

LORD OF THE DESERT

By PAUL de LANEY.

CHAPTER XXI.

A Weasel Captive.

"What's up there? Surrender upon your lives!"

The combat between Hammersley and Follett had reached a point at which one or the other must soon yield. The trapper, fighting on the defensive, fought desperately, having released his grasp upon the Canadian's throat and drawn his knife. But the half-breed was more desperate. With the Lord of the Desert now his enemy, his only hope was in rendering such service for Egan that the latter would accept him into his band of marauders, a life that he really coveted. When the trapper released his throat he seized the trapper's hand as it drew the knife from the sheath and, now on equal terms, struggled desperately.

The right hand of each clasped an ugly knife, while the left of each held the other's right wrist with a vice-like grip. It was now a question of strength and physical endurance. The one who first weakened would forfeit his life! The trapper would not take life wantonly, but would take it if necessary, and now stirred to his utmost only waited the opportunity to plunge his weapon into the heart of his antagonist's breast.

Time and again a half-triumphant smile passed over the dark face of the half-breed as he thought he saw the trapper weakening. It was a battle royal. Neither of these men had ever been defeated in single combat. One had fought with the fiercest animals of the desert, and the other had battled with the blood-thirstiest of men. Both in the prime of life and possessing unflinching courage, such an encounter would have been a prize-winner in the arena of old.

A cat-like movement of the half-breed and the trapper dropped to his knees. A sudden lurch and a smile came over the face of the Canadian as he thought the battle was about to end. His favor! But the trapper was as firm as the deep-set rock about him. He rose and backed him.

He held the bones fairly ground together, he began slowly to force the point of his knife to the Canadian's breast as the latter began to weaken and give way. It was then that the shout: "What's up there?—surrender upon your lives!" came.

General Crook and a squad of picked scouts had been out on a reconnoitering expedition, and while on their return to the fort had come upon the combatants, who were too busily engaged to hear them approach. There was but one thing to do and that was to order them. Each was tempted to explain himself, but the stern old soldier ordered them "forward!" and told them they could explain at the fort.

It was after midnight when they reached the fort. General Crook had the two prisoners brought to his quarters. The half-breed succeeded in getting the general's ear first. He explained that Martin Lyle, known as the Lord of the Desert, was besieged in his home by a large band of Indians and that he had escaped through their lines and was on his way to the fort to ask for relief when he was assailed from the roadside by the trapper.

Hammersley was non-plussed. It came his turn to explain, but being a man of reserve he did not know how to meet a liar. But he related his story in a straightforward manner without comment, and remembering the message from the Lord of the Desert, he drew it forth and handed it to the general.

"Both stories seem to be straight," said General Crook. "But No. 1 is dark enough to have Indian blood in him and this being the case the burden of proof is cast upon him. But you may put them both in safe-keeping until morning and we will take them along with us to the 'Stone House' they tell about and let this 'Lord of the Desert' identify his messenger."

Immediately upon the departure of the guard with the prisoners, General Crook gave orders for the preparation of ten days' rations for one company of soldiers, and ordered the march to begin at daybreak the next morning.

Shortly after the departure of the guard and the prisoners the shout "halt!" then a gunshot, followed by several others, was heard.

"What means that?" asked the general of his staff officer as he rushed to the door.

"In a few minutes a strong guard appeared with Dan Follett, a stalwart soldier on either side of the Canadian holding him fast."

"What does this mean?" inquired General Crook.

"Just as we had unlocked the door of the guardhouse," replied the officer with a salute, "this prisoner drew a knife like a flash, stabbed the nearest guard and made a break for liberty, and had he not run into the arms of a detachment of soldiers who were on their way to bed, he would have made good his escape."

"Search him to the skin, place him in irons and release the other prisoner!" promptly ordered the general. "I might have known that that Indian was a liar!" said the old warrior to himself.

The general was about half-dressed and was hurrying to bed in order to get a little sleep before the early morning march when he was disturbed again. An officer was admitted who had long been on the general's staff and who, with a familiarity with which such association countenances, said: "We searched the prisoner and here is what we found next to his skin: at the same time producing a belt with a bag attached to it."

