



The COW PUNCHER

By Robert J.C. Stead
Author of
"Kitchener, and other poems"

"It was dusk when he had burnt out his violence, and chastened and spent, he turned the machine to back gently to the forgotten city. Irene, by some fine telepathy, had followed vaguely the course of his emotions; had followed them in delicious excitement and fear and hope. She sensed in some subtle feminine way the impulse that had sent him roaring into the distances; she watched his powerful hand on the wheel; his clear, steady eye; the minute accuracy with which he controlled his flying motor; and she prayed—and did not know what or why she prayed. But a color not all of the dying sunlight lit her cheek as she guessed—she feared—she hoped—that she had prayed that he might forget his fine resolves—that his heart might at last outride his head.

In the deepening darkness her fingers found his arm. The motion of the car masked the violence of her trembling, but for a time the pounding of her heart would not allow her speech. "Dave," she said, at length, "I want to tell you that I think you—that we—that I—Oh, I've been very selfish and proud—" Her fingers had followed his arm to the shoulder, and the car had idled to a standstill. "I have fought as long as I can, Dave. I—I always wanted to—to lose, you know; and now—I surrender."

Elden lost no time in facing the unpleasant task of an interview with Mrs. Hardy. It was even less pleasant than he expected. "Irene is of age," said Mrs. Hardy, bluntly. "If she will, she will. But I must tell you plainly that I will do all I can to dissuade her. Ungrateful child!" she exclaimed, in an outburst of temper, "after all these years to throw herself away in an infatuation for a cow puncher when there are men like Mr. Conward—"

"Conward!" interrupted Dave. "He has the manners of a gentleman," she said, in a tone intended to be crushing. "And the morals of a coyote," Dave returned hotly. "O-o-o-h!" said Mrs. Hardy, in a low, shocked cry. That Elden should speak of Conward with such disdain seemed to her little less than sacrilege. Then, gathering herself together with some dignity: "If you cannot speak respectfully of Mr. Conward you will please leave the house. I shall not forbid you to see Irene; I know that would be useless. But please do not trouble me with your presence."

When Dave had gone Mrs. Hardy rang up Conward's number. "Oh, Mr. Conward!" she said. "You know who is speaking? . . . Yes, you must come up tonight. I do want to talk with you. I—I've been insulted—in my own house. By that—that Elden. It's all very terrible. I can't tell you over the telephone."

Conward called early in the evening. Mrs. Hardy had heard the bell and bustled into the room. She had not yet recovered from her agitation, and made no effort to conceal it. "Come into my sitting room, Mr. Conward. I am so glad you have come. Really, I am so upset. It is such a comfort to have some one you can depend on—some one whose advice one can seek, on occasions like this. I never thought—"

"There, there," he said. "You must control yourself. Tell me. It will relieve you, and perhaps I can help." "Oh, I'm sure you can," she returned. "It's all over Irene and that—that I will say it—that cow puncher. To think it should have come to this! Mr. Conward, you are not a mother, so you can't understand. Ungrateful girl! But I blame him. And the doctor. I never wanted him to come West. It was that fool trip, in that fool motor."

Conward smiled to himself over her unaccustomed violence. Mrs. Hardy must be deeply moved when she forgot to be correct. He had readily surmised the occasion of her distress. It needed no words from Mrs. Hardy to tell him that Irene and Dave were engaged. He had expected it for some time, and the information was not altogether distasteful to him. He had come somewhat under the spell of Irene's attractiveness, but he had no deep attachment for her. He was not aware that he had ever had an abiding attachment for any woman. Attachments were things which he put on and off as readily as a change of clothes. He planned to hit Dave through Irene, but he planned that when he struck it should be a death blow. Their engagement would lend a sharper edge to his shaft.

It may as well be set down that for Mrs. Hardy Conward had no regard whatever. Even while he shaped soft words for her ear he held her in contempt. To him she was merely a silly old woman.

