

CHAFFEE

ROARING HORSE

BY ERNEST HAYCOX

"I'm gone," said Red Corcoran, and hoisted himself toward the door. On the threshold he tarried. "Better stay under cover yourself. Perhaps Woolfridge or Lock-ley might have friends here which'd squeal on yuh."

"I'm all right, you travel," Corcoran had one more bright thought. "Say, that Gay Thatcher ain't difficult to glance upon. Not any. Ever think of—"

But Chaffee's face turned so black and unfriendly that Corcoran closed the door in haste and departed.

CHAPTER XVI
The Shadow of Catastrophe
Gay reached the territorial capital twenty-four hours later, and after refreshing herself at the private lodging house where she maintained her fixed residence, went directly to the governor's quarters in the domed building that sat so serenely between sweeps of lawn and trees and commanded so many vistas of the town. The governor was deep in the early morning routine, but her name forwarded by a secretary opened instantly the inner door. The tall and sparsely-membered gray warrior rose with a southern courtesy and faced his fair lieutenant.

"I'd begun to worry a little about you, Miss Thatcher. Sit down. But you look fresh and competent. I would give all that I owned to have the vigor of your years once more. You've had breakfast? Well, take coffee with me. Sereno—send out to the restaurant for coffee and rolls for Miss Thatcher and myself. Now—business."

The governor of this territory was a pure and precious type of the bearded lawyer emigrant who had risen to influence through shrewd alliances and popular appeal. He was a political being down to the very roots; he fought his battles wholly on political premises. There was something of the glorified log roller about him. He knew every man, or almost every man, in the territory who could command more than a dozen followers; his mind was a card catalogue of names and faces, and no little of his power rose out of the ability to grip the hand of some obscure citizen and say in a booming friendly voice: "Hello, Jeb Smith. Haven't seen you for eight years. How big is that baby boy now?" Yet because he used the old and commonplace methods it was no less true that the governor was a capable officer. He used whatever instrument he could to establish his purposes. And those purposes were worthy. The territory was proud of the governor; it never had a better one. He loved his friends in the good old-fashioned way, and he fought his enemies to the last bloody political ditch also in the good old-fashioned way. Such was the chief to whom Gay Thatcher reported. And to him, over the hot coffee, she rendered her report. At the end of it she added an irrelevant thought. I am afraid I am giving you only hearsay or only what I saw. You would have been better served, perhaps, if you had sent a man."

"No such thing," was the governor's hearty denial. "Give me the privilege of knowing what I wanted done. You have done it. Admirably. A man might have cross-examined some of those folks. Might have listened at keyholes. I didn't want that. What I wanted was a bystander's report. So friend William is up to mischief? Went out to his desert tent and brooded over this fine scheme. William

is a dangerous critter. I never have any doubt about a horse that lays back his ears. That's honest meanness. But I do mightily dislike the blind-eyed brute that plays possum till you're off guard. That's William."

"Governor—how did you know he was up to anything?"

The man smiled. "I have lived a long time in public life and I have acquired a little of the serpent's wisdom. In politics, my dear girl, we credit nothing to our enemies and suspect everything of them. I like to have my foes, worthy and unworthy, near at hand where I can keep an eye on them. When they travel away from me I begin to worry over their welfare." He rose from the table and walked around the room, losing the humorously cynical attitude. His cheeks began to furrow up, his chin actually appeared to jut farther out, and a chill came to his blue-gray eyes. Piece by piece, the governor was mentally climbing into his armor.

"I have known William Woolfridge a long while," he continued, almost snapping at the name. "And I never liked him. He's lean, and he doesn't sleep sound at nights. He's got an uncommon streak of genius in him, but it works the wrong direction. He always strikes me odd. A man always has a feeling when he comes into the presence of a dangerous animal or when he is faced with some mysterious element. I always have it when I get within ten yards of William."

"I have felt it," said the girl. "I knew you would. You can't lay a finger on it. You just know. William never set up to be a friend of mine. He has aired it in certain quarters he meant to smash me one of these days. He is hooked up with interests not beneficial to the general welfare of the territory. Now he's engaged in a promotion scheme that will give us a black eye to the world and cause many poor people much misery. I always knew he'd turn rotten, but I never was able to figure just which way he'd take. Don't understand it, either. The man's got plenty of money."

"Pride of personal power," suggested the girl.

The governor thrust a keen, penetrating look toward her. "You have discovered his secret. Ten men would not have uncovered it. Women feel these things. Men have to learn them. Well, he is too clever. He trims too close to legality. And many poor families will suffer. We must stop it. We must smash him!"

"I have been thinking about those advertisements he issued," said the girl. "If you will give me the morning to see certain people I think I can possibly bring you something useful."

