HOW CAPTAIN HENSHAW GOT THE CONTRACT

Story as Related by One Who Had Traveled the Western Trails—Over the Juniper Hills and Into the Land *of* Romance in Quest *of* Subjects for the Old Gentleman's Story

By H. A. Thompson.

THIS is a story told by Captain Henshaw, one of the best representatives of the Arizona "old timers," as we lay in camp one fine October afternoon.

Our tents were pitched on an outer slope of the Juniper range; and the country to southwestward was spread out before us like a relief map. Immediately at our feet lay a broad, upland valley, rocky and dotted with patches of scrub growth. At a distance of three or four miles this valley broke away, in a long series of tumbled and cascade like terraces, toward a still lower level. From the elevated position we occupied it was possible to trace the windings of a gorge, cutting these terraces and descending with them toward the plain. This ravine, shallow and wide flaring at first, then steep sided and deeply cleft, was some seven or eight miles in length; and by means of it the storm accumulations of the upper valley were, in the rainy season, discharged upon the lower.

Captain Henshaw, as he sat on a camp stool and gazed intently at the wide prospect, which was terminated only by the distant cliffs of a towering volcanic mesa some 30 miles away, was a picture of venerable, yet intelligent and forceful, manhood. Years of exposure had tanned his skin to the hue of an Italian peasant; but the long white beard, which swept in silvery waves over his chest, and the broad, deeply lined forehead gave him an expression of patriarchal benevolence and experience. He had whiled away many a tedious hour of our long journey over the plains and through the hills with narratives suggested by localities we passed; and now, as he arose from his stool and stretched himself upon a blanket, with his back against a bedroll, we know that a story was coming and silently awaited its arrival.

"That gulch yonder," said the captain, with a gesture which followed the windings of the distant ravine," is as unlikely a racecourse as one could well select; but it was there that once, in the early seventies, I rode an involuntary race for the stakes of money, freedom and life.

"In those days I was a partner with John Deboe in the contracting business; and we had recently finished a profitable piece of road building over on the Mogollon Rim. Nearly all the roads constructed in the early history of this territory were surveyed by military engineers and paid for with government money. The people who travel the mountains and plateaus of this region owe a debt of gratitude to the energy and skill of these army officers, who accomplished difficult engineering feats in the face of danger often and nearly always under experience of hardship. After the completion of our contract there seemed to be no more road building in sight, so we concluded to move our headquarters to the hills north of the Juniper mountains. Large deposits of silver had been discovered in that locality and we contemplated going into the mining business. But we discovered that all the best claims had been appropriated before our arrival, and, more by necessity than choice, we turned our attention to the matter of hauling supplies for the mines. In six months we had established a regular line of heavy teams between Prescott—Fort Whipple it was then—and Juniper camp.

"This, however, was a slow way of making money. The freight to be carried was not sufficiently heavy; and the much more profitable passenger and express business was in the hands of William Owens, who operated a stage line over the same route. We welcomed then the information, brought in by one of our teamsters, that the government was about to construct a military road from Fort Whipple to Fort Mojave. But our enthusiasm was dampened when the man told us, in his slow way, that the bids were to be opened and the contract awarded on the 25th of the current month; for it was then the 22d, and the distance to Fort Whipple was a good 140 miles. I was greatly surprised that Colonel Morton, the commandant of the post, who had the letting of the contract, should have neglected to notify us, in ample time and in the regular manner, of the proposed work; especially as he had always expressed himself as well pleased with the way in which we performed our contracts.

"Deboe and I agreed, after a hasty consultation, that we must at least make the attempt to enter a bid for the construction of the new road; and it was decided that I should go to Fort Whipple as the representative of the firm, using my best endeavor to reach it before the time limit mentioned in the advertisement, which our teamster had seen, expired. Military men do not wait on a tardy comer; and, if we were to have any chance, it was necessary to utilize every moment, especially as I should be obliged, after reaching the fort, to learn the specifications covering the work to be done and to make an estimate of the amount for which we would agree to undertake it.

"I owned, at the time a mare, which was reputed to be the fastest long distance saddle horse in Arizona. She came of thoroughbred stock, and possessed both the speed and the endurance characteristic of the lineal descendants of Abdallah. Her body was close knit and her legs, cleanly chiseled as those of a Grecian statue, were springy as steel; while the intelligent eyes, the small, curved ears and the white star on the broad forehead indicated the purity of her strain. I called her Diana. While Deboe packed my saddle bags with food, I made ready the mare and my few traps for the trip.

