

expectantly. Here and there a man smiled at his neighbor as though predicting that both certificates were to be invalidated, and the new state robbed of its voice in the momentous election. As if to answer that question, the speaker resumed in the same hard, trenchant, incisive tones:

"I and those whom I have consulted," he went on, "have concluded that the central government has, in the lack of indubitable evidence of fraud, no part whatever in the affairs of individual states. The rights and responsibilities of states are too clearly defined to admit of national interference under such circumstances."

He lifted one of the sheets of paper in his right hand, and gesticulated with it as he proceeded:

"This," he said, "is a document signed by the lieutenant governor of the state, acting governor pro tempore in the absence of the chief executive, which declares that the three electors representing the conservative party are legally and duly qualified to cast their ballots in confirmation of the popular majority vote."

His right hand fell to his side and he lifted the left, which held the other sheet.

"And this is signed by the governor of the state, certifying that the three electors representing the liberal side are duly qualified."

He laid both sheets on the table beside him, and the silence became dramatic.

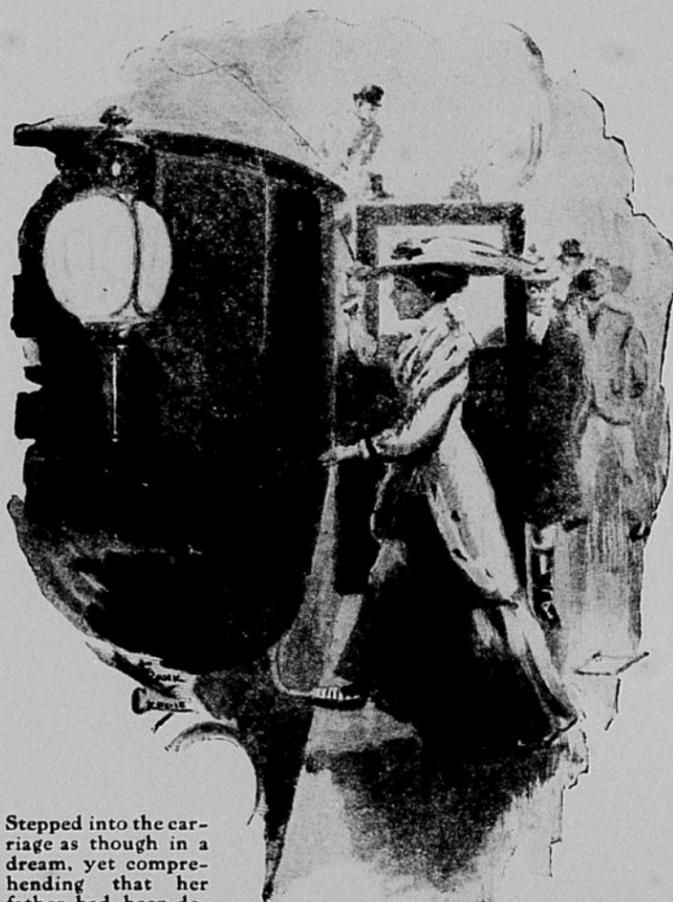
The men who have accompanied the electors of the liberal party," he continued, at last, "have presented affidavits asserting that the chief executive of the state, although ill, had issued positive instructions that he was to be carried to the state capitol at a certain hour of the day on which these certificates were issued, and that the action of the lieutenant governor was, therefore, illegal; that the latter did not have the right arbitrarily to assume the highest office of the state under such conditions. The contention on the other side is that, if the governor were able at any time to appear in person and exercise the prerogatives of his position, he should have done so; that the lieutenant governor, therefore, acted entirely within his right; furthermore, that the findings concerning the election disputes themselves justified his issuance of the certificates."

There was a rustle of excitement which, for a moment, drowned the speaker's voice. Grace was annoyed by the whispered loquacity of the women next her, and she leaned far forward to indicate her disapproval more distinctly.

