## The Free Press Short Story

## THE BUCK AND THE BULL

By CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS

waak River in New Brunswick. Like ments it was her ambition to escape from the lonely life of the backwoods farm and fit herself to be a schoolteacher.

If you will take your map of New Brunswick, you will find but Yew towns in this section, which consists largely of timber land. If you have one of the maps that show natural resources, interesting words as "Moose "Bear" and "Deer." with "Salmon" ward the north. You will also here and there "Coal," "Tungsten" "Copper," "Iron," and other indications of buried wealth, lying under the timber and treasure visit New Brunswick, as do other people in search of hunting and fishing. Along the banks of the Nashwaak.

however, you will find the smybol that stands for "Mixed Farming;" and you will notice that there are creameries and cheese factories in the villages. By the use of such maps people in search of new homes can make a far

more intelligent choice that do those who plunge ahead blindly, attracted by the mere sound of a town's name or by reports of its good climate or of its many sports and recreations.

Hetty's father, Mr. Charles Martin, us if we don't." had come from an overcrowded part of both planted and cultivated with jealous of her. care. His only regret in life, perhaps, With difficulty, changing the package was that Hetty was lonesome. She lacked from hand to hand, Hetty tore off her companions of her own age, largley be- red jacket as she ran. She loved it, and cause the nearest neighbors seemed to it cost her a pang to sacrifice it, even specialize in boy children, rather than at that moment when she felt that the girls. And Hetty was not interested in bull might pause to toss and gore it. boys. She wanted to teach. Her father She had heard of a woman who had once respected this ambition and helped her done the same thing, escaping from a as much as he could to attain it.

told himself that Hetty would eventually of her wearing apparel. Hetty hoped become interested in some particular boy, that the same strategy would work if not in boys in general. That she would again. make an excellent wife for some achiev- A two-hundred-yard sprint brought the ing young farmer went without question, fugitives to the brook. As they splashed for she was strong, highly intelligent, through it, they realized it was far too thrifty, sympathetic and loyal. Mr. shallow to stop the bull. The big Martin was glad she showed no interest branches hung right overhead. Tossing whatever in such matters at eighteen, for her package into a bush. Hetty grasped he knew that she would be able to make one of them and swung herself up, as a far more intelligent choice later on. gracefully as a sailor, to safety. He dreaded the day when she would leave | The bull was now but twenty yards behim, whether to teach or to establish her hind. He paused, as Hetty had hopped, own home. Meanwhile, he found her a to trample and toss the offending red gay companion, as well as an ambitious jacket. But he soon realized it was one. He sometimes thought that the only a sacrifice to him-a sort of sop clear, Canadian, sunshine outdoors was to his anger. Abandoning it with a less bright than the sunshine of Hetty's snort, he thundered after the boy and presence inside the house; and this is girl. possibly as fine a compliment as any Alec was only too eager to follow Tather can pay his daughter, whether he Hetty's example and climb the willow. tells it to her or not.

Hetty knew, of course, that he father His first cry of fear broke from his lips; loved her. She was always happy when yet is was not craven fear, but rather a she was near him. But few grown people cry of desolation and abandonment can ever concentrate so hard on a given He thought that Hetty had deserted him problem as does a girl of Hetty's age on leaving him to face his fate alone at the some problem in her own life. Hetty's foot of the great, inaccessible trunk. problem was to fit herself for schoolteaching and she gave it earnest thought of remorse and self-reproach went and study every day.

which she stood in need.

Her shopping proved successful and was only a stupid blundering bull. she hugged with elation under one arm | She dropped to the ground, with the the little bundle of books which her good bull less than forty feet away. Lifting dairying had earned for her. The goal Alec in her strong arms, she hoisted him of her ambition seemed nearer than ever until his fingers could catch the friendly before; and to her hopeful young eyes, branch overhead. He squirmed and the rough landscape were a glory beyond kicked, drawing, himself up to safety. even that of the brilliant autumn weather | With not a single second to spare, Hetty and the bright October sun.

was little over five miles.

prospect of a cross-country walk.

