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**THE POWER**

**SYNOPSIS**—Idly fishing Hermanos creek, in California, Caleb Warner, civil engineer and a New Englander, is witness of the end of a coyote pulled down by two wolfhounds, urged on by a girl rider. Admiring the hounds, he introduces himself, and learns her name is Clinton. With western hospitality she invites him to the ranch to meet her father. At the Clinton home Warner learns his new friend's name is Betty. He is welcomed by her father, Southern Civil war veteran and owner of Hermanos valley. He tells them something of his ambitions and his feeling that he is destined to be a "Water-Bearer." In the town of Golden, Warner shares an apartment with his old Columbia college chum, Ted Baxter, carefree and somewhat dissipated youth, only child of his widowed mother, who controls the family fortune. At a club luncheon Baxter introduces Caleb to Wilbur Cox, leading business man and president of the water company which supplies the needs of Golden. He gives Cox an inkling of his ambitions, and Cox, impressed, invites him to dinner that night. During dinner Cox asks Caleb to call at his office next day. He does so and Cox arranges a meeting between Caleb and Hinckley, the water company's chief engineer. Baxter tells Caleb he is in difficulties with a girl, Mary Morgan, Cox's stenographer, who insists he must marry her. With Hinckley, Caleb looks over the water company's source of supply, the Crystal Springs, in Hermanos valley. Caleb meets a man, Evans, who boasts of his ability, through "divining rods," to locate water without boring. Caleb comes upon a picnic party, the festivities being in honor of Betty Clinton's birthday, and is welcomed. Betty tells him Hermanos valley, containing the burial places of three generations of Clintons, is sacred for all time. Caleb, with Carmen Wilson and Betty, are threatened by a bull. Warner bravely protects the girls, and is himself rescued by Padilla, Clinton's man.

**CHAPTER VII—Continued**

He believed that the lower end of the plain, the portion that the diviner termed the Sink, was composed of gravel, retained in clay but without the clay capping. In it was held the sunken waters of the five creeks, the same water that furnished the wells of the territory north of the creek. And this water should hold the same level, if his theory was correct. It should lie some forty feet below the surface in normal times—less during the storm-water season. It would be absolutely pure—filtered through the gravel. If this was true—and he believed it was—he had found a water mine, a mine with an inexhaustible, ever renewed commodity, that was as commercial as any mineral that, conveyed to Golden, meant the assured progress of that city.

He knew that the city of Berlin, at enormous expense, had manufactured beds of gravel for the filtering of its civic supply, but here at hand he had the filter built by nature, a cistern waiting to be tapped. And this had laid unsuspected under the very noses of Cox and his engineers, and the water experts of Oakville.

He had to proceed cautiously. It was imperative to cloak his intentions and his methods. If he made the discovery, it was his, to engineer and to sell. He could not bore in the Sink to prove out his hope that clay bottomed all the gravel and held the water. He meant to use the diviner for that, keeping him in ignorance of what the experiments might mean.

He stocked himself with cigars, and after supper crossed the bridge and walked along the creek and up the road to the pit. There was a wisp of smoke coming from the rusty pipe and a light burning back of the solitary window.

A smell of crude cooking, blent of cheap coffee and half-cured bacon, tintured with the acid odor of beans burned in a pot, came out through the door, which opened part way to Caleb's knock, disclosing the lean figure of the Welshman silhouetted against lamplight.

"Who's there?" asked Evans.

"The fisherman. Don't you remember? You told me about your divining the other day."

The Welshman opened the door wider and peered curiously at Caleb in the broader ray of light. Then he stepped outside.

"Kind of stuffy inside the shack," he said. "A great night. Look at them stars. Ah!"

He took the cigar Caleb proffered and puffed it to a glow, exhaling the smoke with a gratified sigh.

"I brought a few along," said Caleb, "thinking you might like them. I've got plenty."

The other held out his hand for the brown rolls eagerly.

"That's kind of ye. If you don't



"Can You See Plain?" He Asked in a Whisper.

each hand, the fingers uppermost; took on something of the dignity of a Druid priest about to perform a mystic rite.

