

SEVEN-YEAR-OLD BOY MORTGAGED FOR \$2,500

The Strangest Financial Transaction Ever Known in This Country.

A ROMANCE IS BACK OF IT ALL.

**Capt. Milo Green, Jilted by the Girl He Loves,
Advances Money, with Her Child as Security,
When She Gets in Financial Difficulties—Claim Is Due September
27 of This Year.**

Peacham, Vt.—One of the strangest mortgages ever recorded in this country is held by Capt. Milo Green, a rich recluse farmer, living near this place. The amount of the debt is \$2,500, and the security given is a bright-eyed, seven-year-old boy.

The mortgage falls due on September 27 of this year, and if it is not paid promptly on that day no one who knows of the case doubts for a minute but that it will be foreclosed, and little Claire Lesueur will pass from his parents to Capt. Green.

That it may not be paid is more than a possibility.

To tell the story of this remarkable transaction, and the strange romance which is back of it, it is necessary to go back a number of years, and to the town of St. Johnsbury, where all of the characters, with the exception of the boy, lived 20 years ago. At that time Capt. Green was but beginning to

him bravely, even after he was forced to leave St. Johnsbury and seek work—day labor—at Guildhall. What the little woman suffered in the first ten years of her married life she alone knows. Her beauty changed—but she still was beautiful. Trouble and hard work could not change everything, and her eyes were just as flashing and her hair as black as ever. The husband still drank hard, but for a time she thought she had won the victory. He quit drinking, settled down to work, and there were three years of comparative happiness. Then Claire came, and the mother's heart, hungering for years for her lost boy, was satisfied.

The birth of Claire was fatal to his father's good resolutions. The day after the child was born Jacques went out to celebrate. He returned home drunk and for most of the next two years he remained drunk. He lost his savings, his little home, his employment. The

When the boy was in bed Milo turned upon Mrs. Lesueur. "Well," he said, "what are you going to do?"

The Mortgage Given.

"I cannot leave him—he is my husband," she said.

"You cannot live this way," he said. "I have paid the woman and the nurse for a month, and the grocery bill, but you must have more money."

"He will soon be able to work—" she began.

"Not for months—perhaps longer."

"Then I must work," she said, desperately.

"You shall not. It will kill you, I will advance you money."

"We cannot accept it from you. We have nothing to give as security."

"Yes, you have," said Milo Green. "There is the boy. I'll advance you



"I'll Foreclose If You Don't Pay."

\$2,500 in cash for a mortgage on the boy."

The mother wept awhile, and then sobbed her assent. Two weeks later, when Jacques was able to sit up in bed, the mortgage was given, and both husband and wife signed it.

Swears He'll Foreclose.

Milo Green put the document in his pocket and rose to go. The wife was sobbing. As he started towards the door Milo turned suddenly and blazed out at his sick rival:

"Before the Almighty," he declared, "if you don't brace up and be a man and support this woman and child I'll foreclose the mortgage the minute it falls due. I did this in the hope of making a man of you. I wish you'd die—but, if she wants you to live, I'll give you a chance. If you drink and fail to pay that mortgage I'll take the boy."

From that day on Jacques was sober. As he slowly regained his health he sought work and found it in a lumber yard, and he and his wife settled down to save money to raise the mortgage on their boy. Every six months they paid the interest, and the little fortune in the bank grew larger.

They do not know it yet, but every cent of interest money that has been paid is in a bank at St. Johnsbury to the order of one Claire Lesueur.

The struggle has been a hard one, but the couple is certain that, by extra work and extra saving, they can almost accumulate enough to settle the debt by September. The father is working harder and harder to get money enough to settle the debt, but, strange as it may seem, the mother is not worrying a bit.

Minister Takes a Hand.

A few weeks ago the minister heard of the strange mortgage that Capt. Green held on the little boy up at Guildhall, and he drove over to remonstrate with the captain about such unnatural traffic.

What Capt. Green said to the minister is not entirely known. But it is a strange thing that the next day, on meeting a neighbor, Capt. Green remarked that the preacher was a pretty decent sort of a fellow, and the minister will not listen to anyone who speaks of Capt. Green's hardness.

