Salem Market Quotations

FRUITS
(Buying Prices)
(The prices below supplied by a local grocer are indicative of the daily market prices paid to growers by Salem buyers but are not guaranteed by The Statesman.

Apples—Extra fancy Delicious $1.35, Winesaps, $1.50; orchard run Romes	1.00
Apricots, 15 lb. Yakima	.55
Bananas, lb. on stalk	.06
Hands	.06½
Cantaloupes	3.00
Cherries, lb., all varieties	.02
Currants	1.50
Loganberries, crate	1.00
Grapefruit Calif., Sunkist, crate	2.00
Dates, fresh, lb	.14
Lemons, crate	5.50 to 6.50
Oranges, crate	2.65 to 3.15
Youngberries, crate	1.00
Boysenberries, crate	1.25
Raspberries, crate	1.50

VEGETABLES
(Buying Prices)

Asparagus—Oregon, doz.	.90
Beets, doz.	.25
Jabbage, lb	.03
Calif., new crop	.03
Carrots, local, doz.	.40
Cauliflower, Seattle	1.45
Celery, Utah crate	2.50
String Beans Calif., lb	.06
Celery Hearts, doz.	1.00
Lettuce, local	1.15
Onions, No 1, cwt.	2.50
Boiling, 10 lbs., No. 2	.20
Green Onions doz.	.25
Radishes doz.	.40
Peppers, green, Calif., 12 to	.15
Parsley	.40
Green Peas, lb	.06
New potatoes, local, cwt.	1.75
Potatoes, local No. 1, cwt.	1.50
No. 2, cwt. bag	.50
Spinach, local	.65
Zucchini Squash, flat	1.50
Turnips, doz.	.60

NUTS

Walnuts, 1937, lb. 10 to	.16
Filberts, 1937 crop, lb 12 to	.15

HOPS
(Buying Price)

Clusters, nominal, 1937, lb. 10 to	11
Fuggles, top nominal	

WOOL AND MOHAIR
(Buying Price)

Wool, medium, lb.	.18
Coarse, lb.	.18
Lambs lb	.15
Mohair, lb	.20

EGGS AND POULTRY
(Buying Price of Andresens)

Large extras	.25
Medium extras	.23
Large standards	.23
Medium Standards	.17
Pullets	.17
Colored fryers	.16
Colored medium, lb	.15
White Leghorns, lb., No. 1	.12
White Leghorns, fryers	.14
White Leghorns lb., No. 2	.10
Heavy hens lb.	.15
Roosters	.05

LIVESTOCK
(Based on conditions and sales reported up to 4 p. m.)

Spring lambs	6.25
Lambs	3.00 to 3.50
Ewes	1.75 to 2.25
Hogs, tops, 150-210 lbs	9.85
130-150 lbs.	9.35 to 9.60
210-300 lbs.	9.10 to 9.35
Sows	6.25 to 6.75
Dairy Type Cows	3.00 to 3.50
Beef Cows	4.00 to 5.00
Bulls	5.25 to 6.00
Heifers	4.50 to 5.50
Top Veal, lb.	7.50
Dressed Veal, lb.	.11

MARION CREAMERY Buying Price

Butterfat, A grade	.25½
Butterfat, B grade	.24
Leghorn Hens, heavy	.12
Colored Fryers	.14
Colored Hens, over 4½ lbs.	.15
Leghorn Hens, light	.10
Stags, lb	.05
Old Roosters, lb	.05
Rejects, market value, No. 2 grade 5c less	
Large extras	.25
Medium extras	.23
Large Standards	.23
Medium standards	.18
Undergrade	.17

Grade B raw 4 per cent milk, Salem basic pool price $1.90 per hundred. Surplus $1.10.

Co-op Grade A butterfat price, FOB Salem, 25½c.

(Milk based on semi monthly butterfat average.)

Distributor price, $2.82.

A grade butterfat — Delivered, 25½c; B grade, 24c; C grade, 19½c.

A grade print, 28½c; B grade, 27½c.

GRAIN, HAY AND SEEDS

Oats, white, ton	22.00
Wheat, white, bu.	.57
Wheat, western red, bu.	.55
Barley, feed, ton	22.00
Oats, gray, ton	24.00
Alfalfa, valley, ton	12.50
Oat and Vetch Hay, ton	10.00

Gardeners' and Ranchers' Mart

PORTLAND, Ore., July 20, —(AP)—(USDA)—Produce price changes:

Apples—Oregon, new transparents, 35-pound lugs, 90c $1.00 Romes, loose, 2½c per pound; Winesaps, fancy, $1.50-1.60; Duchess, 75-80c.

