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Grains leave Watford Station as follows. GOING WEST

GOING WEST

Accommodation, 109 .... '8 44 a.m.
Accommodation, 111 ... 2 45 a.m.
Chicago Express, 1 .... 9 17 p.m.
GOING EAST

New York Express, 6 ... 11 01 a.m
Accommodation, 110 ... 12 03 p.m.
New York Express, 2 ... 3 00 p.m.
Accommodation, 112 ... 5 16 p.m.

C. VALI Accept Walford C. VAIL, Agent. Watford

The Agent Of Owl Creek Junction

He Made a Success of a Difficult Job By F. A. MITCHEL

"There's no use, Jim," said Laura Bingham; "we can't get married and live decently on \$40 a month, and that's all you get from the railroad and all you're likely to get even if you are promoted. You know yourself that conductors on your road get only \$60. We'll have to give it up."

Jim Perkins saw the force of his fiancee's argument. He resolved to apply for a position that would take him away from her.

The terminal of the road was on the Missouri river, and at that time a number of railroads were pushing out into the great American desert. Jim wrote an application for the position of station agent on the frontier. He had no expectation of any notice being taken of his application and intended to leave the service of the road anyway and go west. What was his surprise to receive by return mail an



JIM HAD SNATCHED HIS OWN WEAPON.

appointment as station agent at Owl -Creek junction, a point out on the plains not far from the Rocky mountains. Jim had another surprise. The salary as station agent at Owl Creek The best goods on the market at the junction was laid down as \$50 a month, which was a good deal more than he

with a sad heart he started for his new field of labor. On the way he asked about Owl Creek junction and learned that it was looked upon as one of the most promising points on the road. True, at the time the population in the vicinity were a lawless lot, such as usually precedes the better class who begin the real development of new countries. But the branching of a great thoroughfare was sure in time to make Owl Creek junction a

This welcome encouragement caused hope to arise in the breast of James Perkins. He had \$50 that he had saved when he expected to marry Laura Bingham, and he resolved to invest it as soon as he arrived in a town lot. He did not expect to get a lot for so small an amount in the center of the place, but would be satisfied with one on the outskirts.

Hopeful youth-that leads one on through dreams to realities, ending either in success or failure! After all, are not such visions better than pessimism, which undertakes nothing, accomplishes nothing?

The nearer Jim got to Owl Creek junction the more he learned about it. One bucket of cold water after another was dashed over him till he received the bucket itself, which struck him with such force as to stun him. The conductor in charge of the last section of the road gave him a true picture of Owl Creek junction and made it plain to him why he had been appointed



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Indian Root Pills exactly meet the need which so often arises in every family for a medicine to open up and regulate the bowels. Not only are they effective in all cases of Constipation, but they help greatly in breaking up a Cold or La Grippe by cleaning out the system and purifying the blood. In the same way they relieve or cure Billiousness, Indigestion, Sick Headaches, Rheumatism and other common ailments. In the fullest sense of the words Dr. Norse's Indian Root Pills are

A Household Remedy

agent there.

The nearest house to the junction was a mile. The country round about was infested with jayhawkers and horse thieves. No agent at the railway station had thus far been able to collect money for tickets from 60 per cent of the persons who traveled on the road. They either demanded tickets without pay at the point of the revolver or used the same implement to pass the conductor without paving a fare. But the usual method was to call for a ticket at the station, get their hands on it and walk away, forgetting to leave the cash for it. There had been five agents within six months. Now the last one appointed was eagerly waiting for his successor. Jim received this terrible backset

shortly before the train drew up at Owl Creek junction, and his heart sank down into his boots. When the train stopped at his new home he looked upon as desolate a sight as he had ever seen in his life. There were a station, a water tank, a fuel house and nothing else except an open stretch of country inhabited principally by the prairie dog, the sole vegetable product

being the cactus. As Jim stepped off the train a man came out of the station expectantly.

A bandage covered his forehead and his left eye. His arm was in a sling. "The new agent?" he asked of Jim. "Yes," replied Jim faintly.

"Well, come in here and I'll turn over the property. This train goes back in half an hour, and I propose to go on her." "Been hurt?" inquired the new agent.

"Slightly. I was fool enough to try to collect the price of a ticket from a rustler. I advise you not to try it, but if you're bent on doing so you'll find a couple of 42 caliber revolvers in the drawer under the ticket window. The company sent them out for the use of agents who were bent on making collections."

Jim received the contents of the ticket office and receipted for them in time to see his predecessor step on the train happily and pulled away to civilization. The puffing of the locomotive gradually died away in the distance, to be replaced by an absolute silence. Jim would have liked to hear the hoot of even an owl, but there were no trees for an owl to roost in, and he wondered how the creek got its name. He looked for a place in it deep enough to drown himself in, but it did not afford even that.