General Crook opened the bag and, to his astonishment, found the \$10,000 therein.

"Well, if this don't beat me!" said the old veteran. "An Indian is the most incomprehensible being on earth. Where on earth did he get this money? What on earth was he going to do with it? If this ain't a puzzle! Send for his companion—or rather the man whom we brought here with him."

Hammersley was sent for and again told his story, not varying one point. "Has anyone in that country great wealth?" inquired General Crook.

"The Lord of the Desert is supposed to be very rich," replied the trapper.

"You say he and the 'Lord' are friends?" queried the officer.

"Yes, in crimes and damnable deeds," replied the trapper.

"What do you know?" asked General Crook.

"I know a great deal, General," replied the trapper. "It is a long story, and some of it is yet unfinished," he continued, "but when we reach the Stone House I hope to enlighten you."

General Crook then informed the trapper of the finding of the money on the person of Follett.

"I think I understand it now," said Hammersley, after hearing this. "Follett—that is the half-breed's name—knew that I had been requested to come to you and for some reason he decided to intercept me and prevent your learning of the predicament of the Lord of the Desert. He may have fallen out. He simply robbed the Lord of the Desert, and intended, after killing me, to make his escape. I can explain it in no other way. Before attacking me with his knife he must have attempted to shoot me, for I am sure I heard the snap of a revolver hammer or that of a gun."

"Here are his weapons," said one of the officers, and upon examination it was found that the hammer of one of the revolvers rested on a percussion cap that had failed to explode, though its battered condition showed that an attempt had been made to fire it.

"Guard him close and see that he is kept here until my return," commanded the general, as he dismissed those present and placed the bag of money in the iron depository of the command.

Long before the dawn of day the soldiers were astir. Everything was in preparation for the march.

General Crook and his officers were not to be varied to a hair's breadth in any detail. At dawn of day the company moved out with General Crook and his staff in the lead, and Hammersley as chief guide and scout. It was the purpose to march by day for two days and then to change the march to night time, so as not to be detected by the Indians in the vicinity of the Stone House.

It was also planned to reach that point between midnight and dawn, and attack the Indians at dawn. After the departure of one company from a small garrisoned fort, the place looked deserted. The post had been only recently established, and most of the men were kept busy constructing the buildings about the fort. Many of them were in the mountains throughout the day securing timbers for the buildings, while the hammers about the fort reminded one of the building of a new town.

Even the guardhouse was a crude affair, hurriedly thrown together to imprison refractory soldiers. Follett began planning early to escape. He saw that if once freed from the irons on his legs, that he could break his way through the roof at night and get away unobserved.

When the last meal was brought that night he implored the soldier to assist him in removing the irons, but the soldier had no sympathy for him. Although the wounded guard was only slightly injured, there was not a soldier in the fort that was not prejudiced against the man who had made the knife thrust.

But there was a certain pluck that seems always to attend the wicked and the daring for a certain length of time. Loophole after loophole is offered them for escape, and opportunity after opportunity for reform. The case of Dan Follett was no exception.

Upon testing the locks of the irons which bound his ankles he discovered that one had failed to lock, and it was easy to draw forth the bolt and likewise release one limb. With one limb free he tied the loose end of the shackle to the belt at his waist, and when all was quiet in the fort he silently removed the shackle at the corner of the roof and climbed out and stole away like a cat.

Once among the rocks of the desert, he pounded the remaining lock into pieces and was soon walking as free as before he fell into the hands of the soldiers.

Fortune still favored him farther. He found his stolen Indian pony still left fast in the gulch, where he had left it the night of his capture, and, mounting the animal, he rode away. Like the villain on the stage, he exclaimed:

"Now for a ride night and day! I will beat General Crook and his men to the Stone House and warn Egan of his danger, and we will away to the lava beds, and from that point continue to harass Uncle Sam and his subjects to the end of our lives! Hammersley, 'the trapper,' and Lyle, 'the Lord of the Desert,' you may yet fall into the clutches of the half-breed!"

CHAPTER XXII.

Crucial Revenge.

The siege is nearing a crisis at the Stone House. Almost a week has passed since the arrival of Egan and his braves. He has been reinforced almost daily, until the plain swarms with savages. His last reinforcements arrived at nightfall, and the morning is set apart to determine the long-drawn-out struggle.

