

NEVER AGAIN.

I wish the kettle would sing again,
Just as it used to do—
I wish it would sing of a lion slain—
Of a pirate crew on the Spanish main—
Of a clipper ship on the sea-way, high,
With a cabin boy and the boy was I—
Just as it used to do.

I wish the kettle would sing again,
Just as it used to do—
Of a little girl in a bonnet red,
Saved by a prince from a hydra-head,
That lurked in the corn that towered high,
And the girl was she and the prince was I—
Just as it used to do.

I wish the kettle would sing again,
Just as it used to do—

I wish it would sing of war's alarms,
The booming of cannon and clash of
arms—
Of a blue-clad boy where the strife ran
high,
With face to the steel and willing to die—
Just as it used to do.

I wish the kettle would sing again,
Just as it used to do—
The lyrics it crooned and the tales it told—
But the hearth is chill and the years are
old,
The fancies it whispered have all taken
wing,
And never again the kettle will sing
Just as it used to do.
—John D. Wells, in the Buffalo News.

The Range-Rider's Signal-Corps

By HERBERT COOLIDGE.

On the Rancho del Norte, in southern California, there was employed a cowboy named Dan Millar, who very skilfully imitated the calls of animals. With his own kind he was not at all communicative. Some said he was of a quiet turn; others that he preferred to converse with his four-legged friends of the range; many maintained that he had formed the habit of silence through his unwillingness or inability to interrupt the eloquence of his valuable "side partner."

The talkative partner told me this story, which was corroborated by several other vaqueros of the vicinity.

Millar was riding after cattle among some barren granite foothills twenty miles from the home ranch when his treacherous bronco, taking advantage of him on a steep descent into a gully, began bucking, and after a few jumps succeeded in unseating his rider. Millar fell sprawling at the bottom of the wash, and as he struck the ground his revolver was discharged, and sent a bullet through the calf of his leg.

Many broncos have a way of settling into a comfortable posture and demurely eyeing an unseated rider, but this one continued his fantastic buck-jumps until he disappeared down the ravine.

Millar had at one time worked in a hospital, and knew exactly how to apply a tourniquet and rough bandage that stopped his bleeding. This accomplished, he dragged himself to the shade of a bush, and lay, faint and sick, wondering if there was any way out of his predicament.

As he reviewed the situation, it seemed to him that there was little or no chance of escaping.

In the first place, there was the hot weather. Ordinarily a man without water would not last more than three or four of those glaring August days. The possibility that any one would happen upon him within this time was very slight, as the arid foot-hill waste which stretched away for miles on every side was but seldom visited by cow-men at that season of the year. In addition to this ominous combination of circumstances was the fact that his mustang had recently been driven from a distant range, and would be sure to return there instead of going back to the home ranch and advertising his master's plight by appearing with an empty saddle.

Millar naturally supposed from all this that he was fated to lie there and suffer a few days, and then die. But his whole soul rebelled against undergoing the torment in that stuffy gully.

From the top of the ridge just above him a huge mass of granite bulged up against the sky-line. The pile was flattened at the top, making a platform, on the centre of which there rested a block of rock about the size of a small cabin. Under the overhanging edges of this huge boulder, thought Millar, there would be a shade and a breeze and a lookout, and he decided to attempt to reach it. Fearing that his wound would soon swell and stiffen, he lost no time in making the effort.

Hard riding and plain living give the cowboy endurance and strong nerves, and these qualities, developed in a high degree, enabled Millar to raise himself on his uninjured leg and begin hopping up the steep incline. It was a hard and extremely painful struggle, but by steadying himself on the sage-brushes and taking frequent rests he finally reached the base of the granite dome.

By this time his bandages had become loosened. He began to bleed freely, and nearly fainted before he could readjust them. It was several hours before he gained sufficient strength and courage to attempt the final ascent; but before evening fell he managed to work himself up over the shelving granite mass to his lookout.

