



BOB HAMPTON of PLACER

By RANDALL PARRISH AUTHOR OF "WHEN WILDNESS WAS KING" "MY LADY OF THE NORTH" "HISTORIC ILLINOIS ETC."

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SYNOPSIS.

A detachment of the Eighteenth Infantry from the same trapped by Indians in a narrow gorge. Among them is a stranger who introduces himself by the name of Hampton...

CHAPTER XXXV. The Curtain Falls.

Bronzed by months of scouting on those northern plains, a graver, older look upon his face, and the bars of a captain gracing the shoulders of his new cavalry jacket, Donald Brant trotted down the stage road bordering



"Donald, I Love You."

CHAPTER XXXIV.—Continued.

Nor was it long delayed. Scarcely had the troopers recovered, refilled their depleted cartridge belts from those of their dead comrades, when the onslaught came. The soldiers waited their coming. The short, brown-barreled carbines gleamed at the level in the sunlight, and then belched forth their message of flame into the very faces of those reckless horsemen.

"Why, Lieut. Brant! I was never more surprised in my life. Do, pray, come right in. Yes, Naida is here, and I will have her sent for at once. Oh, Howard! this is Lieut. Brant, just back from his awful Indian fighting. How very nice that he should happen to arrive just at this time, isn't it?"

Mr. Wynkoop cleared his throat. "Why—why, you see, we are to be married this evening—Miss Spencer and myself. We shall be so delighted to have you witness the ceremony. It is to take place at the church, and my people insist upon making quite an affair out of the occasion—Phoebe is so popular, you know."

The lady again bustled in, her eyes glowing with enthusiasm. "Why, I think it is perfectly delightful. Don't you, Howard? Now Lieut. Brant and Naida can stand up with us. You will, won't you, Lieutenant?"

come back, as I said I would, and surely I read welcome in your eyes?" "Yes." "And I have come to say that there is no longer any shadow of the dead between us."

She looked up quickly, her hands clasped, her cheeks flushing. "Are you sure? Perhaps you misunderstand; perhaps you mistake my meaning."

"I know it all," he answered, soberly. "From the lips of Hampton." "You have seen him? Oh, Lieut. Brant, please tell me the whole truth. I have missed him so much, and since the day he rode away to Cheyenne no one word to explain his absence has come back to me. You cannot understand what this means, how much he has become to me through years of kindness."

"You have heard nothing?" "Not a word." Brant drew a long, deep breath. He had supposed she knew this. At last he said gravely: "Naida, the truth will prove the kindest message. I think he died in that unbroken ring of defenders clustered about Gen. Custer on the bluffs of the Little Big Horn."

Her slight figure trembled so violently that he held her close within his arms. "There was a smile upon his face when we found him. He performed his full duty, Naida, and died as became a soldier and a gentleman."

"But—but, this cannot be! I saw the published list; his name was not among them." "The man who fell was Robert Nolan."

Gently he drew her down to a seat upon the soft turf of the bank. She looked up at him helplessly, her mind seemingly dazed, her eyes yet filled with doubt.

"Robert Nolan? My father?" He bent over toward her, pressing his lips to her hair and stroking it tenderly with his hand.

"Yes, Naida, darling; it was truly Robert Hampton Nolan who died in battle, in the ranks of his old regiment—died as he would have chosen to die, thank God! completely cleared of every stain upon his honor. Sit

up, little girl, and listen while I tell you. There is in the story no word which does not reflect nobility upon the soldier's daughter."

She uplifted her white face. "Tell me," she said, simply, "all you know." He recounted to her slowly, carefully, the details of that desperate journey northward, of their providential meeting on the Little Big Horn, of the papers left in his charge, of Hampton's riding forward with dispatches, and of his death at Custer's side.

"These are the papers, Naida. I opened the envelope as directed, and found deeds to certain properties, including the mine in the Black Range; a will, duly signed and attested, naming you as his sole heir, together with a carefully prepared letter, addressed to you, giving a full account of the crime of which he was convicted, as well as some other matters of a personal nature. That letter you must read alone as his last message, but the truth of all he says has since been proved."

