NORTH PLATTE SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE

three machine guns, branded axes,

picks, shovels, plows, and so on. 1

also ran in three cases of ammunition,

labeled grindstones, two more cases

disguised as bolts, and quite several

thousand labeled nails in kegs. I

should feel rather sorry for you if my

friend, Sarros, should get suspicious

and investigate, but I haven't any fear

that he will. You see, he knows you're

with him for the concession. The min-

ing property you are about to devei-

pocket instead of the public treasury."

to do with all those munitions con-

"Hum-m m! What do you want me

"Arrange with Leber to keep them

there until you get ready to build

your road into the mine. I want them

there when my American mercenaries

cenaries for me. They are American

miners and road builders in the em-

ment company, which is to be the

name of your enterprise. I hope you'll

"You cool scoundrel! You're mak-

That is because you happen to be

so handy for my purpose. You see

my plan, do you not? I'm going to

attack Buenaventura from within and

without. I'm going to come down on

Sarros like a wolf on the fold, and

the job is scheduled for next Satur-

"Look here, Rick, my boy, I have

"You have some desire, however, to

mix in its wealth," Ricardo reminded

no desire to mix in the politics of this

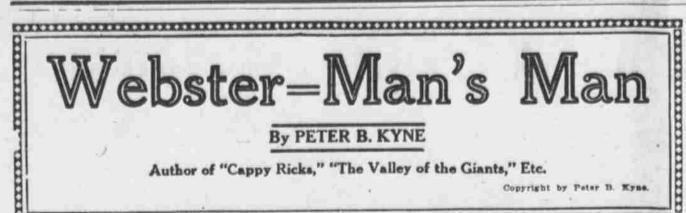
out myself."

ing cat's paw out of me."

day night a week."

country."

"Well?"



10 CHAPTER XII.

Arrived at San Miguel de Padua about midnight, Webster found the climate temperate, in fact, decidedly cool. Billy was waiting for them and was properly amazed, but not scandallzed when Don Juan Cafetero, abusing the station hands in a horrible hodgepodge of English and Spanish, superintended the landing of the baggage on the platform.

"I had to bring him with me," Webster explained. "I'm going to wean him, and after that baby quits crying for his bottle, believe me, Bill, we'll have the prince of a foreman for our mine. Quite a character, is Don Juan, when you dig down into him." "Dig far enough into that ruin and

you'll find fire crackers," Billy admitted. "However, John, I'm afraid he won't explode. The powder's damp. How did you leave Dolores?"

"Fit as a fiddle, Bill."

"How does she stack up on better acquaintance, Johnny?" "She's a skookum lass. She sent

her toye and I promised to send you back to her P. D. Q. So don't bother me with talk about her. You'll see her again in a week or ten days, I hope

"No? Is that so, Johnny? Bully

for you, you old wampus cat. Tell Don Juan to steer you over to the Globo de Oro, He knows the place. I've got to go and hire a mule or some other quadruped for Don Juan If we're to avoid a late start in the morning. Good night, old fellow,"

They were up at daybreak, and with three heavily laden pack mules in charge of two semi-naked mozos, while the cook jogged comfortably along on his big splay feet in the rear, they set out for Billy's concession.

For 80 miles they followed the highway, and then debouched to the southwest along a neglected road just wide enough to accommodate the clumsy ox carts of the peons. The country was sparsely settled and evidently given over to stock raising.

