

The Round-Up

By ROBERT W. CRBEL

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How he came to be braking on the C. I. W. it would be impossible to say. It is doubtful if Legs Brown himself knew. He was a boomer brakeman, and, as such, he traveled by no schedule whatever. To ordinarily find him at any given time, you might inquire on any railway division in America with an equal chance of success.

He reminded you of that insect whose amiable disposition and attenuated appearance have won for it the sobriquet of "grand-daddy-long-legs." Hence, Brown's own nickname. Notwithstanding his fragile proportions, however, when occasion arose he could wield his huge fists with force sufficient to fracture a jaw-bone or drive a man's ear into the side of his head—a fact that had been demonstrated to the sorrow of more than one belligerent hobo.

As the long train of flat cars writhed in and out among the sand hills, Brown, stationed a short distance ahead of the caboose, was the only person visible.

At the last stop, Murphy, the conductor, had received a telegram warning him to be prepared for an attack when they entered Sandville. A large number of hoboes were gathered there and had taken possession of the town, explaining to the unhappy citizens the necessity of majority rule, if the republican form of government was to be maintained in the land.

Previous experience similar to this had detracted from the novelty of the situation for the few inhabitants of Sandville; but the hoboes were becoming bolder, and spoke of capturing the next train that came thither for the purpose of making their escape. Whereupon the station agent had grown alarmed and sent the telegram.

Among his other characteristics, Brown was intensely loyal to the road that chanced to employ him. Any action such as that contemplated by the hoboes was resented as a personal affront. Furthermore, at this particular time he knew that the president of the road was but a few hours behind in his special, and Brown deemed it his duty to do all in his power to prevent any unpleasantness when the great man should arrive.

Therefore as they drew near the little hamlet he returned to the caboose and conferred with the conductor.

"They's no use runnin' clear in, Jim. You better stop on the edge of this here metropolis while I go in an' reconnoiter the force of the enemy, as they say in the army."

"I wouldn't advise you to go alone, Legs. You can't tell what those hoes'll do if they're drunk."

"Why, Jim, you know them fellers 're like sheep. The only reason I can see for 'em actin' like this is because they got a leader. If that's the case, all I got to do is sling him around like he didn't cost much, an' that'll take the fight right out of 'em. Besides, if a bunch of us go in, they'll git ready for trouble."

"All right, you can go while we stop for water. That'll give you time to see what they're up to."

So it was that, on foot and unaccompanied, Legs Brown ambled into the captured town. He had no doubt as to the location of the triumphant hoboes, for, though it was now almost dark, the only place that showed a light was the saloon, and to this he directed his steps.

At the bar stood a swarthy, well-set fellow, whose curly hair and high cheek-bones, together with the peculiar formation of his head, marked him as a native of Poland. This worthy was the most boisterous of the lot, but Brown thought it hardly likely that he was the leader, giving him scant attention, therefore, as he strode forward and ordered a drink.

"Here, ye rube, ye better ask me fer what ye want, 'r I'll break ye in two," said the tramp aggressively, pausing in the act of raising a glass to his lips.

Brown, reaching for his own drink, seemed not to hear the words, but his prodigious foot, as if released from a spring, suddenly swept up, and, striking the other's hand, threw the glass, with its contents, into his scowling face.

A storm of laughter arose from the onlookers, who swore, with mighty oaths, that it was the funniest thing they had ever seen. The victim, however, laughed not at all, but bellowed with rage and pain as the fiery liquid seared his eyes, and repeatedly yelled for Brown to come near.

Not desirous of being masticated, nor yet willing to move out of the way of the Pole, who was blindly groping for him, Brown chose the only alternative, and smote him squarely between the eyes, so that he crumpled up on the floor. Then, turning to the man's comrades, he broached the business of the evening.

"I want to tell you dirty huns that I'm going to take charge of this here city government from now till I leave. If any of you've got anything to say, why, you can step up and say it. You might be able to bluff these poor devils that live here, but I've seen too many hoes not to know what you're made of. You're all under arrest, an' the first man that moves'll get plugged." The brakeman placed a hand in his hip-pocket, which, by the way, held nothing but his red bandanna handkerchief.

"Now, I want to see the man that's at the head of this outfit. Who put you up to this job?"

