

# STORY TELLER

## A NIGHT AT LAS CRUCES.

FIVE minutes after leaving the house in company with my host, E. A. Van Patten, of Dona Ana County, the first exciting experience of the night was the hearing of the rattling of some heavy doors when the rattling there were we had crossed an open lot and entered the main street of Las Cruces. The principal street of Las Cruces, long-lunged-bang! from some distance ahead came the sound of a repeating-rifle, or heavy rifle, angled with the whizzing of bullets coming straight down upon us in the direct line of our course. At the first shot Van Patten stopped still, and a man walking along a little distance behind us stepped to the road-side and went flat on the ground in the ditch. He wasn't dead, but he meant to be. The second shot passed between Van Patten and the wind of it flapping the sheriff's shirt. The third—well, I wasn't any more, but was making three steps to the second to get behind the part of an adobe wall that fenced an area from the road. The sheriff heard from the road, and he for his ground and laughed at me for being away; then went back to the house for his revolver. When we got to the main street, we learned that the firing had been done by a Mexican who shot at another Mexican in a street over a girl. No one was hit, but the matter passed.

The city's principal street was lined with the lights of saloons, all in front on this hot September night and crowded with customers, ranch-men, soldiers, lawyers, artists, and Spanish-Americans, rich and poor, passed in and out or lounged about the doorways. The sheriff, a candidate for re-election, talked with everybody in English or Spanish, as the occasion demanded, and set up the stakes often for the crowd as we walked from place to place. At about a o'clock a messenger with a telegram came hunting for him, and soon an excitement spread through the town, and men gathered in groups to listen to such details as had reached the city of an attempt at train robbery that occurred on the Atchison road that night a few miles above Las Cruces. The robbers had tried to ditch the upward-bound passenger train, but succeeded only in stopping it, and after attacking the express-car, had been beaten off. A mile from the place the same men, it was supposed, had taken up a rich ranchman and robbed him of his money, pistol, and watch. Messages had at once been sent by the sheriff to the superintendent of the road to the sheriff of Dona Ana, Lincoln, and Socorro Counties, notifying them of the occurrence. Two railroad special locomotives, and were in consultation with Van Patten by eleven o'clock that night.

Van Patten hunted up all of his deputies that were in town, and sent two with a posse up to the scene of the attempted robbery to trail the bandits from that point. He also set inquiries on foot as to whether certain untrustworthy characters living at Las Cruces were in town at the time the train was stopped. Having done everything apparently that could be done that night toward detecting and capturing the outlaws, Van Patten said to me:

"Let's go up to Juana's and eat some enchiladas before we go home."

We left the main street and its revels, and went up the hill to the east, among the flat-roofed adobe houses of the poorer Mexican residents of the town. As we passed these humble dwellings, through the doorways left open to coolness the forms of the inmates asleep upon the floor of the one room which could indistinctly be seen. Juana's was a sort of Mexican restaurant, and here, at midnight, we ordered the enchiladas, which were brought to us on a platter by the dark-skinned comely waitress. Enchiladas are tortillas—thin cakes of unleavened bread resembling an ordinary buckwheat cake in size and shape—on which is spread a mixture of onions and red chili peppers chopped up together. With a bottle of beer to accompany them, I found the enchiladas not half bad to eat. As we sat at the table a pretty Mexican girl in a white-muslin gown, and bareheaded, came in, whom the sheriff greeted as Josefa and invited to a glass of beer. They chatted together in the Spanish tongue as we ate our enchiladas, and he joked her about some person whom he called "Shifty Bill." Our meal finished, we paid the waitress, said good-night to her and her husband, and went out to the darkness. We did not go back the way we had come, but, taking another route, passed an adobe house in which a light was burning, while the door was closed.

"That is Josefa's house," the sheriff said to me. We walked on as far as the next house, a few steps beyond. Van Patten pulled me into its shadow and stopped.

"We'll wait here a bit. Don't speak or make a noise," he cautioned me.

