

The Blazed Trail

By STEWART EDWARD WHITE

Copyright, 1904, by Stewart Edward White

CHAPTER VII

RADWAY returned to camp by the 6th of January. He went on snowshoes; ever the entire job and then sat silently in the office smoking. The jobber looked older. The lines of dry good humor about his eyes had subtly changed to an expression of pathetic anxiety. He attached no blame to anybody, but rose the next morning at horn blow, and the men found that they had a new master over them.

Now it became necessary to put the roads in shape for hauling. All winter the blacksmith had occupied his time in fitting the iron work on eight log sleighs which the carpenter had hewed from solid sticks of timber. They were tremendous affairs, with runners six feet apart and bunks nine feet in width for the reception of logs.

The carpenter had also built two immense tanks on runners, holding each some seventy barrels of water and with holes so arranged that on the withdrawal of plugs the water would flood the entire width of the road. The sprinklers were filled by horse power. A chain running through blocks attached to a solid upper framework, like the open helix of an Italian monastery, dragged a barrel up a wooden track from a water hole to an opening in the sprinkler. When in action this formidable machine weighed nearly two tons and resembled a moving house. Other men had felled two big hemlocks, from which they had hewed beams for a V plow.

The V plow was now put in action. Six horses drew it down the road, each pair superintended by a driver. The machine was weighted down by a number of logs laid across the arms. Men guided it by levers and by throwing their weight against the fans of the plow. It was a gay, animated scene, this full of the spirit of winter—the plodding, straining horses, the brilliant dressed, struggling men, the sullen yielding snow thrown to either side, the shouts, warnings and commands. To right and left grew white banks of snow. Behind stretched a broad white path in which a scant inch hid the bare earth.

For some distance the way led along comparatively high ground. Then, skirting the edge of a lake, it plunged into a deep creek bottom between hills. Here earlier in the year eleven bridges had been constructed, and perhaps as many swampy places had been "corduroyed" by carpeting them with long parallel poles. Now the first difficulty began.

Some of the bridges had sunk below the level, and the approaches had to be "corduroyed" to a practicable grade. Others again were humped up like tomcats and had to be pulled apart entirely.

Still that sort of thing was to be expected. A gang of men who followed the plow carried axes and cant hooks for the purpose of repairing extemporaneously just such defects which never would have been discovered otherwise than by the practical experience. Radway himself accompanied the plow. Thorpe, who went along as one of the "road monkeys," saw now why such care had been required of him in smoothing the way of stubs, knots and hummocks.

When the road had been partly cleaned Radway started one of his sprinklers. Water holes of suitable size had been blown in the creek bank by dynamite. There the machines were fixed. Stratton attached his horse to the chain and drove him back and forth, hauling the barrel up and down the slide way. At the bottom it was captured and filled by means of a long pole shackled to its bottom and manipulated by old man Heath. At the top it turned over by its own weight. Thus every odd time.

Then Fred Green hitched his team on and the four horses drew the creaking, cumbersome vehicle spouting down the road. Water gushed in fans from the openings on either side and beneath and in streams from two holes behind. Not for an instant as long as the flow continued dared the teamsters breathe their horses, for a pause would freeze the runners tight to the ground. A tongue at either end obliterated the necessity of turning around.

and the cold snow, with a sudden gust of a moment to the rough bark, snipped down and hit him a crushing blow on the top of the head.

They took Thorpe up and carried him in, just as they had carried Hank Paul before. Men who had not spoken a dozen words to him in as many days gathered his few belongings and stuffed them awkwardly into his satchel. Jackson Hines prepared the bed of straw and warm blankets in the bottom of the sleigh that was to take him out.

"He would have made a good boss," said the old fellow. "He's a hard man to nick."

TO BE CONTINUED.

Gen. Kuropatkin Tells of the Cong Ju Battle.

Continued from page 1.

General Kuropatkin tells of the battle. Russian troops have been coming south for a long time, and it is evident that a conflict must result. As matters have turned out, it would have been better if the war had occurred when the Russians first occupied Manchuria, because ever since they have been strengthening their position in that province. Our statesmen, however, wished to preserve peace as long as possible. It is difficult to say where the first big land battle will take place. The Russians seem to be in force between Dian Yang and Kaiping, on the Manchuria railroad. They may cross the mountains and possibly meet us at the Yalu.

General Kuropatkin tells of the battle. General Kuropatkin's report is as follows: "I have the honor to respectfully communicate to your majesty the report of General Mishchenko, dated March 28, at 1 p. m., which says: 'For three consecutive days small outposts attempted to draw the Japanese cavalry into action, but their patrol, after contact was established, retired behind Cong Ju, about fifty miles northwest of Ping Yang.'

