S. A. PATTISON, PUBLISHER.

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#### "5,000 IN 1912"

Two thousand people arrived Corporal Thomas began to perspire in Portland Sunday from the uncomfortably, but went on doggedly: East looking for homes in Ore- because it applies to Lieutenant Burgon. Many others have come rell"since that date, it appearing that most of those taking advantage it was a good long spell ago, when I of the cheap rates on the rail- was at Fort Supply, which was the roads waited until almost the last day before starting. The arrival frontler in them days, like this is now. We freighted in from Dodge City with bull teams, and it was sure the fringe of so many people in Portland at of the frontier—no women, no society, this time means that they will nothin much except a fort, a lot of Injuns and a few officials with their scatter out to all parts of the wives and families. Now, them kind wives and families. Now, them kind of places is all right for married men. but they're tough sleddin' for single ones, and after awhile a feller gets awful careless about himself. He here should be prepared to extend a hearty welcome to the divilization and his people and restaunewcemer and do his best to rants and such things. He gets plumb convince the visitors that this reckless and forgetful of what's what. is the best valley on earth. There was a captain with us, a young Central Point and the Rogue here and a good deal the same sort-River valley need more people and the present is the time for good family and all that, and, what's all of us to do our part in that more, a captain at twenty-five. Now,

# BARRIER

By Rex Beach

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This story began in the Herald on down on her, and she didn't mix with March 11, 1909, and will be continued to them none whatever. To make it This story began in the Herald on the end. Back numbers of the Herald short, the captain married her. Seemfurnished free to new subscribers.

(Continued.)

CHAPTER IX.

ARLY the next morning Corporal Thomas came into the store and found Necla tending it while Gale was out. Ever since the day she had questioned him about Burrell this old man had taken every occasion to talk with the girl, and when he asked her this morning about the reports concerning Lee's strike she told him of her trip and all that had occurred.

"You see, I'm a mine owner now," she concluded. "If it hadn't been a secret I would have told you before I went, so you could have been one of

Then she told him of the trail by Black Bear creek which would save him several hours.

"So that's how you and he made it?" he observed, gazing at her shrewdly. his brother officers had to treat him "I supposed you went with your fa-

"Oh, no! We beat him in," she said and fell to musing at the memory of those hours passed alone with Meade. while her eyes shone and her cheeks glowed. The corporal saw the look, and It bore out a theory he had formed during the past month, so as he lingered set about a task that had lain in his mind for some time. As a rule, he was not a careful man in his speech, and the delicacy of this maneuver taxed his ingenuity to the utmost, for he loved

the girl and feared to say too much. The lieutenant is a smart young fellow," he began, "and it was slick work jumpin' all those claims. It's just like him to befriend a girl like I've seen him do it before"-

"What!" exclaimed Necia. "Befriend other girls?" "Or things just like it. He's always

doin' favors that get him into trou-

"This couldn't cause him trouble, could it, outside of Stark's and Runnion's grudge?"

"No, I reckon not," assented the corporal, groping blindly for some way of it don't apply to you, of course"— expressing what he wished to say. "Of course" agreed Necia again. expressing what he wished to say. "Except, of course, it might cause a let of talk at headquarters when it's known what he's done for you and how he done it. I heard somethin' about it down the street this mornso I'm afraid it will get to St. Michael's and then to his folks."

"I don't understand," said Necla. "He basn't done anything that any man wouldn't do under the same cir-

cumstances.' talk about a nice girl," said the cortalk about a nice girl," said the corporal, "and the feller that told me about it said he reckoned you two try it's a person's heart that country it's a person's heart that counts." was in love." He hurried along now quick; you're too fine a girl for that."

"Too fine?" langued Necia. "L mean you're too fine and good to here folks look at it right, but outside dot him put you in verong fast as be's

CENTRAL POINT HERALD too fine a fellow and got too much ahead of him to make what his peo-

ple would call a messy-alliance,"
"Would his people object to-to-such a thing?" questioned the girl. They were alone in the store, and so they could talk freely. "I'm just suppos-

"O Lord! Would they object?" Corporal Thomas laughed in a highly artificial manner that made Necia bridle

and draw herself up indignantly.
"Go shead and tell me; I won't be offended," insisted the girl. "You must. I don't know much about such things, for I've lived all my life with men like father and Poleon and the priests at the mission, who treat me just like one of themselves. But semebody will want to marry me some day, I suppose, so I ought to know what is wrong with me." She flushed up darkly under her brown cheeks.

"I'm goin' to tell you a story,

"Of course," said the girl. our head freighter was married to a squaw, or leastways be had been, but in them days nobody thought much of It any more than they do up here now, and particularly because he'd had a government contract for a long while, ran a big gang of men and critters and had made a lot of money. Likewise he had a girl, who lived at the fort and was mighty nice to look at and restful to the eye after a year or so of cactus trees and mesquite and buffalo grass. She was twice as nice and twice as pretty as the women at the post, and as for money-well, her dad could have bought and sold all the officers in a lump, but they and their wives looked ed like he got disregardful of every-thing, and the hunger to have a woman just overpowered him. She'd been courted by every single man for 400 miles around. She was pretty and full of fire, and they was both of an age to love hard, so Jefferson swore he'd make the other women take her, but soldierin' is a heap different from any other profession, and the army has got its own traditions. The plan wouldn't

tryin' and gave up the attempt—just devoted himself to her—and then we was transferred, all but him. We shifted to a better post, but Captain Jefferson was changed to another company and had as stay at Supply. Gee, it was a rotten hole! Influence had been used, and there he stuck, while the new officers cut him out completely, "I'm goin' anyhow," he said, "if the ieutemant will let me and if it's not too late."

