

The IRON TRAIL



BY REX BEACH

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CHAPTER XX. The Fake Is Exposed.

THE two miners were thrust forward, and the embarrassed Thorn, who had acted as spokesman, was boosted to a table. Under Murray's encouragement he stammered out the story of his good fortune, the tale running straight enough to fan excitement into a blaze. There was no disposition to doubt, for news of this sort is only too sure of credence.

When the speaker had finished O'Neil inquired:

"Are you an experienced quartz miner? Do you know ore when you see it?"

"Sure! I worked in the Jumbo, at Goldfield, Nev., up to last year. So did Baker."

"When did you go into the White river country?"

"August."

"How did you go in?"

"We packed in. When our grub ran out we killed our horses and cached the meat for dog feed."

"Is there any other dog feed there?"

"No, sir."

"Not a soul. The country is open to the first comers. It's a fine looking country too. We seen quartz indications everywhere. I reckon this speaks for itself." Thorn significantly held up his ore samples. "We've made our locations. You fellows is welcome to the rest. First come, first served."

There was an eager scramble for the specimens on the part of those nearest the speaker. After a moment Murray asked them:

"Did you fellows ever see any rock like that?"

One of his workmen answered:

"I have."

"Where?"

"In the Jumbo, at Goldfield. I 'high graded' there in the early days."

There was a laugh at this. Thorn flushed angrily. "Well," he rejoined, "we've got the same formation over there in the White river. It's just like Goldfield. It'll be the same kind of a camp, too, when the news gets out."

O'Neil broke in smoothly to say:

"Most of our fellows have no dogs. It will take them three weeks to cover the trail. They'll have to spend three weeks in there, then three weeks more coming out—over two months altogether. They can't haul enough grub to do them." He turned to his employees and said gravely: "You'd better think it over, boys. Those who have teams can make it, but the rest of you will get left. Do you think the chance is worth all that work and suffering?"

The bridge workers shifted uncomfortably on their feet. Then a voice exclaimed:

"Don't worry, boss. We'll make it somehow."

"Then says there's nobody over there," Murray continued. "But that seems strange, for I happen to know of half a dozen outfits at the head of the White river. Jack Dalton has had a gang working there for four years."

Dalton was a famous character in the north, one of the most intrepid of the early pioneers, and the mention of his name brought a hush. A large part of the audience realized the truth of O'Neil's last statement, yet resented having it thrust upon them. Thorn and Baker were scowling. Gray had just entered the room and was signaling to his chief, and O'Neil realized that he must score a triumph quickly if he wished to hold the attention of his men. He resumed gravely:

"If this strike was genuine I wouldn't argue, but it isn't." A confusion of startled protests rose; the two miners burst out indignantly. But O'Neil, raising his voice for the first time, managed to make himself heard. "Those jewelry samples came from Nevada," he cried. "I recognized them myself this afternoon, and here's another fellow who can't be fooled. Thorn told you he used to work in Goldfield. You can draw your own conclusions."

The temper of the crowd changed instantly. Jeers, groans, hisses arose. The men were on their feet now and growing noisier every moment. Baker and Thorn were glaring balefully at their accuser. But Gray succeeded in shouldering his way forward and whispered to O'Neil, who turned suddenly and faced the men again.

"Just a minute!" he shouted. "You heard Thorn say he and Baker went prospecting in August. Well, we've just had Cortez on the cable and learn that they were working for Gordon in the two weeks ago." A sudden silence fell. Murray smiled down at the two strangers. "What do you say to that?"

Thorn flew into a purple rage. "It's a damn lie! He's afraid you'll quit work, fellows." Viciously he flung himself toward the door, only to feel the grasp of the muscular physician upon his arm.

"Listen to this message from the cashier of the Cortez Home bank," bellowed Gray, his big voice dominating the uproar. Undisturbed by his prisoner's struggles, he read loudly:

Joe Thorn and Henry Baker quit work 15th, leaving for Fairbanks over winter trail, with five dogs—four gray and white malamutes, black shepherd leader. Thorn medium size, thirty-five, red hair, Esker dark, scar on cheek. WILSON, Cashier.

The doctor's features spread into a broad grin. "You've all seen the dog team, and here's the red hair." His fingers sunk into his prisoner's fiery locks with a grip that threatened to leave him a scalp for a trophy. Thorn cursed and twisted.

The crowd's allegiance had been quick to shift, but it veered back to O'Neil with equal suddenness.

"Bunko!" yelled a hoarse voice, after a brief hush.

"Lynch 'em!" cried another, and the angry clamor burst forth anew.

