

THE COW PUNCHER

By ROBERT J. C. STEAD

Author of "Kitcheners" and Other Poems"

Illustrations by IRWIN MYERS

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SYNOPSIS.

CHAPTER I.—Living with his father on a small, badly managed ranch, David Eiden has reached the age of eighteen with few educational advantages. An accident to the auto in which Dr. Hardy, eminent eastern physician, and his daughter Irene, are touring the country, brings a new element into his life. Dr. Hardy's leg is broken, and he is necessarily confined to his bed. Friendship, and something more, develops between Irene and David.

CHAPTER II.—Irene greatly enjoys the unconventional freedom of ranch life, and her acquaintanceship with David ripens into affection. On Dr. Hardy's recovery the young people part with the understanding that David will seek to improve his position in life and they will meet again.

CHAPTER III.—The sudden death of his father leaves David with practically nothing but the few bare acres of the ranch, the elder man having through years of dissipation wasted the income. His debts paid, David goes to the nearest town, determined to keep his promise to Irene by acquiring an education and making himself worthy of her. He secures the first work offered, driving a team for a coal dealer, and meets a man named Conard, about his own age, by whom he is led into dissipation.

CHAPTER IV.—Naturally of clean mind, David determines to get away from his ungenial surroundings. He secures the newspaper, David becomes a reporter. Edith, acutely sensible of his good looks and general worthiness, falls in love with him, though, with the memory of Irene in his heart, David does not perceive it.

CHAPTER V.—Attracting the favorable attention of the managing editor of the newspaper, David becomes a reporter. Edith, acutely sensible of his good looks and general worthiness, falls in love with him, though, with the memory of Irene in his heart, David does not perceive it.

During the following days Dave had a keener eye than usual for evidences of "industrial development." He found them on every hand. Old properties, long considered unsalable, were changing owners. Money moved easily; wages were stiffening; tradesmen were in demand. There was material for many good stories in his investigations. He began writing features on the city's prosperity and prospects. The rival paper did the same and there was soon started between them a competition of optimism. The great word became "boost." The virus was now in the veins of the community, pulsing through every street and byway of the little city. Dave marvelled, and wondered how he had failed to read these signs until Conward had laid their portent bare before him. But as yet it was only his news sense that responded; his delight in the strange and the sensational. He was not yet inoculated with the poison of easy wealth.

His nights were busy with his investigations, but on Sunday, as usual, he went out to the Duncans'. Mrs. Dun-

can explained that Edith had gone to visit a girl friend in the country; would be gone away for some time. Dave felt a foolish annoyance that she should have left town. She might at least have called him up. Why should she call him up? Of course not? Still, the town was very empty. He drove with Mrs. Duncan in the afternoon, and at night took a long walk by the river. He had a vague but oppressive sense of loneliness. He had not realized what part of his life these Sunday afternoons with Edith had come to be.

A few days later Conward strolled in, with the inevitable cigarette. He smoked in silence until Dave completed a story.

"Good stuff you're giving us," he commented, when the article was finished. "Remember what I told you the other day? It's just like putting a match to tinder. Now we're off."

Conward smoked a few minutes in silence, but Dave could not fail to see the excitement under his calm exterior. He had, as he said, decided to "sit" in the biggest game ever played. The intoxication of sudden wealth had already fired his blood.

He slipped a bill to Dave. "For your services in that little transaction," he explained.

Eiden held the bill in his fingers gingerly, as though it might carry infection, as in very truth it did. He realized that he stood at a turning-point—that everything the future held for him might rest on his present decision. There remained in him not a little of the fine, stern honor of the ranchman of the open range; an honor curious, sometimes terrible, in its interpretation of right and wrong, but a fine, stern honor nevertheless. And he instinctively felt that to accept this money would compromise him for evermore. As he turned the bill in his fingers he noticed that it was for one hundred dollars. He thought it was ten.

"I can't take that much," he exclaimed. "It isn't fair."

"Fair enough," said Conward, well pleased that Dave should be impressed

by his generosity. "Fair enough," he repeated. "It's just ten per cent of my profit."

"You mean you made a thousand dollars on that deal?"

"Exactly that. And that will look

like a peanut to what we are going to make later on."

"Yes. You and me. We're going into partnership."

"But I've nothing to invest. I've only a very little saved up."

"Invest that hundred."

Dave looked at Conward sharply. Was he trifling? No, his eyes were frank and serious.

"You mean it?"

"Of course. Now, I'll put you onto something, and it's the biggest thing that has been pulled off yet. There's a section of land lying right against the city limits that is owned by a fellow over in England; remittance man who fell heir to an estate and had to go home to spend it. I am arranging through a London office to offer him ten dollars an acre, and I'll bet he jumps at it. I've arranged for the necessary credits, but there will be some expenses for cables, etc., and you can put your hundred into that. If we pull it off—and we will pull it off—we start up in business as Conward & Eiden, or Eiden & Conward, whichever sounds better. Boy, there's a fortune in it!"

"What do you figure it's worth?" said Dave, trying to speak easily.

"Twenty-five dollars an acre?"

"Twenty-five dollars an acre!" Conward shouted. "Dave, newspaper routine has killed your imagination. Twenty-five dollars an acre! Listen!

"The city boundaries are to be extended—probably will be by the time this deal goes through. Then it is city property. A street-railway system is to be built, and we'll see that it runs through our land. We may have to 'grease' somebody, but it's a poor engineer that saves on grease. Then we'll survey that section into twenty-five-foot lots—and we'll sell them at two hundred dollars each for those nearest the city down to one hundred for those farthest out—average one hundred and fifty—total nine hundred and sixty thousand dollars. Allow, say, sixty thousand for grease and there is still nine hundred thousand, and that doesn't count resale commissions. Dave, it's good for a cool million."

