The Cow Puncher

Robert J. C. Stead Author of

Other Poems'

Illustrations by IRWIN MYERS

BUT I'M SICK OF IT ALL."

Synopsis.-David Elden, son of a drunken, shiftless ranchman, al-most a mayerick of the footbills, is breaking bottles with his pistoi from his running cayuse when the first automobile he has ever seen arrives and tips over, breaking the leg of Doctor Hardy but not injurg his beautiful daughter Irene. Dave rescues the injured man and brings a doctor from 40 miles away. Irene takes charge of the

CHAPTER I-Continued.

After breakfast Irene attended to the wants of her father, and by this time the visiting doctor was manifest ing impatience to be away. But Dave declared with prompt finality that the horses must rest until after noon, and the doctor, willy-nilly, spent the morning rambling in the foothills. Meanwhile the girl busied herself with work about the house, in which she was effecting a rapid transformation.

After the midday dinner Dave harnessed the team for the journey to town, but before leaving inquired of Irene if there were any special purchases, either personal or for the use of the house, which she would recommend. With some diffidence she mentioned one that was uppermost in her thoughts-soap, both laundry and tollet. Doctor Hardy had no hesitation in calling for a box of his favorite cigars and some new magazines, and took occasion to press into the boy's hand a bill out of all proportion to the value of the supplies requested.

The day was introductory to others that were to follow. Dave returned the next afternoon, riding his own horse and heavily laden with cigars, magazines and sonp.

The following day it was decided that the automobile, which since the accident had laid upturned by the roadway, should be brought to the ranch buildings. Dave harnessed his team and, instead of riding one of the horses, walked behind, driving by the reins, and accompanied by the girl, who had proclaimed her ability to steer the car.

With the aid of the team and Dave's lariat the car was soon righted and was found to be none the worse for its deflection from the beaten track. Irene presided at the steering-wheel, watching the road with great intentness and turning the wheel too far on each occasion, which gave to her course a somewhat wavy or undulating order, such as is found in bread-knives; or perhaps a better figure would be to compare it to that rolling motion affected by fancy skaters. However, the mean of her direction corresponded with the mean of the trail and all went merrily until the stream was approached. Here was a rather steep descent and the car showed a sudden purpose to engage the horses in a contest of speed. She determined to use the foot-brake, a feat which was accomplished, under normal conditions, by pressing one foot firmly against a contraption somewhere beneath the steering-post. She shot a quick glance downward and, to her alarm, discov-



Without Reply He Walked Stolidly Into the Cold Water, Took Her in His Arms and Carried Her Ashore.

ered not one, but three, contraptions, all apparently designed to receive the pressure of a foot-if one could reach tion, and in automobiling he who hesitates invites a series of rapid expericar was running away. It was quite away, too. The situation assumed the qualities of a race, and

to its termination. not more than two feet deep, but the skirt, and announced a willingness to extra resistance it caused and the ex- risk life and limb on any horse that tra alarm it excited in the horses re- Dave might select for that purpose. He sulted in breaking the lariat. Dave provided her with a dependable mount clung fast to his team and they were and their first journey, taken somewhat soon brought to a standstill. Having gingerly along the principal trail, was pacified them, he tied them to a post accomplished without incident. It was and returned to the stream. The car the forerunner of many others, plungsat in the middle; the girl had put her ing deeper and deeper into the fastfeet on the sent beside her, and the nesses of the foothills and even into swift water flowed by a few inches be- the passes of the very mountains themlow. She was laughing merrily when selves. His patience was infinite and, salad in French households.

the bank.

tle splashing," she said, "and you are. Does anything occur to you?"

Without reply he walked stolidly into the cold water, took her in his arms to the ranch buildings without further mishap.

Later in the day he said to her: "Can you ride?"

"Some," she answered. "I have ridden city horses, but don't know about these ranch animals. But I would like to try-if I had a saddle."

"I have an extra saddle," he said. But it's a man's. . . . They all ride that way here."

She made no answer and the subject was dropped for the time. But the next morning she saw Dave ride away. leading a horse by his side. He did not return until evening, but when he come the idle horse carried a saddle.

"It's a strad-legger," he said when he drew up beside Irene, "but it's a girl's, I couldn't find anythin' else in the whole diggin's."

"I'm sure it will do-splendidly-if I can just stick on," she replied. But another problem was already in her mind. It apparently had not occurred to Dave that women require special clothing for riding, especially if it's a 'strad-legger." She opened her lips to mention this, then closed them again. He had been to enough trouble on her account. He had already spent a whole day scouring the country for a saddle She would manage some way.