Pushing their way through the bushes barrens and dismal stretches of burnt her arm. lands, the two moved blithely and

briskly.

boy who adored his tall sister and felt in church." proud of what he considered his repon- "Oh. Alec," gasped the girl. "I pretty stbillty in escorting her. Before long nearly left you all alone down there on their trail led them across a stretch of the ground." rough pasture. There was a shallow "Forget it!" said Alec stoutly. "You brook, and beside it grew an old willow boosted me up here before I knew what with wide-spreading branches. At the was happening. What's the matter with other end of the pasture, amid a throng you? . Maybe you forgot I wasn't big of gray and black stumps, was gathered enough to grab this branch from the a little herd of red cattle.

Hetty and Alec, being farm children. Evidently he ascribed Hetty's tears to wald these cattle no attention, but walked womanly weakness. Before long she steadily toward them.

ETTY MARTIN was eighteen. She the critters think we've got some salt lived on her father's farm, not for 'em? They're all moving down this

> her face changed and she cried, "Watch out, Alec!" in a tone of keen anxiety.

"Why, what's the matter?" "That's Rodgers' bull!"

Hetty's face was even more anxious. "The big re-'n'-white critter?" inquired the boy, indifferently.

"Yes. They say he's terribly ugly, continued Hetty. 'He's coming right at Whatever can we do?"

"I guess it's that red jacket of yours Hetty. It's so awful red! Red makes bulls mad," exclaimed Alec, trying hard to keep himself from breaking into a

By this time they were near the centre of the big pasture. In front of them was the angry bull in the lead. Behind them was the brook, with the big willow tree. Hetty looked back over her shoulder; and as she did so the bull gave a hoarse, mumbling roar, powed the turf. lowered his horns and seemed ready to

· Hetty tugged frantically at her red jacket. For the first time in Alec's memory she seemed to have lost her presence.

"Come!" Alec tugged at her arm. "We must run. Hetty, even if it's nothin' but an old buil. We can make it to the tree before he can catch us an' he'll kill

This brought the girl to her senses. England; and he was naturally well she and Alec broke into desperate pleased with the living he made from flight. Hetty was the faster runner of his ploneer farm. Men who have lived the two, but her skirt impeded her, and in close touch with their neighbors in so did the precious package of books. a grimy city often find themselves both They could plainly hear the thunder soothed and inspired by a change to of the bull's hoofs on the turf behind broad acres of their own. Mr. Martin them; and, although Hetty expected was primarily a dairy farmer, but he that she would leave Alec behind, as she also found the soil favorable to many had always done when racing him for vegetables and to an orchard which he fun, he now ran several steps in front

bull by judiciously tossing to him her hat There were times, however when he her shawl, her coat and other specimens

But the branch was far beyond his reach. At Alec's heart-broken cry, a horror

through Hetty's heart and transformed On a beautiful autumn day, taking her her. Up to now she had been but a ten-year-old brother Alec for company, frightened girl, thinking mostly about Hetty walked into the little town of her gay red jacket and her books. Now Stanley, a distance of about six miles by she became a different being. If a pack the main road, for the purpose of buying of wolves had been surrounding her with her butter money some textbooks of brother, she would have rushed to his side without a thought of fear. And this

tumped for the branch, caught it with The distance home, in a straight line her strong hands and drew up her feet through the woods and back pastures, just as the bull's right horn caught one of them a glancing blow. But the blow "We'll go by this trail," said Hetty to meant nothing to her. She was safe; Alec, and the boy was delighted by the and more important, she had saved little Alec's life.