"Still another affidavit," the voice continued, "declares that the governor knew that the business of state was being enacted, and that his previous instructions and absence put him in the position of a chief executive actually outside the bounds of his own state. In view of all these conflicting declarations, the evidence seems conclusive that the popular vote of the state was given in its majority to the conservative party. Therefore, actuated solely by a fervent desire that justice without partisanship should be done, I hereby declare valid the votes of the electors named by the lieutenant governor of South Alaska, acting governor pro tempore, and these shall be recognized by this body. The clerk will announce the ballot."

Morgan Lester was elected.

BEFORE the president of the senate could resume his seat, the upheaval had come. The senators and representatives over-rode all rules of ceremony and etiquette, and danced wildly about one another, indignant or elated as their personal attitudes dictated. From one end of the gallery, twenty-five men arose to their feet, and with furious shouts of triumph, rather than jubilation, shrieked their approval. From the other end, the defeated delegation forgot itself in a storm of oburgations, fury and anathema, and in a solid body started out of the gallery, as if forsaking the precincts of a place in which justice could not be found. The gavel was being hammered up and down in a vain call for order, splintering itself under vigorous blows which, in the pandemonium of sound, were unheard. Sergeant-at-arms, obeying the gestures of their chief officer, were struggling here and there, trying to invoke order. Shouts of "Clear the galleries!" were heard above this din. Special correspondents from the press gallery were madly fighting for egress, and pages were being trampled under foot. Confused cries came from behind Grace Lester of "Give her air! For God's sake, give her air! She's fainted!" Men were striking madly now, in protection of their own or in the heat of personal anger. It was riot



Stepped into the carriage as though in a dream, yet comprehending that her father had been declared the nation's choice.

let loose, in which the distressed representatives of law and order were almost powerless, although strove to their utmost to uphold the dignity of tradition and of state. Senators and representatives, electors and delegations, partisans and vis-

itors, were belching forth from the building as if a cry of fire had upset the level of all things, and panic reigned. The vanguard of dissolution ran screaming out into the sunlit streets, shouting the outcome, and then tore hurriedly away, like a mass of madmen flying from judgment. The spell which had bound the waiting ones outside was broken, and the turbulent scenes from within were re-enacted on a larger scale. Dogged, glaring, and sullen, the defeated Alaskan contingent came out and drove itself into the swirling mass of excited people which had overwhelmed the officers of the law and was blocking the broad avenues leading away to the heart of the city. Before the swarming outskirts of the mob had drifted past the white house with its open squares and its peaceful setting, men were hurrying away from the monolithic building which housed the war department, and were summoning to their aid all those who might uphold the law. Wherever a wire entered the city of Washington, hundreds of men were clamoring for the right to send messages. The whole United States was to know, within a few minutes, that the decision, apparently inexcusable and unalterable, had been given.

Into the throng of carriages and ambulances which, a few minutes later, fought a way to the foot of the stone stairs before the lofty gray building, the one which had brought Grace Lester to the scene was driven to the very foreground, and into it stepped a girl who walked as though in a dream, yet comprehending that her father had been declared the nation's choice.

CHAPTER IX.

THE special operator in the shanty on Sandy Hook spit looked up at the captain, who stood at his elbow when the bulletin announcing the decision from Washington was read, and saw that the other officers were trying to extend condolences, and that "Tiger" Reilly alone was walking backward and forward as if all men and all things of his immediate surroundings were pigmy parts in the scheme of life.

Dick brushed his hand across his eyes which had been dimmed by sleeplessness and worry, shook himself loose from those around him, and leaned over on the flimsy table, resting his shoulders' weight on white, drawn knuckles.

"Send this," he said, between hard-shut teeth.