"Who?"

"Mr. Bangor and Mr. Hunnewell."

"Munnewell's a rat," said the governor. "Be careful of him. Bangor is trying to play the diplomat with me. He is trifling to the wind. If you want him to reveal business secrets, mention my name. Uncover your connections, and I believe he'll open up. Go to it. Now, it is very cold outside. Wrap well up, Miss Thatcher." And the governor escorted her through the executive offices and stood bareheaded in the raw December wind, watching her go down the long flight of stairs. A tough, shrewd and gallant man.

Gay went directly down Capital Avenue to the Power Building. Presently she was in T. Q. Bangor's office and

materially altered the situation.

He turned back to his desk and drew his chair before a typewriter. A little later he handed the following letter to the girl:

My Dear Governor:

In order to put our recent conversation on record I wish to say that this company does not contemplate building a river. We did at one time investigate the possibilities of that river, but at a recent board meeting, held November 14th of this year, wholly abandoned the idea. All our applications for rights were subsequently withdrawn.

It has come to our attention that certain individuals are advertising land in that district with the assurance that we will build a dam. In this connection I wish to say that a letter was forwarded to Mr. William Wells Woolfridge on November fourteenth, by his personal agent, Mr. Alexander Hunnewell, in which we distinctly stated that no dam was to be built.

I desire to place this information before you that this company be held wholly free from any unfortunate speculation.

Very truly
T. Q. Bangor

"Thank you," said Gay, folding the letter into her purse. "I am sure you will never regret having expressed this in written form."

T. Q. Bangor smiled, somewhat grimly. "Had I felt I might later regret it, the letter certainly wouldn't have been written. Give the governor my personal regards and tell him I hope he wins his battle. However, that's really a useless hope. He always does win. I have been charmed, Miss Thatcher—"

Gay left the Power Building and walked swiftly to a less imposing structure farther down the street. She climbed one flight of stairs and entered a door labeled: "Woolfridge Investment Co. Alex. Hunnewell, Mgr." Hunnewell was in, his feet tipped up on a desk, cracking nuts between his teeth, and looking very bored. He made no effort to rise when she saw his visitor. There was, in fact, a sudden and faint insolence in his welcome. "How do. This is a pleasure. Brightens a dull day. What can I do for you?"

He was a flat, lifeless sort of a creature. In the presence of Woolfridge he trembled and was afraid of the very breath he drew. Being that type of man it was natural that he should swing to the other extreme when relieved of his superior's presence and become a petty tyrant; inevitable that he should exercise a back-biting meanness under the protection of a power that was not his own.

"My name is—"

"I know it very well," broke in Hunnewell. "Fact is, I know considerably more about you than you'd imagine."

"How very interesting," murmured the girl, recognizing his quality. "I won't take up your time, then, with unnecessary information. I noticed you have been advertising for homesteaders down in Roaring Horse. Of course, I could find out by going directly to newspapers, but perhaps you'll tell me when you first issued the ads."

"Mailed out of here the sixteenth," was Hunnewell's prompt answer. He seemed to wish to emphasize his importance. "I work rapidly. But if you're interested in land don't let the date bother you. Still plenty of it open. Suggest you go down to see Mr. Woolfridge."

The girl was hardly able to suppress the mingled anger and satisfaction. "In other words you got up the ads, with all the facts contained in them, two days after you were informed there was to be no dam built in the Roaring Horse."

other newspaper editors pertaining to the senators of their own states. The Milwaukee Journal, for instance, might do a service by similarly sizing up Senator LaFollette. There are other senators, members of the Norris group, whose relationship to their own constituents might helpfully be interpreted to the world of readers.

It's All Gone By.
From Pele Mele, Paris.
Peggy: I'm divorcing Charlie. You don't know what I've gone through, living with him.
Anne: Well, everybody says it was all he had.

university board that awards the Pulitzer prizes, and forthwith the editor carries off the palm."

The Fremont editor endeavored to interpret Nebraska and its Norris. It gave delight to readers who are not obsessed, as the Milwaukee Journal appears to be, with undue respect for Norris, or any other colleague, because he is a senator of the United States. In this day, the senatorial toga is too palpably cut out of common cloth to warrant such extraordinary reverence. Moreover, such interpretations are valuable as contributions to public appraisal. We should like to have similarly delightful ratings made by

stored grain) was overcome by using a windrower. Cost of cutting with windrower was 46 cents per acre for 12-foot machine, and 44 cents for 16-foot machine.

PROVIDE GOOD VENTILATION
Temperature of barns will remain more uniform, stock will be healthier, and the frost nuisance will be practically eliminated by good ventilation.