Apricots—Oregon, 13-pound boxes, Moorpark, 45-50, jumble, 40-45; Wash. Moorpark, 40-45c, Tilton, 45-52½c.

Asparagus—Ore., 30-lb. bunched, $2-2.25.

Avocados — California, green, $2.35-3.35; others $2-2.85; choice, less.

Beans—Oregon, green, 6-6½; wax, 5-6½c per lb.; Kentucky Wonders, 7-8c lb. Ore. Giants, 7½-8c.

Berries—24-basket crate, strawberries, local, best $2.50; loganberries, $1.00-1.10; boysenberries, 90c-$1.00; raspberries, red, $1.50-1.75; blackcaps, $1.30-1.40; youngberries, 85c-$1; currants, $1.25-1.35; blackberries, $1.10-1.25.

Cabbage—Oregon, Ballhead, 2-2½c lb., $1.75-2 crate; Wash., $1.90-2 crate.

Cantaloupes — California jumbo, 45s, $2.45-2.50; 36s, $2.25-2.45; 27s, $2.00-2.25. Wash. jumbos, 36s, $2.25-2.50.

Casabas—Calif., lb. 4½c.

Cauliflower—Seattle, $1.00-1.25.

Celery—Oregon, Utah type, 70-75c dozen, $1.50-1.65 per crate; Labish, white, $1.25-1.50; nearts, $90c-1.00.

Corn—The Dalles, 5 doz. crates, $1.00-1.25; lower Columbia, 75-90c.

Cucumbers—Hothouse, 75c-$1 per box, field grown, 40-45c; No. 2, 30-35c.

Eggplant—7-8c per pound; 20-pound flats, $1.25.

Garlic—Local, best 6-8c per pound, poorer 4-5c per pound; new crop, 6-8c cut.

Grapefruit—48 100 Calif., extra fancy, $2.25-2.50; choice, $1.75-2.00.

Grapes — Calif., Thompson seedless, $2.25-2.50.

Lemons — Fancy, all sizes, $5.50-5.75, choice grades 50c to $1.00 less.

Lettuce—Dry, 3-4 doz., local, $1.00-1.25, poor, low as 75c; Wash., $1.15-1.25

Onions—Washington Valencias, No. 1s, 90c-$1.00; few at $1.10; Calif., whites, $1.85.

Oranges — Choice Valencias, fancy $2.25-3.00; choice, $2.00-2.20; loose, $1.25-1.75.

Peas—Oregon Telephone, 6-7c; Lower Columbia, 8c.

Peaches—Triumph, Calif., $1.15; Oregons, early, 50-75c; crates, $1.00, Mayflower, 50-75c. Wash. Deweys, 85c.

Plums — California Beauties, Formosa 4-basket crates, 1.20-1.30; Santa Rosa, $1.25-1.40; Oregon Beauties, 15-pound box, June blood, 90c-1.00; Peach plums, 75-80c.

Tomatoes—California, $1.25-1.30; repacked, $1.75-2.00; Oregon fancy, $1.35-1.40; choice $1.00; flats, 65-70c; The Dalles, flat boxes, No. 1, 60-75c; No. 2, 40-50c.

Peppers, Calif., $1.60-1.75.

Potatoes — Oregon, local sacked, per hundredweight, long whites, 100-pound sacks, US No. 1, $1.00-1.25; US No. 2, 35-40c; 50-pound sacks Yakima, sack-1, $1.50-1.75; Deschutes, sacked, per 100-pound sack, US No. 2, 90c. New stock, California, sacked per hundredweight, White Rose US No. 1, 1.40-1.50; Washington Cobblers, US No. 1, $1.25-1.40 per hundredweight.

Squash—Ore.-Wash. Crookneck, Scallop, Zucchini, 50-60c per flat; Calif., 30 lbs., $3; Danish, $1.40.

Bunched Vegetables—Oregon, per dozen bunches, beets, 25-30c; carrots, 25-30c; green onions, 20-25c; parsley 20-25c; radishes, 30-40c; turnips, 50-55c.

Watermelons—California, Klondikes and Stripes, $2.00-2.25 per hundredweight, crates extra.

