

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

PINE CREEK RANCH

HAROLD BINDLOSS

"One can reckon on your extravagance," Ogilvie remarked in an ironical voice and addressed Lawrence. "I thought you had some business qualities; anyhow you can't run Fairholm on sentimental lines. Unless you use sound economy, the farm will break you."

"Perhaps I'm not much of an economist, but I doubt if one can handle men as if they were machines," said Spiers. "For the most part, we are not a mechanically logical lot. At all events, I imagine Larry's gang will work for him where yours will slack."

Ogilvie gave him a scornful smile and fixed his eyes on Lawrence.

"Well, I reckon I'm up against you another time, and I surely hate to be beat. Your partner doesn't count. If you and Mrs. Spiers can carry him along, you are smarter than I think, but that's your job. The important thing is, you are willing to go back on your neighbors. We aim to run our farms as farms should be run; we are not going to be robbed and bullied by our hands. We calculated to get your support, but you turn against your friends and boost the other side. Well, nobody has much use for a man like you."

The blood came to Lawrence's skin, but he said quietly, "All your neighbors are not with you, sir."

"That is so," Ogilvie admitted. "Some are fools, and some have not got much grit. Anyhow, the farms are ours; we broke the prairie and we risk our capital. The boys risk nothing. When the wheat is frozen we bear the loss, but now the crop is good they talk about their share! Yet you will stand for the slob's bluff. You have no use for economy. You haven't the gall to fight."

"I rather think ours is the true economy," Lawrence rejoined. "At bottom all co-operation is built on a square deal."

Ogilvie laughed a scornful laugh. "Then, the boys' agreement ought to stand. They hired up for a stipulated sum, and on the plains a farmer pays when his wheat is harvested. When mine's at the elevators I'll hand the gang their wad."

"If your men don't stay with you, you mean to keep the pay they have earned?" Helen inquired.

"You get me, ma'am. Farming's a business proposition, and I'm not a sentimentalist like your husband and Lawrence."

"If Geoff was like you, I'd divorce him," said Helen firmly.

"The Crossing is yours, Mr. Ogilvie," said Spiers. "Since we are taking an independent line, your arrangements have nothing to do with us; but if you hold up the boys' wages, I imagine you'll play a risky game."

"I am willing to take some chances," Ogilvie rejoined dryly. "Anyhow, there's no use in talking. You back the wrong lot. It's a sure thing the gang can't put their bluff across."

He started his horses and Spiers smiled.

"You have a stubborn antagonist, Larry, and I expect he sees a plan. All the same, I doubt if he has properly weighed the chances he is willing to take, and if he hits an awkward snag, I don't suppose I'll grieve."

They got in the wagon, and by and by Spiers resumed: "My talent for business is not remarkable, but I rather think greedy people of Ogilvie's stamp are sometimes a little blind. They clutch at two bits and miss a dollar. For example, when one has got a crop as large as his, speed's worth much, and by comparison, the small extra sum his men ask is not worth a fight. You

see, you cannot hustle an unwilling gang. In fact, if my pay was cut, I believe I could undertake to cheat the boss."

Lawrence thought it possible and he smiled, for he knew Spiers.

"Perhaps greediness does not altogether explain the old fellow's holding out. He hates to be bluffed and no doubt feels he stands for the farmer's right to stick to all that's his."

"His sort call it standing for a principle," Spiers remarked with a grin. "Anyhow, he will put up a good fight. When he saw he could not persuade you he was annoyed, but I sensed a touch of grim humor, as if after all, he had a joke on us."

Lawrence concentrated on his driving. He would sooner have indulged Ogilvie; particularly since it looked as if Margaret had hoped he might, and he wondered whether he had exaggerated the importance of their dispute. It was possible, but had he agreed, he would have felt himself shabby. Well, he had refused, and he imagined he must bear the consequences.

At noon they stopped by a little creek and brewed some tea. The sun was very hot, and when they set off scorched silver grass and squares of red gold wheat shone in dazzling light. At the settlement dust blew along the street. Three or four cars and some wagons were parked in a vacant lot by the livery stable, shouts and the rattle of billiard balls indicated that the pool room was occupied, and groups of strangers loafed about in the shade. For the most part, the men were brown skinned and muscular, but when Lawrence inquired none seemed keen to take a job.

"If we get all we want, you can hire the crowd, but we don't mean to jump," said one. "I been three days on the cars, and I guess I'll take a rest and watch the pay go up."

"Then I imagine you take some chances," Lawrence rejoined. "I was willing to be just, but you're extravagant."

