

THE IRON TEST

(Continued from last week.)

Chapter 5.

Bert struggled with all his might as he realized that he had been trapped and left to strangle as would a hare. Suddenly he remembered the sheath knife in his belt and determined to cut the rope and take a chance on the fall.

Edith, Jenkins and others arrived on the scene, and soon Peaky and Craven appeared.

"I'm going to stand guard here till two o'clock," announced Jenkins, "then Bert can take it till four and

"I'll finish out the night," volunteered Craven.

At two o'clock Bert took up the watch and at four, he went to the ticket wagon, where Craven had his cot, and summoned him to the job.

Before going to his own van, he walked over to that of Edith and she, unable to sleep on account of the events of the night, heard him slipping on a kimono, she peered out of the door and saw him. She came out and he told her he was going to turn in.

"Please don't sleep in the van tonight," she said, "go to the dressing tent instead."

Laughingly, Bert agreed to do as she asked. He bade her good-night and she blew him a little kiss as he started away. As he passed the menagerie, he saw Bob, the bear, moving restlessly. Bert patted the bear and then an idea came to him.

"Come along, Bob," he said, loosening the big beast's chains. "I've got a job for you."

He took the bear, now quiet, to his own van, opened the door and put him inside.

Craven mounted guard about ten minutes after Bert had retired. He paced the beat for a few minutes, then opened the door of the van quietly and entered. He went to Bert's cot and peered down. He made a move as though he would murder, raising a knife in the air. There was a movement in the corner, then a growl, as Bob, resentful at being awakened, rose to punish the invader.

Craven, alarmed, stepped back toward the door, turning his flashlight on the bear. He drew his revolver and fired. The bear leaped and clutched the man. There began then a battle, with the infuriated bear trying to kill while the man fought for his life. Craven began to lose consciousness and sank to the floor, the bear on top of him, clawing and snarling.

Edith, not knowing who the intruder was, saw Craven enter Bert's van, and fled to the dressing tent and awakened Bert. Together they started to the van, Bert calling for assistance. Jenkins, Peaky and a half dozen canvasmen responded. Bert peered into the van and saw the bear clawing at his victim. When the light was turned on the face, the watchers gasped as they recognized Craven. Bert hurried the bear aside and rescued his foe, then he and Jenkins quickly revived him.

"What were you doing in my van?" questioned Bert as Craven tiredly opened his eyes.

"Heard disturbance—went to investigate—brute got me."

Bert was the first to sympathize and he ordered Craven carried to his quarters. To Peaky he said: "It looks like a nice day ahead. Get my horse and Miss Paige's ready so we can start after breakfast for a ride. I think a gallop along the shore, with a view of the Pacific from Overlook Hill will do us both good this fair Sunday."

Peaky, ill-concealing his venom, said he'd have the horses ready, then exited toward the ticket wagon, where Craven now lay with bandaged arms. He resented Peaky's presence, but the latter shot at him.

"I'll get out when I've asked a few things—RED MASK!"

Craven started up from his cot. "What do you mean?" he shouted. "You know what I mean," replied Peaky, as he drew something from his pocket.

"This is the knife that cut the trapeze rope and damn near killed Forde and Miss Paige—an' it's yours."

Craven started to speak, but Peaky went on: "Besides, I found a raincoat with 'L. C.' in it, an old slouch hat and a red bandanner right near Forde's van. I know they don't belong to Forde or Bob, the bear."

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may 16 19

Craven reached under his cot, took out the circus cash box and opened it. He handed Peaky a handful of bills and the latter left the wagon.

About the time Edith and Bert mounted and started away on their ride to Overlook Hill, Peaky was in conference with three men, burly and unkempt, in a saloon across from the circus grounds. He had been out lining a plan and when he finished arranged to meet them at a point away from the circus. He handed each of them a sum of money and went back to the grounds. As he came up to the main entrance, Jenkins drew up in his automobile and was about to order it away, when Peaky asked him if he could borrow it to do a little errand in town.

"Sure," replied the circus owner. "Keep it all day if you want."

Peaky leaped in, started the car and drove by the horse tent. He went to his locker, pulled out the bundle containing the disguise of "Red Mask" and four revolvers and took two long lariats from a hook. Putting these in the car, he jumped in and started away at high speed. Less than a thousand yards from the circus he overtook his villainous friends. Then he pointed for the coast drive and Overlook Hill.

Running the car into the high weeds at the side of the road, he got out the ropes and the "Red Mask" disguise and posted his three aides where they would best fit his plans. They had to wait some time, but finally Bert and Edith, riding easily, came into view. Just as they reached the hill top an armed, masked man appeared from either side of the road. A third came up behind them. Bert drew his gun and started to raise his arm to fire. A lariat shot through the air, dropped on his wrist and he was yanked to the ground, his wrist bleeding. The man nearest Edith seized her and pulled

her from her horse. Then Peaky, wearing the "Red Mask" disguise, ordered them carried to the brink and lowered over the cliff until their feet were in the water.

For the first few minutes after he had been left suspended, Bert thought that he and Edith had been left to certain death. He struggled and in so doing, managed to turn around. He saw that in the indentation of the rock there was a shelf about three feet above the surface of the water. He began to swing violently and urged Edith to do the same. He finally managed to land on the shelf, balanced perilously and was safe. With his feet on solid rock, he was able to work his hands free and reach into his pocket for his knife. He cut his own bonds and then as Edith swung toward him, he grabbed her and landed her on the shelf. He quickly cut her free.