(Continued on page 13)

Mountain Climbing by Proxy

THE Alps, ever the battle ground for the long-winded, strong-muscled, steady-nerved mountain climber, have been conquered in a new way. Many peaks in Europe and America—the Jungfrau in Switzerland, and our own Pike's Peak in Colorado, for example—are today ascended by rail. But the latest in the subjugation of the old-time inaccessible upper regions of the earth consists in a railless track, making the very eagle's nest no longer impossible of approach even to those most fearful and helpless in high places.

This most curious and extraordinary of all railways, if railway it can be properly termed, has recently been built and put into operation on the Wetterhorn, a famous peak of the Bernese Alps, achieving an elevation of 12,150 feet. As it is but fourteen miles southeast of the very popular summer resort of Interlaken, the Wetterhorn is annually visited by thousands of tourists, very few of whom, however, have ever essayed the feat of scaling its sides to the cloud-capped summit.

The line does not, as yet, extend to the great elevation of over two miles, but this feat will doubtless be accomplished in due time by the ingenious and daring engineers. Plans are already under foot to complete the ascent of the Jungfrau and Mont Blanc by this method.

Two cars are used at a time on a section of the line. While one is ascending the other is descending. Each car is carried on an independent system of cables. In case some accident should happen to the controlling apparatus, while the car is in mid-air, the vehicle may be brought to a stop by safety brakes acting on the cables themselves. The steadiness of these cars is truly remarkable. Even in a storm, when the valleys are filled with thunder and the winds go roaring by, no undue oscillation is perceptible.

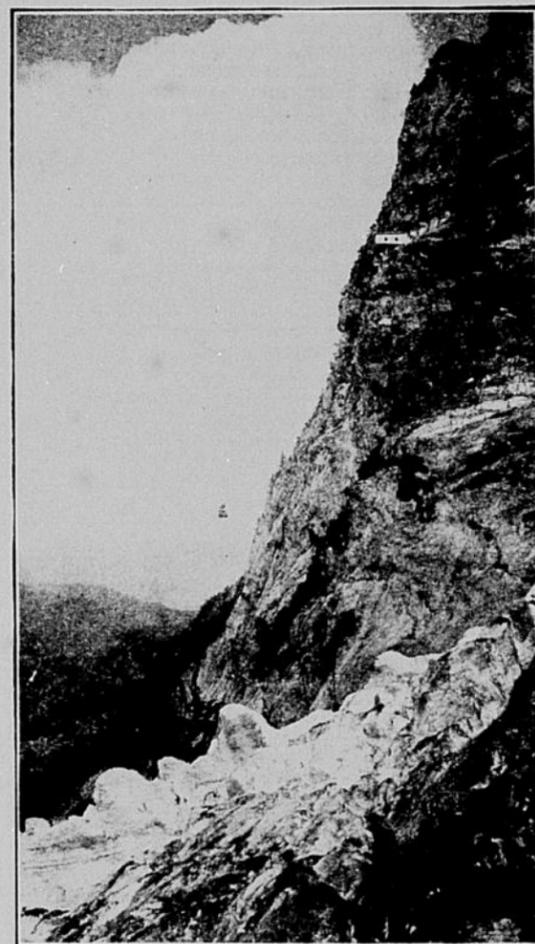
Sixteen persons may be carried in one car—eight seated, and as many more standing, after the approved methods of the traction companies in the largest of our cities.

This line will give to the tourist an almost unsurpassed opportunity for viewing the magnificent scenery of the Alpine country. As the car rises higher and higher, the vista opens up and widens out until the spectator is spellbound by the magnificence of the vast prospect before him.

The early feeling of fear that every one experiences in a strong or lesser degree as the car begins to rise is quickly forgotten in the glory of the view. To the casual beholder from below, however, the ascent may be said to be appalling.

The car appears to be a tiny thing in space hanging from supports seemingly as fine and fragile as the gossamer threads spun by spiders.

But engineers give assurance that the line is absolutely safe, and the word of a European engineer, especially if it be that of a Swiss or German, can usually be relied upon.



The car on its daring ascent—a mere speck.