That night the cowboy's nerves again triumphed over pain, and in spite of his hard couch and throbbing leg and fierce thirst, he slept fitfully till morning. Until noon he lay in the shade of the boulder, gazing off across the vast wilderness of granite and cactus and sage-brush, hoping against hope that a rider would appear over the horizon.

Then, as he shifted his position to avoid the creeping sunshine, he caught sight of thirty or forty range cattle which were passing along a ridge perhaps a hundred yards distant.

The cowboy knew they were going to a water hole on the borders of the valley below; and with no other thought than that of willing away the time in deciphering their brands and ear-marks, he began to bellow

and mutter like a bull, hoping to call them to him.

There was no bull among them to take up the challenge, and as only two dish-faced heifers took notice, Millar made a call which he knew would bring any cattle. In perfect imitation he sent across the ravines a weird half-scream, half-bawl, their blood-cry!

In an instant every animal in the bunch stood in rigid attention, head stretched forward and snuffing eagerly. He sent another call. The two giddy heifers broke into a wavering trot in the direction of the sound, and instantly the whole bunch followed and made the dust and sage-brush fly as they came lumbering across the gullies.

As they charged toward him a thrill of hope came to Millar, and left him wondering at his own stupidity. Why had it not before occurred to him that if he could excite that bunch of cattle with the smell of blood, the sound of their bawling and the dust of their pawing and "milling" would call a range-rider, if there was one in the country?

Two Mexican longhorns had taken the lead in the race toward the recurring blood-cry. They paused for a moment at the top of the descent on which Millar's mustang had thrown him, and then, as they sniffed eagerly to locate the sound, both stiffened as in a spasm, and rilling their eyes in their sockets and rigidly stretching their heads to the side, inflated themselves with a spasmodic inhalation, and let out the rasping, piercing shriek which the smell of blood never fails to bring from wild cattle. They had caught a whiff of the blood-soaked sand where the cowboy had dressed his wound!

The whole bunch took up the cry, and raced in headlong confusion to the bottom of the ravine. There they milled and bellowed and pawed, and crowding each other in frenzied attempts to get to the blood at the centre of the circle. From the shady lookout the wounded cowboy watched with eager, hopeful interest.

After a half-hour of wild tumult, the excitement of the cattle began to diminish, the circle widened, and the animals contented themselves with fiercely rolling their bloodshot eyes and horning each other when an opening offered.

Then Millar began sounding the blood-call again, and presently a trio of lean cows led the bunch up the slope to the base of his watch-tower. Here they found the crimson-stained earth where the cowboy had adjusted his bandages, and the pawing and bellowing burst forth with renewed frenzy.

Millar lay looking down upon their maneuvers, noting with satisfaction the column of dust that rose straight into the hot, still sunshine. That, he assured himself, was a signal which could be seen for miles, and which no rider would fail to investigate.

The mental processes of the wounded man could not have been very alert, however, or he would have anticipated that the sight of him might cause the half-crazed brutes, that were so busily making noise and dirt for him, to clamber up over the shelving mass of rock to where he lay.

He was disconcerted and alarmed when a big roan steer rolled his eyes upward, held his gaze for a moment, and then fiercely assaulted the watch-tower.

Millar whipped out his six-shooter, but was not surprised when the animal fell back from a granite ledge about half-way up the ascent and retreated in confusion.

He drew himself back out of sight then, and was putting his revolver back in its holster when above the tumult of the bellowing herd he caught the sharp scratching of hoofs on granite, and peering down, saw a wiry, cat-fanked cow charging wildly.

With little apparent difficulty she bounded up the lagged ledge that had turned the awkward steer, and lowering a pair of vicious, black-tipped horns, came scrambling toward him. There was only one passage by which the lookout platform could be gained. Millar, lying at the top of this, fired, without effect, one shot after another.

Then, controlling himself with an effort, he waited with his last chamber. When the animal's head reached his level he fired at the white spot between and below the horns. When the smoke cleared away, the range cow lay, quite dead, in the passage.

Entirely crazed now by the smell of the tiny red stream that trickled down the rock from the dead brute's wound, the whole bunch charged the lookout.