"It looks as if our lot had put them wise," said Spiers. "The boys, however, have not yet got up against Mr. Ogilvie. I'd rather like to know his plan."

They went to the hotel. The veranda at the top of the steps was a sort of farmers' club, and a number occupied the hard chairs and rested their boots on rail. Some talked in languid voices, some smoked and meditated, and a few frankly slept. Cigar ends and burned matches were scattered about the dusty boards. Swarming flies crawled across the shiplap wall.

So far, the farmers' luck had turned and they had grounds to hope the wheat would free them from their embarrassments, but they knew the northwest, and rejoiced soberly. The most part perhaps used Ogilvie's point of view, and when Lawrence joined them one said:

"I don't know as I'm greedy, but I like a square deal. I'm paying the sum I fixed, and I sure don't see why the boys ask more."

"You can pay," remarked another. "You ought to be glad you got a bully crop and give the gang a share. Anyhow, to meet their bill won't cost you much, and the main thing is to get your wheat off the ground. So long as my lot see me through, I'm not going to fight about a few dollars."

"Then, why don't you go get them?" inquired the first man, and indicated a group on the sidewalk. "I allow they're a pretty good bunch of Ontario harvesters and all they want is double pay."

"Double's too much," said the

farmer; and his audience laughed.

"Now you get it," agreed another. "I'm all for a square deal and when my wheat is froze I pay. The trouble is, if you give the boys something, they want some more. They don't know where to stop, and if they think us easy, they'll take the lot."

"The argument's old," said Spiers with a twinkle. "I expect King Pharaoh talked like that. Well, perhaps nobody is altogether satisfied, but what all the boys earn does not see them through the winter they have some grounds to grumble. As far as possible, I'll humor mine. You see, I can be generous because Larry's my banker."

"He has some gall," a big fellow whose face was deeply lined observed. "Well, at length, I guess we're going to shake the mortgage jobber and the wheat will pay our debts. Maybe we must pay the gang more; you can't keep all you get. That's so, Lawrence?"

"I have not kept much," said Lawrence. "My wallet's flat, and all I have is the crop. I want to see it at the elevators and I'm willing to pay for help. Then there's another thing; the tractors, cars, new railroads, and so forth, will carry us where the old timers never thought to go. The windmill pump and gasoline engine will sweat for us, life will be easier, and its standards higher. Well, the boys will claim their part and I think they must be satisfied, for unless they pull their proper weight all we plan falls down. The harvest has given us freedom, and at Fairholm we are not going to grumble about our wages bill."

The station agent came up the steps, and stopping for a moment, inquired: "Have you hired all the men you want?"

"The boys are putting the screw on us; they reckon they'll wait," a farmer replied.

"Then, I'd let them wait," said the agent. "We got a wire from Winnipeg that a locomist special's on the line. She'll come through about 5 o'clock, and I guess she carries a bully load of harvesters."

He gave the group a meaning smile, for in Canada the colonist cars are used by emigrants and laborers who cannot buy second class tickets. Perhaps a crowded steamer had arrived at Montreal, but Lawrence thought the railroad officers had advertised a harvesters' cheap excursion.

About 5 o'clock he and Spiers waited by the track. In the distance a dark smoke plume rolled across the plain, and by and by metal sparkled in the tossing dust. Then the black locomotive began to get distinct, the smoke blew away, and the long row of grimy colonist cars rolled into the station. Pushing figures blocked the vestibule steps, heads were thrust from windows, and when the locomotive stopped at the water tank a sweating, dusty crowd, eager to escape for a few minutes from the hot cars, flowed across the track.

For the most part, the men were not Canadians; Lawrence noted their pallid skin, their shabby clothes, and their jaded look. They were tired, impoverished immigrants and yet carried the stains of the steamship steerage. A number, embarrassed by awkward bundles and battered bandbags, obviously meant to remain, for they sat down on the sidewalk and forlornly looked about. At length, they had reached the golden west, but all they saw was a wheel torn street, bordered by mean wooden houses, and a dreary sweep of gray, scorched grass. Then the station agent, pushing through a group by a baggage car, gave Lawrence a nod.

"The company means to see you out. Another special will be along in the morning."

"Ogilvie's plan; he's beaten the boys!" said Spiers. "I expect he wrote the railroad and immigration offices about our wanting harvest hands. I think we'll look up the fellow who declared he'd wait. He's an Ontario man, and no doubt has stoked shaves before."

The man and two or three

others were smoking in the shade, but when he saw Lawrence his grin was philosophical.

"You have us beat, but my bunch are harvesters and the other mob are not," he said. "What are you going to pay? And how many boys do you want?"

