

The Comforter

A Story of President Lincoln
Founded on Fact

By F. A. MITCHEL

When the great struggle between the Northern and Southern states came on Allan Fitz Hugh, twelve years old, was at school in Virginia. He was a boy of delicate physique, but was full of fire, and, hearing that Abraham Lincoln was coming southward at the head of an armed force, was much troubled because he was too young to shoulder a musket and repel the invader. He found it difficult during those exciting times to attend to his studies, and had it not been for the influence of his mother, whom he dearly loved, he could not have been kept at school at all.

In those days the passion attending war ran high on both sides. The songs, the gibes, the speeches and what was written concerning the great struggle were very bitter and usually far from the truth. In the North it was "We'll hang Jeff Davis on a sour apple tree," and in the South President Lincoln was called "the booboo." The Northern schoolboy conceived the idea that President Davis was an ogre, not realizing that he was an educated gentleman, had commanded a regiment of United States troops in the war with Mexico, had been a United States senator and secretary of war. The Southern schoolboy considered President Lincoln a wild man from the Western woods who delighted in bloodshed. Children whose minds are not developed must concentrate upon one head in any movement in which they are interested. So Allan's thoughts dwelt upon Mr. Lincoln, embodying the great president with his idea of the hated "Yankees."

When Allan was fifteen he begged his mother to let him go to fight for the Confederacy. Naturally she clung to her son, and the matter was compromised between them in this wise: If the war was not over in his mother's consent. Many boys of his age, both in the North and in the South, broke away from parental restraint and enlisted without permission. Food for powder was in demand, and the recruiting officers often winked at the fact that the recruits were under age. But Allan was his mother's only child, and being of an extremely affectionate disposition, the bond between them was doubly strong.

So Allan continued at his studies, though he read more about the battles that were being fought than the subjects treated in his textbooks. He lived in Richmond, and at one time had listened to the roar of the cannon during the seven days' battles that had been fought between Lee and McClellan. His admiration for soldiers were away from some of his bitterness against the federal generals, but President Lincoln was still the embodiment of his reverence for the Northern people. The two heads—Davis of the Confederacy and Lincoln of the federal Union—throughout the war continued to represent the bitter antagonism felt by either side.

In the early spring of 1865 Allan Fitz Hugh came to be sixteen years of age, and his mother reluctantly consented to his doing his part to fill the gaps in the Southern ranks made by Northern missiles. When the time came for him to leave his mother he was seized with a foreboding that he would not see her again. It is questionable which suffered the more at parting, mother or son.

Allan enlisted in time to take part in one of the last battles of the war. He saw a dark line of blue on the edge of a wood behind earthworks. With the Confederate line of battle he moved toward it. Suddenly a storm burst in his face. He felt himself collapse and sank down on the ground. His companions in arms went on, but were soon driven back and over him, leaving him there with a stream of blood flowing from his side.

Later he was picked up by a federal ambulance corps and placed on a stretcher. He believed himself to be dying, and, oh, how terrible not to be able to bid his mother good-by!



"What Can I Do for You, My Boy?"

"Mother!" he cried. "Oh, mother!"

A tall, spare man in citizen's apparel heard the wail and directed the carrier to put down the stretcher and, kneeling beside it, asked tenderly: "What can I do for you, my boy?"

"You are a Yankee. You will do nothing for me. I wish to send a message to my mother, but it will never reach her."

"Give me your message, and I promise you that I will send it for you."

The next morning Mrs. Fitz Hugh heard of the battle and knew that her son had been in it. While she was wondering what might have been his

WEE FARMERS FIND FUN AND PROFIT IN BABY BEEF CONTESTS



HEREFORD BEAUTIES CARED FOR BY BOYS AND GIRLS

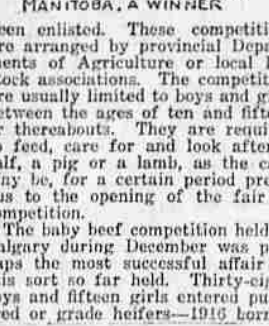


CANADIAN PACIFIC DEMONSTRATION FARM

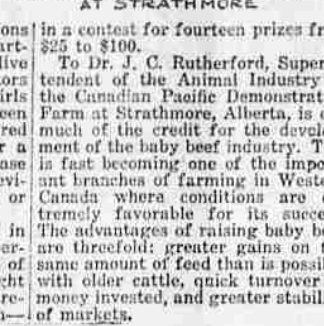
The boys and girls of today will be the men and women of tomorrow and Western Canada's children are being trained into the best sort of farmers. Not only are agricultural schools and demonstration farms maintained at various points, where the young people—and older ones too—may go for education, but a Farm School on Wheels brings education to their very doors. This traveling school consists of a train of ten well equipped coaches and has a staff of fine lecturers whose subjects cover live stock, dairying, agronomy and poultry raising. For the women and girls there is an additional domestic science course, included in which are cooking, sewing and laundering classes. Practical demonstrations are given in all courses. This movable school is not an innovation. It is rounding out its seventh successful year. The co-operation of the Canadian Pacific Railway and other lines has done much to insure its success.