Onions—California white, $1.75; Walla Walla, 75c-$1.00, 50 lb. bag.

Wool—1938, nominal; Willamette valley, medium, 18c lb; coarse and braids, 18c lb.; eastern Oregon, 17½-19c lb.

Hay—Selling price to retailers: Alfalfa, No. 1, $17-18 ton; oat vetch, $14 ton, clover, $11-11.50 ton; timothy, eastabove, bulls 5.00-6.00, few good beef bulls 6.25, good-choice vealers 7.50-8.50, medium 6.50.

Sheep: Receipts, 400, market active, steady, good 81-90 lb. spring lambs 6.25-50, common-medium 5.25-6.00, older classes scarce, yearlings salable 4.50 and down, medium good ewes 2.00-3.0.

ern Oregon, (—) ton; do valley, $15 ton, Portland.

Mohair—Nominal: 1938, 20c lb.

Hops—Nominal: 1937, 10-11c lb.

Cascara Bark—Buying price: 1938 peel, 3c lb.

Sugar—Berry or fruit, 100s, $4.90; bales, $5.10; beet, $4.80 cental.

Domestic flour—Selling price, city delivery, 1-10 25 bbl. lots; family patents, 49s, $5.85-6.45; bakers' hard wheat, net, $4.50-5.75; bakers' bluestem, 4.25-4.60; blended hard wheat $4.35-4.70, softwheat flours, $4.15-4.25; graham, 49s, $4.95; whole wheat, 49s, $4.80 bbl.

Movie Shares Drop Sharply

Stocks Swing Down as Film Offers Tumble After Decision

NEW YORK, July 20—(AP)—Bulls playing for a further rise in stocks were caught off center today by a sudden fall in movie shares—which were hit by the federal government's court move to separate the theatre end from film production—but tried to keep the market pointed upward by shifting into public utilities.

The fortunes of speculation swayed confusingly throughout another session of fast trading. At the close gains and losses were about evenly divided, with industrial shares mostly lower and rails and electric power shares mostly higher.

Efforts to carry on yesterday's broad upswing into new high ground for the mid-year bull movement met opposition from the start. A fresh drive toward noon was stalled by the outburst of selling in the amusement group on the news the government had filed anti-trust proceedings against leading motion picture companies.

The Associated Press composite price of 60 stocks was off .3 of a point at 49.9. Transactions totaled 2,509,000 shares against 2,942,210 in the preceding session.

Paul Polings Visit

RICKREALL—Rev. and Mrs. Paul Poling and children of El Paso, Texas, visited with Mrs. E. A. Stenson Tuesday afternoon. Rev. Poling was the pastor of the church several years ago.

Quotations at Portland

PRODUCE EXCHANGE

PORTLAND, Ore., July 20. —(AP)—Produce exchange:

Butter—Extras, 25½; large standards, 24½; prime firsts 24; firsts 23½ butterfat, 26-26½.

Eggs—Large extras, 26; large standards, 24; medium extras, 23c; medium standards 23.

Cheese—Triplets, 13½; loaf, 14.

Portland Grain

PORTLAND, Ore., July 20. —(AP)—

Grain: Wheat	Open	High	Low	Close
July	66	66	66	66
Sept.	66	66	65½	65½
Dec.	67	67	66½	66½

Cash Grain: Oats, No. 2-38 lb. white 25.00; No. 2-38 lb. gray 25.00. Barley, No. 2-45 lb. BW 24.50. Corn, No. 2-EY Ship. 29.75.

Cash Wheat (Bid): Soft white and western white 65½; western red 63. Hard red winter ordinary 62½; 11 per cent 63; 12 per cent 68; 13 per cent 70; 13 per cent 72. Hard white-Baart ordinary 65½; 11 per cent 65½; 12 per cent 69½; 13 per cent 72½; 14 per cent 74½.

Today's car receipts: Wheat 44; flour 4; oats 2; millfeed 4.

Portland Livestock

PORTLAND, Ore., July 20—(AP)—(USDA)—Hogs: Receipts 650 including 28 direct; market very slow, few early sales, weak-10 lower and later sales as much as 15 lower; early top lightweight driveins 10.25; late sales 165-215 lb. 10.00-15; 225-75 lb. 9.50-75; few light lights 9.50-75; packing sows mostly 7.50; few up 7.75; few feeder pigs 9.25-50.

