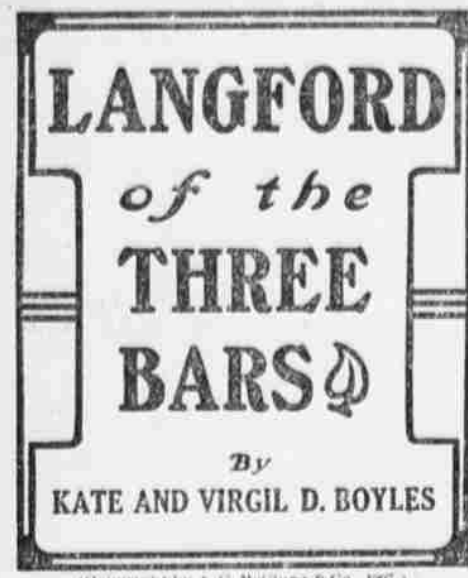


CUSTER COUNTY REPUBLICAN

By D. M. AMSBERRY

BROKEN BOW, NEBRASKA



By KATE AND VIRGIL D. BOYLES

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SYNOPSIS.

George Williston, a poor ranchman, had intended to sell his ranch to the "Three Bars"...

CHAPTER V.—Continued.

"What'll you have?" he asked, hospitably, the familiar air of the Bon Ami bringing him back to his accustomed self-confident swagger.

"Mr. Williston informed, did he not?" "Williston? Oh, yes, he informed, but he'd never 'a' done it if it hadn't 'a' been for the boss. The ol' jellyfish wouldn't 'a' had the nerve to inform without backin', as sure as a stone wall. The boss is a dorn' this, I tell you, Miss. But Williston 'a' a goin' on the stand to-morrow all right, and so am I."

The two cowboys at the corner table had long since finished their supper. They now lighted bad-smelling cigars and left the room. To Louise's great relief Munson rose, too. He was back very soon with a neat little runabout and a high-spirited team of bays.

"Boss's private," explained Jim with pride. "Nothin' too good for a lady, so the boss sent this and me to take keer o' it. And o' you, too, Miss," he added, as an afterthought.

He held the lines in his brown, muscular hands, lovingly, while he stowed away Louise's belongings and himself snugly in the seat, and then the blood burned hot and stinging through his bronzed, tough skin, for suddenly in his big, honest, untrained sensibilities was born the consciousness that the boss would have stowed away the lady first. It was an embarrassing moment. Louise saved the day by climbing in unconcernedly after him and tucking the linen robe over her skirt.

"It will be a dusty drive, won't it?" she asked, simply.

"Miss, you're a—dandy," said Jim as simply.

As they dove upon the pontoon bridge, Louise looked back at the little town on the bluff and felt a momentary choking in her throat. It was a strange place, yet it had tendrils reaching homeward. The trail beyond was obscurely marked and not easy to discern. She turned to her companion and asked quickly: "Why didn't Mary come?"

"Great guns! Did I forget to tell you? Williston's got the stomach-ache to beat the band and Mary's got to physic him up 'gin to-morrow. We've got to git him on that stand if it takes the hull Three Bars to hol' him up and the gal a pourin' physic down him between times. Yep, Ma'am. He was

"We ain't afraid. You're nothin' but a hoss thief, anyway!" responded Jim, gleefully, as a parting shot.

"Now what do you suppose was their game?" he asked of the girl at his side.

"I don't know," answered Louise, thoughtfully. "But I thought it not wise to say too much to them. You are a witness, I believe you said."

"Then you think they are part o' the gang?"

"I consider them at least sympathizers, don't you? They seemed down on the Three Bars."

In the Indian country at last. Mile after mile of level, barren stretches after the hill region had been left behind. Was there no end to the thirst-inspiring, monotonous, lonely reach of cañon? Prairie dogs, perched in front of their holes, chattered and scolded at them. The sun went down and a refreshing coolness crept over the hard, baked earth. Still, there was nothing but distance anywhere in all the land, and a feeling of desolation swept over the girl.

