

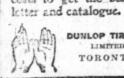
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BILL HOOPER'S LEGAL LORE

... By George F. Canis

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Lawyers had poor picking in Deadwood in the hurrah days of the camp. Somehow the motley crowd there got on the place that needs it. For into the habit of settling disputes out whooping-cough it's the perfect of court-mostly with six shooters and Winchesters. Homicides were of frequent occurrence-in fact, the "man for breakfast" schedule was observed. But vigilantes often interfered and persisted in dropping the killer, even though discussion of the incident was continued. Then, too, when a shot was taken at a claim jumper, that was considered a privileged communication, according to the unwritten law. Except for the fashion and common practice of the camp all the lawyers in it-and there were lots of them-would have had a case apiece and at short intervals. As matters stood, however, it wasn't often that any one of them was able even to arrange for a fee.

When Bill Hooper took a case for \$25, his law partner seriously objected, though it was the first either had had in weeks. Bill said he did it to en-



"I'LL SHOW YOU."

courage trade. That was no excuse, for while human-anatomy might be carved with impunity or any sharp instrument, prices couldn't be cut. Bill opinion that his client was a fool for employing a lawyer anyway, for he didn't have a ghost of a show of winning his case, and to take his gold was just like finding it. These were also trivial matters, he was informed. As for finding gold, wasn't that what brought them all to the camp? No one expected to work for it. Bill wanted to stand well with his partner, who had kith or kin somewhere from whom he thought he could borrow money if it came to the pinch. Bill was lame. As the roads to Cheyenne and Sidney were both long and dusty, he preferred to ride on a stage rather than walk out of camp. From the looks of things, unless business picked up one means or the other would have to be resorted to before long. It was policy for Bill to humor his partner. He went to the saloon keeper who had mashed the head of a man with a bottle and told him he would have to charge him \$100 instead of \$25 to take charge of his case. When the client remarked something about it being a holdup game and declined to be robbed, the lawyer told him there was no defense, for the assault had been unprovoked and \$100 would be dirt cheap to get him off. Bill pointed out that the victim was likely to die, in which event the place to which the ginmill man would go was not noted for laying up treasures. Finally a bargain was made, with the understand-ing that a hundred dollar fee would be paid if the case was dismissed or the accused went free; otherwise no charge

was to be made by Bill. The trial was held in the office of the justice of the peace, and the room was packed. Preliminaries over, the justice asked who appeared for the defense. No one answered. Everybody looked at Bill, who was standing in the doorway. He continued smoking, but made no other sign. When questioned the prisoner said Bill was his counsel. "Do you appear for the defense, Counselor Hooper?" asked the justice.

"The prisoner says you agreed to."

"Do you intend to take part in this

"Nop." "Do you refuse to appear in this case?"

"Yep." "What do you mean, Counselor Hooper, by taking a man's money and then refusing to do your duty to your cli-

"l'idn't see the color of his money," was the only comment of Bill. He and the justice were ancient enemies. The latter thought he saw a chance to put the lawyer in a hole. He conferred with the prisoner and then fairly roared: "Hooper, you ought to be turned out of court and out of camp. The prisoner says he bired you to defend him and took you for a man of your word and depended on you and con-sulted nobody but you when there are

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piles of men in this camp what knows more law than you.'

Bill waited till the justice exhausted himself and sank back in his chair. Puffing away at his cigar so he wouldn't have to waste more time and matches on it when ready to resume his smoking, he exclaimed:

"You see it was this way: Jim come to me and wanted me to take this case. I told him I didn't want to take his money for nothing, but just to humor him said he could give me a hundred if I got him off. I knew there was no use trying a case before this court and didn't fool away my time fixing for it. It's just like I told Jim-a man can't get justice in this camp till we're rid of the duffer what thinks he knows law and don't know a little bit." "You did, did you? howled the jus-

"That's what I did," blandly remark-

ed Bill. "So you go 'round telling the boys I don't know nothing 'bout law, do you?" The crowd guffawed in chorus, either because Bill's estimate was common property or the expression of it by the justice himself gave them a chance to concur therewith. Here the temper of the justice boiled over. He thumped his desk and yelled out, "Did you tell this prisoner he couldn't get justice in this court?"

"This is no court," was the comment. Without seeming to notice the sarasm or implied insult, the justice reented his question. It called forth his response: "Yes, I said just that, and, what's more, I believe it, too, and so does everybody in this camp. A

man can't get justice while"-Gasping with rage, the justice threw himself on top of the desk, whacking it with his fists till the boards cracked and delivered this decision: "I'll show you, you clubfoot duffer, that a man can get justice in this court; I'll si this camp what a liar you are, Bill Hooper-the prisoner's discharged." Outside the office the man who was released from custody paid Bill \$100,

as he had promised, and then took the

next stage out of Deadwood, for he was

afraid of vigilantes. Foiling the Common Enemy. The widow of an English army officer was visiting me with her son, a charming little fellow about five years old. The mother told me with pride honorable he was, how high minded, and that she had never for an instant seen in him indications of any

traits that were low or base.