Years spent in a dangerous occupation had hardened Millar to the thought of death, but the volume and

intensity of this storm of brute fury shook his weakened nerves until he could hardly reload for the fluttering of his fingers.

The united madness of the herd, however, saved the day for the crippled cowboy. The jagged ledge, up which the lone cow had with little difficulty clambered, was an impassable barrier to the crowding, jostling animals, as they came on together.

There was terrible confusion and tumult there for a few minutes. Cattle fell, rolled sprawling, and knocked over other cattle. Fortunately the animals in the rear could not gain sufficient footing on the acclivity to trample forward over the ones that were prostrate. Soon most of them tired of scrambling for their precarious foothold, and turning tail, clattered down the incline, there to continue their milling and bawling.

A half-dozen raw-boned Mexican cows persisted desperately, but even they finally wearied of horning and being horned, and of repeated backward falls from the jagged ledge. They whirled of a sudden and descended to help on the excitement at the base of the lookout. Millar took a deep breath, and with shaking hands thankfully laid aside his revolver.

After a little the uproar began to subside again, and the cowboy began to fear that the efforts of his signal-corps would become ineffective, when he noted slender spirals of dust rising against a distant blackened hillside, where a running fire had recently scorched an area of cactus.

The sight relieved and cheered him, for he knew it was kicked up by cattle attracted from the patch of burned cactus by the cries of their mates.

The arrival of these recruits doubled the size of the bunch and trebled the volume of the tumult, sending to the skies a cloud of powdered adobe that satisfied even the eager desire of the cowboy.

As the excitement of immediate peril passed away, Millar began to feel very weak and sick, and with a cautious peep at the wild melee, to assure himself that there was to be no repetition of the assault on the watch-tower, he drew himself to a spot where the breeze was strong and the shade deepest, and lay fighting back the blackness that crowded upon him.

He fainted, perhaps, or it may be that his was only a momentary weakness. At any rate, he was roused some time later, as from a dream, by the sound of a horse's hoofs, mingling with the bawling and trampling. With surprising alacrity for such a maltreated cowboy, Millar worked his way to the edge of the platform.

He saw a couple of vaqueros trying to scatter his signal-corps, and when yells and gestures failed, succeeded in drawing their attention by firing his revolver. He demanded water the instant the men reached him, and after emptying both their canteens, gained sufficient strength and courage to be lifted into a saddle and taken by easy stages to the nearest ranch in the valley.—Youth's Companion.

North Country Indians.

One of the most distinctive features of the Hudson Bay Company, says the author of "The North Country," is the cultivation of the Spartan virtue of truth upon the part of its employes in dealing with the Indians. No misrepresentation is permitted for the purpose of effecting sales in that service, or for any other purpose, and any infraction of the rule is promptly met with summary dismissal.

This money-making corporation thoroughly believes, and its long experience fully demonstrates, that the Indian of the North Woods is not only industrious, but honest as well.

Upon this theory an Indian comes into a trading post in August or September without a cent. He has no furs to sell, but he has many needs to supply. He requires flour, tea, sugar, bacon, a new gun, powder, shot and bullets, traps and many other things to maintain him eight months during the winter. He has honesty, industry and skill; and for the company's trader this is sufficient.

He is furnished with all he desires, and the company extends him credit on its books for supplies aggregating from \$200 to \$500, and the Indian, with loaded canoe, departs into the forest to his hunting grounds 300 or 500 miles distant.

The trader loses no sleep, for he knows that when June has thawed out the ice of the lakes and streams the canoes will return, bearing their valuable furs, and he will be busy balancing accounts with his former debtors, who have returned to discharge their debts and to receive credit for the additional furs they have brought to the trader.

Last summer a post trader was asked about the frequency of bad accounts. He replied that he never had a bad account; that it sometimes happened that the Indian was unable to make full payment, but in such cases the payment was simply postponed until he had a more successful hunt.

The only event which prevents the Indian from paying is his death, and in that case the company cancels the debt.

Modern Education.

"So Johnny is almost in high school?"

