

# THE RED TRAIL

BY GUSTAVE AIMARD

CHAPTER XIV.

It was very late when the conspirators separated, and when the last groups of officers left the rancho the sound of the Indian horses and mules proceeding to market was audible on the paved highway.

The two travelers had seated themselves again at a corner of the table, opposite one another, and were dumb and motionless as statues. At length the person who had always spoken on his own behalf and that of his companion struck the table twice, and the landlord hurried up at this summons.

"What do you wish for, excellency?" he asked, with an obsequious air.

"I tell you what, landlord," the stranger continued, "it strikes me that your criado is a long time in returning; he ought to have been back before this."

"Pardon me, excellency, but it is a long journey from here to the Segunda Monterilla. Still, I believe the peon will soon be back."

At this moment there was a tap at the door.

"Perhaps it is our man," the stranger said.

After exchanging a few words with the landlord, the latter unhooked the chain and opened the door.

"Excellency," he said to the stranger, "here is your messenger."

"At last," the traveler said, gladly. The peon entered, politely doffed his hat and bowed.

"Well, my friend," the stranger asked him, "did you find the person to whom I sent you?"

"Yes, your excellency, I had the good fortune to find him at home."

"Ah, ah! And what did he say on receiving my note?"

"Well, excellency, he is a caballero, for sure; for he first gave me a piastre, and then said to me: 'Go back as quick as you can walk and tell the gentleman who sent you that I am here at the meeting he appoints as soon as yourself.'"

"So that—"

"He will probably be here in a few minutes."

"Very good; you are a clever lad," the stranger answered. "Here is another piastre for you."

"Thanks, your excellency, I should be a rich man with only two nights a month like this."

The peon had scarce left the room ten minutes ere a rather loud voice was heard without; horses stamped, and not only was the door struck, but there were several loud calls.

"Open the door without fear," the stranger said, "I know that voice."

The ranchero obeyed, and several persons entered.

"At last you have returned, my dear Valentine," the newcomer exclaimed in French, as he walked quickly toward the travelers, who, for their part, went to meet him.

"Thanks for your promptitude in responding to my invitation, my dear Rallier," the hunter answered.

"Now," said Valentine, so soon as the door closed behind the landlord, "we shall talk at least in safety."

"Speak Spanish, my friend," said M. Rallier.

"Why so? It is so delightful to converse in one's own tongue, when, like me, you have so few opportunities for doing so. I assure you that Curumilla will not feel offended."

"Hum; I did not say this on behalf of the chief, whose friendship for you I am well acquainted with."

"Who then?"

"For Don Martial, who has accompanied me, and has important matters to communicate to you."

"Oh, ah, that changes the question," said the hunter. "Are you there, my dear Don Martial?"

"Yes, señor," the Tigero answered, emerging from the gloom, "and very happy to see you."

"Who else have you brought with you, Don Antonio?"

"Me, my friend," said a third person, as he let the folds of his cloak fall. "My brother thought that it would be better to have a companion."

"Your brother was right, my dear Edward, and I thank him for the good idea, which procures me the pleasure of shaking your hand a few moments sooner. And now, señores, if you are agreeable, we will sit down and talk."

"I am ready," Antonio Rallier answered, as he sat down.

"If you like," Valentine continued, "we will proceed in rotation."

"First and before all else, my friend," said Antonio Rallier, "permit me to thank you once again, in my own name and that of my family, for the service you rendered me in your journey across the Rocky Mountains. Without you, without your watchful friendship and courageous devotion, we should never have emerged from those frightful gorges, but must have perished miserably in them."

"What good is it, my friend, to recall at this moment—"

"Because," Antonio Rallier continued eagerly, "I wish you to be thoroughly convinced that you can dispose of us all as you please. Our arms, purses, and hearts all belong to you."

"I know it, my friend, and you see that I have not hesitated to make use of you, at the risk even of compromising you. So let us leave this subject, and come to facts. What have you done?"

"I have literally followed your instructions; according to your wish, I have hired and furnished for you a house in Tacuba street."

"Pardon me, but you know that I am very slightly acquainted with Mexico, for I have visited that city but rarely, and each time without stopping."

"The Tacuba is one of the principal streets in Mexico; it faces the palace."

