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THE RED TRAIL

By GUSTAVE AYMAR

CHAPTER XXII.—(Continued.)
The capataz made a wry face.
"There will be probably plenty of blows to receive, and very little profit to derive from such an expedition."
"I believed that you were devoted to me," the general remarked bitterly.
"Your excellency is not mistaken; I am truly devoted to you, but I have also a fondness for my skin."
"I will give you twenty-five ounces for every slit it receives; is that enough?"
"Come, I see that your excellency wishes me to be cut into mince meat," the capataz exclaimed joyously.
"Then that is agreed?"
"I should think so, excellency, at that price a man would be a fool to refuse."
"But about horses?"
"We have at least ten or a dozen in the corral."
"That is true; I did not think of that," the general exclaimed, striking his forehead, "have seven lassoed at once."
"Where must I take the senorita?"
"Bring her to this house, for she shall not set foot in the convent again."
"Very good, when shall I start, general?"
"At once, if it be possible."
"In twenty minutes I shall have left the house."
In the meanwhile the carriage dashed along; it passed at full gallop through the San Lazaro gate, then turned suddenly to the right and entered a somewhat narrow street. At about the middle of this street it stopped before a house of rather modest appearance, the gate of which at once opened, and a man came out holding the bridles of two prairie mustangs completely harnessed, and with a rifle at each saddle-bow. The Frenchman got out and invited his companion to follow his example.
"Resume your usual dress," he said, as he led him inside the house.
The Tigero obeyed with an eager start of joy. While he doffed his gown his companion mounted, after saying to the young ladies:
"Whatever happens, not a word—not a cry; keep the shutters up; we will gallop at the door and remember your love. Are I peril."
Don Martial at this moment came out of the house attired as a cavalier.
"To horse and let us be off," said M. Baillet.
The Tigero bounded on to the mustangs held in readiness for him, and the carriage, in which the mules had been changed, started again at full speed. The house at which they had stopped was the one hired by Valentine to keep his stud at.
Half an hour thus passed and the carriage disappeared in the thick cloud of dust it raised as it dashed along. Don Martial felt new born; the excitement had restored his old ardor as if by enchantment, he longed to be face to face with his foe, and at length came to a settlement with him.
All at once the Indian uttered a cry. The two men looked back with alarm and saw a body of men coming up at full speed. At this moment the carriage was following a road bounded on one side by a rather thick chapparal, which extended for some distance; on the other by a deep ravine.
At a sign from the Frenchman the carriage was drawn across the road and the ladies got out and went under Curumilla's protection, to seek shelter behind the trees. The two men, after seeing that their friends were concealed, with their rifles to their shoulders and fingers on the triggers, stood firmly in the middle of the road, awaiting the onset of their adversaries, for, in all probability, the newcomers were enemies.
CHAPTER XXIII.
Curumilla, after concealing, with that Indian skill he so thoroughly possessed, the young ladies at a spot where they were thoroughly protected from bullets, had placed himself, rifle in hand, not by the side of the two riders, but, with characteristic redskin prudence, he ambuscaded himself behind the carriage, probably reflecting that he represented the entire infantry force, and not caring, through a point of honor, very absurd in his opinion, to expose himself to a death not only certain but useless to those he wished to defend.
The horsemen, however, on coming within range of the persons they were pursuing, stopped, and by their gestures seemed to evince a hesitation; the fugitives did not at all understand, after the fashion in which they had hitherto been pursued. The motive for this hesitation, which the Frenchman and his companions could not know, and which perplexed them so greatly, was very simple.
Carnero, for it was the general's capataz who was pursuing the carriage, with his peons, all at once perceived, with a careful not to let his companions notice it, that while they were pursuing the carriage other horsemen were pursuing them, and coming up at headlong speed.
They were literally placed between two fires, and were the attacked instead of the assailants; the situation was critical, and deserved serious consideration. Carnero suggested a retreat, remarking with a certain amount of reason that the sides were no longer equal and that such