· Even at that moment, however, her with a pleasant rustling of dry leaves, feeling of self-reproach was so strong among great boulders and stumps, over that she burst into uncontrolled sobs. In charred rail-fences and across swampy a minute she felt Alec's hand patting

"Aw, what are you crying for?" asked Alec. in suprise. "That old bull can't Alec was a light-hearted. well-built climb trees. We're as safe as if we were

ground." .

stopped crying, and wiped the tears from Suddenly Alec exclatmed: "I wonder if her cheeks with the head

pocket, out in the pasture. The bull had knock this tree over and then hook us. trampled the jacket deep into the muddy soil near the brook.

Both Hetty and Alec looked down from their branch at the bull with surprise They were used to bulls, but this one's savage anger went beyond anything they had seen before. They expected him to glare at them for a while his protruding red eye, to snort and bellow for a while, and then to become bored by his inability to reach them. He would then go away, no doubt, and resume his ordinary meditations at some other place in the field.

But this bull was far too furious to the willow tree, pawing the earth even charged the tree, digging his short but sharp-pointed horns into the

boy felt a fearful sort of pleasure in "Butt away, you big bully!" cried Alec nutting one arm around the trunk for greater security. "I hope it makes your head ache! I hope you break every bone

But the bull's skull was evidently far harder than the wood of the tree. and he seemed to take feroclous joy in round him, at a respectful distance, stood the cows and young steers, staring at the scene with what seemed to be soft-eyed erged from the woods and seemed to be

"The nasty things!" cried Hetty anchiefs, and Hetty's was in her jacket grily. "I believe they'd like to see him Who'd have thought cows could be so

From his perch Alec now caught sight of the red tacket, fifty feet on the other side of the brook. It was a sorry sight, torn, trampled, and muddy.

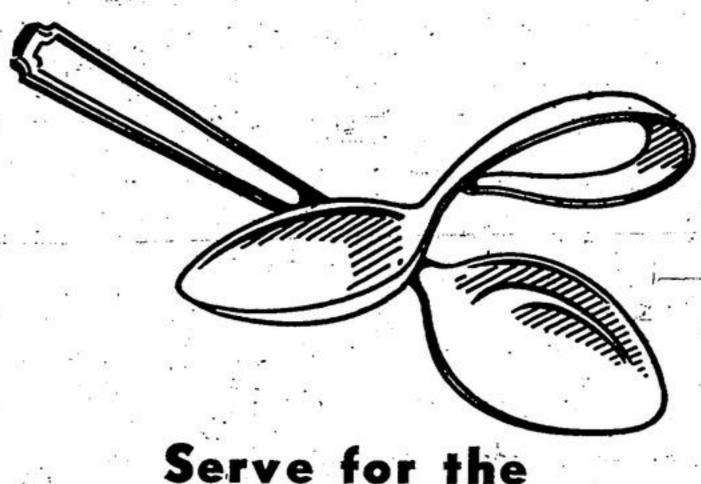
"Look, Hetty! He's spoiled your new acket: What a shame!" "Let him." answered the girl. "Guess that jacket paid for itself, all right. It

saved both of our lives." But after ten minutes more, which the bull filled with his terrifying antics, Hetty began to notice that twilight was setting in. The prospect of being treed all night by this persistent bull was a serious one, more especially as she had no coat to wear. She fixed her eyes regretfully on the wreck of her jacket. She wondered if her father would come to the rescue. But he would not search for her on this rough country trail: he would expect her, as usual to keep to a mile or more. It would be useless to call for help; anyone who could hear such a call would have long since heard

A faint glimmer of hope came to Hetty when the bull seemed at last to weary of the one-sided game he was playing. Rejoining the herd, he led it back to the red jacket, which he again attacked. As he was waving it on his horns, and flinging it to the ground and trampling it under his hoofs, Hetty and Alec sud-A large, wide-antierel buck had em-

the roars of the bull.