A minute later I found myself standing alone, the sheriff having left me so silently that I had not noticed his going. As I stood in the shadow, wondering what all this mystery was about, the door of Juana's house, up the hill-side, opened, and the white-robed form of Josefa came through the darkness toward her house. Arriving, she went into the house, leaving the door partly open. Then came the sound of foot-steps of some one walking softly toward the house, and in the light that streamed through the doorway I saw a man, in dark clothes and wearing a sombrero, on the point of entering the house.

"His foot was at the threshold when I saw the sound of a pistol-hammer suddenly cocked, and the sheriff's voice said, sternly: 'Hands up! You're a prisoner!'"

"The man at the threshold started

### LATE NEW INVENTIONS.

Pneumatic bicycle tires will last longer by using a newly designed brake which has two loosely pivoted clips shod with rubber or felt pads to press on the sides of the rim when the brake is applied instead of on the tire.

Boots and shoes are prevented from squeaking by an air channel placed between two filling pieces at the sides of the heel and extending forward in the sole of the shoe, the air chamber being fitted with a valve for inflation.

Letters cannot be fraudulently abstracted from a new mail box which has a cylinder set in the letter slot and fastened with a ratchet so it will turn over to push the letter in, but cannot be turned backward to withdraw it.

A simple device which will prevent many railroad accidents consists of a fusible knob attached to the ends of car axles, to drop down and complete an electric circuit, thus giving an alarm to the engineer whenever a hotbox occurs on a car.

Screw propellers are to be used instead of rudders for steering a ship, a shaft being mounted in either the bow or stern of the vessel at right angles with the keel and fitted with propeller wheels on each end, to be revolved and draw the boat around.

To minimize the danger of fracture of lamp chimneys a new burner has a plate in which the chimney rests and is clamped fast with a screw, which is tightened when the lamp is lighted, so that sudden changes of temperature will not break the chimney.

Bedsteads for army and camping use are made with four upright posts resting on the ground and supporting cross pieces, over which a canvas bottom is drawn and suspended by loops, the bed being braced by ropes fastened to spikes driven into the ground.

In a wickless lamp just out a cup floats on the surface of an open oil chamber, with a burner tube in its center, which extends down into the oil and brings the fluid near enough to the feed of the tube so it can be ignited and feed itself through the tube.

A German has invented an apparatus to "increase the comfort" of persons in railway carriages and on board ships, consisting of a back rest supported by a strap, with loops for the arms and a net for the head, the whole being suspended from the ceiling by springs.

In a recently patented cycle steering mechanism the ball-races in the head of the machine are slightly depressed in the front and rear, so as to guide the wheel in a nearly straight line by allowing the gear cones to sink into the depressions when the wheel is straight.

### BEASTS, BIRDS AND FISH.

Bears are reported very numerous in Idaho.

The habits of ants are more like those of a man than are the habits of any other of the lower animals.

Species of snakes that are enemies of one another in captivity will coil up into their winter sleep in the same bundle.

A new species of rabbit, of a diminutive size, tailless and with short ears, has been found near the volcano of Popocatepetl, in Mexico.

Salmon last year yielded in Canada \$3,700,000; cod, \$3,000,000. Next in value come herring—\$2,785,000, and then lobsters, \$2,210,000.

Cats and several other animals have a false eyelid, which can be drawn over the eyeball either to cleanse it or to protect it from too strong a light.

Caterpillars have been doing a great deal of damage to hay and potatoes around Gainesville, Fla., going thoroughly over one field after another.

A defender of English sparrows comes forth with the plea that, inasmuch as they feed on seeds of waste plants and weeds, they are a positive benefit to the farmer.

Two proposed entertainments, the chief feature of which was to be the chasing of a greased pig, have been introduced at Portland, Maine, by the Society for the Protection of Animals.

Tennessee is up near the head of the snake column this year, with the record of Jesse Shoun, who killed on Cross Mountain, near Bristol, a rattlesnake measuring three inches across the head, five feet in length and six inches in diameter. It had thirty-two rattles, besides the button.

### Toy Making.

A great many toys are now made in this country, including many mechanical devices. Many toys are still imported. Such things as woolly sheep and dogs, now as highly prized by children as ever, come from Germany, as do the skin-covered horses. They could be made here, but they can be produced cheaper abroad.

