

# The Cow Puncher

BY ROBERT J. C. STEAD.

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Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.  
Dr. Hardy, famous specialist, and his daughter Irene, meet with an accident while on a morning trip in the foothills of Alberta and find a refuge in the cabin of the Eden ranch where dwell David and his dissolute father. The girl and boy promise to meet again in the future. After his father's drunken death David goes to seek his fortune in town and loses all his money at a pool table. He spends an evening with Conward, his poolroom acquaintance, and two actresses and takes liquor for the first time. Next morning he awakes from a drunken sleep resolved to amend. He is attracted by the singing of a choir girl in a church; then he attended a Social meeting. When delivering coal at the home of Mr. Duncan he is offered evening tuition in return for occasional services as a coachman. The first evening he discovers the choir girl in Edith Duncan. Under his tutor's careful direction Dave's education thrives apace. He becomes a reporter on The Call.

## CHAPTER VIII.—(Cont'd.)

As his acquaintance with the work of the police force increased Dave found his attitude toward moral principles in need of frequent readjustment. By no means a Puritan, he had, nevertheless, two sterling qualities which so far had saved him from any very serious misstep. He practiced absolute honesty in all his relationships. His father, drunken although he was in his later years, had never quite lost his sense of commercial uprightness, and Dave had inherited the quality in full degree. And Reenie Hardy had come into his life just when he needed a girl like Reenie Hardy to come into his life. . . . Of her compact with him, and wondered what the end would be. And meanwhile he found the need of frequent readjustments. He became aware of the fact that in every community there are two communities; one on the surface, respectable, discreet, conventional; and one beneath the surface, to which these terms would not apply. He found that the province of the police was not to enforce morality, but to prevent immorality becoming obnoxious. Anything, almost, might go on so long as its effects were confined to the voluntary participants. Under the sham of good behaviour was a world, known to the police and the newspaper men and a few others, which refused to accept standard conventions and lived according to its own impulse. And this world included so-called best citizens, of both sexes. And they were good citizens. It seemed the community had two natures—a sort of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde on a community basis. Splendid qualities, large-heartedness, generosity, were mingled and streaked through degrees of selfishness and lust running down into positive crime. . . . And the wonder was not what the papers printed, but what they left untold. . . . And he was glad he had met Reenie Hardy. She was an anchor about his soul. . . . And Edith Duncan.

One morning, as he sat with Carson of The Times at the reporters' table in the police court, listening absently to the clerk calling a list of names, his companion, with a grimace, intimated that there was something beneath the surface. "Pure fiction," he whispered, as the list was completed. "It would do you good to know who they are. Shining lights, shining lights. And when they are lit up they can't be kept under a bushel. The police just had to do something. They won't be here—not one of them. Their lawyer will plead guilty, and pay the fines, and everyone will be sorry they were caught. Even his ribs on

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weeds, and droughts, and insects, and worms. There is a phase of education in the public meeting, whether its purpose be to discuss the municipal tax rate or the flora of the Rockies. You can't afford to miss any subject. They are deeper than any book. There are all kinds of audiences. There is the violent audience, and the sentimental audience, and the destructive audience, and the whimsical audience, and the hysterical audience—and every other kind. And the funny thing is that they are all made up of much the same people. Take a sentimental audience, for instance; a few passers, and you have an hysterical audience. It is a difference of moods. We don't think enough about moods. We are all subject to moods, and yet we judge a new acquaintance by the mood he happens to be in—and the mood we happen to be in—at the time of making the acquaintance. Another day, in other moods, he would make a quite different impression—if the impression already made could be effaced. I have a theory that the world's sourest is largely a matter of moods. I don't deny the sorrow, nor the need for sorrow, nor the reality of it, but I do believe there is a mood of happiness which even the deepest sorrows cannot suppress. And the more you study people the more you will understand moods, and, perhaps, be master of your own. And the man who can, by force of his own will, determine the mood in which he will live is master of the world.

