

## Courage and Cash

By R. RAY BAKER

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Long before she left Indiana—where she first saw the light of day and subsequently saw the light of some 7,000 days—Catherine Owens had decided on the "three C" policy when it came to matrimony. A man must have courage and cash; then he would stand a chance of possessing Catherine.

It was principally on account of her father's health that they had gone out to run the small sheep ranch in a sparsely settled part of Montana, and there, exiled from civilization, Catherine didn't change her views. In fact, as none of the men who occasionally appeared at the ranch seemed to have either of the necessary qualifications, she gradually lost interest in the subject of marriage and devoted her spare time, which was plentiful, to people in story books.

Nevertheless, while she looked with disdain on all the mere male creatures that happened along, Catherine had hopes lingering somewhere within her that the "three C" man would enter her little world sometime. She was twenty-one, and at that age most girls begin to have serious thoughts of wedded bliss.

Thus things stood when a strange young man rode up to the veranda of the ranch house one sunny afternoon and asked what were the chances of being a guest at the supper table. He said the prospects were, if he didn't obtain a real meal soon, that he would fall by the wayside before he reached Odessa, ten miles away.

Catherine was seated on the veranda reading. Her father was out tending his flock and her mother was taking a nap.

"The first real man besides my father that I have seen in the whole year I've been here," said Catherine—to herself. His hair was coal black, as were his eyes, and he straddled his lively bay mount with a jauntiness that captivated Catherine—almost. His broad-brimmed hat sat rakishly on his head and he wore a blue shirt, corduroy breeches, cowhide boots, a red bandana handkerchief—everything a cowboy is supposed to wear but frequently doesn't except on parade. The stranger even "toted" a revolver in a holster on a cartridge belt around his waist.

With a gallant sweep of his hat he introduced himself as Fred Garland and dismounted, as though it was a foregone conclusion he would be invited to stay. As a matter of fact, it was. Catherine wouldn't have let him get away.

The meal was a jolly one. Garland told humorous stories and proved very entertaining. His speech and manners showed education and refinement; and as Catherine watched him with her big, gray eyes, she became decidedly interested.

After that Garland was a frequent visitor, and it was plain from his actions that Catherine was the attraction. He proved to be a mystery, for he never told where he came from, where he was going or the nature of his vocation.

One day, six weeks after they became acquainted, while they were walking in the woods, the conversation took a personal turn. Catherine intentionally guided it into that channel, for she was curious concerning Garland's past—as well as his present. They sat on a log, and he chewed a piece of grass while she built a house of sand on the ground with the end of her parasol.

Presently Garland leaned close to her and said earnestly:

"I might just as well tell you now what's been in my mind since I met you. I want to marry you."

Catherine had been expecting it, rather hoping for it. However, she didn't fling herself into his arms; instead, she carefully wrecked the sand house with the parasol.

"I don't know," she said demurely. "You see, I don't know anything about you."

He hesitated several minutes, twisting his hat out of shape. Then he spoke in a rather strained tone:

"It's a rather painful topic. I came of a good family and was educated at Yale; but I guess I was a black sheep, for I never made use of what I learned. I contented myself with drifting aimlessly about, existing by doing various kinds of jobs. Finally I landed on a cattle ranch in this neighborhood. Not a very rosy prospect, I admit, but if you were my wife I'd have an incentive to do something worth while."

Catherine was fond of him, she was bound to admit, and she told him so. However, she had taught herself to hold the "three C" creed almost sacred, and she said she would have to reserve her decision for a week.

"I've always said a man would have to be in good financial circumstances before I'd marry him," she explained. "Money means a whole lot in this world."

She decided, however, while they were walking back to the ranch. A snake suddenly wriggled out from somewhere and coiled itself in front of them. Garland grew pale, and his arm, which she gripped in fright, actually appeared to tremble. He stopped in his tracks, despite her admonitions to kill the snake, and stood idly by while she overcame her own terror and dispatched the reptile with a stone.

Catherine scarcely spoke to him during the rest of the walk home. He apologized repeatedly, saying a snake always gave him "the shivers."

"It's the one thing I'm afraid of," he declared. "I'd rather face a lion than a snake. I've seen two men die from snake bites."