"Don't be foolish," shouted Murray; "nobody has been hurt."

"We'd have been on the train tomorrow. Send 'em down the river barefoot!"

"Yes! What about that gang from Omar?"

"I'm afraid they'll have to take care of themselves," O'Neil said. "But



The Answer Roared From a Hundred Throats.

these two men aren't altogether to blame; they're acting under orders. Isn't that right?" he asked Thorn.

The miner hesitated, until the grip in his hair tightened; then, evidently fearing the menace in the faces on every side, he decided to seek protection in a complete confession.

"Yes!" he agreed sullenly. "Gordon cooked it up. It's all a fake."

O'Neil nodded with satisfaction. "This is the second time he's tried to get my men away from me."

"You fellows don't seem able to protect yourselves, so Doc and I will have to do it for you. Now listen," he continued more gravely. "I meant it when I said I'd open the commissary and help you out if the strike were genuine; but, nevertheless, I want you to know just what it would have meant to me. I haven't enough money to complete the S. R. and N., and I can't raise enough, but I have signed an option to sell the road if the bridge is built by next spring. It's really a two years' job, and some engineers don't believe it can be built at all, but I know it can if you'll help. If we fail I'm ruined; if we succeed, he waves his hands and smiles at them cheerfully—"maybe we'll build another railroad somewhere. That's what this stampede meant. Now, will you attack me?"

The answer roared from a hundred throats:

"You bet we'll stick!"

When general good feeling was restored Murray attempted to make his way out, but his men seemed determined to thank him one by one, and he was delayed through a long process of handshaking. It pleased him to see that they understood from what hardships and disappointments he had saved them, and he was doubly grateful when Walsh rounded up his crew and announced that the night shift would resume work at midnight.

He escaped at last, leaving the men grouped contentedly about huge pans of smoking doughnuts and pots of coffee, which the cook boys had brought in. Liquor was taboo in the camp,

but he gave orders that unlimited cigars be distributed.

The news of the White river fiasco reached Curtis Gordon in Seattle, whether he had gone in a final attempt to bolster up the tottering fortunes of the Cortez Home railway. His disappointment was keen, yet O'Neil from the beginning had met his attacks with such uniform success that new failure did not really surprise him. It had been a forlorn hope at best. Strangely enough, he had begun to lose something of his assurance of late. Although he maintained his outward appearance of confidence with all his old skill, within himself he felt a growing uneasiness, a lurking doubt of his abilities. Outwardly there was reason enough for discouragement, for while his co-operative railroad scheme had begun brilliantly, its initial success had not been sustained. As time passed and Eliza Appleton's exposure remained unrefuted he had found it ever more difficult to enlist support. His own denials and explanations seemed powerless to affect the public mind, and as he looked back he dated his decline from the appearance of her first article. It had done all the mischief he had feared. Not only were his old stockholders dissatisfied, but wherever he went for aid he found a disconcerting lack of response, a half-veiled skepticism that was maddening.

Yet his immediate business worries were not all nor the worst of his troubles. His physical powers were waning. To all appearances he was as strong as ever, but a strange bodily lassitude hampered him. He tired easily, and against this handicap he was forced to struggle continually. He had never rightly valued his amazing equipment of energy until now, when some subtle ailment had begun to sap it. The change was less in his muscular strength than in his nerves and his mental vigor. He found himself growing peculiarly irritable. His failures excited spasms of blind fury which left him weak and spent. He began to suffer the depressing tortures of insomnia. At times the nerves in his face and neck twitched unaccountably, and this distressing affection spread.

A week or two of disappointments should have shown him the futility of further effort; at any other time it would have set him to putting his horse in order for the final crash, but now it merely enraged him. He redoubled his activity, launching a new campaign of publicity so extravagant and ill timed as to repel the assistance he needed. He had lost his finesse; his nicely adjusted financial sense had gone.

The outcome was not long delayed; it came in the form of a newspaper dispatch to the effect that his Cortez bank had suspended payment because of a run started by the dissatisfied employees of the railroad. Through Gordon's flamboyant advertising his enterprises were so well known by this time that the story was featured despite his efforts to kill it. His frantic cables to Cortez for a denial only brought assurances that the report was true and that conditions would not mend unless a shipment of currency was immediately forthcoming.

