FATAL WATER-HOLE

To Track and Kill the Hunted One Must Have Great Endurance.

By L. K. DEVENDORF.

Just at dawn Cherokee rubbed the circulation back into his leathery face, shivered a bit, and looked down across the rock-strewn dip. Out across the wavy haze—purple and undulating—that hung over the sand-covered earth like the enshrouding gauze of a dancer, he knew the water-hole lay.

For days he had kept to the painted, tower-like buttes. Scanning every nook and cranny among the rocks, silent; and stalking the sun-peopled crevices; creeping up to the overhanging boulders and peering down below to the thin yellow ribbon of a trail that seemed to squirm in and out among the dull heaps of drift.

He had watched, as a mother watches for the fever to turn in the first-born, for the thin blue spiral of smoke climbing skyward, to mark the location of Mitchell's camp-fire. He had watched and looked at shadows that melted into nothing until his eyes seemed dry.

When he winked the lids appeared to be coated with sandpaper, that scratched and burned his eyeballs like the back-fire from a loose breech-block. But Mitchell was "covering" well; there was no smoke—no telltale. Still, he knew that somewhere in this great cradle of rocks, snugly tucked in, lay his game—knew, too, that sooner or later Mitchell must make for the water-hole.

Today was the day he had figured that he would "break cover."

Several times he had found the unmistakable signs of another's presence. Cleverly concealed, in fact hidden entirely to a less skillful observer than he, but nevertheless "signs."

Once he had found the burnt sticks and ashes of his fire—found them because the sand by which they were covered was of a lighter hue than that next to the little circle under which they lay. The fire had burnt out the color. Then, farther on and in line with the water-hole, his pony had pulled off some of the leaves of a scrub-oak—plain, and speaking to Cherokee like the pages of a book—plain because of the inherited intuition from a Cherokee mother, and they all told him that he was coming up with the game.

All he wanted was a glimpse of him; just a sight at him along the blue octagon barrel.

He "hobbled" the pony and left her in a sand-pocket.

Down across the slope he crawled and out into the gray sand; into the opalescent half-light; out to the fringe around the water-hole—to lie perhaps for hours in the suffocating sun rack.

He cautiously looked over the tumbling sand rim of the little crater, but no living thing was within its basin. He quickly slipped down the side. Flat upon his stomach he lay and drank. When he had finished he filled his canteen and climbed back to the rim. Here he dug a trench in the sand and mounded it up in front of him, leaving a low place through which he poked the muzzle of his gun.

Now, it was to wait.

Back of him lay the desert, out of which, burning its way through the amethyst haze, came the sun, and he shrank farther into the sand-pit as he thought of what he was to suffer.

In front lay the jumble of rocks and scrub from which he had come, and from which Mitchell was to follow. Unless, perhaps, he had miscalculated—or that it was not Mitchell in "The Chimneys," and he had been following a lonely prospector dodging the Apaches—or maybe he wouldn't take the chance of stopping at the springs before he crossed into Mexico. This did not seem possible, for it was over forty miles to the Southern Pacific and the next water, and no town nearer than Columbus on this side of the line.

He'd stop; of course he'd stop; "as sure as hell lacks water, he'd stop," he muttered.

For the first two hours he watched the shore-timbered pile before him; saw the sun chase out the luring shapes from each pocket; felt its impartial rays burn into his back, and heat almost to intoleration the sand about him.

He drew from his vest pocket a piece of folded paper and read the lines printed thereon, and then carefully refolded it and put it back—a paper worn from many readings, soft and damp from his body.

From under the brim of his hat he could look away straight into the cloudless space.

A buzzard was idly describing a circle. He watched it as long as its path was in front of him. He counted from when it left his sight, in its tireless swing, until it came around into range again. He fell to wondering if it was the same one or if there were two, for the count did not tally each time.

He felt an almost uncontrollable desire to turn over and look, but he knew that a moving object could be seen too far in that atmosphere, and he had waited too long now to spoil it all.

As he lay there he planned how he would pull on Mitchell as he rode down into the water-hole. He wouldn't give him a chance to draw—a fraction of a second late with Mitchell meant that one would never have a chance to pull—then, with the sun in his eyes as he knew it would be, for he had figured where the man would come in, he would get him. He had planned to shoot the instant the pony started to drink, and Mitchell would be climbing off, facing him, with his head and shoulders above the pony's back and both hands in sight, one on the pommel, the other on the pony's neck—he could picture them.

If there was any such thing as pity in Cherokee's nature, it was going out to Mitchell now.