The Lord of the Desert has truly risen to the desperate man that he is. Without sleep night or day, he has kept his enemy at bay. His best marksmen have been kept at the loopholes and a standing reward of \$50 for every fatal shot fired has been offered, with a discount of \$10 for every wasted load of ammunition. The results have been astounding. Nearly every bullet that has been sent forth has found a victim. Once, twice, thrice, four, five times have the Indians been repulsed by the wonderful marksmanship of the cowboy. It seemed impossible to reach the stone wall, so fatal were the shafts of lead.

Tunneling had been attempted, but the rocks, so numerous a few feet beneath the soil, made this impossible at every point. The impatience of Old Egan grew beyond control. At nightfall he had called a council

of the chiefs. He determined to end the siege. "Tomorrow," he said, "when the morning star begins to fade, I will lead my men over the stone wall! We will capture the 'White Grizzly' and his cubs, and my men may put them to torture! We will divide the bravest warriors, and shot among the bravest warriors, and his wealth shall go to the chiefs who are the first to cross the wall. Then we will drive away his cattle and his horses to our villages, and the hungry squaws and children shall feast!"

In the quiet preparation for the morning attack an unusual silence pervaded the place. The Lord of the Desert was the more watchful. He had long been taught that Indian silence was not a sign of inactivity. He cast many glances in the direction of the fort, as he had done for the past day and night. It was high time that assistance should arrive.

He sometimes doubted. Was the trapper absent from home? Could it be possible that he had refused to go his errand? He knew that the trapper could be depended upon in all cases of humanity, but his guilty conscience told him that he did not merit aid from any human hand. What had become of Dan Follett? Oh, he was merely sulking in some safe retreat—perhaps doing him a service in some way! "Dan will show up, he'll show up! I can always count on Dan showing up!" claimed the Lord of the Desert, half audibly.

The Lord of the Desert had not thought of looking after the safety of his treasure for all these days, or perhaps he would not have thought so favorably of Dan, and confided so earnestly in his "showing up."

But Dan Follett "showed up." Not as the friend of the besieged of the Stone House, but to warn Egan and his followers of their danger.

It was nearly midnight when he arrived, for he had been compelled to travel a long distance since night-fall to arrive ahead of General Crook and his command. He had passed them during the day, by shadowing them from behind the rimrocks, but after the plain was reached between the rimrocks and the Stone House he was compelled to secrete himself until night to prevent them from seeing him.

He knew that Crook's men would arrive at the Stone House between

midnight and dawn, and his orders were not to be varied to a hair's breadth in any detail.

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The Central Federated Union of New York sent a communication to the Board of Aldermen asking them to have the commissioner of public works insert a clause that only members of trades unions be employed. The board passed a resolution to that effect, but the law department rendered an opinion that it is class legislation and cannot be enforced.

Labor papers in the Northwest report that the Great Northern Railway will replace its Japanese workmen throughout the Western States with European labor, and that the change will be made as soon as practicable. The railway company is understood to have found the work of the brown men unprofitable, and the change is in the nature of an experiment.

Arrangements have been made by the United Railways and Electric Company of Baltimore, Md., to insure the lives of the 3,000 conductors and motormen in its employ. In case of fatal accident \$1,000 is to be paid to the representatives of the victim. The company is to pay the entire cost, but the men must accept this proposition as a settlement of any claim against the company.

The National Manufacturers' Association has sent out confidential circulars to its members asking them to fight the movement of the labor unions for the eight-hour workday, claiming that the shorter workday is revolutionary. According to the circular, committees will be named to bring the matter to the attention of the next Congress to prevent the enactment of such a law in that body.

RESUME OF THE YEAR

1902'S RECORD OF PROSPERITY AND DISASTER.

There Have Been Volcanic Eruptions, Wars, Conflagrations and Explosions—Large Death Lists—And Still Times Have Been Good.

Though most of the civilized world has enjoyed a continuance of the reign of mutual prosperity which began in 1901, it is undeniable that the year 1902 has made a woful record in the way of disaster and destruction of human life. The eruption of Mount Pelee, Martinique, May 8, may be given pre-eminence as the most disastrous occurrence of several decades, and its destructive work was supplemented by many costly conflagrations, especially during the early months of the year, and a number of deadly explosions.