Harrassed by reporters, driven on by the need for a show of action, he set out to raise the money, but the support he had hoped for failed him when it transpired that his bank's assets consisted mainly of real estate at boom prices and stock in his various companies which had been inflated to the bursting point. Days passed, a week or more; then he was compelled to relinquish his option on the steamship line he had partly purchased and to sacrifice all that had been paid in on the enterprise. This, too, made a big story for the newspapers, for it punctuated one of the most imposing corporations in the famous "Gordon system." It likewise threatened to involve the others in the general crash. Hope Consolidated, indeed, still remained, and Gordon's declaration that the value of his shares was more than sufficient to protect his bank met with some credence until, swift upon the heels of the other disasters, came an application for a receiver by the stockholders, coupled with the promise of a rigorous investigation into his various financial manipulations. Then at last Gordon acknowledged defeat.

Bewildered as he was, half crazed with anxiety, Gordon knew that the avalanche had not only wrecked his fortunes, but was bearing him swiftly toward the penitentiary. Its gates yawned to welcome him, and he felt a chilling terror such as he had never known.

(To Be Continued.)

Dyspepsia is America's curse. To restore digestion, normal weight, good health and purify the blood, use Burdock Blood Bitters. Sold at all drug stores. Price, \$1.00.

Advance Sale Notice

Pedigreed Duric Jersey Swine at Public Auction!

On Monday, October 16, 1916 I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder about 100 head of Pure bred Durics—Breeding fowls, Gilts, Bred sows, some open sows, sows with litters, some weanlings, some June and July pigs that will make nice breeding animals by January 1st.

Every thing will be sold as I will discontinue breeding Durics for the present.

Call and see my animals.

W. B. PORTER, Mynard, Neb.

ENTERS LIKE A THIEF IN DEAD OF THE NIGHT

Devoid of All Pity, Catarrh Fastens Its Clutch on Its Victim Unawares.

Catarrh is one of the most prevalent of all diseases. Why? Because it steals upon the victim like a thief in the night. To be forewarned is to be forearmed and ready to combat the condition, but catarrh gives no warning.

Before you know it you have catarrh. Catarrh usually is very hard to overcome.

Catarrh affects almost every organ in the body and will finally produce a condition known as systemic catarrh. The circulation becomes poor and the organs suffer. The patient has a general despondent feeling. Sometimes catarrh resembles chronic malaria and again it resembles nervous prostration. The kidneys become affected, and the bladder and the stomach. Then come indigestion, pains and cramps after eating, kidney affections which so frequently cause backaches, especially upon arising in the morning, and many other ills too numerous to mention.

At the first sign of catarrh you should do something to check its course. The most reasonable, rational treatment is with a tonic; one that will aid digestion, enrich the blood and build up the muscles.

Hundreds of thousands of people have proclaimed Tanlac an excellent remedy for catarrh. First aid should be through the stomach, causing good digestion and from this "hot bed" of human ills, good influence is sent to every portion of the body. Tanlac is composed entirely of vegetable ingredients selected for their purity and potency and gathered in many parts of the world.

Tanlac is being specially introduced in Plattsmouth at the Mauzey Drug Company.

Tanlac may also be obtained in Springfield, at H. Feigenbaum's store, and in Weeping Water at the Meier Drug Co.

Local News

From Tuesday's Daily.

S. J. Earl of Eagle was in the city for a few hours today looking after a few legal matters at the court house.

Miss Luella Sawyer of South Bend is in the city attending the teachers' institute that is being held here this week.

Miss Mary McHugh of Falls City is here enjoying a visit at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Walling and family.

Attorney C. L. Graves of Union was in the city today for a few hours looking after some matters in the district court.

L. A. Meisinger and wife and family were in the city yesterday for a few hours looking after some trading with the merchants.

Douglass Shinn of Nebraska City is here, and will take in the Home Coming celebration as he is one of the old residents of this locality.

Eli Smith, one of the leading farmers near Union was in the city for a few hours today in company with his daughter, Mrs. Connie Ashlock.

Misses Edna and Myrtle Snell of Benson, who have been here visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Born, departed this afternoon for their home.

P. H. Meisinger and family were in the city yesterday for a few hours attending the funeral of Mrs. J. H. Becker, which was held from the late home.

Mrs. Frank Hughson who lives north east of Union motored up this morning to spend a few hours attending to some matters of importance at the court house.

Henry Bestor of Osco, Ill., who was called here by the death of his father, Harmon Bestor, departed this morning on the early Burlington train for his home in the east.

George Ray and wife, from the vicinity of near Murray, were among those going to Omaha this morning, where they were called to spend the day in that city looking after a few matters of business.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF CASS, NEBRASKA.

JOANNA BAXTER, Plaintiff.

Clara E. Young, also known as Clara Ellen Young et al., Defendants.

Notice of Suit to Quiet Title.

