

# THE PANAMA CANAL

## THE BURNER

ATALE OF THE PLAINS  
By RANDALL PARRISH  
Author of "MILITARY SERVICE"  
WHEN WILDERNESS WAS KING  
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### SYNOPSIS.

Jack Keith, a Virginian, won a heroic reputation in the last war as a driver of a pack train through the mountains of Mexico. He was a man of great courage and high spirit. He was a man of great courage and high spirit. He was a man of great courage and high spirit.

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Rising to His Knees, He Saw a Man Already Half Across the Stream.

that might very easily be dislodged. He drew his hunting knife for the attempt, and, first glancing about, perceived a man creeping toward him. He was a man of great courage and high spirit. He was a man of great courage and high spirit. He was a man of great courage and high spirit.

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buzzed about Hope's escape from the cabin, and of what she had to report. "It's old Juan Sanchez in the front room, boys," he added solemnly, "and there is ten thousand dollars reward on his head, dead or alive."

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**PISIS'S REMEDY**

## Each Began With Nothing

Twenty-Five Directors of a Kansas City Bank All Started Their Careers Practically Without Money.

Dr. James M. Johnston, president of the National Reserve Bank of Kansas City, at a recent meeting of the directors of that bank, announced and said that one present who had begun business with a capital of \$10,000 stand up. There were 25 directors of the bank in the room, and nearly all were men of business.

Dr. Johnston then put another proposition. He said: "Each man of you who had \$5,000 with which to begin business stand up."

The twenty-five directors looked around at each other, but not one of them stood up.

"Each of you who had \$1,000 stand up," persisted Dr. Johnston. The directors looked at each other and laughed, but none of them arose.

Dr. Johnston kept putting the proposition, lowering the amount by \$100 each time, and when he got down to \$100 of the directors stood up and said that was the amount of his capital when he began business.

The majority of the others began without a dollar.

Dr. Johnston himself, estimated to be worth well toward a half million dollars, began his business career without even a pair of shoes—Oklahoma City Times.

of going into the coal trade," "Capitol" said Jerrid. "You've got the sack to begin with"—Youth's Companion.

**Diminution of French Birth Rate.**

The Journal Office has just published the French vital statistics for 1918. The most striking fact is that the excess of births over deaths is only 70,651, as against 84,661 in the previous year. In England and Australia-Hungary the excess is about 500,000. This result is a consequence of the extraordinary fall in the births, which has dropped from 3,000,018 in 1915 to 2,658,000 in 1917, and 2,435,539 in 1918. If the total population remains stationary it is because the death rate also has correspondingly diminished. The actual rate is 70.775, the lowest ever observed.

Dr. Bertillon, the celebrated statistician, justly remarks that this result is due partly to the diminution of births, since it is the infants that furnish the largest part of the mortality statistics. Thanks to the progress of hygiene and of care for the children, infant mortality has fallen from 14 per cent in 1906 to 12 per cent at the present time.

**Unusual Circumstance.**

A very unusual circumstance is recorded in the case of two Rockland babies. One of the children, born on the 17th of February, weighs 12.5 pounds. The surviving lady, who is 31, made the baby clothes for the other and in due time also her weight. She was 10 years old when she had the baby, and she was 21 when she had the other. The babies were born to a woman who was 10 years old when she was born.

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**Female George Washington is Abroad**

In the Land, and Cherry Trees Suffer.

Probably no other American legend ever appealed to the national imagination more powerfully than the cherry tree story. Certainly none is so completely captivated by the fancy of Mrs. John Gowen of Hickory Ridge, Pa.

Several weeks ago a resident of Hickory Ridge discovered that several fine cherry trees on his property had mysteriously been chopped down. There was no conceivable reason for the trees should have been destroyed, and the identity of the offender remained a mystery until Mrs. Gowen voluntarily acknowledged that she had done the chopping.

In the prosecution that followed it developed that Mrs. Gowen had no subsistent reason for cutting the trees. It appeared, however, that she had a consuming hatred of falsehood and that she had cut down the cherry trees merely in order to get a opportunity to prove that she could not tell a lie.

**For Violent Transit.**

A recent number of the *Washington Post*, entitled "Across China on Foot," contains a bit of practical advice about the manner in which Americans should transport their baggage in the interior of China.

Conditions are so rough that the pack-train is a very unattractive mode of transportation. The Chinese and Japanese understand this; British and American manufacturers are either careless in the respect or ignorant of what is demanded by the conditions of transportation over roads that are mainly primitive tracks along the face of precipitous hills.

One of Mr. Dingle's friends, needing a typewriter—and knowing the broken topography and steep gradients of the mountainous interior of China—subjected it to the same treatment until you are convinced that you have one that can stand being thus handled and escape injury.—Youth's Companion.

## Gold Comfort.

Douglas Jerrold's wit made it difficult for him to be considered a "satirist" and that a man of lesser humor might have been in trouble. The writer, George Hodge, went to Jerrold one day to tell him of difficulties into which he had fallen. "I want you to help me," he said. "The Morning Gossip has dismissed me." "You don't say," said Jerrold. "They've had a gleam of intelligence at last." "Don't joke," returned Hodge. "I really want your advice. I'm thinking of going to the coal trade."

## Up-to-Date.

"Mr. Cleaver, how do you account for the fact that I found a piece of rubber tire on the rungs of the saunas I bought here last week?" "My dear man, that only goes to show that the molyb car is replacing the horse everywhere."—Exchange.