"It was 10 o'clock at night when our teamster imparted his information, and about 7:20 I rode away. The moon was at its full, the night cool and invigorating and the horse spirited. I held Diana down for the first few miles, increasing the pace gradually; then, as she warmed to her work, I relaxed the tension on the reins, and the low buttes and occasional trees that marked the way, rising in the dusk like the phantoms of ungainly and mythical beings, approached swiftly and passed to the rear. There is an indescribable charm about a moonlight ride. The soft calm of the night eliminates that sternness from existence which in the glare of the daylight, seems to stare one in the face. The air is full of subdued sounds of life which soothe, rather than arouse, the senses. The glory of the moon casts a glamour about all rough features of the landscape. The easy motion of the thoroughbred horse I rode scarcely disturbed the long reveries into which I fell; and it was with a sense of surprise that I saw the gray shadings of the east which announced the coming of the dawn.

"You remember that short canyon, in the Junipers, that we traversed today and the spring to which I called your attention. It was there I stopped, on that morning nearly 30 years ago, to rest my horse and eat my own breakfast. Diana, after her six hours' gallop, showed no signs of fatigue; and she ate her feed of barley with grateful munchings. An hour later I saddled up again; and, following the route we took today, soon emerged into this open valley which lies before us. If you look closely you can trace the trail which leads away from us across the open toward the head of yonder big ravine, through which it continues downward to the plain below.

"After getting clear of the hills I glanced back once or twice, and observed with surprise that columns of smoke were rising from several different spurs of the mountain range I had just left. The Hualpai Indians, as I was aware, had two or three camps not far away; and I would have attached no particular importance to what I saw had it not been for the fact of something peculiar in these columns of smoke which impressed me that they were intended as signals. It did not, however, occur to me that this signaling had any reference to myself or my movements. The Hualpais were at peace with the whites; and were accustomed to protest—though I put small faith in it—that they would never dig up the hatchet to raise it against their paleface brothers. Really, they were, in a small way, the most treacherous Indians with whom I ever came in contact, and were always on the alert for plunder or cattle stealing.

"You may observe that just this side the head of the gorge there is a slight rise in the ground, flanked on either side by small patches of timber. Just there I was confronted by six or seven Indians, who lined their horses across the trail, compelling me to draw rein to avoid riding them down. I instantly perceived that there were others in the timber to right and left, and the whole situation was so strongly suggestive of an ambuscade that I at once reached for my revolvers, but I restrained this movement, as Hualpai Charlie, the local chief, whom I knew very well by sight, advanced, holding up his hands in token of friendship and calling out in a jargon of English and Indian that he was glad to see me. Halting as we met, I said, 'How,' and we shook hands with at least affected cordiality.

"'Where you go, Cap?' he inquired.

"'Fort Whipple, Charlie,' I replied. 'Why?'

"'Go see Big Knife Chief?' It was thus he designated the cavalry officer in command of the post.

"'Yes; they are going to make a road to Mojave, and I want to do the work. I must hurry or some one will get in ahead of me.'

"'Sure, Mojave?' he said, with a peculiar gleam in his eyes. Then, without awaiting my answer, he continued, 'You no hurry; stay while, mak talk with red brother.'

"There was something in the manner of the Indian which intensified, rather than allayed, my suspicions. Glancing cautiously out of the corner of my eyes, as I talked with the chief, I noticed that some of his followers were stealing out of the bushes and getting in behind me; and in the next two or three minutes I did some very rapid and serious thinking. The intention to capture me, or strike me down unawares, was now unmistakable. My enemies were mounted and all, save two or three who had muskets, armed with bows and clubs. I had a rifle and brace of revolvers; but the odds against me lay in the fact that I was outnumbered 30 to one. There was but one possible expedient open to me under the circumstances—and that was to make a run for my life. Maintaining an ingenuous air, and keeping the chief occupied with talk, I slowly edged my horse clear to his; then plunging the spurs into the startled mare, I shot away down the gulch you see there. There were more red rascals in front than behind me, but the cover of the ravine was better than the open plain; and, too, that was the way which led in the direction of Fort Whipple and that contract.

"A yell of rage and disappointment arose as I dashed forward, and a dozen of the Hualpais closed in to stop me. The raised revolver, however, scattered them, and Diana went through the gap like a gust of wind. Two muskets boomed and a score of bowstrings twanged behind me as, bending low on my horse's neck, I flew down the grade of the trail; and I noted with thankfulness, that with every stride the walls of the ravine I had entered, rose higher and higher and on either hand. Arrows rattled about me, one grazing my left arm and another cutting the cloth above my right shoulder. It was the first time I had ever really put the spurs to Diana's sides, and her running was something remarkable. I knew my pursuers would have no chance on a straightaway race; but that gorge twists and curves like a "sidewinder" rattlesnake. This gave the Indians an opportunity which they did not fail to notice of cutting me off at points to reach which I was forced to travel a long and they a short distance. But the ground on both sides of the canyon was rocky, broken, and in many places precipitous, which was all in my favor.