To the defendants Clara E. Young also known as Clara Ellen Young; John Doe Young, first real name unknown; husband or widower of Clara E. Young also known as Clara Ellen Young; Clara E. Young Doe, real name other than Clara E. Young unknown; John Doe, first and last name unknown; husband or widower of Clara E. Young; Doe; the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives and all other persons interested in the estate of Clara E. Young, otherwise deceased; Clara E. Young Doe, real name other than Clara E. Young unknown; deceased; the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives and all other persons interested in the estate of John Doe Young, first real name unknown; deceased; the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives and all other persons interested in the estate of John Doe, first real name unknown; deceased; Samuel H. Jones, also known as S. H. Jones, Mrs. Samuel H. Jones, first real name unknown; the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives and all other persons interested in the estate of Samuel H. Jones, also known as S. H. Jones, deceased; the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives and all other persons interested in the estate of Mrs. Samuel H. Jones, first real name unknown; deceased; Packard & Miller, a partnership composed of Spencer Packard and Jason G. Miller; Spencer Packard, Elmer Packard, the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives and all other persons interested in the estate of Spencer Packard, deceased; the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives and all other persons interested in the estate of Electa Packard, deceased; Jason G. Miller, Mary P. Miller; the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives and all other persons interested in the estate of John R. Clark, deceased; the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives and all other persons interested in the estate of John R. Clark, deceased; the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives and all other persons interested in the estate of Amelia B. Clark, deceased; the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives and all other persons interested in the estate of Susan Drake, deceased; Lewis F. Cole, also known as Lewis F. Cole; Clara E. Cole; the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives and all other persons interested in the estate of Louis F. Cole, also known as Louis F. Cole, deceased; the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives and all other persons interested in the estate of William L. Gray; Mary E. Moore, Etta Moore, Isabelle Moore and the unknown owners and the unknown claimants of fractional lots six (6), and seven (7), in the northeast quarter (NE-1/4) of the northwest (NW-1/4) of section twenty-four (24), township eleven (11), north range thirteen (13), east of the P. M. in the County of Cass, Nebraska.

You are hereby notified that on April 19, A. D. 1916, plaintiff filed her suit in the District Court of the County of Cass, Nebraska, to quiet plaintiff's title to the above described lands, to wit: fractional lots six (6), and seven (7), in the northeast quarter (NE-1/4) of the northwest (NW-1/4) of section twenty-four (24), township eleven (11), north range thirteen (13), east of the P. M. in the County of Cass, Nebraska, because of her adverse possession by herself and her grantors for more than ten years prior to the commencement of said suit and to enjoin each and all of you from having or claiming any right, title, lien or interest in or to said lands or any part thereof; to require you to set forth your right, title, lien or interest therein, if any, either legal or equitable, and to have the same adjudged inferior to the title of plaintiff and for general equitable relief. This notice is made pursuant to the order of the Court.

You are required to answer said petition on or before Monday, October 2, A. D. 1916, or your default will be duly entered therein.

JOANNA BAXTER, Plaintiff.

W. A. ROBERTSON, Attorney.

Itching, bleeding, protruding or blind piles have yielded to Doan's Ointment, 50c at all stores.

W. A. ROBERTSON, Lawyer.

East of Riley Hotel. Coates' Block, Second Floor.

Frank Valley of Murray was in the city last evening for a few hours looking after a few matters of business and calling on his friends.

Thomas Murtey, the Weeping Water

banker, was in the city yesterday for a few hours looking after a few matters of business and calling on his friends.

Frank Rhoden came in this afternoon to spend a few hours looking after a few matters in connection with the shipping of cattle to the market at St. Joseph.

William Wohlfarth of near Mynard was in the city yesterday afternoon for a few hours, looking after some matters of business and visiting with his many friends.

J. H. Smith, who has been making his home at the National Soldiers' Home at Leavenworth, Kan., is here and will remain for the "Home Coming" and Fall Festival.

John Wunderlich, democratic candidate for sheriff, came in this afternoon from Omaha where he was for a few hours looking after some business matters and will spend a few hours here with his friends.

J. R. C. Gregory and son, Carl, who have been out in Chase county with the Rosecraus land seekers, returned home this morning. Carl bought a quarter section of the fine Chase county land near Imperial and will possess one of the fine farms of that locality.

County Judge Beeson today issued a marriage license to Mr. Ernest Mintle of Glenwood and Miss Vander Aspland of Red Oak, Ia. These young people will be married here on Sunday. A license was also issued to Mr. William L. Hornbeck and Miss Emma Backmeyer, both of Murdock who will be married in that place at the home of the bride's parents.