The moon came up. Then there were miles of white moonlight and lonely plain. But for some time now there has been a light in front of them. It is as if it must be a will-o'-the-wisp. They never seem to get to it. But at last they are there. The door is wide open. A pleasant odor of bacon and coffee is wafted out to the tired travelers.

"Come right in," says the cheery voice of Mary. "How tired you must be, Miss Dale. Tie up, Jim, and come in and eat something before you go. Well, you can eat again—two suppers won't hurt you. Your train must have been late. Yes, dad is better, thank you. He'll be all right in the morning"

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Man's Prejudice for Black Clothes. In opening an artistic dress exhibition Mr. Louis N. Parker, master of the recent Warwick pageant, said there could be no doubt that the clothes men wore were foolish, says the Pall Mall Gazette. He claimed that as woman could array herself in sympathetic colors and flowing folds, the time had arrived when man should be placed on equality with her, instead of the having to array himself in black for dinner, the theater, funerals and weddings. He believed and hoped that his pageants would do something to sweep away the prejudice for black, for it was a horrid custom on the part of civilization.

Correct Interpretation Essential. Many of the most beautiful pieces of poetry in literature would seem uninteresting and flat if read by a bad reciter. In the same way, a good reciter will make attractive a poem whose beauties are not so apparent. A fine painter will light up each little beauty in his pictures until the smallest detail is attractive and strikes the eye. It is only the mediocrity whose work is characterized by sameness and lack of interest.

Hypnotic Sunstroke. A German physician who had a patient who could not afford to go to a warm climate, thought he would accomplish the same result by means of hypnotism. The doctor chalked a picture of the sun on the ceiling, and by suggestion induced the patient to believe it really was the sun and that it would cure him. But the patient soon died. When the doctor's friends grieved him about the novel treatment he indignantly explained that the patient was getting along nicely and would have got well had he not unexpectedly died of sunstroke.

CHAPTER VI. "Nothing but a Hoss Thief, Anyway." The island teemed with early sunflowers and hints of goldenrod yet to come. The fine, white, sandy soil deadened the sound of the horses' hoofs. They seemed to be spinning through space. Under the cottonwoods it grew dusky and still.

At the toll house a dinky buckboard in a state of weird dilapidation, with a team of shaggy buckskin ponies, stood waiting. Jim drew up. Two men were lounging in front of the shanty, chatting to the toll-man.

"Hello, Jim!" called one of them, a tall, slouching fellow with sandy coloring.

"Now, how the devil did you git so familiar with my name?" growled Jim.

"The Three Bars is gettin' busy these days," spoke up the second man, with an insolent grin.

"You bet it is," bragged Jim. "When the ol' officers of the law git to sleepin' with hoss thieves and rustlers, and take two weeks to arrest a bunch o'

em, when they know prezactly where they keep themselves, and have to have special deputies appointed over 'em five or six times and then let most o' the bunch slip through their fingers, it's time for some one to git busy. And when Jesse Black and his gang are so despr'it they pizen the chief witnesses—"

A gentle pressure on his arm stopped him. He turned inquiringly. "I wouldn't say any more," whispered Louise. "Let's get on."

The hint was sufficient, and with the words, "Right you are, Miss Reporter, we'll be gittin' on," Jim paid his toll and spoke to his team.

"Just wait a bit, will you?" spoke up the sandy man.

"What for?"

"We're not just ready."

"Well, we are," shortly.

"We arn't, and we don't care to be passed, you know."

He spoke indifferently. In deference to Louise, Jim waited. The men smoked on carelessly. The toll-man flouted.

"You go to hell! The Three Bars ain't waitin' on no damned hoss thieves," said Jim, suddenly.

With a burning oath Jim, keeping to the side of the steep incline till the river mire cut him off, deliberately turned his stanch little team squarely and crowded them forward against the shaggy buckskins. It was team against team, Louise, clinging tightly to the seat, lips pressed together to keep back any sound, felt a wild, inexplicable thrill of confidence, in the strength of the man beside her.