Peaky and his ruffians had returned to the saloon near the grounds in jubilant mood and the villain went to Craven's wagon to report on his work. Craven leaped from his bed as the recital ended. "You damned fool! Don't you know you're killing the girl I want to marry. Come on—help me dress and get out of here."

Peaky did as he was bid and the two went out and got into Jenkins' car, driving desperately to Overlook Point. Arriving there, they looked over the bring and saw that the ropes were immersed.

"Too late!" said Craven. They drove away and Bert, hearing the motor, shouted for help. His voice failed to carry, of course, and the others did not hear him.

The water was fast rising in the shelter the unfortunate lovers had sought and it was now reaching their shoulders.

(To be continued.)

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FARMERS TO CELEBRATE VICTORY

Governor Harrington and U. S. Commissioner Claxton, Farmers' Day Orators. Largest Cultivator Demonstration in The Country Scheduled.

Farmers from all sections of the State and bordering counties of sister States will gather at College Park on the morning of May 30th, to participate in the great Victory celebration and commencement exercises to be held under the auspices of the Maryland State College, as a part of the annual Farmers' Day program for this year.

Governor E. C. Harrington and Dr. P. F. Claxton, U. S. Commissioner of Education, will be the principle speakers of the day. The Governor's subject will be "The Farmers' Contribution to Victory and Their Reconstruction Program," and Commissioner Claxton's will deal with the theme of "The New Spirit in Education." Both men possess unusual ability to develop their subject and their addresses will form one of the delightful features of the day.

For the first time probably in the history of the country, a large cultivator demonstration will be held as a special feature of Farmers' Day. The best horse cultivators, garden tractors and motor cultivators will be shown in actual operation in a field of growing corn. Nine implement companies have already entered the demonstration and they will operate seventeen different styles of cultivators.

The purpose of the demonstration is to give farmers an opportunity to study the various types of modern cultivators in actual operation, so as to enable them to form some intelligent opinions regarding the efficiency horse and motor-drawn cultivators. One interesting feature will be the comparison of obsolete cultivators with modern implements of this type.

There is no question but what the cultivator is the most neglected tool on the farm today; this is true in the corn belt as well as in the Eastern States, and every farmer can well afford to attend this or any other similar demonstration which seeks to point out the way to progress and improvement in the cultivation of crops. Any farmer who so desires will have the opportunity of operating the different cultivators used.

Good things have been planned for the women as well as the men. The Home Economics Division of the Extension Service, have made arrangements with Mrs. Max West, of the U. S. Department of Labor to address the women on the subject of "Child Welfare." The talk will be given in the rooms of the Home Economics Division, which are located on the first floor of the new agricultural building at 10:30 in the morning. Plans have also been completed for holding an exhibit of infants clothes which will include wearing apparel suitable up to three years of age, together with a display of children's clothes made from discarded adult suits, which have outlived their usefulness. The exhibit of infants' clothes will be furnished by the Children's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor and be open for inspection during the entire day.

In addition to the cultivator demonstration and other exercises, visitors will have an opportunity to inspect the many lines of investigational work in crops, live stock, etc., which are being carried on at the Experiment Station. Each important experiment or test will be in charge of some member of the staff who is familiar with the work and he will be glad to explain the details to all interested parties. There are something like 3,000 plots in the wheat investigations alone, which gives the reader some idea of the nature and extent of the work of the Experiment Station.

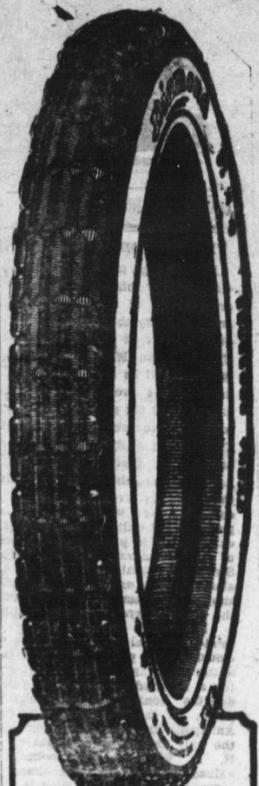
It is planned to carry out some actual tests of soil for lime requirements and samples of soil brought by the farmers on that day will be given this test immediately. An explanation of the Pure Seed Law is to be carried on, and explanations of investigations of tomato diseases, brown rot, experiments with fruits, hog cholera serum experiments, and many other kinds of research being developed in connection with agriculture, will be for observation by visitors. Some of the numerous experiments have to do with winter oats, soy beans and cow peas, variety tests of strawberries, grape training, dwarf orchards and pruning of bush fruits, growing of asparagus, Irish potatoes, fertilizer tests and poultry.

Comprehensive plans are being made for the accommodation and comfort of the visitors. Sandwiches and refreshments will be sold on the campus, but all who can conveniently do so are urged to bring picnic lunches. There will be special train service on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, trolley service from Washington and Laurel, and for those who own automobiles it is suggested to say that the College is located on one of Maryland's famous stretches of State roads, which connects Washington and Baltimore.

The Jitney Still Jits. Recent articles on the war tax just levied on soft drinks, confections, etc., have given rise to some misunderstanding, and the Wm. Wrigley, Jr., Company issues a statement to the effect that the 3 per cent tax on chewing gum does NOT affect the retail dealer or the consumer. Mr. Wrigley explains that the manufacturers stand this tax, and there should be NO CHANGE in the price charged you for your package of Wrigley's Spearmint, Doublemint, or Juicy Fruit. In other words, the Jitney still Jits. Thanks, Mr. Wrigley.

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