As a rule, whatever can be made by machinery is made here, while toys made by hand are mostly imported. The minute a thing is brought within the reach of machinery, American manufacturers can pay their higher prices for labor and still beat the world. With the low prices of labor in foreign countries hand-made productions can be made cheaper in them. As a result of this their completed state are partly American and partly foreign. Among these are toy vehicles with horses attached. The vehicles and everything in and about them may be the product of American machinery, while the horse standing between the shafts may be from Germany.—New York Sun.

### A Mild Critic.

Poet—So you can't use my verses? Editor—Not in their present form? Poet—What's the matter with them? Editor—Too long. Poet—What would you suggest that I cut out? Editor—Well, the title's all right, I'd leave that.—Cleveland Leader.

### She Had Reason To.

"Did you hear that pretty woman just now, Rap? She said she believed in long engagements and short marriages."

"Rather a strange idea."

"Not at all, Rap; she's an actress."—Cincinnati Tribune.

There are two sides to the kin question, after all; if it were not for kin, some married women would starve to death.

A man can easily become notorious these days by announcing his intention of going to the Alaska gold fields.

# PHONES ON THE FARM



instant, and if a crime is committed which calls for swift retribution or a chase after the offender the instant wings of electricity will aid in the pursuit.

The first step toward easily and cheaply constructing a farm telephone line is to get the telephones. Cell batteries are a prime requisite, and can be ordered at any hardware store; so can the transmitter and receiver. It will take some studying to understand just what part this equipment plays in the whole ensemble, yet it is simple and practical when properly comprehended. The barb wire fence should be utilized where there are no breaks, and where wire loops can be employed to connect with other farms. Where this cannot be done, however, wire can be strung from tree to tree, across country or along the highways. No insulation is necessary, the wire being simply fastened to the limb with staples. Sometimes bare spans may need poles. These need not be the great, tall, well-

seem to be nothing to prevent farmers from installing telephone systems which would be independent of the companies which charge such exorbitant tariffs. Private lines among neighbors or lines to town, with a small exchange and switchboard in the postoffice or general store, could be easily and cheaply installed, and when once in service the farmers would fight before relinquishing them.

The practical utility of the independent telephone may be realized by taking the case of an isolated settlement not on any railroad. Everyone must drive to some other town to see anybody or to find out what is going on. If they had a telephone line, even a single instrument in the settlement, the advantage would be enormous. The original cost would be scarcely anything, \$10 or \$15 perhaps. After that there is no expense and the convenience will never be appreciated until the line has been in operation for awhile. There are a hundred and one



They use it every day and near neighbors come into call up the town. It is connected with an exchange, but people are accommodating in a small town and if anyone wants a message transmitted to somebody there is no trouble about its being delivered at the other end. They call up in the morning and find out what price is offered for something off the farm. If it is satisfactory a bargain is made over the wire, perhaps, or decide to drive in with a wagon. If the market is low a trip is saved. The possibilities are endless. A telegram arrives late at night. The operator at the town can hasten to the wire, read the dispatch, and save a long and tedious trip into the country.

Another thing that will be brought about some day will be the storage of the surplus energy developed by windmills in storage batteries and its use to light farms and farmhouses by electricity. The only drawback to the scheme now is the great weight and considerable cost of storage batteries. But an immense amount of energy could be accumulated by a windmill and converted into electricity, stored up and later released to light up a farmhouse. Of course this would be chiefly available in the winter when the evenings are short, because in the summer it is light until almost 9 o'clock, and then the average farmer goes to bed. But that plan will be developed by-and-by and indeed has been already in some places, but the expense under the present system is almost prohibitive.

There is no doubt but that in the city the telephone is a constant necessity for the transaction of business. In the country it would seem to be fully as necessary, where everyone is isolated and communication is necessarily slow and difficult by ordinary methods. For every need of the farmer he must drive to town, no matter how great the distance or how bad the roads. Often it means merely a trip both ways to order something by telegraph or to get something that might as well be sent out from the town. With the telephone system in operation his labors will be lightened immeasurably and his time saved immeasurably.

And, after all, the barbed wire fence system should commend itself to the farmer through its simplicity and its ease of operation and equipment.