Darkness had descended on the valley by the time they had pitched camp at the claim. They were up at dawn the following morning, however, and immediately after breakfast Jack \$10,000,000 between us-maybe more." Webster went to his duffle bag and brought forth a dozen little canvas sacks and a prospector's hammer. "Now then, William, my son," he an nounced, "light the lantern and we'll Webster interrupted dryly, "and add you about mining." They clambered up the dump to a point where two light steel rails projected over the edge. On top of the dump, lying beside the rails, were two small, rusty, steel ore cars; the rails led from the edge of the dump to the mouth of a tunnel in the hillside and disappeared therein. Webster stood a moment, looking around him. "How did you happen to. locate this ledge?" he demanded. "Was it grass root stuff, with an outcropping here at the foot of the hill? No, of course, it wasn't. You haven't enough ore on the dump. What the devil were you driving at?" "Only a small portion of that dump is mine, Jack, and I didn't locate the ground originally. I came into this valley from the south, and as I worked up the range, I found a baid spot close to the top of the hill, and a gallows frame over an abandoned shaft. Naturally, I went down the shaft to see why it had been abandoned. To my surprise, 1 found a 12-foot vein of free-milling ore, on a contact between andesite and Silurian limestone. The ledge stood straight up and down, which seemed to argue great depth." "Somebody had found an outcropping on top of that bill," Webster declared with conviction, "and sunk a shaft on the voin to open it up and determine its width and direction. And what did you do, Bill?" "I got my transit and ran a line from the shaft on the hill, following the direction in which the ledge was running, and marked out the exact point toward the base of the hill where I would start my tunnel to cut the ledge. To my surprise, I discovered my predecessor had selected that identical spot. So I verified my calculations and then sat down to think it over. I remembered that frequent and violent earthquakes occur in this country, and it seemed to me a reasonable hypothesis to blame some ancient and particularly violent seismic disturbance, which had faulted the vein and set it over a considerable distance. According to my calculation, that other man should have cut the vein at 83 feet-yet he had gone on 102 before quitting. So I got half a dozen peons and drove ahead 19 feet on the other fellow's tunnel; and by Heck, Johnny, I cut the vein !"

nal dismay of dozens of large bats. When they reached the vein, Webster broke off samples of the ore every three or four feet, crawled after Billy up through the stope and back to the true vein, from the face of which he also took numerous samples; then he crawled out into the sunshine again, hot, dirty, and perspiring. "Billy, you'll be a real miner yet;

see if you won't," was all the praise



"Billy, You'll Be a Real Miner Yet."

he tendered his youthful partner standing beside him in anticipation of a compliment, as Webster got out his portable assay outfit.

For three days Webster worked, determining the values of each sample, only to find that his assays confirmed Billy's, "You were right, son," he finally announced. "This mine is a humdinger and no mistake; if you and I live ten years we'll be worth Billy's jaundiced eyes glowed hun-

grily, "We'll put in a hundred stamps-______ "Well, we'll try ten for a starter see if you've forgotten all I taught more as the mine pays its way. It's the sweetest mining proposition on earth-only, like all high-class goods, It has one flaw when you examine it

Webster and tell him so, after which waiting for you to call and remove I'd stand by for a cable from the said them." "You scoundrel! What have you sourdough inviting me to return and take up my labors. sent me?" "A couple of hundred rifles and

Billy's wan yellow face lighted up like a subrise on the desert. "I guess that plan's kind of poor," he and nounced feelingly. "You're right, Jack. I'm in rotten condition and 1 ought to be right before I start, Still, If I should arrange to get married before I leave, I'd like mighty well to have a good man and true see me safely over the hurdles."

"That's nice, son, but I haven't time to be your best man. Arranging the investigated and learned that you are honeymoon lets me out, Bill. I'm in a bona fide mining engineer of cona hurry to finish here and get back, siderable reputation-and then, you so the sooner we both start our prosknow, your friend, Geary, dickered pective jobs the sooner we'll finish. Have a quiet little marriage, Bill, without any fuss or feathers or voices op belongs to the people, not to Sarbreathing o'er Eden. What are the ros; yet he has bartered it away and odds, provided you get hitched propwill divert the royalty to his own erly? Besides, I'm in mortal dread of that town of Buenaventura. The sewer system is bad; it's rotten with fever; and you'd better get that girl out of it P. D. Q., and the quicker the signed to me?" better. Myself, I prefer to stay up here in these mountains in a temperate climate where there are no mosquitoes,"

Billy saw that Webster was serious arrive in Buenaventura. By the way, and would resent any interference in you are going to import these merhis plans. "All right, Jack," he assented. "You're the boss." ploy of the Honda Mining & Develop-

