
THE HOMESTEADERS

to get this property for them at the price they had offered. So, from a purely selfish point of view, you see where my interests lay. But there are other reasons for this fine tale which you have just heard. To spare the feelings of some present, I intended to say nothing of them, but if I must tell what I know, why, I must tell what I know. This man Travers was a farm hand working for Harris on his farm back in Manitoba. Harris is—or was—well-to-do, and Travers accordingly mustered up an attachment for his daughter. This the young lady, it seems, was foolish enough to return. They——”

“That’ll do, Gardiner,” interrupted Travers, in a quiet, vibrant voice. “You are getting away from the subject.”

“On the contrary, I’m getting close to the subject—a little too close for your comfort, it seems.”

“I am not investigating any family closets,” said the coroner. “You will have to show the connection between these matters and the inquiry we are making.”

“I will do that in a moment, sir,” Gardiner returned. “But I cannot show the connection until I have shown the events that are connected. Travers had trouble with Harris and had a fight with Allan. Then he and the young lady ran away. They have both been in this part of the country for some time. But