of his friend, whose life he had just saved once again, and bore it to the side of the road. Valentine had faintly.
The chief, so soon as he saw his friends charge the peons, left his ambush, and while careful to remain behind them, followed to the battlefield. He had watched eagerly the long struggle between the hunter and the Zaragata; trying vainly to assist his friend, but never able to succeed. The two enemies were so entwined, their movements were so rapid, and they changed their positions so suddenly that the chief was afraid lest he might wound his friend in attempting to help him. Finally the Aracano bounded like a wild beast on the Mexican, and without hesitation scalped and stabbed him with the agility characteristic of the redskins, and which he himself possessed in so high a degree.
Almost at the same moment the horsemen also finished their fight. The peons had offered a vigorous resistance, but being badly supported by the capataz, who was disabled at the beginning of the skirmish by Don Martial, and seeing the Zaragata die and three of their friends dismounted and incapable of coming to their assistance, they gave in.
The capataz had been wounded at his own request by Don Martial, in order to give appearances with the general; he had a wide gash on his right arm, very severe at the first place, but insignificant in reality. A gash had been almost smashed by Belhumeur, so that the field of battle remained in the hands of the hunters.
When their victory was assured, they assembled anxiously round Valentine, for they were alarmed at his condition, and most anxious to be reassured. Valentine, whose arm Curumilla had at once set, with the skill and coolness of an old practitioner, soon reopened his eyes, reassured his friends by a smile, and offered the Indian chief his right hand, which the latter laid on his heart with an expression of indescribable happiness, as he uttered his favorite exclamation of "Ugh!" the only word he permitted himself to use in joy or in sorrow, when he felt himself choking with internal emotion.
"Senores," the hunter said, "it is only an arm broken; thanks to the chief, I have had an easy escape. Let us resume our journey before our enemies come up."
"And we, senor?" the capataz cried humbly.
Valentine rose with the chief's assistance, and took a furious glance at the peons. "As for you, miserable assassins," he said with a terrible accent, "return to your master and tell him in what way you were received. But it is not sufficient to have abandoned me; you must also; revenge for the odious snare into which my friends and I all but fell. I will learn whether in open day, and some half a dozen miles from Mexico, bandits can thus attack peaceable travelers with impunity. Begone!"
So soon as the peons, in obedience to the hunter's orders, had left the battlefield, he, on his part, gave his companions the signal to start. Don Martial had hurried to reassure the ladies, who were standing more dead than alive at the spot where the chief had concealed them. He made them get into the carriage again, without telling them anything except that the danger was past, and that there was not the slightest doubt but that the rest of the journey would be performed in safety.
Valentine's friends tried in vain to induce him to get into the carriage with the ladies. He would not consent, but insisted on mounting his horse, assuring them, in the far from probable event of their being attacked again, that he could be still of some service to his companions in spite of his broken arm. The latter were too well acquainted with his inflexible will to argue or press the point with him further, so Curumilla remounted the coach box and they started.
The rest of the journey was performed without any incident, and they reached the quinta twenty minutes later.
The skirmish had taken place scarce two miles from the country house. On reaching the estate, Valentine took leave of his friend without dismounting.
"What!" the latter said to him, "are you going, Valentine, without testing for a moment?"
"I must, my dear Baillet," he answered; "you know what impulsive reasons claim my presence in Mexico."
"But you are wounded."
"Have I not Curumilla to attend to my hurt? Do not be anxious about me; besides, I intend to see you again soon. This quieta appears to me strong enough to resist a surprise. Have you aarrison?"
"I have a dozen servants and my two brothers."
"In that case I am easy in my mind; besides, there is only one night to pass, and I believe that after the lesson this people have received, the general will not venture on a second attack, for some days at least. Besides, he reckons on the success of his proclamation. You will come to me to-morrow at daybreak, will you not?"
"I shall not fail."
"In that case I will be off."
"Will you not say good-by to the ladies?"
"They are not aware of my presence and it will be better for them not to see me; good-by till to-morrow."
(To be continued.)

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

BIG GOOS SAWMILL STARTED

Cody Plant Will Cut 150,000 Feet of Lumber Daily.
Bandon—The new Cody mill sawed the first log of last month which marks an epoch in the history of the sawmill business on the Coquille river. This plant is the largest in operation in Coos county. The daily capacity, at present, is 100,000 feet, and two re-saws and a pony band saw will be added, which will give a capacity of 150,000 feet per day.
The plant is equipped with labor saving machinery and appliances, among which are live rolls everywhere the lumber has to be handled. The mill and grounds cover 35 acres and have log booms accommodating 15,000,000 feet of timber. Already there are 6,000,000 feet of timber ready for the mill, and the various logging camps belonging to the company along the river are placing more timber in the river daily.

