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The Senator's Horse Trade (Continued from page 8.)

pastures. All that winter the blind Wilkes mare lolled in a loose box, feeding on the best. In the spring she was apparently in as good shape as any thoroughbred in the entire stud.

Seth Huckins had frequently wondered what the Senator intended to do with the useless mare; but he knew better than to venture an opinion aloud. "She's too old to breed," he said to himself, "and nobody would take her for a gift."

The mare had been clipped in the fall and now, with her luxurious living had taken on a coat as glossy as satin. She held her head up proudly, as befitted a Wilkes, and the Senator would have bet the entire farm that not one man out of a hundred would have said she was blind—stone blind.

One day in April the Senator returned from Toronto with a fine set of russet harness. Next day a box buggy, with automobile tires was delivered from the train.

Old Bob came out of the house, with something of a grim smile in his eye, as he said to Seth:

"Dock her tail, and bang her mane; have her re-shod, and her feet painted up. We'll have some fun with her, anyway."

Two days afterwards the Wilkes mare was encased in the magnificent new harness, and attached to the smartest buggy in the township.

The patrician blood which coursed through her veins seemed to assert itself, and the mare fairly chortled, as though anxious to be on the track once again. The old man stood and looked at her.

"She looks fit for the Grand Circuit, don't she?" he asked of Seth, who stood at her head.

"She sure do" answered that worthy. "She'll drive all right, I guess."

"She's got to drive" answered the Senator, grimly—"at least for a while." He climbed into the buggy and took the reins. The handsome animal, reared a little and then started off at a rapid pace up the road. As she gathered way the old man found that it required all he could do to keep her under control, and he reached down for the 'handles.'

In a little over an hour he returned to the yard, breathless. "Another half hour of that, and I'd a been all in," he gasped, as he got out of the buggy.

THAT night a firm resolve seemed to impress his mind. "I'll do it," he said to himself, as he went to bed. Next morning he ordered Seth to put in the Wilkes mare again. "Tell Miss Beaton I may go as far as Port Despard," he called, as he drove away in a cloud of dust. Out on the highway they sped. Her physical disability did not seem to affect the mare one iota. She reeled off the 18 miles to Port Despard in exactly one hour and a half. As she entered the yard of the Commercial hotel it could be seen that she had hardly turned a hair.

"Just put her under the lean-to, Charlie," he said to the stable man, who stood admiring the new horse. "Cover her over, and after she's cool give her a drink," and the old man entered the hotel. As he passed down the hall to the office, the door leading into the bar opened and a large man, with a florid face emerged. The Senator startled, but said nothing as he passed. Instead, he turned and entered the bar.

"Morning, Senator," greeted the bartender.

"Good morning, Mike," answered old Bob, cheerfully. "I'm mighty dry after all that dust on the road. Give me a glass of beer."

"Well, Senator, you've always got something to show in horse flesh," said the boniface, as he drew off the beer, "but that horse you druv' in just now has got them all skinned. Did you raise her?"

"No, bought her last fall," replied the old man. "Say, Mike, who was that big red faced man who came out of the bar just now?"

"Oh, that's Jim Walker, who bought the Ward place last summer. He

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