Many noted persons have passed into the beyond since Jan. 1, 1902, among them being Cecil Rhodes, Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage, Gen. Wade Hampton, Frank R. Stockton, J. Sterling Morton, Sol Smith Russell, Bret Harte, Rear Admiral William T. Sampson, Lord Pauncefoot, Gen. Francis Sigel, Edward Eggleston, Justice Horace Gray, Marie Henriette, Queen of Belgium, Emile Zola, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Herr Krupp, Thomas H. Reed and Mrs. U. S. Grant.

The year has seen Edward VII. crowned King of England, after a delay of several weeks beyond the date originally appointed, on account of a necessary surgical operation upon the royal person; has witnessed the ending of the Boer war in South Africa, and the beginning of an international disagreement in which Venezuela, South Africa, is the storm center; during its last month that great engineering work, the Nile dam at Assouan, has been opened; it has given Cuba its first President under the new regime; and will be remembered also as the year during which occurred the extensive labor troubles in the Pennsylvania anthracite regions, from the consequences of which we are not yet relieved.

Events of the Year.

JANUARY.
1. Thomas H. Reed elected President of Cuba. President Roosevelt holds brilliant reception.
2. Passenger steamer Walla Walla sank near Cape Mendocino by unknown cause.

3. Congress reassembles.
4. Seventeen men killed by cave-in in mine at Negaunee, Mich.
5. Fatal accident to New York Central train in New York City causes 13 deaths.
6. Failure of Euclid Avenue Trust and Savings Co. of Cleveland.
7. Seven lives lost in fire in Buffalo, N. Y.
8. Second failure of George H. Phillips, formerly called "the Iron King."
9. J. B. Forsaker elected Senator from Ohio.
10. Arthur P. Gorman from Maryland and J. B. McCreary from Kentucky.
11. A. H. Cummins inaugurated Governor of Iowa.
12. Earthquake kills 300 people at Chihuahua, Mexico.
13. Death of Sir John Ashmead Bartlett, English political leader.
14. Four buildings collapse in Detroit's business center.
15. Columbian insurgents win battle in Panama harbor. Death of Camilla Urea, Volante.
16. Treaty ceding Danish West Indies to United States signed. Death of William H. Taft, ex-President of the United States.
17. Peace proposed to England in Boers' behalf by Holland.
18. Ten lives lost in tenement house fire in Boston.

FEBRUARY.
1. Dust explosion in Hondo, Mexico, mines; 27 men die.
2. \$2,500,000 fire in Waterbury, Conn.; 400 in Atlantic coast does considerable damage.
3. Keeley liquor cure plant at Dwight, Ill., burns. Six firemen killed by falling walls in St. Louis.
4. \$100,000 fire in Paterson, N. J.; 100 lives and 50 lives destroyed. Senators Tillman and McLaren of South Carolina fight Senate.
5. Springfield, O.
6. Death of Marquis of Dufferin.
7. House passes war tax reduction bill.
8. Miss Ellen Stone's ransom paid to Bulgarian brigands.
9. President Roosevelt's decision on Philippine Islands.
10. Revolutionary riots in Barcelona, Spain.
11. Park Avenue Hotel and 71st Regiment Armory in New York burned; \$1,000,000 loss and 50 lives destroyed. Senators Tillman and McLaren of South Carolina fight Senate.
12. Miss Ellen Stone released by Bulgarian bandits.
13. House passes war tax reduction bill.
14. McKinley memorial services in Congress.
15. Fourteen miners killed by snowslide at Telluride, Col.

