ah, my big Englishman," she said very softly, "do not distress yourself. All is well with me."

"Oh! I say, but are you sure?" demanded Bill anxiously.

"Quite sure." She smiled at him reassuringly. "We Hungarians, we have nerves of steel."

A look of intense relief passed over Bill's face. A fatuous look settled down there instead—a look which made Bundle earnestly long to kick him.

"Have some water," she said coldly.

The Countess refused water. Jimmy, kinder to beauty in distress, suggested a cocktail. The Countess reacted favorably to this suggestion. When she had swallowed it she looked around once more, this time with a livelier eye.

"Tell me, what has happened?" she demanded briskly.

"We were hoping you might be able to tell us that," said Superintendent Battle.

The Countess looked at him sharply. She seemed to become aware of the big, quiet man for the first time.

"I went to your room," said Bundle. "The bed hadn't been slept in and you weren't there."

She paused—looking accusingly at the Countess. The latter closed here eyes and nodded her head slowly.

"Yes, yes. I remember it all now. Oh, it was horrible!" She shuddered. "Do you want me to tell you?"

Superintendent Battle said, "If you please," at the same moment that Bill said, "Not if you don't feel up to it."

The Countess looked from one to the other, but the quiet, masterful eye of Superintendent Battle won the game.

"I could not sleep," began the Countess. "The house—it oppressed me. I was all, as you say, on wires, the cat on the hot bricks. I knew that in the state I was in it was useless to think of going to bed."

"I walked about my room. I read. But the books placed there did not interest me greatly. I thought I would come down here and find something more absorbing."

"Very natural," said Bill.

"Very often done, I believe," said Battle.

"So as soon as the idea occurred to me I left my room and came down. The house was very still—"

"Excuse me," interrupted the superintendent, "but can you give me an idea of the time when this occurred?"

"I never know the time," said the Countess superbly, and swept on with her story.

"The house was very quiet. One could even hear the little mouse run, if there had been one. Come down the stairs—very quietly—"

"Very quietly?"

"Naturally I do not want to disturb the household," said the Countess reproachfully. "I come in here. I go into this corner and search the shelves for a suitable book."

"Having, of course, switched on the light."

"No, I did not switch on the light. I had, you see, my little electric torch with me. With that, I scanned the shelves."

"Ah!" said the superintendent.

"Suddenly," continued the Countess dramatically, "I hear something. A stealthy sound. A muffled footstep. I switch out my torch and listen. The footsteps draw nearer—stealthy, horrible footsteps. I shrink behind the screen. In another minute the door opens and the light is switched on. The man—the burglar is in the room."

"Yes, but I say—" began Mr. Thesiger.

A large-sized foot pressed his, and realizing that Superintendent Battle was giving him a hint, Jimmy shut up.

"I nearly died of fear," continued the Countess. "I tried not to breathe. The man waited for a minute, listening. Then, still with that horrible stealthy tread—"

Again Jimmy opened his mouth in protest and again shut it.

(To Be Continued Tomorrow)

## COULDN'T WALK FOR FAT But lost her flabbiness in two weeks

She was crippled by fat, but reduced in two weeks this easy way. That is plain truth—her husband says so! She weighed nearly 200 lbs. and had to stay at home. Read this letter:—

"My wife has been suffering with swollen legs and feet and weighed 160 lbs. 4 ozs.—very seldom able to go out walking. After taking Kruschen Salts for two weeks, her flabbiness has gone, legs and feet feel easier."

Excess fat is caused by the liver, kidneys and bowels, the "scavenging" organs of the body—failing to do their work properly. They do not throw off that waste material—the product of digestion. This accumulates, and—before you realise it—you are growing hideously fat. The "little daily dose" of Kruschen Salts tones up the eliminating organs to perform their work properly. Slowly but surely the ungainly masses of fat disappear and what you lose in weight you gain in unbounded health and vitality. The years drop off as the fat melts away—leaving you energetic, youthful and vigorous.

## Local Items

**Election No. 45 meeting tonight.**  
Election of officers.

**Complete stock on sale at Tite's store.** Slashing reductions. Balance of drapery stock at cut-in-two prices. (24)

Further evidence in the city police court case of Carl Halvarson was heard by Magistrate McClymont this morning and adjournment was made until this afternoon.

Constable G. Daniels, wireless operator of the provincial police boat P.M.L. 8, left on this morning's train for Prince George where he will install some radio equipment. He will be away for a week or so.

Among C.N.R. officials well known locally who attended a system conference in Montreal at the end of last week when all phases of railway operation were discussed, were A. E. Warren, vice-president, Western Region, Winnipeg; Col. T. A. Hiam, assistant to the president, Vancouver; Robert Creelman, passenger traffic manager; W. G. Manders, freight traffic manager; N. B. Walton, general superintendent, Winnipeg, and G. A. McNicholl, general passenger agent, Vancouver.

## THE WEATHER

Prince Rupert — Clear, calm; temperature, 24.

Haysport—Clear, light wind, 22.

Port Simpson—Clear, calm, 12.

Terrace—Clear, calm, 10.

Alice Arm—Clear, calm, 10.

Anyox—Clear, calm, 10.

