Fox right.

Badgey.

you say her nest is?"

plained where she lives."

CHAPTER XII.

The Prairie Chicken.

After he left Mr. Fox. Benny Badger hurried here and there and remarked, hatched by this time everywhere in search of a prairie chicken.

He found one, after a time. But "That can't be possible," he rethe lady wouldn't stop to talk with plied. "I met Mrs. Prairie Chicken him. The moment she spied Benny she whirred into the air and flew off, though she certainly must have heard Mr. Fox assured him,

him calling to her.

But at last, just as red streaks began to shoot up in the eastern sky, corrected himself. Benny caught sight of a stately



Yes, indeed!"she answered.

dame, who was so busy catching grasshoppers for her breakfast that

she hadn't noticed him. He did not dare to go too near her, for fear of scaring her. So he called to her in as gentle a tone as he could, saying, "Don't be alarmed, madam! I only want to ask you a

question. The prairie chicken stretched her neck as high as she was able, and

looked all around.
"Here I am!" Benny sang out from a grassy hummock.

The startled lady saw that he was

not near enough to be dangerous. So she asked him, with a proud air, what he question meht be. "I'm interested in birds' eggs." Benny explained. "Have you any, madam?"

The prairie chicken took a few steps towards him, in a very grand

"Yes, indeed!" she answered. "I have a baker's dozen! They are the most beautiful eggs I've ever seenthough perhaps I shouldn't say so ... They're speckled with brownish specks," she continued.

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And just then the prairie chicken did a strange thing. Without a word of warning she sprang into the air and sailed away, leaving Benny Badger to gaze after her, and won-ger why she hadn't answered his

He soon made up his mind that he would find her nest, anyhow. Now, since there wasn't a tree nywhere in the neighborhood, sest must be on the ground. And ince he knew that all prairie chickins slept at night, he waited until ark before he began his search, or he wanted to find Mrs Prairie hicken at home when he called on e..

So when night came once more, Benny Badger left his den and went orth on his errand.

He had gone only a short disacce when he met his old friend, ance when he met his old friend, are when he met his old friend, are you having any luck tonight?"

Senny Badger inquired.

What do you mean?" Mr. Fox sked him.

"What a you mean?" Mr. Fox sked him.

"Have you found are access?"

If you look and feel old, weak, and nervous and discouraged if you are lacking in the vim, courage and energy that you used to have, it's almost certain you have old flood—blood that is lacking in oxygen earrying red cells; and that your need to make you look and feel old, weak, and nervous and discouraged if you are lacking in the vim, courage and energy that you used to have, it's almost certain you have old flood—blood that is lacking in oxygen earrying red cells; and that your need to make you look and feel old, weak, and nervous and discouraged if you are lacking in the vim, courage and energy that you used to have, it's almost certain you have old flood—blood that is lacking in oxygen earrying red cells; and that your need to make you look and feel old, weak, and nervous and discouraged if you are lacking in the vim, courage and energy that you used to have, it's almost certain you have old flood—blood that is lacking in oxygen earrying red cells; and that your need to make you look and feel old, weak, and nervous and discouraged if you are lacking in the vim, courage and energy that you have de life have, it's almost certain you have old flood—blood that is lacking in oxygen carrying red cells; and that you have you look and feel old, wat you look and feel old, wat is almost certain you have old flood—blood that is lacking in oxygen carrying red cells; and that you have it's almost certain you have only for have, it's almost certain Benny felt quite sute that the lady's nest must be on the ground. And since he knew that all prairie chickens slept at night, he waited until dark before he began his search, for he wanted to find Mrs. Prairie Chicken at home when he called on

Benny Badger left his den and went forth on his errand. tance when he met his old friend, Mr. Fox, who had told him a little-and very little, too-about eggs.
"Are you having any luck tonight?"

Benny Badger inquired. asked him. "Have you found any eggs?"

Benny questioned.
Mr. Fox said something that might have been either "yes or "no." Benny was not quite sure which it

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Arranged by J. WILLSON ROY. 1-Name another prophet who was

one of Micah's contemporaries. 2-During whose reign did Micah preach?

3-At what period did the prophet Habakkuk live?

1-Why was Habakkuk sent from God?

5-Who was Zephaniah?

Answers.

1-Isaiah. 2-Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah.

3-About 600 B. C. 4-He was sent to warn the kingdom of Judah of the invasion of the

5—He was a prophet living about 630 B. C. Copyright, 1921, by The Wheeler Syndicate, Inc.)

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"Where did

"The eggs must have all

Benny Badger hastened to set Mr.

this morning and she told me she had a baker's dozen in her nest."