Again he tried the hammer. It came back soft and easy—noiseless—as he pressed the trigger; the spring was strong and stiff; the oil oozed out on his thumb, and once more he lined up the little white bead with the tiny crotch back by his eye.

He read the paper again and muttered lowly to himself, then looked up at the sun-glints on the wings of the big bird as it came round in its sweep. He wished he had two canteens of water—and wondered if the pony was down—and if that rusty wagon-tire would ring with a bullet hitting it, or if it would sound dead—how long had the bones of the horse been there—if his head would stop aching.

Suddenly there came upon him the half-conscious sensation that he had been asleep. He stared down into the water-hole.

There beside a pony, still in the act of drinking, stood Mitchell.

Cherokee rubbed his eyes; yes, there he stood. It seemed but a moment ago that he had looked over toward "The Chimneys," and between them and the water-hole there was nothing but a stretch of radiating sand. But here before him, supremely unconscious of the presence of anything but himself, stood "Quick" Mitchell.

Mitchell had come across to the hole while he slept like a herder.

Ignoring completely the plan he had formed—the plan that had contemplated the deliberate shooting of the game through the notch in the sand-pile, he rose to one knee, fairly staggering. With one foot slipping across the rim of the water-hole and the other pressing tightly against the sand behind him, he slowly covered the pocket in the flannel shirt.

His eye twitched, he trembled; his vest was bunched under the butt of the gun and he could not hold it tight to his shoulder. His right hand was asleep and felt full of cactus spines. He was going to pull when he felt sure—when the pocket and the two sights along the hot blue barrel came in line. Somehow they wouldn't; his thumb was trembling upon the stock, the muzzle was wobbling, and he couldn't steady down.

He cursed himself that he should have fallen asleep, for his nerve was bad, and he knew if he missed that he'd never have a chance to pull again. The foot hanging over the edge was slipping; a pebble loosened and rolled down the slope. The man below turned slightly and looked up from the bottom of the hole in the sand.

"Throw up your hands, or I'll bore ye!" yelled Cherokee as he felt himself unable to pull, with the chance of missing, and hoping for a steadying down of his nerve when he saw Mitchell's hands in the air.

The man was talking—not responding to his command—standing motionless. He heard him say something that sounded like.

"You don't expect that gun's going off with your vest caught under the hammer, do you?"

Cherokee unconsciously lowered the forward sight a trifle, and for an instant dropped his eyes to the breech, then in just that instant, from the almost indistinct arc of blue as the man whipped down, there came a sputter of flame—once, twice, three times, and Cherokee crumpled up like a piece of burning hide and slid down the sandy slope.

Mitchell climbed up the little intervening distance and turned him over upon his back.

From out of his vest pocket a paper slipped and fluttered, half-open. Picking it up, he squatted down upon his heels and read:

FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS REWARD

Will be paid for the body of "Quick" Mitchell, or

THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS

For information that will lead to his capture.

(Signed) JAMES CRESSON,
Sheriff of Grant Co., N. M.

"Poor old Cherokee," he whispered as he tucked the upper corners of the bill under the dead man's suspenders and the lower edge beneath his belt. "And I staked him to his last outfit, too. He shouldn't have come alone. But five thousand was big—to Cherokee."

The pony came up and sniffed, then rubbed her nose against his sleeve.

When he had ridden to the edge of the rocks he turned and looked back.

High in the air a buzzard was keeping to its trackless path around the water-hole.

(Copyright.)

Confidential Communication.

"Who painted that wonderful old picture?" asked the visitor.

"Let me tell you a secret," replied Mr. Cumrox. "If I had spent my life learning to pronounce the names of all these great artists I'd never have made money enough to buy their pictures."

A Perfect Bear.

Emma—My husband is the most inconsistent man.

Muriel—What has he done, now?

Emma—He said he was too poor to buy new drawing room furniture, yet he gave thousands of dollars for a seat on the stock exchange.

CURE FOR FUNGUS POISONING

Antitoxin Enables Epicure to Devour Toadstools Without Fear of Any Injurious Results.

It may be comforting to the epicure who trembles every time he calls for mushrooms lest the cook has inadvertently slipped in a poisonous fungus or so, to know that an antitoxin can be made from the most poisonous varieties of mushrooms which if injected in case of fungus poisoning is just as effective as the common antitoxins for diphtheria and rabies. In addition to this, if the mushroom eater is in sufficient fear of poisoning and is so fond of mushrooms it would be possible after a series of frequent injections of the poison covering a period of several months to inoculate him so that he could wander out into the fields and devour toadstools raw without worse effects than a possible indigestion.

