

Blazed Trail Stories

Stories of the Wild Life

By STEWART EDWARD WHITE.

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BILLY'S TENDERFOOT.

(Continued.)

A light broke on Billy's mind. He remarked the value which the stranger had so carefully guarded; and though his common-sense told him that an inoffensive non-combatant such as his guest would hardly be chosen as express messenger, still the bare possibility remained.

"You're right," he agreed, carelessly, "that is one tenderfoot, who knows as much of riding as a pig does of a ruffled shirt."

"I notice he's almighty particular about that carpet-bag of his'n," insisted Charles.

The man against the counter had lost nothing of the scene. Billy's denial, his hesitation, his half-truth all looked suspicious to him. With one swift, round sweep of the arm he had Billy covered. Billy's hands shot over his head without the necessity of command.

The man ceased their occupations and gathered about. Scenes of this sort were too common to elicit comment or arouse excitement. They knew perfectly well the laissez-faire relations which obtained between the two Westerners.

"Now," said Black Hank, angrily, in a low tone, "I want to know why in hell you tried that monkey game?"

Billy, wary and unafraid, replied that he had tried no game, that he had forgotten the tenderfoot for the moment, and that he did not believe the latter would prove to be the sought-for express messenger.

One of the men, at a signal from his leader, relieved Billy's heavy belt of considerable weight. Then the latter was permitted to sit on a cracker box. Two more mounted the stairs. In a moment they returned to report that the upper story contained no human beings, strange or otherwise, except the girl, but that there remained a small trunk. Under further orders, they neatly folded the trunk down into the bar-room. It was broken open and found to contain nothing but clothes of the plainest material, and state of wear; a neatly folded Mexican saddle showing use, and a raw-hide quirt.

"Hell of a tenderfoot!" said Black Hank, contemptuously.

The outlaws had already scattered outside to look for the trail. In this they were unsuccessful, reporting, indeed, that not the faintest sign indicated escape in any direction.

Billy knew his man. The tightening of Black Hank's close-knit brows meant but one thing. One does not gain chieftainship of any kind in the west without propounding his ascendancy with acts of ruthless decision. Billy leaped from his cracker-box with the suddenness of the puma, seized Black Hank firmly about the waist, whirled him into a sort of shield, and began an earnest struggle for the instant possession of the outlaw's drawn revolver. It was a gallant attempt, but an unsuccessful one. In a moment Billy was pinned to the floor, and Black Hank was rubbing his abraded forearm. After that the only question was whether it should be rope or bullet.

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SHEFFIELD

SHEFFIELD, Nov. 7.—The farmers in Sheffield and vicinity are shipping daily large quantities of produce to the St. John market.

Mrs. (Capt.) Charles Taylor is visiting relatives and friends in Fredericton. Miss L. Briggs returned today from a pleasant visit to friends in St. John. Mrs. Annie Robertson and daughter, Mona, of Margerville were in Sheffield today, guests of Mrs. J. Dow Bridges.

Orland Carle of Lakeville Corner has the contract for supplying poles for the telephone line being put up between Jemseg and Margerville.

Abram Bridges left this morning by steamer Pokanoket for St. John on a business trip. Miss Maud Upton left this morning for Fredericton, where she will remain for the winter.

The Sheffield and Margerville Baptist Sewing Circle held its last meeting at the home of Mrs. W. E. Perley. The next meeting will be held at Mrs. Thomas E. Bridges on Wednesday, Nov. 8th.

Mrs. Bertie Bent is visiting friends in Boiestown and vicinity. Patrick McClosky, who has been seriously ill, is improving slowly. Miss Carrie Upton is visiting friends in Fredericton.

Frank Vandine, proprietor of the Vandine Hotel, is home from the woods, after an absence of over a month.

THE NEW PRIESTHOOD

(Boston Transcript)

Something might be written about "The New Priesthood" if the lawyer who would who should wear the long, sad coat and the sanctified white necktie or Roman collar. A new casuistry, that of counting house and law office, has replaced the old casuistry of pulp and pew. This is the upshot of what President Nicholas Murray Butler, in a ringing address, a part of which Walter H. Page has reprinted in the space normally occupied by a "financial article" in his excellent magazine. It goes to the root of the commercial disease that is just now scandalizing America. Says President Butler:

"Both among business men and at the bar are to be found advisers, counted sacred and successful, who have submitted the penal code for the moral law as the standard of conduct. Right and wrong have given way to subtler distinctions between legal, illegal and illegitimate. Between honest, dishonest, law-abiding, and dishonest. The lawyer is the new priest."