She prepared to enter the house. "I can't accept your offer," she said coldly. "A man must have courage to win my affections."

Without a word he mounted his horse and disappeared down the road, while she stood and watched him and meditated on the cruelty of fate in sending that snake into their path.

Two weeks later the Odessa bank was robbed of \$4,000 by a lone bandit, wearing a mask, who appeared suddenly at noon, held up the employees at the point of a gun, seized all the money in sight and got safely away, although several bullets were sent whizzing about his head.

Shortly after that the stage coach between Odessa and Bay Springs was stopped by the same man and the passengers relieved of their valuables. When one old man attempted to secrete his few dollars, the bandit shot him in the leg.

The next day the Bay Springs post office was visited by the outlaw, who, on account of his daring, had earned the cognomen of "Reckless." The post office paid him a forced toll of \$500.

One week later Reckless stood amid a clump of trees a mile from the Owens ranch and smoked a cigarette while he adjusted his mask. His horse was tethered to a nearby tree. In the distance could be heard the rumbling of the Brento coach on the way to Odessa. Presently it appeared over the crest of a hill, and Reckless adjusted his belt so his revolver was in easy reach.

His eyes on the stage coach, slowly drawing near, Reckless was not aware of the presence of another man, creeping stealthily upon him from behind, until the newcomer threw himself at the outlaw's shoulders. A furious struggle ensued.

Catherine Owens was in the kitchen washing dishes. Her mother had joined Mr. Owens, who was watching his grazing sheep.

Suddenly the door at her back was thrown open, and she whirled in fright, dropping a plate to its doom on the floor. A man wearing a mask stood before her. From description she had read of the outlaw she recognized his black gauntlets and his Mexican hat. "Reckless!" she exclaimed, stepping back in terror.

He nodded. "But what can you want here?" she cried. "This is just a sheep ranch, and there's no money to speak of in the house."

He answered in mild, quiet tones: "I don't want money; I want you." Thereupon he took off his mask.

"Fred!" she screamed. "So you're the bandit. What do you want with me?"

"Just to marry you," he responded with a smile.

She covered her eyes with her hands. "Never!" she cried. "Better ten times a man afraid of a snake than a miserable outlaw who shoots old men."

Garland laughed and tossed aside the gauntlets and hat. "Reckless is on the way to Odessa in the stage coach with two men holding guns at his head," he said. "I caught him while he was preparing to hold up the stage, and I put on these things just to fool you. Since I've shown a little courage, will you have me?"

She stared incredulously at him, but his eyes never flinched before hers, and slowly a smile crept across her face.

"I've got to believe you," she said, "because I love you. You don't know how I have regretted sending you away the other day; for I realize lots of brave men are afraid of snakes. And about the money—well, I'll even forget that. Anyhow," she added, "you have earned the \$500 reward offered by the Odessa bank."

Garland shook his head. "I can't accept it," he replied. "You see, I own the Odessa bank. I didn't tell you all my story the other day, because—well, I didn't want to be married just for the cash I had."

**Dead Murderer's Hand.**

The most ghastly of all talismans or charms was the "Dead Man's Candle," or "Hand of Glory." Sir Walter Scott, in "The Antiquary," describes it, in the mouth of Dousterswivel, as a hand cut off a man hanged for murder. It was dried, he says, in the smoke of juniper and yew. A candle made of the fat of the bear, the badger, and a "little sucking child" having been put into the hand at the proper planetary time, treasure buried there would never be discovered by any but the true owner. Scott, however, was inaccurate. The proper recipe is to be found in "Les Secrets du Petit Albert." The hand (which had to be the right hand of a murderer hung in chains) was blanched in the sun with mystical ceremonies. The candle was composed mainly of the fat of a murderer scooped from under the wayside gibbet, the wick being made of the twisted hair of the criminal. The light of the horrible candle was alleged to have the effect of preventing those who saw it from moving or calling out, and he who held it could ransack with impunity.

**Feminine Intelligence.**

"Why don't you insist on being the head of the house?"

"I am the head of the house, but my wife says a head is no good without brains."