"Fine, Now, Bill, you listen to father and be guided accordingly. When you get to Buenaventurn, wire the Bingham Engineering company of like the name, Webster. I picked it Denver, using my name, and tell them to add to my order given them last month and held for shipping directions, 12 dozen picks, 12 dozen shovels, 12 dozen mattocks, say six dozen axes, brush knives, a big road plow. and whatever other things you happen to think of and which would come in handy when building our road. Also, when you get to New Orleans buy a stanch three-ton motor truck. We'll need it for getting in supplies from San Miguel de Padua. Pay for the truck also, and if you go broke and cannot reach me by cable, wire Neddy Jerome at the Engineers' club in Denver and kick his eye out in my him. honored name.

"I'm the only man that can help "I guess that's about all of your you. By the way, do not order your tob, Bill. As for me, Til camp right here. I'll have a deal of surveying machinery shipped until after I am to do and I plan to sweat the booze seated firmly on the throne of my faout of that Cafferty person, I'll thers." make Don Juan my chain man and run the tall off him. Then I'll be busy with preliminary plans, arrang ing for labor and so on, and wher

cluded, you know, and Sarros hasn't rocker Dolores Rucy sat, rocking gentany friends or any telegraph lines or ly and busily stitching on a piece of any garrisons up this way. I heard in fancy work! Billy Geary gone back to the Unit-San Miguel de Padua that you were ed States, and Dolores was still in amped yonder, and I was on my way

Buenaventura! Amazing! Why, mony. You will recall, Callph, that over to confer with you on matters what the devil did Billy mean by of state. Met your friend, Genry, at El Buen Amigo a couple of weeks letting her have her own way like ago, just before he salled for the Unitthat? Of course, they hadn't been married, or she would not now be out ed States. He was telling me you had to have a lot of tools for road there on the veranda, and, of course, they hadn't quarreled, because that building, so I cabled in a secret clpher to the Sobrantean revolutionary was an impossibility, and, of course, Billy had departed alone for the U. junts in New Orleans to ship these tools to you immediately. They ar-S. A., else he would have returned to their camp in the hills back of San rived on the last trip of the Atlanta and now repose in Leber's warehouse Miguel de Padua.

"Well, I know what I'm going to do," Webster decided, "I'm not going to be led into temptation while Billy's not on the job-so I'll not put up at the Hotel Mateo after all. I'll just sneak around to El Buen Amigo and fix it with that old Mother Jenks not to tip off my presence in town to Dolores Ruey until I can get the lay of the land and see what the devil has happened to all my welllaid plans,"

He retreated out the front door and called a carriage, into which he was about to step, bag and baggage, when here on legitimate business. He has Don Juan Cafetero came rushing up in great excitement. "Sure, where are ye goin' now, sor. Is there no room for ye in the Hotel Mateo?"

"Their beds have jiggers in them, and I just remembered that," Webster fibbed. "Hop in, John, and we'll drive around to Mr. Geary's lodgings in El Buen Amigo."

"But I come t'rough the patio just now," Don Juan explained, "an' who should I meet but the young leddy." "You infernal scoundrel! Did you

tell her I was in town?" "Sure I dld, sor. An' why not?" "None of your infernal husiness. You've spoiled everything. You're a muddle-headed monkey and I've a great notion to let you get drunk again. Take the baggage back into the hotel."

Ion Juan Cafetero, greatly humble I and rebuffed, stepped aside and wetched Webster stride back into the hotel, "God love ye, sor," he mumbled, "knowin' what I know, is it likely I'd let ye make a monkey out av her or yerself? Ye made yer planswit' Misther Geary wit'out consultin' her. Now go, ye grrand big divil, an' find out why she kicked yer schame to smithereens." And with a solemn and knowing wink at the duffle bag, Don Juan picked that article up and followed after his master.

CHAPTER XIII.