The bays were pitifully, cruelly lashed by the enraged owner of the buckskins, but true as steel to the familiar voice that had guided them so often and so kindly, they gave not nor faltered. There was a snapping of broken wood, a wrench, a giving way, and the runabout sprang over debris of broken wheel and wagon-box to the narrow confines of the pontoon bridge.

"The Three Bars is gettin' busy!" gibed Jim over his shoulder.

"It's a sorry day for you and yours," cried the other, in black and ugly wrath.

"We ain't afraid. You're nothin' but a hoss thief, anyway!" responded Jim, gleefully, as a parting shot.

"Now what do you suppose was their game?" he asked of the girl at his side.

"I don't know," answered Louise, thoughtfully. "But I thought it not wise to say too much to them. You are a witness, I believe you said."

"Then you think they are part o' the gang?"

NEBRASKA IN BRIEF

NEWS NOTES OF INTEREST FROM VARIOUS SECTIONS.

ALL SUBJECTS TOUCHED UPON

Religious, Social, Agricultural, Political and Other Matters Given Due Consideration.

The district court of Sarpy county convenes February 11th.

A great deal of sickness prevails in and about Guide Rock.

Pawnee City's public library building is nearly ready for occupancy.

In a fight in a pool hall at Giltner Robert Wolcott killed Frank McNeff.

Will McCubberson, a confessed bigamist with one wife in Kansas and one in Platte Center, this state, was arrested at Norfolk.

Fire starting in the kitchen of Gosie's restaurant at Hardy destroyed several buildings and caused a loss estimated at \$20,000.

Sneak thieves entered the Second Congregational church of Norfolk and stole 136 pennies that had been collected to purchase a picture.

Grace Lambert, daughter of a farmer living south of Eagle, took a large quantity of carbolic acid. Prompt medical attendance saved her life.

The Hooper High school, a two-story brick building, was totally destroyed by fire. A defective flue is supposed to have been the cause of the fire.

During the year of 1907 there was shipped from Herman to Omaha 2,342 cans of cream by express. There was also forwarded 1,500 cases of eggs.

The Ecoville meetings being held at the Christian church in Beatrice are drawing large crowds from night to night. Up to date 154 have been converted.

In another column of this paper will be found a list of representative Nebraska business houses. When you write or call on them please mention this paper.

Bert Shoemaker, accused of holding up William Miller of Oakland, in an alley in West Point and robbing him of \$8 was bound over to district court in \$100 bonds.

A call for \$23,000 in general fund warrants has been issued by State Treasurer Brian. This is in addition to the recent call for \$4,000 of warrants from the same fund.

While crossing the railroad tracks in the outskirts of Bancroft Charles Tighe and his son Frank, were struck by the Omaha road through freight No. 20. Neither were badly hurt.

At a shooting match on the farm of B. F. Garrison, east of Cozad, Kent Vasey was shot and almost instantly killed by the premature discharge of a gun in the hands of Harry Hess.

York county farmers will realize from \$18 to \$35 per acre on their tame grasses. The clover, timothy and alfalfa seed crop made a fine yield and is commanding remunerative prices.

Frank O. Ellis of Grant township, Gage county, sold his farm of a quarter section to William Sherman for \$12,000. Mr. Ellis bought the same piece of land less than a year ago for \$9,600.

The Hastings company of the National guard will be equipped with the new United States magazine rifle after February 16, according to instructions received from the war department.

I. S. Vose a widower, of Beaver City, was bombarded with eggs of doubtful vintage, thrown at him by three women, on the public streets. Mr. Vose was accused of insulting one of the three.

The republican congressional convention to select delegates to the national convention from the Fourth district has been called for Wilber March 4. The convention will have 167 delegates from eleven counties.

The sum of \$20,000 is awaiting Ernest Kuhlmann if he can be found. Attorney Charles A. Love of Aurora, Ill., has been employed by the relatives to locate the missing man, and has been in Lincoln to look him up.

