

COST OF A KENTUCKY FEUD

Fifty Men on a Side Would Be \$12,000 for Three Months.

The French Eversole Feud is Said to Have Cost \$150,000—Men Are Paid \$1 a Day and "Found" to Share in These Feuds—The Bakers Too Poor to Hire Men Now.

Manchester, Ky., June 26.—The Baker-Howard feud has now reached a stage where it is difficult to predict the outcome. It is conceded that the Howards, with their allies, the Whites, are decidedly stronger than the Bakers, but the Bakers and their friends are the more numerous, and they may be able to maintain a feudal war against their enemies, such a war, however, involves the expenditure of much money. It is said on good authority that Fulton French and Joe Eversole spent about \$150,000 on the French-Eversole feud, of which \$100,000 was paid out by French, as he had to hire all his fighting men, while Eversole had many close relatives who fought for him without price. The wages paid these "fighting men," as the actual fighters are called, was \$1 a day and "found." It came out in the testimony, by "found" is meant guns, pistols and ammunition, with bacon and bread. These men in squads of three build "blinds" along the highways traveled by their opponents, and sometimes they wait for days before any member of the opposing faction attempts to pass. It frequently happens that a squad will "lay out" for a week or more and never see an enemy, and they frequently have to move half a dozen times and make new "blinds" before they get a chance to fire a shot. The "blinds" are made by cutting a pole, fastening it against the sides of two trees, and then cutting limbs well filled with leaves and leaning them against the upper side of the pole. These "blinds" are usually constructed about forty to sixty yards from the road and new limbs with fresh leaves have to be cut every three or four days, for the practiced eye of the mountaineer can tell dead leaves at a great distance and thus the "blind" could be detected. The Bakers have no money with which to pay men to engage in this sort of work. Even the lawyers who prosecuted Jim Howard for killing old man George Baker were not paid their fees, and they sued for the money and got judgment, only to find that the Bakers, who employed them, have no visible property subject to attachment. The Howards and Whites, on the other hand, are abundantly able to buy guns, pistols, and ammunition for their men, and to provide them with provisions besides paying their wages. To equip 100 men with rifles and revolvers of 45-calibre would cost, with the necessary ammunition, not less than \$3,000, and it would require \$700 a week to pay their wages (for they work at man hunting on Sundays), to say nothing of the cost of keeping them supplied with bacon and bread. Therefore it would cost to carry on a feudal war with fifty men on a side for three months not much less than \$12,000. As the Bakers are now practically bankrupt, and as none of their active friends will advance the necessary money, it looks as if this has come to be a one-sided fight. With Wiley and Jim Baker in the Barbourville jail, old George Baker and Tom Baker dead, Doc Baker and his cousins, Bob and Corio Baker, and Chris Jackson, Tom Baker's brother-in-law, at London, twenty-four miles away, there seems little likelihood of the Bakers offering a very stubborn resistance just now. The Howards and Whites have already not less than fifty men well armed and equipped who are at their command. Many of these men have been sworn in as deputy sheriffs by Sheriff Bev White, and a more accomplished shot of pistol and rifle is seldom seen. Many of them have been under fire in mountain fights, and not a few of them have been wounded in open encounters. Sheriff Bev White, who is the recognized leader of the Howard faction since Wilson Howard was killed by the Bakers, began his career as a pistol user when he was not more than 15. There was a general fight in Manchester, and a man was stabbing his stepfather in the back when a man who had a small 38-calibre pistol, began blazing away at the knife user, but only hit him once. Before this fight was over Bev's step father and a man named Stivers were killed and another man badly wounded. Bev escaped unhurt. Daugh White, the circuit clerk, who is now also acting in the capacity of deputy sheriff, is one of the most determined pistol users in Clay county. When he and Bev White's brother, John G. White, got into the fight with the Hackers and Littles at the courthouse door several years ago, Daugh was shot down by a bullet in the hip, fired by Jack Hacker. Jack tried to go up the steps as Daugh sank to the floor, but before Hacker had reached the first landing Daugh slightly raised himself on his elbow and shot and killed Hacker, his body falling on the landing. Sid Baker, the son-in-law of A. Barlow Howard, has also smelled powder from a hostile pistol. It was he who had a shooting bout with Charles Wooten, in which the latter was so badly wounded that he can never recover. Sid is one of Bev White's "deputies." George, Chad and Doc Hall are also "deputies." They came from Perry county, where the French Eversole feud raged for twelve years and cost between thirty and forty lives. The Halls belonged to the French faction, and have the reputation of being "another" "deputy," is a desperate fighter. He will fight with either pistol or knife. On one occasion he cut David Bolin in eleven places with a large knife, for which he was heavily fined. Dave Chadwell, still another of Bev White's "deputies," was in a four-

nered fight in which one man on either side was killed, and it is said that Chadwell got his man on that occasion. Dill Holland, one of White's negro "deputies," shot a woman on the streets of Manchester through both thighs. Bev White's latest shooting affair was in the yard of Mrs. Lucas, the old woman who kept hotel, but was forced to leave town and go to the country. It was last summer. She had sworn in court at Barbourville that Will White, who was shot and killed by Tom Baker, had, in her presence, threatened to kill all the Bakers. This testimony was given at Tom Baker's trial, and it was only a few days later that Bev White came to her house and abused her, saying she had sworn to lies about his brother. She denied she had told a falsehood, and then Bev began shooting in the air above her head. The old woman is as courageous as a Spartan mother, and she told White he could not scare her by shooting off a revolver. He then began firing into the ground near her feet. She went into the house and shut the door and he fired through the windows several times. He then fired several bullets into the postoffice, which is in one corner of Mrs. Lucas's yard, one of which broke into the lock boxes. For shooting into the postoffice and destroying government property he was reported to the United States District Attorney by Jackson Bowling, and this is no doubt the reason why Bowling ran away from home last week and went to London. The Whites had been told that he had informed on Beverly, and they were preparing to make it disagreeable for him.