From the day he had first seen Mrs. Hardy his attitude toward her had been one of subtle flattery, partly because it pleased his whim and partly on that same day he had seen Irene, and he was shrewd enough to know that his approach to the girl's affections must be made by way of the acquaintanceship which he would establish under the guise of friendship for her mother. Since his trouble with Dave, Conward had a double purpose

in developing that acquaintanceship. He had no compunctions as to his method of attack. While Dave was manfully laying siege to the front gate Conward proposed to burglarize the home through the back door of family intimacy. And now that Dave seemed to have won the prize Conward realized that his own position was more secure than ever. Had he not been called in consultation by the girl's mother? Were not the inner affairs of the family now laid open before him? Did not his position as her mother's adviser permit him to assume toward Irene an attitude which, in a sense, was more intimate than even Dave's could be? He turned these matters over quickly in his mind and congratulated himself upon the wisdom of his tactics.

"It's very dreadful," Mrs. Hardy was saying, between sobs of her perfumed handkerchief on eyes that bore witness to the genuineness of her distress. "Irene is not an ordinary girl. She has in her qualities that justified me in hoping that—that she would do—very different from this. Need I conceal from you, Mr. Conward—from you, of all men—what have been my hopes for Irene?"

Conward's heart leaped at the confession. He had secretly entertained some doubt as to Mrs. Hardy's purpose in opening her home to him as she had done; absurd as the hypothesis seemed, still there was the hypothesis that Mrs. Hardy saw in Conward a possible comfort for her declining days. He had no doubt that her vanity was equal to that supposition, but he had done her less than justice in assuming that she had any directly personal ambitions. Her ambitions were for Irene. She had hoped that by bringing Conward into the house by bringing Irene under the influence of a close family acquaintanceship with him, that young lady might be led to see the folly of the road she was choosing. She had hoped that he would be the successful suitor for Irene. And Conward's heart leaped at the confession.

"I suppose I need not conceal from you," he answered, "what my hopes have been. It is reasonably safe to judge a daughter by her mother, and by that standard Irene is one of the most adorable of young women."

"I have been called attractive in my day," confessed Mrs. Hardy, warring at once to his flattery.

"Have been?" said Conward. "Say rather you are. If I had not been rendered, perhaps, a little partial by my admiration of Irene, I—well, one can scarcely give his heart to two places, you know. And my deep regard for you, Mrs. Hardy—my desire that you shall be spared this—ah—threatened humiliation, will justify me in using heroic measures to bring this unfortunate affair to a close. You may trust me, Mrs. Hardy. Irene is—you will forgive me, Mrs. Hardy, but Irene is, if I may say it, somewhat headstrong. She is—"

"She is her father over again," Mrs. Hardy interrupted. "I told him he should not attempt that crazy trip of his without me along, but he would go. And this is what he has brought upon me, and he not here to share it."

Mrs. Hardy's tone conveyed very plainly her grievance over the doctor's behavior in evading the consequences of the situation which his headstrong folly had created.

"She is set in her own mind," Conward continued. "We must not openly oppose her. We must adopt other tactics."

"You are very clever," said Mrs. Hardy. "You have been a student of human nature."

Conward smiled pleasantly. Little as he valued Mrs. Hardy's opinion, her words of praise fell very gratefully upon him. Flatterers are seldom proof against their own poison.

"Yes, I have studied human nature," he admitted. "The most interesting—and the most profitable—of all studies. And I know that young couples in love are not governed by the ordinary laws of reason. That is why it is useless to argue with Irene—sensible girl though she is—on a subject like this. We must reach her some other way."

"The way that occurs to me is to create distrust. Love is either absurdly trustful or absurdly suspicious. There is no middle course, no balanced judgment. In the trustfulness of love little virtues are magnified to angelic qualities, and vices are quite unseen. But change that trust to suspicion, and a hidden, sinister meaning is found behind the simplest word or act. We must plan two campaigns: One, which I have already suggested, and one, if that should fail, to cause Elden to distrust Irene. No, no," he said, raising his hand toward Mrs. Hardy, who had started from her seat. "There must be no vestige of reason, except that the end justifies the means. It is a case of saving Irene, even if we must pain her—and you—in the saving."

"It's very dreadful," Mrs. Hardy repeated. "But you are very thorough; you leave nothing to chance. I suppose that is the way with all big business men."