## DEMAND FOR SUGAR LESSENED BY HONEY

### Bees Will Return Profitable Crop of Sweets Each Year.

#### Ample Room for Expansion of Both Production and Consumption—Beekeeping Should Be Extended in Many Localities.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

With the present growing demand for sugar in the United States, it is important that every possible means be employed on the farm to produce substitutes. One way by which this can be done is to keep bees and get a crop of honey, which can be used in many ways in place of sugar. The production of honey in this country can be increased without great effort. Not only should those who already keep bees increase the number of their colonies, but the industry should be extended in localities where beekeeping has not been tried on a commercial scale.

The average annual honey crop of the United States is about 250,000,000 pounds and is sufficient to supply each



Well-Arranged Apiary.

man, woman and child with about 2½ pounds a year, which is equivalent to 3 per cent of the amount of sugar they consume in normal times. Thus there is ample room for expansion of both the production and consumption. The present use of honey in the home usually is as a substitute for jellies, jams, and sirup. It is little used in domestic cooking or baking, but this use should be increased. While honey within recent years has sold at prices sufficient low to justify its use as a substitute for sugar, it is rarely used in commercial food manufacturing except in the making of certain cakes which must be kept moist for a considerable time. Usually, however, the supply of honey is so inadequate that most of the crop can be used as a spread for bread. With the use limited as it is, many people in the United States rarely eat honey, but it is evident that there might be developed a ready sale for honey as a supplement to sugar, if production were increased many times.

The amount of nectar secreted by the untold myriads of flowers, from which bees make honey, is large beyond our comprehension. The total amount of sugar in the nectar greatly exceeds the amount of all sugar and other sweets consumed by the American people. Unfortunately, from the standpoint of man, this sugar cannot all be collected and utilized as human food. Even the honey bee, which is so often used as an example of industry, consumes for its own food the larger part of all that it collects.

Beekeeping is, therefore, the means of saving for human use a small fraction of the vast store of sugar secreted. But the raw material is free and its conservation costs only a small expenditure for equipment and relatively little in labor, and the honey crop could be increased 10 or even 20 times without increasing the cost of production per pound to an appreciable degree.

### LIMESTONE FOR SOUR SOILS

#### Farmers Have Been Too Slow in Appreciating Its Value—Aids Manure and Fertilizer.

Ground limestone is the greatest known aid to bigger, better crops. Farmers have been far too slow in appreciating its value. Only ten years ago, not more than a few hundred tons of lime were used in this country annually. At the present time the yearly tonnage has mounted up to the million mark, but even this is too little, by far.

It has been said that one acre in every three of arable land in this country is sour. Authorities claim that lime is badly needed all over eastern Ohio. Nearly every acre of land in New England is in need of liming. Also the land of the Atlantic and Gulf coast plains. In Wisconsin, four-fifths of the land in the state needs it badly. Even in the heart of the corn belt, the richest land in the world, farmers are turning to the use of lime to grow big crops of corn and wheat. Every acre of sour land in the country badly needs and should have two to four tons of ground limestone applied.

Surely if every farm in the garden spot of America (the corn belt) finds it profitable to use lime, it will pay men in less favored sections of the country.

Not only is lime good in itself to sweeten sour farms, but it helps manure and fertilizer make good crops by liberating other vital plant foods.

## TILLING CORN TO INCREASE YIELDS

### Better Methods of Cultivating Crop Are Urged for Producing More Per Acre.

#### GENERAL PLAN IS OUTLINED

##### In Some Sections Employment of Fertilizers to Supply Needed Elements of Plant Food Is of Greatest Importance.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The use of more efficient implements will increase total production, not only by increasing acreage, but also by increasing acre yields.

Yields per acre may be increased by better methods of tilling the ground and better methods of cultivating the crop. Any general advice as to better methods of tillage must be modified to meet specific conditions, as methods found valuable in some localities may be of less value or even detrimental in other localities. As general advice the following suggestions are valuable and properly applied will lead to increased acre yields.

Land is plowed in order to loosen it and enable water to enter in greater quantity, be absorbed to greater depth, and remain longer in the soil.

A deep seed bed well supplied with soil moisture and well drained makes a big corn yield possible, whether the summer proves "too dry" or "too wet."

