

The Battle-Cry

CHARLES NEVILLE BUCK
The Old of the Old
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She took an involuntary step toward him with lifted arms, and then, with a strong effort, as if struggling against a spell, she drew back again, and her voice came very low and broken.
"Can't I come?" she pleaded.
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outstretched toward the latch, and heard a faint rapping. It was seemingly the rap of very feeble fingers, but that might all be part of a ruse. Was it friend or enemy out there, just beyond the thickness of the heavy panels? At all events, she must see.
She braced herself and threw the door open. A figure which had been leaning against it lurched forward, stumbled over the threshold and fell in a heap, half in and half out. It was the figure of Anse Heavey.
How far he had hitched himself along, foot by foot, like a mortally wounded animal crawling home to die, she could not tell, but for one horrified instant she stood gazing down on him in stupefaction.

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RIGHT TRACK SAYS LONG.
HEAD OF DEMONSTRATION WORK WRITES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ABOUT MILL.
Says That Two of Most Important Matters for Business Men to Provide are Markets for Live Stock and Farm Produce and Mill for Grinding Grain, so That It Can be Kept at Home—Promises His Assistance.
Mr. E. I. Reardon, Sumter, S. C.
Dear Mr. Reardon:
My attention has been called to your efforts in endeavoring to establish a flour mill and along with it a mill for grinding feed stuff, meal, etc., in Sumter. I don't know of anything that will stimulate the growing of grain in Sumter and adjoining counties as will the establishment of a mill of the character that you are trying to interest your business men in. We cannot expect the farmers to adopt a system of diversified agriculture unless markets are provided for the products of their diversified system.

AUDITORS GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS.
Tax Commission Calls Attention to Law as to Meetings of Boards.
Columbia, March 5.—A. W. Jones, chairman of the State tax commission, has sent the following instructions to the county auditors of the State:
"Your attention is called to section 423, code of laws, 1912, which requires that township boards of assessors and special boards of assessors shall meet annually on the first Tuesday in March, being this year, March 7, or as soon thereafter as practicable. Section 427 of the code requires the county board of equalization to meet annually on the fourth Tuesday in March, being this year, March 28. It is necessary that the boards meet promptly and complete their work in order that the State tax commission can promptly discharge its duty and that sufficient time be given for the State board of review to perform its duty under the law.
"This is necessary to give sufficient opportunity for the county auditors to complete their tax duplicates in time for the collection of taxes. It is your duty to place before the township and special boards of assessors all returns of personal property subject to assessment and taxation, and all returns of improvements or additions to real estate, not heretofore assessed, for assessment by above mentioned boards. Upon the convening of the county boards of equalization you should lay before them the work of the township and special boards of assessors.
"The duty of the county board of equalization is to equalize the property as between individual taxpayers, and as between local tax districts and townships. In order to expedite the work of the tax department, the county boards of equalization are requested to first assess and equalize the property of banking corporations, textile industries, cotton seed oil mills, fertilizer plants and other corporations equalized by them. Immediately upon the completion of the assessment and equalization of the property of such corporations you should transmit their returns and the action thereon of the county boards of equalization to the South Carolina tax commission, and then take up the assessment and equalization of other classes of personal property. As soon as practicable after the completion of the entire work of the county boards you will forward to the tax commission an abstract of all personal property, horses, mules, cattle, etc., by tax districts."

DUKE PLANS NEW PLANT.
Fifty Engineers Laying Out Site for Hydroelectric Station on Wateree River.
Winnsboro, March 4.—Though a veil of censorship prevails concerning the activities of the Duke interests, which recently purchased large tracts of land in this county, definite information has been received that about 50 civil engineers are at work in the vicinity of Wateree river for the purpose of laying out a site for a new hydroelectric plant, and subdividing the big holdings, it is supposed.
T. W. Ruff of Rockton, one of the most successful and modern farmers in the upper section of the State, has accepted a position as general manager of the Duke farms in this county. It is rumored that further property will be acquired by these parties shortly.
This new enterprise will add to the resources of Fairfield in numerous ways, populating a part of the county which is at present sparsely peopled.
KINGSTREE PREPARES FOR FAIR.
Annual County Event This Year November 6 to 11.
Kingstree, March 4.—At a recent meeting of the Williamsburg County Fair association the dates for holding the second annual exhibition were fixed for the first week in November, beginning Wednesday the 8th and continuing through Saturday, 11th, this date being set aside for the colored people as the programme provided last year. The rates of admission are to be the same as last year. President Nesmith, in order to encourage more individual farm exhibits, offered a prize of \$25 in addition to any that might be offered by the association. Last year the only individual exhibition of farm products was that made by Hon. S. A. Graham, of Heinemann, and represented thirty-four. Mr. Nesmith's offer includes not only agricultural products, but live stock, poultry, horticultural, etc.
SUMTER WINS AGAIN.
The Sumter High School, assisted by Physical Director White, again won from the Dothan High School at basketball on Sunday afternoon, the game being foot-ordered to be especially good. The score at the close of the game was 43 to 12.
The high school has a game with Columbia in the near future.

