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The Unsullied World

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Home Stead

allotments supplied many a family with firewood and posts for which they paid the Indians little or nothing.

Prairie fires were always to be dreaded and could be very dangerous, but high water and flashfloods on creeks and rivers were much more destructive and caused more property damage to property and loss of life to both livestock and human beings — as well as being very unpredictable.

Trouble between the cattlemen and settlers was not uncommon before the turn of the century and often caused serious injury or death to someone involved in the disagreement before being brought to an end. This trouble was mostly caused when wire fences were erected to protect crops and thereby restricted the open range for the ranchers' cattle and horses.

People from many different states were eventually to come to the area. Most were real farmers of experience, while some were only "would-be" farmers from some town or city; and they knew little or nothing about farming, especially in a raw new land. Some were mere speculators who intended to stay only long enough to prove up on their claim, sell out, and go back home — wherever that might be. Others stayed only a year or so and left broke and badly disillusioned.

Some families were hard to become friends with as they still had the Civil War on their minds and had never surrendered. They felt very bitter over the war most of their lives; but as the younger generations became acquainted, this animosity eventually disappeared. ■

■ R. R. Chapman

THE UNSULLIED WORLD

A desolate war-weary world
lies barren beneath a blazing
sun that scorches life from the land.
Many wheels of battle have packed
the ground into a cement-hard
wasteland that cannot soak up the
pounding rain from the savage clouds
raging so fiercely over all.
Pillaged top-soil flows into streams
advancing on their winding way
toward the sea's filthy cesspool.

But it was not always this way.

Long ago God entrusted His
Creation to the human race.
The soil was rich and plant growth
lush.
The air was pure and water clear
and songs of birds enhanced the peace
that seemed to settle everywhere.
The humans and animals lived
in a perfect environment
but through the years man's onerous
deeds destroyed most of the beauty
of a world that was unsullied.