Sooner or later the sheriff will knock down the run down farm.

Sweet clover can be pastured in the fall.

asked "Studies" of Senators. From the Minneapolis Journal. The Milwaukee Journal takes a glowing view of the award of the

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

IRRADIATED FEEDS.
While no one has yet been able to find just what is the real nature of vitamin D, it is now agreed by investigators in nutrition that the precursor or carrier of vitamin D is ergosterol, and it is the quantity of irradiated ergosterol in a foodstuff that determines its potency in vitamin D. One college of agriculture has had under way many studies of the distribution, preparation, activation, and physiological properties of ergosterol. Yeasts and molds have been found to be particularly rich in this important substance and are readily made potent in vitamin D by irradiation. Over 40 different yeasts and molds have been tested to learn if any were more valuable in this connection than others, but little variation has been found, except for three strains which were unusually low in their content of ergosterol. When abnormally large quantities of irradiated ergosterol are fed animals over periods of time, serious disturbances follow and even death may result. The tolerance of the animal body to vitamin D is very great, however, and it has been found that no ill effects follow the daily consumption of an amount 1,000 times greater than the minimum quantity required in the ration to promote calcium deposition in the bones and to cure rickets. It is when the amount fed is 10,000 times the normal quantity that injurious effects occur. In these cases extraordinary calcium depositions take place in the soft tissues of the body, particularly the kidneys. All ordinary foodstuffs carry such a limited amount of ergosterol that it is impossible for animals or man to consume quantities that will be injurious even when these foods have been irradiated. It is with the rare ergosterol compounds isolated in the chemist's laboratory that there is danger of harm when taken in abnormally large daily amounts. These rare ergosterol compounds are exceedingly potent when they have been irradiated, being 75,000 or more times as effective as cod liver oil which is the most potent common source of vitamin D. There is as much vitamin D in one ounce of irradiated ergosterol as there is in three and one half tons of the best cod liver oil. Important facts have been learned regarding the commercial irradiation of common foodstuffs, particularly cereals. All cereal products such as rolled oats, farina, corn meal and corn flakes were found to be especially susceptible to activation by ultra-violet light treatment, and become potent with vitamin D when irradiated for even a fraction of a second at a distance of nine inches from artificial sources of ultra-violet light.

FEED ON WIRE
The use of wire floors in brooding and for sun porches has developed in an effort to grow healthy chicks, free from coccidiosis and worm infestation. Wire floored sun porches are very desirable. There is a question, however, as to whether flooring the inside of the colony house with wire is economical and practical. It is true, however, that small, portable, wire-covered platforms, to be located in the brooder houses and on which the water receptacles and mash-hoppers can be placed, are very much worth while. They may be built about two feet wide and three or four feet long, on frames of one by three or one by four-inch scantling placed on edge, and the top covered with half-inch mesh cellarwindow wire. If the water receptacles and mash hoppers are placed on such platforms the result is clean feeding, for the chicks cannot get mash which has spilled from the hopper into the litter, nor can they eat or scratch in the wet litter which is often found around the drinking receptacle. The platforms can be placed in such positions as to help prevent the crowding of chicks in the corners.

USE LIME FREELY
Poultrymen are rapidly finding that the liberal use of lime about the poultry plant is very desirable. Limestone, ground as fine as it is possible to obtain it, can be scattered on the drop-ways between and under each cleat, as a deodorant and lime should never be used, nor should it be allowed to come in contact with the droppings, because it liberates nitrogen. Ground limestone can be scattered on the litter in the nests, on moist spots adjacent to water fountains, and on the floor after cleaning, when new litter is added. Probably the greatest advantage from the use of lime is realized from heavy applications on poultry yards and brooding and rearing ranges. A ton of ground limestone applied every year or two, as these ranges are plowed and seeded, will keep the soil sweet, tend to act as a cleansing and disinfectant agent, and will induce a maximum growth of legumes, such as clover and alfalfa, which crops make the finest green feeds.

SEEDING ALFALFA
It has been found quite beneficial in seeding alfalfa on land underlain by hardpan to use one-third white blossom sweet clover seed with the alfalfa seed. The white clover roots are much stronger growers and will penetrate the hardpan more readily than will the alfalfa roots. The sweet clover roots are fleshy and when they decay they leave much organic matter in the soil and make holes in the hardpan. There will be little if any sweet clover left after the first cutting the second season. In the meantime the yield of hay or pasturage has been increased quite materially, since the alfalfa does not come into a full yield till about the third season. If the field is used for hog pasture it

COMBINE HARVESTING
Apparently the rate of harvesting with combine on 110 Minnesota farms averages 2.1 acres per hour with eight-foot machine, 2.5 acres with 10-foot machine, 3.1 acres with 12-foot machine. Cost of cutting with eight-foot binder and threshing with threshers was \$3.45 per acre in northwestern Minnesota, \$4.83 in southwestern Minnesota, and \$5.83 in southeastern (with seven-foot binder). Average cost of cutting and threshing with eight-foot combine was \$1.53 per acre; 10-foot, \$1.74; 12-foot, \$1.75; 16-foot, \$1.60. The principal disadvantage of the combine, difficulty of reducing moisture content of

will be necessary to clip the sweet clover, as the hogs do not relish it as well as they do alfalfa and will allow the sweet clover to grow too coarse.