Dave was doing rapid thinking. Suddenly he faced Conward and their eyes met. "Conward," he said, "you don't

need my little hundred to put this over. Why do you let me in on it?"

Conward smiled and breathed easily. There had been a moment of tension. "Oh, that's simple," he answered. "I figure we'll travel well in double harness. I'm a good mixer—I know people—and I've got ideas. And you're sound and honorable and people trust you."

"Thanks," said Dave, dryly.

"That's right," Conward continued. "We'll be a combination hard to beat."

Dave had never felt sure of Conward, and now he felt less sure than ever. But the lust of easy money was beginning to stir within him. The bill in his hands represented more than three weeks' wages. Conward was making money—making money fast, and surely here was an opportunity such as comes once in a lifetime.

"I'll go you," he said to Conward, at last. "I'll risk this hundred, and a little more, if necessary."

"Good," said Conward, springing to his feet and taking Dave's hand in a

warm grasp. "Now we're away. But you better play safe. Stick to your paycheck here until we pull the deal through. There won't be much to do until then, anyway, and you can help more by guiding the paper along right lines."

"It sounds like a fairy tale," Dave demurred, as though unwilling to credit the possibilities Conward had outlined. "You're sure it can be done?"

"Done? Why, son, it has been done in all the big centers in the States, and at many a place that'll never be a center at all. And it will be done here. Dave, bigger things than you dare dream of are looming up right ahead."

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

RELIEVES COLD IN THE CHEST

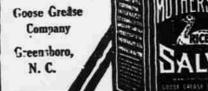
You can't afford to trifle with a cold in the chest. It may lead to pneumonia, influenza, or other serious trouble.

MOTHER'S JOY

gives quick relief and prevents pneumonia. You just apply it to the throat and chest, and rub it in. It quickly penetrates to the seat of the inflammation and congestion disappears like magic.

Mother's Joy Salve is harmless and soothing, and can be applied to the tenderest baby skin without irritating effects. Thousands of users testify that it never fails to relieve congestion and cough.

Keep a jar on hand for emergencies. Doctors and nurses recommend it. Good dealers sell it.



Goose Grease Company, Greensboro, N. C.

Look Ahead A Little



Stove Time is Coming
November you will need the famous TIP TOP HOT BLAST which is a very economical coal burner, and sold at an economical price.
Call and See Us
D. M. Jones Co.
Established 1887
ODELL BROS.
COMMISSION MERCHANTS
We Sell Products from the Farm.
Shipments Solicited Norfolk, Va. My 16-1vr.

NOTICE OF SALE Under Mortgage
By virtue of the power and authority given by a certain Deed of Trust executed by Levi Owens and Dillah Owens on the 9th day of December, 1910 to D. E. Woodley which is recorded in the office of Register of Deeds for the county of Tyrrell, in book 60, page 253, the following property will be sold at Public Auction, viz:
That tract of land known as the Swain Land, situated in Scuppernon Township Tyrrell county, near Woodley's Station. Bounded on the north by the public road and the lands of Amos McClees; on the East by the public road leading from Creswell to Columbia; on the South by the lands of the heirs of Andrew Bateman; on the west by the lands of Mrs. Sarah Williams (known as the Duncan farm). Containing by estimation 40 acres. Place of sale, on the premises. Time of sale, 26th day of November 1919 at 12 o'clock noon. Terms of sale, cash. October 18, 1919.
D. B. WOODLEY, Trustee

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Having qualified as administratrix of the late W. H. Whitehead, I hereby give notice to all persons indebted to his estate to come forward and make immediate settlement, and those holding claims against the same to present them for payment within twelve months from the date of this notice, or it will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.
BELLE WHITEHEAD
Administratrix
October 20th, 1919. p024-6t

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This the 1st day of November, 1919.
G. R. LITTLE,
Clerk Superior Court.
ELS-N7-4t

Having qualified as Administratrix of the late Ismah Wheaton, I hereby give notice to all persons indebted to his estate to come forward and make immediate settlement, and those holding claims against the same to present them for payment within twelve months from the date of this notice, or it will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.
ROXANNA GRANDY,
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October 29, 1919. N7-4t

Half and Half.
For we know in part and we prophesy in part.—First Corinthians.

WE PAY HIGHEST PRICES FOR CORN, SOJA BEANS and POTATOES

ALSO SELL GENUINE Maine Grown Seed Potatoes

can see sample at our office in front of ice plant, Water Street, Elizabeth City, N. C.

G. W. PARSONS & SONS

SHINGLES

JUST RECEIVED:—

- 1 car Red Cedar Shingles
- 1 car 5 x 18 Best Cypress Shingles
- 1 car 5 x 18 Juniper Shingles

LAMBERT BROTHERS
Elizabeth City, N. C.

WILL TRAIN YOU BY MAIL
You can take any course offered by this school by mail. We send a typewriter, and complete equipment to your home, no matter where you live.
There are thousands of positions open in the commercial world and with the Government for Bookkeepers, Stenographers, Typists and other office assistants. YOU can get one of these positions if you have the necessary technical knowledge. We have trained many thousands of young men and women for such positions; we can train YOU.
Address J. M. RESSLER, President
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See Page 11

More people read the want ads in this paper every week.

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Are Cordially Invited to make the

Alkrama Theatre

headquarters while in town

Saturday afternoons. Leave your bundles at our office; use our phone. And if you want to see a good show, we run a specially good one every Saturday afternoon.

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