"You can trust me," Conward assured her. "There is no time to be lost, and I must plan my campaigns at once."

(Continued in Next Issue)

CITY MANAGER APPOINTED BY NEW COUNCIL

(Continued from Page 1)
chairman. Mr. Irwin called for nominations for ex-officio mayor, and R. M. Hampton was elected by acclamation. The council chamber was filled with spectators, who cheered the new mayor. Mr. Hampton responded briefly, thanked the council for the honor they had bestowed upon him and thanked the retiring mayor for his expressions of good will. The new council enters upon its duties, Mayor Hampton said, with its heart in the work and with the belief that the city manager plan will work out to the best interest of the city.

The new mayor explained that under the city manager system, the council had little to do until the arrival of the manager but organize and appoint a city clerk. All other city officers will be selected by the city manager. He thought it possible there might be some new departments created or some changes made, but this would await the coming of Mr. Kemmish.

The new city manager will have an office in the city hall, Mr. Hampton said, and will be available at any time for transaction of the city's business. He thought this was a much better system than the old one, where citizens who wanted something done would hunt up a councilman who would be busy with other affairs. The council will meet regularly with the city manager, he said, and will have time to properly consider the problems that come before it for action. He suggested that if citizens had anything they wished to present to the council, they either take it up with the city manager or reduce it to writing.

The council thereupon proceeded with its work of organization. S. W. Thompson was elected vice chairman of the council, N. A. Kemmish was appointed city manager, and Mrs. Grace Kennedy was re-elected city clerk. There was considerable applause at this latter reappointment, and Mrs. Kennedy responded.

Fancy and ornamental combs at Thiele's.

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ORDINANCE No. 309

An Ordinance Repealing Ordinances No. 5 and No. 206 of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and fixing the time for holding regular meetings of the City Council of such City; prescribing the manner of calling special meetings of said Council; prescribing the duties of the Council in regard to such meetings; providing what shall constitute a quorum of said Council; and prescribing the order of business of said Council.

Be It Ordained by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska:

Section 1. That the regular meeting of the Council of the City of Alliance, shall be held on Thursday, the 14th day of April, 1921, and on Thursday of each and every alternate week thereafter in the Council Chamber at the City Hall in said city, at 7:30 o'clock p. m.

Section 2. That the Mayor, any two councilmen, or the City Manager may call special meetings of the Council upon at least six hours' written notice to every member thereof.

Section 3. That it is the duty of each and every member of the City Council to attend every meeting of the Council unless prevented by sickness or absence from the city. For each absence from regular meetings of the Council, unless otherwise authorized by a two-thirds vote of all the members thereof, there shall be deducted a sum equal to two per cent of the annual salary of such Councilman. Absence from five consecutive meetings shall operate to vacate the seat of the member unless the absence is excused by the Council by a resolution setting forth such excuse and entering it upon the journal.

Section 4. That at the hour appointed for the meeting of the Council the City Clerk shall, on order of the Mayor, call the roll of members. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a less number may adjourn from time to time. A majority of all the members elected of the Council shall be required to pass any measure or elect to any office.

Section 5. That the following shall by the order of business unless such order shall be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the Council: 1. Roll Call, 2. Reading Minutes, 3. Petitions and Communications, 4. Report of City Officer, 5. Report of Standing Committees, 6. Report of Special Committees, 7. Unfinished Business, 8. Claims, Bills, Petitions, Remonstrances and Requests, 9. Ordinances and Resolutions, 10. New Business.

Section 6. That the rules of parliamentary practice known as Roberts' Rules of Order, shall govern the Council in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the provisions hereof.

Section 7. That Ordinance No. 5 of the City of Alliance, entitled "Providing rules and regulations for the government of the Council and to repeal Ordinance No. 3 of the Village of Alliance, entitled 'An Ordinance prescribing By-Laws, time and place of holding regular meetings of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Alliance, and prescribing order of business, manner and method of voting,'" and Ordinance No. 206 of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, entitled "An Ordinance amending Sections 1 and 2 of Article 1 of Ordinance No. 5 of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and changing the time for meetings of the City Council of said city and the manner of calling special meetings of the City Council of said city," and all other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith be, and the same hereby are, repealed.