· (Continued on Page Seven)



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# Special Prize List

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1	Best High Stepping Horse in harness, 1st, \$3.00; 2nd, \$2.00, by E. Tyler	\$5
2		5
3	Best Light Express Horse, 1st, \$3.00; 2nd, \$2.00, by J. M. McDonald, J. P.	5
£	Best Lady Driver, 1st, cushion, value \$3.00, by Acker Furniture Co.; 2nd, cash, \$1.50, by Geo. Edwards	4
5	Best Single Saddle Horse, 1st, \$3.00, by Jas. Symon; 2nd, A. D. Savage, Guelph, cash, \$2.00	5
3	Best Colt one or two years old, sired by a thoroughbred horse, suitable for hunter, by Duncan Campbell, 1st, \$3.00; 2nd, \$2.00 cash	5
	Best High Jumping Horse, three out of five tests, 1st, cash, \$8.00, by Beardmore Leathers Ltd.; 2nd, cash, \$5.00, by G. A. Dills and Beardmore Leathers Ltd.; 3rd, cash,	_
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	Best Agricultural or Heavy Draft Brood Mare, 1st, by Geo.  Cowie, Whiffletrees, value \$4.00; this special to apply to	

off implements; 3rd, by Alex. Hume, \$5.00 off any 9 Best Draught, Agricultural or General Purpose Animal on the grounds. Championship Badge. 10 Best Agricultural or Heavy Draft Team, 1st, by Storey Glove

11 Best and Fastest Road Horse, speed 60 per cent.; conformation and soundness, 40 per cent.; to be driven round the track once hitched to a four-wheeled vehicle, without boots or hobbles, to give three exhibitions of speed. 1st, by Dr. R. K. Anderson, cash, \$10.00; 2nd, by Amos Mason, cash, \$6.00; 3rd, by Amos Mason, cash, \$4.00 .....

-12 Running Relay Race, half mile, 3 horses to enter, 1st, cash, \$12.00; 2nd, cash, \$8.00; 3rd, cash, \$5.00 .... 13 Best Spring Colt, sired by Brilliant, by William Brennan, to be deducted from service fee, 1934, 1st, \$5.00; 2nd, \$3.00; 14 Best Roadster, mare or gelding, by Bank of Nova Scotia, Acton,

1st, cash, \$6.00; 3rd, cash, \$4.00: This special to take the place of Class 6, Section 1 15 Best Carriage, Mare or Gelding, by Bank of Montreal, Acton, 1st, cash, \$6.00; 3rd, \$4.00. This special to take the place of Class 6, Section 2 .....

16 Steeplechase on horseback, to be judged on points, 1st, cash, \$7.00; 2nd, cash, \$5.00; 3rd, cash \$3.00 ..... A similar event will be held in Arena First Evening of Fair 17 Best Lady Rider, by Acton Creamery, 1st, cash, \$3.00; 2nd,

#### CATTLE SPECIALS

Best Herd of Shorthorn Cattle, 1 bull and four females. 1st, by Gilson Manufacturing Co., Guelph, plow shares to the value of \$6.00. This special to apply to Class 7, Section 19 Best Baby Beef, steer or helfer, any breed, 1st, cash, \$3.00; 2nd, cash, \$2.00; by Union Stock Yards, Toronto. This prize to take the place of Class 7, Section 10 ..... 20 Best Herd of Jersey Cattle, 1 bull and 4 females, 1st, by Ontario Bakeries, Guelph, bread tickets to the value of

\$5.40; 2nd, by Acton U. F. O., cash, \$2.00 .... 21 Best Group of Three Dairy Cows, consisting of one mature cow, one two-year-old heffer, and one yearling, to be sired by a pure bred bull, by The T. Eaton Company, Toronto, one 8-day mantel clock, chrome finish, marble and onyx

22 Calf Club. See special announcement elsewhere in this prize list. Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, cash, \$57.00; Halton & Peel Jersey Cattle Breeders Association, cash, \$20.00; Acton Fall Fair Board, cash, \$15.00; W. K. Graham, Manager Bank of Nova Scotla, Acton. cash. \$5.00 ......