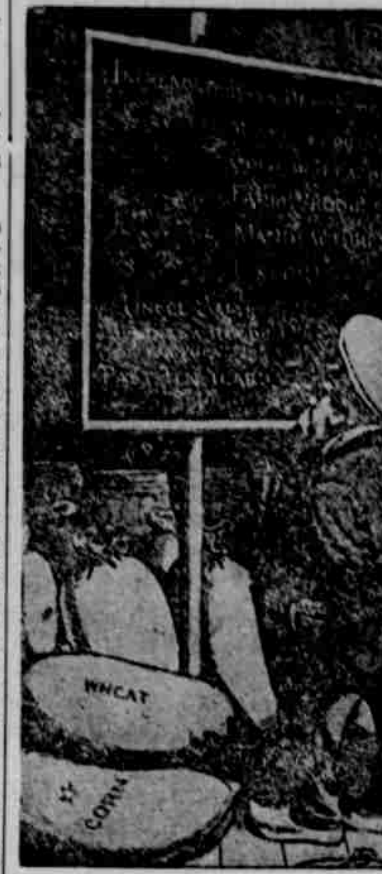
MARCH.
1. Prince Henry of Prussia visits Chicago and other western cities.
2. Ship submerges in Pacific railway in Texas; 15 persons killed and 30 injured. Gen. Methuen captured by Boers.
3. Secretary of Treasury Louis resigns; W. L. Moody of Massachusetts appointed his successor.
4. Death of former Governor John P. Alford of Illinois.
5. Mississippi River and 22 persons drowned. Boers release Gen. Methuen.
6. Death of John W. Aldrich, ex-Secretary of the Treasury.
7. Severe blizzard over Canadian North-west, the Dakotas and Lake States.
8. Cuba releases Gen. Methuen.
9. Hoboken docks burn, with large loss; \$1,000,000 loss and two lives.
10. Second operation on President Roosevelt's leg at San Francisco.
11. Senator Bailey of Texas makes violent attack on Senator Beveridge of Indiana in Senate.
12. Death of Cecil Rhodes.
13. Storm and flood cause damage East and South.
14. Death of John W. Aldrich, ex-Secretary of the Treasury.
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APRIL.
1. Death of Thos. Dunn English.
2. \$1,000,000 fire at Atlantic City, N. J.; 100 lives and 50 lives destroyed. Senators Tillman and McLaren of South Carolina fight Senate.
3. Death of Potter Palmer of Chicago.
4. House passes Cuban reciprocity bill.
5. Great ocean steamship lines merged.
6. Explosion in coal mine at Scotland, N. Y.; 100 lives and 50 lives destroyed.
7. Death of Archbishop Feilan of Chicago.
8. Severe windstorm in Missouri Valley.
9. Death of ex-Secretary of Agriculture J. Sterling Morton.
10. Death of John W. Aldrich, ex-Secretary of the Treasury.

MAY.
1. Toronto destroyed; over 400 lives and 100,000 property lost. Wm. H. Moody becomes Secretary of Navy.
2. Death of Potter Palmer of Chicago.
3. Death of Archbishop Corrigan of New York.
4. Death of Rear-Admiral William T. Sampson.
5. Town of St. Pierre, Martinique, destroyed by volcanic eruption.
6. Author, slain by brother, Malcolm Ford, who then kills himself.
7. Strike ordered in anthracite coal region.
8. Death of Lieutenant Governor Stone of Wisconsin.
9. Maria Christina resigns regency of Spain.
10. Twenty-five persons killed by oil explosion near Pittsburgh.
11. Hurricane devastated Texas Gulf coast, blotting out town of Galveston.
12. Explosion in coal mine at Coal Creek, Tenn.; 134 miners.
13. Cuba becomes an independent nation.
14. Explosion at Cincinnati and suburbs kills 36 persons and destroys property valued at \$2,000,000.
15. Iowa, overwhelmed by cloudburst.
16. Explosion in mine at Fernie, B. C., kills 100 miners.
17. Death of British Ambassador, Lord Pauncefoot.
18. Boer leaders sign article of surrender. Retaliation. Quaternary overwhelmed by volcano, 1,000 lives lost.

JUNE.
1. Teamsters' strike causes riots in Chicago. Death of Rev. Dr. J. H. Barrows at Cleveland.
2. Strike riots in Chicago.

RECORD THAT ASTOUNDS FOREIGNERS.



UNCLE SAM—"Well, gentlemen, isn't that a pretty good showing for a decade that included a panic?"

COLOSSAL COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS.