Successful Prune Run.

Engene—This local fruit evaporator has just closed a very successful season's run on prunes, curing over 600,000 pounds of green fruit, which makes over 200,000 pounds after they are dried. The entire crop in this vicinity was saved this year, whereas last year perhaps one-fourth of the crop was allowed to go to waste on account of lack of drying facilities. Since then the company that operates the evaporator here has built one at Irving of similar capacity and other smaller ones have been built near Engene. The crop this year was almost as large as last.

Sold for Appropriation.

University of Oregon, Engene—A plan is being promoted by some of the alumni among the students to form the student body into a committee of correspondence to use their influence over the state to pass the university appropriation next June. The supporters of the university, the alumni and the board of regents particularly are making a strenuous effort for the same purpose. Most of them are confident that the referendum will fail, but none of them intend to leave a stone unturned that will insure their confidence.

Two Hundred in Line.

Klamath Falls—Reports come from Lakeview to the effect that 200 people are now in line at the Lakeview land office awaiting the date of filing, October 28, on the lands recently opened to entry. County Treasurer Lewis and S. G. Brown, of Fort Klamath, in their search for claims went to an out-of-the-way place, south of Silver creek, where they supposed no one would be, but found the whole full of people, and came home without trying to locate. The general belief is that everyone will secure at least a contest case.

Reign of Wheat Kings Ended.

Pendleton—A sensation has been created here by the announcement that Agent McFarridge has received positive instructions to institute new conditions on the Umatilla Indian reservation regarding the leasing of Indian land. In future the leaseholder must reside on the land leased, which will do away with the wheat kings of Pendleton and other places who have been farming thousands of acres of reservation land. The new rule will make smaller farms and more people on them. It will go into effect at once.

Shark's Tooth in Banton.

Albany—J. G. Crawford, of this city, while investigating the gravel beds on the Banton county side of the river, found a shark's tooth and considers it as additional evidence that this was at one time an inland sea and the abode of marine life. Mr. Crawford is an expert geologist and student of all forms of life and is gradually making a collection of evidences of prehistoric and ancient life of these lands. His collection is valued at a high figure and is highly interesting.

Exit Wells-Fargo Express.

Astoria—W. E. Carpenter, traveling auditor of the Wells-Fargo Express company, has been engaged during the past week in closing up the company's affairs at the express offices along the line of the Astoria & Columbia river Railroad and turning the business over to the Northern Pacific Express company, which will conduct the express business on this line in the future.

Big Peaches on Willow Creek.

Vale—J. T. Logan, one of the best known farmers of Willow creek, brought into Vale last week a sample of ten peaches that are prize-winners. The smallest measured a little more than 1 1/2 inches in circumference and the largest was 1 3/4 inches around. A selection of four weighed 2 3/4 pounds. This record beats the winners at the Sacramento Irrigation congress.

SMALL IS OUSTED.

Striking Telegraphers Refuse to Consider Surrender.

Chicago, Oct. 14.—The national executive board of the Commercial Telegraphers' union last night suspended President Small, the order to take effect immediately. The notification adds that the executive board will hereafter direct the strike, and that it will be "run by men with red blood."
New York, Oct. 14.—Followed by a storm of denunciation and hisses, Samuel J. Small, national president of the Commercial Telegraphers' union, was practically driven out of Clinton hall at a mass meeting of striking operators yesterday afternoon. Mr. Small attempted to explain his action in sending out notices to all locals Saturday night asking them to vote on the question of surrender, but before he could finish shouts of "resign," "get out," and other exclamations even less complimentary drowned his voice.

New York, Oct. 14.—Following the visit to this city of Labor Commissioner Neil, President Small, of the Commercial Telegraphers' union, Saturday afternoon took decisive steps to close the telegraphers' strike. He sent the following telegram to all the leading cities in the country:
"New York, Oct. 12, 1907.—Prominent New Yorkers appealed to me to call the strike off. All efforts at negotiations are exhausted, and the company's officials say they will fight to a finish. The treasury is depleted and no more funds are available. Requests for relief from all sides are heavy and urgent. The general assembly cannot meet them. The strike having been ordered without the president's sanction, I recommend that locals vote on the proposition."

CARS STILL SCARCE.