Slaves to Sweets.  
The consumption of chocolate is constantly rising, and it is an interesting point that it is the favorite sweet of our Royal Family.  
Queen Victoria was the first British monarch to take to chocolate. She both ate and drank it, and the only one of her children who did not share this taste was her eldest son, King Edward VII. But he did not care for sweets of any kind, and would only drink the driest of wines.

If people begin to eat chocolate, the habit grows upon them; but since chocolate is a valuable food and contains nothing injurious, the habit is a perfectly harmless one. It is an interesting fact that the young men of today, as well as the girls, are not ashamed of a fondness for chocolate. American cowboys who come in from ranches to the towns spend as much money on chocolate as on tobacco, and exactly the same thing is noticed in Australia and in South Africa.

The colored races are taking tremendously to sweets of all descriptions, and in East Africa and Nigeria scantily clad blacks will visit the country stores to buy boxes of British chocolates or tins of toffee. Even in the South Sea Islands a very large trade is now done in imported sweets. Americans and Canadians have for thirty years past been the greatest "candy" eaters in the world. Next come the British, and third the Germans. The Portuguese, too, are passionately fond of sweets of all descriptions.

As compared with alcohol, chocolate has a distinctly soothing effect. It is particularly good for people who are nervous or irritable. Cheap chocolates have more sugar in them than the more expensive brands, and too much sugar is not good either for the digestion or the teeth—but doctors have nothing but praise for the better grades of chocolate.

Scotch Thrift.  
Two Scotsmen were standing on the Thames Embankment. One of them, noticing a tramcar bearing the words, "All the way to Wimbledon, 2d." said to his companion: "Jump in, Jamie, we'll have a ride."

"No, mon," replied the other, "just wait till Monday. Maybe there will be an excursion!"  
Minard's Liniment for Burns, etc.

## Constructive Child Welfare Law

BY DR. J. G. SHEARER

The welfare of children is the concern of all. Humanity, patriotism and religion combine in their appeal in behalf of the little ones. The majority of children are safely left to the care of their own parents. Unhappily, however, not a few are bereft of parents, or would be better if they were. And many others have need that the help parents can render be supplemented by the Province.

Manitoba has just enacted the most modern Child Welfare Act in Canada or on the continent, in behalf of specially needy classes of children. It is comprehensive and constructive in high degree. Its preparation was the work of a committee of experienced and expert friends of children, gotten together by the Social Service Council. That committee labored for four years before recommending the law to the Government. But the law justifies the time and labor spent upon its framing.

It establishes a new Department of Public Welfare with a Minister of Public Welfare in charge. The law also provides for the appointment by the Government of:  
(a) A Child Welfare Director, responsible to the Government and people for the administration of the Act, and so far the welfare of all the classes of children provided for.  
(b) A Medical Officer, whose duty is to examine and report upon the physical and mental condition of all children who are or should be, wards of the Province.  
(c) A Board of Selection of five or seven members. The Child Welfare Director and the Psychologist are members ex-officio. The others are public-spirited citizens specially interested in Child Welfare, and serve without salary. The duty of this Board is to determine what special care, treatment and training each child needs, and where this can best be obtained, whether in an institution or a private foster home, if not in its own home.

The following classes of children are provided for in separate sections of the law:  
(1) Neglected, dependent and delinquent children previously cared for and  
(2) other classes not previously cared for, such as:  
Mentally defective children, idiots, imbeciles, feeble-minded and retarded. These are provided for in public schools, in special classes under specially trained teachers or in special schools for mental defectives. Under this section provision is made for the examination of all accused persons, who, though adults, if adjudged mentally defective, become wards of the Government as being children in mind and self-control.

Physically defective children, such as blind, deaf, dumb, crippled, etc. The children of Unmarried parents, who, though wholly innocent, are usually sadly handicapped by ostracism, neglect and non-support.

Immigrant children, such as those brought in by Barnardo or other similar organizations.  
If any defective or delinquent are brought into the Province they may be deported. If any become public charge the societies are compelled to care for them until sixteen years of age. If any are unkindly treated in foster homes, the Province, through its Child Welfare Director, becomes their champion and protector.