Cattle: Receipts 150 including 35 direct; calves 25 including 7 direct; market about steady but in between grade cattle rather slow and cutters kinds active strictly good kinds scarce; few common-medium grass steers 6.00-7.50; cutters down 4.75; cutter-common heifers 4.25-6.00; low cutter and cutter cows mostly 3.50-4.00; common-medium 4.25-5.00; good beef salable around 5.00-75; and above; few bulls 5.25-75; good beef up 6.15; good-choice vealers 7.50-8.50; selects up 9.00.

Sheep: Receipts 500; market slow few early sales around 25 lower later sales mostly 50 down instances 75 off; early top good truckins 7.00; later sales downward 6.50; common-medium 5.00-6.25; medium-choice slaughter ewes 2.00-3.25.

Portland Produce

PORTLAND, Ore., July 20. —(AP)—Country Meats—Selling price to retailers: Country killed hogs, best butcher under 160 lbs., 12½-13c pound; vealers, 12-12½c lb.; light and thin, 10-11c lb.; heavy, 8½-9c lb.; bulls 10c lb.; canner cows, 7c lb.; cutter cows, 7-8c lb.; spring lambs, 12-12½c lb.; old lambs, 7-8c lb.; ewes, 5-7c lb.

Live Poultry — Buying prices: Leghorn broilers, 1¼ to 1¾ lbs., 14c lb.; 2½ lbs. 14c lb.; colored springs, 2 to 3½ lbs., 16-17c lb.; over 3½ lbs., 17-18c lb.; Leghorn hens, over 3½ lbs., 14-15c lb.; under 3½ lbs., 13-14c lb.; colored hens to 5 lbs., 17-18c lb.; over 5 lbs., 17-18c lb.; No. 2 grade 5c lb. less.

Turkeys—Nominal buying price: Breeder hens, 20c lb. Selling price: Breeder hens, 20-22c lb. toms (—).

Potatoes — New Shafter, $1.25-1.50 cwt., local, $1.35-1.45.

Wool in Boston

BOSTON, July 20—(AP)—(USDA)—Boston wool houses had a fairly active trade at strong prices. Twelve months Texas wool prices were ranging mostly 63 to 68-cents scoured basis. Only the shorter wools of a year's growth were readily available at 63 cents. Average to good wools brought 64 to 66 cents scoured basis while good to choice clips running bulk staple combing length brought 67 to 68 cents. Good French combing length brought 67 to 68 cents. Good French combing length fine territory wools in original bags brought mostly 63 to 65 cents scoured basis.

Stocks & Bonds

July 20
STOCK AVERAGES
Compiled By The Associated Press

	30 Indus	15 Rails	15 Util.	60 Stocks
Today	72.4	20.8	*35.1	49.9
Prev. day	73.2	20.6	34.8	50.2
Month ago	62.4	15.2	31.7	42.7
Year ago	96.2	41.0	43.4	69.0
1938 high	73.2	21.6	35.1	50.2
1938 low	49.2	12.1	24.9	33.7
1937 high	101.6	49.5	54.0	75.3
1937 low	57.1	19.0	31.6	41.7

*—New 1938 high.

BOND AVERAGES

	20 Rails	10 Indus	10 Util	10 Forgn
Today	59.7	99.1	93.2	62.7
Prev. day	58.7	99.2	93.4	62.7
Month ago	50.5	95.7	90.5	62.0
Year ago	92.9	102.9	97.5	73.2
1938 high	70.5	99.2	93.4	67.0
1938 low	46.2	93.0	85.8	61.2
1937 high	99.0	104.4	102.8	74.7
1937 low	70.3	95.5	90.3	64.2

Grover Giesys Moving

AMITY—The Grover Giesy family is moving next week from the Florence Blair property on Trade street to near Woodburn.

Contract 38s At 18 Cents

Extreme Heat Does Slight Damage; 90,000 Bales Is '38 Estimate

Local prognosticators who have fairly well hit the Oregon hop production year in and year out, opine that the 1938 hop crop in this state will run 90,000 bales, on basis of the present outlook. This in spite of the government statisticians' prediction that the Oregon harvest will run 102,175 bales.

Although the intense heat and unusually long drouth show up some slight damage on the Oregon fuggle crop, the early and late clusters look fine. Late hops, however, are just blooming now and there is possibility if the extreme heat continues that it may cook the blossoms.