"Can you see plain?" he asked in a whisper. "I'm going to walk to 'ard ye. Watch the stem of the rod."

He lowered it to the full length of his arms, stalking slowly, the twig horizontal, right-angled, midway of his thighs. His eyes glittered, upturned to the sky. Suddenly, he stopped and Caleb held his breath, gazing intently at the rod.

It seemed to twitch—surely, it vibrated—up and down. Caleb, watching closely, half fearing to do so if trickery was forward, could detect no flexing of the bony wrists. The fingers were right. So tightly did Evans grip the forks that his knuckles showed like ivory knobs against the darker skin.

Then he gave a sigh and the end of the rod tipped violently downwards. Caleb caught the distinct creak of bending, twisting wood in the silence that followed the sigh. The dowser stood braced, rigid, while the twig, its end a frantic pointer, seemed as suddenly imbued with life as Moses' rod. Motion ceased as he stood within ten feet of Caleb, so close that the latter plainly saw the pulses beating violently in Evans' wrists, the veins prominent as cords. And the stem of the rod pointed steadily downward at an angle of more than 45 degrees from the horizontally held forks.

"Dig there, bore there—forty feet," murmured the dowser, speaking like a medium in trance, "and you'll find water."

He relaxed and the rod fell to the ground. He stooped and picked it up. He rubbed his eyes as one awakening from a spell.

"Them's all fresh rods in the bundle," he said. "I cut 'em the day before yesterday. Look where she forks. We'll try her ag'en. The power's strong. Then you can tackle it."

"Me?" Caleb's surprise was unforced.

"Aye, you might have the power. You're sympathetic, ennyway. Let's walk out a bit farther. Away from the creek. It don't make no difference where. There's a water table under us. This end of the valley ain't so much a sink as a cistern."

Caleb's heart pounded at this confirmation of his belief. He was in a curious state of excitement. But he said nothing. They tried again a quarter of a mile away. The same phenomenon occurred with so much greater emphasis that the forks crossed each other. No juggling with hands apart could have managed this.

"Try it," said Evans, wiping sweat from his forehead. "Twice is enough for me. That last was a twister. Did you say you had another cigar with ye? I left all mine in the shack. Now then—choose yore twig. We know there's water here. If you've got the power I'll show. Don't be in a hurry. Don't think of nothin'. Make yore mind a blank. Hold it level—fingers up—so!"

He arranged Caleb's hands to his liking with his own bony, clammy fingers and stepped back. Caleb stood alone, fixing his eyes on the glow of the dowser's cigar in a species of hypnosis, waiting, trying to eliminate all thought.

In this he succeeded. Motionless, he waited, gazing at the spark of fire and the dark pillar of the Welshman's body. The spark seemed to grow larger—larger—and then he felt, simultaneously—a distinct tremor run up his forearms, a sinking sensation in the pit of his stomach, a quiver of diaphragmatic gangle.

The rod twitched. He gripped the forks hard—harder. They began to vibrate. The tremor increased in his wrists. The forks strangely seemed to be a part of him, sensitive, alive. Then there seemed to be a tug at the end of the stem, like the swift strike of a fish at the lure. And the straight stem bent as he might have bent his finger, in a pointer, straight to water.

He had no doubt of it now. The thing had happened to himself. It was marvelous as it was mysterious, this sense of power. And he thrilled to it. It was an indorsement of his title as Water-Bearer, surely an augury of success. It filled him, not with pride, but with reverence for his gift.

"Glory be!" cried the dowser. "You've got it, pardner. You've got the power. By gosh, you'll be takin' my job from me," he added with a short laugh that ended in a cough.

"I'll see that you are no loser by it," said Caleb, smiling back. And he meant the promise. For now he was certain of the fulfillment of his idea, much as yet remained to be proven and accomplished. The hunch was born, for he had in his hand the key that would unlock for him the secret of the Sink. With the power—was it his birthright, a gift from Aquarius, glittering on the hilly horizon?—he could, working at night, cover the whole area of the lower valley and exploit, without boring, the extent of the water table. Under the gravel lay, he was convinced—none the less by the occult manner of its determination—water for the thousands who would make Golden mighty among cities—water for incoming families, for factories, for fields and gardens, for civic use! A mammoth cistern ready to be tapped.

