The Western Home Monthly.

Winnipeg, March, 1912.

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The Luck of Red Light Ross.

Written for the Western Home Monthly by E. Bruce Mallett, Lamont, Alta.



ARIE, the pretty daughter of an Alberta cattle rancher. seemed to be captivated by a foreign looking gentleman, who had lately arrived in the district. This gentleman al-

though he spoke with a slight foreign accent had a good command of English. He rode expensive horses and hunted. He also had some

very fine wolfhounds. Red Light Ross, a young Canadian cowboy employed by Marie's father, and considered by everyone as the ablest cowpuncher in the outfit, had lately been made foreman. Red Light was very much in love with Marie.

Red Light Ross did not drink bad whiskey and frequent red light saloons so could not have come by his cognomen in that manner, on the contrary he was always found attending strictly to business.

The reason he was called Red Light Ross was because of the mop of fiery red hair which surmounted his suntanned brick dust countenance. He was

of good statute and muscular. Marie had, '. the great astonishment, pain and chagrin of Ross, shown him aversion since the arrival of the foreigner, and the foreigner received every mark of her esteem. Alone Red Light Ross ground his teeth and swore he would surmount his difficulty.

This afternoon Ross, who is mounted on Clear Grit, his wiry Indian pony, is riding slowly along, glaring moodily into the off-side of the trail unmindful of the glorious beauty of the slanting rays of the afternoon sun on the broad prairie. Suddenly his pony gave a snort and took a tremendous sidewise leap and a coyote crossed the trail closely pur-sued by two large wolfhounds. Ross pulled his 45 and fired three shots in quick succession; succeeded in tumbling over the bunch, coyote and dogs. "It's just as well I cleaned up the bunch," he gritted. "I'd like to get that fellow started in order to settle that affair. about Marie."

Mechanically wiping each side of the long barrel of the smoking revolver on his hairy chaps, he calmly shoved it in the holster and proceeded as if nothing in particular had ha pened.

Proceeding a short distance his quick eye detects a horseman slowly approaching up the rise. Across the horseman's shoulder is slung a Winchester rifle. A revolver depends from

horse into a smart trot proceeds to investigate. He found Ross lying across the trail and quickly dismounting made a brief examination of the unconscious cowboy. Finding him grievously wound-ed and taking him up, placed him across the saddle, mounted and supporting the wounded cowpuncher made his way to the rancher's home.

Marie from the doorway recognizing that it was her old time lover who was being borne along in this manner became frantic, and with a cry of dismay rushed to meet the constable, and, supporting her lover's head between her hands, helped the sturdy constable to bear him indoors.

"Send for a doctor immediately, and then have two of your men follow me westward and take the trail south." With these brief instructions the constable swung into his saddle, dug the rowels of his spurs into the horse, and dashed westward. Surmising that the fugitive would turn south and attempt to gain the international boundry the constable turned south at a furious pace. Seeing a man at a cabin he halted and briefly describing the foreigner inquired if such a man had passed, and being answered in the affirmative he dashed on with renewed vigor. By this time the two cowboys from the ranch dashed up and the three tore along together. Quite soon they came in sight of the fleeing fugative from justice and gradually they closed on him. "I want you to lasso that man," said the constable to one of the cowboys and he immediately prepared his lariat. He cast and the large loop sang through the air and settled over rifle and man. The cowboy slackened the pace of his pony and the fugitive was dragged bodily from the saddle. The foreigner now made desperate at-

tempts to free his hands from the tightly-drawn loop and succeeded in partially



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RESERVOIR PEN

either side and protruding from either boot top is the handle of a bowie knife. Ross recogniz that the horseman approaching is the foreigner. As he passes Ross is gentlemanly enough to say "howd'ye do," but the foreigner merely stared at him in an insolent, supercilious manner and passed on.

As the fore ner proceeded he saw three animal forms lying in a line on the prairie and dismounted to investigate. He walked up to the first form and at a glance saw that it was his dog. Giglance saw that it was his dog. Git it a quick turn with the too of his boot he discovered blood and the mark of the penetration of a 45 c bre bullet. He quickly stepped over to the next inanimate form and in it he discovered another of his lounds killed in the same manner. In a terr'ble rag he leaped on his horse a d rode at a furious pace in pursuit of Ross. As he came into plain view of the c puncher riding slowly along in an unconcerned fashion he dexterously unslung the Winchester and taking careful aim at the figure of the cowboy pulled the trigger. Red Light Loss fell in a heap from the saddle. The foreigner rode up close, looked at the unconscious form of the man, and dashed up the trail.

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