

The RING and the MAN

CHAPTER IX The Plans of the Ring.

At this moment Haldane remained in the room. He looked glumly troubled.

"Gentlemen, it is past belief, but when I asked him whether he would accept the nomination or not, he said—"

Haldane paused.

"He still is not already pledged his support to Gormly that afternoon at the intercession of—or my daughter and some other friends."

"Well, I'm damned!" said the boss. "Are you going to stand for that?"

"I hardly see how I can prevent it," answered Haldane, very much perturbed, "unless I should disclose my own connection with the administration; which, I take it, is a thing to be avoided for all our sakes."

"Yes, unless we want to kill the cow we're milking," returned Liffey, "it is. But can't you put pressure on him?"

"To a certain extent, yes," said Liffey. "Cut off his allowance."

"Unfortunately, he has sufficient money of his own from his grandfather's estate, to keep him from—want; and as he is quite of age, my influence must be a matter of persuasion."

"Gentlemen," said Rutherford, "this is a very serious indication of the gravity of the situation. If young men like Livingstone Haldane espouse the cause of George Gormly, it means that he'll have a following among that class that has tremendous weight."

"That class as a rule don't cut much of a figure in politics," said the street commissioner. "It's my white wings and Connell's gang and the society that does the work."

"Don't make any mistake," said Rutherford. "The class to which you refer, if it could be waked up, is capable of doing amazing work."

"If I know anything about it," said



"Turn Up Some Dirty Story About Him," Said Liffey Bluntly.

Van Slyke, "Gormly will wake them up too."

"I guess we'll have to fall back on Mr. Warren and his administration," said Haldane.

"Gentlemen," began Warren sentimentally, "I shall always be glad to see the people and—my friends and supporters in any office to which I may be chosen."

"We'll take care of that," interrupted Liffey contemptuously.

"In order to make it regular," said the district attorney, "I propose that we all declare here and now our preference for our candidate. I don't hesitate to say that I think Warren is the best man we can get. He knows him; we know just exactly what we can expect from him. He is rather liked by the people, and his connection with this little ring here is not too obvious."

"I guess that suits me," returned Liffey.

Haberley and Connell agreed, and Van Slyke and his colleague also assented.

"New," said Liffey, "I've got something else to propose. What do you think as to the likelihood of Gormly's getting in or acceptin' the nomination of the outs?"

"I think he could get it by turning over his hand," answered Haldane; "but I think it is extremely unlikely that he'll accept it. He told me that he intended to run as an absolute independent; not to be tied to any party whatsoever."

"They'll offer him the nomination sure," said Connell. "They don't never had such a chance as he'll present since I've been chief of police, and that's nearly twenty years."

"Well, if he won't accept it, that'll make them all sore as the devil," said Haberley.

"Exactly," interposed Liffey, "and therefore I propose that we make a nonpartisan ticket to run against him; that we divide the offices between the ins and outs; reservin' to ourselves the most important and vital one, of course, but givin' the outs enough to make 'em feel good, let 'em get their fingers into the public pie for a few sicks' and so on. We can easily do that without losin' too much, and we'll present a united front against him."

"A united front of all the grafters, thieves, blackguards, financiers, and politicians in New York!" sneered Rutherford.

"You don't like the scheme, Mr. Rutherford," roared Liffey angrily.

"Vastly. I think it's one of the best that could be proposed."

"As for myself," said Haldane, "I also think it has elements of attractiveness, although I must protest against being placed in the category you have enumerated, Mr. Rutherford."

"Oh, protest all you like," said the district attorney easily. "The suggestion is a good one, Liffey. It's not hard to see why you're in your present position. You have a level head. I think we are all agreed on what you suggest; eh, gentlemen?"

"Good!" said Haldane after the assents had been received. "It only remains then to make up the slate. Shall we do it now or later?"

"We might as well do our part of it now," said Liffey. "I'll see Benson tomorrow and put it up to him. He can name his contributions to the list, and then we'll announce it."

"And our platform?" queried Rutherford.

"To stand on our record and point with pride, and say mighty little else," returned the boss concisely. "I tell you, Rutherford, you've got to do the rest. It was so absurd and yet so exceedingly adroit."

"And I'll carry out my part of the game," said the chief of police.

"What part was that?" asked Haldane.

