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SYNOPSIS.

Cattle thieves despoiling ranches of South Dakota. George Williston, small ranchman, runs into rendezvous of thieves on island in Missouri river. They have stolen cattle from Three Bar ranch. Langford visits Williston and his daughter and Williston reports what he has seen to Langford, who determines to rid country of thieves. Jesse Black heads outlaws, Langford falls in love with Williston's daughter, but does not tell her so. Louise Dale, court stenographer, and nice of Judge Dale, visits Kemah at request of county attorney, Gordon, to take testimony in preliminary hearing. Gordon falls in love with her. After preliminary examination Williston's home is attacked and defended by his daughter and himself. Outlaws fire building just as Langford and his cowboys arrive. Outlaws carry off Williston but Langford rescues the daughter. Without Willistion evidence against Black is meager, and case seems to be going against the state. Gordon takes a night ride and finds Williston, who has escaped from captors. The courthouse at Kemah burns at night. Williston holds a tea party in his room following court house fire, and Mary Williston and Louise Dale attend.

CHAPTER XVIII.-Continued.

cur. A strange elation took possession of him. She was here. He thought of last night and seemed to walk on air. If he won out maybe-but, fool that he was! what was there in this rough land for a girl like-Louise?

"Oh, no, that will be too much trouble," gasped Louise, in some alarm and thinking of Aunt Helen.

"Thanks, old man, we'll stay," spoke up Langford, cheerfully. "He makes excellent tea-really. I've tried it before. You will never regret staying."

Silently he watched his friend in the inner room bring out a battered teakettle, fill it with a steady hand and put it on the stove in the office, coming and going carelessly, seemingly conscious of nothing in the world but the comfort of his unexpected guests.

True to her sex, Louise was curiously interested in the house-keeping arrangements of a genuine bachelor establishment. Woman-like, she saw many things in the short time she was The bed in the inner chamber where both men slept was disarranged but over the chairs and tables. There was a litter of magazines on the floor. She laid them up against Langford; she did not think Gordon had the time or inclination to cultivate the magazine habit. She did not know to whose weakness to ascribe the tobacco pouch and brier-wood pipe placed invitingly by the side of a pair of gay, elaborately bead-embroidered moccasins, cozily stowed away under the head of the bed; but she was rather inclined to lay these, too, to Langford's charge. served to enhance the coziness of the rumbling fire and the closely drawn blinds.

But tea was never-served in those bachelor rooms that night-neither with the walls that harbored it. Who nostrils, it was hard to tell. They were not far behind each other in that consciousness. It was Langford who discovered that the trouble was at the rear, where the wind would scon have the whole building fanned into flames. Gordon unlocked the door quietly. He said nothing. But Paul, springing in front of him, himself threw it open. It was no new dodge, this burning a man out to shoot him as one would drown out a gopher for the killing. He need not have been afraid. The alarm had spread. The street in front was rapidly filling. One would hardly have dared to shoot -then-if one had meant to. And he did not know. He only knew that deviltry had been in the air for Gordon that night. He had suspected more than he had overheard, but it had been in the air.

Gordon saw the action and understood it. He never forgot it. He said nothing, but gave his friend an illuminating smile that Langford understood. Neither ever spoke of it, neither ever forgot it. How tightly can quick impulses bind-forever.

Outside, they encountered the judge in search of his delinquent charges.

"I'm sorry, Dick," he said. "Dead loss my boy. This beastly wind is your undoing."

"I'm not worrying, Judge," responded Gordon, grimly. "I intend for some one else to do that."

"Hellity damn, Dick, hellity damn!" exploded Jim Munson in his ear. The words came whistling through his lips, caught and whirled backward by the play of the storm. The cold was getting bitter, and a fine, cutting snow was at last driving before the wind.

Gordon, with a set face, plunged

ing at them with dumb pathos. The he said. three succeeded in rolling the safe with all its precious documents arranged within, out into the street. Nothing else mattered much-to Gordon. But other things were saved, and Jim gallantly tossed out everything he could lay his hands on before Gordon ordered everybody out for good and all. It was no longer safe to be within. Gordon was the last one out. He carried a battered little teakettle in his hand. He looked at it in a whimsical surprise as if he had not known until then that he had it in his hand. Obeying a sudden impulse, he held it out to Louise.