Following a sound of shuffling footsteps, the illustrious leader himself appeared in the doorway. Bully Hackett's visage was one of those which the worst dreams are made. While it was rendered somewhat vacant by the absence of his nose, one of his eyes, and the major portion of his upper lip—unwilling sacrifices to the god of war—his expression lost none of its ferocity on that account, and his shaggy hair and beard gave him a look that was scarcely human.

Mr. Hackett had been engaged on a private foraging expedition, and knew nothing of the happenings within the saloon, nor saw the brakeman, as he came toward the bar.

"Wot's the matter?" he inquired savagely. "Didn't ye see that freight pull in?"

By way of attracting his attention, Brown struck him smartly on the part of his face formerly occupied by his nose.

"Yes, an' she'll lay there till she rots. If she waits fer you to take her out. By the time I git through with you, you'll be ready to crawl in your hole," said the brakeman. He had seen the train crew gathered in the shadows outside the door and now had little to fear from the other hoboes.

"Better take off your coat, because I'm not a-goin' to knock you out. I'll make you quit like a dog, so the rest of these gent's'll see what you are," stated Brown, removing his own outer garment.

Hackett waited not for further advice, but lashed out so viciously with his right arm that Brown was taken unawares, and, had it not been for the bar at his back, he would have gone down ignominiously. Even so, he was in an evil plight, for the tramp, seeing his opportunity, rushed in, raining blows on the face and body of his opponent.

Then, indeed, did it seem that the brakeman had been overconfident in his boasting. The other hoboes shouting encouragement to their champion, and the train crew were only restrained from joining in the fight by the conductor, who continued to voice his belief in Brown's prowess.

Veteran of a hundred battles, Brown's first move was to stop the falling arms. This he did by the simple expedient of twining his own about them. Gradually, with the apparent sinuosity of a boa constrictor, he wrapped his limbs about those of the other, and for a moment lifted his own feet clear of the floor, making Hackett support the weight of both their bodies. Then, unmindful of his struggles, Brown as carefully freed himself, sending the hobo backward with a solid jolt on the spot where his first blow had landed.

Brown was intent on proving a theory that he had long held, namely, that a man, though inwardly a coward, may fight with seeming bravery so long as the blows of his adversary have not the appearance of being well judged or aimed with accuracy; but that a succession of blows, however light, on a sensitive spot will make him quit if he has the least vestige of a yellow streak.

During the next few minutes, so fiercely did Hackett assail him that the brakeman was almost entirely on the defensive. More than once he felt the impact of the tramp's horny fist on his face, but he still held to his purpose. When the opening offered, his hand flashed out, striking with invariable precision the spot he had selected for his attack.

Hackett manifested his displeasure at this mode of warfare, evidently thinking that Brown acted dishonorably in profiting by the absence of his nasal feature.

For a long time they fought, neither gaining the advantage. Brown was bleeding freely from the mouth, and one eye was fast swelling shut; but his antagonist was also badly bruised, the remnant of his nose being quite raw. Of the two, Hackett seemed the more fatigued. Excessive drinking had made him short-winded, and he breathed heavily. The brakeman now began to force the fighting, striking more often in the same spot. Hackett gave ground and once he glanced back, as if seeking a way of escape.

"Stand up an' fight, why don't you?" panted Brown. "You claim to be the champion bo. Well, I ain't no kind of a champion, an' here you're tryin' to quit before I git warmed up. What kind of fightin' do you call that? Come on an' mix it a little."

But Hackett had had enough. His spirit was gone, and he slunk back into the crowd, whimpering.

"Stop 'im, boys; stop 'im," he pleaded. "My heavens, my mug's broke in! I can't fight no more."

"You don't need to be scared. I'm satisfied," answered Brown. "I knew you was a quitter the minute I seen you, an' I wanted to show you up, so you couldn't lend these dubs into no more deviltry. What'll we do with 'em, Jim?" he asked, turning to the conductor.

"The best thing will be to lock 'em in a box car an' hand 'em over to the sheriff at Rennington," replied Murphy, who was guarding the door.

From the dark recesses of the caboose he had brought forth an old revolver. With it to uphold his authority, the erstwhile conquerors were placed in line and marched to the waiting train, escorted by the crew.