It is peculiar, also, that the lawyer down in Peacham, who drew Capt. Green's will, chuckles whenever the subject of the mortgage is mentioned.

Jacques Lesueur, over in the lumber yard, is working desperately and feverishly. "It will kill my wife," he says. "I must pay it."

The Mother Only Smiles.

And, stranger than anything else, a few days ago Marie Lesueur was sewing on a little blue jacket for Claire, and she said to a neighbor:

"Don't let Jacques hear of it, but I'm making this so Claire can go over to Peacham for a visit this fall."

"Then the old skink is going to foreclose the mortgage?" asked the indignant neighbor.

"You mustn't call him a skink. He's been kind to us, and whether the mortgage is paid or not, I'm going to let him have Claire for a time. I think it will do them both good."

Rocking the Child to Sleep.

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NEWS OF MINNESOTA.

Contest a Tie.

St. Paul.—Officials of the dairy and food commission are wondering to whom should they award the first prize in the butter scoring contest. Allie Olson of Hector and Alfred Schroeder of Lafayette each scored 97, and under the rules of the commission there is no way of ascertaining who is the winner.

It has been suggested that a coin be flipped to see who gets the prize, but should this be decided on, there is a question as to who should receive the second prize. A. G. Schandall of Elmore scored 96½, the score next to the highest, and would naturally receive the second prize. A. G. Schandall got the second prize, the man who scored 97, but lost on the "flap" would get nothing. J. F. Kietly of Watkins, who scored 96½, expects the third prize. The first prize is \$5 cash, the second \$3 and the third \$2.

Inheritance Tax.

The recent inheritance tax statements under the inheritance law passed by the recent legislature have been filed with the state auditor.

Five St. Paul estates come under the provisions of the inheritance tax law. The estate of Phal D. Ferguson, estimated at \$250,000, will pay the state about \$12,000 on a 5 per cent basis. The estate is left to one heir, and the law allows an exemption of \$10,000. The estate of Thomas Schnell, amounting to \$72,300, will pay a tax of 1½ per cent, after a \$10,000 exemption has been taken out. The estate of Charles E. Dickerman, amounting to \$150,000, is left to five heirs. Each heir is entitled to a \$5,000 injunction. The estate of Katherine Stewart, amounting to \$7,500, and the estate of Joseph O. Patee, amounting to \$115,000 also come under the law.

Fire at Training School.

Red Wing.—The building used as a sloyd shop and laundry at the state training school was destroyed by fire at 1 o'clock the morning of July 2. The loss is estimated at \$10,000.

The building was a three-story structure of brick and stone, and was used as a workshop in which the boys of the school were taught trades. The basement and lower floors were given up to the laundry and engine room.

The fire started from an unknown cause in the tailor shop and had gained great headway before it was discovered. Much of the material was of a light, combustible nature and burned like kindling. The burned structure was in the rear of the main building. No damage was done to any other building. A common report is that the fire was of incendiary origin.

Prison Population.

Stillwater.—Some surprise was caused by the announcement that the number of criminals at the state penitentiary is increasing more than four times as fast as the population of the state. The population of the prison has increased 40.2 per cent since 1900, while the census bureau officials will be highly pleased if there is an increase of 10 per cent in the population of the state.

There are 702 prisoners at Stillwater, by far the largest number in the history of the institution. The number a year ago was 634, three years ago 553 and five years ago 486. Members of the board of control who returned to St. Paul announced that all the cells are full and that prisoners are compelled to sleep in the corridors.

At Isle of Pines.

Mankato.—Judge John B. Ogle, the runaway forger and embezzler, who twice tried to kill himself, has been located at Neura Geron on the Isle of Pines, the refuge of A. A. Buck, the defaulting cashier of Mankato.

Owing to the fact that the United States has no extradition treaty with the Isle of Pines it will be impossible to bring Ogle back for trial and punishment.

Much Building.