'Please take care of-my poor little dream." he whispered with a strange,

Before she could comprehend the significance or give answer, the judge had faced about. He bore the girls



Door Quietly Gordon Unlocked the

back to the hotel, scolding helplessly all the way as they scudded with the wind. But Louise held the little tin kettle firmly.

Men knew of Richard Gordon that night that he was a marked man. The secret workings of a secret clan had him on their proscription list. Some one had at last found this unwearied and doggedly persistent young fellow in the way. In the way, he was a menace, a danger. He must be removed from out the way. He could not be bought from it-he should be warned from it. So now his homehis work room and his rest room, the first by many hours daily the more in use, with all its furnishings of bachelor plainness and utility, that yet had held a curious charm for some men. friends and cronies like Langfordwas burning that he might be warned. Could any one say, "Jesse Black has done this thing?" Would he not bring down proof of guilt by a retaliation there-but nothing that diminished struck too soon? It would seem as if her respect for Richard Gordon. he were anticipating an unfavorable verdict. So men reasoned. And even then they did not arise to stamp out clean. Wearing apparel was strewn the evil that had endured and hugged itself and spit out corruption in the cattle country. That was reserved for -another.

They talked of a match thrown down at the court-house by a tramp. likely-when it was past midnight. when the fire broke out with the wind a piercing gale, and when no vagrant but had long since left such cold comfort and had slept these many weeks in sunnier climes. Some argued that the windows of the court-room might have been left open and the stove The howling tempest outside only blown down by the wind tearing through, or the stove door might have blown open and remains of the fire been blown out, or the pipe might have fallen down. But it was a little odd that the same people said Dick that night nor ever again. It was a Gordon's office likely caught fire from little dream that went up in flame flying sparks. Dick's office was two blocks to westward of the court-house first became conscious that the tang and it would have been a brave spark of smoke was gradually filling their and a lively one that could have made headway against that northwester.

CHAPTER XIX.

The Escape.

The little county seat awoke in the morning to a strange sight. The storm had not abated. The wind was still blowing at blizzard rate off the northwest hills, and fine, icy snow was swirling so thickly through the cold air that vision was obstructed. Building were distinguishable only as shadows showing faintly through a heavy white veil. The thermometer had gone many degrees below the zero mark. It was steadily growing colder. The older inhabitants said it would surely

break the record the coming night. An immense fire had been built in the sitting-room. Thither Mary and Louise repaired. Here they were joined by Dale, Langford and Gordon.

"You should be out at the ranch looking after your poor cattle, Mr. Langford," said Mary, smilingly. She could be light-hearted now-since a little secret had been whispered to her last night at a tea party where no tea had been drunk. Langford had gravitated toward her as naturally as steel to a magnet. He shrugged his

big shoulders and laughed a little. "The Scribe will do everything that can be done. Honest, now, did you think this trial could be pulled off

without me?" "But there can be no trial to-day."

"Why not?" "Did I dream the court-house burned last night?" "If you did, we are all dreamers

nlike." "Then how can you hold court?" "We have gone back to the time

Louise was looking white and mis-

"You are not contemplating running away, are you?" asked Gordon. "This is unusual weather-really." She looked at him with a pitiful

"I should like to be strong and

brave and enduring and capable-like Mary. You don't believe it, do you? It's true, though. But I can't. I'm weak and homesick and cold. I ought not to have come. I am not the kind. You sald it, you know. I am going home just as soon as this court is over. I mean it."

There was no mistaking that. Gordon bowed his head. His face was white. It had come sooner than he

had thought. All the records of the work yesterday had been burned. There was nothing to do but begin at the beginning again. It was discouraging, uninteresting. But it had to be done. Dale refused positively to adjourn. The jurymen were all here. So the little the fire-bugs had thought to postpone greatly mistaken. The church was the size of the town. It had precise windows-also like a country schoolhouse-four on the west side, through which the fine snow was drifting, four from across the river. There were enough staying in the town to fill the room to its utmost limits. Standing room was at a premium. The entry was crowded. Men not able to get in ploughed back through the cutting wind and snow only to return presently to see if the situation had changed any during their brief absence. So all the work of yesterday was gone over again.