"That is famous, and in whose name did you take the house?"

"In that of Don Serapio de la Honda. Your servants arrived two days ago."

"You mean—"

"I mean Belhumeur and Black Elk,

and innocence of youth, combined with the laughing expressions of a boarder spoiled by an indulgent governess.

Dona Helena was standing a little outside the arbor, like a vigilant sentry carefully watching lest the conversation between the Mother Superior and her companion, should be disturbed.

"Sister Redemption is coming this way, holy mother," Dona Helena said at this moment.

At a sign from the Mother Superior, Dona Anita withdrew to the other end of the bench on which she was seated, folding her arms on her chest.

"Are you looking for our mother, sister?" Dona Helena asked a rather elderly lay sister, who was looking to the right and left as if really seeking somebody.

"Yes, sister," the lay sister answered, "I wish to deliver a message with which I am intrusted for our mother."

"Then enter this arbor, sister, and you will find her reposing there."

The lay sister entered the arbor, approached the Mother Superior, stopped three paces off, folded her arms, and looked down and waited.

"What do you desire, daughter?" the Mother Superior asked her.

"Your blessing in the first place, holy mother," the lay sister answered.

"I can give it to you, daughter; and now what message have you for me?"

"Holy mother, a gentleman of lofty bearing, called Don Serapio de la Honda, wishes to speak with you privately."

"Remain here till the oration, my children; converse together, but be prudent," she said.

Then after giving Dona Anita a parting kiss, the Mother Superior went away, sorely troubled in mind at this visit from a man she did not know, and whose name she heard for the first time. When she entered the parlor the abbess examined the stranger with a hasty glance. On perceiving her he rose from his chair and bowed respectfully. This first glance was favorable to the stranger, in whom the reader has doubtless already recognized Valentine Guillou.

"Pray resume your seat, caballero," the abbess said to him, "if your conversation is to last any time; we shall talk more comfortably while sitting."

Valentine bowed, offered the lady a chair, and then returned to his own.

"Señor Don Serapio de la Honda was announced to me," the lady continued after a short silence.

"I am that gentleman, madam."

"I am at your orders, caballero, and ready to listen to any communication you may have to make."

"Madam, I am merely commissioned by the Minister of the Home Department to deliver this letter, to which I have a few words to add."

While uttering this sentence with exquisite politeness Valentine offered the abbess a letter bearing the ministerial arms.

"Standards, D. can be either stationary or hinged so as to be quickly lowered, raised or removed by a small bolt, as shown at Y. The standards should be six and one-half feet high and quite strong to withstand the pressure of the load as well as to serve as a ladder. The boards, X, should be of the same length as the bed pieces and one inch thick and six inches wide of straight grained light wood. Wood pins or stakes, N, are inserted as shown and should be only slightly sharpened. Should the hind wheels project above the boards, X, bridge

over them, as shown at S. Wash with petroleum and keep under shelter when not in use.—Country Gentleman.

The "Strength" of Flour.

Millers and bakers know that large differences exist among various sorts of wheat flour with regard to baking value, or strength, but it appears that only recently have complete chemical tests been made to determine why a given quantity of flour of one brand will produce a loaf and nearly one-third larger than the same quantity of another brand. According to experiments by the Department of Agriculture at Cambridge, England, the volume of a loaf of bread depends in the first instance upon the relative amount of sugar in the dough. The addition of sugar always increases the size of the loaf, or, as the baker says, makes the flour stronger. There are other differences affecting such things as texture and color of bread, the chemical bases of which are yet under examination.

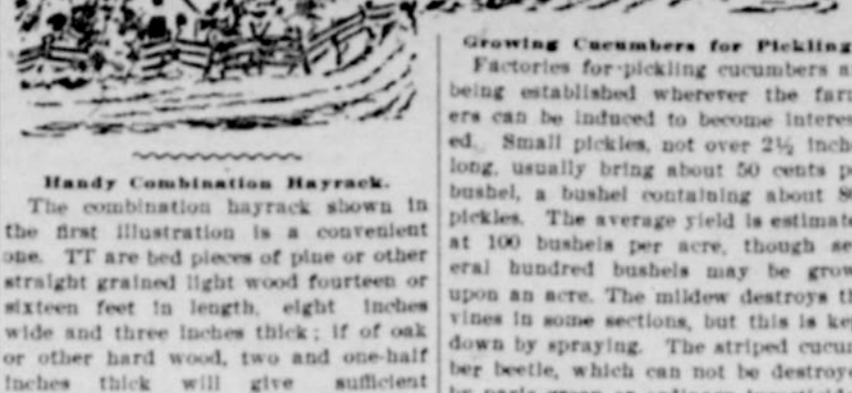
Butter Contents of Milk.

