



THE PRODIGAL VILLAGE by Irving Bacheller. ILLUSTRATIONS BY IRWIN MYERS.

CHAPTER SEVEN—Continued. "My God!" she exclaimed. "What a nasty liar you are!" It was not ladylike but, at that moment the lady was temporarily absent. "Mother, I'm glad you say that," the girl answered still very calmly, although her fingers trembled a little as she felt the violets, and her voice was not quite steady. "It shows that I am not so stupid at home as I am at school." The girl rose and threw down the violets and her mild and listless manner. A look of defiance flared her face and her figure. Mrs. Bing arose, her eyes aglow with anger. "I'd like to know what you mean," she said under her breath. "I mean that if I am a liar, you taught me how to be it. Ever since I was knee-high, you have been teaching me to deceive my father. I am not going to do it any longer. I am going to find my father and tell him the truth. I shall not wait another minute. He will give me better advice than you have given, I hope." The words had fallen rapidly from her lips and, as the last one was spoken, she hurried out of the room. Mrs. Bing threw herself on the couch where she lay with certain bitter memories, until the next maid came to tell her that it was time to dress. She was like one reminded of mortality after coming out of ether. "Oh, Lord!" she murmured wearily. "I feel like going to bed! How can I live through that dinner? Please bring me some brandy." Phyllis learned that her father was at his office, whither she proceeded without a moment's delay. She sent in word that she must see him alone and as soon as possible. He dismissed the men with whom he had been talking and invited her into his private office. "Well, girl, I guess I know what is on your mind," he said. "Go ahead." Phyllis began to cry. "All right! You do the crying and I'll do the talking," he went on. "I feel like doing the crying myself, but if you want the job, I'll resign it to you. Perhaps you can do enough of that for both of us. I began to smell a rat the other day. So I sent for Gordon King. He came this morning. I had a long talk with him. He told me the truth. Why didn't you tell me? What's the good of having a father unless you use him at times when his counsel is likely to be worth having? I would have made a good father, if I had had half a chance. I should like to have been your friend and confidant in this important enterprise. I should have been a help to you. But, somehow, I couldn't get on the board of directors. You and your mother have been running the plant all by yourselves and I guess it's pretty near bankrupt. Now, my girl, there's no use crying over split tears. Gordon King is not the man of my choice, but we must all take hold and try to build him up. Perhaps we can make him pay." "I do not love him," Phyllis sobbed. "You married him because you wanted to. You were not coerced?" "No, sir." "I'm sorry, but you'll have to take your share of the crow with the rest of us," he went on, with a note of sternness in his tone. "My girl, when I make a contract I live up to it and I intend that you shall do the same. You'll have to learn to love and cherish this fellow, if he makes it possible. You and your mother believe in woman's rights. I don't object to that, but you mustn't think that you have the right to break your agreements unless there's a good reason for it. My girl, the marriage contract is the most binding and sacred of all contracts. I want you to do your best to make this one a success." There was the tinkle of the telephone bell. Mr. Bing put the receiver to his ear and spoke into the instrument as follows: "Yes, she's here! I knew all the facts before she told me. Mr. DeLane? He's on his way back to New York. Left on the six-ten. Charged me to present his regrets and farewells to you and Phyllis. I thought it best for him to know and to go. Yes, we're coming right home to dress. Mr. King will take Mr. DeLane's place at the table. We'll make a clean breast of the whole business. Brace up and eat your crow with a smiling face. I'll make a little speech and present Mr. and Mrs. King to our friends at the end of it. Oh, now, cut out the sobbing and leave this unfinished business to me and don't worry. We'll be home in three minutes."

CHAPTER EIGHT. In Which Judge Crooker Delivers a Few Opinions. The pride of Bingville had fallen in the dust! It had arisen and gone on

it? What have I done or failed to do that has caused this bitterness?" "Mr. Bing, I am glad that you ask me that question," the old judge began. "It gives me a chance to present to you, and to these men who work for you, a conviction which has grown out of impartial observation of your relations with each other. "First, I want to say to you, Mr. Bing, that I regard you as a good citizen. Your genius and generosity have put this community under great obligation. Now, in heading toward the hidden cause of your complaint, I beg to ask you a question at the outset. Do you know that unfortunate son of the Widow Moran known as the Shepherd of the Birds?" "I have heard much about him," Mr. Bing answered. "Do you know him?" "No. I have had letters from him acknowledging favors now and then, but I do not know him." "We have hit at once the source of your trouble," the judge went on. "The Shepherd is a representative person. He stands for the poor and the unfortunate in this village. You have never gone to see him because—well, probably it was because you feared that the look of him would distress you. The thing which would have helped and inspired and gladdened his heart more than anything else would have been the feel of your hand and a kind and cheering word and sympathetic counsel. Under those circumstances, I think I may say that it was your duty as a neighbor and a human being to go to see him. Now, he never needed money. In the kindest spirit, I ask you if that money you sent to him in the best of good-will was not, in fact, a species of bribery? Were you not, indeed, seeking to buy immunity from a duty incumbent upon you as a neighbor and a human being?" Mr. Bing answered quickly. "There are plenty of people who have nothing else to do but carry cheer and comfort to the unfortunate. I have other things to do." "That, sir, does not relieve you of the liabilities of a neighbor and a human being, in my view. If your business has turned you into a shaft or a cog-wheel, it has done you a great injustice. I fear that it has been your master—that it has practiced upon you a kind of despotism. You would better get along with less—far less business than suffer such a fate. I don't want to hurt you. We are looking for the cause of a certain re-