The French scientists Radias and Sartory were the men who made this consoling discovery, and the plants from which they made their virus were the frightfully poisonous amanita phanoides and the amanita mappa. The original experiments were made upon rabbits and were highly successful.

PROTECTS MARKSMAN'S HEAD

Sharpshooter Need Not Now Be Compelled to Expose Himself When Shooting From Trench.

Much of the modern warfare is conducted from trenches thrown up by the soldiers, from behind which sharpshooters keep up a fire back and forth. By watching closely the source of the shooting may be closely located, and then as the head of the marksman rises over the embankment it is necessary for him to expose himself. It is only for a second, but it is long enough for the enemy's sharpshooters to pick him off. There has been recently invented a weapon which makes this exposure unnecessary. The gun is rather heavier than the average,

Shooting From Shelter.

having a hollow tube adapted to be removably mounted upon and to extend longitudinally of the barrel and having front and rear sights so arranged with respect to the hollow tube as to be in alignment with the opening through a tube and visible to one sighting through the tube. Removable plugs are supplied with the weapon for closing the forward end of the tube and barrel, all so constructed as to enable the barrel and tube to be repeatedly forced into or through an embankment or earthworks in such a manner as to form a tunnel or aperture in the earth adapted to enable the firearm to be aimed or sighted and discharged while in the tunnel or opening thus formed and to prevent the earth from falling in upon the barrel and obscuring the sights, whereby the person using the firearm is enabled to be shielded and protected by the embankment through which the barrel and tube are thus inserted.

NOTES OF SCIENCE AND INVENTION

A ton of soot results from the burning of 100 tons of coal.

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Lightning clouds are seldom more than 700 yards from the earth.

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Nearly four hundred women applied for patents in England last year.

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Instruments with which he cures black eyes in 20 minutes have been invented by a Kansas City doctor.

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Folding rods, carrying wheels at their lower ends, have been patented to help bear the burden of hand baggage.

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For window cleaners there has been invented an adjustable wire seat which can be suspended outside a window from the sill.

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From the seeds of the castor oil plant a German chemist has extracted what is said to be the most powerful poison known.

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A sanitary drinking tube has been invented for use with any kind of container, so compact it can be carried in a vest pocket.

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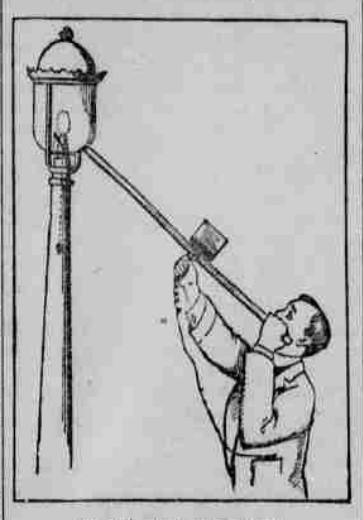
An American naval officer is the inventor of a writing tablet every other sheet of which is so cut and gummed that it can be folded and pasted to form an envelope.

The ELECTRICAL WORLD

MEASURING A LAMP'S LIGHT

Portable Device, Invented by Philadelphian for Determining Its Candle Power.

A simple and efficient device for determining the candle power of a light in a lamp post or other support of a like character has been recently invented by a Philadelphian. It is a portable device and is meant particularly for the convenience of gas companies and gas experts or municipal officials who might have occasion to test the character of lights. It



Find Light's Efficiency.

consists principally of a photometer box on a staff with certain standards marked along its length. The box is supplied with a standard electric lamp taking its current from a battery carried in the pocket of the operator. The photometer box is supplied with mirrors reflecting the light of the lamp in such a manner that its intensity may be readily compared with that of the standard lamp.

In use the operator may hold one end of the staff with one hand and place the other end against the lantern or globe of the street light. With his free hand the operator presses the handle elements together, thus establishing the circuit and releasing the clutch element, lighting the standard light and freeing the photometer box on the staff. The operator may then ascertain the candle power by comparison in the ordinary way and having done this, the operator releases the handle elements, thus breaking the circuit of the lamp and locking the photometer box on the staff. The operator at his convenience can then read the scale in respect to the pointer and so ascertain the candle power.

SMELL CAUSE OF INVENTION

Odor in Sulphuric Acid Waste Led to Production of Professor Bell's Photophone.

Alexander Graham Bell, the great inventor, in the National Geographic magazine, tells how his photophone was invented primarily because of a smell. The explanation is as follows:

First, a chemist detected in sulphuric acid waste an odor which on analysis was found to come from a hitherto unknown substance. This was called silenium.

