

The Blazed Trail

By STEWART EDWARD WHITE

Copyright, 1904, by Stewart Edward White

"But you have in your hands three million and a half, which under the present arrangement you get free of any charge whatever."

"And we ought to get it," cried Daly. "Great guns! Here we intend to saw this summer and quit. We want to get in every stick of timber we own so as to be able to clear out of here for good and all at the close of the season, and now this condigned jobber ties us up for a million and a half."

"It is exceedingly annoying," conceded Thorpe, "and it is a good deal of Radway's fault, I am willing to admit, but it's your fault too."

"To be sure," replied Daly, with the accent of sarcasm. "You had no business entering into any such contract. It gave him no show."

"I suppose that was mainly his look-out, wasn't it? And, as I already told you, we had to protect ourselves."

"You should have demanded security for the completion of the work. Under your present agreement, if Radway got in the timber, you were to pay him a fair price. If he didn't, you appropriated everything he had already done. In other words, you made him a bet."

"I don't care what you call it," answered Daly, who had recovered his good humor in contemplation of the security of his position. "The fact stands all right."

"It does," said Thorpe unexpectedly, "and I'm glad of it. Now, let's examine a few figures. You owned 5,000,000 feet of timber, which at the price of stumps (standing trees) was worth \$10,000."

"Well?"

"You come out at the end of the season with three million and a half of saw logs, which with the \$4 worth of logging added are worth \$21,000."

"Hold on!" cried Daly. "We paid Radway \$4. We could have done it ourselves for less."

"You could not have done it for one cent less than four-twenty in that country," replied Thorpe, "as an expert will testify."

"Why did we give it to Radway at four then?"

"You saved the expense of a salaried overseer and yourselves some bother," replied Thorpe. "Radway could do it for less because, for some strange reason which you yourself do not understand, a jobber can always log for less than a company."

"We could have done it for four," insisted Daly stubbornly. "But get on. What are you driving at? My time's valuable."

"Well, put her at four, then," agreed Thorpe. "That makes your saw logs worth over \$20,000. Of this value Radway added \$13,000. You have appropriated that much of his without paying him one cent."

Daly seemed amused. "How about the million and a half feet of ours he appropriated?" he asked quietly.

"I'm coming to that. Now for your losses. At the stumpage rate your million and a half which Radway appropriated would be only three thousand. But for the sake of argument we'll take the actual sum you'd have received for saw logs. Even then the million and a half would only have been worth between eight and nine thousand. Deducting this purely theoretical loss Radway has occasioned you from the amount he has gained for you, you are still some four or five thousand ahead of the game. For that you paid him nothing."

"That's Radway's lookout."

"In justice you should pay him that amount. He is a poor man. He has sunk all he owned in this venture, some \$12,000, and he has nothing to live on. Even if you pay him what he has lost, he has lost considerable, while you have gained."

"How have we gained by this bit of philanthropy?"

"Because you originally paid in cash for all that timber on the stump just \$10,000, and you get from Radway saw logs to the value of \$20,000," replied Thorpe sharply. "Besides, you still own the million and a half which, if you do not care to put them in yourself, you can sell for something on the side."

"Don't you know, young man, that white pine logs on skids will spoil utterly in a summer? Worms get into 'em."

"I do," replied Thorpe, "unless you bark them, which process will cost you about \$1 a thousand. You can find any amount of small purchasers at reduced price. You can sell them easily at \$5. That nets you for your million and a half a little over \$4,000 more. Under the circumstances I do not think that my request for five thousand is at all exorbitant."

Daly laughed. "You are a shrewd fellow, and your remarks are interesting," said he.

"Will you give \$5,000?" asked Thorpe. "I will not," replied Daly; then, with a sudden change of humor: "And now I'll do a little talking. I've listened to you just about as long as I'm going to. I have Radway's contract in that safe, and I live up to it. I'll thank you to go plumb to blazes!"

"That's your last word, is it?" asked Thorpe, rising.

"It is."

"Then," said he slowly and distinctly, "I'll tell you what I'll do. I intend to collect in full the \$4 a thousand for the three millions and a half Mr. Radway

was conveyed to you. In return, Mr. Radway will purchase of you at the stumpage rates of \$2 a thousand the million and a half he failed to put in. That makes a bill against you, if my figuring is correct, of just \$11,000. You will pay that bill, and I will tell you why. Your contract will be entered in any court as a gambling contract for lack of consideration. You have no legal standing in the world. I call your bluff, Mr. Daly, and I'll fight you from the drop of the hat through every court in Christendom."

"Fight ahead," advised Daly sweetly, who knew perfectly well that Thorpe's law was faulty. As a matter of fact, the young man could have collected on other grounds, but neither was aware of that.