Frank Gotava was almost instantly killed and W. J. Jones, L. Keller and J. B. Hornburger hurt by the bursting of a circular saw near Octavia. The men were at work sawing up cottonwood logs when the accident occurred.

Patronize a Nebraska Life Insurance Company. You can get as good old line life insurance and at as low a cost in the Midwest Life as you can anywhere in the United States. Write to the home office, 1007 "O" Street, Lincoln, for particulars as to the new low cost policies which the Midwest Life is now issuing.

I. W. Thomas, a homesteader living eleven miles southwest of North Platte, lost his life while trying to thaw pipes in a well. A scar was found on his head. Just how he met death is not known. It is surmised he climbed down into the well, lighted some rags and then some board from a windmill struck him and rendered him unconscious.

Charged with fraudulently obtaining \$115 on a sight draft at the Union State bank of Beatrice, drawn on Riggs Bros. of Minature, Neb., L. L. Tresler, agent for the North Platte Land company, was lodged in jail at Beatrice.

McCook's splendid new high school building had a narrow escape from destruction by fire recently. The painters were finishing the interior work and spontaneous combustion in some old rags used by the workmen came near being the undoing of a building costing \$40,000.

NEBRASKA FOR AGRICULTURE.

Review of the Conditions in the Past Year.

Secretary Meiler of the state board of agriculture said in his annual report:

Nebraska, as an agricultural state, is commanding the attention of the markets of the world to a greater degree with each succeeding year. A new state which successfully holds the position in the front rank of the agricultural column is deserving of the constantly increasing favorable consideration by the comparisons with which we are favored. Only two or three states of the union can now show greater quantities of production in any of the leading staple crops grown in this latitude, than can Nebraska.

The year of 1907 however, has not been a banner year in crop production owing to unseasonable rain-fall in the eastern, and lack of rain-fall in the western and central parts of our state, but this condition being general over the entire agricultural portion of the central west, has caused a general crop reduction with resultant high prices.

As usual, corn has been our predominant crop and although the 1907 crop is fully 25 per cent less in number of bushels than that of 1906, still its commercial value is greater. The yield for 1907 as gathered by our state statistician as to our practical crops are:

Table with 2 columns: Crop Name and Quantity. Includes Corn (169,792,885 bushels), Wheat (46,207,658 bushels), Oats (55,622,262 bushels), Rye (1,467,699 bushels), Barley (2,264,166 bushels), Potatoes (6,282,220 bushels), Hay (4,611,648 tons), Alfalfa (1,450,759 tons).

CHECK ON CHANGING DEPOTS.

An Important Order Issued by the State Railway Commission.

The railway commission adopted the following orders of importance to all the state:

"No change of freight or passenger depots or flag stations from their present location, or suspension of the sale of tickets, or the receiving or forwarding of freights from stations now in use for such purpose will be permitted without the consent of this commission.

"Permission for the location of depots and the construction of same must be secured from this commission. Application for such permits must be accompanied by all information necessary for a full and proper understanding of all interests to be affected thereby. The commission reserves the right to pass upon the location of all switches and spurs.

"No switches or spurs in use in this state shall be removed or abandoned without the consent of this commission.

Date for Coast Trip Indefinite. Governor Sheldon has received a letter from the secretary of the navy in answer to the executive's inquiry if it would be agreeable to the department to present the battleship Nebraska with a silver service at the time the Atlantic fleet is at San Francisco. The secretary wrote that it is impossible at this time to say whether the Nebraska will be at San Francisco at that time, for it may be at Puget Sound for repairs or engaged elsewhere. He suggested that the governor take up the matter later.

Freight Business Improving. The weekly car report of railroads for the week ending January 22 shows a marked increase in business over the report one month previous. The following is the comparison:

Table with 3 columns: Month, Empty stock cars ordered, Empty stock cars at stations. Shows data for Jan. and Dec. 22.