John Stuart Webster's agile brain was the repository of many conflicting emotions as he bathed, shaved, and changed from his soiled khaki field clothes to a suit of ducks before presenting himself before Dolores. Had Billy's courage forsaken him

at the last minute, with the result States without having settled the until you care to talk about him again, that he had gone back to the United question of Dolores' future? Had he

when a girl marries she must make some preparation for the event, and if she has any close relatives, such as a brother, for instance, she likes to have that relative present at the cere-I have a brother and that you have promised to introduce me to him very shortly."

"By Judas, I never thought of that, Miss Ruey," the repentant Webster answered. "In fact, I wasn't thinking of anybody's interest in this matter but Bill's."

"Not even of mine, Callph?" reproachfully.

"That goes without saying. Could I have done anything nicer for you than fix it for Bill so he would be in posttion to marry you? Here you are, practically alone in the world-at least you were when Bill met you and fell in love with you-and I know that boy so well I was convinced, after meeting you, that his future happiness and yours would best be conserved if you married him. I realize this is a most unusual conversation-

"Quite to be expected of an unusual man, Callph. And I do not think you were one bit presumptuous. It was wonderfully dear of you, and I am profoundly grateful that Billy and I have such a true, unselfish friend, whose first thought is for our happlness. Of course, you realize how bad I felt to think I couldn't accede to Billy's plan. Billy's such a dear, it quite broke my heart to disappoint him, but a little temporary unhapplness will not ruin Billy, will it? It makes me feel blue to talk about it, Callph."

"Not at all, not at all, Miss Ruey. Bill is one of the impulsive, whirlwind kind, up in the clouds today and down in the slough of lespond tomorrow. He'll survive the shock. However, I'm glad to know everything will come out all right. Seeing you here gave me a momentary chill; thought a cog had slipped somewhere, so I helped myself to Cupid's license and asked. A man cannot learn very much from a woman unless he asks questions, can he? I mean on the subject of love."

She smiled a little, wistful, knowing smile, "No, Caliph," she answered seriously, "somehow the Master of Things ordained that on the subject of love man must do all the talking." "Yes, but on the other hand, woman has the last word-as usual. However, the only thing in your case and Billy's that worries me is the thought that since Bill left his magnet behind he will be drawn back here before he is in the kind of shape, physically, that I want him to be in before he relieves me on the job so I can go away."

"Do not worry on that point, Caliph. I am your ally there; between us both I think we can manage him."

"Fine business! And with those few kind words we'll dismiss William although if you're as deep in love as Rill you'll not stay off the subject very long. Hope you haven't been into mischief." "I haven't been idle. I've made sev- " eral dresses for Mother Jenks and done a lot of fancy work and begun the study of my mother tongue. If my brother should become president of this country, it would ill become his sister not to be able to speak Spanish. By the way, Billy told me you were going to remain up in the hills quite a while yet. What brought you back to town so soon?"

Bully boy! And then?"

"I drifted ten feet on the vein, and the ore suddenly gave out. It stopped just like that, proving I'd come to the upper end of the vein where it had faulted; so I just worked up and around, stopping and sinking a winze here and there, until just about the time my cash reserve was getting pretty low I picked up the true vein and opened it up for the full width. Come in, and I'll show you."

closely." "You're crazy," Billy challenged. "Name the flaw !"

"Sarros !" Webster replied smillingly. "That scoundrel makes a gamble out of an otherwise sure thing. However," he added, recalling the note received from Ricardo Ruey just before his departure from Buenaventura and reflecting that to be forewarned is to be forearmed, "we'll accept the gamble. That rascal can't live forever, and he may be eliminated before he causes us any trouble."

"What will it cost us to get this mine on a paying basis, Johnny?" "Well, back home, I'd figure on spending at least \$100,000; but I dare say, taking into consideration the low cost of labor in Sobrante and the raw, natural resources of power and timber right on the ground, we ought to put this deal over for \$50,000 at the outside, Praise be, I have cash enough to do the trick without calling in any help, and such being the case, we'll not waste any time but hop to the job in a hurry and make the fur fly.'