Before he left him, to walk back to the hotel, exultant, Caleb got some worth-while information from Evans. He had the name of the man who owned most—if not all—of the Sink.

The land was valueless for farming. It could be acquired cheaply. That was an important factor. Even at the low price, the big acreage would mean an amount far beyond Caleb's compass. That end of it, with the other big expenses, he must leave to Cox for financing. But the secret was his.

He found a small parcel awaiting him at the hotel that had come by the evening mail. On it was the return address of Golden's best jeweler. He opened it and took from a bed of cotton wool a jade pendant. On it was engraved in intaglio the zodiac sign of Pisces. Two fishes joined by a ribbon. He had ordered it on his return from El Nido after the picnic. He intended it as a belated birthday gift to Betty Clinton.

Well, Caleb has found his water all right. Now what will he do with it?

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

**Experienced Men Rely on First Impressions**

The banker learns soon that your face usually tells more than is told by your lips or your written statement, and this is something that you may very well remember. Your first impression, if it is one of suspicion, is usually correct. I doubt if any experienced teller will ever cash a check for a stranger, no matter how well introduced, if this first glance at the man telegraphs to his brain "Look out! Be careful!" If he does, he usually regrets it.

I believe that when two persons meet for the first time eye telegraphs

**Births in London**

A new life is born in London every three minutes of every 24 hours, but of the babies born more than 10,000 die before their second year.

**DAIRY POULTRY**

**RIGHT START FOR CALF IMPORTANT**

"Give the calf a good start. The first six months of its life is not only the most expensive time, but also the most critical period and the time when most difficulties appear."

The suggestion made by Prof. F. W. Atkeson, dairy husbandman for the University of Idaho.

"Most dairymen," he says, "make a practice of leaving the calf with its mother for at least the first day or possibly longer, depending on the condition of the cow and calf. The first milk, called colostrum, is high in minerals and protein which start the calf's development. It also tends to put the digestive tract in good condition and it develops disease-preventing antibodies in the blood."

"After the calf is removed from its dam it should be fed its own mother's milk for four or five days, after which time it may be given mixed milk from the entire herd. For calves of the smaller breeds, like Jerseys or Guernseys, from six to eight pounds per day, divided into either two or three equal feeds at regular intervals, may be fed. Larger breeds, like Holsteins, will need ten to twelve pounds per day. In a few days the quantity may be raised two pounds if the calf seems able to bear it. It is well to bear in mind, however, that more calves die from overfeeding than from underfeeding."

"The calf may be safely changed from whole milk to skim milk at any time after two weeks of age, the time depending upon such conditions as the value of calves and milk. The change should be made gradually by substituting one pound of skim milk for one pound of whole milk each day. As the calf gets older the milk allowance may be increased until at three months it is receiving from fifteen to twenty pounds per day."

"It must here be borne in mind that the fat removed from the milk must be replaced by grain. The calf should be encouraged to eat grain as early as possible and for the first three or four months should be fed all it will consume at each feeding. After this grain may be limited to three pounds a day. The calves should have water and salt before them at all times. Fresh, good quality hay should be fed regularly as early as the calves will consume it."

**LARGE YIELD AIDS POULTRY SUCCESS**

Poultry raisers who can get high egg yields are almost certain to make a profit, because egg production is closely tied up with labor income and profit, it is pointed out by L. E. Card, chief in poultry husbandry at the college of agriculture, University of Illinois.

"Studies of the farm poultry enterprise as a business have shown that there are certain major factors involved in determining whether a given poultry flock will show a profit or a loss. Egg yield per hen is an accurate barometer of success in almost any poultry enterprise. Other factors are size of flock, proportion of pullets to yearlings, rate of mortality, price received for market eggs and experience of the operator. However, if egg production is low, no other factor can make up for the handicap and the profits will be small."

"Size of flock is a convenient measure of size of business. A small business can never make either a large profit or a large loss. A large business is necessary for a large profit, but it must carry the risk of a possible large loss."