Second, silenium crystallized was found to be a conductor of electricity of phenomenally high resistance.

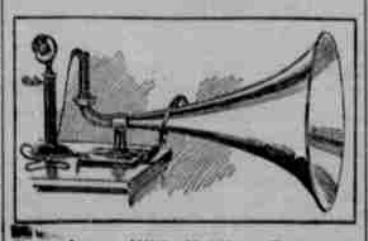
Third, the new resistant, having been put to use in place of whole coils of wire to balance the Atlantic cable during the period of laying, was found to have at night twice its resisting power during the daytime.

Fourth, Professor Bell, playing upon silenium's sensitiveness to light, produced the photophone, by means of which one may talk over a beam of light.

TELEPHONING IS MADE EASY

Englishman Patents Device, Shaped Like a Trumpet, to Increase Sound From Receiver.

To do away with holding the telephone receiver during a long conversation or while waiting for some one to be called to the telephone, H. W. Prance, London, England, has patented a trumpet shaped device for magnifying the sound from the receiv-



Does Away With Holding Telephone Receiver.

er so that it may be heard throughout a medium sized room, says Popular Electricity.

The trumpet has a platform at one end to support the receiver, the opening in the receiver being over the opening at the small end of the trumpet when the device is in use.

LAMP CAUSES EYE DISEASE

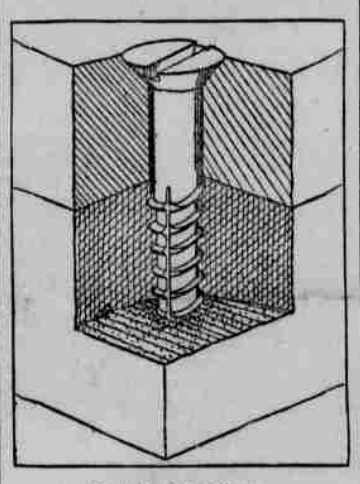
Safety Device Seriously Impairs Sight of Underground Workers, Especially Coal Miners.

While progress in science has enabled industrial concerns to greatly increase their output and has made the life of the worker much easier, at the same time it exacts its penalties and it has recently been discovered that the safety lamp used by the modern miner has greatly increased the prevalence of an eye trouble which seriously impairs the sight of the underground worker, especially coal miners. This trouble has been known for some time and is believed to be caused by the great eye strain to which the men are subjected when working in the dim light of the safety lamp. In mines where an open-flame light or candle can be used, the disease is rarely found. In Great Britain records show that some 1,618 miners were found to be suffering from the disease during one year, and the loss in money is estimated at more than $15,000, represented by the compensation paid these men under the law. This, of course, does not take into account the reduced earning capacity of the men during the progress of the disease to that point of acuteness which made them eligible to compensation under the law. This is one of the occupational diseases to which much study is now being given, though no real remedy has yet been found.

SCREW MADE TO HOLD FAST

Supplied With Slot Along Length With Edges Which Prevent Its Easy Withdrawal.

Carpenters and woodworkers will be interested in a screw of new design which has been recently patented for the purpose of preventing the screw from working loose after it has been once driven into place. In the manufacture of much medium-grade furniture screws are made use of, although they are tabooed in the first-class productions. In furniture the screws are bound to work loose after the piece has been in use a little while, and if not given attention it is not long before the furniture will fall apart. In-



A Hold-Fast Screw.

deed, in such a piece constant attention is required to keep them together and fit for the service for which they were designed. The new screw has a slot along its length with edges so shaped that they offer no resistance to the passage of the screw as it enters, but a series of little heels or projections stand in the way of its withdrawal.

NOTES OF INDUSTRY AND MECHANICS

Matches can be made waterproof by dipping in hot melted paraffin.

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Chinese exports of firecrackers to the United States are yearly diminishing.

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It is only necessary to boil a cork for five minutes to make it fit any bottle.

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A chimney 115 feet high will sway, without danger, as much as 10 inches in a strong wind.

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Next to the United States, Germany and France are the largest producers of iron ore in the world.

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The United States has more than 6,000,000 factory employes, and 1,600,000 railroad employes.

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That it is very cool and light is the claim for a new perforated metal band for the interior of stiff hats.

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An excellent waterproof brown paper is being made in England of which 80 per cent of the material is peat.

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Portable power plants up to 50-horse power that use crude oil for fuel are coming into common use in France.

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Cork slabs, compressed from a thickness of 14 inches to half an inch, are being tried out for flooring in railroad cars.

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An Illinois man has patented clamps to hold paint brushes on the ends of poles at any angle to save painters the need of ladders.