There has been a great deal written about the Whites and Bakers having been enemies for more than a half century. There is absolutely no truth in such stories. As a matter of fact, the Bakers and Whites were the best of friends ten years ago. A leading attorney who practices at this bar said concerning this statement: "The Whites and Bakers are not hereditary enemies, and the feud has none of the elements of the Corsican vendetta, as so many able writers have tried to make it appear. I happen to know that the Whites and Bakers were the best of friends when Garrard Baker, a cousin to Tom Baker's father, was waylaid and killed by John Wilson ten years ago. I was employed to defend Wilson along with Judge James Black of Barbourville. We found the Whites were the best friends the Bakers had, and the feeling against Wilson ran mountain high. It required three trials to dispose of the case. In the first two the juries hung. By this time every man in Clay county had formed an opinion, as the trials were largely attended. A jury had to be procured from an adjoining county for the third trial, and we had the satisfaction of seeing our client acquitted much to the disgust of the Whites and other friends of the Bakers. Some of these gentlemen even went so far as to abuse Judge Black and myself in a violent manner and they scored the judge for sending out of the county for a jury.

"The feeling against Wilson was so strong that he left Clay county and went to Madison, where he lived until last year, when he came back to Clay county, and in less than a month he was killed from ambush, presumably by John Baker, son of the man he killed in the first hanging. He killed Wilson immediately after he was acquitted for murdering his father. The Whites would have rushed to his rescue, but, owing to the changes of the past year, they were so anxious to kill the Bakers that when John Baker was recently waylaid and shot to pieces the crime was at once laid at the door of the Whites."

Another leading attorney, who, for obvious reasons, does not wish his name used, said: "The man who killed Tom Baker from Bev White's house was the most nervous man I ever knew. He must have known that detection meant death or a life term in the penitentiary, and I do not believe a man would take such an awful risk for money. There must have been some higher controlling motive than money. Then who did it? Certainly a man who dreaded Tom Baker, and who wanted to get revenge on him. Tom was the most dangerous man on the Baker side, and scores of the Whites and Howards breathe easier. I believe the Whites are satisfied now that Tom Baker can do them no harm, and will not try to kill any more Bakers unless the latter kill some member of the White faction."

Another attorney who had a long talk with Tom Baker a short while before he was shot said Tom made this statement to him: "If I can get two or three of the Whites and Jim Howard I would be willing for them to burn me at the stake." The attorney said he believed Tom Baker was the coolest man he ever saw in the presence of danger; that the Howards and Whites were always of this fact, and for that reason the most desperate chances were taken to slay him, even while a prisoner under the protection of one hundred State troops. A man well acquainted in the adjoining counties of Laurel, Jackson, Leslie, Owsley, Letcher and Knott says that the killing of Tom Baker is just the beginning of the feud, that his relatives and friends from these upper counties will come around into Clay and that some moonlight night they may have a pitched battle in the streets of Manchester, in the same manner the Sirongs and Amys fought in Breathitt county. When asked how the state of anarchy in Clay county should be abolished, the leading lawyers here cannot answer. One judge, who is familiar with all the facts and conditions in the feud, said: "Governor Bradley will have to call a special session of the Legislature and induce it to pass a law empowering him to use the State Guard in any manner he sees fit. Under the present laws the troops have to be subordinate to the local authorities, and as these authorities in Clay county are themselves members of the feud, a provision will have to be made by the Legislature for such an emergency as this. Then the local authorities cannot thwart the ends of justice and the law can be enforced. With the law strictly enforced the feud could not live and do business."

UNCLE WAYBACK'S PHILOSOPHY

I've noticed that suitable marriages please everybody but the contract parties. That a parson's pants generally wear out at the seat afore they du in at the knees. They lazy men allers hev smart wives. They most preachers think the Lord is deaf. They wise men sometimes learn ov fools, but then fools don't learn ov wise men. They you can't tell the size ov a man by the noise he makes. They a pound of pegawashum is better than a ton ov compulsion. They "thank ye" pays a pile of debts.

THE PRODDING OF "OOM PAUL"

There is likely to be trouble, And some precious blood may flow; There may be some whiskers offered For the busy winds to blow; There's a lot of angry growling From the ancient lion's den, And the boys have gone to stirring Old Paul Kruger up again.

There's a prospect of a smash-up That will shake the Afric hills, And it's likely to be followed By a lot of doctor's bills; But Jameson will hardly Want to start Alf Austin's pen By being there when Kruger Gets his dander up again. —Chicago Times-Herald.

In the latest history of gambling in England, just published, there are some astonishing revelations as to the amount of money won and lost by men and women whose names were as familiar as household words early in the present century. There are records of £200,000 having been lost at a sitting, and the loss of £50,000 appears to have been a very common occurrence.

By the direction of the postoffice authorities of Berlin, automatic telephones are to be placed in all their offices, in railway stations, and at many other convenient points. They will be on the penny-in-the-slot order, and for the small sum of a penny the necessary number of minutes allowed for conversation may be obtained.

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