"While you were out," answered Rutherford, "our worthy censor of public morals, guardian of public interests, and enforcer of public law, suggested that it would be a good thing to employ the detective force of the city in looking out for the interests of the party by investigating the past, present, and future of Mr. Gormly. You see a reform candidate has got to be blameless life. That's the reason we are none of us allied with that party, I take it. And if anything whatsoever can be found which tends to cast a cloud over the individual reformer, his cake's dough."

"I suggest," said Mr. Haldane, "that any information you may acquire should be submitted to those of us who are present before any use is made of it."

"Oh, that, of course," said Liffey. "Chief, don't make any moves without submitting them to me."

"There is still another matter of interest to us all which must be settled," continued Haldane.

"What's that?"

"The old franchise of the New York Street Car company that expires this spring; the link that completes the circle of the Gotham Freight Traction company."

"Well, it doesn't seem to me that's a very interesting proposition," said Liffey. "We've got the board of aldermen, and the borough presidents as well. All we've got to do is to draw up an ordinance and shove it through. The mayor here'll sign it, and that'll be the end of it."

"It is by no means as easy as you think, Liffey," said Haldane. "If I know anything about Gormly he'll make a fight on that issue. That is our weak point. If we had that franchise safely passed and in our pockets, we could laugh at him. I don't think it would not be better to defer the passage of such an ordinance until after the election."

"I think that while there is much in what you say, Haldane," said Van Slyke, "yet we'd better make sure of the ordinance before the election. We would have that, anyway, even if we failed, which, as Mr. Liffey says, is hardly possible."

"Gentlemen," said Haldane, "I am by no means convinced of what you say. I tell you that the main fight will be on the disposal of that very franchise. I admit that we can pass anything in spite of any opposition, but the question is do we want it."

"That's hardly the question," said Connell. "Of course we want it; but the question is, is it the best thing to do. I think there is tremendous force in your arguments, Mr. Haldane. If we present ourselves with that franchise, which is so immensely valuable and vital indeed to the completion of our properties, as well as to the public, we shall certainly have given to the opposition the strongest ground for appeal to the people. If we do not present ourselves with the franchise, if we allow the election to determine that unofficially as it were, and then when we have won the election, we avail ourselves of our opportunities, we shall be in a much safer and better position."

"Do you wish to submit this franchise to the vote of the people, Mr. Connell?" asked Rutherford.

"By no means," answered the financier.

"Well, what do you propose then?" said Haldane. "This would not be well, in case this movement grows strong enough to be worthy of the attention we are giving it, to declare as the party in power that while we have the power to grant the franchise, and while we think it would be for the interests of the people that it should be granted, yet we are willing to defer action until after the election and let the election determine."

"That would be a wise course," said Haldane. "I don't know but that it is the wisest course; but we must face the alternative."

"What is that?"

"Defeat! If we made that proposition, and then were defeated, it would be impossible for us to secure the franchise. The stock of the Gotham Freight Traction company is \$200,000,000, and the bonds outstanding aggregate almost as much. If we don't have this franchise, they won't be worth ten cents on the dollar to us."

"I don't see how we can avoid that."

invested in the concern?" asked the district attorney.

"Two hundred and fifty millions from the people, and—very little else," answered Haldane.

"How much is it really worth?" queried Liffey.

"It's worth, of course, what was put into it."

"And what will its earning capacity be?"

"If we control it, it will pay a fair dividend on all the stock that has been put out, most of which is held by our friends and the friends of the organization," answered Van Slyke.

"The problem was a tremendous one. They faced it silently a moment or two, and at last Haldane rested it."

"You see, we can, if necessary, defy public opinion and jam through an ordinance at the last minute even if we are likely to lose the election, although by so doing we should give the enemy a tremendous advantage at the close of the campaign. Or we can defer the granting of the franchise until after the election, in the hope that the postponement will be our stronger card for winning. I tell you, gentlemen, that other interests of greater magnitude would be involved in the fate of the Gotham Freight Traction company."

"Why in the name of all that's businesslike didn't you get control of this franchise before?" asked Rutherford.

"We couldn't," Haldane replied. "It is impossible to get a renewal of a franchise until it expires."

"Why didn't you wait before committing yourselves to the greater enterprise until this franchise matured?"