To Brown, this closed the incident. He marveled greatly, therefore, when there came a commendatory letter from the company's chief executive, together with a small package, which, on examination, was found to contain a gold watch.

"That business must've leaked out some way or other," he remarked thoughtfully.

PLACES READJUSTMENT DATA AT COMMAND OF BUSINESS WORLD

Research Division of the Council of National Defense Offers All Its Facilities to Aid in Reorganization of Industry and Resumption of Trade—Burden of Reconstruction Must Fall on Industry.

Washington—The council of national defense announces its readiness to place at the command of the business world the information contained in the voluminous collection of data brought together, classified, indexed, and partly digested by its reconstruction research division. It also offers the services of this division in the procurement of such further special information as may be desired and which may aid in the reorganization of industry and the resumption of trade, or which may in any other manner promote progress in the reconstruction.

Just what the information here offered consists of may be indicated best by reference to some of its sources and by mention of a few subjects under which the material is subclassified:

Official Information—The division has undertaken to chart all the federal official bodies that have a point of contact with demobilization or reconstruction, and to possess first-hand, up-to-date information as to accomplishments and plans of each such body or bureau. Furthermore, through its "field service," branching out into 184,000 state, county, and community organizations, including some 1,000 women's units, the division is enabled to maintain direct contact with every sort of state and local reconstruction activity in the land. A digest is kept of state reconstruction news.

Foreign Reconstruction—The division has access to every important report of foreign reconstruction activity, proposed or accomplished, that reaches this country.

Domestic Business Background—The division has official contact with all the war administration boards, bureaus, and investigation commission, as well as with the federal departments themselves. Thus it has access to a great deal of statistical and other unpublished information, ranging all the way from domestic prices data and production estimates, wage data, labor supply problems; to notes on foreign production, the foreign labor and emigration situation, foreign market conditions, and finance. The division has access to which industries and which sections of our country are picking up and making their reconstruction readjustments the more promisingly. Of course such a range of information, covering physical resources and available goods, the money and credit outlook, relative price and price tendencies, foreign prospects, and the trend of actual business development as represented by reports of current projects and undertakings throughout the United States—such a survey must tend to yield more reliable impressions as to what the future may be expected to bring than can be derived from the more restricted basis of judgment of the average business group.

Devices of Clipping Bureaus. Public Opinion and General Information—The division has its own clipping bureau, supplemented by the service of the chief commercial clipping bureaus. Thus it is enabled to sift practically everything in public print that has a bearing upon any phase of reconstruction. All this material is classified, indexed, and made ready for reference. The industrial or financial organization or trade paper that chooses to tap this resource will no doubt find unexpected stores of information. From the siftings of its incoming information the division issues a daily digest of reconstruction news, intended primarily for the use of the council and government bureaus, but available also to other institutions whose relations to reconstruction problems are such as to entitle them to the service.

In thus proposing to extend its service, the council opens to the business public probably the largest and most complete assembly of up-to-the-minute reconstruction information in existence. The undertaking also implies the proffer to industry and commerce

of the services of an organization that for many months has been establishing connections and perfecting facilities for the securing of every sort of vital information at the earliest possible moment it is available. Through the fact that the council of national defense itself consists of six secretaries of administrative departments of the government, and by virtue of the further fact that for more than two years the council has been engaged in the closest co-operation with national, state, and local agencies of private as well as public bodies, the reconstruction research division has been from its inception possessed of invaluable contacts in all directions.

The material and staff now placed at the service of business was originally intended primarily for governmental use, and they will, of course, continue to function as the governmental clearing house of reconstruction information. The beginning of the council's researches into reconstruction and readjustment matters in this and foreign countries followed upon a memorandum addressed to the six cabinet members forming the council by Grosvenor B. Clarkson, its director, on May 6, 1918. The president of the United States received a copy of this memorandum, and shortly afterward authorized the council to begin its studies.

In the memorandum in question Mr. Clarkson, after defining the prime problem as being that of industrial reconstruction—in broad terms, the reconversion of industry from the war basis back to the peace-time basis and the reabsorption into industry of the labor employed in the service of the United States—said:

"It is elementary that after the war America will not be the same America. Already she has in many directions broken with her past and she is being hourly transformed. The metamorphosis is going on as much in the thought of the country as it is in the structure; the same thing will be true in the period after the war. New conditions and relationships create new problems for nations as well as for individuals; and, let me add, the change will be as great in the thought and ideals of the nation as it will be in its strictly material problems, whether these be military, commercial, or those having to do with labor."