Children Cry for Fletcher's CASTORIA

The Kind You Have Always Bought, and which has been in use for over 30 years, has borne the signature of and has been made under his personal supervision since its infancy. Allow no one to deceive you in this. All Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but experiments that trifle with and endanger the health of Infants and Children—Experience against Experiment.

What is CASTORIA

Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. It destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. For more than thirty years it has been in constant use for the relief of Constipation, Flatulency, Wind Colic, all Teething Troubles and Diarrhoea. It regulates the Stomach and Bowels, assimilates the Food, giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

GENUINE CASTORIA ALWAYS Bears the Signature of

Chas. H. Fletcher.

In Use For Over 30 Years

The Kind You Have Always Bought

THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY.

Doan's Regulets are recommended by many who say they operate easily, without griping and without bad after effects. 25c at all drug stores.

WANTED—Man and wife for farm work. Will occupy same dwelling with me. Lady to care for house. Call Murray Tel. Exchange. E. R. Queen, Plattsmouth, Neb. 8-21-tfw.

Read the want ads in the Journal.

329 ACRES FOR SALE.

Twenty-three miles east of North Platte, Neb., on Lincoln highway. Three miles to good town, all in the bottom, the best of black loam and every foot of it fine alfalfa land. Plenty of fine prairie hay and alfalfa on it now. Must be sold quick, \$35 per acre, only for thirty days. Terms, C. B. Schleicher, 3146 South 16 st., Omaha, Neb., Telephone Tyler 905. 2t a week in d t f; It w.

Doan's Regulets are recommended by many who say they operate easily, without griping and without bad after effects. 25c at all drug stores.

WANTED—Man and wife for farm work. Will occupy same dwelling with me. Lady to care for house. Call Murray Tel. Exchange. E. R. Queen, Plattsmouth, Neb. 8-21-tfw.

Read the want ads in the Journal.

Bellevue College

Classical, Literary, Scientific, Teachers' Certificates, Bible, Art, Piano, Voice, Violin, Public Speaking, Dramatic Home Economy, Physical Education, Gymnasium, Swimming Pool.

Seven Buildings, City and Country Advantages. Campus view a delight forever. Health, Thought, Skill, Belong (Omaha, Neb., Box 22 Free. David H. Kerr.

BIG CLEARANCE SALE

—BEGINNING—

Thursday, August 31st,

and continuing until everything in the Old Gering stock is replaced by new stock. We have been housecleaning every since we have been here, and now have nothing to offer you but good clean stock. Our policy is, and always will be, quick sales and small profits. New and up-to-the-minute merchandise. Space will not permit us to list the big line of bargains we are offering during this sale, but here are a few that should interest you:

HAIR BRUSHES.

Regular \$1.75 value, cut to...\$1.19
Regular \$1.00 value, cut to...68c
Regular 75c value, cut to...49c
Regular 50c value, cut to...34c

COMBS.

Regular 50c value, cut to...34c
Regular 25c value, cut to...14c
Regular 15c value, cut to...9c

CLOTHES' BRUSHES.

Regular \$1.00 value, cut to...68c
Regular 75c value, cut to...49c

TOOTH BRUSHES.

Regular 35c value, cut to...21c
Regular 25c value, cut to...14c

POCKET BOOKS.

One lot regular 25c to 50c, choice...10c
One lot regular 10 to 25c, choice...5c

KONKLIN'S CELEBRATED FOUNTAIN PENS.

Regular \$5.00 value, cut to...\$3.75
Regular \$4.00 value, cut to...\$3.00
Regular \$3.50 value, cut to...\$2.65
Regular \$3.00 value, cut to...\$2.25
Regular \$2.50 value, cut to...\$1.88
Regular \$1.50 value, cut to...\$1.18

TOILET POWDERS, ETC.

Eastmans crushed roses talcum powder, regular 25c value, cut to...14c
Wrights' Borated talcum powder, regular 25c value, cut to...14c
Gerings' Borated Tale, regular 15c value, cut to...6c
Swans down face powder, regular 25c value cut to...19c
Genuine German cologne, regular 25c value, cut to...14c
Genuine German Cologne, regular 15c value, cut to...9c
Standard Perfumes, 50 different odors at...one half price
Picos Antiseptic tooth powder, regular 25c values, cut to...17c
We are not selling out, we are only building new, and making room for one of the best drug stocks that ever came to your county. Come in and help us.

Ladies Purses and Hand Bags at one half regular price.

We are Exclusive agents for the famous Harding's Ice Cream.

Remember the Place—the Old Gering Drug Store

Harve A. Kuns,

—Proprietor of New Crescent Pharmacy—