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Russian railroads protect ties and telegraph poles against decay by soaking them for several months before use in strong brine.

PUTTING UP PEPPERS

SEVERAL METHODS, AND ALL OF THEM MAY BE TRUSTED.

Otama Is One of the Best of the Preparations That Can Be Made From the Vegetable—Stuffed Green Chilies.

(By LIDA AMES WILLIS.)

We do not give this as the original and authentic peck of pickled peppers picked by Peter Piper, though it was given us by an old gardener's wife, whose English forbears emigrated to Virginia with the very first F. F. V.'s. V.'s:

Remove the seeds from large green peppers, slice and lay them in a stone jar, alternating each layer of peppers with a layer of sliced cabbage; cover with salt and let stand over night. In the morning drain off the water. Take enough vinegar to cover the peppers, an ounce each of black and white mustard seed, juniper berries, whole cloves and whole allspice; half an ounce celery seed, a large white onion, chopped fine, and a head of garlic, if the flavor is liked. Let the mixture boil up, then pour over the peppers. Pack tightly in a jar, cover with horseradish leaves and close up tightly. A little shredded fresh horseradish placed on top will take the place of the leaves.

Otama.—Slice a sweet green pepper with seeds removed, add an equal quantity of Spanish onion and green tomato. Put some fresh dripping or sweet beef suet in a stewpan, adding a little hot water. Then put in the vegetables, cover closely and stew gently for an hour. Stir often enough to prevent burning and serve very hot.

Stuffed Green Chilies.—Remove stems and seeds from six green chilies. Boil two pounds of meat until tender and chop fine. Add a large ripe tomato, two small onions, one cupful boiled rice, chopped fine, add olives, raisins, a tablespoonful of vinegar, one one of sugar and salt and pepper to taste. Fry the mixture in butter until all flavors are well blended, then stuff the peppers. Dip them in butter and fry in lard.

Deviled Peppers.—Use green bell peppers. Cut off the stem end and remove the inside. Chop cooked cold ham, or tongue, veal or chicken. For a pint of meat use the yolk of a hard boiled egg rubbed smooth in a scant tablespoonful softened butter; half a tablesponful made mustard, half a teaspoonful sugar, and add enough vinegar to thin sufficiently to moisten the meat to a paste. Fill the pepper shells, rounding up well. Serve as a luncheon dish.

Oakland Stuffed Peppers.—Cut the tops from six bell peppers, scoop out the seeds. Chop an extra seeded pepper fine and mix with a small onion chopped fine, a cupful of chopped tomato pulp, two tablespoonfuls of butter or salad oil, teaspoonful of salt and equal measure of bread crumbs. Stuff the peppers, replace the stem ends, and bake them for half an hour. Baste two or three times with butter or salad oil, and serve as a hot vegetable.

Cheap Fish Dinner.

Get three or four pounds of chowder pieces of halibut; wash good and put on to boil with a little salt. When done take from water and let cool; pick over and remove all bones and skin, put some back in water in which it has been boiled; add potatoes, onions, pork or butter and milk, and you have a nice chowder. Now take remainder of fish, break it in small pieces and spread on lettuce leaves; put two bunches of radishes through food-chopper, mix the radishes with fish and pour over all some mayonnaise dressing and salt and pepper, and you have a dandy lobster salad that you can hardly tell from the real lobster. Now, for fried lobster, take cod or haddock, cut in pieces, dip in meal and pour some catsup over it; fry in hot fat, and you have fried lobster. Serve these together and you have a regular fish dinner.

Peach Foam.

This is a simple and easily made dessert: One cupful and a half of canned peach, without the juice, cut very fine or strained; three tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar, whites of three eggs. Add the well-beaten whites to the fruit and sugar and beat until thick, smooth and velvety, then put in a mold previously wet with cold water. Any other fruit would vary the recipe and be good and jelly may be used if you do not have peaches. Serve with whipped cream.

Braided Necktie Rug.

A beautiful braided rug can be made of discarded neckties. Put two bright ties and a dark one together, and so on. If you have a small square of any bright green or red carpet a foot square put into center and sew braids around. Can make it just as large as you wish. Very pretty in front of a dresser in bedroom.

Cleaning a Hairbrush.

The best way to clean a hairbrush without softening its bristles is to dissolve a large lump of ammonia in lukewarm water and wash the bristles, rinsing quickly. If these instructions are followed, the result will be satisfactory.

Beef Ragout.

Cut cold roast beef into thin slices, put them in a hot spider with a little butter, cook for a moment, then place the meat on a hot dish and pour over them a tomato sauce.