Lawrence told him and he looked up with some surprise.

"We did reckon to get more, but you're not cutting rates all you might."

"I want you to work," said Lawrence meaningly.

"When I like my boss I don't slouch," the other rejoined and turned to his companions. "What say?"

"You can fix the deal," said one, and Lawrence sent them to the hotel.

The locomotive snorted and the bell began to toll. Crowded figures swarmed about the steps and the platform rails; the dusty cars jolted and rolled ahead. Men shouted and waved greasy caps, but the cheers were flat, and the song somebody started was drowned by the throb of wheels. Shipmates and trainmates got indistinct, and the immigrants sitting by the track looked clearly about.

One got up and stopped Lawrence. "A mate o' mine from England is in these parts. Do you know Tom Heath?"

"If you are Heath's pal, your luck is good," said Spiers. "I don't see how you tracked him, but he's at my farm."

"He left notes for me at the immigrant sheds. If you let me look him up, he might put me on a harvesting job."

Spiers gave Lawrence a meaningful glance. The fellow was strongly built and Lawrence knew the sturdy Lancashire type and could use another man. Besides, he noted the stranger's eager look and imagined his money was gone.

"I will give you a job; at all events, I'll try you out," he said. "I don't suppose you can drive a three horse team, but if you can stook the sheaves behind the binder, you will get—" He stated a sum and resumed: "At Fairholm, however, we have not an eight-hour rule. We begin soon after sunup and sometimes we don't stop at dark. Your board, of course, is free, and I think the food is pretty good. On Sundays, if you wanted, you might go across and see your pal."

"I'm your man," said the other. "I don't know much about horses, but when you've carried coal bags up a bending plank, stacking wheat sheaves looks an easy job."

Lawrence smiled. Easy jobs are not numerous in a Canadian harvest field. He ordered the man to go with him, and, joining the group at the hotel, gave them some money.

"My team has had enough, but you can put your bundles on board the rig," he said. "Get supper, and in the morning take the Fairholm trail."

A few minutes afterward he and Spiers started across the plain.

"Perhaps we were extravagant," Lawrence remarked in a thoughtful voice.

"Oh, well," said Spiers, smiling. "I have known extravagance pay. Ogilvie, no doubt, will cut his men's wages, but he has yet to get away with it. Sometimes economy like his is expensive."

(TO BE CONTINUED)

French Fortunes Small But They Are Numerous

Paris. (AP)—A thousand dollars is the average fortune left by will in France.

This is the country of many but small property owners. The division of an estate among the heirs is obligatory, in obedience to Napoleon's idea, incorporated in the "Code" that still is the basis of French law. It was intended to break up great land holdings and to make France a nation of property owners, a result that has been accomplished.

All but 14 per cent. of the people who die leave more than enough to pay their debts. The average fortune left is 25,000 francs. Only one estate in 25 exceeds \$4,000. Less than 1,000 fortunes of 1,000,000 francs are left each year.

to visit the tomb of the famous general of the American revolution.

General Marion's grave is a mile off the main highway, and plans are now under way to widen the narrow dirt road with its encroaching trees which make difficult automobile passage to the shrine of the Carolinian.

Q. Do persons in Argentina ride about the streets on steers? F. H. D.

A. Outdoor life in Argentina is very much like outdoor life in our western states. People ride horses, use motor cars, and now and then some may be seen on steers.

BIBLICAL BUTTER

Butter wherever it occurs in the Bible is chemah, signifying curdled milk. In Deut. XXXII, 15, we find, among the blessings which Jeshurum had enjoyed, milk of kine contrasted with milk of sheep. Butter was much in use among the Hebrews and was prepared as is done today by the Arabs and Syrians, but it was not used for medicinal purposes.

The Arabs of Hejaz put milk in a large copper pan over a slow fire and a little sour milk or portion of the dried entrails of a lamb is thrown in. Milk then separates and is put in a goat skin bag, which is tied to one of the tent poles and constantly moved back and forth two hours. The butyry substance then coagulates, the water is pressed out, and the butter put into another skin. In two days the butter is again placed over the fire with the addition of a portion of burgoul (wheat boiled with leaves and dried in the sun) and allowed to boil for some time, during which it is carefully skimmed. It is then found that the burgoul has precipitated all foreign substances and that the butter remains quite clear at the top. This is the process used by the Bedouins, and is also employed by the settled people of Syria and Arabia.