"Right, Jack. What's the program?" "Well, first off, son, I'm not going to stay in this country and lose myself managing this mine. That's your job, because you're young and unimportant in your profession and have the ability to get away with the job. You can afford to spend the next 15 years here, but I cannot. I can only afford to come down here every couple of years and relieve you for a vacation.'

"That's the way I figured it, Jack." "All right then, Bill, let us start in by giving you your first vacation. If you're going to dig in here and make the fur fly, you've got to be in tip-top physical condition-and you are thin and gaunted and full of chills and fever. Just before I left Buenaventura I cashed a draft for \$5,000 on my letter of credit at the Banco Nacional, and placed it to the credit of your account there.

"Tomorrow morning you will take your horse, one pack mule, and one mozo and ride for San Miguel de Padua, where you will take the train for Buenaventura. In Buenaventura you may do what you blame please, but if I were you, boy, I'd try to get married and go back to the U. S. A. for my honeymoon. And when I finally hit a town that contained some regular doctors I'd let them paw me over and rebabbitt me and overhaul my bearings and put me in such nice running order I'd be firing on all 12 cylinders at once.

"And when I was feeling tip-top

I'm idle I'll go hunting." an conformity with this plan, therefore, Billy said good-by to his friend and packed out for San Miguel de Padua bright and early next morning. During the following ten days Webster managed to keep himself fatrly busy around the camp at the mine; then for a week he hunted and fished, and finally, when that began to pall on him, his agile mind returned to business and the consideration of the possibility of a flaw in Billy's title to the claim; whereupon he suddenly decided to return to Buenaventura and investigate that title fully before proceeding to throw dollars right and left.

At the head of his little cavalcade, therefore, he rode out one morning for the railroad, whereat providence, in its inscrutable wisdom, ordained that en route he should fall in with no less a personage than Don Ricardo Luiz Ruey, ne Andrew Bowers. Ri-



Mounted, Armed and Alone.

cardo was mounted, armed, and alone, and at sight of Webster he shouted with delight and spurred toward him. "What the devil! You, Rick, the government cut-up. What are you doing in these parts?" Webster rode up and shook hands.

"Oh, I'm Robin Hooding it around They entered the tunnel, to the sig- once more I'd wire old John Stuart | this part of the country. It is so se-

"Why?"

"It's been framed with Sarros to let you spend your money on that concession and get the mine in running order; then a fate suit, alleging as error in the government survey, will be filed. It will be claimed that the concession given your friend, Geary, is, by virtue of erroneous government surveys, the property of a citizen of Sobrante. The courts here do as Sarros tells them. You are to be kicked out, busted, and despairing, and your

nicely equipped little mine will be taken over as a government monopoly and run for the benefit of the government, to-wit, Sarros and his satellites. We had to cook up a dirty deal like that to save your life. Of course, now that I have warned you in time, you are safe. We schemed a proposition, however, that worked both ways. It enabled us to save you and to save us, by permitting the shipment, free

of suspicion, of arms for the rebels that are to attack the city from within. Naturally I had to cache their arms within the city-and that was a hard problem until you happened along. Thank you, fairy godfather.' "My thanks are due you, Ricardo. I'm for you, first, last, and all the time, and against this Sarros outfit. By the way, how do you purpose mov-

ing your machine guns?" "We'll have to carry them, I guess." "Well, I'll have a small auto-truck time. You might arrange to armor it with sheet steel; and with a couand a crew of resolute Americans beper from one end of the city to the

"Thank you, my friend. I'll borarmor it. That's a bully idea. Are you bound for Buenaventura now?" Webster nodded. "Then," Ricardo suggested, "I'll meet you in my room at El Buen Amigo next Wednesday night at 11 and explain the details of my plans to you if you care to hear them. I think they're air-tight myself, but somehow I think I'd feel more certain of them if you approve them." "Th be there, Rick, and the day you run that outlaw Sarros off the grass you'll know why I am for you." "Good-by, old man. You will never know how grateful you have made me."

Ruey shook hands with Webster and rode off through the timber, leaving John Stuart Webster to pursue the even tenor of his way, until at length he arrived once more in Buenaventura and sought accommodations entered the lobby and gazed through a

proposed and been rejected, or had he proposed, been accepted, and had his plans for an immediate marriage vetoed by Dolores?