"We couldn't. There were other interests anxious to build the subway and unite the various other franchises in one organization. The people were clamorous that the road should be built, and there was nothing else to do but build it. Besides, who could have foreseen this situation. No, gentlemen, we were helpless, and without this franchise we are more helpless."

"What does it cover?" asked the mayor.

"It covers pretty much every available route by which we can connect the ends of the traction company."

"How much territory?"

"Oh, a mile or a mile and a half, I should say; but every possible right of way is included in the franchise."

"And if we don't get it?"

"Somebody else will get it, of course. He will build the connections, and hold us up for anything that he wants."

"But it will be no good to anybody else without what we've got," suggested Van Slyke.

"True; but we have got several hundred millions involved and can't adopt a do-nothing policy. Probably ten millions or even less will cover the expenses required by rebuilding under the old or new franchise, and that ten million has us by the throat."

"It should be easy for five hundred millions to freeze out ten," said Rutherford.

"Under other circumstances it would not be at all difficult," answered Haldane; "but the people are to be considered in this case. This road was built as a public convenience and, gentlemen, it has to be run."

"This is a hell of a fix for men as smart as you to get yourselves in!" said Liffey. "As I take it, we can secure the franchise or we can make its future grant the issue of the campaign; and if we win, pass it then; and if we fail, take our medicine."

"You've stated it exactly."

"For myself, I'm in favor of grabbing the franchise now," said the boss. "It means money. Money's what we're here for. The object of politics is money for the crowd that's in. The aim of the crowd that's out is to get in so they can get the money. With money we can buy votes; with votes we can get office; with office and money we can get immunity from the consequences. Even if we're beaten by the mayor, we'll still have the district attorney, we'll still have the police force. I'll still be here; so will you, Mr. Haldane. And therefore, rather than take any risk, I move that the franchise be renewed as soon as it expires, and that the grant be made to the Gotham Freight Traction company. I'd rather have something substantial than play for a chance any time. I guess we wouldn't suffer any therefore, no matter what happened. Besides, all it'd mean would be a wait for four years. These reform movements always get tired of themselves, and then one or the other of the old parties comes in. We'll be the one."

"I am inclined to believe that much of Mr. Liffey's contention is sound," said Van Slyke at last.

"Well, gentlemen," said Haldane, "what do you all think about it?"

"Let's get what we can," said the mayor.

"And keep all we've got," added Connell.

"Very well then," said Haldane, "so be it. We are united upon a non-

partisan ticket which we can select presently, with Warren at the head of it. Mr. Liffey will see Mr. Benson and induce his co-operation. Mr. Connell will investigate Mr. Gormly's career. Mr. Rutherford will arrange to have the franchise renewed as soon as it is possible to do so. Mr. Warren will at once announce himself as a candidate for re-election. Messrs. Liffey, Haberley, and Connell will get their forces in line. And I think that's all."

"Not quite, Mr. Haldane," said Liffey.

"What else?"

"You'll get the barrel open for the necessary expenses of the campaign."

"Quite so," said Haldane, dryly. "You may depend upon us to do what is proper; eh, gentlemen?"

Van Slyke and Connell nodded.

"I think we've done a pretty good night's work," said the district attorney, rising to his feet.

"Don't go yet," said Haldane. "We must fix up the slate first, and that will be all."

It was a half-hour later when the last one departed from the house. Haldane was quite aware of the conditions under which his fortune was being increased and his power extended. He had been brought in contact with the naked reality of the situation a great many times; but it seemed to him that never before had it presented itself in so hideous and unattractive a guise as on that night. The financier was hardened. His conscience, while keenly alive in other directions, in matters concerning politics and the people was seared and indurated. But what had been said and what had been discussed that night had sickened him.

Haldane felt quite lonely, quite as he sat there in the small hours of the morning, his cigar gone out, musing over the situation. He pulled himself together at last. The battle was not lost. The enemy had not won, and before that came about there would be a struggle which would be in his hands, or in the hands of the ring of which he was chief. No more experienced players ever sat at a game than those associated with him. They ought to win; but would they? Haldane was by no means certain.

(To Be Continued.)

9 Years Old, Member of G. A. R.

Chicago, Oct. 14.—John Foley, Jr., 9 years of age, member of the Wauegan G. A. R. He appeared with the post in public last night in a brand new G. A. R. coat. He has appeared unofficially with the G. A. R. every memorial day parade since he was 2 1/2 years old.