"Furthermore," pursued Thorpe in addition, "I'll repeat my offer before witnesses, and if I win the first suit I'll sue you for the money we could have made by purchasing the extra million and a half before it had a chance to spoil."

This statement had its effect, for it forced an immediate settlement before the pine on the skids should deteriorate. Daly lounged back with a little more deadly carelessness.

"And, lastly," concluded Thorpe, playing his trump card, "the suit from start to finish will be published in every important paper in this country. If you do not believe I have the influence to do this you are at liberty to doubt the fact."

Daly was cogitating many things. He knew that publicity was the last thing to be desired. Thorpe's statement had been made in view of the fact that much of the business of a lumber firm is done on credit. He thought that perhaps a rumor of a big suit going against the firm might weaken confidence. As a matter of fact, this consideration had no weight whatever with the older man, although the threat of publicity actually gained for Thorpe what he demanded. The lumberman feared the noise of an investigation solely and simply because his firm, like so many others, was engaged at the time in stealing government timber in the upper peninsula. He did not call it stealing, but that was what it amounted to. Thorpe's shot in the air hit full.

"I think we can arrange a basis of settlement," he said finally. "Be here tomorrow morning at 10 with Radway."

"Very well," said Thorpe. "By the way," remarked Daly, "I don't believe I know your name."

"Well, Mr. Thorpe," said the lumberman, with cold anger. "If at any time there is anything within my power or influence that you want I'll see that you don't get it."

The whole affair was finally compromised for \$9,000. Radway, grateful beyond expression, insisted on Thorpe's acceptance of an even thousand, and with this money in hand the latter felt justified in taking a vacation for the purpose of visiting his sister.

For the purposes he had in view \$500 would be none too much. The remaining \$400 he had resolved to invest in his sister's comfort and happiness. He had thought the matter over and had gradually evolved what seemed to him an excellent plan. He had already perfected it by correspondence with Mrs. Renwick. It was, briefly, this: He, Thorpe, would at once hire a servant girl, who would make anything but supervision unnecessary in so small a household. The remainder of the money he had already paid for a year's tuition in the seminary of the town. Thus Helen gained her leisure and an opportunity for study and still retained her home in case of reverse.

Thorpe found his sister already a young lady. After the first delight of meeting had passed they sat side by side on the halcloth sofa and took stock of each other.

Helen had developed from the school child to the woman. She was a handsome girl, possessed of a slender, well rounded form and deep hazel eyes, with the level gaze of her brother, although a figure rather aloof, a face rather impassive, but with the possibility of passion and emotion and a will to back them.

"Oh, but you're tanned and—and big!" she cried, kissing her brother. "You've had such a strange winter, haven't you?"

"Yes," he replied absently. "Things came a little better than I thought they were going to toward the last, and I made a little money."

"Oh, I'm so glad!" she cried. "Was it much?"

"No, not much," he answered. The actual figures would have been so much better. "I've made arrangements with Mrs. Renwick to hire a servant girl, so you will have all your time free, and I've paid a year's tuition for you in the seminary."

"Oh," said the girl, and fell silent.

After a time, "Thank you very much, Harry dear," then, after another interval, "I think I'll go get ready for supper."

Instead of getting ready for supper she paced excitedly up and down her room.

"Oh, why didn't he say what he was about?" she cried to herself. "Why didn't he? Why didn't he?"

The days, however, passed in the main pleasantly for both. They were fond of one another. The barrier slowly rising between them was not yet cemented by lack of affection on either side, but rather by lack of belief in the other's affection. Helen imagined Thorpe's interest in her becoming daily more perfunctory. Thorpe fancied his sister cold, unreasoning and ungrateful. And yet this was but the vague dust of a cloud. They could not forget that but for each other they were alone in the world. Thorpe delayed his departure from day to day, making all the preparations he possibly could at home.

Finally Helen came on him busily unpacking a box which a Gray had left

at the door. He unwound and laid aside a Winchester rifle, a variety of fishing tackle and some other miscellaneous items of the woodsman. Helen was struck by the beauty of the sporting implements.

"Oh, Harry!" she cried. "Aren't they fine? What are you going to do with them?"

"Going camping," replied Thorpe, with his head in exultation.

"When?"

"This summer."

Helen's eyes lit up with a fire of delight. "How nice! May I go with you?" she cried.

Thorpe shook his head. "I'm afraid not, little girl. It's going to be a hard trip a long ways from anywhere. You couldn't stand it."

"I'm sure I could. Try me."

"Well," replied Thorpe, "I know you wouldn't. We'll be sleeping on the ground and going on foot through much extremely difficult country."

"I wish you'd take me somewhere," pursued Helen. "I can't get away this summer unless you do. Why don't you camp somewhere nearer home, so I can go?"