Lane Says the Traffic Grows Faster Than the Supply.
Washington, Oct. 14.—Interstate Commerce Commissioner Lane returned today from a trip to the Pacific coast, thoroughly convinced that the business of the Northwest is going to suffer by reason of the general car shortage. He found throughout that section that, although the railroads are increasing their fleets at a rapid rate, and in consequence the railroads are bound to fall farther and farther behind.
He did not discuss the question in detail or indicate what action the Interstate Commerce commission is likely to take, for he has not yet had an opportunity of conferring with his colleagues.
Mr. Lane said there would be a fuel famine in the Northwest if there should be a long, hard winter. Increase of manufactures and increased use of coal by railroads calls for more coal than the old markets have been accustomed to supply, and wood fuel cannot supply the deficiency for domestic use, because of the high wages demanded by lumbermen, making it unprofitable to place wood on the market in large quantities. If the winter is mild and short, the Northwest may escape without suffering, otherwise there will be hardship.

Medford's New Record.

Medford—The first carload of Beurre Rose peaches ever shipped to New York from Oregon has sold there at auction, grossing \$2,335, or an average on all sizes of \$4.10 per box. J. W. Perkins is the grower. This is the record price for fruit of this variety. Nearly every car shipped from Medford this year has broken existing records. All past records at all varieties now held by Medford growers having been wrested away from California within the past two years, up to which time California had taken and held all past records. Five hundred acres of Beurre Rose peaches will come into bearing here next year.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 86@87c; bluestem, 88@89c; valley, 85@86c; red, 84@85c.
Oats—No. 1 white, 28; gray, 27.
Barley—Feed, 25.50 per ton; brewing, 26.50@27; rolled, 26.
Corn—Whole, 31; cracked, 32.
Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, 17@18 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, 16@20; clover, 11; chest, 11; grain hay, 11@12; alfalfa, 12@13.
Fruits—Apples, 1@1.75 per box; cantaloupes, 75c@1.50 per crate; peaches, 60c@1 per crate; prunes, 50c per crate; watermelons, 1@1.50 per pound; pears, 11@1.75 per box; grapes, 40c@1.50 per crate; casaba, 25c per dozen; quince, 11@1.25 per box; huckleberries, 7@8 per pound; cranberries, 56c per barrel.
Vegetables—Turnips, 1.25 per sack; carrots, 1.25 per sack; beets, 1.25 per sack; cabbage, 1c per pound; cauliflower, 25c@1 per dozen; celery, 35c@1 per dozen; corn, 1@1.50 per sack; cucumbers, 10@15c per dozen; onions, 15@20c dozen; parsley, 20c per dozen; peppers, 8@10c per pound; pumpkins, 1@1.50 per pound; squash, 50c@1 per box; tomatoes, 35@50c per box; onions, dry, 1.50@1.65 per sack.

CHINESE VERSUS JAPANESE.

Canada May Throw Down the Bars Against Mongols.
Ottawa, Oct. 14.—At the approaching session of the Dominion parliament, which opens next month, it is understood that a move will be made to throw down the barriers against Chinese immigration into Canada by abolishing the head tax on Chinese, which is practically prohibitive. It is asserted that this step would afford a solution of the Oriental problem, which is now assuming an acute phase among the people of British Columbia, particularly in the coast cities.
It is pointed out that when the Chinese were allowed to enter the Dominion at a nominal tax rate, there was very little trouble with Japanese arrivals, and absolutely none from the Hindus. If the head tax were abolished or even reduced to a nominal amount, there would follow a big inrush from China. The Chinese would work for such small wages that the people of British Columbia would be able to solve the Japanese immigration problem by giving Chinese labor the preference.

Prairie Fire in Montana.

Great Falls, Mont., Oct. 14.—One of the biggest prairie fires in recent years in Montana is sweeping the ranges in the Eastern part of the state, not less than 80 miles of choice grazing ground already having been burned over in the vicinity of Colbertson. Stockmen are making desperate efforts to stop the spread of the fire, but the flames fanned by wind, have thus far had little check upon them. On the Fort Peck reservation many houses and buildings belonging to the Indians have been destroyed.

Elevators and Coal Chutes Burn.

Madison, Ill., Oct. 14.—The Glover Leaf grain elevator, containing 25,000 bushels of grain, was destroyed by fire early today. Several small cottages near the elevator, together with the coal chutes of the railroad company, were also destroyed. Loss, \$100,000.