

He patted her hand gently and looked around him with satisfied eyes.

"Then you'll all come to visit us. I'd like a farm here on Green Ridge if it weren't so far from the factory. Great place. I came for a week and stayed until the sheriff chased me out.

"By the way, I went over to New London yesterday and saw that sheriff. Nice fellow.

"You see it was this touchy boy of mine I didn't want to meet—afraid he'd think I wasn't playing fair, but I stirred up a hullabaloo, didn't I?"

"My stars, wait till I get a chance at the Ladies' Aid Society!" There was triumph in Mrs. Morley's voice.

"Invite the Ladies' Aid down," Mr. Brown urged genially. "Invite all the neighbours down, especially the Middleton man. I'd like to apologize to him for his disappointment about that reward. I'm going to spend a week with you, Mrs. Morley, and turn the car over to these youngsters. You can murder the chauffeur or send him back to town if he's a crowd, Ted. You won't need him. Jean can drive. I'll swear to that. How's the pie supply, Mrs. Morley?"

Mrs. Morley was fidgeting restlessly on the edge of her chair. The light of battle was in her eyes.

"Well, just as soon as this wedding's over——"