"Mortality of hens and young chicks is frequently a major cost in the production of eggs and unless the mortality rate can be kept down to a reasonable level it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to show a profit."

"The price received for market eggs is an important index of profits from a poultry flock. It is often easier to increase returns by producing a better product and finding a higher market than by raising the egg yield per hen, assuming that the egg yield is not too low to begin with."

"Finally, experience helps the operator to achieve results. Even if it does nothing more than teach him how to make the business measure up in respect to the other factors mentioned, it is an important asset. It is unwise for a poultry business to be allowed to grow faster than the ability of the operator to manage and control it."

**Horticultural News**

**ORCHARD SHOULD BE CULTIVATED**

The dropping of fruit, both apples and peaches, is largely due to lack of water during the season when the fruit is rapidly increasing in size. An average peach tree, normally to mature its crop, will require in the neighborhood of 3,000 gallons of water in the growing season, according to J. R. Cooper, horticulturist, college of agriculture, University of Arkansas.

"An apple tree will require twice as much water, because of its larger size. To maintain a constant supply of water throughout June and the first part of July, it is necessary to hold the water that is now in the soil, by constant and thorough cultivation."

"Cultivation should continue up to the first of July and should be thorough enough to keep down all vegetation. It is impossible to produce a normal crop of fruit and support a crop of weeds or even a cover crop during May, June, July and August. The severe checking of growth, even though sufficient moisture is had later, means a partial loss of crop. It may also mean at least a partial loss of next year's crop due to the formation of an insufficient number of fruit buds. The orchard should never be allowed to stand in the spring until it becomes too hard to plow."

**New Early Raspberry Is Developed in Minnesota**

Fruit growing stations operated over the state in co-operation with the division of horticulture of the University of Minnesota are being supplied with a limited amount of stock of an early ripening seedling raspberry known as Minn. No. 223. The new seedling is one of a large number originated at the state fruit breeding farm by university horticulturists from self-pollinated stock of the Latham, which was developed several years ago at the farm from a cross of the King and Louden raspberries and which has become an outstanding berry in Minnesota and has proved its worth under tests in many eastern and Middle West states. The new variety produces a good quality berry which ripens a week to ten days earlier than the Latham and is apparently less susceptible to mosaic than even the Latham. As stock of the new berry accumulates, further distribution will be made in order to bring about a general test of its merits.

**Different Methods of Training Raspberries**

There are various methods of training raspberries. Probably the best system for average conditions is the narrow hedge system. Under this plan, young plants are allowed to develop from tips or suckers, depending on the variety, along the rows between the plants originally set. About eight inches should be allowed between the plants retained, all others being removed. Under this system, practically all cultivating can be done with a one-horse cultivator or garden tractor. A hoe can often be used to advantage for destroying weeds between the plants and for removing excessive plants. A trellis may or may not be used with this system, as desired.

**Irrigation Will Help Yield of Strawberries**

Overhead irrigation of strawberries increased the yield of berries more than 800 per cent over the yield from unirrigated plants, according to results just announced on tests made by A. S. Colby, associate chief of pomology in the experiment station of the college of agriculture, University of Illinois. In addition to the heavier yield, the fruit from the irrigated plants was larger and of finer quality.

These results were obtained during the 1925 growing season when conditions were abnormally dry for strawberries. The application of necessary moisture through overhead irrigation at the critical period in fruit growth thus saved the crop.

**Horticulture Notes**

Lime is not relished by the strawberry and raspberry, which rather like an acid soil.

The demand for McIntosh apples has been better than for most other varieties this season.

The curculio has been causing considerable damage of late. A heavy lime spray just after the petals fall in addition to the arsenate of lead will be found very helpful.

Start spraying the currant bushes as soon as the leaves unfold. You will go a long way towards keeping plant lice out of the garden as the currants are their favorite nurseries in spring.

One of the fruit growers in Oregon was found that dead hens make an excellent fertilizer for young fruit trees. He keeps about 800 hens in connection with his orchard, and the loss of hens by death amounts to from 3 to 4 per cent in different years.

**There Is Much Profit in Proper Management**

Shiftlessness has been, and always will be, the price of dear experience. There is a profit in only what we take care of.