Just like the others had done, so I was told, and it drifted on that way for a long time, him forever makin' and the said of the said o hill fight to get his wife reco'nized and always quittin' loser. His folks back east was scandalized and froze him cold, callin' him a squaw man, and the story went all through the army, till cold in order to keep enough warmth at home to live by, one thing leadin' to another till he finally resented it openly. After that he didn't last long. They made it so unpleasant that he quit the service-crowded him out, that's all. He was a born soldier, too, and didn't know nothin' else nor care for nothin' else; as fine a man as I ever served under, but it soured him that a rattlesuake couldn't have lived with him. He tried to go into some kind of business after he quit the army, but he wasn't cut out for it and never made good as long as I knew of him. The last time I seen him was down on the border, and he had sure grown cultus. He had quit the squaw, who was livin' with a greaser in Tuc-

"By and by the captain got thred of

"And do you think I'm like that woman?" said Necia in a queer, strained voice. She had listened intently to the corporal's story, but he had purposely avoided her eyes and could not tell how she was taking it.

"No! You're different, but the army is just the same. I told you this to show you how it is out in the States.

But what would happen to Lieutenant Burrell if-if-well, if he should do something like that? There are many half breed girls. I dare say, like this other girl, or-like me."

She did not flush now as before. Instead her cheeks were pale.

"It would go a heap worse with him than it did with Captain Jefferson," said the corporal, "for he's got more ahead of him, and he comes from bet-'No man's got a right to make folks | ter stock. Why, his family is way up

"That's how it ought to be," said the without offering her a chance to speak. corporal heartily, "and I'm mighty sor-"Of course that had to be caught up ry if I've hurt you, little girl. I'm a rough old rooster, and I never thought but what you understood all this. Up

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it's mighty different. Eve don't half understand."

"I'm glad I'm what I am," cried the girl. "There's nothing in my blood to be ashamed of, and I'm white in here." She struck her bosom fiercely. "If a man loves me he'll take me, no matter what it means to him."

The corporal slid down from the counter where he had been sitting. 'I'm goin' to hunt up the lieutenant and get him to let me off. Mebbe I can stake a claim and sell it."

The moment he was gone the girl's composure vanished, and she gave vent to her feelings.

"It's a lie! It's a lie!" she cri aloud, and with her fists she beat the boards in front of her. "He loves me! I know he does!" Then she began to tremble and sebbed, "I'm just like other girls."

She was still wrestling with herself when Gale returned, and he started at the look in her face as she approached

"Why did you marry my mother?" she asked. "Why? Why did you do

He saw that she was in a rage and

answered bluntly, "I didn't." She shrank at this. "Then why didn't you? Shame! Shame! That makes me worse than I thought I was. Oh, why did you ever turn squaw man? Why did you make me a breed?"

"Look here! What ails you?" said "I've just begun to realize what I am. I'm not respectable. I'm not like

other women and never can be. I'm a squaw-a squaw!"
"You're not!" be cried. 'No honest man can marry me. I'm

a vagabond! The best I can get is my bed and board, like my mother." "By heaven! Who offered you that?" Gale's face was whiter than hers now,

but she disregarded him. "He can play with me, but nothing

solld muscle.

more, and when he is gone another one can have me, and then another and another and another."

"That's all infernal rot," he said. There's fifty good men in this camp rould marry you tomorrow."

"Bah! I mean real men, not miners. I want to be a lady. I don't want to pull a hand sled and wear moceasins all my life and raise children for men with whiskers. I want to be loved-I want to be loved! I want to marry a gentleman

"Burrell!" said Gale. "No," she flared up-not him nor anybody in particular, but somebody like him, some man with clean finger

He found nothing humorous or grotesque in her measure of a gentleman, for he realized that she was stung to citement and that she was in terrible

enrnest.

The old man hesttated. "I'll own 1 was wrong," he said finally, staring out into the sunshine with an odd ex-"It was thoughtless and pression. wrong, dead wrong, but I've loved you better than any daughter was ever loved in this wide world, and I've worked and starved and froze and saved, and so has Alluna, so that you might have something to live on when I'm gone and be different from us. It won't be long now, I guess. I've given you the best schooling of any girl on the river, and I'd have sent you out to a convent in the States, but I couldn't let you go so far away. I loved you too much for that! I couldn't do it, girl. I've tried, but you're all I've

got, and I'm a selfish man, I reckon."
"No, no! You're not!" his daughter cried impulsively. "You're everything that's good and dear, but you've lived a different life from other men, and you see things differently. It was mean of me to talk as I did." She put her arms around his neck and hugged

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