Hughes' Father at Carroll. Carroll—Few people of Carroll are aware that Mr. John Hughes, present visitor at Joe Jones, is the father of Charles Hughes, governor of New York. He is a jovial old gentleman of 74, hale and hearty, and as spry as a kitten. He can outtalk, outsmoke or outwalk most men of 30 of the present generation.

OMAHA AS A GRAIN MARKET. A Large Increase in Shipments Over Any Previous Year. In 1906 there was 49,077,900 bushels of grain shipped out of Omaha, in 1907 42,810,500 bushels. This shows an increase of nearly four million bushels. Most of this grain was handled by the members of the Omaha Grain Exchange. The handling of grain between the farmer and the miller or other consumer is a very necessary occupation. The farmer cannot do it as a rule any more than he could manufacture his own machinery as a rule. The consumer cannot, for he is engaged in other affairs. The work has to be done and the graindealer, with the aid of the transportation company, does it. Whether the work is well or badly done depends upon the ability of the dealer and the facilities he employs in doing it.

Indians Sue for Land. Lincoln—Seven persons claiming to be descendants of Margaret Murphy, a member of the Sac and Fox Indian tribe, have begun suit in the federal court here to establish their claims to Indian lands located in Richardson county, Nebraska, and Brown county, Kansas. The claimants, in a previous effort, were excluded by an order of the interior department, largely because they were unable to prove their relationship. The plaintiffs allege they are part blood Indians and that their claim is valid.



More proof that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound saves woman from surgical operations. Mrs. S. A. Williams, of Gardiner, Maine, writes:

"I was a great sufferer from female troubles, and Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound restored me to health in three months, after my physician declared that an operation was absolutely necessary."

Mrs. Alvina Spurling, of 154 Cleybourne Ave., Chicago, Ill., writes:

"I suffered from female troubles, a tumor and much inflammation. Two of the best doctors in Chicago decided that an operation was necessary to save my life. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound entirely cured me without an operation."

FACTS FOR SICK WOMEN.

For thirty years Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, made from roots and herbs, has been the standard remedy for female ills, and has positively cured thousands of women who have been troubled with displacements, inflammation, ulceration, fibroid tumors, irregularities, periodic pains, backache, that bearing-down feeling, flatulency, indigestion, dizziness, or nervous prostration. Why don't you try it?

Mrs. Pinkham invites all sick women to write her for advice. She has guided thousands to health. Address, Lynn, Mass.



Scrappeigh—I was a confounded fool when I got married! Mrs. Scrappeigh—Well, John, married life hasn't changed you any!

Laundry work at home would be much more satisfactory if the right Starch were used. In order to get the desired stiffness, it is usually necessary to use so much starch that the beauty and fineness of the fabric is hidden behind a paste of varying thickness, which not only destroys the appearance, but also affects the wearing quality of the goods. This trouble can be entirely overcome by using Defiance Starch, as it can be applied much more thinly because of its greater strength than other makes.

Wives' Names. Hyker—I call my wife "Frailty." Pyker—Why do you call her that? Hyker—Well, you know Shakespeare says: "Frailty, thy name is woman." Pyker—I call my wife Eliza Jane. Hyker—Because why? Pyker—Because that's her name.—Chicago Daily News.

Every Woman in this vicinity will be glad to know that local grocers now have in stock "OUR PIE," a preparation in three varieties for making Lemon, Chocolate and Custard pies. Each 10-cent package makes two pies. Be sure and order to-day.

Keep Tobacco at Home. The Turkish government absolutely prohibits the exportation of the seed of Turkish tobacco.

We Sell Guns and Traps Cheap. Buy furs and hides, or tan them for robes & rugs. N. W. Hyde & Fur Co., Minneapolis.

It is easier for a man to acquire a bad reputation than it is for his children to live it down.

Lewis' Single Binder Cigar has a rich taste. Your dealer or Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill.

A milkman doesn't cry over spilt milk if there is a pump handy.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

No, Alonzo, a nervous woman isn't necessarily nervy.