Late that night she was busy with scissors and needle.

CHAPTER II.

Doctor Hardy recovered from his injuries as rapidly as could be expected and, while he chafed somewhat over spending his holidays under such circumstances, the time passed not unhappily.

A considerable acquaintanceship had sprung up between him and the senior Elden. The rancher had come from the East forty years before, but in turning now I know it nin't. At least, it won't over their memories the two men found many links of association: third even streets and houses, common to Elden's grizzled head and stooping real life, out here in the foothills, with would fill a dozen well-rounded city lives, and he had the story-teller's art by a too strict adherence to fact. But closer to him, and been much truer, no ray of conversation would be admit but conventionality had been bred ininto the more personal affairs of his his wife, and even when the talk truth. turned on the boy he quickly withdrew it to another topic, as though the subject were dangerous or distasteful. But once, after a long silence following such a diversion, had he betrayed himself into a whispered remark, an outburst of feeling rather than a communica-

"I've been alone so much," he said. "It seems I have never been anything but alone. And—sooner or later—it gets you—It gets you."

"You have the boy," ventured the doctor.

"No," he answered, almost flercely. That would be different. I could stand it then. But I haven't got him, and I can't get him. He despises me because-because I take too much at times." He paused as though wondering whether to proceed with this unwonted confidence, but the ache in his heart insisted on its right to human sympathy. "No, it ain't that," he continued. "He despises me because he thinks I wasn't fair to his mother. He can't understand. I wanted to be good to her, to be close to her. Then I took to booze, as natural as a steer under the brandin'-iron roars to drown his hurt. But the boy don't understand. He despises me." Then, after a long silence; "No matter. I despise myself."

The doctor placed a hand on his shoulder. But Elden was himself again. The curtains of his life, which he had drawn apart for a moment, he whipped together again rudely, almost viciously, and covered his confusion by them-and as similar as the steps of a plunging into a tale of how he had led stair. This involved a further hesita- a breed suspected of cattle-rustling on a little canter of ten miles with a rope about his neck and the other end tied ences. It was quite evident that the to the saddle. "He ran well," said the old man, chuckling still at the reminisevident that the horses were running cence. "And it was lucky he did. It was a strong rope."

The morning after Dave had brought the only matter of grave doubt related in the borrowed saddle Irene appeared in a sort of bloomer suit, somewhat Then they struck the water. It was wonderfully contrived from a spare

Dave, very wet in parts, appeared on although there were no slik trappings to his courtesy, it was a very genuine "Well, I'm not wet, except for a lit- and manly deference he paid her. She was quite sure that he would at any moment give his life, if needed, to defend her from injury-and accept the transaction as a matter of course. His and carried her ashore. The lariat physical endurance was inexhaustible was soon repaired and the car hauled and his knowledge of prairie and foothill seemed to her almost uncanny. He read every sign of footprint, leaf, water and sky with unfailing insight. He had no knowledge of books, and she had at first thought him ignorant, but as the days went by she found in him a mine of wisdom which shamed her ready-made education.

After such a ride they one day dismounted in a grassy opening among the trees that bordered a mountain canyon, In a crevice they found a flat stone that gave comfortable seating and here they rested while the horses browsed their afternoon meal on the grass above. Both were conscious of a gradually increasing tension in the atmosphere. For days the boy had been moody. It was evident he was harboring something that was calling through his nature for expression, and Irene knew that this afternoon he would talk of more than trees and rocks and footprints of the wild things of the forest.

"Your father is getting along well," he said, at length.

"Yes," she answered. "He has had a good holiday, even with his broken leg."

"You will be goin' away before long." he continued.

"Yes," she answered, and waited. "Things about here ain't goin' to be the same after you're gone," he went on. He wore no coat, and the neck of his shirt was open, for the day was warm. Had he caught her sidelong

glances, even his slow, self-deprecating mind must have read their admiration. But he kept his eyes fixed on the green "You see," he said, "before you came it was different. I didn't know what I

was missin', an' so it didn't matter. Not but what I was dog-sick of it at times, but still I thought I was livin'thought this was life, and, of course,

be after you're gone."

"That's strange," she said, not in persons known to them both; places, direct answer to his remark, but as a sollloquy on it as she turned it over in their feet in early manhood; events of her mind. "This life, now, seems local history which each could recall, empty to you. All my life seems although from different angles. And empty to me. This seems to me the traine carried more experiences than the trees and the mountains, and—and our horses, you know."