It was 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the day after Jim Perkins arrived at Owl Creek junction. Jim was sitting at a desk with his hat pulled down over his eyes. He was at the lowest, or, rather, the highest point of desperation. A train was due in ten minutes from one of the branches of the railroad, going eastward. A man with a red face, a stubble beard and one eye stepped up to the ticket window and

"Young feller, gimme a ticket to Antelope, and be quick about it."

Jim arose from his chair and stepped to the window. He had laid a cocked revolver beside it where it could not be seen. He took down a ticket from a rack, stamped it and, holding it in his hand, said:

"Three dollars and forty cents,

A glare came in the ticket purchaser's eye, and he put his hand to his hip. There was a report, but not from his revolver. Jim had snatched his own weapon, brought it to bear on the purchaser and fired.

When the train reached the station the conductor stepped down on to the platform and went into the station. A man's body was lying on its face below the ticket window. "What's up?" he asked.

"I've been sent out here," replied Jim, "to sell tickets for money. That baggage, I reckon. You'd better help him on to the train."

The conductor looked wonderingly

board the train. Then there was a whistle and the big snake crawled away over the plain.

Jim Perkins did not have to kill any more men at Owl Creek junction station. The news that the railroad company had sent out an agent who meant business circulated, and after that would be passengers paid their fare. Jim since he had begun the work would not give it up till he had proved that he was master of the situation, then wrote to the president of the road that the population under the influence of the railroad was beginning to change and he thought that any agent could collect for tickets there. He would like a station in a more set-

A reply came notifying Jim that another man would relieve him and he was to report at the general offices of the company. When he reached the terminal and showed his order to a man at a desk he was sent up to the office of the president.

"H'm!" said that officer. "I believe

you are the man who collected fares at Owl Creek junction." "I am, sir," replied Jim.

"I'm sorry I haven't another place especially fitted for your peculiar abili-What kind of a position would you like?" "Any you happen to have vacant

I've been railroading all my life. I don't know anything else." The president tapped a bell. An office

boy entered and was directed to call the superintendent. When that gentleman entered the president said to him: "Mr. Bowers, this is James Perkins, recently station agent at Owl Creek junction. Make him a train dispatcher and as soon as he learns the duties of that position give him the next job in the scale. A man who could make Owl Creek junction a paying station must be good for almost anything. At

any rate, try him." Before entering upon the duties of his new office Jim went to see his sweetheart and told her of the change that had come over his fortunes. Jim's salary was quite sufficient to warrant their marriage, and their engagement was renewed. Jim passed through a number of grades and finally became president of the road, besides making a fortune. Throughout all of his administration he was known as one de voted to the welfare of the thousands of employees of the road under his management.

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Table Manners In Old France, dinner table of old France and obtain half a dozen instantaneous photographs of a royal banquet at any era between the reigns of Francis I. and Louis Quatorze such a "cataract of laughter" would be heard as might disturb the serenity of Louis in paradise. The duchess, her napkin tied securely round her neck, would be seen mumbling a bone, another fair crea ture scouring her plate with her bread, a gallant courtier using his doublet or the tablecloth as a towel for his fingers and two footmen holding a yard of damask under a lady's chin while she emptied her goblet at a draft. During a feast of inordinate length it was sometimes necessary to substitute a clean cloth for the one which the carelessness or bad manners of the guests had reduced to a deplorable condition. -"An Idler In Old France."

London in 1784. In 1784 M. La Combe published a book entitled "A Picture of London, in which, inter alia, he says, "The highroads thirty or forty miles round London are filled with armed highway-men and footpads." This was then pretty true, though the expression "filled" is somewhat of an exaggera-

M. La Combe in another part of his book exclaims: "How are you changed, Londoners! Your women are become bold, imperious and expensive. Bankrupts and beggars, coiners, spies and informers, robbers and pickpockets abound. The baker mixes alum in his man wanted to go to Antelope without bread. The brewer puts opium and paying his fare. He can go free as copper filling in his beer. The milk

The conductor looked wonderingly at Jim for a few moments, then said:

"By cracky! You're a cool one. Do you think you can keep this up?"

"I'll keep it up till I get killed, and I'd rather get killed than remain a railroad employee, especially at Owl Creek junction."

The conductor succeeded in getting a brief account of the affair from the only living participant, then, not wishing to get behind time, called the man in charge of the baggage car and with his assistance carried the body on

SEVERE COLD ON LUNGS AND CHEST QUICKLY RELIEVED

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Licerice and Chlorodyne
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and Chlorodyne relieves the irritation and "stuffed-up" feeling in the air passages, soothes the tickling which makes you cough, loosens the phlegm and drives out the cold before it gets trouble

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