Stewart—Clear, calm, 9.

Hazelton—Clear, calm, -12.

Smithers—Clear, east wind, -8.

Burns Lake—Clear, calm, cold.

Vanderhoof—Clear, calm, -22.

Eighth Cabin—Clear, calm, -8.

Telegraph, Creek—Cloudy, calm, -8.

## Moose Cinderella Dance Enjoyable

**One Hundred Persons Present At Affair Saturday Night**

About one hundred persons were present at a Cinderella dance held Saturday evening by the Moose Lodge, the affair proving very enjoyable. Dancing was enjoyed from 9 until midnight with music by the Premier orchestra. William B. McCallum was master of ceremonies and Percy Cameron presided at the door.

The Moose Lodge is planning on holding a series of such Saturday night dances.

## TORONTO STOCKS

(Courtesy of S. D. Johnston Co. Ltd.)

Amulet, 1.70, 1.71.

Dome, 8.30, 8.40.

Falconbridge, 5.40, 5.50.

Hollinger, 5.70, 5.80.

Howe, 1.21, 1.22.

Hudson Bay, 11.65, 11.75.

International Nickel, 37.40, 37.60.

Imperial Oil, 26.30, 26.50.

Noranda, 39.00, 39.25.

Nipissing, 1.70, 1.75.

Sherritt Gordon, 2.96, 2.98.

Sudbury Basin, 4.80, 4.85.

Teck Hughes, 5.75, 5.80.

Treadwell Yukon, 5.50, Nil.

Ventures, 2.80, 2.85.

Wright Hargraves, 1.83, 1.85.

## CY. PECK AS ORGANIZER

**Vancouver Sun Hears He Will Have Onerous Task of Uniting Party Differences in B.C.**

Lt. Col. C. W. Peck, V.C., one of British Columbia's most picturesque figures, is slated as provincial organizer of the Conservative party, says the Vancouver Sun.

His appointment, while apparently not formally recorded by the responsible executive of the B.C. Conservative association, became a practical certainty before the departure of the Hon. R. B. Bennett, national leader of the party.

Delay in making an official announcement is expected until ways and means of disposing of J. A. Blair, incumbent of the position, have been found.

Demand for a change came from certain of the federal members headed by Gen. A. D. McRae, M.P., Mr. Bennett's chief whip, who feared that the factional strife centring around Mr. Blair and the group who appointed him would militate against their chances of success in the coming Dominion election.

During Mr. Bennett's four days at the coast this was the problem that kept the leaders of the party, federally and provincially, in almost continuous conference both here and at Victoria.

**Finance Plan**

According to the story, the proposal from the federal organization was that Ottawa and Victoria each provide \$1200 a month, making \$2400 in all, to the new B.C. organizer. With this, his first task would be to prepare the ground for the federal election campaign in each of the 14 Dominion constituencies. Existence of this fund is believed to be what Premier S. F. Tolmie referred to when he said Gen. McRae had plenty of "gasoline."

Col. Peck is a member of the B.C. legislature, sitting for the islands. He commanded the Sixteenth Battalion, C.E.F. and won the Victoria Cross for gallantry.

## STOCK QUOTATIONS

(Courtesy of S. D. Johnston Co. Ltd.)

Bayview, 1 1/2, 2 1/2.

Big Missouri, 83 1/2, 85.

Cork Province, 4, 5.

Cotton Belt, 10, 25.

Dunwell, 3, Nil.

Duthie Mines, Nil, 47.

Georgia Copper, 3.55, 3.90.

Golconda, 86, 88.

Grandview, 11, 12.

Independence, 4, 5.

Indian, 3, 5.

Intern. Coal & Coke, 26, 32.

Kootenay Florence, 6, 7.

L. & L., 1, Nil.

Lucky Jim, Nil, 6.

Mohawk, 1 1/2, 2.

Morton Woolsey, 8, 8 1/4.

Marmot Metals, 1 1/4, 2.

National Silver, 6 1/2, 7 1/2.

Noble Five, 31, 32.

Oregon Copper, 12 1/2, 13.

Pend Oreille, 4.10, 4.25.

Premier, 1.53, 1.55.

Porter-Idaho, 25, 27.

Reeves Macdonald, 1.28, 1.30.

Rufus-Argenta, 7 1/2, 8 1/4.

Ruth-Hope, 16, 18.

Silver Crest, 4 1/4, 5.

Silverado, 25, Nil.

Snowflake, 17, 18.

Sunloch, 1.00, 1.10.

Terminus, 2, Nil.

Topley Richfield, 3 1/2, 5.

Woodbine, 2, 2 1/4.

**Oils**

A. P. Con., 2.33, 2.34.

Calmont, 2.20, 2.25.

Dalhousie, 2.35, 2.42.

Fabyan Pete, 7, 7 1/4.

Home, 11.30, 11.35.

Mayland, 2.15, 2.20.

McLeod, 3.70, 3.75.

Freehold, 76, 78.

Hargal, 1.35, 1.40.

United, 1.16, 1.18.

C. & E. Corp., 2.75, 2.80.

Mill City, 1.50, 1.55.

Sterling Pacific, 70, 75.