If not well plowed, some lands are so impervious that during several weeks of rainy weather they remain dry below a depth of 5 or 10 inches. When the soil is loose to a sufficient depth, corn roots penetrate in abundance to a depth of 3 or 4 feet.

The growing of clover and deep-rooted plants is profitably practiced with most soils, and subsoiling is profitably practiced with some soils to increase their water-absorbing capacity and to enable the corn roots to use the soil to greater depths.

Large plows and plenty of power will facilitate this thorough preparation of the seed bed.

On many heavy clay soils the yield of corn per acre depends largely upon the thoroughness of the plowing. It is necessary to loosen all the land and leave no large air spaces. To "cut and cover" is not good practice.

#### Difference in Plowing.

A pasture field was plowed in alternate strips by two men, one a careful plowman and the other a poor plowman. The poorly plowed strips showed poorer corn all through the summer and produced 20 bushels less corn to the acre than the well-plowed strips. The careless plowman allowed the plow to "cut and cover" in places, leaving hard spots where the plow did not loosen the land and large air



Early Cultivation is an Aid to Increased Corn Production.

spaces where the overturned sod buckled and did not come in contact with the subsoil. Hills of corn growing on hard spots or over large air spaces usually produce poorly.

The most successful corn growers realize the importance of thorough early cultivations, which prevent any check in the growth of the plants due to weeds or crusted soil. From the time of germination to the maturing of the corn the farmer should see that the plants are not subjected to any preventable unfavorable conditions, but are permitted to make a steady vigorous growth.

#### Use Weeders and Harrows.

Horse weeders and harrows should be used when needed to break a surface crust, check insect depredations, or kill young weeds that start before the corn is up or large enough to be worked with other implements. For the first cultivation after the plants are up, and while they are very small, narrow shovels that throw the soil very little should be used, and fenders usually are desirable to prevent the covering of the plants.

After the plants have reached a height of 2 or 3 feet, the soil, even in the middle of the rows, should not be cultivated deeper than 4 inches, and usually a shallower cultivation will prove better. For retaining soil moisture a loose soil mulch 2 or 3 inches in thickness should be maintained.

Corn should be cultivated often enough to keep down weeds and to maintain constantly a loose soil mulch until the corn has attained its growth. To this end a greater number of cultivations will be necessary when rains at intervals of about a week cause the surface soil to run together and crust.

## NOTES FOR THOSE WHO SEW

### Way to Avoid Pricking Fingers—Guards for Knitting Needles—Darning Stockings and Gloves.

One reason that some women do not like to sew is because they are continually pricking the first finger of the left hand. A way to avoid this is to place a thimble on that finger. Another is worn, of course, on the usual thimble finger.

The various kinds of guards for the ends of knitting needles are interesting. Funny and quaint are the little wooden soldiers sold for the purpose, "guards" in truth. They slip nicely over the points and prevent their puncturing either one's anatomy or sweater bag.

All stockings, irrespective of material, should be darned with darning silk. Not only does it make a neater darn, but it wears better and does not hurt the foot.

To mend a glove that is split at the thumb or near a seam, buttonhole the kid either side of the split and then sew the button-holed edges together. The result will be a new firm seam that will never tear again. When buttonholing take a good hold, otherwise the stitches will pull out from the kid.

## SASH THE CROWNING GLORY

### Colorful Addition to Little Girl's Dress is Pleasing, Appropriate and Decorative.

The frock itself was very pretty, just the thing for a little girl to wear to a party. It was made of a soft yellow silk or georgette crepe, a straight, full, high-waisted little gown, with short, full sleeves. The round neck and the sleeves were finished off with a soft frill about two inches wide, of delicate, filmy lace. But it was the sash that gave the crowning glory to the dress. It reminded one of a rainbow, even though it did not show all the rainbow colors. Soft satin ribbon was the material, put together in folds, measuring one-half, or, perhaps, three-quarters of an inch in width. The upper was a dainty pink, next came an old rose, after that light blue, canary yellow and, lastly, a lovely shade of lavender. Altogether these five delicate colors in the soft, satin ribbons made just the right sort of a sash to set off such a simple, dainty little gown and the ends of the vari-colored ribbons, flying loose, reminded one of the quaint old May day festivities of "Merrie England."