"Do you see that big sweep of the ravine, about half way of its length, where it seems to almost double on itself?" asked the captain, arising to his knees that he might better point out the feature mentioned. "It was there that I expected the Hualpais would catch me; and there they did come so near doing it that I practically gave myself up for lost. A score of Indians, seizing instantly upon the situation made the far end of that turn their objective point. Now and then, through breaks in the canon wall, I caught sight of them; and it soon became evident that they would arrive before me. But there was nothing for it except to push on; as several of my foes were following through the gulch, yelling and urging their ponies to topmost speed.

"Yonder ravine, at the point of which I am speaking, is rock-walled, the almost perpendicular sides being about 400 feet apart. With 20 Indians lining the verge, and ready to discharge their arrows at me as I passed, the chance of getting through unhurt seemed slender; but I dropped the bridle rein on the horn of the saddle, drew both revolvers and dashed forward. As I neared the yelling and dancing redskins, the animal I rode, obedient to the pressure of my knees, swerved suddenly to the right side of the gorge. My object was to disconcert the aim of my foes by passing close to the bottom of the precipice on which they were standing, thus compelling them to lean over the edge and shoot almost directly downward. At the instant of veering from my course I raised the revolver in my right hand and sent half a dozen bullets clipping the edge of the canyon rim above me, causing the immediate disappearance of the row of wrathful faces. Then, with screams of rage, the Indians discharged their arrows, all of which struck beyond me. I also heard the roar of an old-fashioned musket, and a load of buckshot sent the sand flying 20 feet in front of Diana's nose.

"I was now well by the main party; but it was not written that I was to escape scot free. Two of the Hualpais, whose ponies were, perhaps faster than those of their companions, were awaiting me at a point 400 yards further on, where the abrupt wall of the canon broke and fell away to a steep slope. As soon as my eye fell upon them I realized the advantage their position gave them; and, shifting the loaded revolved to my right hand, I fired at each of them successively. One, yelping and grasping in an aimless way at his knee, rolled over. The other, dropping behind a rock, let fly an arrow which passed through the muscles of my right shoulder, giving me a painful wound and leaving a mark which I carry to this day.

"There was still one remaining chance of my falling a victim of the treacherous band. The last half of the gulch was deep with sand and the going told sadly on Diana's strength. It was possible that the Indians might, by taking the short cuts, reach the plain ahead of me. I pushed the noble mare unmercifully, and, at last, tired and stiff and unable to raise my wounded arm, I rode out on the level, a full quarter of a mile to the good of the foremost Indian. Looking back I saw that most of the pursuers were afoot, having found the rocky hills too rough for their horses, and so I soothed Diana down to an easy gallop, aware that no scrub pony could match her pace now.

"A few miles further on I halted long enough to draw the arrow from my shoulder, but owing to the location of the wound, I could do but little or nothing toward binding it up. I lost five minutes in trying to tie a handkerchief about it; then, as enlarging brown spots in the distance told me the Indians were still on my trail, I gave up the attempt at self-surgery and pressed on.

"It was well along in the afternoon before I reached a place of assured safety. About 4 o'clock, rounding a hill, I encountered a train of three freight wagons, with two men in each. A minute sufficed to put them in possession of the information that hostile Indians were upon my trail, and it was certainly not more than five minutes before the wagons were drawn up in a triangle, the mules unharnessed and brought within the enclosure, and all preparations made to give Hualpai Charlie and his band a warm reception. Attention was then given to my wound. And two of my new found friends gave Diana such a rubbing down with wisps of dry grass as she probably never had before in her life. The poor mare needed it, for the pace had been continuous and hard and she was badly tagged.

"Presently the Hualpais burst in sight around the spur of the hill a hundred and fifty yards away. The three men on guard promptly opened fire. One redskin reeled in his saddle and two ponies fell struggling, their riders taking to cover as fast as their brown legs could carry them. The effect of this unexpected fusillade was magical, and the entire band wheeled in their tracks and departed as swiftly as they came. But my friends, the freighters, apprehensive of a sudden attack, concluded to camp where they were for the night, and I gladly accepted their proffered hospitality.

"The next morning at daylight, after a good sleep, I remounted Diana and, after 18 painful hours in the saddle—for my wounded shoulder was very sore—I reached Prescott in time to make a hurried estimate and put in my bid.

"Colonel Morton, when I entered his office at post headquarters, expressed great pleasure at seeing me and told me there were only two bids in, those of William Owens and of a man from the south of the territory. He was much surprised at my story of the outbreak of the Hualpais, and at once ordered out a detachment of cavalry to run down the recalcitrants and demand an explanation.

"The commandant informed me, to my astonishment, that he had sent me a letter, which should have been delivered two weeks earlier, notifying my partner and myself of the conditions under which the contract would be let. As there was no regular postal service to our camp the colonel's orderly had entrusted this letter to the driver of one of Owens' stages. The officer said he would institute an investigation when this man came in, and that in the meantime he would place a room in his house at my disposal and summon the post surgeon to dress my wound. I had spent the night after my arrival in making my estimate, and the doctor as soon as he finished his work, ordered me to bed, from which I did not arise for 24 hours.