## CRIBBAGE

January 27.—P. R. Hotel vs. Cold Storage; Operators vs. Eagles; I. O. O.F. vs. K. of C.; Groto vs. Seal Cove Sawmill; New Empress vs. Moose; C.N.R.A. vs. L.O.L.

One of the world's greatest tourist playgrounds is to be constructed in Panama. A race track, gambling of the most varied and ornate type, and the wines of the world will be factors in the proposed resort.

## BURNS LAKE SKIERS OFF FOR SOUTH

**Will Participate in Events at Revelstoke, Princeton, Banff**

BURNS LAKE, Jan. 27.—In the preliminary contests on Friday the following members qualified to represent the Omineca Ski Club at Revelstoke, Princeton and Banff: Pete Sandnes of Burns Lake, Knute Nysven of Francois Lake, John Engstad of Decker Lake, and Carl Landaa of Prince Rupert. The party left by auto for the south and will compete in all class "A" events.

At the dance given in honor of the departing contestants at the Community Hall, an even hundred couples danced until midnight. Then the popular quartette of athletes stepped on the starter and began the long trip to Princeton.

## Werkhoven Heard On Pipe Organ in Cathedral Program

Frederic van Werkhoven of Brandon, Man., noted Dutch pianist, who is to give a full pianoforte recital here on Wednesday afternoon, delighted the congregation of St. Andrew's Anglican Cathedral after evening service yesterday with a brief impromptu pipe organ program in which he displayed both talent and art. Outstanding numbers were "Morning" from Greig's "Peer Gynt Suite" and Chopin's "Nocturne in E Flat."

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Rogers of Victoria and Prince Rupert were visitors in the city Thursday.—Vancouver Star.

## NEW C. N. R. SCHEDULES

**Fast Time to Be Made on Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle Run**

According to word received from Canadian National Railway headquarters in Montreal this morning, a tentative schedule has been approved for the Vancouver, Victoria and Seattle steamship service. This service will be inaugurated on the Pacific coast upon arrival of the Prince David, the second of three new steamships now being constructed in the old country and which will be launched next month.

It is proposed that the Prince David will leave Vancouver at 2 p.m. and arrive in Victoria 5:45 p.m., leave Victoria at 7 p.m., and arrive in Seattle at 10:30 p.m., leave Seattle at 1 a.m. and arrive Victoria, at 7 a.m., leave at 8:30 a.m. and arrive Vancouver 12:15 p.m. By this schedule, it will be seen that the passage from Vancouver to Victoria will be made in three hours 45 minutes and from Victoria to Seattle three hours 30 minutes. This will be the fastest passenger time attempted on this route. This schedule has been laid out for a single boat service, as the third steamship, the Prince Robert, will not reach the Pacific coast until some time later than the Prince David.

The Prince Henry, which was launched on January 17, will go into the Vancouver, Prince Rupert and Alaska service immediately upon arrival, the first trip being scheduled for July 3.

The date of the commencement of the Vancouver, Victoria and Seattle service will depend entirely upon the arrival on the coast of the Prince David. The new steamship is expected some time during July.

## EXCHANGE ESSENTIAL

**is Utility to People, Secretary Sprange Declares**

VANCOUVER, Jan. 27.—Holds the view that the public generally does not appreciate the exact value which a stock exchange gives the community, A. E. Sprange, secretary of the Vancouver Stock Exchange, has briefly outlined the evolution of exchange practice.

"With the founding of the joint stock companies for the purpose of floating legitimate enterprises, some method of trading stocks became absolutely necessary," stated Mr. Sprange. "Such a situation led to the founding of the London Stock Exchange more than 150 years ago. The exchange is a service in permitting investors remove their funds from one business and place them in another. Informed investors of the true value of their holdings, and money in circulation.

"The principles of trading have not changed. With the tremendous growth and improvement of methods of financing companies, stock exchanges are today one of the basic needs of our modern commercial life. The operations of the Vancouver Stock Exchange are founded on a charter passed and approved by the provincial government. Principles are fundamentally the same as those in force in London, New York, and other great financial centres."

Miss Lottie Bowron of Victoria is visiting in town at present, guest of Mrs. Page Powell—Vancouver Star. Miss Bowron is a spectator of conditions for women teachers in outlying sections of the province and has made a number of visits to Prince Rupert.

# A Valuable Buying Guide

**BEFORE** you order dinner at a restaurant, you consult the bill-of-fare. Before you take a long trip by motor-car, you pore over road maps. Before you start out on a shopping trip, you should consult the advertisements in this paper. For the same reasons!

The advertising columns are a buying guide to you in the purchase of everything you need—including amusements! A guide that saves your time and conserves your energy; that saves useless steps and guards against false ones; that puts the s-t-r-e-t-c-h in family budgets.

The advertisements in this paper are so interesting, it is difficult to see how anyone could overlook them . . . fail to profit by them. Just check with yourself and be sure that you are reading the advertisements regularly—the big ones and the little ones. It is time well spent . . . always.

For example, read the grocery store "ads" this week.

Avoid time-wasting, money-wasting, detours on the road to Merchandise value. Read the advertising "road maps."