She might have ended the sentence which scorns to spoil dramatic effect in a way that would have come much to her for generations and she did not heart, or of the woman who had been | find it possible yet freely to speak the

> "It's such a wonderful life," she continued. "One gets so strong and happy in it."

"You'd soon get sick of it," he said. 'We don't see nothin'. We don't learn nothin'. Reenle, I'm eighteen, an' I bet you could read an' write better'n me when you was six."

"Did you never go to school?" she asked, in genuine surprise. She knew his speech was ungrammatical, but thought that due to careless training rather than to no training at all.

"Where'd I go to school?" he demanded, bitterly. "There ain't a school within forty miles. Guess I wouldn't have went if I could," he added, as an afterthought, wishing to be quite honest in the matter. "School didn't seem to cut no figure-until jus' lately."

"But you have learned-some?" she

continued. "Some. When I was a little kid my father used to work with me at times. He learned me to read a little, an' to write my name, an' a little more, But things didn't go right between him an' mother, an' he got to drinkin' more an' more, an' jus' making hof it. We used to have a mighty fine herd of steers here, but it's all shot to pieces. When we sell a bunch the old man 'll stay in town for a month or more, blowin' the coin and leavin' the debts go. I sneak a couple of steers away now an' then, an' with the money I keep our grocery bills paid up an' have a little to rattle in my jeans. My credit's good at any store in town," and Irene thrilled to the note of pride in his voice as he said this. The boy had real quality in him. "But I'm sick of it all," he continued. "Sick

of it, an' I wanna get out." "You think you are not educated," she answered, trying to meet his outburst as tactfully as possible, "Perhaps you are not, the way we think of It in the city. But I guess you could show the city boys a good many things they don't know, and never will know."

Irene makes a promise full of momentous consequences.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

French Eat Chrysanthemums. The chrysanthemum is served a

COATS THAT COMBINE CHARM AND UTILITY



Now is the time when the warm coat | rich. Pile fabrics are warm and rich for midwinter comes up for consider looking and have proved to be most ation and the buyer goes cheerfully durable. Coats of these plushes sell forth to see what she can see. She is destined to find quite a number of new coatings represented in thick, soft weaves and, if gifted with a retentive vide warm coats at a medium price. mind, she may be able to commit their

Some of the new coats are extravagantly high priced and there has been brought up and fastened at the throat, an increase in nearly all of them. The in the face of stormy weather or becheerfulness of the buyer is apt to be fore the teeth of an icy wind. These somewhat dampened unless her purse are both attractive coats and types of is long, for fur-trimmed coats must styles that are soft and becoming as be classed among the luxuries of the well as warm and durable.

at a reasonable price and so do those of heavy woods that are woven like steamer rugs or army blankets, Leather coats have been introduced to pro-

The two coats shown in the picture various names to memory. They all above are good examples of styles for seem to be variations of cloths that all-round general wear. They are cut we have known in the past as Bolivia, on the most practical lines with mufzibeline, duvetyn rough mixtures and fler collars, big pockets and roomy other heavy, wooly fabrics that are sleeves. The coat at the left has a cozy looking. Some of them we know narrow belt of cloth with long ends to be strong and sturdy, others look that loop over at the front. A few as promising. Taken as a whole, bone buttons make themselves useful coatings are richer looking than they for fastening at the waistline and colhave ever been, which is a pleasant lar and ornamenting the cuffs. In thing to contemplate—and measured the coat at the right, the buttons are by prices they certainly ought to look cloth-covered and the belt slips through a slide at the front. A luxurious collar of skunk fur may be

Alluring Veils for Autumn Hats



There is something very alluring | wearer. There is a great variety of about veils. They are among the belongings of women, that are peculiar- shaped, hexagonal and oblong, with ly their own; mere man having no all sorts of inconspicuous crossbars share in this kind of apparet. The wedding veil is a vision that girthood Street vells have light woven-in borcherishes and thrills over. Veils are ders and they are worn either hanging significant and charming-and have in free or fastened about the neck, after most cases no other season for exist. the manner of the three veils shown ence. But they contribute to neatness, if one must be practical, and comingness, that makes them dear to the hearts of women and provides us terns to choose from.