"The first news with which the Colonel greeted me on my appearance in his office was that the contract had been awarded to Deboe and myself.

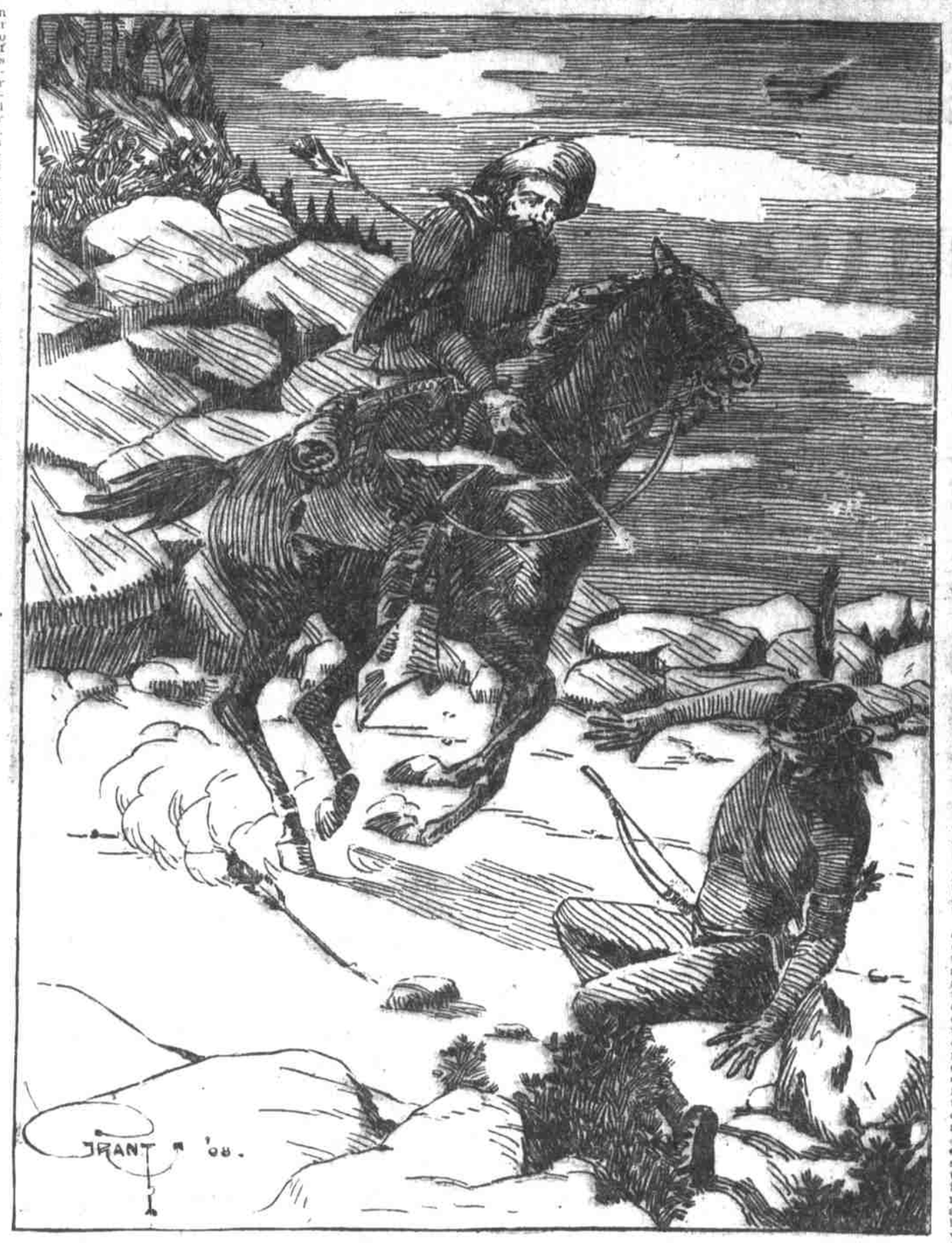
"That afternoon, when the stage came in, the commandant summoned the driver to appear before him. At first the man declared roundly that the letter had been left at our camp, but when asked to whom he had delivered it his memory quite failed him. When Colonel Morton recalled to his mind the fact it had been marked important and that he had been specially directed to deliver it to me in person the fellow broke down and confessed that his employer, Owens, had bribed him to destroy it. Owens knew that, leaving Deboe and myself out of the question, the contract for building the road to Fort Mojave would almost certainly be awarded to him, and he had proposed to take it at a very high figure.