As the accounts are cast up for 1902, it is seen that this has been the most prosperous year in all the history of the great republic. Looking back over the last five years it may be safely said that never did the American people see before such a quintuplicate. The figures that tell of the nation's prosperity and industrial and commercial growth are so stupendous as to be inconceivable. So far from having developed its resources

in the natural resources and riches of the country had been tapped, but the building of the railway lines was merely precedent to the magnificent development of the country which began in the last five years of the decade ending with this year.

The figures given in this article present some idea of the immense wealth and industrial activity of the United States. The dispatches complain of the inability to get men to do the work that waits to be done. In Chicago alone the railways require 20,000 men in addition to their present forces. Other dispatches tell of new industrial projects in every section of the country. Going beyond our national boundaries, every daily paper brings us news of the plans or achievements of American wealth and American brains and skill. In Canada, in Mexico, in South America, in England, in China, in Korea, in the Philippines, Americans are reaching out to get possession and to utilize the wealth that nature has stored.

The accumulations of capital and wealth in the United States, the increase in the number of men of enterprise, energy and resourcefulness and the vast accessions to the ranks of skilled workmen have put the country into a position to set the pace for the rest of the world for some decades to come. By far the larger part of these accumulations have been in the Northern States. These did not suffer from the Civil War as the South did. But the impression that the United States is no longer a country of virgin resources is not a correct one. The South alone has untold treasures waiting for utilization, to say nothing of what remains in the West and in vast Alaska. If times remain good the next ten years will be among the most inspiring in American history. The South will make tremendous strides upward toward the industrial level of the rest of the country. Besides furnishing the capital and in part the men for this work, the fruitful North will have an immense surplus for application to the development of all other parts of the United States, Canada and Mexico and other countries. Currents of Americanization will set throughout the world, but outside our own boundaries it will be especially in Canada and Mexico that American money and American men will work wonders in the next few years.

Even the older parts of the United States have not been utilized as they can and will be. Our whole territory was fully occupied ten years ago, but since that time we have added 1,000,000 new farms. Two-fifths of our national do-

4. Teamsters' strike in Chicago settled.
5. Street car riots in Providence, R. I.
6. Riot and cloudburst in Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Illinois, South Dakota.
7. Lake Sanitarium in Chicago burns, 10 lives being lost.
8. Toronto causes damage and death in Canada.
9. President sends to Congress special message on Cuban reciprocity.
10. Senate passes Panama canal bill.
11. Death of King Albert of Saxony.
12. Wreath with American Derby in Chicago.
13. Town Marshal of Jefferson, Iowa, killed by half-witted man, who is then slain by mob.
14. \$200,000 fire in Portland, Ore.
15. Texas Hotel collapses at Dallas, Texas.
16. King Edward VII. submits to opera-tion for peritonsillitis. Coronation is postponed.
17. Senator Bailey of Texas makes violent attack on Senator Beveridge of Indiana in Senate.

JULY.
1. Adjournment of Congress.
2. President issues peace and amnesty proclamation for Philippines. Rock Island and fast train held up near Dupont, Ill.
3. Trolley wreck near Greenville, N. Y.; 15 lives.
4. Swift's market in Chicago stockyards burned.
5. 4,000 Chicago freight handlers strike.
6. Storms and floods in Iowa and the West.
7. Explosion in mine at Johnston, Pa., kills 125 miners.
8. Lord Salisbury resigns as premier of England; succeeded by Mr. Arthur Balfour.
9. Death of Archbishop Feilan of Chicago.
10. Sir Liang Cheng appointed Chinese Minister to United States to succeed Mr. Wu.
11. Express train held up and robbed near Marshall's Pass, Colorado.
12. Cyclone destroys Emerald and Thompson, N. D., and Borup, Minn.
13. End of freight handlers' strike in Chicago. Fifty killed in mine explosion at Park City, Utah. General Jacob H. Smith retired with censure.
14. Murder of Minnie Mitchell in Chicago.
15. Earthquake in Santa Barbara County, Cal.
16. Burlington express train robbed near Ravenna, Ind.
17. Train wreck near Collins, Iowa, kills 13 people and injures 30.
18. Coronation of King Edward of England. Body of General Franks Sigel.
19. Death of Senator McMillan of Michigan.
20. Seven persons burned to death in hotel fire at San Angelo, Texas.
21. Cullinan, Mexico, swept by tidal wave; \$25,000 express robbery at Fordville, Ky.
22. Autumn naval maneuvers begin off Massachusetts coast.
23. Death of General Franks Sigel.
24. President Roosevelt on trip through New England.
25. Earthquakes in East Turkistan kill 1,000 persons.
26. Death of ex-Governor George Hoar of Ohio.
27. Eruption of Mount Pelee destroys Morne Rouge, with 200 lives.