Section 8. This ordinance shall be in effect from and after its passage, approval and publication according to law.

Passed and approved this 11th day of April, 1921.

R. M. HAMPTON,
Mayor.
Attest: GRACE H. KENNEDY,
City Clerk.

Hemingford High Court Comes to Alliance for a Legal Interpretation

The supreme court of Hemingford, composed of Messrs. Hutton and Clark, partners in the real estate business, came to Alliance Thursday in a search for a legal opinion. Mr. Hutton is justice of the peace for Dorsey precinct, and Mr. Clark is the constable, and together they constitute about all the law and order there is in the community. The two laid their case before Judge Tash, who is competent to give advice on all matters from making out a will to digging up alliterative names for triplets, and after a conference they went away satisfied.

It appears that there was a suit in justice court at Hemingford last week in which the plaintiff sued for \$78, and the costs in the case amounted to \$36 or thereabouts, if being a jury case. The jury was pretty well satisfied in its own mind as to the kind of a verdict it should render, the idea being that they wanted to split affairs so that the burden would fall on plaintiff and defendant about alike. But something was wrong with the jury's calculations, and when they got through and had turned in a verdict, it developed that they had found for the plaintiff in the sum of \$1 and held him to pay the costs of the suit. This was later discovered to be all wrong and not at all the way they wanted to settle it.

The question that was put up to Judge Tash was what to do about it to change the verdict. The law, wisely or unwisely, provides that cases involving less than \$20 may not be appealed from justice court to county court. If the case were to be tried a second time, before a jury, as before, the total costs would be \$72 and the jury would have a harder time than ever straightening the matter out. It developed that the jury had not been formally discharged, and the judge suggested that it be again called together and directed to bring in a different verdict. All of which will probably be done and justice in Hemingford once more prevail.

Wanted to buy both your fat and stock hogs. O'Bannon and Neuswander. Phone 71. 18tf

Wrestling fans of Alliance and vicinity are greatly interested in the match scheduled for Thursday evening of this week, when Pete Sauer will meet Christenson of Chicago. The Chicago man has tangled on the mat with some of the big ones, including Joe Stecher, Earl Caddock and Charles Cutler. He has been promised a big match if he beats Pete, and the battle will be one well worth seeing. Prospects are favorable for securing a match between Saur and Earl Caddock for Alliance during the race meet.

Mrs. Harry Patrick had her tonsils removed at Dr. Baskin's office Sunday.

Save your pennies and the dollars will take care of the lawyer who breaks your will.—Richmond News-Leader.

Mrs. Frank Heron of Deadwood, is the guest of her sister, Mrs. E. A. Hall.

Mrs. Izetta Lotspiech of Hemingford made a business trip to this city yesterday afternoon.

FOR SALE—I have 200 bushels of Macaroni seed wheat for sale, 13 miles north of Alliance. Phone Birch 8101. 39-41p

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to All Members

All members of Alliance Lodge No. 136, F. O. E., are urgently requested to be present at the new lodge room, 218 1-2 Box Butte avenue (over Morgan Grocery Company), on

Thursday, April 14

At 8 p. m. Sharp

for the transaction of new business concerning the new Eagles' lodge rooms. There will be a number of important matters to come up before the meeting, and a full attendance is greatly desired. Members are urged to mark this meeting of special importance on this week's calendar.

F. W. HICKS, Secretary,
GEO. A. HILL, President

Time to Build

LUMBER has now actually descended to PRE-WAR PRICES. Shingles, Laths, Siding, Posts and all the rest of the items on the Lumber list have taken a

Decided Drop In Price

SO THIS IS THE TIME TO BUY

We fully realize the importance of Lumber in the present building boom and have slashed our prices to the rock-bottom in order to help the good cause along. If you are building a home, specify that your contractor makes his Lumber purchases here. If you are planning to repair your present residence, take advantage of the present situation and order today. Our salesmen will be glad to provide estimates.

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WM. BEVINGTON, Manager