"But there was more in the story. The captain commanding the troops sent in pursuit of the redskins brought Hualpai Charlie back with him, and that tricky Indian suavely told us that Owens had appeared in his village and informed him that I was scheming to get possession of some valuable mining land in a district of the Juniper mountains to which the Hualpais laid claim, that I was about to visit the fort and would come back with the soldiers to run him and his people away from their hunting grounds. Anyone of ordinary intelligence would have at once detected the falsity of this story; but the Indians are ever suspicious of the designs of the white man upon their land, so Hualpais Charlie accepted the tale at its face value. This explained his design of intercepting me on my road to Fort Whipple; and he afterwards told me that he and his braves had waited five days at the place of the ambuscade, knowing that I would necessarily take that trail.

"It seemed that Owens, discovering that our teamsters had learned of the proposed road, and fearing that the news of it would thus reach us in time, had made a hasty trip into the mountains, visited the Indian village and, with his manufactured story, had worked the Hualpais up to the point of waylaying whichever one of us should undertake the journey to the fort. It only remains to be said that the man was arrested, tried in the United States court on the charge of inciting the Indians to outbreak and condemned to fiver years' imprisonment."

The captain, as he ceased speaking, gazed meditatively out toward the distant canyon which was the scene of his mad race, and then, with his left hand he rubbed his right shoulder vigorously.

"It sometimes hurts even yet," he said; "especially when it threatens rain. I think we shall have rain tomorrow."



"ONE—GRASPING IN AN AIMLESS WAY—ROLLED' OVER."

FORESTRY QUESTION AS SEEN BY EUROPE

Germany's System Might Well Be Applied to the United States—Method *of* the Renewal *of* the Cut Varies in Several Localities—*The* First Principles of Old Country Laws—Protection From Fires the Most Important

THERE are very promising indications that the next Michigan legislature, aroused to a tardy realization of the imminent danger of exhaustion of the timber and even wood supply, will take steps to introduce a system of practical forestry. How wise or far-reaching their provisions may be remains to be seen.

The whole subject of forestry in the United States is now, and of necessity must be for years to come, merely in a tentative state. The economic conditions in this country are so different from those of the older countries which long ago passed the wasteful period in the treatment of their forests and began by painstaking care to retrieve as best they might a portion of their spent natural resources, that we can not hope to take over bodily the results of their experience. We may, however, find a study of some of their methods valuable as suggesting the general lines along which the work of restoring Michigan's forests must proceed, modified, of course, to accord with the varying conditions.

The earliest forestry regulations on the continent of Europe were designed for the protection of the game preserves against poachers rather than for fostering the timber value of the forests. Restrictions on the clearing of large timbered areas so as to impair the hunting grounds of the nobles are found as early as the days of Charlemagne. A law prohibiting the cutting of trees of less than a prescribed diameter was in force in some of the German states as early as the middle of the seventeenth century, and this regulation perhaps marks the beginning of forestry legislation with a view to enhancing the productiveness of the forests.

But it was not until about a century and a half ago that Germany, first coming to realize that the depletion of her forests was rapidly bringing her face to face with a wood famine, was forced to adopt conservative methods in the utilization of her forests. Germany then stood at the very point where Michigan now finds herself. It was then that the German game warden enlarged his province, taking on the duties of a forester.

It was soon discerned by the German people that the care of the forests merited the most serious consideration. The work of the forester was seen to be of the most exacting nature. He needed to be a man of intelligence, courage, and of broad general knowledge. Botany, zoology, mineralogy and mathematics were all essential sciences for the properly trained forester, and it was not long before a large place in the educational system of the country was given to the fitting of men for this important service to the state. In the development of the education of the forester the Germans have brought into existence an elaborate branch of mathematics involving the calculation of the amount of wood and timber growing on a given area; the amount of increase to be expected from the natural growth of the forest, and the present and future value of the whole product of a wooded area.

In spite of the fostering care the German government bestowed on its forests, the importation of wood continues to be far in excess of its exportation and amounts to nearly one-fourth of the domestic product, while the enormously high prices of timber render the saving of every scrap of wood imperative.

So important does the state consider its public forest that it is constantly increasing its acreage by acquiring devastated and deforested lands, exchanging for them agricultural lands from the public domain. This move is considered advisable not only for economic reason, but because of the beneficial effects on agriculture and the general welfare. Not alone is the state engaged in the cultivation of forests; there are a large number of German villages whose public expenses have been paid for years with the produce of the communal forests and which, in addition to the financial benefit, have profited morally by the creation of a feeling of local attainment. Not less important, too, is the use of the communal forests as great public parks, in which the natural beauty of the landscape is carefully preserved. Both the state and the local community thus prizes the natural forest growth as a source of revenue and of general prosperity and improvement.

There are in Germany approximately 35,000,000 acres of forest. About 48 per cent of this is in the hands of private individuals; the remaining 52 per cent belongs to the crown and to the state. But of that held by individuals, 29 per cent has been placed under state supervision.