"She glanced up at him quickly. "By Murphy?" "Yes, by Murphy, who is now lying in the hospital at Bethune, slowly recovering. His sworn deposition has

been forwarded to the department at Washington, and will undoubtedly result in the honorable replacing of your father's name on the army list. I will tell you briefly the man's confession, together with the few additional facts necessary to make it clear.

"Your father and mine were for many years friends and army comrades. They saw service together during the great war, and afterward upon the plains in Indian campaigning. Unfortunately a slight misunderstanding arose between them. One night they openly quarreled when heated by wine, and exchanged blows. The following evening your father chancing to be officer of the guard and on duty, my father, whose wife had then been dead a year, was thoughtless enough to accompany Mrs. Nolan home at a late hour from a post ball. It was merely an act of ordinary courtesy; but gossip magnified the tale, and bore it to Nolan. Still smarting from the former quarrel, in which I fear my father was in the wrong, he left the guard house with the openly avowed intention of seeking immediate satisfaction. In the meanwhile Slavin, Murphy, and a trooper named Flynn, who had been to town without passes, and were half-drunk, stole through the guard lines and decided to make a midnight raid on the colonel's private office. Dodging along behind the powder house, they saw suddenly upon my father, then on the way to his own quarters. Whether they were recognized by him, or whether drink made them reckless of consequences, is unknown, but one of the men instantly fired. Then they ran, and succeeded in gaining the barracks unsuspected."

She sat as if fascinated by his recital. "Your father heard the shot, and sprang toward the sound, only to fall headlong across my father's lifeless body. As he came heavily down, his revolver was jarred out of its holster and dropped unnoticed in the grass. An instant later the guard came running up, and by morning Capt. Nolan was under arrest charged with murder. The circumstantial evidence was strong—his quarrel with the murdered man, his heated language a few moments previous, the revolver lying beside the body, having two chambers discharged, and his being found there alone with the man he had gone forth to seek. Slavin and Flynn both strengthened the case by positive testimony. As a result, a court-martial dismissed the prisoner in disgrace from the army, and a civil court sentenced him to ten years' imprisonment."

"And my mother?" The question was a trembling whisper from quivering lips. "Your mother," he said regretfully, "was an exceedingly proud woman, belonging to a family of social prominence in the east. She felt deeply the careless gossip connecting her name with the case, as well as the open disgrace of her husband's conviction. She refused to receive her former friends, and even failed in loyalty to your father in his time of trial. It is impossible now to fix the fault clearly, or to account for her actions. Capt. Nolan turned over all his property to her, and the moment she could do so she disappeared from the fort, taking you with her. From that hour none of her old acquaintances could learn anything regarding her whereabouts. She did not return to her family in the east, nor correspond with anyone in the army. Probably, utterly broken-hearted, she sought seclusion in some city. How Gillis obtained possession of you remains a mystery."

"Is that all?" "Everything." They kept silent for a long time, the slow tears dropping from her eyes, her hands clasped in her lap. His heart, heavy with sympathy, would not permit him to break in upon her deep sorrow with words of comfort.

"Naida," he whispered at last, "this may not be the time for me to speak such words, but you are all alone now. Will you go back to Bethune with me—back to the old regiment as my wife?"

A moment she bowed her head before him; then lifted it and held out her hands. "I will."

"Say to me again what you once said."

"Donald, I love you." Gently he drew her down to him, and their lips met.

"I wish you to be very happy, Naida, dear," he whispered, drawing her head tenderly down until it found rest upon his shoulder.

"Yes, I feel you do, and I am; but it cannot come all at once, Donald, for I have lost so much—so much. I—I hope he knows."

(The End.)

The Impractical Silk Hat. There are people who would have you believe that a silk hat is necessary to a business man's attire, and is a practical adjunct to his bodily covering; but how can a hat that ruffles up in the first puff of wind, or looks like a drowned rat after a shower of rain, be said to be practical?—Outfitter.

FINDING PROPORTION OF CASEIN IN MILK BY SIMPLE TEST

Process Similar to That for Determining Amount of Butter Fat in Milk—By Prof. E. B. Hart, Chemist, Wisconsin Experiment Station.