Spots hop sales in Oregon have been nil so far this week, with only about 350 bales moving last week at from 10 to 11 cents per pound.

Chief interest the past week has centered in new one-year contracts under which 500 to 600 pounds of 1938 clusters have been written up at 18 cents a pound.

At the present time, the Oregon holdover situation on 1937 hops runs about 16,000 bales, while for the entire coast, about 26,000 bales of 1937's and about 20,000 bales of 1936's and older hops are held by growers.

Approve Market Plan for Prunes

WASHINGTON, July 20—(AP)—A marketing agreement to regulate the interstate handling of prunes in Umatilla county of Oregon and Walla Walla and Columbia counties of Washington was approved today by the AAA with the assertion that the states have an "instrument which should enable them to keep prune shipments within the limits necessary for profitable returns to growers."

The agreement becomes effective July 23.

Closing Quotations

NEW YORK, July 20—(AP)—Today's closing quotations:

Air Reduc	64	Con Edis	29⅞
Al Chem & Dye	180	Consol Oil	10⅝
Allied Stores	11⅝	Corn Prod	68⅝
Am Can	100	Curt Wright	5⅝
Am & For Pow.	5	Douglas Aircraft	52¼
Am Pow & Lt.	6¾	Du Pont	128¾
Am Rad & St.	16¼	Elec Auto Lt.	26½
Am Roll Mills	21½	Elec Pow & Lt.	13½
Am Smelt & Rf.	50⅝	Erie RR	3⅝
A T & T.	141¼	Gen Elec	42½
Am Tob B.	81½	Gen Foods	35⅞
Am Wat Wks.	12⅝	Gen Mot	41¾
Anaconda	35⅝	Goodyear Tires	26¾
Armour Ill	6¾	Gr No Ry Pf	24
Atchison	39¼	Hudson Mot	8⅝
Balt & Ohio	10	Illinois Cent	12½
Barnsdall	20¼	Insp Copper	15⅝
Bendix Avia	17⅝	Int Harvest	65⅝
Bith Steel	60¼	Int Nick Can	50⅜
Boeing	29	Int Pap & P Pf	44⅝
Borge Warner	31¼	I T & T	10⅛
Bud Mfg	6¼	Johns Manv	93¼
Calif Pack	23¼	Kennecott	41⅝
Callahan Z-L	2⅛	Lib O Ford	44
Calumet Hec	9⅛	Lig Myers B	101¾
Canadian Pac	7¼	Loew's	53
Case (JI)	98	Monty Ward	47⅞
Caterpil Tract	54½	Nash Kelvinator	10¾
Celanese	22⅝	Nat Bisc	24
Certain-Teed	8⅞	Nat Cash	24⅞
Ches & Ohio	34¼	Nat Distill	24½
Chrysler	70¾	Nat Pow & Lt.	7¾
Col Gas & Elec.	8⅝	NY Cent	20⅝
Coml Solv	9⅛	North Am	24⅛
Comwlth & Sou.	1⅜	Northern Pac	13⅛
		Packard	5⅛
		Penn RR	22¾
		Phillips Pet	44
		Pressed Stl Car.	10
		Pub Serv NJ	32⅛
		Pullman	35¼
		Radio	7¼
		Rem Rand	15¾
		Rep Stl	19⅞
		Sears Roe	73⅛
		Shell Union	18
		So Cal Ed	24⅞
		Southern Pac	20
		Stan Brands	8½
		St Oil Cal	34
		St. Oil NJ	57
		Studebaker	6⅝
		Sup Oil	3⅜
		Texas Corp	48⅝
		Timken Det Axl	15
		TransAmerica	11⅜
		Union Carb	83⅞
		Union Pac	87
		Unit Airlines	11
		Unit Aircraft	28½
		US Rubber	43
		US Steel	60¾
		Walworth	9⅛
		West Union	32¾
		White Motor	12⅛
		Woolworth	47¼
		(Curb)	
		Cities Serv	10
		Elec Bond & Sh	10¼

Wheat Drops Near Season's Lowest

CHICAGO, July 20—(AP)—Jolted by heavy late selling, the Chicago wheat market fell 1⅜ cents a bushel today to within ⅛ cent of the season's bottom price record. Securities setbacks were largely responsible, together with increased pressure of hedging in connection with the movement of newly harvested domestic wheat.