The child was put to bed every night at 6. We dined at 7. I was sitting in the drawing room one evening before dinner. The room was dark, the doors open, and my seat commanded a view of both the stairway and the dining room. The table was set, and in the center was a dish of tempting peaches. Presently there came to my ears the patter of little bare feet, and a childish figure clad in a nightgown stole down the stairs, through the hall, into the dining room, up to the table. Small fingers seized the topmost peach from the dish and the little fellow turned

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and trotted away up stairs again.

As I sat in the dark in an agony of apprehension there came again the patter, patter of little feet, and a white clad figure stole down the stairs, through the hall, into the dining room, up to the table. Small fingers replaced the stolen peach just where it had been, and a stubborn little voice mut-tered, "Done again, old devil!"—Har-

Freaks In Hunting. The biggest authenticated bag se cured at one shot of which I have ever heard consisted of one rabbit (the cause of the shot), one beater, one onlooker (a French cook), a boy and a dog. I once shot nine snipe at a shot but this was in South America. They were on the ground, and they were shot for the pot. I have read of a sportsman (not Baron Munchausen) who shot a bumblebee and a butterfly right and left, and indeed sometimes a large bumblebee does for an instantaneous second look uncommonly like a distant advancing grouse, just as, when on the alert for partridges, the fieldfares breasting the hedge often

cause a nervous twitch of the gun. Curious circumstances sometimes occur out shooting. A friend walking in line down a turnip field saw a startled hare running fast and straight toward him up a furrow. He stood still, waiting for her to turn, but the bare with her peculiar vision did not see him and ran her head plump against his shin, killing herself and very seriously bruising his leg.-Fortnightly.

Poison of the Centiped.

The centiped is popularly supposed to carry a sting on each foot, but I have several times handled them, after their heads were removed, without the claws producing any result. It is the first pair of claws only that are venomous, being hollow and provided with poison bags like a snake's fang. The largest I ever saw was eleven inches in length, a grewsome creature. A bite from one of this size would most likely have been fatal to a man in weak health.

The tarantula, though his powers of offense are nothing like those of the scorpion or centiped, is, however, a more unpopular character than either. The horror of these large spiders entertained by many people is curious and unaccountable. I have seen Australian bushmen, who in everyday life scarcely seemed to understand danger, turn white as a sheet at the sight of a small "triantelope," as they called it .-Chambers' Journal.

Favorable Point. "Will there be any honor for the man who discovers the north pole?" "Certainly. He will be a great life

saver." "A life gaver?" "Yes. Explorers will cease going then."-Chicago News.

JINGLES AND JESTS.

A Slight Slip. And a little rain And some sleet, you know, Freeze with might and main. Venture on the street On the frozen sleet; Slide, like all of us,

Break a rib and cuss!

Problem Solved. Lady (seeking a cook) - You have good references, I suppose? Applicant-No, ma'am. I haven't any

Lady-But I really do not like the idea of engaging a cook without refer-Applicant-Oh, that'll be all right, ma'am! You can pay me in advance!

Meeting the Demand. Farmer Oatcake-Yep; I call my reed o' hens the Pierpont Morgan va-

Mr. Askit-That's a funny name. Why? Farmer Oatcake-Because they lay three eggs a day durin' Lent.

The Modern Miracle We marveled once when in a night The blackest hair was turned to white On some poor nervous fellow, But nowadays how many girls In half a day change raven curls To rich and golden yellow?

Theater Beform. "Manager Joltum has a great scheme for bringing about a theater reform." "Yep; he will have the ushers pass around cards bearing the notice, 'All except baldheaded ladies, will kindly

move their hats." The Best of Reasons. "Why do you bring me this?" thundered the weary editor, thrusting the

manuscript back into the hands of the "Because," replied the bard timidly, "I have no stamp."

My Rathers.

Of all the things I'd rather be
Than what I am-now, I declare
I really think-just let me see—
Ah, yes, I think I'l rather be

Observing Johnny. Johnny (visiting -'Can't I have another biscuit? Johnny's Ma-Why, Johnny, what an

appetite you have! Johnny-H'm! You're two ahead of me, ma. Troublesoppe Witness Mother (angrily)-Did he dare to kiss you more than once? Daughter (evasively)-Well, mam

The heart is always hungry.

I know it wasn't less than once



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