"Yes; he's had splendid marks in whittling and beadwork and baking powder biscuits. If he were only a little more careful in sewing squares I shouldn't be a bit afraid about his passing."—Puck.

COST OF LIVING GOES UP

HIGH-WATER MARK FOR SEVENTEEN-YEAR PERIOD IN 1906.

Labor Bureau's Statistics Now Include Retail Prices, and Show Why It is Hard to Save Money—No Direct Reasons Assigned in Report.

The Bureau of Labor has taken another look into the cost of living and it finds it is still increasing, writes the Washington correspondent of the New York Evening Post. Its latest examination had to do with wholesale prices only. It is now making a study of retail prices. The investigation just completed shows that wholesale prices, considering 258 commodities as a whole, reached a higher level in 1906 than at any other time during the seventeen-year period covered. The average for the year 1906 was 5.6 per cent. higher than for 1905; 36.5 per cent. higher than for 1897, the year of lowest prices during the seventeen-year period, and 22.4 per cent. higher than the average for the ten years from 1890 to 1899. Prices reached their highest point during the seventeen-year period in December, 1906, the average for that month being 4.1 per cent. higher than the average for the year 1906, and 6.3 per cent. higher than the average for December, 1905.

The study of the bureau was extended to farm products, foods, clothes and clothing, fuel and lighting, metals and implements, lumber and building materials, drugs and chemicals, house furnishing goods and miscellaneous commodities. Only two of the nine groups showed a decrease in price as compared with 1905—farm products and drugs and chemicals. Seven groups showed an increase in price, this increase reaching 10.4 per cent. in the case of metals and implements, and 9.6 per cent. in the case of lumber and building materials.

Changing Prices of Food.

The average price for 1905 of farm products, taken as a whole, differs but little from that of 1905, a decrease of only one-half of one per cent. being shown. Food as a whole increased 3.6 per cent. in average price for 1906, as compared with 1905. The principal articles showing an increase were cheese, fish, fruit, hog products, rice and vegetables. No change took place in the price of bread. A slight decrease in the wholesale cost of coffee, eggs, wheat flour, corn meal, beef, sugar and tea is shown.

Of the seventy-five articles included under clothes and clothing, sixty-six showed an increase in price, five showed no change, and only four showed a decrease. In the group, as a whole, there was an average increase of 7.1 per cent. in price. In fuel and lighting, as a group, there was an increase in price of .5 per cent. There was an advance in the price of anthracite coal of domestic sizes, coke and petroleum, and a decrease in candles, broken anthracite coal and bituminous coal. There was a greater increase in price for metals and implements than any other group. In this group the increase for 1906 over 1905 was 10.4 per cent.

Of a total of thirty-eight articles in the group there was an increase in price of twenty-nine articles, including tools, barbed wire, copper, lead, pig iron, nails, silver, tin plates, etc. Twenty-four of the twenty-seven articles included under lumber and building material increased in price in 1906. The only three articles that showed a decrease were pine doors, lined oil and quartered oak. In the group, as a whole, there was an increase in price of 9.6 per cent.

The only one of nine groups under consideration that decreased in price to any considerable extent was that of drugs and chemicals. In this group there was a decrease of 7.2 per cent. There was an increase in price of both grain and wood alcohol, and in that of brimstone. House furnishing goods, as a whole, increased 1.7 per cent. in price. More than half the articles in this group, namely, earthenware, glassware, woodenware and articles of cutlery did not change the price. The increase in the general average of price in this group was caused by the increase in the price of wooden furniture.

In the miscellaneous group there was an advance in the prices of cottonseed oil and meal, lute, malt, proof spirits, rope and starch. There was no change in the price of soap and smoking tobacco, and there was a decrease in the price of news and wrapping paper, rubber and plug tobacco. Taken together, the group of miscellaneous articles increased 7.4 per cent.

Commodities, Raw and Manufactured.

