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## SPRING THE RESIDENCE PROPERTY IS NOT TO

Sam kicked a clad of dry sad. It crumbles into powdery dust. He searched the sky for

rain clouds but the sun arinned down unmercifully. The cattle lowed piteously at times Once a well-fed lat, they showed their ribs

Martha come out of the ranch house to clonce wearly at the unpromision sky. A horse

clottered up.

"HI, Todd," Sam greated his neighboring rancher cheerfully. But there was nothing cheerful for the two men to talk about, as they souffed the bone dry soil

"Sure looks bad," muttered Todd. "If we don't get rain soon. I'll ship my stock and

"We'll all have to, maybe," gareed Sam,

"By the way, dropped by to tell you there's a tough-looking stranger about. If he comes by, give him a wide berth."

"Why?" asked San "A bad penty, if you ask me," confiden Torid. "Looks plenty mann. When he offered to do chares for a square meal, I chased him pro-to. Con't take risks with every hobo you

see, waiting to rob you when your back's "Can't tell a bad penny just by looking at it," returned Som without olorer "You have too much faith in human nature. Den't say I didn't warn you." Todd rade off.

sheking his head Sam turned to his chares. He was stocking wood for Martho's stove when he heard o light footstep behind him. Som whirled at the unshaven man who had come up sliently.

"Name's John," the stronger affered, in a "Howdy," nodded Sam, looking him over. It was Todd's "bad penny" all right-unkempt lean and hungry, with a pair of cold eyes and

a lapsided low. The stronger suddenly picked up the axe, balancing it in his hand, with a speculative plance at Som With one move, he would have Som at

his mercy. . . .

"Any man," sold Som stendily, "who earns his keep here gets a share of my wife's cook-

John's valy face twitched a moment, before

2 soft late a wide orin, "Thanks, mister," he sold, storting to chop with quick, sure strokes. Som smiled as he turned away. "Poor fellow," he thought. "Stared at me like a sick dog before. Afrold I'd kick and chase him

away. Reckon most falks do, like Todd. But a penny lun't bad-just because it doesn't Later, after one of Martha's hearty meals,

the two men tolked over their pipes. Now washed and tidy. John didn't look touch at all. In fact, he looked shrewd, intelligent. John confided that he hadn't always been a

"You won't believe this," he finished has itently, "but I'm a geologist-without a jab." "A good penny, like I thought," chuckled Som to himself, "Wait till ( tell Yorld)

John went an casually, "By the way, I noin geology-which looked to me as though it might cover a hidden spring. It's on your

Som dropped his pipe, "Where? Show me!" The arraya was rocky and the harses stumbled. It looked impossible for any hidden spring to lurk in the stony bottom. But John kicked stones aside and began scooping moist Before his astonished eyes, he saw a trickle

"A deep pressure fissure," Informed John.

"Plenty of water will keep coming-for years. Enough to irrigate most of your land." "Saved," Sam breathed, in the tanes of a

He looked at the strenger. 























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