In either event, why had Billy failed to leave a note for him at the Hotel Mateo, or mailed him a letter to the Globo de Oro at San Miguel de Padua, advising him of the change in the plan of action outlined for him by Webster?

In the simplicity of his single-hearted devotion Webster was puzzled to understand how any woman in her right mind could fail to fall in love with Billy Geary. A man he was, from heels to hair, and a man with prospects far above the average. To Webster's way of thinking, the girl who married Billy might well count herself fortunate.

Dolores greeted him with unaffected pleasure. "Well, Caliph!" she said. Just that. It made Webster sensible of a feeling of having returned to her after an absence of several years, "I'm so glad to see you, Miss Ruey," he replied, and added boldly, "particularly since I didn't expect to."

She knew what her reply would lead to; nevertheless, with that dissimulation which can only be practiced in perfection by a clever and beautiful woman, she answered with equal boldness: "Indeed! Pray why?"

"Well, for a pretty good reason, 1 think. A few weeks ago, after examdelivered in Buenaventura by that ining Bill's concession very thoroughly, I told him he was a potential milflonaire. Now, while I disclaim any ple of machine guns mounted in it. appearance of braggadocio, when John Stuart Webster, E. M., makes any hind the machine guns, you could ca- | mine owner a report like that, he is apt to be taken very seriously. And other and clear a path for your in- having made Bill a potential millionaire and arranged to give him three

or four months' vacation back home, row the motor truck and arrange to I had a notion he'd present to you a very valid reason why you should accompany him."

"You are very frank, Caliph." "That's because I'm curious. He had a certain dream, and told me about it. and I did my little best to make it come true."

"I think I understand, Caliph. It would be very difficult, I think, for anybody to meet Billy without being attracted toward him. He's one of the dearest, most lovable boys in the world-and he did do me the signal honor of asking-me to marry him. So there !"

"Well, and why didn't you?"

on forcing the issue. "For a number a man. The electric star-gazer, the of excellent reasons, Callph. In the first place, he wanted me to marry him immediately-and I wasn't ready to leave Sobrante, while Billy was, the skate, although in this case the at the Hotel Mateo. And there, as he Indeed, it was highly necessary that electric current generated is very he should leave immediately, for the slight indeed. Fish possessing this glass door across the patio and into sake of his health, and I had Billy's power use it for the purpose of selfthe veranda, he saw that which dis- interest at heart sufficiently to insist protection and also to kill the victims turbed him greatly. In a big wicker upon it. You seem to forget that on which they feed.

"Expected I'd have some freight arriving shortly."

"How long will you remain in Buenaventura?"

Considering the fact that he was no longer subject to temptation, since the object of his temptation was now definitely promised to his friend, Billy. Webster suddenly decided to remain until the political atmosphere should be cleared, although prior to his conversation with Dolores he had cherished a definite plan to go back to the hills within 48 hours.

"I'm going back," he replied soberly. "after I have kept my promise and introduced you to your brother in the government palace. If I cannot introduce him to you there, the title to our mining concession will be clouded, in which event it will not be necessary for Billy or myself to fuss with it further."

He related to her the information gleaned from her brother two days previously.

"It's no use for an individual to fight a government despot in courts controlled by the latter," he concluded. "Your brother must win and depose the Sarros; then with the title to the property certified by the government as without a flaw, I may dare to spend \$50,000 developing it."

"And if my brother doesn't win?" "I may never have an opportunity to present you to him. We mustn't be squeamish about this matter, Miss Ruey. If Ricardo doesn't turn the trick, he may go the way of his father, unless he can manage to get out of the country."

(To be continued)

Electric Fishes,

Several varieties of fish are really living electric batteries. The electric ray has the power of generating elec-

tricity to such an extent that in a healthy specimen the shock may bo She smiled at his blunt insistence strong enough to temporarily disable electric catfish and the electric cel also have this power to a remarkable extent. A better-known electric fish in

fantry."