Many students of price statistics desire to distinguish between raw commodities and manufactured commodities. With a view to such a presentation the bureau has divided the commodities included in its recent investigation into the two classes. As thus grouped it appears that the average wholesale price of raw commodities for 1906 was 3.9 per cent. higher than for 1905, and that the average wholesale price of manufactured commodities for 1906 was 6.1 per cent. higher than for 1905. A study of the bureau's cables dealing with foreign products shows that these products reached the lowest average in the seventeen-year period under consideration in 1896, and the highest in 1902.

The tables set out also show that the wholesale price of food was lowest in 1896 and highest in 1891; that of clothes and clothing, the lowest in

1897 and the highest in 1906; that of fuel and lighting, the lowest in 1894 and the highest in 1903; that of metals and implements, the lowest in 1898 and the highest in 1906; that of lumber and building materials, the lowest in 1897 and the highest in 1906; that of drugs and chemicals, the lowest in 1895 and the highest in 1906; that of housefurnishing goods, the lowest in 1897 and the highest in 1903, while in the miscellaneous group the lowest average was reached in 1897 and the highest in 1906.

The average for all commodities combined was lowest in 1897 and highest in 1906. Of the nine groups, it is seen that one reached its lowest point in 1894, one in 1895, three in 1896, three in 1897, and one in 1898. The highest point was reached by one group in 1891, by one in 1900, by one in 1902, two in 1903, and by four in 1906.

In 1890 and 1891, according to the deductions of the bureau, the prices of raw commodities were higher than those of manufactured commodities and remained so until 1893, when prices of raw commodities declined and those of manufactured commodities were slightly above the price of 1892. From 1894 to 1896, there was a marked decline in both groups, the raw being lower than the manufactured in each of these years. In 1897 raw advanced and manufactured declined. From 1898 to 1900 there was a decided advance in both groups each year, raw advancing to a higher point than manufactured. In 1901 there was a very slight decline in raw and a more marked decline in manufactured. The following year both commodities advanced in price, and last year both reached the highest point during the seventeen years considered.

No Reason For Rise Given.

The Bureau of Labor has made no attempt to go into the causes of the rise and fall of prices. The aim has been to give the prices as they actually prevailed in the market. In explaining why it does not discuss the increase in prices, the bureau says: "The causes are too complex, the relative influence of each too uncertain, in some cases involving too many economic questions, to permit their discussion in connection with the present article."

"It will be sufficient to enumerate some of the influences that cause changes in prices. Such influences include variations in harvest; changes in demand due to changes in fashions, seasons, etc.; legislation ordering internal revenue taxes, import duties, or bounties; inspections as to purity or adulterations; use of substitutes—as, for instance, an advance in the price of beef will cause an increased consumption of pork and mutton, and it may be added, a probable increase in the price of both pork and mutton; improvements in methods of production; cheapening of transportation or handling; speculative manipulation of the supply or the raw product; overproduction; unusual demand owing to steady employment of the consumers; organization or combination of mills or producers, thus enabling, on the one hand, a greater or less control of prices, or, on the other hand, economies in production or in transportation charges through the ability to supply the article from the point of production or manufacture nearest the purchaser."

The Staff of Life.

Man has not always eaten the fine wheat bread which is so frequently served to-day, and yet it would be necessary to go far back into prehistoric times to find the period in which some kind of bread was not baked. Sarah, who cooked for Abraham, the "father of nations," made bread just as her ancestors had made it for hundreds of years before her time. She prepared a paste of flour and water and, having shaped it into round flat pieces, buried it in the ashes of the hearth. It was many years before the Jewish people knew any other kind of bread, although there were times when these flat cakes were baked upon the gridiron until they were dry and brittle enough to be broken by the hand.

According to tradition, it was Pan—the god with the face and legs of a goat—who first taught mortals how to make bread. According to the same authority, it was the goddess Ceres who taught the Greeks to cultivate corn, and Megalarte and Megalomez who instructed them in the art of kneading flour and baking loaves in ovens. So successful were their pupils, however, that at one time no less than seventy-two kinds of bread were evolved out of various combinations of milk, oil, honey, cheese and wine with the flour of that period.