In the milk of individual cows, there is certainly no definite and constant relation between the amounts of fat and casein. One animal may yield a milk containing 2.7 per cent. of casein and six per cent. of fat, while another produces a milk 2.7 per cent. casein and four per cent. of fat, and still another, a milk carrying 3.5 per cent. of casein and six per cent. of fat. These figures are actual analyses of milks of individual cows in the university herd. Expressed in another way, we have milks where for every hundred pounds of fat, there may be anywhere from 46 to 73 pounds of casein. Surely it is clear that for cheese production, a milk carrying for every hundred pounds of fat 73 pounds of casein,

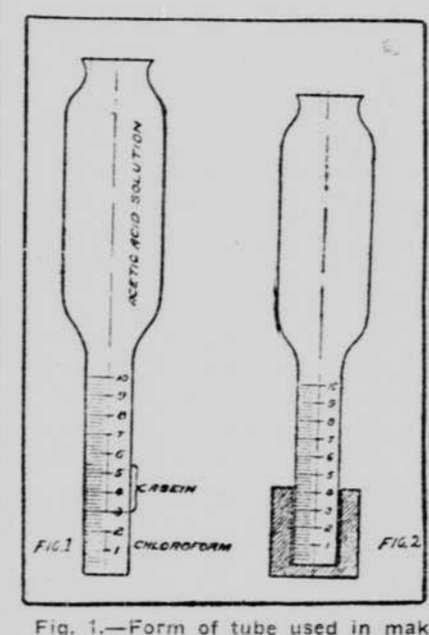


Fig. 1.—Form of tube used in making casein determinations.

Fig. 2.—Casein tube and cork support.

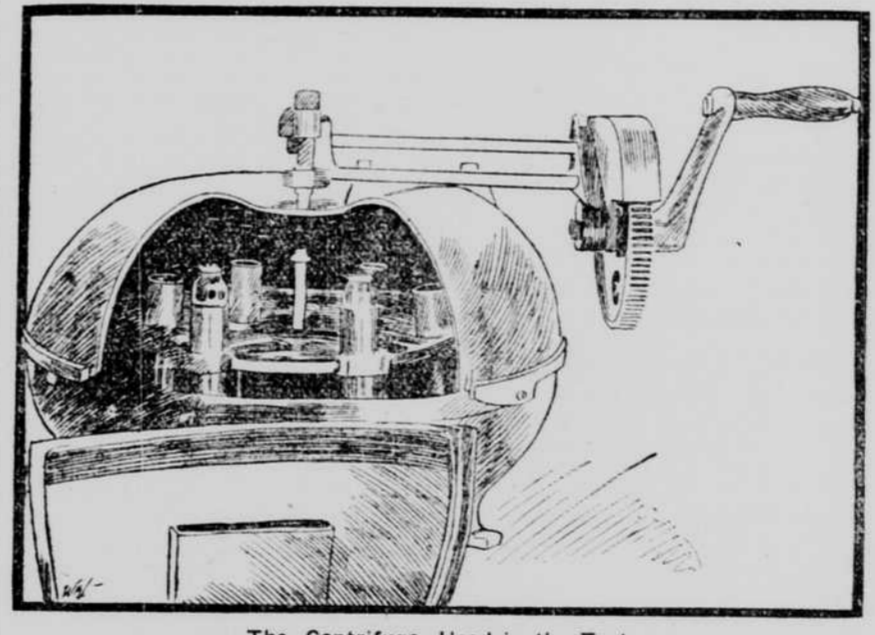
would yield more cheese than one containing but 46 pounds of casein. This is not fiction. But why emphasize this fact of the variation of the casein and fat content of milk? Simply this, that in the minds of not a few dairymen, cows' milk contains these constituents in a definite and fixed relation. That when the fat increases, the casein rises in a fixed and definitely related proportion. This may or may not be the case. It may be true if we average a great number of milks, but here lies our most important point, and that is that it is not the average that is to guide us in our methods of improvement, but rather the exception and the deviation from the average. The producer and the cheese maker who pin their faith to such a belief are in the path of progress. Normal milks vary greatly in their composition and are greatly affected by a variety of conditions, such as individuality, breed, advance of lactation, etc. The estimation of any single constituent, as fat, only allows us to guess how much of any

includes the circle formed with the pockets distended, and is 15 inches. Six or 12 pockets as desired can be arranged in this circle. The centrifuge should be strongly made and run easily by hand to 2,000 revolutions per minute. It should be encased in order to avoid accidents. The experimental centrifuge used in evolving this test is encased with the revolving cups arranged to turn in the regular 16-inch diameter twentieth century Babcock fat tester. The only modifications are the structure of the wheel carrying the pockets and the pockets themselves. The gears are also arranged in order to give easily by hand a speed of 2,000 revolutions per minute.

