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Winning the Wilderness

(Continued from page 18.)

WHICH PROVES MOST SUC-CESSFUL

HERE is a contest in which our Women's Institute our Women's Institute members should have a special interest. The subject is the matter of house to house meetings vs. a permanent central place of meeting. In various communities different methods are tried out. We would like to hear from a number of our Wo-men Folk on the question of which they consider most suc-cessful, the house to house meetings or the central meeting place. Some claim that when a place. Some claim that when of meeting is held at the home of one of the members, a more sociable atmosphere is created than would be the case at a stated meeting place. Others consider the central most suitable, especially if the room is so situated that a social half hour can be spent after the meeting. and light refreshments served. We shall be glad to have the opinions of Our Women Folk on

the matter.
For the best letter received, the contributor's subscription to Farm and Dairy will be extended for one year, and for all other letters published, a six months' renewal will be given. Contri-butions should reach us not later than May 2nd. Address, Household Editor, Farm and Dairy, Peterboro, Ont.

drought and hot winds had not forgotten all their old tricks, and even the interest on his mortgage could not be met promptly sometimes. Yet with the same old Aydelot tenacity with which his father had held Cloverdale in Ohio away from the old farm beside the National pike road, the son of this father held the boundary of of this father held the boundary of and hurried toward him. Climbing the Sunflower Ranch intact, nor yield into the moving wagon, he put one ed up one acre to be platted into a hand affectionately on his father's suburban addition to suburban addition to the new Clover-dale in the Grass River Valley in sas. And all the while the Ayde-windbreaks strengthened: the Kansas. Aydelot grove struck deeper root; the long corn furrows and the acres on acres of broken wheat stubble of the Sunflower Ranch wooed the heavier rainfall, narrowing the sand dunes and deepening the water courses.

For two brief years Cloverdale, in the Grass River Valley in Kansas, had a name, even in the Eastern money markets. Speculation became mad-ness; and riotous commercialism had

its little hour of strut and rave.

Then the bubble burst, and all that the boom had promised fell to nothingness. Many farms were mortgaged, poor crops worked tribulation, taxes began to eat up acres of weed-

sugar product and to sow and reap grown vacant town lots, Eastern grain to be elevated. money was withdrawn to other mar-Also, the Cloverdale Farmers' Company, made up mosily of the members of the Grass River Farmers' Company, built the Cloverdale Hotel, and Liverdale State Bank, and the Wilderness came again to the Grass River Parmers' Company, built the Cloverdale Hotel, and Liverdale State Bank, and the Wilderness came again to the Grass River Valley. Not the old Wilderness and prairie frees that had part of all was that mortgaged and double orgaged farms and not the price of Grass Riverdale State Bank, and the price of Grass Riverdale State Bank, and the sail for the boom builting of the Paririe, waiting again the kingly laid for the boom builting. It is an old story nor of a boom town, founded on prairie breezes and out.

Meanwhile, Asher Aydelot, watching the sudden easy property of his neighbors, fought down the temptation to join them and resolutely strove with the soil for its best yield. The Also, the Cloverdale Farmers' Com- kets, speculators departed, the strange

The twilight had fallen on the

The twilight had fallen on the prairie. Grass River, running bank full from the heavy May rains, lay like a band of molten silver glistening in the after-sunset light. The draw, once choked with wild plum bushes in the first days of the struggle in the wilderness, was the struggle in the in one first days of the struggie in the wilderness, was the outlet now to the little lake that nestled in the heart of the Aydelot grove. The odors of early summer came faintly on the soft twilight breeze. Somewhere among the cottonwoods a bird called a tender good-night to its mate. Upon the low swell the lights were beginning to twinkle from the windows of the Aydelot home, and the sounds of voices and of hurrying footsteps told of something unusual going on within. Asher Aydelot, driving down the old Grass River trail, saw from far away the windows of his home beginning to the windows of his nome beginning to glow like beacons in the twillight. Beyond it was the glimmer of the waters of the river and before it spread the mile-long grove, dim and shadowy in the mist-folds rising up from the prairie

A man can win a kingdom in the A man can will West, I told my mother one spring evening long ago," he murmured as his eyes took in the view. "It's surely his eyes took in the view. "It's surely more like a kingdom now than it was when we came down this trail a quarter of a century ago. Twenty-five good years of life, but it's worth the effort, and we are just now at the open-ing of our best years. A man's real usefulness begins at fifty. This is userdiness begins at fifty. This is more like a kingdom, too, than it was ten years ago when those old hulks of wrecks that strew the prairie down the river were banks, and hotels, and opera houses, and factories of boomed up Cloverdale. We are doing some-thing for the land. I hope our boy will make up his mind to want to keep it when his time comes.

He lifted his head bravely, as if to throw off all doubt, and tightening the reins on his horses he swung away down the trail toward the home lights shining in the gathering gloom.

As he neared the house Thaine Aydelot leaped from the side porch

"Don't you know whose birthday this is?" he inquired with serious countenance, "and you've not spoken to me all day."

to me all qay."
"I know my boy is pineteen to-day
and expects to have a birthday party
here to-night, and that I left him
asleep when I started to town this

forencen about nine o'clock."

"Nine cats! You left at six sharp to go with John Jacobs over to Wolf Creek after what you never got, judg-ing from this empty wagon. And I had half of the feeding done when you had nan of the rectang tone when you when I was out by the old stone corral looking after the pige, but they squealed so loud you could not hear me telling good-by."

(To be continued.)

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