The regulations made by the state have for their object the prohibition of the indiscriminate clearing of the forest areas; prevention of forest deterioration within a given time after removal of the old growth; directing of the manner of cutting timber, and the enforced employment of a qualified forestry force.

The oversight of the forestry work is assigned to the department of finance. Uniformed guards, armed with carbines and organized on a military basis, patrol the forests to protect timber and game and to see that the work of cutting and the removal of products is done in accordance with the regulations. They are empowered to arrest any suspected of violations of the forest laws, and are themselves held accountable for damages or trespass occurring in their districts not promptly reported for investigation and punishment.

The general principle of forestry in Germany, as it should be everywhere, is to permit the cutting of timber annually to an amount only equivalent to or less than a year's growth. That is, the forest is treated as capital which must not be drawn upon, while the cutting may be considered as interest. It is obviously the policy of wisdom so to administer the affairs of the forest that the annual increment may appreciate. The expert forester constantly bends his energies to increase the productiveness of the soil; to raise in each locality the trees of highest economic value adapted to the locality, to fight insects, fires and all other enemies of the forest to thin the trees and bring to the highest perfection in the least time the most promising specimens, and to remove badly grown, malformed and valueless trees. By these methods the revenues derived from the forests are increased year by year while the original forest not only suffers no deterioration, but is actually enhanced in value.

The method of renewal of cut-over forests varies in different localities and with different varieties of trees desired to be grown. As a necessary adjunct of every forest is found a nursery. In it are grown the seedlings through the first year, and certain varieties are transplanted and protected for a longer time until they develop sufficient strength and depth of root.

Pine and spruce forests are usually grown by planting seedlings. Beech is found to grow well in Germany by protecting the natural seedlings. Oaks are raised by sowing acorns or by planting seedlings from one to three years old.

Protection from forest fires is quite as important as planting trees, and in this the German forester is materially aided by economic conditions in his country. The exceedingly high price of wood has made salable every vestige of the tree from the twigs to the roots. Accordingly the passage of the German lumberman does not leave behind a slashing piled high with rotting limbs, stumps and fallen trunks only waiting for the careless dropping of a match to spring into a roaring conflagration that will sweep resistlessly over thousands of acres of valuable timbered tracts before it finally burns itself out almost everything that grows in a German forest has a market value sufficient to make it worth gathering, and however trifling the remuneration there are always those who are searching the forests for anything that will sell. But in addition the government takes no chances on the devastation of a general forest fire. All the portions of forests under state protection that seem especially exposed to the danger of fire are subdivided into blocks by fire lanes from 130 to 600 feet wide. From these avenues every trace of inflammable material is removed. Grass is encouraged to grow, but is carefully burned over annually. These wide, open spaces serve as bases for fighting fire, and at the rare intervals when forest fires break out they are usually confined to very small areas.

Along either side of railroad tracks running through the forests, a space 25 feet wide is kept perfectly clear and is burned over every year. In addition, where necessary, this bare space is bounded by a ditch and every precaution is taken to prevent fires being set by passing locomotives. In the enforcement of these precautionary measures, the authorities have the hearty support of the residents, a thing that cannot always be said of the settlers of northern Michigan. As a result, in the sandy pineries of Prussia, regions most exposed to danger from forest fires, not more than one acre in 8000 of timbered land is burned over in a year.

The unwise system of taxation in the United States has been responsible for irreparable damage to the natural resources of the country. Taking into account the value of the standing timber, taxes have usually been made so high that the holder was forced to clear the land as rapidly as possible and then let the land revert to the state. Thus taxation defeated its own purpose, for instead of raising the revenue it deprived the state of the legitimate source of increasing revenues which would have accrued by the proper development of the forest resources.

Some of the states of Germany, however, have erred on the other extreme. Bavaria for many years taxed only the soil value without regard to the value of the timber upon it. This favored the owners too much. The policy which is coming into favor of late years, however, is a sliding income tax collected when the owner harvests his first forest crop and receives his income.

It is from the failures and successes of the European forestry departments that those interested in attempting to undo the mistakes and to retrieve the losses suffered in Michigan are now attempting to fashion the basis of a happy forestry program for the state. Nearly if not quite all experts in forestry economics in America are unanimous in condemning the systems of taxation to which they attribute the laying waste of the woodlands. It is pointed out that the owner of timber lands in Michigan is placed at so great a disadvantage under the existing laws that he must of necessity cut over his holdings without regard for the needs of the future. The farmer, it is argued, is taxed on his land and personal property and cannot well be assessed more than once for a single year's crop. The timber man, on the contrary, because his crop is not brought to an annual harvest, must continue to pay taxes year after year on practically the same crop. Obviously, therefore, it behooves the owner of standing timber, or timber that is reaching the marketable stage, to begin lumbering operations at the earliest moment and to sacrifice the smaller trees without regard for the increased value a few more years of growth would bring.