Building permits aggregating \$1,000,000 were issued in St. Paul last month. This is the largest amount issued in one month in the history of the city.

This figure is also greater than the total figure for several average months. While nearly one-half of this amount is covered by two large buildings, most of it includes average structures and additions to buildings.

News Notes.

Grand Rapids.—A new iron ore district is discovered southwest of here.

Mendota.—Falling into a pool caused by high water of the Minnesota river, Arthur Hugo Johnson was drowned. The child's body was taken to St. Paul for burial.

St. Paul.—L. A. Rosing of the state board of control objects to locating the administration building at the school of agriculture on low ground.

St. Paul.—The state census will show an increase of 300,000 in Minnesota's population.

Minneapolis.—A campaign against slaughterhouses located near the residence portions of some of Minnesota's beautiful cities and villages has been started by the state board of health.

Bemidji.—The big logging camps of the R. E. White company at Kelliher were destroyed by fire, together with the clothing, bedding, money and personal effects of 150 men. The total loss is \$3,000 and no insurance was carried. Shots fired by a drunken woodsman are supposed to have ignited the buildings.

Minneapolis.—A Methodist minister from Hopkins called at the Hennepin county jail for a visit to C. D. Crawford, the murderer sentenced to be hanged at Elk River Aug. 15, but he was in a sultry mood and refused to see him "or anyone else."

GOPHER GOSSIP.

Stillwater.—The state's prison population increases 40.2 per cent in five years.

St. Paul.—The jury brings in a verdict of guilty against Thomas Cummings.

St. Paul.—Fred Durette, nine years old, is drowned in a pond on the West side flats.

St. Paul.—Ole Olson is overcome by the heat while walking to town from the workhouse.

St. Paul.—Miss Dawson defeats Miss Mairs in the tennis tournament at the Town and Country club.

Litchfield.—The heavy rains and luxuriant growth of weeds interfere with the quality of Minnesota butter.

Minneapolis.—The state board of health will try to secure sanitary conditions in railway smoking cars.

Duluth.—Lack of funds may prevent Minnesota from sending a team to the national rifle tournament at Sengir, N. J.

Detroit.—The shaft broke on the engine of a special on the Northern Pacific the other day, and the engine cab was ripped up some.

St. Paul.—The omission of a comma in an ordinance prevents the fire board from prohibiting the erection of gas tanks within fire limits.

Mizpah.—A large black bear entered town and was finally brought to bay by the village marshal, Will Hangelsten, who killed it at the first shot.

Crookston.—Over in the Big Fork country there are many bears roaming in the swamps, and the story of the trapping of a big one is being published.

Minneapolis.—Friends of Ray W. Jones of Minneapolis, lieutenant governor of Minnesota, are urging his claims for appointment as governor of Alaska.

Mankato.—Charles G. Swanson, a former ice dealer, has filed a petition in bankruptcy, his assets being \$250, all exempt, and his liabilities \$2,700, all unsecured.

Minneapolis.—A great gain in bank clearings for the last six months is shown over the corresponding period of last year. The increase is no less than \$54,756,033.

Winona.—Winona county trout streams have this week been improved by the planting of twenty cans of trout fry received from the state fish hatchery.

Elbow Lake.—John Hutchison, Jr., son of Prof. J. C. Hutchison of the Greek department of the university, was drowned in Ten Mile lake, between here and Dalton.

St. Paul.—The attorney general received the following inexplicable telegram from Blooming Prairie: "I demand protection from hypnotists and prosecution of parties.—H. J. Nelson."

St. Paul.—Annie Nelson, 17 years of age, is about to make her third trip between the United States and Denmark because she has a mania for self-destruction and neither country wants her.

Minneapolis.—Vernon B. Martin, a well known young Minneapolis athlete and university student, was drowned during the Fourth of July yacht races of the Minnetonka Boat club on Lake Minnetonka.

St. Paul.—A report of the business at the St. Paul postoffice for the fiscal year ending June 30, issued by Postmaster McGill, shows an increase of \$23,595.55 in the receipts over the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904.