"I Have Heard Much About Him," Mr. Bing Answered.

sult and I can help you only by being frank. With all your generosity you have never given your heart to this village. Some unkind people have gone so far as to say that you have no heart. You can not prove it with money that you do not miss. Money is good but it must be warmed with sympathy and some degree of sacrifice. Has it never occurred to you that the warm hand and the cheering word in season are more, vastly more, than money in the important matter of making good-will? Unconsciously, you have established a line and placed yourself on one side of it and the people on the other. Broadly speaking, you are capital and the rest are labor. Whereas, in fact, you are all working men. Some of the rest have come to regard you as their natural enemy. They ought to regard you as their natural friend. Two kinds of despotism have prevented it. First, there is the despotism of your business in making you a slave—so much of a slave that you haven't time to be human; second, there is the despotism of the labor union in discouraging individual excellence, in demanding equal pay for the faithful man and the slacker, and in denying the right of free men to labor when and where they will. All this is tyranny as gross and un-American as that of George the Third in trying to force his will upon the colonies. If America is to survive, we must set our faces against every form of tyranny. The remedy for all our trouble and bitterness is real democracy, which is nothing more or less than the love of men—the love of justice and fair play for each and all. (TO BE CONTINUED.) Never attempt to kill time unless you are satisfied it ought to be put out of its misery.

### TOMATO PLANTS DEMAND WARMTH

Early Ripening Can Be Secured in Most Sections Only by Starting Indoors.

### KEEP MODERATELY WATERED

Just Such Soil as Will Grow Crop of Corn or Potatoes is Recommended—Little Well-Rotted Manure Will Help.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

There is perhaps no product of the garden that is so refreshing or palatable as well-ripened, fresh tomatoes, and they can be used in such a variety of ways. While fresh tomatoes are preferable to canned ones they lose very little flavor or quality in the canning and good canned tomatoes add very materially to the food supply of the winter months.

To Get Early Tomatoes. Early ripening adds greatly to the value of the tomato crop and early tomatoes can be secured in most sec-



Hardy Tomato Plant Started in Pot.

tions only by starting the plants indoors. Garden specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture say it is easy to grow plants indoors by sowing a small packet of tomato seed in a cigar box filled with mellow soil about six or eight weeks before the usual time of the last killing frost in spring. The seeds should be covered about one-quarter inch and the soil kept moderately watered and the plants will generally come up in less than a week after planting the seeds. Keep the box near a window where it will get plenty of sunlight, and turn it around each day to make the plants grow straight.

When the plants begin to crowd each other, which will be in about 15 days after they come up, secure a large, flat box, say three inches deep and just long enough to fit into the window, fill it with rich, sifted soil and transplant, giving each plant about two inches of space. With proper care to turn the box from time to time and also to keep the soil moderately watered the plants will be about four inches high, strong, and stocky when the weather has warmed enough to make it safe to set them in the garden.

### Warmth Is Required.

Tomatoes naturally grow in a warm climate and require plenty of warmth from the start. The plants should be kept at about a living-room temperature until a few days before they are to be set in the garden; then they should be gradually exposed to outdoor conditions to harden them. After they are set in the garden it may be necessary to cover them for a few nights with several thicknesses of newspaper to protect them from the cold.

Tomatoes require a moderately rich soil, not too rich, but just such soil as will grow a good crop of corn or potatoes. A little well-rotted manure can be worked into the spot where each plant is to be set and a tablespoonful of high-grade fertilizer sprinkled over a space about one foot in diameter and mixed with the soil will aid in giving the plant a good start. Planting distances will depend upon whether the plants are to be pruned to a single stem and trained to stakes or are to be allowed to grow according to their natural habit of spreading over the ground. If the plants are to be trained they may be set in rows as close as three feet, and spaced 18 inches in the row. If they are not to be trained the plants should be set three to four feet apart in each direction.

### CATER TO MARKET DEMANDS

Shipment of Unsatisfactory Stock by Growers Seriously Affects Prices Offered.

Shippers of potatoes would profit by heeding market demands and preferences, say specialists of the bureau of markets, United States Department of Agriculture. Dealers and consumers, they find, do not desire badly cut, mashed, frosted, or decayed potatoes, or those damaged by sunburn, blight, dry rot, or an excess of scab or second growth. Markets frequently are overloaded, it is said, prices seriously affected, and unnecessary losses suffered by growers because of the shipment of such unsatisfactory stock.