H. C. Donovan wired from Regina, Saskatchewan, that for 200 miles between Saskatoon and Regina most of the wheat was drought damaged, the greater part decidedly so, and that black rust was evident in all fields, light to heavy on upper stems.

At the close, Chicago wheat futures were ⅝ to 1 cent lower compared with yesterday's finish, Sept. 69½-¾, Dec. 71⅝-½; corn ⅛-¾ down, Sept. 59½-⅝; Dec. 58¼; oats ⅜-⅝ off; rye at ⅛-⅝ loss.

Arnold Reports On Co-op Meet

LEBANON—L. E. Arnold, owner of a large poultry farm south of Lebanon, has returned from Pullman, Wash., and Moscow, Ida., where he attended the annual meet of the National Co-operative Institute as a director of the Pacific Co-operative Poultry association.

Delegates, including managers, directors and officers of cooperatives numbered 1200.

The institute went on record as opposing the importation of agricultural products of which the US produces a surplus.

Arnold says that crops in eastern Washington, are fine with wheat running 40 and oats 100 bushels to the acre.

"THE STOLEN GOD"

By Edison Marshall

CHAPTER XIV

Ned let Koh-Ken sleep an hour past his time, then called his name. At once the old man was beside him.

"Keep close watch tonight," Ned ordered.

"Yes, lord. The dead walk tonight."

It was true. All the dark was thronged with ghosts, but what were their names, and where were the lost graves from which they rose, and what was the portent of their return, even old Koh-Ken of the dark blood did not understand, let alone this white-skinned alien clasped merely for one life time in the arms of Asia.

Ned went to his blanket and was soon asleep. It was the black ebb-tide of the night, just before its turn, that he wakened with a leap of his eyelids and a strong surge of his heart.

The moon had set. There was a dim glimmer, hardly more than a pale mist, over the eastern hills that promised soon the rush and splendor of the tropic dawn. The fire had burned down to a few red sticks ready to fall to black coals. His old heart shocked more than he knew by Pu-Bow's violence, Koh-Ken had fallen to sleep.

Without one movement to show that he was awake, Ned looked and listened. In spite of the unbroken dark and the brooding silence, he knew now that he had not been summoned from sleep in vain. The camp was full of living things crawling in the dust.

One of them was only a few feet from his bed. It was no more than a haze in his eyes, a shadow vaguely less black than the night that shielded it, yet slowly, stealthily he saw it moving toward the rest-house. And now when he listened hard, he could hear it breathe.

Ned sprang up with a yell of alarm. But before he could get to his feet, the shadow had leaped for him and was clutching at him with little hard hands. Ned snatched at it once, identified a small naked man, and cast it away. Then he darted for the rest-house.

The events of the next few seconds would always be a tangle in Ned's brain. Panic broke loose; fear ran in the dark. The silence exploded into savage shouts, yells of fear, gobblings and monkey-like chatterings. The camp was full of men who ran and dodged, collided and fell.

Ned tripped over one man, another clutched at his legs only to be kicked away. Yet he gained the door of the mess-shack, collided with some one there, and blind to everything but the strong will of his heart, fought his way to Virginia's room. Nokka was by the door, struggling with something that gobbled and ran. Virginia was caught in her mosquito-net like a moth in a web, but she broke through and their hands met in the darkness.

"Where's your flashlight?"

"On the floor by my bed."

Still holding her with one hand he groped for the light and presently clutched it. An instant later its yellow beam filled the room.

But Griffin's rifles were all in his own room. Ned moved to the door, Virginia behind him and protected by his body, the light flung in front. As it danced into the middle-room where Chambon slept, it burnished the naked sides of two men just in the act of leaping out the main door, and its furthest beam caught the whites of a pair of eyes at the window.

Ned sprang to the entrance and swept the camp with his light, but all it showed was his own men huddled in a group by the fire and some dim running figures that soon disappeared. In the meantime, Chambon was getting up from the floor, dazed but apparently unhurt. Ned heard him scratch a match, light the oil lamp, and then snick a shell into the chamber of his rifle. And the shadows leaped and cavorted on the walls as Virginia seized the lamp and darted into the further room, where her father slept.

Through the incredible silence that followed the raid, her voice rose in a frantic cry.

"Father! Father! Where are you?"

Before Ned could cross the room, the girl reappeared at the door, the light trembling in her hand.

"Father—isn't—here," she said in broken tones. "They've carried him off."

