

THE LAST SHOT By FREDERICK PALMER

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Though the premier, could he have heard this, might have smiled, even grinned, he would have understood Westerling's unconsciousness of inconspicuity. The chief of staff had set himself a task in victory which had no military connection. Without knowing why, he wanted to win ascendancy over her mind.

"The man of action!" exclaimed Marta, her eyes opening very wide, as they would let in the light when she heard something new that pleased her or gave food for thought. "The man of action, who thinks of an ideal as a thing not of words but as the end of action!"

"Exactly!" said Westerling, sensible of another of her gifts. She could get the essence of a thing in a few words. "When we have won and set another frontier, the power of our nation will be such in the world that the Browns can never afford to attack us," he went on. "Indeed, no two of the big nations of Europe can afford to make war without our consent. We shall be the arbiters of international dissensions. We shall command peace—yes, the peace of force, of fact! If it could be won in any other way I should not be here on this veranda in command of an army of invasion. That was my idea—for that I planned."

"You mean that you can gain peace by propaganda and education only when human nature has so changed that we can have law and order and houses are safe from burglary and pedestrians from pickpockets without policemen? Is that it?" she asked.

"Yes, yes! You have it! You have found the wheat in the chaff." "Perhaps because I have been seeing something of human nature—the human nature of both the Browns and the Grays at war. I have seen the Browns throwing hand-grenades and the Grays in wanton disorder in our dining-room directly they were out of touch with their officers!" she said sadly, as one who hates to accept disillusionment but must in the face of logic.

Westerling made no reply except to nod, for a movement on her part preoccupied him. She leaned forward, as she had when she had told him he would become chief of staff, her hands clasped over her knees, her eyes burning with a question. It was the attitude of the prophecy. But with the prophecy she had been a little mystical; the fire in her eyes had precipitated an idea. Now it forged another question.

"And you think that you will win?" she asked. "You think that you will win?" she repeated with the slow emphasis which demands a careful answer. The deliberateness of his reply was in keeping with her mood. He was detached; he was a seer.

"Yes, I know that we shall. Numbers make it so, though there be no choice of skill between the two sides." His tone had the confidence of the flow of a mighty river in its destination on its way to the sea. There was nothing in it of prayer, of hope, of desperation, as there had been in Lanstron's "We shall win!" spoken to her in the arbor at their last interview. She drew forward slightly in her chair. Her eyes seemed much larger and nearer to him. They were sweeping him up and down as if she were seeing the slim figure of Lanstron in contrast to Westerling's sturdiness; as if she were measuring the might of the five millions behind him and the three millions behind Lanstron. She let go a half-whispered "Yes!" which seemed to reflect the conclusion gained from the power of his presence.

"Then my mother's and my own interests are with you—the interests of peace are with you!" she declared. She did not appear to see the sudden, uncontrolled gleam of victory in his eyes. By this time it had become a habit for Westerling to wait silently for her to come out of her abstractions. To disturb one might make it unproductive.

able—to save lives!" declared Westerling with deliberate assurance. "I—I want to see an end of the killing! I—" She sprang to her feet as if about to break away tumultuously, but paused, swaying unsteadily, and passed her hand across her eyes.

"We intend a general attack on the first line of defense tonight!" he exclaimed, his supreme thought leaping into words.

"And you would want the information about the first line to-night if it is to be of service?"

"Yes, to-night!" Marta brought her hands together in a tight clasp. Her gaze fluttered for a minute over the tea-table. When she looked up her eyes were calm.

"It is a big thing, isn't it?" she said. "A thing not to be done in an impulse."



"I want to see an end of the killing." I try never to do big things in an impulse. When I see that I am in danger of it I always say: "Go by yourself and think for half an hour!" So I must now. In a little while I will let you know my decision."

Without further formality she started across the lawn to the terrace steps. Westerling watched her sharply, passing along the path of the second terrace, pacing slowly, head bent, until she was out of sight. Then he stood for a time getting a grip on his own emotions before he went into the house.

CHAPTER XV.

In Feller's Place.

What am I? What have I done? What am I about to do? shot as forked shadows over the hot lava-flow of Marta's impulse. The vitality that Westerling had felt by suggestion from a still profile rejoiced in a quickening of pace directly she was out of sight of the veranda. All the thinking she had done that afternoon had been in pictures; some saying, some cry, some groan, or some smile went with every picture.

The sitting-room of the tower was empty to other eyes but not to hers. The lantern was in the corner at hand. After her hastening steps had carried her along the tunnel to the telephone, she set down the lantern and pressed the spring that opened the panel door. Another moment and she would be embarked on her great adventure in the finality of action. That little ear-piece became a specter of conscience. She drew back convulsively and her hands flew to her face; she was a rooking shadow in the thin, reddish light of the lantern.

Conscious mind had torn off the mask from subconscious mind, revealing the true nature of the change that war had wrought in her. She who had resented Feller's part—what a part she had been playing! Every word, every shade of expression, every telling pause of abstraction after Westerling confessed that he had made war for his own ends had been subtly prompted by a purpose whose actuality terrified her.

Her hypocrisy, she realized, was as black as the wall of darkness beyond the lantern's gleam. Then this demoralization passed, as a nightmare passes, with Westerling's boast again in her ears.