Crookston.—M. Langevin, a farmer residing four miles east of here, while digging an artesian well on his farm on the road to Gentilly, struck a regular gusher. The water shoots up in the air a distance of ten feet and flows 60 barrels per hour.

Crookston.—The best methods of draining the hundreds of thousands of acres of swamp lands in the northern part of the state will be discussed at a meeting of the Minnesota Drainage league, which will be held here on Aug. 1. The organization of the league, which was begun a few weeks ago, will be perfected.

St. Paul.—The state dairy and food commission is having a hard time to find samples of whisky that can be called impure under the Minnesota law. All of sixteen samples analyzed recently were found legal.

Moorhead.—P. August Eklund, secretary of the Clay County Land company, is missing and it is reported that there is a shortage in his accounts, variously estimated at from \$4,000 to \$7,000.

Northfield.—The city council refused to grant more than five saloon licenses for next year. John Howie, Jr., who applied for a license last year, and carried his case to the supreme court, where he lost, was denied a license again this year.

Preston.—The Fillmore County Old Settlers, Soldiers and Sailors' association held its annual reunion here. Fine weather helped to make the day enjoyable. Officers of the old settlers are: President, C. H. Conkey of Preston, and secretary, F. E. Titus of Lenora.

Minneapolis.—The first victim of the glorious Fourth in Minneapolis was Carl Nelson of 2713 Franklin avenue east, who came seriously near losing his hand by the premature discharge of a toy cannon.

Hamline.—Governor Robert M. La Follette of Wisconsin has been engaged by the Northwestern Bible conference and Chautauqua to deliver his great lecture, "The Menace of the Machine," at 3 o'clock on the afternoon of Aug. 7 at the state fair grounds.

St. Paul.—Word has been received by the postoffice inspectors of the robbery of the postoffice at Georgetown, Clay county, early Sunday morning. The extent of the loss is not known. The telegram stated that the robbers had secured stamps and cash.

THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

For the Week Ending July 10.

Ten business houses and one dwelling at Roulette, Pa., were destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of \$50,000.

The decision to transfer the isthmian canal from the war to the state departments meets with approval.

Fire that started in F. B. Wright's art and paint store at Spokane, Wash., caused losses estimated at \$115,000.

James S. Alledice, a lawyer convicted in New York of forgery, was sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment in Sing Sing.

Two blocks of the business and residence section of Goldfields, Nev., have been totally destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of \$200,000.

It is stated that no more gambling licenses will be issued in Mexico City, Mexico, after August 1, when all existing licenses expire.

Congress faces a critical situation as to the treasury. More revenue will have to be provided or Uncle Sam must cut down expenses.

As a result of an explosion at the shaft of the Taylor Coal & Coke company at Searight, Pa., five men were killed and four injured, one fatally.

In a pistol duel between Green Murrell and Harvey Rice on Indian creek, in Owsley county, Ky., Murrell was killed and Rice seriously wounded.

Fourteen miners were killed and a number injured by an explosion in a colliery at Anderlieres, Belgium. The explosion was caused by fire damp.

The decision of a St. Louis court that open barber shops are a public necessity in large cities led to a modification of the Sunday closing order.

Fred and Austin Finn, brothers, aged 15 and 12 years respectively, were drowned near Laconia, N. H., in the Winnepesaukee river while swimming.

A jury to pass upon the innocence or guilt of Congressman J. N. Williamson, indicted in connection with the land frauds in Oregon, was selected at Portland.

Walter Kittredge, poet and author of "Tenting on the Old Camp Grounds," died at his home at Reeds Ferry, N. H. Death was the result of infirmities due to old age.

By an explosion in the Tidewater mine at Vivian, 20 miles west of Bluefield, W. Va., nine miners, all of whom were Italians, were injured, and two of them died later.

The body of Rear Admiral Louis J. Allen, who died in New York city June 29, was buried in the Arlington National cemetery in Washington with military honors.

Thomas W. Lawson, in an address at Ottawa, Kan., suggests as a remedy for the evils of "frenzied finance" a general selling out of stocks and bonds to the "system."