As a reference for those who may desire to know how much butter to expect from milk, it may be mentioned that no correct average can be given, as milk from different cows varies. Milk containing 3 per cent of butter fat will make about 1 pound of butter from 20 pounds (about 13½ quarts) of milk. One quart of milk weighs 2.15 pounds. Milk containing 13 per cent of solids should contain about 4 per cent of fat, 3½ per cent of albumen and 5½ per cent of milk sugar, ash, etc. The average amount of butter fat in cream is about 22 per cent. The separator method of handling cream occasions less waste than by the old method. An ounce of salt is the allowance for 1 pound of butter.

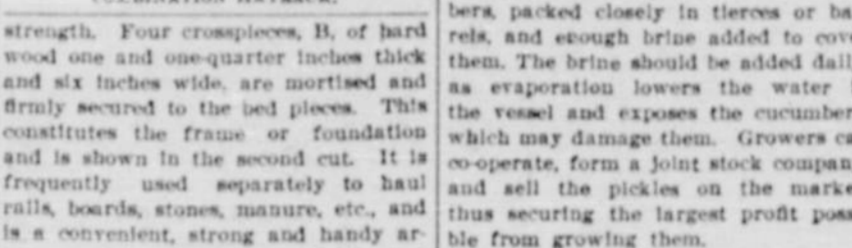
Poultry as a Business.

Is there progress in poultry keeping? Read the market reports. Look at the amount of poultry advertising done today as compared with five years ago. How did the winter prices of eggs in the last five years of the nineteenth century compare with those of the first five years of this? Thousands of people are to-day making a comfortable living and many have become independent by raising poultry and eggs for the market. It has been proven by experiments that it costs no more to produce a pound of poultry than it does to produce a pound of pork or beef, yet poultry is always worth more per pound than any other meat and sells just as readily.

## FARMS AND FARMERS

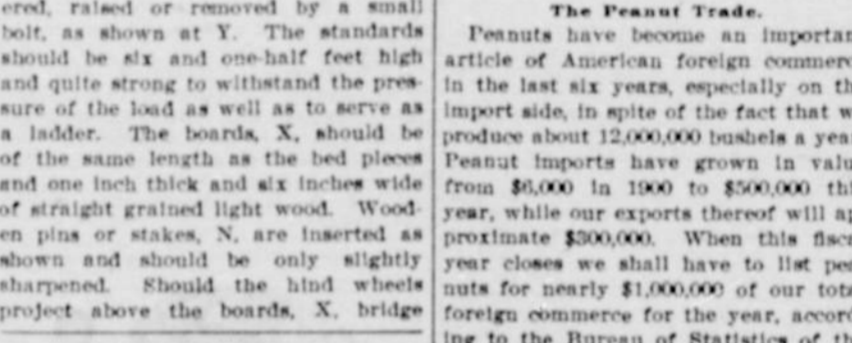


**Growing Cucumbers for Pickling.**  
Factories for pickling cucumbers are being established wherever the farmers can be induced to become interested. Small pickles, not over 2½ inches long, usually bring about 50 cents per bushel, a bushel containing about 800 pickles. The average yield is estimated at 100 bushels per acre, though several hundred bushels may be grown upon an acre. The mildew destroys the vines in some sections, but this is kept down by spraying. The striped cucumber beetle, which can not be destroyed by Paris green or ordinary insecticides, is a formidable enemy where it makes its appearance. The long green varieties of cucumbers are used. Plenty of manure should be applied. A fertilizer consisting of one part nitrogen, one part phosphoric acid and two parts of potash is about the proper formula for cucumbers. Cucumbers are sowed with two quarts of salt per bushel of cucumbers, packed closely in tiers or barrels, and enough brine added to cover them. The brine should be added daily, as evaporation lowers the water in the vessel and exposes the cucumbers, which may damage them. Growers can co-operate, form a joint stock company, and sell the pickles on the market, thus securing the largest profit possible from growing them.