### TO WAGE HARD FIGHT AGAINST CORN BORER

Steps Taken to Prevent Spread of Insect Pest.

Specialists in Charge of Work Have Completed Plans for Carrying on Work—Infested Area Borders on Lake Erie.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Suppressive measures against the European corn borer are to be applied vigorously this spring in the western part of New York state to test the possibility of preventing the natural spread of this pest. Specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture in charge of the work have completed their plans, which will be carried out in co-operation with state agencies.

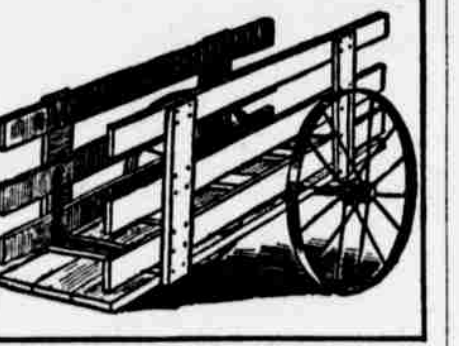
The infested area where the experiment is to be tried out borders on Lake Erie and partly on that section of Canada where the corn borer made its appearance last year. The fight is to be carried against the insect while in its winter quarters. The corn stubble and refuse that have been lying in the fields since last year's harvest will be cleaned up and burned.

Meanwhile, as another method of attack, thousands of cocoons of a small, wasp-like insect whose grub has been found to be a parasitic enemy of the corn borer are being sent to the United States by a representative of the department who is in southern France studying the enemies of the pest. Thus far about 5,000 cocoons have been received at the Boston office of the department, where they are hatched out and the winged insects liberated in hundreds in infested fields. The European corn borer, which has been known in this country but a few years, is looked upon as one of the most dangerous insect pests that have made their appearance in the United States. Some fears are entertained that it will eventually make its way to the corn belt. Infestations of the pest occur in sections of New York and Massachusetts, where federal quarantine to check the spread of the insect are in force.

### CHUTE FOR HANDLING STOCK

Comparatively Easy Matter to Construct Device as Illustrated—Old Wheels Useful.

Farmers who ship many hogs, sheep and calves during the year know the value of a movable chute for loading



Loading Chute on Wheels.

and unloading live stock. Make the chute as shown. A pair of old buggy or cultivator wheels make it easy to handle.

### GOSLINGS NEED GREEN FEED

Very Little Grain is Required Until Fowls are Fully Feathered—Water is Essential.

Goslings do not need feed until they are 36 hours old or more, when they should be given stale bread soaked in milk or water, to which finely chopped boiled eggs may be added. Feed three or four times daily for the first two or three weeks, with chopped grass or some other green feed added, this latter to be increased in quantity from the first. Plenty of fresh, clean water should be supplied, and five per cent of fine grit or sharp sand may be added to the feed or kept in a hopper before the goslings.

After two or three weeks, if the goslings have a good grass range, they need only one light feed daily of a mash made up of two parts shorts and one part of cornmeal or ground oats or ground barley. After they are six weeks old, if they still need extra feed, change the mash to equal parts shorts, cornmeal and ground oats, with five per cent meat scrap. Where the pasture is good, many goslings are raised from the time they are two or three weeks old to fattening time without any grain feed, but the addition of a mash as described above is an advantage at all times. Whole grains are not usually fed until the goslings are well feathered.

### CARE OF LAWN IS IMPORTANT

Mowing, Rolling, Fertilizing and Watering Have Tendency to Exclude Noxious Plants.

The general care of the lawn is important in controlling all lawn weeds, including crab grass. United States Department of Agriculture experts say. Mowing, rolling, fertilizing, and watering, in other words, everything which contributes to the growth of the desired grasses, will tend to exclude weeds. Purchased manure, because of the seeds contained, is a frequent source of weed infestation in lawns. In sowing, the seed used should be as pure as can be obtained.

### Help That Bad Back!

Why be miserable with a "bad back"? It's time you found out what is wrong! Kidney weakness often causes much suffering from backache, lameness, rheumatic pains, headaches, dizziness and kidney irregularities. Neglected, it may lead to dropsy, gravel or Bright's disease, but if taken in time it is usually easily corrected by using Doan's Kidney Pills. Doan's have helped thousands. Ask your neighbor!

### A Nebraska Case

Mrs. Fred DeLowe, Creighton, Neb., says: "I had a weak back and couldn't get into any position that relieved my back. I had dizzy spells with colored specks floating before me. My kidneys acted too often. After using three or four boxes of Doan's Kidney Pills I was given prompt relief, so that I haven't had kidney trouble since."

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"I have taken four Eatonic tablets and they relieved me of sour stomach. I recommend it to everybody," says Mrs. G. P. Hicks.

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### PARKER'S HAIR BALM

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