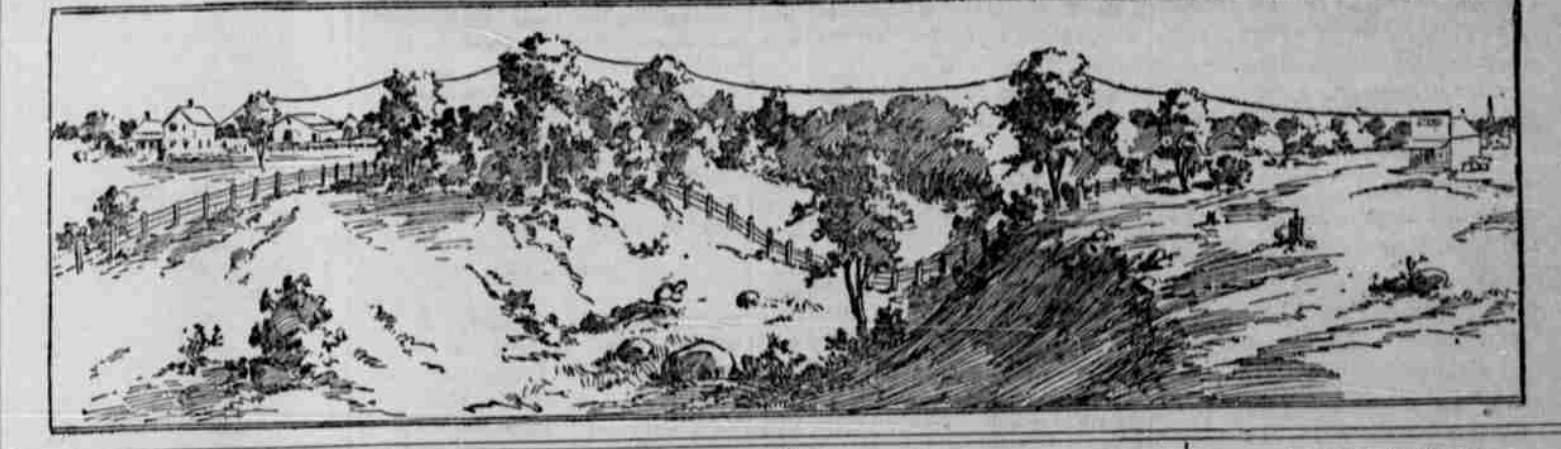


ATTENDING THE CONCERT BY 'PHONE.

Communication between farmhouses in time of peril or trouble has always been slow and tedious. Fire, murder, robbery and other disasters which naturally enlist the sympathies of neighboring farmers are liable to occur almost any time on a farm far away from its neighbor. If the place is left, as is often the case, in charge of the women while the men are at work far away in the fields news of some important happening can be transmitted only at the cost of a long journey, which many times is out of the question. But if on the wall of a farmhouse hangs a telephone connected with a neighboring system a dozen or a score of farmhouses may be alarmed in an

trimmed poles of the telephone company, but material cut in the woods, and branches lopped off.

When a line is complete, part or all barb wire fence, or current carried aloft on a home-made line strung to trees, roofs and poles, the farmer has a decidedly new luxury secured at a very low expense. An instrument complete costs but \$6 and wire is \$2.70 a mile. If the barb wire fence method is used the wire costs nothing, for it is already on the ground, strung and ready for service. With hundreds of miles of barb wire fence practically continuous all over the country, there would



### AN ELECTRIC DRILL.

With It a Six-foot Hole Can Be Bored in One Minute.

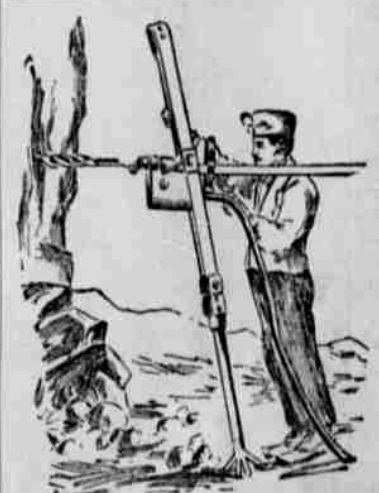
The economy and practicability of using electricity in mining coal has been demonstrated, and its more general introduction should greatly cheap-

en get it started again. This machine has drilled enough holes in ten hours to "shoot" or blast down 800 tons of coal in a seven-foot vein. It consumes about three-horse-power, and the one shown in the cut is a Jeffrey machine.