All machinery necessary is provided also for the Adoption and Guardianship of Children.  
Juvenile Courts, their establishment and governance are fully covered, as also all Child Welfare Societies allowed to work in the Province.

The closing section provides for all procedure, penalties, forms, etc.  
This is the barest skeleton outline of this progressive measure.  
It is typical of Western Canada that this remarkable constructive measure has been prepared and enacted by a Western province. It seems highly probable that other provinces in the West, and in the East, will in the near future follow Manitoba's illustrious example. Now that the trail is blazed it will not be to their credit if they do not do so.



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## Woman's Interests

### The Pirate Party.

Why not a pirate party for a late summer frolic? Two bells, five o'clock, is a good time to start out. Who could fancy a pirate party without a blazing fire and dark mystery to add to the fun?

Write your invitations on coarse paper torn unevenly, and signed with name and finger print. You might say:

Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight! Pirate treasure! Yo ho there, mate! We've got the map, come bring a spade.

For we're pirates all, and who's afraid?

Come full of daring, dash and song. Come, Captain Kidd, yourself along. (Time and Place.)

(Each pirate must bring his own spade.)

Of course, boats and water give the chance to fly the "Jolly Roger," but a land pirate party is quite as nice. When the pirates have assembled, give them turkey-red sashes and kerchiefs of cheesecloth or crepe paper, and let each one choose a buccanery name. Then tell them to shoulder their spades, and lead them by a circuitous route to the place chosen for the fun.

Once there, divide the pirates into groups of five, and give to each group a copy of the treasure map. These you have prepared beforehand, marking on them trees, stones, and other identifying marks to guide the searchers to the treasure itself. Old bones strewn here and there and crossed suggestively will add to the fun. Hunting the treasure, if you have not made the map too easy, should take about a half-hour. Some time before, you will have buried an old chest or brand box filled with potatoes, sealed with red sealing wax, and decorated with skull and crossbones.

Announce that the pirate securing the greatest number of the potatoes will receive a real treasure. The scramble for potatoes will cause a few head bumps and much merriment, and when all are out give the pirate who has the most potatoes the prize (a box of chocolates) and tell the pirate having the fewest to gather all the potatoes and put them back in the chest to be roasted later on.

Next line up the pirates for a boat-bailing contest. For this put two buckets full of water at the head of each line. Each person with a ladle must ladle out some water, pass the ladle to the pirate back of him, and so on till one or the other bucket is empty.

For captives and pirates divide the company into two parts, each having its base. Stand them facing each other in the centre between the bases, and toss up a circular cardboard, red on one side and white on the other. If the white side turns up, the captives must try to catch the pirates before they reach their base; and if the red side turns up, the pirates must chase the captives. At the blow of the whistle the side having most prisoners wins.

When it is dark and a good fire going, give each pirate a tin cup and plate. Roast the potatoes in the ashes and let the pirates cook their bacon on forked sticks. Have hot coffee, marshmallows for roasting, and plenty of sandwiches and cookies. Pirates are sure to be hungry.

With the red belted and kerchiefed company around the fire, it will not be hard to start a good pirate story going, the wilder the better. You might even have a volunteer pirate guest appear at the right minute. If your picnic is near the water, you could have one of your shipmates come running up to the fire with the news that a bottle has been washed ashore. Hurrying down to the water's edge, the crowd will discover an old crier jug full of funny messages. If your picnic is dry—that is, not near water—you might serve up your messages in a big pirate pie. Toy skeletons, dolls, boxes of beads, old coins, toy knives and forks, and tiny black flags would be appropriate also, if you wanted favors.

Elbows and Arms.  
Never before has it occurred to the girl to think what kind of an elbow she has, but the popularity of elbow and transparent sleeves is responsible for more in crest in this part of her anatomy. To be pretty, elbows should be rounded, dimpled, soft and white, but too often the habit of leaning the head upon the hand and the elbow upon a table has caused it to roughen, reddened and hardened.