## SHEEP, HOG AND POULTRY SPECIALS

Best Flock of Sheep, consisting of 1 ram, 2 ewes and 2 ewe lambs, any breed, by Councillor L. L. Mullin, 1st, cash, \$3.00; 2nd, cash, \$2.00 ..... 24 Best Pair of Marketable Wether Lambs, 1st, by Councillor G. W. Murray, cash, \$2.00; 2nd, by Chas. Wilson, \$1.00.... 3 00. Best Boar and Sow, most suitable to produce bacon type, 1st, by Chas. Barber, Guelph, bacon, value \$3.00; 2nd, by Doughety & McFarlane, seed merchants, Guelph 26 Best Pair of Bacon Hogs, weight from 190 to 230 pounds, by Messrs. Cook Bros., Toronto Stock Yards, 1st, cash, \$3.00; 2nd, by R. J. Kerr, cash, \$2.00 .....

27 Best Pen of 12 bred-to-lay Pullets, S. C. White Leghorns or B. P. Rocks by C. W. McKeown, 1st, cash, \$2.00; 2nd, GRAIN, ROOT AND VEGETABLE SPECIALS

#### 28 Best Collection of Farm Produce, including grain, roots, vegetables, fruit, flowers, domestic science, ladies' fancy work, and children's work, not more than forty samples

gardeners not eligible, 1st, by Pioneer Equipment Company, Guelph, one Hudson Autocrat Sprayer, value \$5.00; 2nd, by M. Pallant Acton, one pair of Lighthouse Overalls and Smock, value \$3.50 29 Best Collection of 3 mangolds, 3 turnips, 2 pumpkins and 2 cabbages, by Woodhall & Musselle, goods from greenhouse, value, 1st, \$3.00; 2nd, \$2.00 ...... 30 Best Bag of Dooley Potatoes, donor to receive same, by Alex McIsaac, cash ..... 31 Best Bag of Dooley Potatoes donor to receive same by King

& McEachern, cash ..... 32 Best Bag of Dooley Potatoes, donor to receive same, by Jas. Ramshaw, cash 33 Best Bag of Dooley Potatoes, donor to receive same, by John H. Bennett, cash

34 Best Bag of Potatoes, donor to receive same, by T. Morton .... 35 Best Bag of Potatoes, donor to receive same, by Wm. Cooper 36 Best Bushel of Dooley Potatoes, donor to receive same, by A. T. Brown, cash...

.51 Best Bag of Russett Potatoes, donor to receive same, by Thos. Watson, cash 36 1/2 Best Basket of Yellow Globe Danvers Onions, donor to receive same, by A. T. Brown, cash

37 Best 100 lbs. of Brewing Barley, suitable for brewing and not for seed, must be grown in 1933. Winners must not compete at other fall fairs for this special, though this does not debar from exhibiting at the Royal and Guelph Winter Fairs. By Ontario and Quebec Brewing Industry, 1st, cash, \$6.00; 2nd, cash, \$5.00; 3rd, cash, \$4.00; 4th, cash, \$2.00; 5th, cash, \$1.00

## FRUIT SPECIALS

38 Best, Bushel McIntosh Red Apples, donor to receive same, by G. A. Dills, cash, \$3.00 .... Best Bushel Northern Spy Apples, donor to receive same, by W. D. Talbot, cash 40 Best Barrel Northern Spy Apples, donor to receive same, by Brown's Fruit Store, Acton, cash 41 Best Barrel of Northern Spy Apples, samples to be shown, delivery later, by "Anonymous," apply to Secretary for proper name, cash

42 Best Barrel of Northern Spy Apples, samples to be shown, delivery later, by Rev. C. L. Poole, cash ..... Best Bushel of McIntosh Reds, donor to receive same, by Mrs. H. P. Moore, apples to be delivered to "Moorecroft" in October, each ......

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