When war's principles, enacted by men, were based on sinister trickery called strategy and tactics, should not women, using such weapons as they had, also fight for their homes? Marta's hands swept down from her eyes; she was on fire with resolution.

Forty miles away a bell in Lanstron's bedroom and at his desk rang simultaneously. At the time he and Partow were seated facing each other across a map on the table of the room where they worked together. No persuasion of the young vice-chief, no edict of the doctors, could make the old chief take exercise or shorten his hours.

"I know. I know myself!" he said. "I know my duty. And you are learning, my boy, by—" (To Be Continued)

PALMER BRANDED AS FAKE AS EVER

Senator Oliver Says That He Has Been in His Seat Offener Than the Monroe Man

Senator George T. Oliver branded Congressman A. Mitchell Palmer as a teller of untruths about the time that the hard-pressed Democratic candidate for the Senate was declaring that there was no depression in the iron industry in Pennsylvania and that the idle mills were the result of a plot. This all came within two days after Palmer declared that the mills were all busy and the retrenchments began at Steelton.

Senator Oliver in his remarks on Palmer's remarkable brand of campaign speeches said: "Because I have the temerity to reply to his malicious and untruthful attacks on Senator Feller or his tirades, Mr. Palmer's statements about me show conclusively that he is either the victim of woeful ignorance or is guilty of willful mendacity, or both."

A HISTORY OF THE WORLD THAT COVERS SEVENTY CENTURIES OF LIFE OF MANKIND

Prehistoric times in world history are long stretches of a starless night. Only feeble glimmerings are anywhere discernible—like the occasional twinkling of a star in the sky. In fact, he has been a constant presence ever since he obeyed the Presidential command to abandon his candidacy for Governor and engage in a rain-bow chase for senatorial glory. When I am in Washington I give my entire time and attention to my duties as a senator. Mr. Palmer, what time he can spare from the advocacy of measures designed to break the industries of his State, devotes his attention to the dispensing of patronage to his subservient henchmen."

LEGAL NOTICES

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION SUBMITTED TO THE CITIZENS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR APPROVAL OR REJECTION, BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AS PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ARTICLE XVIII OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Number One. A JOINT RESOLUTION Proposing an amendment to section one, article eight of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to read: "Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, That the following amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, proposed, in accordance with the eighteenth article thereof:—"

Section 1. Every male citizen twenty-one years of age, possessing the following qualifications, shall be entitled to vote at all elections, subject, however, to such laws requiring and regulating the registration of electors as the General Assembly may enact:—

First. He shall have been a citizen of the United States at least one month, and he shall have resided in the State one year (or, having previously been a qualified elector or native-born citizen of the State, he shall have removed therefrom and returned, then six months) immediately preceding the election.

Second. He shall have resided in the election district where he shall offer to vote at least two months immediately preceding the election.

Third. He shall have resided in the election district where he or she shall have been a citizen of the United States at least one month.

Fourth. He or she shall have resided in the State one year (or, having previously been a qualified elector or native-born citizen of the State, he or she shall have removed therefrom and returned, then six months) immediately preceding the election.

Fifth. If twenty-two years of age and upwards, he or she shall have paid within two years a State or county tax, which shall have been assessed at least two months and paid at least one month before the election.

Section 2. Every citizen, male or female, of twenty-one years of age, possessing the following qualifications, shall be entitled to vote at all elections, subject, however, to such laws requiring and regulating the registration of electors as the General Assembly may enact:—

First. He or she shall have been a citizen of the United States at least one month, and he or she shall have resided in the State one year (or, having previously been a qualified elector or native-born citizen of the State, he or she shall have removed therefrom and returned, then six months) immediately preceding the election.

ment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in accordance with the provisions of the eighteenth article thereof:—

Section 1. The debt of any county, city, borough, township, school district, or other municipality or incorporated district, except as herein provided, shall never exceed seven per centum upon the assessed value of the taxable property therein, nor shall any such municipality or district incur any new debt, or increase its indebtedness to an amount exceeding two per centum upon such assessed valuation of property, without the assent of the electors thereof at a public election in such manner as shall be provided by law; but any city, the debt of which now exceeds seven per centum in such assessed valuation, may be authorized by law to increase the same three per centum in the aggregate, at any one time, upon such valuation, except that any debt or debts hereinafter incurred by the city or county of Philadelphia for the construction and development of subways for transit purposes, or for the construction of wharves and docks, or the reclamation of land to be used in the construction of a system of wharves and docks, as public improvements, owned or to be owned by said city and county of Philadelphia, and which shall yield to the city and county of Philadelphia current net revenues in excess of the interest on said debt or debts, except as herein provided, shall not be included in the assessment of said debt or debts, may be excluded in ascertaining the power of the city or county of Philadelphia to become otherwise indebted. Provided, That a true copy of this amendment shall be established and maintained, so that it shall read as follows:—

Section 1. Every citizen, male or female, of twenty-one years of age, possessing the following qualifications, shall be entitled to vote at all elections, subject, however, to such laws requiring and regulating the registration of electors as the General Assembly may enact:—

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other causes, different from those fixed by general laws, regulating actions against natural persons, and such acts now existing are avoided.

A true copy of Joint Resolution No. 3, of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:—

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