Until now Ned had been fighting in a daze. In the violence and terror of the night attack, grappling with invisible things that clutched and gobbled and ran, he was only another savage in the dark. It was his heart, not his head, that had driven him to Virginia's bedside at all costs. But this news she cried from the doorway was a concrete thing, a hard fact to seize and face. All at once he was Ned Holden, on the job.

"Stay here with Chambon," he told Virginia. "Master,"—and he called Chambon so without conscious effort, so suddenly clear was his mind and sharp his thoughts—"guard her with your rifle."

Flashing his light before him, Ned entered Griffin's room. There were his clothes over a chair—his rifle in a corner—here was the imprint of his head on his pillow. But the man himself had vanished without trace.

Had he been knocked unconscious while he slept and carried off bodily? More likely he had yielded quietly to overwhelming numbers. And sensibly too; caught in the mosquito net was a wicked-looking iron knife with a carved teakwood grip and a row of uncut topaz where the blade joined the hilt.

A clean blade. This was good news. Kha chieftains carried such knives; added proof that the raiders were Kha savages from the hills. To spare Virginia, he put the weapon out of sight; then returned to her and her lover waiting in the next room.

As he came through the door, he was arrested by their faces in the lamplight, so vivid against the shadowy background. What a staunch little soldier was standing there, stark pale, but swallowing her sobs, her head up, her shoulders square. The expression on Chambon's face he would never forget. No bewilderment was there, hardly even curiosity, but a fateful look . . . Yes, and a look of dignity, hardly missing grandeur. A great antagonist was this man Chambon, a strong soul. A Napoleon might look like that, after a faithful regiment had been annihilated to gain one little rise of ground.

The night's raid was no mystery to Chambon. This fact was plain in his face. But wild horses would never drag the truth from him, at this stage of the affair. This too was certain as the now-breaking dawn.

Virginia ran toward Ned with a little cry. "You haven't—found him."

"Not yet, Heaven-Born." So spoke T'Fan. But Ned Holden longed to kiss the tear mist from her eyes.

"Tell me the truth. I can stand it. Do you think he's still alive?"

"If they had meant to kill him, they would have stabbed him while he slept."

"Perhaps they were bandits, taking him for ransom. Doesn't that seem likely?"

Her hand went to her heart as she waited his answer. To her this would be the least terrible solution of the mystery. Kidnaping for gain she could understand; any other explanation would be too strange and sinister to contemplate. But she had asked for the truth, and Ned knew he must not deny her.

"No, Heaven-Born. The Khas are not bandits. They have done this through fear."

He saw her wide eyes sink and narrow. "Fear—of what?"

"I do not know, yet. They are a race of children, given to sudden panics over nothing. Perhaps *Tuan* could tell you."

"I, T'Fan?" Chambon demanded. "I have never seen a Kha before this trip. Now call up your drivers, and we'll start at once for Chiengkhuang to get help from the French. They'll scour these hills with troops."

"And what will they find, lord?" Ned's tone was so grave that Chambon stopped and stared.

"What do you mean, T'Fan?" Virginia broke in.

"The Khas are a wild, strange people. If we drive them to panic with soldiers searching their villages, we will never see Griffin Tuan again. But if let alone, they will keep him unharmed until their end is gained. We must wait till they make terms."

The light was clearing now, so Ned went out to look for tracks in the dust of the road. At least fifty Khas had taken part in the raid, and about eight of them had led Griffin bare-footed, probably at the point of a knife, across the road and into the thickets. There the trail was lost.

As he searched, Pu-Bow watched with a wooden face. Here was another who knew more than he cared to tell.

"It was you who talked to the Khas on the road," Ned snapped. "Perhaps you can throw some light on last night's shame."

"The shame was yours alone," was the bold reply. "You are headman and protector of the camp. I have already told my masters the Khas' words."

"Yes, I am headman." Ned closed his fist and examined the skin over the knuckles. "Perhaps you found it so last night."

A Laotian baron, even though dressed as a coolie, does not care to be reminded of a blow in the face. His dark eyes caught fire and his hand dived under his jacket. But at Ned's wicked little smile, the hand came out empty.

"Have mercy, lord," he murmured, lowering his head.

"For the faithful dog, good bones and a soft hand," Ned quoted from the old Laotian philosophers. "For the jackal—poisoned meat, lest he steal the slippers from the door. It may be, Pu-Bow, that you will soon be called again to interpret between the white man and the Khas."

(To be continued.)

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