### AN ORIGINAL ABOLITIONIST.

Rev. Dr. Richard S. Rust is One Who Claims That Distinction.

Rev. Dr. Richard S. Rust is one of the "original abolitionists." Ever since his youth—and he has now reached old age—he has been active for the welfare of the colored people of the land. Before the civil war he worked for their freedom. Since the war he has worked to increase their culture. All his life long he has been connected with educational institutions for their special benefit. He has made for himself an imperishable record as an agent of civilization, and his name will never be forgotten by the freedmen of the United States. Dr. Rust was born in New England, where revolt against slavery was indigenous, and his willingness to be classed among the "black Republicans," or the "greens mechanics," or whatever else the advocates of the greatest of national reforms were then contemptuously called. Perhaps he was never actually assaulted while



BORES A SIX-FOOT HOLE IN A MINUTE.

en the price of our winter fuel. Only a few days ago a Philadelphia operator said that in the course of a few years coal will probably be selling at fifteen cents per ton, 45 cents a ton.

The picture shows an electric drill which is used for making holes in the face of the coal seam. It is capable of drilling a six-foot hole in one minute. In this connection it is interesting to note that coal undercut by machinery does not require as powerful cartridges for the blasting as coal undercut by hand, and the rapidity with which the holes are drilled by electric power effects a great saving and largely increased output. The weight of the drill represented, with post for a six-foot vein, is only 152 pounds. This can easily be handled by one man. The drill works so quickly that it takes the greater part of one man's time to attend to the feed mechanism and augers together with starting and stopping the drill, while the other man is arranging and picking the places for the holes. By the time he has another place ready the drill has finished the preceding hole and is ready to be moved. Two men can very quickly reset the drill and



REV. DR. RICHARD S. RUST.

preaching and lecturing for emancipation, but over and over again he had experienced violent enmity to appall any but the most stout-hearted. Over

### A GAY PARISIAN.

Cleo de Merode Is the Sensation of the Day in New York.

New York music hall patrons have been worshipping at the shrine of Cleo de Merode, the gay Parisian beauty and ballet girl. Cleo's appearance created a sensation among the gay New Yorkers. Her visit to New York is for the purpose of filling an engagement in one of the music halls, which will net her \$1,500. At its conclusion she will return immediately to Paris. Merode's fame and money-earning qualities rest upon an unenviable basis.



CLEO DE MERODE.

She is not a great singer, not even a great dancer. In Paris she gets \$10 a week for kicking up her heels in the ballet of the Grand Opera and no one ever discovered that she had talent in any line. But she was beautiful and one night when King Leopold, the wicked old monarch of Belgium, sat in the front row her shapely figure and handsome face appeared to him and he applauded her. That was the first mark of distinction Merode ever received. After that, when Leopold openly paid attention to her and she and the gay old King had merry times in and out of Paris, there was gossip that spread throughout the world.

Merode is young—just past 20. She is slender and her features are small. Her manner is quiet and refined.

What Was Required.

"So you are the music teacher that answered my advertisement?"

"Yes, sir."

"Well, sit down here and play a couple of duets, so I can see what you can do."—Answers.

### Shrugging the Shoulders.

Shrugging the shoulders in cold weather is probably the survival of an old instinct, which prompts animals to put the skin of the back on the stretch, and so erect the hairy covering of that part. The hair is now recovering to a mere downy covering, but the old instinct still remains, in common with others, the rule apparently being that all instincts which are harmless to their possessors are constant, in spite of any change of structure. All animals with long hair or feathers erect their coats in cold weather, for the warmth of such a covering depends on its thickness and the amount of air it contains, rather than on its bulk.

### Lasting Qualities.

"The eminent vocal teacher, Marchesi, says the voices of American young women are beautiful, but they do not last."

"Don't last? Heavens! I married one that's lasted 40 years!"