"Having learned that four squadrons of the enemy posted five vests beyond Chong Ju on March 27, six companies marched toward Kasan and on March 28 reached Chong Ju at 10:30 a. m. As soon as our scouts approached the town the enemy opened fire from behind the wall. Two squadrons promptly dismounted and occupied the heights six hundred yards distant. An engagement ensued.

"In the town a company of infantry and a squadron of cavalry were lying in ambush. Our men were re-inforced by three companies and attacked the Japanese with a cross fire. Notwithstanding this, and our commanding position, the Japanese gallantly held their ground, and it was only after a fierce fight of half-hour's duration that the Japanese ceased firing and sought refuge in the house. The Japanese hoisted the Red Cross flag at two points.

Friday at a glance. Russian troops in northern Korea are reported to be fleeing before the advance of the Japanese army. Another bombardment of Port Arthur by the Japanese is reported, but no details is received.

The Cossacks, who are retreating in northern Korea, are reported in great distress. Their horses are dying for lack of food, and they are using telegraph poles for fuel.

Brigadier General Allen, United States army, who is with the Japanese army in Korea, reports that the Japanese have shown more military foresight than the Russians.

and the cold snow, with a sudden gust of a moment to the rough bark, snipped down and hit him a crushing blow on the top of the head.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Gen. Kuropatkin Tells of the Cong Ju Battle.

Continued from page 1.

General Kuropatkin tells of the battle. Russian troops have been coming south for a long time, and it is evident that a conflict must result. As matters have turned out, it would have been better if the war had occurred when the Russians first occupied Manchuria, because ever since they have been strengthening their position in that province. Our statesmen, however, wished to preserve peace as long as possible. It is difficult to say where the first big land battle will take place. The Russians seem to be in force between Dian Yang and Kaiping, on the Manchuria railroad. They may cross the mountains and possibly meet us at the Yalu.

General Kuropatkin tells of the battle. General Kuropatkin's report is as follows: "I have the honor to respectfully communicate to your majesty the report of General Mishchenko, dated March 28, at 1 p. m., which says: 'For three consecutive days small outposts attempted to draw the Japanese cavalry into action, but their patrol, after contact was established, retired behind Cong Ju, about fifty miles northwest of Ping Yang.'

"Having learned that four squadrons of the enemy posted five vests beyond Chong Ju on March 27, six companies marched toward Kasan and on March 28 reached Chong Ju at 10:30 a. m. As soon as our scouts approached the town the enemy opened fire from behind the wall. Two squadrons promptly dismounted and occupied the heights six hundred yards distant. An engagement ensued.

"In the town a company of infantry and a squadron of cavalry were lying in ambush. Our men were re-inforced by three companies and attacked the Japanese with a cross fire. Notwithstanding this, and our commanding position, the Japanese gallantly held their ground, and it was only after a fierce fight of half-hour's duration that the Japanese ceased firing and sought refuge in the house. The Japanese hoisted the Red Cross flag at two points.

Friday at a glance. Russian troops in northern Korea are reported to be fleeing before the advance of the Japanese army. Another bombardment of Port Arthur by the Japanese is reported, but no details is received.

The Cossacks, who are retreating in northern Korea, are reported in great distress. Their horses are dying for lack of food, and they are using telegraph poles for fuel.

Brigadier General Allen, United States army, who is with the Japanese army in Korea, reports that the Japanese have shown more military foresight than the Russians.

Brigadier General Allen, United States army, who is with the Japanese army in Korea, reports that the Japanese have shown more military foresight than the Russians.

Don't Be a Spendthrift

Make your hard earned money count, and buy your supplies where you get good values. WE HAVE THE VALUES, lowest prices for the best grade in Polk county.

We have just received a lot of Swift's Premium Hams, plain and Bologna Sausage, the best made; also a complete line of canned meats, fish, etc. Have you tried our pickles and pig's feet? There is nothing better. Don't wait until the weather gets bad before buying a pair of over-shoes. We can fit you out in this line at unheard of low prices. Our stock of shoes is larger than ever before, and our reputation for selling the best in this line is well known. We handle no shoddy shoes. Call and see our \$1.50 GUARANTEED Shoes.

Our line of dress goods, ribbons, notions, hats, etc., is complete in every department. We have some specially low prices on flannellettes, and outings. Call and see them. We also have a line of Broadcloth for ladies' suits.

THE TRYON HOSIERY CO.

LYNN, NORTH CAROLINA.

one delegate and one alternate for every one hundred voters or fractional parts thereof cast for the candidate of the Republican party for governor at the last general election.

By order of the executive committee.

THOMAS S. ROLLINS,
Chairman.

ROBERT H. McNEILL,
Secretary.

Bill Against Finch and McBee.

Raleigh, March 30.