To ameliorate these conditions, students of the forestry problem in Michigan are to prescribe remedies which will be presented at the coming session of the legislature in the shape of a general forestry taxation bill, a tax land bill and a forest fire bill. The whole matter of the relation between the state's tax land and taxation laws and the conservation of a timber supply has been the subject of an exhaustive investigation on the part of the commission on state tax lands and forestry appointed by the governor at the suggestion of the last legislature.

Though this commission's report does not include a proposed taxation bill, it contains suggestions on the subject, obviously for the guidance of the legislature, as set forth in the arguments of forestry experts of national repute. To throw some light on the question, "How shall forests be taxed?" for instance, it quotes Alfred Gaskill to this effect:

"A few attempts to correct the evil, through partial exemption, rebates, or bounties, have been made. But, though such measures may serve for a beginning, the real need is for laws that recognize the public utility of forests; that adjust the necessary tax levies to the facts and conditions that govern tree growth, and to the long periods of time that are required to produce timber.

"In approaching this subject one naturally turns to those European countries in which forestry has become an art.

"The first principle in all their laws is that the forest shall be considered and rated apart from the land upon which it stands. This principle finds universal acceptance in theory at least, though the practice differs in the various countries, and is based upon the fact that a forest is a crop of many years' growth. Trees thrive and make a growth, but at the end of the season they are not convertible into money as a corn crop is. The tree crop is made each season, but must be left on the stump until enough wood is accumulated to make it salable.

"Here comes in a second principle that it is unjust to require the owner to pay (a tax on forest growth) so long as the forest yields him nothing. There is no equity in making a man's other property carry his immature forest. In practice this works out in various ways. Most of the German states have not yet made the principle effective, but Baden exempts newly established forests from tax for 20 years (law of 1886). In Austria they are exempt for 25 years (law of 1869). In France three fourths of the land tax is remitted for 30 years. In connection with these laws it should be remembered that forests in Europe begin to yield salable material when they are from 20 to 30 years old. In most parts of the United States the productive period begins later, because there is no market for small wood.

"The points that, in the writer's opinion, should be considered in any equitable scheme of forest taxation are the following:

"1. Forests are necessary to the public welfare, and consequently each commonwealth should bear a part of the cost of maintaining them. This means that the state should, as far as is proper, relieve the counties, and that cities and towns should contribute to the maintenance of conditions that are as important to them as they are to the people who live close to the forest borders. Exemptions and rebates as usually allowed, do not meet this requirement, because the county bears the burden; that is, if one piece of property pays less, all the rest must pay a higher rate to make up the deficiency. In no case is an exemption justified, unless everyone who shares the burden of it is correspondingly benefited. * * *

"A state cannot properly declare that its forest reserve shall be untaxed, because such action robs the counties of the revenue that they need. New York, which holds the largest state reserve, recognizes this principle and pays local taxes on its land. Under a new law, enacted in 1905, Pennsylvania pays to the counties in lieu of taxes 5 cents a year for each acre of state land. The Austrian state forests pay taxes on land and income.

"2. A forest is a form of property whose value is potential or prospective most of the time; only when the trees are market ripe can an income be derived from it.

"3. In consequence of yielding periodic returns, the greater part of the tax to be paid upon a forest should fall due when the timber is sold."

After pointing out the losses to which the state has been subjected through the manipulation of the state tax lands, as previously reported by the News Tribune, the commission proposes the passage of a law that shall make, with some exceptions, the state tax lands available for forestry reserves. It is provided, however, that not more than 20 per cent of the area of any county shall be so treated. Provision is also made for the taking up, under specified contract, of private timber reserves. It is provided that the state game, fish and forest warden shall, under the title of state forest warden, have charge of the business of preventing and fighting forest fires, the prevention of trespass on state lands, and shall so direct his deputies that they will become an effective body of state police.

Finally it is proposed that: "There shall be a commission, to be known as the public domain commission, to consist of five members, none of whom shall hold any other state office; two of the members to be appointed by the governor from a list of each appointment of not less than five persons, to be submitted by the board of regents of the State university; two members to be selected in the same manner from a like list to be submitted by the state board of agriculture, and the other member to be selected and appointed by the governor. The term of office of the members of the said commission shall be as follows: The term of office of the members first appointed on nomination of the said board of regents shall be one and three years, respectively; and that of the members first appointed on nomination of the state board of agriculture shall be two years and four years, respectively; and that of the member first selected and appointed by the governor shall be five years; and the term of office of the successors, of all the said members, except when appointed to fill unexpired terms, and all appointment of successors or to fill vacancies shall be made in manner above provided.