"Let us grant that we shall gain military success. Let us then not fall into the danger-trap of allowing the material effects of such success to overshadow consideration of the higher values which give a nation its life. The civilized world today, as we know that world, may be said to be one great altar of sacrifice. If that is not true now, it certainly will be true if the war continues for another year. It is our duty in any adequate intellectual conception of the task to see to it that the gains to the moral as well as the material well-being of the nation shall square with the sacrifice. A little reflection will convince one that this aspect of reconstruction is the fundamental aspect and that upon it must be predicated all successful plans in this direction."

"A year ago we were a great, lazy democracy. Lincoln said, 'A fat hound won't hunt.' That sentence illumined our national disease. The transformation from that condition is already under way. Soon the spirit of the nation will be a burning flame. There will be sloughed off the scales fostered by a love of luxury and the loose and boastful thinking that have been our curse in the last generation. Out of the turmoil and the sacrifice will come discipline and orderly living and thinking; and, therefore, with sequential and irresistible logic will come demands for new conditions of living commensurate to the new ideals. Again I repeat, here is the fundamental reconstruction to which the American government should address itself, and only herein can be found the policy which shall be the groundwork of any

enlightened organization for reconstruction.

"History records but few fruitful governmental agencies that did not have a firm and penetrating quality at the base. Raising the framework for the task is merely a matter of mechanics in organization. . . . In the meantime the council and advisory commission should accumulate all of the literature bearing upon this question and form it into a working library."

"It may be that as the war nears its end and as the issue between autocracy and democracy becomes ever sharper and more terrible, the civilized world will demand that immediately at the war's close all reconstruction of the world's affairs be based upon the dictum of Lincoln that no man is good enough to govern any other man without that other man's consent, to the end of approaching the proper readjustment of national, international, and racial relationships. I offer this, though, not for the purpose of injecting idealism in a discussion where undue accent of it does not belong, but to emphasize anew that none of us can see the end of the road and that therefore all plans for reconstruction should be built so as to permit of flexibility of action and even of minor policy at any given time. The main thing now is to come to concrete thinking and study of the entire problem."

Director Clarkson immediately began the organization of a staff of experts, including O. M. W. Sprague, professor of finance and banking at Harvard, and Herbert N. Shenton of Columbia. Out of this staff work grew the reconstruction research division, which was organized on February 3, 1919, with Mr. Shenton as its chief.

"The reconstruction research division," said Charles H. Chase, a member, "has come to feel more and more, as the reconstruction has progressed, that its information service should be made available to the leaders of private enterprise, just as it is made responsive to the needs of governmental agencies. The problems and responsibilities of reconstruction tend, as time goes on, to fall more and more heavily upon the shoulders of business and relatively less upon governmental machinery. Of the two grand divisions of reconstruction, demobilization and reorganization, the former belongs chiefly to the government and the latter devolves mainly upon private enterprise. The former tends steadily toward its conclusion; the latter broadens into the foundation of an indefinitely expanding future. And though the government has, and will continue to have important responsibilities in connection with the economic reorganization of the nation, it must be acknowledged that those who are to deal with these problems hand-to-hand are the directors of business undertakings."

"It must be recognized, also, that we have come out upon a new world, in a sense, in emerging from the world war. Our industrial and commercial reorganization must be effected under conditions that have undergone considerable alteration during the struggle. Not only price levels, but price ratios also, have been changed, and in many cases permanently so. New industries have arisen; markets have been altered; international economic relations are modified; means of transportation and communication have been partially revolutionized; but nothing has undergone greater change than our social viewpoint, and especially the viewpoint of labor. There are new opportunities and new and promising outlooks, but they are not quite like those of pre-war times. The chessboard has been shaken; some of the chessmen have disappeared, while several others have been moved forward or backward a little."