Not so very long ago a prominent business man said to a reporter: "I pay a clever lawyer to sit beside my desk and watch everything I do. I rely upon him to keep me from getting into trouble." He hadn't a suspicion that there was anything contemptible in such a device. His little plan was to do whatever he liked, right or wrong, honest or dishonest, but his confessor, the lawyer, hauled him up. "Both among business men and at the bar are to be found advisers, counted sacred and successful, who have submitted the penal code for the moral law as the standard of conduct. Right and wrong have given way to subtler distinctions between legal, illegal and illegitimate. Between honest, dishonest, law-abiding, and dishonest. The lawyer is the new priest."

Each student seems to think it a duty peculiar to himself to observe the progress of each day's work on the "rink" and acquaint his fellow students of such observations with all the enthusiasm possible.

While there is a diversity of opinion in regard to running the "rink," still there is unity in the wish that there will be an authentic announcement of its completion in the near future, since all are waiting patiently for a formal opening. On this occasion it is expected that the "College Band," the existence of which is mentioned in the annals of the institution, will appear and render a few choice selections.

Judging by appearance, no expense is being spared in making the "rink" a complete piece of work, thanks to the beneficence of the faculty and the enterprise of the Rev. Economie, who is a very active member in and about the college in these days of improvement.

The new water system, which has been constructed by Freeze Bros., St. John, and lately completed, reflects great credit on their skill and workmanship.

From the high tower near the college, on which the tank is supported, the water is forced into every room of the university, and affords entire satisfaction and convenience to the students.

The second football team has accepted the challenge from Mount Allison Academy, and will play on the college grounds Thursday next. The men are working hard, and Captain White says they are all in fine condition, so a fast and exciting game is expected.

Mrs. Strong, of Charlottetown, who has been visiting in the city, left for home yesterday.

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HOME-BRED "PARTRIDGES"

Maine Man is Raising Them for the Boston Market.

(Eastport Sentinel).

No man was ever known to succeed the first time he tried, said Solomon Crockett, who in addition to being an old fisherman is the owner of Crockett's Island at the entrance to Narragansett Bay. "Here I've spent more'n ten years and thousands of dollars in raising black foxes; and what's the result?"

"Why last winter, the bay froze over clear to the mainland, and every black fox, there were six of them, ran away to the woods and is in New Brunswick by this time. A man feels pretty considerable blue, when he sees the labors of a lifetime escaping on four legs, the way mine went."

"But I wasn't discouraged, I had my guinea fowls left, and I said to myself that if I couldn't make a fortune out of foxes perhaps it was all for the best, and having the guinea fowls left, I went to work with them."

"I had put the guinea out on the island for the foxes to feed upon, you understand. Barnyard fowl ain't hardly enough to stand our cold winters, and partridges don't breed fast enough, and as soon as they can handle their wings they fly away."

"But the little speckled guinea fowls were just right. They were lively and spry, so the foxes had to skirmish around to catch them, and as they will never fly over water they were as safe on my island as if they had been inside of a wire cage. They breed fast and are hardy enough to live outdoors in our coldest winters."

"This set me to thinking that if I couldn't make money growing black foxes perhaps there was a show for me in the guinea hen business. This summer I raised more than six hundred guinea chicks, cute chaps that can run faster than foxes and scream louder than steam horns. And one day when I had shot six of them I sat down and said to myself:

"'Sol Crockett, you are a fool,' said I, 'a blamed fool, to feel bad about losing your foxes, when you have more than a thousand fowl like these, and every one as good as a partridge.'"

"I stopped right there. Next day my schooner was ready for Boston with a load of salt fish, and away up forward were two dozen skinned guinea fowls all dressed and ready to cook. When I was off Monaghan a game warden came aboard and looked over my cargo."

"'What's them?' he says, pointing to my dressed poultry."

"'Them's guinea hens,' said I.

"'Glad you told me,' said the warden. 'They look enough like partridges to be the real thing.'"

"He winked at me as he went into his boat, and knowing he was the last game warden I should see, I went and labeled every one 'Maine partridge' and took the bunch into Boston and sold them for \$2.50 a pair, and received orders for as many more as I could get at the same price."

"When an honest man tries to get an honest living you can't beat him, provided he tries long enough."

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