Some modistes have featured veils as an essential part of the trimming of hats, in their displays of fall millinery. The all-over lace patterns appear to have given place to mesh veils with borders, these borders being often pinned or to be slipped on and held in a lace pattern or having a floral de- in place with small, round elastic cord. sign applied to the mesh. Veils fall about the face and head from small and medium-sized hats in ways that in at the back sometimes as in the seem casual but are not. They are hat shown at the upper left side. sometimes draped with the border These are popular styles, soft, becomabout the hat and the plain edge hang- ing, and desirable. ing down, but this is exceptional; nearly always the plain edge is placed about the shape and the border defines the bottom of the vell.

Among the very elegant vells used on dressy hats those of chantilly lace are conspicuous. The mesh is fine in these, and the border a floral pattern above a scalloped edge usually. Black and taupe gray are the favored colors for veils, either color proving practical for the street and becoming to the and of Hudson seal.

shapes in meshes-square, diamond and figures to add interest to them. in the picture.

Veils should be tried on and sethey are often very flattering. It is lected for becomingness, as hat shapes the element of style in them, with be- are. Some meshes make the face look more youthful and others seem to reveal wrinkles. For clearing up the. with ever-changing weaves and pat- skin and bringing out color dark blue. sapphire, and national blue are all effective. Taupe and black find more admirers than any other colors.

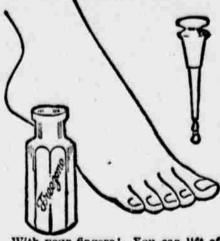
There are some small face vells only large enough to extend from hat brim to chin, and they are made to be The floating vells shown at the right and bottom of the group are knotted

ulie Bottomly

In small furs there are noticeable stoles that may be adjusted so as to be worn in several unique ways, and among the recently presented models of this type are many of gray squirref

Lift off Corns!

Doesn't hurt a bit and Preezone costs only a few cents.



With your fingers! You can lift off any hard corn, soft corn, or corn between the toes, and the hard skin calluses from bottom of feet.

A tiny bottle of "Freezone" costs little at any drug store; apply a few drops upon the corn or callus, Instantly it stops hurting, then shortly you lift that bothersome corn or callus right off, root and all, without one bit of pain or soreness. Truly! No humbug !-- Adv.

The largest reinforced concrete arch today is the Risorgimento bridge across the Tiber at Rome, with a span of 328 feet.

BITRO-PHOSPHATE IS GOOD FOR THIN

A French scientist has discovered ar A French scientist has discovered an organic phosphate which should be a very effective remedy for weak nerves, sleeplesaness, thinness and lack of strength, energy and vigor.

Its substance is described by specialists as identical in composition with certain vital elements naturally found in brain and nerve cells and one which when taken into the human system is quickly converted into healthy living tissue.

tissue.

This phosphate is already widely known among druggists in this country as Bitro-Phosphate and some physicians claim that through its use strength, energy, vigor and ne-ve force are frequently increased in two weeks time.

time.

Dr. Frederick Kolle, Editor of New York Physicians' "Who's Who," says it should be prescribed by every doctor and used in every hospital in the United States. As there are a great variety of so-called phosphates, those who wish to test this substance should be sure to get the genuine Bitre-Phosphate.

Bad Sickness Caused by

the large it literally wrecks—they would guard against it as carefully as they do sagainst a deadly plague. You know in an instant the first symptoms of acid-stemach—pains of indiseation; distressing, painful bloat; sour, gassy stomach; beichir,g; food repeating; heartburn, etc. Whenever your stomach feels this way you should lose no time in putting it to rights. If you don't, serious conveniences are almost sure folstomach feels this way you should lose no time in putting it to rights. If you don't, serious consequences are almost sure to follow, such as intestinal fermentation, auto-intoxication, impairment of the entire nervous system, headache, billousness, cirrhosis of the liver; sometimes even catarrh of the stomach and intestinal ulcers and cancer. If you are not feeling right, see if it isn't acid-stomach that is the cause of your ill health. Take EATONIC, the wonderful modern stomach remedy. EATONIC Tablets quickly and surely relieve the pain, blost, belching, and heartburn that indicate acid-stomach. Make the stomach strong, clean and sweet. By keeping the stomach in healthy condition so that you can get full strength from your food, your general health steadily improves. Results are marvelously ouick. Just try EATONIC and you will be as enthusiastic as the thousands who have used it and who say they never dreamed anything could bring such marvelous relief. So get a big 50-cent box of EATONIC from your druggist today. If not satisfactory return it and he will refund your money.







A Bad Cough
if neglected, often leads to serious tro
is neglected, often leads tro
is neglected, often leads tro
is neglected, often leads tro
is neglected, oft