**Handy Combination Hayrack.**  
The combination hayrack shown in the first illustration is a convenient one. It is bed pieces of pine or other straight grained light wood fourteen or sixteen feet in length, eight inches wide and three inches thick; if of oak or other hard wood, two and one-half inches thick will give sufficient strength. Four crosspieces, B, of hard wood one and one-quarter inches thick and six inches wide, are mortised and firmly secured to the bed pieces. This constitutes the frame or foundation and is shown in the second cut. It is frequently used separately to haul rails, boards, stones, manure, etc., and is a convenient, strong and handy arrangement for the purpose. In the first cut is shown the rigging complete, of which its four crosspieces or arms, P, are seven and one-half feet in length, five inches wide and two and one-half inches thick.

If designed for a "sectional rigging" and to prevent side movement a half inch groove is cut into the lower sides of the cross arms, P, so that they fit closely upon the bed pieces. To prevent a forward or backward movement eight strong iron hooks are attached by staples to the sides of the cross arms and when placed upon the bed pieces are readily hooked into the staples, A. Thus arranged one man can easily place the rigging upon or take it from the wagon; or, if desired, bolts may be used to fasten all together by passing them through the cross arms and bed pieces. There is not 25 cents difference in the expense. Standards, D, can be either stationary or hinged so as to be quickly lowered, raised or removed by a small bolt, as shown at Y. The standards should be six and one-half feet high and quite strong to withstand the pressure of the load as well as to serve as a ladder. The boards, X, should be of the same length as the bed pieces and one inch thick and six inches wide of straight grained light wood. Wood pins or stakes, N, are inserted as shown and should be only slightly sharpened. Should the hind wheels project above the boards, X, bridge



over them, as shown at S. Wash with petroleum and keep under shelter when not in use.—Country Gentleman.

**The Peanut Trade.**  
Peanuts have become an important article of American foreign commerce in the last six years, especially on the import side, in spite of the fact that we produce about 12,000,000 bushels a year. Peanut imports have grown in value from \$6,000 in 1900 to \$500,000 this year, while our exports thereof will approximate \$300,000. When this fiscal year closes we shall have to list peanuts for nearly \$1,000,000 of our total foreign commerce for the year, according to the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor.

The peanut acreage in this country increased 150 per cent and production 233 per cent between 1890 and 1900. There are under cultivation now 517,000 acres, producing 11,905,000 bushels. The crop is concentrated in a few Southern States, Virginia supplying one-third of it, North Carolina another third.—New York Sun.

**Curing Hay.**  
A heavy crop of grass requires more time for curing than a poor one, as more water must be eliminated, and the hay should not be allowed to become dark. If cut as soon as the dew is off the ground, and "shook up" by the tedder in the afternoon, after the sun is well up the next day the hay may be bunched, not making too large bunches, which may remain from one to three days, according to the weather. It will not injure the grass if rain falls on it before it is cured after cutting, but after it has dried it should be gotten into the mow as soon as the hay is ready. Twist a bunch of hay, and if it breaks off well it may be hauled. The best hay is that which is air-dried rather than dried entirely by the sun; hence the use of the tedder, which keeps the hay loose and turned over for the air, is very favorable to the proper curing of the hay.

**Timber on the Farm.**  
Every farmer should have his acre or more of timber. It pays in many ways—providing protection, fuel and shade. More than that, there is such a tremendous demand for wood that the timber division of a farm could be made in time to yield a monetary profit. Of course, it will take time to start a forest, but once started, it will be an asset and will certainly add to the market value of the farm.—St. Joseph News-Press.

**Weevil Optimism.**  
There are people who believe that the advent of the boll weevil will ultimately prove a good thing for the country and who regard the little insect as a blessing in disguise. We hope they are right. It is argued that the boll weevil will bring about a readjustment of labor conditions; will break up the cotton system and substitute diversified farming, truck and fruit growing.—Homer (La.) Guardian-Journal.