To go about the work of caring for poultry in a mechanical way, important matters will be forgotten, details will not be noticed. There are entirely too many who trust to luck and do not stop to think, writes Michael K. Boyer in the Farm and Ranch. A man who rushes in a constant hurry, and never accomplishes much.

Good management cuts down expenses. Scrub treatment brings scrub returns. Poultry raising commands the same business methods as employed in good dairying—the best food and care for best results.

The idea that "anything is good enough for hogs and chickens" is wrong. It has ruined the prospects of many otherwise good farmers. Nothing can be secured without effort, and the more intelligent and practical that effort, the better will be the success.

**Methods of Spreading Disease Among Poultry**

One method of carrying disease is on the shoes of a yard of sick chickens. Farmers learned to forbid entrance to their hog yards when there was a scourge of hog cholera. They should forbid entrance to the chicken runs when disease is prevalent. Poultry buyers should be kept out. Indeed, the only safety to the flock is in quarantining them against all visitors and dogs. The caretaker should wear rubbers if sickness breaks out in one of his pens, and not allow the soles of his shoes to touch contaminated grounds. Take the rubbers off before stepping out of the door. Clean up and clean out often. Burn all dead birds and the litter from houses where there has been sickness. Expense and worry are saved by avoiding disease. It is folly to let a condition go until it is big enough to demand a fight.

**Minerals Big Factors**

Minerals are often limiting factors in egg production. Heavy laying fowl require from three to four pounds of oyster shell or its equivalent per year. Even though the hens have enough protein and other food to produce a large number of eggs, they will cut their production down to meet the amount of minerals which they have for shells. A balancing ration means supplying minerals and vitamins so that all of the organs of the fowl work efficiently.

**Shade Is Necessary**

Shade is very necessary for chicks especially if they are late hatched, for they are stunted by the hot, dry weather and are more liable to be affected by disease and worms, than if hatched early. Plenty of grit and charcoal should be within easy reach of chicks when on range unless sand or gravel is present in large enough quantities to make it unnecessary to furnish it extra. Plenty of fresh water should be within easy reach of the growing chicks.

**Utensils of Dairy Must Be Thoroughly Cleaned**

Everything that comes in contact with milk and cream needs washing and scalding after use. Milk contains an abundance of food for bacteria. When particles of milk are left in the milk utensils they soon sour and produce objectionable odors and flavors. Unless these breeding places for bacteria are removed quickly and thoroughly they cause the milk and cream of the next milking to become contaminated and spoil. It does not make any difference how clean and sweet the fresh milk may be, the cream cannot reach the creamery in good condition if handled in unwashed or unclean utensils.

After use the milk pails, strainer, dipper, separator and all other utensils should first be rinsed with cold water. This will remove the milk which adheres to them. This thorough rinsing makes the washing easier. Then the utensils should be washed with hot water that contains some alkali, such as washing powder. A brush and plenty of elbow grease is also necessary. After washing they should be rinsed and thoroughly scalded with plenty of boiling hot water.

Where the milking is done with a machine the rubber tubes and teat cups should be placed in a disinfectant solution and allowed to soak until the next milking. Then they should be rinsed out with clean water before using.

**In Selecting Herd Bull Carefully Study Records**

When selecting a herd bull, see to it that he is not only of satisfactory individuality himself, but that his ancestry is a fair guarantee of a continuance of that individuality in his get. Satisfied on this point, study the pedigree. If you are a Holstein breeder for instance, you will want to know the conditions under which the seven-day records were made, and you will also want to know how much 305-day blood is in the more or less immediate ancestry. You will also want to know if the butter records were made with a normal Holstein percentage of fat or whether the large butter records were made from a relatively small quantity of milk.

**Groom Cows Daily**

When cows are kept in stables it is of special importance that they receive a daily grooming. If the long hairs on the flanks and udder are dipped it will aid in keeping these parts clean. In addition to grooming it is important that a damp cloth be used to wipe off any dirt or dust from these regions before the cow is milked. If the stables and frequent cleaning of both the stables and the cows will make for sanitary conditions.