## By Their Fruits.

In the grape arbor at the old home there were two vines that grew side by side. One of them bore luscious Concord grapes; the other was a wild seedling that had started perhaps from a seed dropped by accident. The vines were so much alike that the children could not distinguish them, especially after the leaves had fallen. They were only three or four inches apart at the ground, and they came together, and wrapped round and round each other as they climbed the arbor. Then when they spread out the branches were so entwined that you could hardly tell to which vine a branch belonged—indeed you never could be sure.

The children called the vines their "riddle," and in autumn after the leaves had fallen they had many a contest; one of them would choose a certain twig, and the rest would try to tell which vine it belonged to. Sometimes the twig would be fifteen or twenty feet from the spot where the vines grew from the ground, and they might spend half an hour in following it back.

But when the grapes began to ripen it was easy enough to tell the twigs apart. The Concord grapes were large and deep purple; the wild grapes were small and sour and full of large seeds.

Now that the children of those days have grown up they look back on their childhood, and the vines seem like lives to them. As they think of school and college days, it seems to them that their lives were so intertwined that persons who looked at them could hardly distinguish the good from the bad. But now the summer of life is here for those who were young folks then, and the ripened fruit of life hangs free so that all may see it. You do not know how to trace, the twig back to see what it is; you can at a glance whether life and character are the fruit of a good vine or of a wild seedling.

One of the great riddles of the world is to know the man or woman who can be trusted. Sometimes a person can learn if he is able to read character. Jesus knew all that was in man merely by looking at his face. But we must wait to see the fruits.

There may be satisfaction in deceiving the world for a few short years, but, oh, what sorrow there is when the fruit of life ripens and tells its story. "Character is not an inheritance but an achievement."

Lime in the Limelight.  
A lump of lime, which can be picked up wherever building is going on, may not appear a very interesting object, yet, probably, no other substance serves such a variety of purposes.

No fewer than forty-one industries make use of lime for one or more important operations. No iron or steel works could get along without it, for lime forms the slag that collects most of the impurities in the metal when it is in the furnace.

In making porcelain and delicate forms of pottery, lime is again the purifying agent in the furnace; the glass industry, too, uses large quantities.

In the complicated processes for making thick greases from various kinds of oil, and also in the manufacture of soap, lime plays an active part in the operations. During the refining of petroleum all water must be removed, and the same applies to the production of alcohol; in both cases lime is employed, and quickly takes out every trace of moisture.

Water, however, is not the only thing that is absorbed by lime, for many gases, too, are taken up in large quantities by this useful substance, which is consequently used for purifying all kinds of gases. Coal gas, for instance, is passed through lime to remove the sulphuretted hydrogen, the result being gas-lime, which is so excellent as a fertilizer.

Agriculturists employ lime for at least sixteen different purposes, among which the killing of insects and harmful pests takes an important place.

Builders, of course, use lime in different forms for a variety of work; mortar and plaster are well known, so, too, is limewashing; the so-called "cold water paints" are largely made up of lime.

This most wonderful substance is found in the most unexpected places, performing all kinds of odd jobs, such as extracting the nicotine from tobacco, and taking part in the process of hardening patent leather. It appears in the manufacture of smokeless powder, and is an excellent preservative for eggs. For scouring articles before they are put in the electroplating bath, and for cleaning out barrels, there is nothing better than lime.

It is found everywhere, too! all plants contain lime, and the bones of animals consist chiefly of a lime compound. Egg shells and the shells of all shell-fish are made up almost entirely of lime.

Prospectors and Forest Fires.  
The old time prospectors were accused of setting fire to timber to clear the soil, so that he might have a better chance to look for valuable minerals. Now, however, while some fires may be started accidentally by prospectors, as a class they are anxious to retain the forest. In the northern districts many prospectors trap fur-bearing animals during the winter, in order to provide funds to carry them over the next summer in prospecting. Besides this, prospectors know very well that when valuable mineral is found timber is required for the buildings, fuel, and pit-props needed to develop a mine.

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