**Teaching Botany in Public Schools.**  
In country schools botany should be taught by devoting an hour or two each week, in the growing seasons, to excursions to the fields and woods, plants being selected, described and classified. By this mode of teaching, an interest in botany will be created on the part of the children.

## GLASS IS SENTENCED

Must Go to San Quentin Penitentiary for Five Years.

### DEFENDANT'S AGE CONSIDERED

Telephone Official Convicted of Paying \$50,000 to Kill Franchise of Rival Company.

San Francisco, Sept. 5.—"Five years for Louis Glass" was the news message that sped with incredible rapidity to all parts of the city yesterday morning from the Temple Sholih Israel, California and Webster streets, where was imposed the sentence that brought to a dramatic close the second trial of the vice president and former general manager of the Pacific States Telephone & Telegraph company, convicted last week of the crime of bribery, a crime for which the extreme punishment under the law of this state is 14 years. Only a small crowd, made up for the most part of lawyers, witnessed the imposing sentence. When the usual preliminary motions had been cleared away the court said: "Has the defendant any other legal cause to show why judgment should not be pronounced upon him?"

Mr. Glass arose in the pew immediately back of his counsel. His face was very pale, but in his bearings there was neither boldness nor cringing.

Looking the judge full in the face, he answered in a voice that was clear and steady: "I have no reply, your honor, except that I am entirely guiltless of this charge."

"There are two general considerations," said the judge, "pressing upon the mind of the court in determining the measure of punishment in this case. The first turns upon the situation of the defendant himself. A man well advanced in years, he has appeared in this court charged for the first time with the commission of a public offense. The other consideration is the nature of the offense and the effect of such criminal transgression upon the institutions of the country itself. The certainty, rather than the extent of the punishment, should control. Weighing both of these considerations, I have reached a conclusion as to the measure of punishment which I feel will be both just and fair under all the circumstances presented."

"Louis Glass, it is the judgment of the law and the sentence of the court that you be confined in the state prison of the state of California at San Quentin for the term of five years."

### PROSECUTE ALL THIEVES.

Oregon Land Fraud Cases Are Not To Be Dropped.

Washington, Sept. 5.—"There is absolutely no truth in the statement that the government will not further prosecute the Oregon land fraud cases," said Acting Attorney General Russell today, when shown a dispatch from Portland quoting a story recently printed in that city. "The land fraud trials will be resumed at an early day."

"The delay thus far has been due to several causes. Mr. Heney, who conducted the past trials, was more familiar with the pending cases than any other official, and at the time he was sent to San Francisco he expected to return to Portland and personally handle most of the remaining land fraud cases. His work at San Francisco has been so extensive as to make it impossible for him personally to take up the land trials in Oregon. Naturally some delay was occasioned in acquainting other officials with the facts. Then, too, toward the close of the past fiscal year there was a shortage of funds. The new appropriation became available July 1, and, so far as I am aware, there is no particular reason why the Oregon trials should not proceed."

### Woman Holds Up a Car.

Los Angeles, Cal., Sept. 5.—For the second time within a week a streetcar was held up and robbed at the muzzle of a revolver by a robber so slight and possessed of such delicate features that the police believe the crime to have been committed by a woman in man's attire. Just before midnight last night a Hooper avenue car between Ascot park and Compton, in the suburbs, was boarded by the robber as the car rounded a curve. The motorman and conductor were held up at the point of a revolver, yielding about \$4.

### Wants to See America.

Rome, Sept. 5.—The Corriere d'Italia is authority for the statement that a priest attached to the church of Santa Maria Magdalena, impelled by his desire to visit the United States, embarked \$24,000 of the church funds and disappeared. He is supposed to have started for the goal of his desires. The wardens of the church have lodged a complaint against the priest with a local magistrate and it is hoped he will be apprehended.

### Can Fleas Carry Plague?

Berkeley, Cal., Sept. 5.—The department of bacteriology at the State university is planning a series of experiments on bubonic plague, the object of which is to determine whether the California species of fleas transmit the disease through a common rat to a healthy person. Fleas and rats will be collected from ships that come into San Francisco from Oriental ports, where plague is known to be prevalent.