Thorpe arose and kissed her tenderly. "I can't, little girl; that's all. We've got our way to make."

She understood that he considered the trip too expensive for them both. At this moment a paper fluttered from



"Oh, but you're tanned and—and big!" she exclaimed. She picked it up. A glance showed her a total of figures that made her gasp.

"Here is your bill," she said, with a strange choke in her voice, and left the room.

"He can spend \$300 on his old guns, but he can't afford to let me leave this hateful house," she complained to the apple tree. "He can go way off-camping somewhere to have a good time, but he leaves me sweltering in this miserable little town all summer. I don't care if he is supporting me. He ought to. He's my brother. Oh, I wish I were a man! I wish I were dead!"

Three days later Thorpe left for the north.

TO BE CONTINUED.

To The Democrats Of North Carolina:

The name of Hon. Francis D. Winston of Bertie County, will be presented to our State Convention for the nomination for Lieutenant Governor. We have known him all his life, and we feel that it is not out of place for us, his neighbors and friends, to endorse his candidacy. We do so without limitation. Judge Winston's well known all over the state. Morally and physically he is fitted for the office he seeks and for performing the labors of the campaign incident to the election.

He is in his forty-seventh year. His capacity for work is not surpassed by any one. He is a well equipped parliamentarian, combining pleasant manners with judicial firmness and dignity. He has filled many places of trust. For fifteen years he has given freely of his brain, time and means to the party. We will not lengthen this address with copies of resolutions endorsing his course as a Judge. We could do so at great length. The Press the Bar, and the People were loud in his praise. No Judge stood higher. His character is strong and upright. He is a good speaker and debater. He is popular and agreeable.

Has he rendered most valuable party services? Ask the Democratic State, District and County Committees of every campaign for many years, and the "White Supremacy Clubs" and Democratic Revolutionists of 1888 and 1900. In point of party service no man has surpassed him. He stands for the best type of manhood and citizenship. We ask your favorable consideration to this candidacy.

A. S. RASCOE, Ch'm'n. Dem. Ex. Com. J. B. STOKES, Ch'm'n. Bd. Elections. E. S. ASKEW, Mayor of Windsor. W. L. LYON, Clerk Superior Court. SOL CHERRY, Register of Deeds. T. C. BOND, Sheriff.

R. W. ASKEW, Supt. of Schools. H. V. DUNSTAN, Supt. of Health. C. W. SPRULL, Ch'm'n Bd. Com. C. W. MITCHELL, State Senator. D. W. BRITTON, Mem. House Rep. THOMAS GILLAM, Pres. Bank of Windsor.

J. T. NICHOLLS, Merchant. W. R. JOHNSON, Attorney-at-Law. M. B. GILLAM, Attorney-at-Law. G. L. MARDRE, County Com. S. W. KENNEY, Editor Windsor Ledger.

J. J. MARDRE, Farmer.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

SAID: "If you preach a better sermon, write a better book or make a better mousetrap than your neighbor, though you build your house in a wilderness, the world will make a path to your door."

The same argument that applies to good sermons, good books and even good mouse-traps, applies also to GOOD SHOES. The "Herald Shoe" has brought a crowd of people, who have made a beaten path to our store, to purchase this favorite shoe. Our new spring styles are strictly up-to-date. Whether you want a \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00 or \$3.00 "Herald Shoe" you always get a good shoe. We have the exclusive sale in this county.

Our new spring stock of Dry Goods are just in and are the most complete and up-to-date of any ever offered to the people of this county. A niceline of white waist goods to select from. Prices from 10c to 60c per yard. A nice line of silk for waists. A line of "Persian Tissues," "Aquarel Swiss," mercerized percales and chambras.

A full line of negligee and dress shirts, new line of ties, handkerchiefs and everything in the way of up-to-date suits of clothes from \$6 to \$15. Every suit new and latest style.

A full line of groceries, always fresh, kept in stock. A good line of hardware, tinware and Chinaware. We have "Swift's Premium Hams" at 16c, also a nice full pack tomato at 10c can; our "White Label Lard" is as good as there is, also our "Gilt Edge Flour," none better, few as good.

A full line of ribbons in all desirable colors, a nice line of window shades and a line of ladies parasols that are good enough. Our line of gent's straw hats will be here next week. Come here and see us before you buy elsewhere.

THE TRYON HOSIERY CO

LYNN, NORTH CAROLINA.

Outnumbered Japanese Win in Bloody Battle Along the Yalu.

Continued from page 1.

matter has aroused intense interest in "social circles."

Reports which have from time to time reached the Washington government from its agent in the field indicates that the two great armies would not come in touch before May 1, and that what has heretofore occurred was nothing more than mere outpost skirmishes and collisions between scouting parties.

