

**THE LAST CALL.**

Troop K had been chasing Apaches for ten days—first through the gorges of the Rockies and then across the deserts of eastern New Mexico. For ten days big gruff Capt. Gompers had ridden at the head of his company of seventy trusted cavalrymen, and beside him, mounted on a little Mexican broncho, rode K's bugler, little Johnny Samuels, known among the garrison at Fort Union as "The Kid."

"The Kid" was the idol of every man in the troop. His father, big John Samuels, first sergeant of K, was a born soldier, and loved the western service as but few men could. When, sixteen years before, his dusky Mexican wife presented him with little Johnny he declared that his chief aim in life should be to make "The Kid" a good soldier, one worthy a place in the ranks of his old company. And he kept his word, for at sixteen there was not a better bugler in the service. None who could play "taps" so sweetly, or whose reveille could arouse slumbering troopers without making them curse the bugler.

On the afternoon of the tenth day out of the men of K caught their first sight of their game. But the pursued were to be the pursuers. The Indians had received reinforcements and were making a last desperate struggle. It was into this ambush that Capt. Gompers so unconsciously led his men, and set he paid for with his life. From

It was late. The sentries had been changed for the second time an hour before. Duty had for a few minutes called Sergt. Samuels from the side of his son. The sentry on post four, whose beat took him near the place where the bugler lay, was almost half asleep when he was suddenly roused by a bugle's notes sounding reveille. Surely it must be that he had slept and this was a dream. But no, the notes came faint and clear, and now they changed to assembly call. His ears could not deceive him now, and he must report it.

"Corporal—"  
"Hush, Jackson, it's the Kid." It was the corporal of the guard speaking. He, too, had been attracted by the strange sound and had sought the source from whence it came!

"He is dying, Jackson, and I will relieve you while you call his father. Those are the last calls Johnny Samuels will ever play for K troop."

As the father came the assembly changed to a quickstep and then to drill call. When the dying boy played the stable call even the horses recognized it, and seemed impatient for the expected morning meal. All that was left of Troop K were grouped about the rude couch of their dying bugler, almost every man of them crying as they had never cried before. Still the father's grief was a tearless one, and it was not until the adjutant's call had been played and the first notes of the well-known first sergeant's call caught his ear that he too could

**THE LAST CALL.**

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By C. L. Wilson.

Reveille call.  
Band Quickstep.  
Assembly call.  
Drill call.  
Stable call.  
Sawhorse file.  
Saber call.  
Saber & Band Tempo & March.  
Band Quickstep.  
Adjutant call.

just beyond a cluster of sage brush a few stray bullets were coming, and through the small openings could be seen probably forty red-skins.

"Sound a forward, Kid," said the captain, and the notes had not yet died away when the order for the charge was given.

With raised sabers and horses at a hard run, Troop K broke into the brush expecting to meet the scattering fire of the forty foes in front, but met instead a murderous volley from three hundred red devils on either flank. Capt. Gompers was the first to go down, and as he fell forward on his horse "The Kid" threw his arm around him and drew him across the pommel of his own saddle. The next moment he fell forward onto the body of his dead captain mortally wounded.

When the forty men who were left went into camp that night they erected, as best they could, a rude shelter for their boy bugler and left him in the care of his father.

express his grief in tears. It was years before that he had taught his boy to play that call—his favorite of them all. The notes grew fainter and fainter; the bugler's breath grew shorter and shorter, and, as the last note died away, the cherished bugle fell from his hand. Little Johnny Samuels, the idol of Troop K and the garrison at Fort Union, was dead.

With quivering hand the father raised the boy's bugle to his own lips and played that last call of the soldier's life—taps. Played it as he had played it years before when he was the bugler in the proud company that tonight was so crushed and shattered. His grief was not for long, for with the rising of the morning sun an Indian bullet pierced his heart and he joined his boy in another land.

But a dozen men of K troop ever lived to relate the story of "The Kid's" last call to the sad garrison at Fort Union. WRIGHT A. PATTERSON.

**Influence of Ensilage and Field-Curing on the Digestibility of Forage Corn.**

BY H. P. ARMSBY.

During the fall and winter of 1890-91, digestion experiments were made with the green material used in filling two small silos, and also with the resulting silage and with field-cured fodder from the same lot of corn. As has been explained in another place in discussing the losses sustained in the silo, the resulting silage was somewhat abnormal in that the fermentation which it had undergone and the resulting losses of material was excessive, the latter amounting to 29 per cent. and 37 per cent. of the dry matter. Over 32 per cent. of the dry matter of the corn was likewise lost in field curing. The experiments upon these materials, however, are interesting as representing to a certain extent the influence of extreme conditions. While the effect of the fermentation on the digestibility of the corn might be expected to be exaggerated in this case, yet the results serve to show even more clearly on this account the nature of the change, and a comparison with results under more normal conditions may give us valuable information. A number of other experiments upon the same subject have been made, both here and elsewhere, notably at the Wisconsin Station. The results of these experiments are summarized on the following pages.

It has generally been held hitherto that the process of ensilage does not increase the digestibility of corn, but that, on the contrary, both ensilage and field-curing decrease its digestibility. The results of these experiments in the main support this belief so far as concerns the ordinary conditions of practice. They do, however, indicate that it is possible to increase the digestibility of the woody fiber of corn by excessive fermentation in the silo. They show at the same time, however, that whatever advantage may be gained thus in increasing the digestibility of the least valuable ingredient of the corn is far more than offset by the large loss of valuable material by fermentation and by the decreased digestibility of other ingredients. The results of the experiments may be summed up as follows:

1. The ensilage of maize may considerably increase the digestibility of the crude fiber of the green material.
2. This result is only obtained when the loss by fermentation is so large that the crude fiber is attacked and is at the cost of a decreased digestibility of every other important ingredient.
3. The albuminoids are especially affected by ensilage, a considerable proportion of them being converted into less valuable forms and the digestibility of the remainder being reduced sometimes nearly or quite to zero.
4. Such silage may be considerably more digestible than poorly cured fodder, except as to the albuminoids.

ably more digestible than poorly cured fodder, except as to the albuminoids.

5. Field curing seems in every case to decrease the digestibility of the fresh substance.

6. When the processes are successfully conducted and the losses small, ensilage and field-curing both decrease the digestibility of the fresh material somewhat, and to about the same extent.

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