The grand jury here this afternoon returned a true bill against K. S. Finch and V. E. McBee for conspiracy against the State in the appointment of a receiver for the Atlantic & North Carolina Railway. The bill as returned has four counts, the first charging them with conspiracy to injure the property of the railway and obstruct its officers; second, to deprive its officers of possession of the road; third, in having a receiver appointed; fourth, in attempting to force a lease of the road. Each count recites that they "did" unlawfully, fraudulently, maliciously and feloniously conspire, combine, unite, confederate and agree among themselves by unlawful and indirect means and divers acts, devices and practices" to do the various things charged. Argo & Shaffer and F. H. Busbee have been employed to aid the defense.

Can Act Without Bias.

The Democratic party is in position to act independently of any one individual and to nominate a candidate and formulate a platform as the work of its chosen representative from all sections. If the St. Louis convention acts sanely and conservatively and independently of any one man power it ought to be able to nominate the next president of the United States.—Ex.

Cleveland Says His No Is Final

Richard Watson Gilder, editor of The Century, is in receipt of a letter from Grover Cleveland which, after showing much interest in Mr. Gilder's convalescence, mentions the talk of nominating him for president.

Mr. Gilder is confined to his cottage at West Palm Beach, and Mrs. Gilder declined to quote directly from text of the letter. She made no denial that Cleveland made plain his positive desire not to be the nominee of the democrats for a third time, and that he reiterates unequivocally that no combination of circumstances could bring him before the voters of the country again.

"The letter closes," said Mrs. Gilder, "with a number of humorous remarks, and, considering that it is confidential, I can't see that his allusions to his political opinions on national affairs should be given to the newspapers."—Palm Beach, Fla., Dispatch.

GROWTH OF THE

Wachovia Loan and Trust Company

SINCE ITS ORGANIZATION
JUNE 15, 1893

CAPITAL, - - \$600,000.00

DEPOSITS.	ASSETS.
37,708.93	139,367.29
320,184.73	369,026.17
327,859.44	469,751.16
781,018.11	937,156.48
1,043,282.04	1,480,265.70
2,237,075.14	2,863,997.16
2,657,110.66	3,273,373.01

Jan. 22, 1904.

Asheville Branch - 34 Pat. Ave. Asheville, N. C.

YOUR BUSINESS SOLICITED.

THE LOUD TALKER SAYS—

THE FASTEST HORSE SWEEPS THE STAKES TAKE A CHANCE ON

THE NEW KIND OF CHEW THAT WON ENOUGH CHEWERS IN A YEAR TO MAKE SWEEP-STAKES THE LARGEST COMPETITIVE BRAND OF SCHNAPPS TOBACCO.

THE FAVORITE CARRIAGE MANUFACTURING CO. CINCINNATI, O. U.S.A.

Deal Direct at Factory Prices.

Give Us a Trial Order.

...OUR SPECIAL...

\$3.00 VEHICLE OFFER.

FOR \$3.00 WE WILL SHIP YOU ANY VEHICLE YOU MAY SELECT FROM OUR CATALOGUE SUBJECT TO EXAMINATION.

Send us \$3.00 and state which vehicle illustrated and described in our catalogue that you admire, and we will send the vehicle to you by freight C. O. D., subject to examination. Examine it at your nearest depot, and if you find it handsomer, stronger, a better made, and a better finished vehicle than you could buy at from 15 to 25 per cent cheaper than any other vehicle offered you for the same quality of material, workmanship and finish, then pay the freight agent our price and the freight less the \$3.00, sent with order. Should you not find it in every way better, and as represented by us, you can return the vehicle at our expense, and we will cheerfully refund your money, and pay the freight both ways, so that you are nothing out by ordering from us. Don't place your order until you have seen our catalogue. YOU WILL BE SURPRISED at the bargains offered. Send your name on a postal for catalogue today. IT IS FREE TO ALL. Tell your friends to send too. THE FAVORITE CARRIAGE MFG. CO., Department B, CINCINNATI, OHIO.

An Easter Festival in Carpets

Will amply describe the superb line of FLOOR COVERINGS displayed at

W Sawyer's Carpet House

were an elegant variety of artistic patterns in every kind, from Ingrains to Axminsters and Witons, await the pleasure of those who desire to furnish their rooms economically and beautifully.

Phone 228. Asheville, N. C. 18 & 20 Ch. St.

HARROWS,

Morgan Spading Harrows. Solid Disc, Steel Frame. Cut Out Disc Steel Frames.

Clark's Cutaway Harrows,

All Sizes.

All Steel Lever Spike Tooth Harrows. All sizes, the best makes we can purchase.

Single and Two Row Corn Planters. Write for Circulars and Prices.

T. S. MORRISON,

ASHEVILLE, N. C.