The pockets are 2.8 cm. in diameter and 11.2 cm. long. It is important that the bottom of each pocket should be provided with some arrangement for centering the tube and also forming an elastic cushion on which the tube is to rest. I have used to advantage ordinary cork stoppers bored out to within 1.8 or 1.6 of an inch from one end, and just large enough to admit the graduated portion of the tube. Fig. 2 illustrates this arrangement. The centrifuge itself is illustrated herewith. As the method is entirely dependent upon the application of a definite centrifugal force within a definite time, it is clear that any modification of the radius of the revolving wheel will vary the force applied and consequently alter the space occupied by the pellet. A revolving wheel 14 inches in diameter should revolve 1,566 times per minute.

It is probable, however, that the dimensions adopted in the tester I have used—a revolving wheel 15 inches in diameter, with the casein tubes themselves revolving in a circle 14.75 inches in diameter and at a speed of 2,000 revolutions per minute—will be suitable for most occasions.

In making the test the following conditions must be observed: 1. Make the test on sweet, unpreserved milk, where practicable. 2. Make the tests in duplicate, and be sure that the sample of milk is a representative one. Use 2 cc. of chloroform, 20 cc. acetic acid solution, and 5 cc. of milk. 3. Have the temperature of the acetic acid solution and the milk between 65 and 75 degrees F.; 70 degrees is to be preferred and is more accurate. 4. Do not shake the mixture more than 20 seconds. Fifteen is probably ample, but shake with reasonable vigor. 5. Make sure that the speed of the centrifuge is 2,000 revolutions per minute, for 7 1/2 or eight minutes, with the diameter of the revolving circle 15 inches. 6. Allow the tubes to stand ten minutes before reading. 7. The following preservatives should never be used when this test is



The Centrifuge Used in the Test.

other of the milk constituents is present. The breeder, through the Babcock test, has made a butter cow, one where the fat is unusually high, and he has done this by selection. It does not seem at all impossible that with a simple casein test, the cheese cow can be developed; one where the relation of casein to fat is especially high. Where, for instance, instead of a milk with 73 pounds of casein per hundred pounds of fat, we can produce a milk containing nearer 100 pounds of casein for 100 pounds of fat.

Where chemical analysis has been applied to the milk of individual cows, it has revealed the fact that the relation of casein to fat is a variable one, that for 100 pounds of fat we may have anywhere from 50 to 70 pounds of casein, and occasionally even a wider variation. These variations are individualistic and not confined to any one breed, but may occur among cows of different breeds, or among cows of the same breed. This emphasizes the importance of a casein test to supplement the fat test where the milk is to be valued for cheese production.

The form of the tube used in making the test is shown in Fig. 1. This should be made of well annealed glass and should contain up to the neck not less than 35 cc. The tube is approximately 14 centimeters long (equivalent to 5.6 inches); the neck is restricted to a diameter of 1.8 cm. The barrel including the neck has a length of 7 cm. with an external diameter of from 2.6 to 2.7 cm. The graduated tube is approximately 7 cm. long and 1.2 cm. external diameter. Each division of the scale represents 1 cc. and 2 per cent. of casein where 5 cc. equivalent to 5.15 grams of milk are used in the test, assuming the specific gravity of normal cows' milk as 1.030. The graduations extend from zero to 10 per cent. This is amply sufficient for all normal milks. The 10 per cent. mark represented on the scale should correspond to exactly 5 cc.

Under the conditions of the test the wheel carrying the bottles must be of standard size. The diameter adopted

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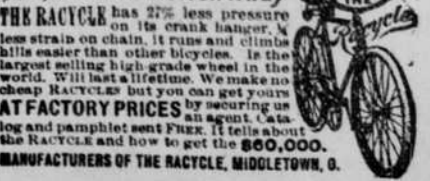
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