For a very long time the Romans were eaters of gruel, the art of parching corn and of converting it into flour having been taught to them

KEYSTONE STATE CULLINGS

EXPENSIVE BASEMENT

Auditors Report That 26 Rooms in Capitol Cost Over \$600,000.

The total cost to the state of furnishing the 63 rooms in the basement of the new capitol was \$638,879.01. Twenty-six of these rooms are used for storage purposes by the various departments or as House and Senate pasting and folding rooms. The total cost of furnishing these 26 rooms was \$627,928.79, of which \$614,355.18 was paid to the Pennsylvania Construction Co. of Marietta, Pa., for metallic furniture. There is no metallic furniture in any of the remaining 37 rooms, none of which is in use.

Each of the 63 rooms contains at least one thermostat costing \$79 each, and from one to 15 white metal chandeliers, costing \$36 each. The thermostats and chandeliers were supplied by John H. Sanderson of Philadelphia, general contractor for the capitol furnishings.

One of the interesting exhibits found on the table of costs for the basement rooms is the item of trolley ladders. These ladders were supplied by the Pennsylvania Construction Co., and are used to reach the top of the metallic cases. There are 38 of them and their total cost to the state was \$5,700.

DEPENDS ON MAY ENROLLMENT

Boards of Education Notified of the Importance of Regarding New Carroll Law.

The department of public instruction issued a circular letter to the school boards throughout Pennsylvania calling their attention to the Carroll bill signed by Gov. Stuart recently. This act directs the state superintendents to use the returns of the enrollment of children between the ages of 6 and 16 years, made under the compulsory attendance laws, for the distribution of one-third of its school appropriation. Heretofore a separate enrollment has been made in the fall for appropriation purposes. The fall enrollment has been abolished and the May enrollment substituted. Hence the necessity for school boards to see that the lists of children now being returned to the county commissioners are correct, as one-third of the school money they will get from the state for the next two years will be based on them.

Coal Deals in Fayette County.

J. V. Thompson sold 1,000 acres of coal on Muddy Creek in Cumberland township, Greene county, to the Gilmore Coal and Coke Company, at \$400 an acre. W. H. Bailey of Waynesburg sold 100 acres to the same company at the same price. The newly purchased block adds 1,300 acres recently bought by the Hitchcock & Andrews Steel Co. and the Youngstown Iron & Tube Co. of Youngstown, Ohio.

Township Bills Signed.

Two bills of special interest to townships were approved by Governor Stuart. One provides that townships having a population of 300 to the square mile shall be townships of the first class. The other empowers townships of the first class to establish local boards of health, one member of which shall be a physician. These boards are clothed with power, especially where contagious or infectious diseases exist, to establish hospitals.

\$20,000 Fire in Oil City.

A mysterious explosion, supposed to be from an accumulation of gas under the boilers, occurred in the joint pumping station of the Producers & Refiners and United States Pipe Line Companies at Oil City. The plant was destroyed by the fire that followed, which caused a loss of about \$20,000.

Convicted on 33 Counts.

Thomas W. Harvey, teller of the Enterprise National Bank of Allegheny, was convicted in United States District Court on 33 counts of the indictments against him, charging him with falsifying the entries in his books and was acquitted on three counts of abstracting money and misapplying the funds of the bank. Harvey was not in court.

Work Indorsed for Bench.

The Fayette County Bar Association unanimously adopted a resolution indorsing Attorney James Clark Work for the new orphan's court judgeship in Fayette county, and asking Gov. Stuart to appoint him.

Can Pension Retired Teachers.

Gov. Stuart signed the Lydick bill authorizing school authorities of cities, except Philadelphia, to establish a teachers' retirement fund.

Fish Commissioner Reports.

The report of State Fish Commissioner Meehan for the six months beginning Dec. 1, 1906, shows that there were hatched and distributed from seven of the eight state hatcheries 397,636,790 fish, as against 143,559,198 in 1905, and 78,955,867 in 1904. There has been a decided improvement in the hatcheries of the fish laws.