Prize winning is always an incentive to young and old. That which interests the child, interests the parents. By instituting Juvenile Stock Feeding Competitions, the attention and interest of boys and girls and their fathers and mothers has

SAMUEL HEAL, BRANDON, MANITOBA, A WINNER



MILKING COWS BY MACHINERY AT STRATHMORE



been enlisted. These competitions are arranged by provincial Departments of Agriculture or local live stock associations. The competitors are usually limited to boys and girls between the ages of ten and fifteen or thereabouts. They are required to feed, care for and look after a calf, a pig or a lamb, as the case may be, for a certain period previous to the opening of the fair or competition.

The baby beef competition held in Calgary during December was perhaps the most successful affair of this sort so far held. Thirty-eight boys and fifteen girls entered pure-bred or grade heifers—1916 born—

in a contest for fourteen prizes from \$25 to \$100.

To Dr. J. C. Rutherford, Superintendent of the Animal Industry at the Canadian Pacific Demonstration Farm at Strathmore, Alberta, is due much of the credit for the development of the baby beef industry. This is fast becoming one of the important branches of farming in Western Canada where conditions are extremely favorable for its success.

The advantages of raising baby beef are threefold: greater gains on the same amount of feed than is possible with older cattle, quick turnover of money invested, and greater stability of markets.

cities and towns the response to the association's appeal was more than asked for.

As an indication of the work that is to be done among the women workers in war industries, which it will be the function of the War Work Council of the Y. W. C. A. to correct as far as these funds and human effort can improve them, is contained in a letter just received from one of the Y. W. C. A. secretaries in France. She says:

"I long to make vivid to you the conditions under which women work and live in these huge munition factories. The population of Bourges has tripled since the war began and it has been necessary to build great barracks within a walled space called a cantonment. In one there were places for 150 women, in another for 500 women. The single women live in dormitories or dormitories, each one separated from her neighbors by low partitions on two sides and a curtain in front. They have to provide their own food and do all their own washing, and there is no hot water for the latter.

"The hours of work are long and the barracks some distance from the factories. Many of the conditions under which they work are dangerous and unsanitary. There is no central heating in either factories or barracks. Life is abnormal in its dull, cheerless monotony.

"Last night I made a trip through the munition centers near Lyons. It was about 2 a. m., and one of the shifts was leaving work. It was dark and very muddy in the new roads which lead to the barracks where the workers live. There was a babel of strange languages as Arabs, Greeks, Chinese, Moroccans, Portuguese and French passed in a long, long procession.

"They were going, most of them, to their barracks, where they live in huge open dormitories. And while they were all engaged in long, weary labor to make instruments to destroy other human beings, the conditions under which they lived and worked made them but little above animals. This scene can be duplicated in scores of places in France, England, Russia and America."

SMUGGLING ON THE MEXICAN BORDER

EL PASO, Texas, Feb. 11.—Many ingenious schemes are devised for getting contraband articles across the Mexican border and despite the vigilance of the war trade board and customs officials often succeed. Men in the employ of the smugglers will conceal themselves behind the bullet-proof adobe houses on the Mexican side and fire shots across the border into the United States. This is intended to attract the border patrols to that particular spot to investigate the cause of the shooting. The smugglers will then rush their contraband articles across the border at other

Start Poultry Clubs

(Associated Press)

BOZEMAN, Mont., Feb. 11.—To help increase the country's supply of meat, boys' and girls' poultry clubs will be organized in every county of the state next spring under the direction of the state college here.

Halfway now has electric lights.

Constant Sufferers Find Relief.

"I have been a constant sufferer from kidney trouble and three months ago was down sick in bed for my back ached so severely I couldn't get up," writes C. F. Reynolds, 412 Herrick St., Elmira, N. Y. "While in this condition we read of Foley Kidney Pills so I commenced taking them. In a few days I was up out of bed." Foley Kidney Pills strengthen kidneys and bladder. Recommended for backache, rheumatic pains, sore muscles, stiff joints. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

Fresh for the Lenten Season

Kipperd Salmon

Finnan Haddie

Boneless Cod Fish

Smoked Salmon

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Boned Herring

All-Ready Cod in Cans

Canned Salmon, Sardines and Mackerel

Eat Fish and Save the Pork for Our Soldiers

PHONE US YOUR ORDERS

J. G. Snodgrass

PHONE MAIN 43

Of Interest to Women

Y. W. C. A. IS DOING A GREAT WAR WORK

REPORTS SHOW SEATTLE AND PORTLAND ARE OVER TOP

Y. W. C. A. Secretary in France Tells of Work That Is Being Done for Women Abroad

SEATTLE, Feb. 11. (Special)—Reports slowly coming in to the

Northwestern Field Headquarters of the Young Women's Christian Association indicate that not only have the states of Washington, Oregon, Montana and Idaho raised this section's \$144,000 quota of the national \$4,600,000 War Work fund, but they have gone considerably beyond the goal set. Seattle raised over \$46,000, Portland exceeded \$26,000, Tacoma and Spokane are following closely, while Butte, Helena, Billings, Boise, Walla Walla, Yakima and other cities, though the full returns are not thus far tabulated, will exceed the quotas set for them. Even in the smaller

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