"Not only have purely business factors altered, but new duties have arisen—the social responsibility of the business enterprise has become a much more serious matter than it used to be. In the light of world developments it is obvious that our business system must prove its resourcefulness; it must demonstrate hitherto unrevealed capacity for readjustment; it must show a disposition to meet and satisfy certain species of expectation which have gained recognition during the war and can no longer be unceremoniously ignored or suppressed. As Secretary Redfield says: 'We cannot be a law unto ourselves any more.' General and continuous prosperity must be underwritten and guaranteed, if our institutions are to avoid the risk of a trial at the bar of public discontent. Rules of thumb are liable to prove inadequate in this period of readjustment. Nothing short of alert open-mindedness, reinforced by possession of the fullest available information, will serve. In view of these facts the business world is entitled to the fullest measure of assistance that governmental agencies are prepared to render it. It is in the spirit of that principle that the files of the council's reconstruction research division are now thrown open to the business public."

Inquiries may be made by written communication, by telephone, or by personal representative. Requests should be addressed to the Reconstruction Research Division, Council of National Defense, 18th and D streets, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Horticultural News

SUCCESS IN GROWING DATES

Process of Ripening Fruit and Method of Rooting Offshoots Makes Culture Possible.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Date growing in parts of the United States now gives promise of commercial success as a result of work conducted by the United States department of agriculture to overcome obstacles that for years have stood in the way of their successful culture. Two factors were largely responsible for making date growing doubtful—the difficulty experienced in ripening the fruits, and failure of many attempts to root offshoots of desirable varieties. For the study of date culture—varieties, propagation and curing—two experimental date orchards were established in California where a large number of the best date varieties of the old world have been tested. In 1910 a slow-maturing process of ripening the fruit of the Deglet Noor variety was discovered, which gave assurance of successful production in areas of high temperature adapted to the culture of dates of good quality. The problem of rooting offshoots has now been worked out and no longer offers unusual difficulties.

Date palms are propagated either by seed or by offshoots, and no other method is known. Seed may be planted from the best varieties, but there is no assurance to the grower that he will get a large percentage of commercial dates. The offshoot of the date palm is a bud at the axil of the leaf; hence it is a direct product of the growing stem and in variety the same as the parent plant.

The only thoroughly satisfactory method yet devised for rooting young date offshoots consists in the use of a heavily manured nursery bed with a cloth-covered frame or shed so constructed as to give maximum heat and humidity. Water must be applied in ample and regular quantities.

Frequent irrigation and the maintenance of a high degree of soil fertility by the use of manure, mulches and cover crops are essential to healthy growth and to the production of fruit in paying quantities. First-class dates suitable for market can be produced only on soils in a high condition of fertility and tilth. This condition is most readily maintained on a well-drained sandy loam. Heavy soils need special attention to insure the proper penetration of the roots and distribution of water.

The pruning of bearing palms should consist merely in the removal of old leaves, up to the fruit stem of the former crop. Young palms should not be allowed to produce heavy crops of fruit, as this would be done at the expense of offshoot growth. At the present stage of the industry the production of offshoots of proved varieties is of paramount importance.

LADDER USEFUL IN ORCHARD

One Shown in Illustration Is Particularly Adapted for Use Between Top Branches.

The orchard ladder illustrated has the upper portion narrowed to permit of its insertion between branches, and with the base of the ladder broadened



Handy Orchard Ladder.

to give it a firm footing. An extensible leg makes it possible to use the ladder on a side hill where it would be difficult or impossible to use the ordinary ladder. The ladder stands independently, despite any incline of the ground, the third leg or prop member also being extensible.

BEST PREPARATION OF SOIL

Thorough Work in Orchard Will Prove as Profitable as in Garden With Vegetables.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

If the prospective home orchardist prepares the soil where his fruits are to stand thoroughly as he does his garden before planting vegetable seeds, the subsequent rapid growth of his fruit trees will amply repay him.

GOOD TREES FOR HOME YARD

Dwarf Apple and Pear Particularly Good Where Space Is Too Small for Standards.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Dwarf apple and pear trees have their place in the home garden or yard, especially under intensive methods of culture, where the space is too small to admit readily of the development of standard trees.

HUN MAIL CAR IS USED BY THE A. E. F.



This mail car, a trophy of war, surrendered by the Germans to the Americans, is now in the service between Paris and Coblenz, carrying correspondence for the Yanks of the American army of occupation in Germany.