The chief difference is that, in making butter and cheese, the townspeople employ the milk of cows and buffaloes, whereas the Bedouins, who do not keep these animals, use that of sheep and goats. The butter is generally white, of the color and consistency of lard, and is not much relished by English travelers. It is eaten with bread in large quantities by those who can afford it, being taken in a mass with a morsel of bread and not spread as with us.

The butter of the Hebrews might have been sometimes clarified and preserved in skins and jars as at the present day in Asia, and, when poured out, resembles rich oil (Job XX, 17). It acquires a rancid taste that is liked by the natives. All Arab food considered well prepared swims in butter and large quantities are eaten independently of other food.

Butter and honey were used together and were esteemed among the richest productions of the land (Isa. VII, 15) and Arabs use cream or new butter mixed with honey as a principal delicacy.

RAISING WINTER LAYERS

Prices of farm eggs as well as of live and dressed-poultry are usually highest during fall and the early winter months. Profits from the farm flock can be materially increased by taking advantage of this market situation in handling the flock. Timing production to the market demand can be accomplished best by hatching early and by having early maturing strains.

Most of the revenue from the farm flock is obtained from eggs. It is important, therefore, to develop the flock from good laying strains. This requires careful selection of hens that mature early, that lay best after they begin, that seldom go broody, and that lay well throughout the late summer and fall.

The size of the flock is an important factor to consider also. Maintaining about 200 or 400 birds enables the flock to be divided to advantage for breeding purposes. A flock of 200, for instance, can readily be divided into two units—50 yearlings and 150 pullets; and a flock of 400 into 100 yearlings and two units of 150 pullets each. The pullets are used primarily for egg production and the yearlings for breeding purposes. Yearlings are preferable to pullets as breeders because usually they lay larger eggs which hatch into bigger chicks. Moreover, the yearling hens have gone through a molt the preceding fall, and thus have had a rest prior to the breeding season, and for that reason they usually produce stronger chicks than pullets. A still more important reason for using yearlings as breeders is that they should be only the best birds of the pullet flock of the preceding laying year, and the continuous selection from year to year should assist greatly in improving the quality of the pullets raised each year. Farmers should give more attention to the selection of their breeding stock every year and flock units of about 200 or 400 birds will enable them to do this to advantage.

Since pullets normally do not begin laying until they are six or seven months old it is important that they be hatched early enough to permit laying during the season of high prices—from October to February.

VALUE OF GINSENG

There are a number of plants growing wild in our woods, whose roots or leaves are of commercial value in the manufacture of drugs, but none have so great a value as the roots of the ginseng, which sells as high as \$12 a pound. It is chiefly exported to China where great value is attributed to it for the curing of many diseases, although our own doctors do not think much of it.

Ginseng grows from one to two feet tall with five leaves to the stalk. It has small white blossoms, from which grow red berries. It grows only in shadowy places. It can be cultivated and this is the method practiced in China, but since continuous shade must be provided and it takes

GOOD CALF FEED

Powdered skim milk or powdered buttermilk are growing in favor among dairymen as a means of raising strong, healthy calves cheaply. The powders may be used if natural skim milk is lacking or as a substitute for part of the whole milk which would otherwise be used. Good calves can be raised to six months of age on 75 pounds of skim milk powder, about 150 pounds of whole milk, 400 pounds alfalfa hay, and 400 pounds grain.

The skim milk should be mixed at the rate of one pound of powder to nine pounds of water, and the water should

seven years for the roots to mature so they can be used, it is not a very profitable crop to grow after all. Besides cultivated ginseng is not as valuable as that which grows wild.

The roots should be dug in the fall after the leaves are dead, or in the spring before they start to grow. Of course, they would have to be located during the growing season. After they have been dug they should be cleaned without washing and dried in a room above one in which heat is kept. They should never be dried in the sun. As soon as they are thoroughly dry, they should be packed in a box and kept from the air as much as possible until disposed of. They can be sold to some of the large wholesale drug companies.

HOW HAY IS GRADED

The rules of the National Hay association recognize 23 grades of hay, which seem to fall into five classes—timothy, clover, wild grasses and alfalfa. Choice timothy hay must be sound, properly cured, of bright natural color, not mixed with more than one-twentieth of other grasses and well baled. Lower grades of timothy are Nos. 1, 2 and 3 and "no grade." Clover hay has two grades, No. 1 and No. 2. No. 1 clover must be medium clover, sound, properly cured, not mixed with more than one-twentieth of other grasses and well baled. Choice alfalfa hay must be reasonably fine leafy alfalfa of bright green color, properly cured, sound, sweet and well baled. Other grades of alfalfa are Nos. 1, 2 and 3 and "no grade." These rules are used by most cities that have official inspection.