So close was the pack of people that the fire roaring in the big stove in the middle of the room was allowed to sink in smouldering quiet. The heavy air had been unbearable else. The snow that had been brought in on tramping feet lay in little melted pools on the rough flooring. Men forgot to eat peanuts and women forgot to chew their gum-except one or two extremely nervous ones whose jaws moved the faster under the stimulus of hysteria. Jesse Black was telling his story.

"Along toward the 1st of last July, I took a hike out into the Indian country to buy a few head o' cattle. I trade considerable with the halfbreeds around Crow creek and Lower Brule. They're always for sellin' and If it comes to a show-down never haggle much about the lucre-it all goes for snake-juice anyway. Well, I landed at John Yellow Wolf's shanty along about noon and found there was others ahead of me. Yellow Wolf always was a popular cuss. There was Charlie Nightbird, Pete Monroe, Jesse Big Cloud and two or three others whose mugs I did not happen to be onto. the corral. Yellow Wolf said he had bought a likely little bunch from some English feller who was skipping the country-starved out and homesick-He said J R was the English feller's brand. I didn't suspicion no undertreated me white before, so I bargained for this here chap and three or four others and then pulled out for fell in with Billy Brown here. He was dead set on havin' the lot to fill in 'em. I showed him this here bill-o'sale from Yellow Wolf and made him out one from me, and that was all there was to it. He rode to Velpen and I turned on my trail." (To Be Continued.)

GIRL LAWYER FREES HERSELF.

Charged With Vagrancy, Wellesley Graduate Secures Quick Release.

St. Louis.-Evelyn Dorothy Clark. graduate of Wellesley, who later studied law at Vassar and whom the police charged with vagrancy, so skillfully defended herself in court here that she won her discharge. It was charged she failed to pay her bill at the Planters' hotel.

"What were you doing in St. Louis?" asked Assistant City Attorney King. "I refuse to answer on the ground that my answer might incriminate

me," she replied. "Objection sustained," pronounced the court.

"Who is 'Ned,' the Harvard student who wrote that acquaintance with you was so expensive that he had to get a job as telephone operator to recuperate his finances?" asked King.

"I decline to answer on the ground that the question is incompetent, irrelevant and immaterial."

"Objection sustained," ruled the court. "Have you studied law?"

"Have you?" she parried. "The prisoner is discharged," interrupted Judge Tracy, who had listened to the legal duel with impatience.

Cornered at Last!

Scientists have been grubbing patiently, almost feverishly, for years in the hope of tracing the etiology or source of the growing scourge of cancer, and although no convincing data have yet been brought forward, it is back into the room-already fire-lick when church and state were one and prevalence is due to overindulgence state amount to little or nothing. ed. Langford and Munson followed. insergrable, and court convenes at 10 in meats.-Detroit News.

THE STATE CAPITAL

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO ALL CITIZENS.

Want the State Railway Commission to Be More Reasonable in Matter of Rebates.

Employes Ask a Hearing. Railroad employes are pressing for a hearing before the State Rallway commission for the purpose of protesting against an increase in rates, and they make no secret of their claim that they represent a considerable number of voters, F. M. Ryan, a Burlington engineer living in Lincoln, representing the Nebras' a Railway Employes' association, not only asks for a hearframe church was bargained for. If ing for his association, but a hearing for the employes of each system of events-to gain time-by last night's railroad in the state. The commission work, they would find themselves very has set no date for a hearing, but long ago informed the employes that long and narrow like a country school- they would be given a hearing before house, and rather roomy considering any action is taken on rates. Mr. Ryans letter to the railway commissions is as follows:

"Enclosed you will find a request for a hearing from a committee of the opposite. The storm kept few at Nebraska Railway Employes's Protecthome with the exception of the people ive association. This committee is acting in connection with the executive committee of employes of several systes, who have requested your honorable body for a hearing and if convenient would like to have you arrange the hearing of the system committees consecutively and that of the employes' association last; also we would appreciate as early a hearing as possible, for the reason that there are quite a body of voters represented in all these requests and from some points the inquiries grow suggestive of impatience, and a growing idea that they could he heard sooner. We want to be fair to the commission and we do not believe that any member of the commission can recall a circumstance where the employes of any railroad were not fair with every one. We want this spirit to continue, and in the interest of it venture to suggest that these hearings of railroad men be brought on as soon as convenient."

Federal Indictments.