Big Crop of Honey.

Silver City, Oct. 15.—T. L. Shawler, the bee man, says his honey crop this year will amount to 10,000 pounds, which was made by seventy stands of bees. He has better than 2,000 pounds of fall honey. Mr. Shawler says this has been an average season for honey. If we had had rain in July there is no telling how much he would have had. The "foul brood," a disease among bees,

Relief in Six Hours.

Distressing kidney and bladder disease relieved in six hours by Dr. E. Detchon's Kidney Remedy. It is a great surprise on account of its exceeding promptness in relieving pain in bladder, kidneys and back, in male or female. Relieves retention of water almost immediately. If you want quick relief this is the remedy. Sold by Chas. J. Lander, druggist.

Absolutely the Best Land Proposition on the Market.

The plow displaces the cattle on the famous 70,000-acre O'Connor ranch, located in Calhoun county, Texas, which has been surveyed and cut up and is now being sold to homesteaders in large and small tracts at very low prices on long terms; the very center of all that is good in farming, fruit raising and truck gardening. Soil rich and productive as can be found anywhere, annual rainfall well distributed throughout the chopping season, one of the most delightful climates in the world, no frost or freeze outs, no drouths, no swamps, no mosquitoes, rich virgin soil ready for the plow that will enable you to pay for your land with one good crop. Write for the place of all others in the United States where farming, fruit and truck gardening is being conducted and producing bountifully with the least possible expense and greatest possible profit. We invite homeseekers and investors to investigate what we have to show you. We own our land and those interested may be assured of the greatest consideration and fair treatment. Excursions, homeseekers' rates, first and third Tuesday of each month. Write us for reliable details. Calhoun County Cattle Company, 311 and 312 Liggett Bldg., St. Louis, Mo.

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We own and offer for sale to net the purchaser six per cent annual interest the following choice first mortgage farm loans:

No. 2534 A. W. Lewis \$4,750.00
Covering 320 acres improved land in Edmunds county, S. D., valued at \$414,400.00.

No. 2881 Anton Dirk \$1,500.00
Covering 160 acres improved land in Emmons county, N. D., valued at \$6,100.00.

No. 2888 Christian Geler \$2,500.00
Covering 320 acres improved land in Emmons county, N. D., valued at \$7,500.00.

No. 2890 Lorie Dornbush \$1,300.00
Covering 160 acres improved land in Emmons county, N. D., valued at \$6,000.00.

We have loans on hand ranging in amounts from \$500 up. All loans offered subject to prior sale.

is prevalent in this vicinity and Mr. Shawler says it will kill every swarm that gets it unless taken care of at the start. He has managed to cure the disease in his bees, but several of his neighbors have not been so fortunate.

"It Beats All."

This is quoted from a letter of M. Stockwell, Hannibal, Mo. "I recently used Foley's Honey and Tar for the first time. To say I am pleased does not half express my feeling. It beats

all the remedies I ever used. I contracted a bad cold and was threatened with pneumonia. The first doses gave great relief and one bottle completely cured me." Contains no opiates. McBride & Will Drug Company.

profits. Write today. General Company, Dept. N, St. Louis, Mo.

WANTED—By experienced stenographer, position at reasonable salary. Address A. M. Carr, Times-Republican.

Wanted—Two or three rooms for light housekeeping. E. E. Turner, 108 South Third avenue.

Wanted—Awnings taken down on short notice. Prompt attention given to canvas work of every description. B. C. Caffrey, tent and awning maker, residential 111 West Church street, Marshalltown, Iowa. Phone 1146 white. Call us up.

Pearls Wanted—Send by registered mail. If my offer is not satisfactory, will return. Lathrop Produce Company, Belmont, Iowa.

Wanted—By the canning department of the Western Grocer Company Mills, pumpkins and cabbage. Come and see us at the mills or call 145.

Wanted—Leave your wants at the Marshalltown Employment Agency, Phone 788.

Wanted—Let your wants be known. Carl's Employment Agency, Phone 959.

HELP WANTED—MALE.

Wanted—Two men and two teams Monday morning; also single man for farm. Steady job. Carl's Employment Agency.