A large percentage of the timothy on the market is graded below No. 1. The reasons are that many meadows are cut for years until they become weedy and mixed with other grasses and that the hay is often cut too late, so that it loses the bright natural color and palatability. If the farmer would send to market nothing but what the feeder considers good he would get a higher price. It might be necessary in some cases to educate the country buyer also.

Timothy has the lead, especially among city feeders, because it is not only nutritious, but palatable and non-laxative, and the horse is not likely to overfeed. Nevertheless other kinds of hay would often prove better for the feeder. Alfalfa for instance, has high muscle building qualities and is especially valuable for draft horses. It is highly relished, however, and the horse may overfeed. Doubtless the feeder will in time learn that hay from legumes has great value when properly used.

Meantime the farmer is obliged to include clover and other legumes in his rotation in order to maintain the fertility of his land.

In any case the farmer who sells hay should seek to produce the highest grade by keeping his meadows pure and by proper methods of cutting, curing and stacking.

MINERALS NECESSARY

In general, rations containing liberal amounts of skim milk, tankage, fish meal or other protein supplements of animal origin will have enough of the necessary mineral elements, except common salt, to meet the needs of any class of swine," says a noted expert on porcine production.

"On the other hand, swine rations made up entirely of materials from the plant kingdom are likely to lack lime and may also lack phosphorus. Examples of such rations are corn and soybeans or corn and soybean oil meal. Even with such rations nothing apparently is to be gained, except in special cases, by adding other elements than calcium, phosphorus, sodium and chlorine. That being the case, the source of these elements, their cost and the proportion in which to feed them are the questions needing attention.

"A cheap, yet satisfactory, source of calcium is the ordinary agricultural limestone of high calcium grade. One of the best sources of phosphorus is steamed bone meal, while sodium and chlorine are added as common salt. In case the feeding and water will lack iodine. In these areas one ounce of potassium or sodium iodide should be added to each 100 pounds of the mineral supplement.

"This simple mineral mixture can be mixed on almost any farm at a cost not to exceed \$1.25 to \$1.75 per hundred pounds. If spent bone black can be bought for less than steamed bone meal it may be substituted for the bone meal in the formula."

BE OBSERVANT

A beginner, in the dairy game may wisely be guided in his selection by the results of a "cow census" in his neighborhood.

Heavy, thin make it an inch.

May sowings will give better germination than April because there is less percentage rotted by cold and wet.

Never sow on wet soil. Select the driest portions of the garden for the earliest sowing.

A sprinkling of fine sand over a seedbed is useful in preventing the surface from caking before the seed germinate. This is an excellent practice in heavy soils.

One foot apart is the minimum distance for the smaller growing vegetable rows, as it is the least distance in which a gardener can walk to manipulate a hoe.

be warm enough to make a liquid 90 to 100 F. when fed.

With powdered buttermilk, 150 pounds of whole milk, 65 pounds dried buttermilk, 460 pounds of grain, and about 450 pounds alfalfa hay were needed to produce a calf of about as good condition at the same age, namely, six months.

The powdered products are convenient, sanitary, about one-half as expensive as whole milk, but they are more expensive than natural skim milk. Skim milk powder removed with water is skim milk, and calves can't tell the difference.

AMERICAN LEGION'S 1928 MEMBERSHIP IS 200 PER CENT. BETTER

Indianapolis, Ind.—The national membership of the American Legion auxiliary, as shown by the report of Miss Emma Hadorn, national treasurer, as of November 30th, is 25,298 more than for last year, and the advance payment of dues for 1928 is 200 per cent larger than for a similar period a year ago. Forty seven departments and the Unit of Paris,

France, had exceeded their highest membership of 1926. Forty departments had exceeded their highest membership of former years.

Mississippi has officially served notice on the "forty seven other states," and the world at large that it has not the remotest intention of relinquishing title, at any time in the near future, to any one of the four membership trophies, the Oliphant, Towne, McKissick or Hobart trophy. In point of early renewal, Mississippi holds a record that is unique and unrivalled in the history of the legion and auxiliary. Before the close of

last year the state had a 1927 membership paid up at national headquarters greater than its entire 1923 membership. Mrs. Louis N. Julienne, department president, has reported 10 units as being 100 per cent. renewed for 1928.

The department of Minnesota leads the country at this time in the number of advance dues for 1928.

GRAVE INACCESSIBLE

Columbia, S. C. (UP)—The grave of Francis Marion, the "Swamp Fox," is almost inaccessible to tourists, according to those who recently tried