

ONE OF OURS

By WILLA CATHER. Famous Nebraska Author.

(Continued From Saturday.)

SYNOPSIS. Claude Wheeler, son of a Nebraska teacher, is disappointed in wedded life with Edith Royce, religious daughter of Jason Royce, Frankfort, Nebraska, miller. After a year and a half together she goes to China, where her younger sister, Carloline, a missionary, is ill. Claude goes to officers' training camp and is commissioned a lieutenant. While attending a small denomination college in Lincoln he becomes a friend of the Edith family, a motherly widow and her five sons. Claude has friends in Ernest Havel and Leonard Dawson, young Nebraska farmers and neighbors of the Wheeler family. He has an elder brother, Boyles, in business in Frankfort; his father, Nat, and a younger brother, Ralph. His mother is proudful of her sons. While home on leave from camp Claude finds the lovely Gladys Farmer, high school friend of his wife, Claude leaves with his company for Europe. On board the transport he makes friends with Victor Morse, an aviator; Albert Usher, young marine from Wyoming; Private Bert Fuller, a Virginia soldier, and Corporal Tammschauer and Lieutenant Fanning. An epidemic of "flu" breaks out on shipboard and Claude is kept busy caring for the sick. Corporal Tammschauer and several other soldiers die and are buried at sea. Despite his unpleasant surroundings Claude feels a certain sense of freedom in getting away from a still more unpleasant past. "Have you tried him on malted milk?" when Claude had told him how Fanning's nourishment was threatened. "Dr. Trueman hasn't a bottle left."

thing. The chief steward is a powerful man on an English vessel. If he has anything against me, sooner or later he can lose my berth for me. There you have the facts. "Have I permission to go to the chief steward?" Mr. Trueman asked. "Certainly not. But you can go without my knowledge. He's an ugly man to cross, and he can make it uncomfortable for you and your patients." "Well, well, say no more about it. I appreciate your telling me, and I will see that you don't get mixed up in this. Will you go down with me to look at that new meningitis case?" "Claude waited impatiently in his stateroom for the doctor's return. He didn't see why the chief steward shouldn't be exposed and dealt with like any other grafter. He had hated the man ever since he heard him berating the old third steward one morning. Hawkins had made no attempt to defend himself, but stood like a dog that has been terribly beaten, trembling all over, saying, "Yes, sir, yes, sir," while his chief gave him a cold cursing in a low, snarling voice. Claude had never heard a man or even an animal addressed with such contempt. The steward had a cruel face—white as cheese, with lips, moist hair combed back from a high forehead—the peculiarly oily hair that seems to grow only on the heads of stewards and waiters. His eyes were exactly the shape of almonds, but the lids were so swollen that the dull pupil was visible only through a narrow slit. A long, pole-moustache hung like a fringe over his loose lips.

When Mr. Trueman came back from the hospital, he declared he was now ready to call on Mr. Micks. "He's a nasty looking customer, but he can't do anything to me." "They went to the chief steward's cabin and knocked." "What's wanted?" called a threatening voice. "The doctor made a grimace to his companion and walked in. The steward was sitting at a big desk, covered with account books. He turned in his chair. "I beg your pardon," he said coldly. "I do not see any one here, I'm sorry." "The doctor held up his hand quickly. "That's all right, steward. I'm sorry to intrude, but I've something I must say to you in private. I'll not detain you long." If he had hesitated for a moment, Claude believed the steward would have thrown him out, but he went on rapidly. "This is Lieutenant Wheeler, Mr. Micks. His fellow officer lies very ill with pneumonia in stateroom 96. Lieutenant Wheeler has kept him alive by special nursing. He is not able to retain anything in his stomach but eggs and orange juice. If he has these, we may be able to keep up his strength till the fever breaks, and carry him to a hospital in France. If we can't get them for him, he will be dead within 24 hours. That's the situation." "The steward rose and turned out the drop-light on his desk. "Have you any oranges and oranges were carried into this room. They are here now, and they belong to the A. E. F. If you will agree to provision my man, what I know won't go any further. But if you refuse, I'll get this matter investigated. I won't stop till I do." The steward sat down, and took up a pen. His large, soft hand looked cheery, like his face. "What is the number of the cabin?" he asked indifferently. "Stateroom 96." "Exactly what do you require?" "One dozen eggs and one dozen oranges to last 24 hours, to be delivered at any time convenient to you." "I will see what I can do." "The steward did not look up from his writing pad, and his visitors left as abruptly as they had come. At about 4 o'clock every morning, before even the bath stewards were on duty, there was a scratching at Claude's door, and a covered basket was left there by a messenger who was unwashed, half-naked, with a sacking apron tied round his middle and a hairy chest splashed with flour. He never spoke, had only one eye and an inflamed socket. Claude learned that he was a half-witted brother of the chief steward, a potato peeler and dish washer in the galley. Four days after their interview with Mr. Micks, when they were at last nearing the end of the voyage, Dr. Trueman detained Claude after medical inspection to tell him that the chief steward had come down with the epidemic. "He sent for me last night and asked me to take his case—won't have anything to do with Chessup. I had to get Chessup's permission. He seemed very glad to hand the case over to me." "Is he very bad?" "He hasn't a look-in, and he knows it. Complications; chronic Bright's disease. It seems he has nine children. I'll try to get him into a hospital when we make port, but he'll only live a few days at most. I wonder who'll get the shillings for all the eggs and oranges he hoarded away. Claude, my boy," the doctor spoke with sudden energy, "if I ever set foot on land again, I'm going to forget this voyage like a bad dream. When I'm in normal health, I'm a Presbyterian, but just now I feel that even the wicked get worse than they deserve." "A day came at last when Claude was awakened from sleep by a sense of stiffness. He sprang up with a dazed fear that some one had died; but Fanning lay in his berth, breathing quietly.