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SEPTEMBER.
1. Thirty killed and 70 wounded in train wreck near Berry, Ala.
2. President Roosevelt hurt in trolley accident near Pittsfield, Mass.
3. Death of Edward Eggleston, novelist. Third great eruption of Mount Pelee, Martinique.
4. Body of Wm. J. Barstow found near

main are still beyond the reach of the plow. No man can say how much of them will yet be fruitful. So far, great as has been our increase in population, our agricultural productivity has outstripped it, and while our population doubles every thirty years, our production of food doubles in a period of from twelve to fifteen years. So the probabilities are that for many years to come we shall go on being the granary of the world in an increasing proportion.

Figures that might be cited showing the United States in the race for commercial and industrial supremacy.

The New York Commercial Advertiser has compiled some figures that must enthrall every American as he reads in them the tremendous superiority of his country in material resources and prosperity to every other nation in the world. Take the item of railway extension. The last ten years have not been considered remarkable for the new mileage, but there are 25,000 miles more of railway under operation now than ten years ago; that is, 6,000 miles more than the entire railway mileage of Canada—yet Canada is getting very cocky over its development.

The present population of the United States proper is estimated at 70,000,000, an increase of 14,000,000—almost the total population of Spain and nearly three times that of Canada—in ten years.

The national wealth in dollar amounts to \$94,300,000,000, whereas in 1892 it was \$35,037,001,000. The deposits in bank and trust companies have increased \$4,684,703,756 in the decade and there is in circulation today \$48,043,364 more than there was in 1892. The gold in the United States Treasury has increased by \$333,724,345. The value of manufactured products is \$2,906,842,283 greater than ten years ago and of farm products \$1,204,070,252. Our exports have increased in value in ten years to the amount of \$648,700,007. The commercial failures of 1901 were 11,002, as compared with 10,344 in 1892, an amazingly small increase, while the liabilities in these failures were \$351,791 less than the liabilities of the failures of 1892. There has been an increase in the wages paid to factory employes, amounting to \$452,214,319, but it is a circumstance upon which Capital cannot pride itself that this is \$883,048,415 less than the increase in wages between 1882 and 1892, when the increase in national wealth was only \$22,395,001,000 and the increase in bank deposits was less than \$2,000,000,000. It is apparent, therefore, that the reward of labor has not kept pace with the harvest of capital.

It is a striking picture which the cartoonist presents. Uncle Sam is represented as a storekeeper, with produce and materials of all kinds piled around him. In the store are three fellows who often come to make purchases of him; indeed, they are among his best patrons. They are John Bull, the corpulent and contented old chap from the Fatherland and the Russian. Uncle Sam is proudly pointing to his business record of the past ten years, upon which they look with astonishment.

WINTER WHEAT PERFECT.

Acres 34,000,000 Acres for Crop of 1902—Gain 3.1 Per Cent.

The statistician of the Department of Agriculture estimates that the newly seeded area of winter wheat at about 34,000,000 acres, an increase of 5.1 per cent upon the area estimated to have been sown in the fall of 1901. The condition of winter wheat Dec. 1 was 90.7, compared with 80.7 in 1901, 97.1 in 1900 and a nine-year average of 91.4. The following table shows for each of the principal States the percentage of acreage sown to winter wheat this fall as compared with last year, the fall of condition on Dec. 1 of the present year, the corresponding averages for 1901 and 1900 and the mean of the December averages of the last nine years:

State	1901	1900	Average
Kansas	105	95	100
Nebraska	105	95	100
Minnesota	105	95	100
California	105	95	100
Illinois	105	95	100
Indiana	105	95	100
Ohio	105	95	100