It is believed now, however, that the weather conditions in Manchuria have improved sufficiently to facilitate the movement of troops and artillery, and that the two vanguards have consequently come together a few days in advance of the expected date.

SPECIAL RATES.

Extraordinary Low Rates to St. Louis, May 9th, and 23d, 1904.

On the above mentioned dates the Southern Railway announces very low rates to St. Louis and return. The tickets will be good in regular and special through coaches. Tickets good for ten days. These tickets are not good in sleeping cars. Rates from Asheville to St. Louis and return \$15.40, from other points upon application.

Season Excursion Tickets to St. Louis. Beginning April 25th, 1904, and continuing during the period of the Exposition, with final date to leave St. Louis returning, December 15th, 1904. Rate, \$32.25 from Asheville.

60-Day Excursion Tickets to St. Louis. Beginning April 25th, 1904, and continuing during the period of the Exposition, with final date to leave St. Louis sixty (60) days in addition to date of sale, the final date in no case to exceed December 15th, 1904. Rate from Asheville, \$26.90.

15-Day Excursion Ticket to St. Louis. Beginning April 25th, 1904, and continuing during the period of the Exposition, with final limit to leave St. Louis returning fifteen (15) days in addition to date of sale. Rate from Asheville, \$22.25.

National Association of Stationary Engineers. Richmond, Va., August 1st to 6th, 1904. Rates one first-class fare plus 25 cents for the round trip. Dates of sale July 30-31, 1904. Rate from Asheville, \$12.25.

Annual Convention Southern Hardware Jobbers Association. And American Hardware Manufacturers Association, Atlanta, Ga. One first-class fare plus 25 cents for the round trip. Tickets sold May 21, 22 and 23, with final limit May 31st, 1904. Rates from Asheville, \$8.20.

Monteagle Bible School, Monteagle, Tenn. July 4th, August 4th, 1904. One first-class fare plus 25 cents for the round trip. Tickets to be sold June 2d and July 3th, also 19th to 22d, inclusive, with final limit August 31st, 1904. Rate from Asheville, \$10.30.

Annual Meeting Southern Baptist Convention and Auxiliary Societies. Nashville, Tenn., May 11-18, 1904. One first-class fare plus 25 cents for the round trip. Tickets to be sold May 10, 11, 12, 1904; with a limit of ten days from the date of sale. Rate from Asheville, \$11.65.

Summer School. Knoxville, Tenn., June 28th, to August

Wachovia Loan and Trust Company

SINCE ITS ORGANIZATION JUNE 15, 1893

CAPITAL - - \$600,000.00

DEPOSITS.	ASSETS.
37,708.93.	DEC. 15, 1893,
320,184.73.	DEC. 15, 1895,
327,859.44.	DEC. 15, 1897,
781,018.11.	DEC. 15, 1899,
1,043,282.04.	DEC. 15, 1901,
2,237,075.14.	DEC. 15, 1903,
2,657,110.66.	Jan. 22, 1904,
	3,273,873.01

Asheville Branch - 34 Pat. Ave Asheville, N. C. YOUR BUSINESS SOLICITED.

5th, 1904. One first class fare plus 25 cents for the round trip. Tickets to be sold June 26, 27, 28, July 5, 6, 11, 12, 18 and 25th, 1904, with final limit of fifteen days from date of sale. Rate from Asheville, \$4.25.

For further information relative to rates, schedules, etc., apply to your nearest ticket agent, or address J. H. Wood, D. P. A., Asheville, N. C.

BEST SAW MILLS Small Mills for Farmers; Larger Mills for Lumbermen. All our mills are fitted with the famous Besock-King Pat. Variable Feed Works; the simplest, most durable and best feed on the market. Manufactured by the **SALEM IRON WORKS, WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.**

THE LOUD TALKER SAYS -

THE FASTEST HORSE SWEEPS THE STAKES TAKE A CHANCE ON

SWEEP STAKES TAGS CASHED AT 75¢ A HUNDRED

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 handsome, 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.

Shaking the Rugs

On sweeping day, and putting them back clean and free from germs and dirt, is easy and satisfactory to the neat housekeeper, and keeps the house clean and sweet during the heated term. Our stock of Fine Rugs and Cord and Handsome Matting, will make floor covering that will give comfort and cleanliness. We have them in beautiful designs and colorings.

Sawyer's Carpet House, Phone 228. Asheville, N. C. 18 & 20 Ch.St

CORN PLANTERS. One Row, One Horse. Two Row, Two Horse. With or Without Fertilizer Attachment. Save Time and Money, Seed and Fertilizers. Write for Circulars and Prices. T. S. MORRISON, ASHEVILLE, N. C.