"This commission shall have power and jurisdiction over, and have the management, control and disposition according to law of the public lands, of forest reserves and forest interests; of all the interests of the state in connection with stream protection and control; of the protection of game and fish; and of forest fire protection. All matters within the jurisdiction, custody and control of the commissioner of the state land office, of the state game, fish and forestry warden, and of the Michigan forestry commission, and all authority, power and discretion vested in either by law, are hereby transferred to and vested in the commission aforesaid, which is hereby created a body corporate. The members shall be reimbursed all their expenses, but shall not receive any compensation for time or services.

"The affairs of the state under control of the commission shall be managed through subdepartments under administrative heads, who shall be chosen by the commission, and perform such duties as shall be prescribed by law or by the commission. The duties and terms of service of all officers and employes of the commission, or of any subdepartment, and all salaries and compensation of employes and officers shall (except as prescribed by law) be subject to the direction of the commission.

"The state game, fish and forestry warden now in office shall continue therein and serve out the term for which he was appointed unless removed by the commission; but said office shall be a departmental office and under the commission as hereinbefore set forth.

"The duties of the commissioner of the state land office shall be as under the laws now or hereafter in force, but subject to the supervision, control and direction of the said commission, and such other duties as said commission shall from time to time require.

"If the proposed new constitution is adopted, the commission suggests substituting the following in place of the last paragraph, dealing with the land commissioner:

"The office of commissioner of the state land office is hereby abolished upon the termination of the term of office of the present incumbent; but the commissioner now in office shall perform the duties of his office but as a subdepartment head under the supervision, control and direction of the said commission. The duties of said commissioner shall, on the termination of the office, be performed by the chief clerk of the commission, to be appointed by the commission."

SOCIETY MILKS AMERICAN MILLIONAIRE

Over the Wine and the Walnuts at Fashionable Week-End Parties, Big Deals Are Fixed Up—Fascinating Hostesses With Exalted Titles as Tempters—Women Who Add to Allowances by Big Prices for Works of Art

(From The Journal's Own Correspondent.)

LONDON, Nov. 25.—At this, the country house visiting season, American millionaires are in particular request. This is the time when over the wine and the walnuts "deals" as big as any which take place on the stock exchange or in the city offices are negotiated. The intimacy and the friendliness of the association within the ancestral home accomplish in a week end what could not be arrived at for months elsewhere. Besides, the guest, feeling himself under an obligation, as it were, cannot very well decline what he would without hesitation refuse to do were he approached in the ordinary business way.

The chatelaine of the aristocratic home spends many hours sorting out the right type of American people to invite to her board. She gushes over them and begs them with her innocent blue eyes to come and see her aviary or her miniature zoo, or the dairy, or the fowls, and, never dreaming that the fair one is a sort of human spider, inveigling her prey to her parlors, they accept the invitation, delighted at the prospects of meeting a royal highness. Astute and shrewd as the usual Yankee millionaire is, not even when he has deposited thousands in the flotation of a company in which his hostess' husband is interested or has purchased the masterpiece or the antique leather chairs does he tumble to the fact that he has been invited for no other purpose than to spend his dollars.

The wife of a well known Hampshire magnate boasts to her intimates that for five years past she has made between $10,000 and $12,000 for her dress through American millionaires, to whom she sells in the privacy of her home objects of art. She is a connoisseur of some distinction, and it is to be admitted that what she does sell is genuine of its kind, but she gets phenomenal prices—in some cases as much as five times the worth of the article.

"How had you the conscience," said a well known statesman to her the other day, "to ask $1250 for that seal and watch fob? You ought to be ashamed of yourself."

"You forget altogether, my right honorable friend, that the American young man who paid it to me was introduced to my friends—to you, for instance. Business is business," she answered.

The biggest tube scheme that has yet been put before parliament will be presented early next year. It was arranged during one week end at a well known house in Yorkshire, much of the money being guaranteed by Americans who had met for the first time the promulgator of the enterprise at the gathering. The originator is a penniless but clever nephew of a distinguished Irish peer, and he expects to net out of the job something like $1,500,000.

American dog fanciers stand a good chance of being invited to the smartest houses if they have the reputation of being willing to pay "fancy prices" for pedigree animals. The greater number of country hostesses add to their dress allowances by selling pedigree dogs, cats or fowls. It surely cannot be infra dig to do so when Princess Victoria of Schleswig Holstein, the king's niece, has for years sold cats to any "common or garden" individual who wrote to her either at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor or Schomberg House, London, inclosing a check for a pussy cat.

It must always be taken into consideration that the more exalted the saleswoman, the higher the price she can demand. Princess Victoria, nevertheless, is the one exception which proves the rule, and when some time ago an ambitious social climber forwarded her a gushing letter and a check for $500 for a blue Persian kitten a few feeks old, she deducted the $50, the actual price of the cat, and returned the rest.