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Jeweller & Optician Athens, Ontario

A Wild West at the Corners

A True Story.

(By Crawford C. Slack.)

Way back at Hemlock Corners things were going rather slow, There hadn't been a lecture in the Town Hall, or a show, There hadn't been a scandal, that is, one which had got out, And the gossips they were spoiling for something to talk about; There hadn't been a wedding, therefore been no charivari, There hadn't been no quilting held around, or husking bee, The Baptists held a social quite early in the fall, And Hi Simpson had a raising and that was the newsy all.

No. There wasn't much a-doin' round the Corners since the fairs, That is, of any interest save just every day affairs, Jim Hobson was still courting the little Widow Wing, And the gossips were a-saying they'd be married in the spring, There was to be husking, at the barns of Harry Goff, But he couldn't get no liquor so they called the whole thing off. The boys as usual gathered at the corner grocery store, And occupied the counter and the nail kegs as of yore.

A lieutenant was recruiting there for men to go to France, And the boys around were lining up and glad to get the chance, They were practising with rifles, had their shooting right down fine, And the most of them were spoiling for to hit the battle line, They could certain place a bullet every time within the ring, And were sure to plunk the Kaiser if he ever lifted wing, The champion was Pat Thorney, and he feared no mortal foe, He was first to put on colors and was anxious for to go.

The Corners' girls were knitting socks to give their soldier boys, But sighed because their going would upset their winter joys, Some were signing up as nurses and were going with the lads, While others joined the "Farmerettes" and going to help their dads. The women of the Institute were on the constant run, Collecting comforts for to send the men behind the gun. They were planning entertainments and writing off afar, To get some men of knowledge to lecture on the war.

Well, they ran across a fellow who said he was a friend Of England and her Allies, and was working for that end. He said he'd come and lecture any date which they might choose, That his talk was illustrated well with magic lantern views, He said they'd have to furnish some man for the machine To throw, while he was talking, the pictures on the screen. Now the Presbyterian parson at that was right at home, He agreed to act, and so they wrote the fellow for to come.

They engaged the Village Orchestra to give the thing a tone, It consisted of a fiddle, a cornet and trombone, The hall they decorated hanging flags and bunting there, And done their very best to make the thing a very swell affair. So on the date maturing the fellow came to hand, And started in to lecture upon the war-wracked land; He claimed, he was a Frenchman, but he had a manner shy, And Thorney said he'd gamble that he was a bloomin' spy. Now Thorney was a patriot with a love of country high, And he had an inborn hatred for a German or his spy.

The hall was overflowing, for there was a bumper crowd, Too, the chap could scarcely lecture and the praises they were loud, He eulogized old England he lauded plucky France, But he said the German armies would on Paris sure advance; He was praising little Belgium and her hero fighting King, When Thorney, clad in khaki, advanced up from the wing; Save the dim light from the lantern, why the room was rather dark, And the crowd thought Pat was having with the lecturer a lark.

Said Pat: "Let's see your papers just to make the matter clear, If you don't, you needn't dwell on France—I'll start a war right here." He was standing by that Frenchman with his thirty-two in hand, And the man was struck dumbfounded by the loud and stern demand. Pat again said, "Show your papers, and your travelling card to boot,"

And as they seemed not forthcoming, why he started in to shoot; First he fired at the ceiling, then he fired down at the floor, Then the crowd got panic-stricken and they started for the door.

The Parson lost his glasses when the lantern light went out, The women they were screaming and the boys began to shout, The Orchestra stamped in a manner all their own, Jim Kelly smashed his fiddle, and Smith his brass trombone. That Frenchman made his exit, and a hurried one, you bet, He may be in France by this time, or he may be going yet. The lieutenant came for Thorney and transported him that night, For such men as he were wanted in Flanders in the fight.

Thorney may have been o'er-zealous, but this I will say for you, That he spent three years in Flanders among the brave and true, He was never known to falter nor to back up from the foe, When they called for first-line fighters he was ready there to go, He is back now at the Corners from that war-torn field afar, And you never hear him boasting of his exploits in the war. Now he wears a silver medal, and will wink his roguish eye Should we ever chance to mention the night he ran the spy.

AUCTION SALES

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14.—Mrs. H. B. Pyne, Crosby, is having a large auction sale of stock including 100 Pure-bred and Grade Cattle; also Swine, Sheep, Poultry and Machinery. If you want some good cows it will pay you to be there at 12 o'clock on Friday, Nov. 14.

Wednesday November 19 at H. M. Millers one mile and a half west of Rockspring 20 Head Registered and Non-Registered Cattle, Sheep, Pigs, Poultry, and Farm Implements.

For Rent

TWO LARGE ROOMS on the ground floor, apply to Mrs. Helen E. Cornell.

Lost

AUTO RUG—One Side Red Plaid and Green on other, fringed on two sides, on Monday, apply to R. C. Latimer

LOG CHAIN—about 12 ft long, large round hook & grab hook, between Athens and Alex Taylor's farm gate—Will kindly leave at A. Taylor's, Athens.

For Sale

FOR SALE OR RENT—Two houses near the High School; hard and soft water. Apply G. W. Brown.

One Large Box Stove, No. 36, in good condition—apply Earl Construction Co.

3 Second Hand Ford Road Kings in first class shape—apply to W. B. Newsome & Son, Ford Dealers, Plum Hollow.

Man's Heavy Astrican Cloth Coat for Sale in good condition, apply to Claude Watson Athens.

15 White Leghorn Hens for Sale—apply to Mrs. Elizabeth Halladay, Church St.

Anyone wanting to buy a fine Tamworth Sow, weight about 300 lbs., and 8 pigs two weeks old—apply to George W. Stevens, Glen Morris, Athens.

SAWING OUTFIT—6 h.p. Engine, 26 inch saw, belt, etc. all complete, mounted on truck—apply Reginald Brown, Elbe.

1 Grade Ayrshire Calf—apply to David Spense, Charleston.

3 Cows for Sale—One 3 years, Two 4 years old. Apply to Alex. Mackie, Athens

Registered Shropshires—1 Fine Ram 200 lbs, 3 years old \$35. Also 5 Ewes for \$100—apply to Jacob Dillon, Lynnhurst.

FRAME HOUSE—7 Rooms and the best cellar in town, Iron roof on whole house, good barn and quarter acre lot, apply to John Freeman, Henry St. Athens.

Harness and Buggy For Sale

One Single Buggy and One Set of Single Harness—Both are in first-class condition—apply to J. P. LAMB.

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