BEEES FOR BUGGER CROPS
May is a glorious month in the northern prairie states. It is apple and plum blossom time and the fragrance of these flowers fills the air. This is supposed to bring a stir of romance to the heart of youth and to bolster the courage of hard-headed fruit growers with hope for large and profitable crops. These same fruit growers will greatly enhance their chances for a profitable crop if they will remember that all the plums which grow in this region are self-sterile and require cross-pollination before they can set a single fruit. It should also be remembered that most apples under exceptionally favorable conditions at blossom time, will generally be able to set a limited number of fruits when self-pollinated, but they will rarely, if ever, set a commercial crop unless cross-pollination from other varieties is made possible. This cross-pollination can be effected only by means of insects, and it has been well demonstrated that the common honey bee is by long odds the most important pollinating agent. Every fruit grower should see to it that from one to two colonies of bees per acre are available in a location close by the orchard to perform this most important act of cross-pollination.

FARM PATENTS
TOO FEW CHICKS
Surveys made after the first two months of the hatching season indicate a very material reduction in the number of chicks to be brooded this spring. This is no doubt due to the very low price of eggs, which caused many poultrymen to fear that baby chicks will be unprofitable. As a matter of fact, the reverse is likely to be the case. Whenever economic conditions bring extremely low prices, these are for which promptly results in a reduced supply of eggs and poultry—and higher prices. As this is written there has been a reduction in early chicks hatched of from 21 to 30 per cent as compared with recent seasons. Unless a substantial part of this reduction is made up by increased hatches of late chicks, we may be faced next fall with a reduced pullet population, material reduction in egg yield, and excessively high prices. Too few chicks this spring also will result in a shortage of spring chickens which are in demand for frying and roasting purposes throughout the summer and fall, causing too high prices for these commodities. An appreciation of these factors should encourage a heavier hatch of late chicks.

EARLY PULLETS PAY BEST
It is generally considered that early maturing pullets are the high producing hens. Maturity and date of first egg has been the subject of much study by experiment stations. Conclusions from their work are: Pullets that laid their first eggs early in their laying year were of earlier sexual maturity than those laying later. The time the first egg was laid had a close association with winter egg production. Birds that laid their eggs in September, the highest winter egg production. Pullets that laid their first egg from September 6 to December 13, laid 50 or more eggs in winter. There was a slight association between date of first egg and the rate of spring production. Pullets laying first egg in December laid greatest number of spring eggs. Poorest spring production was 58.4 eggs, the average of the birds that produced first egg in March. Records showed a close association between date of first egg and total annual production. Pullets that laid first eggs in October laid largest total for year. A production of 200 or more eggs was attained by those pullets that laid first egg September 6 to December 13.

ABUSE OF FALL PIGS
Feeding trials indicate that it is practical and easily possible to get as rapid gains through the winter on fall pigs as through the summer on spring pigs. To do this, however, requires more skill in feeding. By skill in feeding we mean mainly supplying the right kinds of feed. A great many swine producers do not get as good gains on fall pigs as on spring pigs because they do not feed rations that are complete enough in protein, mineral, and vitamin supply. The result of this is that pigs become unhealthy and tend to develop rickets. Excellent results are had from grain and grass during the summer but there is no grass during the winter, and grain is not enough for the complete nutrition of young growing pigs. Hence a good many farmers are disturbed about their fall pig photos along about this time of year. Should these pigs, that have been unintentionally abused during the winter, survive until good grass is ready, they will usually curl up their tails and to their best to make up for lost time.

NEW VARIETIES SWEET CORN
What's a garden without sweet corn? And without Golden Bantam, still the standard for quality? Some of the newer varieties surpass Golden Bantam far earliness. Among these are Golden Gem, Golden Early Market, Banting, Golden 60 Day, Extra Early Bantam, Golden Sunshine, etc. Some of these are 10 or 12 days earlier than Golden Bantam.

WATCH YOUR FLOCK.
A well managed flock of young hens should average 17 eggs each during July and 14 eggs each during August. Flocks which fall short of this average need more thorough culling and better attention.

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