The federal grand jury returned an indictment against George R. Smith for infringement of the United States oleomargarine laws; Thomas O'Brien, passing counterfeit money; Joseph Jones, two indictments, for breaking open a mail pouch and robbing a mail

SUPERIOR MEN COMPLAIN.

Beatrice Has a Better Rate Than They on Grain.

Elevator and grain men of Superior held a conference with the railway After our feed, we all strolled out to commission and presented an informal complaint against the Burlington road on account of a charge of from 1 to 2 cents per hundred for the privilege of rebilling grain after it had been and hadn't put 'em on the range yet. milled. They allege that other towns get a milling in transit privilege for nothing. The town of Beatrice is said hand dealin's. Yellow Wolf's always to have this privilege, and Superior men say Beatrice draws indirectly from their territory. The railroad company hauls grain from the vicinity home driving the bunch. They fed at of Superior to Beatrice, and the grain home for a spell and then I decided to is later shipped to northwestern Neput 'em on the range. On the way I braska. The complainants desire to be put on an equality with Beatrice. The road is obliged to haul grain three the chinks of the two car loads he was times as far when it takes it to Wshippin', so I up and lets him have atrice. The complainants are C. E. Shaw, D. C. Bishop, F. L. Myers and E. Bossemeyer.

Trains Discontinued.

Senator C. A. Randall of Madison county, whose home is at Newman Grove, has filed a formal complaint with the railway commission alleging that the Northwestern road has without cause taken off two trains much to the inconvenience of the people. Mr. Randall is a farmer and a banker. Newman Grove has a population of \$1,000. For four years it has haddaily train service but on April 25 the Northwestern took off the train that ran Saturdays from Oakdale to Fremont and the train that ran Sundays from Fremont to Oakdale, through Newman Grove. The Saturday train is a mixed train and carried mail, pas sengers and freight. The Sunday train carried freight and mail from Oakdale to Fremont and passengers from Oakdale to Humphrey and stopped at

Newman Grove. Senator Randall alleges that these trains were taken off without just cause or reason and in disregard of the interests of the people and without the consent of the railway commission. He says the Northwestern railway company can furnish facilities for carrying passengers on these trains without unnecessary expense. The railway commission will set a date for a hearing.

The Paramount Question.

The exact amount of revenue received by the various railroads in the territory west of the Kinkaid line in Nebraska is just now occupying the attention of Chairman Winnett of the state railway commission. He wants to find out just how much the railroads would lose if rates are reduced to what seems reasonable in the eastern part of the state. The railroads insist that a reduction of rates in Nebraska would be most unfair, as their a general suspicion that the rapid revenues in the western part of the

NEBRASKA NEWS AND NOTES. Items of Greater or Lesser Importance Over the State.

Seventeen horses perished in a boarding stable fire in Omaha.

George W. Berge of Lincoln has declared his candidacy for the governor-

A very heavy rain, amounting almost to a cloudburst, occurred at Table Rock.

The Kearney Country club is now assured, 120 members having been secured and about \$6,000 having been subscribed.

Harry Gibson, a colored walter on seriously hurt while resisting arrest at Grand Island.

of good government organizations, to be held in Hastings June 4. Bert Taylor, the Minden fiend who

assaulted his sister-in-law, from the effects of which she has since died, er strength than other makes. has not been apprehended, although he was heard of in Oklahoma.

Rev. Frederick W. Leavitt has been elected principal of Franklin academy. Mr. Leavitt is pastor Plymouth church at Omaha, and a member of the advisory board of Congregational churches in Nebraska.

The Burlington rallroad, at the suggestion of the railway commission, has reduced coal rates from Wyoming to Colorado to meet the rates secured by the commission before the Interstate Commerce commission on the Union Pacific road.

Sixty-four loaded freight cars behind a giant mogul made up the first regular train which went over the new Lane cut-off of the Union Pacific, after which the regular through passenger and through freight trains were sent over the road.

Attorney Frank Ransom, acting for the Union Stock Yards company, filed a brief in the supreme court asking for a rehearing in the suit instituted by the state which resulted in a decision holding that the stock yards is a common carrier, subject to the control of the railway commission.

Mrs. Koberg, the Madison county farmers' wife who took her children to Cincinnati some time ago and then disappeared, has not been found. Mr. Korberg, who has now gone east again in an effort to discover the fate of his wife, believes that she took her own life during a fit of insanity.