"You must be mistaken about that,"

"No, of course not!" Mr. Fox orrected himself. "What I meant

"That's unfortunate," Mr. Fox told

him. "It would have saved us a good deal of trouble if she had ex-

Then he told Benny Badger to go

home, and not to trouble himself any more. "I will hunt for the old lady's nest," Mr. Fox declared. Benny Badger couldn't help think-

ing that Mr. Fox was a very kind

person. And he went away feeling

that it was very fine to have a friend

But after a while he began to won-

der if he wasn't mistaken; for he hap-

pened to remember that Mr. Fox

adn't said a single word about let-

ting him know when he had found

the nest with the 13 eggs in it.

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was, where did Mrs. Prairie Chick-

didn't say," replied Benny

didn't say," replied Benny







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N the United States last year there were a million weddings. Seventy thousand homes were built.

Thus in striking fashion the housing shortage was put before the National Council of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, at its conference last month in Washington. The chief obstacle to remedying this extraordinary situation lies in cost-the cost of building materials, of money and credit, of labor. One speaker candidly advised delay. "Don't build-wait!"

Others suggested various palliatives. So far as governmental aid is concerned, it is a question, as Senator William M. Calder expressed it, whether the aid shall take the form of "facilities or subsidies." The answer to that lies with American business. Building is a business function, too long neglected owing, in part, to governmental interference during the war and to turbulent economic conditions since. The present shortage involves a grave menace to health, industry and government. "Homeless people make bad laws," one speaker warned the councillors.

So acute is the situation that, in the words of one speaker, it "challenges the sagacity of this generation." It has resulted in a pressure upon Congress for relief work which moved Senator Calder, chairman of the committee on reconstruction and production, to utter a warning and a threat. The shortage may become so serious as to necessitate governmental subsidies.

"This will mean the adoption of European precedents of monarchic paternalism," he said, "rather than a continuation of American precedents which have made it possible for each man of exceptional thrift and industry to become a property owner."

He expressed earnest opposition to government ownership and management of housing projects, and expressed the hope that "our reconstruction process will proceed through private initiative and enterprise."

To government regulation of housing activities no objection was expressed. As to government aid through the exercise of its taxing power, through the exemption of taxes on housing construction for a period of years, a difference of opinion was in evidence. The use of government credit or money for projects to be privately controlled was favored, it appeared, by a small minority, although this preference was not expressed through a vote nor in the resolutions.

Lawson Purdy, former president of the Board of Taxes and Assessments in New York City, expressed his belief that the need of tax exemption for new building in those states where it is possible far outweighed the objections commonly advanced against that form of subsidy. This wts Mr. Purdy's proposal:

Various forms of subsidies have been suggested, usually in the form of loans at less than economic interest. As a rule, states and cities cannot use their credit for such a purpose without special constitutional changes. I be lieve that ordinarily it is an unprofitable thing for any government to compete with private citizens. If the government enters a field of competitive business it must take over the whole business or keep out of it. When, government enters the field it underbids and so discourages all private enterprise. The effect, therefore, of the building of houses by the state on any considerable scale or the lending of money by the state or the guaranteeing of loans by the state will be almost certain to discourage builders and lenders to such a degree that the net result will be fewer houses and less money available.

Is there any way in this emergency in which action by the state can encourage the building of more houses? I am sure that there is a course that can be pursued in those states, about one-fourth in number, which are not constitutionally restrained from using the taxing power in-

Throughout the United States buildings are taxed as heavily as, and in most states more heavily than, any other labor product. With a 21/2 per cent tax rate on an assessment at full value the net rate must be about onethird more than if there were no tax. If the net rent equals 6 per cent of the cost of the building the tax is five-twelfthe of the net rent. At the present time doubtless there must be a prospect of a much higher net rent than 6 per cent in order to induce building, but even if the net rent is 10 per cent the tax is one-fourth of the rent. It is obvious that the tax is a very important factor. If the tax on new-dwellings is remitted for a term of years a substantial inducement is offered to builders. How substantial that inducement is few people realize.

Mr. Purdy did not fail to take into consideration the objections which have been offered to this procedure. It has been said, for instance, that such an exemption would reduce the assessment roll, but he denied this. Existing property would not be exempt. On the other hand, Mr. Purdy said, the exemption might reasonably be expected to stimulate the building of additional housing which would not otherwise have been produced, and which would be taxable after the exemption period had passed. During that period, this building activity would swell the assessment roll by increasing land values; and he continued:

It is said that it is unfair to the owners of existing buildings to exempt new buildings. The owners of existing buildings have seen the value of those buildings doubled by no act of theirs. In many cases the rent they can obtain is more than doubled. The value of those buildingswill tend to be about what it would cost to reproduce them provided always they are suitable. It does not seem that there is any hardship to these owners of existing buildings in encouraging the production of new buildings costing

The emergency is great. The need is serious. We should give every possible encouragement to the erection of new buildings by private enterprise by a method which does not introduce the dangerous feature of competition by the government itself.



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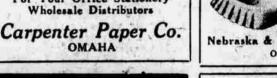
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