## WORTH-WHILE FASHION TIPS

### Hints About Colors, Hats, Blouses, Fabrics, Lingerie, and Styles of Interest to Women.

The latest lingerie is the simplest. Trench tan is one of the new colors. Brims turn up on many of the spring hats.

Black jet is effectively used on blue serge. Kiddies will wear small hats in the spring.

Lingerie blouses will be very important for spring. Rather stiff ornaments are used on the new millinery.

Smart wraps are actually being made of jersey cloth. Dull and brilliant black are combined in smart frocks.

Poinsettia scarlet is one of the shades used for children. It is to be a season of sports clothes for young women.

Pompadour silks for evening are made up with tight skirts.

## MOLESKIN AND SILK JERSEY

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## IN SMART CLOTHES

### Women Given Chance in American-Made Cloth Costume.

Mildly, if Rushed for Time, and Dresses Carelessly, Cannot Adept, Without Working Injury to Herself.

The American woman is given a chance to look extremely smart in her American-made cloth costume. If she has the ability to live up to the part assigned her by the designers. However, observes a fashion writer, it gives one a sinking feeling, after looking at a few dozens of remarkably good tailored frocks and suits designed here, that no woman who is rushed for time and dresses carelessly can adopt these clothes without working injury to herself.

Those who do not care to give a single extra moment to their dressing, heaved a sigh of relief when they realized that the straight cloth skirt and simple jacket would be considered exceedingly smart for the tea working hours of the day. But I think the sigh of relief was premature. The woman who wants to tumble into a comfortable skirt and slip on a loose jacket with a white shirtwaist, will not have her wish gratified this season, if she expects to remain in the fashion.

Skirts are not especially comfortable to the careless women, because they must be slimly cut and narrow at the hem, and they are really intended for slim women. Jackets are not loose, and they cannot be carelessly adjusted. They have narrow shoulders, tight armholes, long sleeves, slim underarm lines, and they need to be adjusted over a figure that is properly dressed from the skin up.

It is said that all the corsets and lingerie had to be changed to correspond with the new costumes, and one can well believe it. If one's outer garment is to be cut after the silhouette of a pencil, there can be no comfort to the wearer unless the corset and the lingerie are correspondingly cut. There must be no gathers at the hips, no rough lines at the waist, no fullness across the bust, no bunging at the armholes caused by undershirts or chemises. The woman who is about to step into one of these new and accepted tailored suits or gowns, must be as shipshape as a race horse going to the track. There must not be one unnecessary ounce of clothing on her, nor a single curve or bulge or bit of massed material from neck to heels. Unless she learns that lesson and learns it thoroughly, she may as well pass by the new American and French clothes and wear the loose, full ones of a year ago.

## EXERCISE OF GREAT VALUE

### Twisting Motions, Accompanied by Massaging, Will Help to Gain That Coveted Shapeliness.

How many of us sigh over our unshapely ankles! Yet if the trouble is not caused by misshapen bones we can do a great deal to alter what distresses us, states an authority. Exercise and massage will accomplish miracles if adhered to regularly and faithfully.

In routine, rather than in spasmodic treatment, lies the secret of success in any beautifying method.

The same exercises that reduce flesh will increase it provided that they are done severely in the former case and lightly in the latter.

For flesh is to be pulled off in one instance and in the other developed. Remove the shoes and stockings and, sitting down, cross the knees so that one foot is raised from the floor with no support beneath it.

Move this foot with a twisting motion from the ankle and then slowly bend it up and down, letting all the work be done from the ankle bone.

When one foot grows tired, repeat it with the other. Then, standing and bearing the weight upon the heels, turn the feet from side to side and slowly rise up and down upon the toes.

After ten minutes' work plunge the feet and ankles into a comfortably hot bath and leave them there for five to ten minutes.

## MUSHROOM HAT APPEARS



The mushroom type of hat, that bears so striking a resemblance to the hats the coolie boatmen of the Chinese rivers wear, is back again in style. This smart hat is fashioned of flame-colored straw. The brim is set low in front, and tilted high on the crown in the back.