The District court of Rock county was in session for two days, engaged in the trial of Carl Pettijohn, on the charge of burglary, and at the conclusion of the trial a verdict of guilty was rendered and Judge Harrington sentenced the defendant to a term of six years in the penitentiary.

Someone entered the store of Sutphin & Dale at Nebawka and stole \$40 from the safe. The money was left by a workman with the firm for safe keeping. The safe door was ajar in the morning and the firm is not sure whether it was locked or not the night before. Nothing was taken but the money.

The body of James M. Wood, who died as the result of an accident at Des Moines, Ia., recently was brought to Nebraska City for burial, Mr. Woods was one of the pioneer resito Rapid City, S. D., where he prospered and became quite wealthy and was mayor of the town twice.

Reports from the eastern wool marcets show that the movement started by Wyoming wool growers and Omaha capitalists to hold the 1908 clip for better prices is becoming general throughout the country and shipments to the east during the week ending May 15 were about half what they were during a corresponding week last year.

After practicing medicine for fiftyone years Dr. T. G. Bracking, now 76 years old, of Norfolk, is engaged in a dispute with the State Board of Health over his present right to practice. He has been arrested for not holding a state certificate. He claims his college degree entitles him to the certificate. The state board insists he must take an examination.

At Pattsmouth Harry Van Fleet stabbed Albert Brissey in the back and killed him. The evidence brought out before the coroner's jury showed that Brissey came to his death by having a butcher-knife stuck into his back by Harry Vanfleet accidentally. Vanfleet was sharpening the knife and Brissey backed through the door and the knife entered his back and penetrated the lung.

Washington dispatch: Representative Pollard said that he had received letters from the county boards of Lancaster, Cass and Pawnee counties, asking the services of a government road engineer for consultation as to improvement of roads. He hopes to receive communications from other counties in his district, indicating a wish for the consultive advice of the expert who will go to the state. "Any counties outside my district," said Mr. Pollard, "will be able to secure the same service, by addressing their own

Another national bank is to be established at University Place, near Lincoln, which will bear the name of the City National. This will make the third bank for the city, two having been established with the last three

When Zyra Van Pelt, a senior in the Havelock High school, was sitting on the balustrade in the balcony of the First Christian church at Havelock, teaching a Sunday school class, she lost her balance and fell. She landed among the members of the young mea's class and was painfuly bruised. She fell eight feet.

And the Moon Man Laughed. They were jogging along the old road and cupid was so busy that the young man dropped the lines either side of the runabout. It was then that the wise old nag turned lazily

around. "What are you looking at?" queried

the owl by the roadside. "I am reading between the lines," laughed the old nag as she gave a horse laugh and showed her long yellow teeth.

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 necesthe Union Pacific read, was shot and sary to use so much starch that the beauty and fineness of the fabric is hidden behind a paste of varying Norfolk has decided to send one or thickness, which not only destroys the more delegates to the state convention 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 great-

> Only Long Sleeves Now. Mistress-Here is a nice dress for

you, Martha. Maid-Thank ye, ma'am; but I can't

take it, really. Mistress-You foolish girl, of course you can take it. I insist.

Maid-No, really, I can't, ma'am. It's got them old-fashioned short slacvas.

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Take Hall's l'amily Pills for constipation.

Forgiveness.

"The state!" sneered the convicted anarchist. "What do I care for the state?"

"The state," replied the court, "is not inclined to repay your harshness in kind. It will care for you for a year."-Philadelphia Ledger.

Do You Eat Pie?

If not you are missing half the pleasure of life. Just order from your grocer a few packages of "OUR-PIE" and learn how easy it is to make Lemon, Chocolate and Custard pies that will please you. If your grocer won't supply you, go to one who will. "Put up by D-Zerta Co., Rochester, N.Y."

Burns a Good Judge of Books. John Burns is said to have the best working library of any member of the English house of parliament.

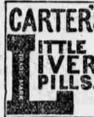
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prompt, in action. In supplying that demand with its excellent combination of Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna, the California Fig Syrup dents of that city and went from there | Co. proceeds along ethical lines and relies on the merits of the laxative for its remarkable success.

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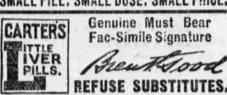
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