CHAPTER XXV.

Out there the moon was setting. See, thank God, it would be dark everywhere. The man she loved needed all the chance that the thickening gloom could give him. It was terribly quiet now, except for an occasional whippoorwill call and the occasional seemed to lie upon her with the oppression of something unseeably terrifying. The breath of hillside and sky was bated.
At last there came to her ears the sound of heavy feet tramping through the brush, but he had been gone ten minutes then. Perhaps they had just awakened to his escape and were casting aside stealth for the fury of open pursuit. She even thought she heard an oath once, and then it was all quiet again; quiet for a while, and at the



Once More Good Listening.
end of the silence like the punctuation of an excited far-away snap.
She had dropped to a chair and sat there tense, her ears straining. Had she heard one shot and its echo, or had there been several? Her imagination and fears were playing her tricks now, and she could hardly be certain of her senses.
The passage of time was a thing of which she had lost count. Each moment was a century.
Then, with a violent start, she sat up. Now she knew she heard a sound—there could be no doubt this time. It came from out beyond the front door, and she bent forward, listening.
It was a strange sort of sound which she could not make out, but in a subtle way it was more terrifying than the clatter of rifles. It was as if some heavy, soft thing were being dragged up the steps and rolling back.
She rose and took a step toward the door, but halted in doubt. The sound died and then came again, always with halting intervals of silence between, as though whoever was dragging the burden had to pause on each step to rest. Then there was a scraping as of boot-leather on the boards and a labored breath outside—a breath that seemed to be agonized.
She bent forward with one hand

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

FIXED FOR FIGHTING FLAMES.

Manning Buys Up-to-date Combination Chemical Engine and Motor Truck.
Manning, March 4.—The town of Manning has just added to its fire-fighting equipment a splendid combination chemical and hose motor car, fully equipped. This truck carries 1,500 feet of hose, four large ladders, capable of scaling any building in Manning, and several chemical fire extinguishers. It is run by a 60-horse power six-cylinder gasoline engine and cost \$4,500.
With an excellent organization of enthusiastic firemen and the superior pressure afforded by the new town water works, Manning is now prepared, not only to save property from destruction by fire, but also to secure minimum rates on fire insurance. Heretofore the town has relied on a very serviceable gasoline fire engine drawn by horses and pumping water from cisterns. In many instances excellent and creditable work was accomplished, but it was felt that a more complete equipment should be provided, and it is believed that such has now been done.
Much credit is due to Chief E. L. Huggins for initiating and pressing to a successful issue this addition to the town's fire department.

TWELVE KILLED BY ZEPPELINS.

Tenton Raiders Also Injure More Than Thirty in Raid.
London, March 6.—Twelve persons, two men, 3 women and five children were killed by Zeppelin raiders Sunday, it was announced today, and 33 were injured. There were three Zeppelins in the squadron. Owing to the zigzag course followed, it is believed that the Germans were also trying to locate the British grand fleet.

BRITISH STEAMER SUNK.

London, March 6.—The British steamer Masuda, five thousand tons, was sunk in the Mediterranean presumably by a submarine. All aboard were saved. It is reported that two Americans were on the ship.

Torpedo Boats Bombard Trebizond.

Petrograd, March 6.—Russian torpedo boats have bombarded Trebizond, Turkey's important Black Sea port. Several Turkish vessels escaped without damage, though fired on by land batteries.

British on Offensive.

Constantinople, March 6.—Heavy fighting is in progress between the Turks and the British forces trying to relieve Kutelamara. The British have been reinforced and launched an offensive movement the latter part of February.

Expensive Rats.

Chicago Journal.
A writer in a farm magazine estimates that rats cost the farmers of this country \$60,000,000 a year. It is certain the pests do at least as much damage in cities and villages as in the country. Therefore the American people are paying \$120,000,000 a year for the privilege of entertaining a filthy, dirty, disreputable creature, thickly populated with fleas. Verily there is no accounting for tastes.
Rats are dangerous, as well as filthy and expensive. They carry plague and doubtless other diseases. They cause many fires by nibbling at insulating and in other ways. Indeed, there is a close connection between rats and fires. Both can be abolished by the right sort of construction, and a city which builds out one generally finds that it has pretty well freed itself from the other. Since San Francisco's Chinatown was made ratproof it has had hardly any fires worth mentioning.
Some day the world will become civilized enough to abolish the rat. When the campaign for his destruction begins in earnest, will there be societies of soft headed "philanthropists" to plead for mercy for the creature, as similar organizations of today denounce the "cruelty" of making experiments on guinea pigs to find cures for human diseases?

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