Gov. Warner of Michigan, has named company I, Third regiment, M. N. G., as a personal bodyguard of the president at the semicentennial celebration at Soo August 2 and 3.

President Roosevelt delivered two addresses before the National Educational convention at Asbury Park, N. J. Duties of the rich was the subject of his principal speech.

The Japanese peace plenipotentiaries, Komura and Takahira, sailed for the United States, an immense and enthusiastic crowd cheering them, and war vessels firing salutes.

P. H. Rudolph, a ladies' tailor, was found dead in a chair in his office at Omaha, Neb., by two lady customers, who had called for some work they had entrusted to his care.

Lieut. Gen. Chaffee has been designated by the president to act as secretary of war in case Assistant Secretary Oliver is absent from Washington while Secretary Taft is away.

A combination of 26 coal companies of Indiana, controlling 29,000 acres of coal lands, has been formed at Pittsburg, Pa., under the name of the Vandalia Coal company. The new concern has a capital of \$7,000,000.

Caleb Powers is to be tried in the United States court for complicity in the murder of William Gobel at Frankfort. This was settled when United States District Judge Cochran announced that he would take jurisdiction in the case, as has been requested by attorneys for Powers.

THE MARKETS.

New York, July 10.	
LIVE STOCK—Steers.....	\$4 40 @ 5 65
Hogs, Prime State.....	6 20 @ 6 25
Sheep.....	6 25 @ 6 50
FLOUR—Winn. Patents.....	5 50 @ 6 25
WHEAT—July.....	95 1/4 @ 97
September.....	91 1/4 @ 92 1/2
CORN—July.....	62 1/4 @ 63 1/2
OATS—Natural White.....	37 1/2 @ 38 1/2
BUTTER.....	15 @ 20 1/2
CHEESE.....	7 1/4 @ 9 1/2
EGGS.....	12 @ 21
CHICAGO.	
CATTLE—Choice Steers.....	45 40 @ 6 10
Common to Good Steers.....	41 15 @ 5 15
Inf'r to Common Steers.....	37 15 @ 4 15
Bulls, Common to Choice.....	29 00 @ 3 75
Calves.....	5 25 @ 6 75
HOGS—Light Mixed.....	5 45 @ 6 75
Heavy Packing.....	5 40 @ 6 50
Heavy Mixed.....	5 40 @ 6 50
BUTTER—Creamery.....	16 @ 21 1/2
Dairy.....	14 @ 18
EGGS—Fresh.....	12 1/2 @ 17 1/2
LIVE POULTRY.	
POTATOES—Per bu. (New).....	40 @ 58
GRAIN—Wheat, September.....	87 1/4 @ 89 1/2
Corn, September.....	62 1/4 @ 63 1/2
Oats, September.....	31 1/2 @ 33 1/2
Barley, Mailing.....	43 @ 51
Rye, September.....	65 @ 65 1/2
MILWAUKEE.	
GRAIN—Wheat, September.....	86 1/2 @ 87 1/2
Corn, September.....	57 1/2 @ 57
Oats, Standard.....	34 @ 34 1/2
Rye, No. 1.....	80 @ 81
KANSAS CITY.	
GRAIN—Wheat, September.....	79 @ 79 1/2
December.....	79 1/2 @ 79 1/2
Corn, September.....	49 1/2 @ 49 1/2
Oats, No. 2 White.....	33 1/2 @ 33 1/2
ST. LOUIS.	
CATTLE—Beef Steers.....	35 25 @ 5 50
Texas Steers.....	2 50 @ 4 75
HOGS—Packers.....	4 75 @ 5 75
Butchers.....	5 70 @ 5 75
SHEEP—Natives.....	4 00 @ 5 00
OMAHA.	
CATTLE—Native Steers.....	33 75 @ 5 75
Texas Steers.....	1 75 @ 2 85
Cows and Heifers.....	2 50 @ 4 40
HOGS—Heavy.....	5 20 @ 5 27 1/2
SHEEP—Wethers.....	5 00 @ 5 75