Wanted—Young men to prepare for positions as automobile repairmen, chauffeurs, salesmen. We make you expert in ten weeks by mail; assist you to good position. Pay big, demand for men great. Free model of automobile with course. Sample lesson and particulars free. Write today; terms reasonable. Empire Automobile Institute, Rochester, N. Y.

Wanted—Men to learn automobile business. Great demand for skilled help. We teach by mail, send you Auto Model. Get \$25 weekly job. Make \$10 weekly while learning. Rochester Auto School, 343 Rochester, N. Y.

I will start you earning \$4 daily at home in spare time, silversmithing, free sample and instructive booklet giving plans of operation. G. F. Redmond, Dept. 139, Boston, Mass.

Anyone, anywhere can earn big pay copying addresses at home evenings. Book, 4c stamps. C. H. Rowan, Chicago, Ill.

Wanted—Day porter at Pilgrim hotel. This is a good paying steady job for a reliable man.

Wanted—First-class men for street paving at Toledo, Iowa. Wages 25 cents per hour. Apply to R. J. Seveatt at Toledo, Iowa.

Wanted—Two boys at Pilgrim hotel. Good wages and board to steady reliable boys.

Wanted—Ten carpenters, 40 cents an hour, for finishing, at the county farm. W. J. Longcor.

Car Carpenters—Experienced rebuilding freight cars. Always steady work; fine wages; money when needed; no trouble. Ottawa Car Works, Ottawa, Kan.

Wanted—A man experienced as importer or vehicle salesman for soliciting in the country. Address "Salesman," care T-R.

500 Men 25 to 40 years old wanted at end of electric railway motormen and conductors; \$50 to \$100 a month; no experience necessary; fine opportunity; no strike; write immediately for prospectus, enclosing stamps, application blank, enclosing stamps. Address F-21, care of Marshalltown Times-Republican.

HELP WANTED—FEMALE.

Anyone, anywhere can earn big pay copying addresses at home evenings. Book, 4c stamps. C. H. Rowan, Chicago, Ill.

Wanted—Housekeeper; small family, no washing. Call evening, 8 South Third street.

Wanted—At once, first class woman (white) cook to take charge of kitchen in commercial hotel (town 5,000) in Iowa. Must be economical and capable. Prefer one who has had charge first month, more if worth it. Splendid corner steam heated room. Answer mail five days B-15 care this paper.

Wanted—At once, bright capable lady to travel, demonstrate and sell dealers. \$25 to \$50 per week. R. R. fare paid. Goodrich Drug Company, 1308-10 Harney street, Omaha, Neb.

Wanted—Dishwasher; good wages. Henry Sundell, 31 North Center.

Wanted—Girl for general work in small hotel. Good wages for right party. City Hotel, Galt, Iowa.

Wanted—Hand ironers at the Meeker Laundry.

Wanted—Experienced chambermaids, Stoddard hotel.

Wanted—Woman for general work at county farm, \$25 per month. Write or phone J. C. Koontz, Marshalltown.

Wanted—Girls at Palace laundry.

WANTED, SALESMAN.

Wanted—First class salesman to act as district manager for the sale of the well known Opal Chewing Gum. First class contract to good man. Address at once. The Opal Gum Company, Minneapolis, Minn.

AGENTS WANTED.

My agents make \$5 to \$25 daily selling household article. You can do it. Write immediately. Particulars free. Mont Supply Company, Waterloo, Iowa.

Our Milwaukee agent made \$78.50 last week selling our mammoth hand decorated \$1 bottle perfume at 50 cents. You can too, 100 per cent profit. Free samples. Parker Chemical Company, Chicago.

Wanted—Agents. Our new specialty is winner. Just out. Sells at sight. People want it. Makes big money. Particulars free. Western Importing Co., Owatonna, Minn.

Wanted—Agents. Vacuum cleaner. Live, energetic agents to sell Thurman electric vacuum cleaners for homes, stores, hotels, etc. Clean business, big

Wanted—By the canning department of the Western Grocer Company Mills, pumpkins and cabbage. Come and see us at the mills or call 145.

Wanted—Leave your wants at the Marshalltown Employment Agency, Phone 788.

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Wanted—Men to learn automobile business. Great demand for skilled help. We teach by mail, send you Auto Model. Get \$25 weekly job. Make \$10 weekly while learning. Rochester Auto School, 343 Rochester, N. Y.