Something caught his eye through the porthole—a great gray shoulder of land standing up in the pink light of dawn, powerful and strangely still after the distressing instability of the sea. Pale trees and long, low fortifications... close gray buildings with red roofs... little sailboats bounding seaward... up on the cliff a gloomy fortress. He had always thought of his destination as a country shattered and desolated—"bleeding France," but he had never seen anything that looked so strong, so self-sufficient, so fixed from the first foundation, as the coast that rose before him. It was like a pillar of eternity. The ocean lay submissive at its feet, and over it was the great meekness of early morning. This gray wall, unshaken, mighty, was the end of the long preparation, as it was the end of the sea. It was the reason for everything that had happened in his life for the last 15 months. It was the reason why Tammschauer and the gentle Virginian and so many others who had set out with him were never to have any life at all, or even a soldier's death. They were merely waste in a great enterprise, thrown overboard like rotten ropes. For them the kind release—trees and a still shore and quiet water—was never, never to be. How long would their bodies toss, he wondered, in that inhuman kingdom of darkness and unrest? He was startled by a weak voice from behind. "Claude, are we over?" "Yes, Fanning. We're over." (Continued in The Morning Bee.)

Public Luncheon for George W. Campbell. George W. Campbell, director of student activities of the Y. M. C. A. college, Chicago, and organizer of the Association Male chorus in Omaha three years ago, will be guest of honor at a public luncheon to be given by the City Concert club Thursday noon at the Brandeis restaurant. Mrs. Hester Bronson Copper, president of the club, and Miss Blanche Sorenson, secretary, are in charge of arrangements for the luncheon. Mr. Campbell has returned to Omaha to direct one group of songs which the chorus will present Wednesday night at the Brandeis theater. Piggy-Wiggly Fits Tight Awaiting Future Moves. Memphis, Tenn., May 13.—Piggy Wiggly sat tight in its Memphis home, awaiting the return of Clarence Saunders, its founder and directing head, from a week-end "scouting" expedition and whatever the fates have in store in the selection of a future "home place" which will carry with it an adjustment of "problems" which came in the wake of its recent fight in Wall street.

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Trade Review By R. G. DUN & CO. The news of the week has shown more clearly that general business is moving at a slower pace.

Iron and Steel Demand Abates. With the quieting of production, with practically all plants operating at full capacity, manufacturers are experiencing difficulty in getting the iron made.

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Store "Footquarters" for Wornout Feet The store of Seller Surgical Co., Inc., located at 208 South Eighteenth street, is "footquarters" for those who seek relief from tired and aching feet.

Quintess in Textile Markets. The quieter conditions that recently developed in primary textile markets have become more sharply defined.

DR. F. F. BURHORN Chiropractic Specialist Suite 414-26 Securities Bldg. Corner 16th and Farnam JA 5347 Hours 9 A. M. to 8 P. M.

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Chiropractic Prevents Disease, Doctor Asserts Chiropractic is a means of increasing bodily resistance so as to render the person immune from disease, according to Dr. Frances H. Turner.

Evening in Hide Markets. In common with the movement in some other important markets, prices of hides are yielding.

Wedding Breakfast Products Co. (Incorporated) Wedding Breakfast Syrups—Molasses 915-17 Davenport Omaha, Neb.

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Packers Increase Wages. Portland, Ore., May 13.—Increases in wages amounting to from 7 to 15 per cent for all plant employees were announced by Swift & Co., North Portland packers, through the company manager, B. C. Darnall.

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