

A Railroad Novelist



J. MURRAY GIBBON

A railroad man and head of the publicity department of the Canadian Pacific Railway, still finds time for literary work. His latest work "Hearts and Faces," deals with subjects as remote from Canadian railway life as anything could possibly be imagined. Born in Ceylon, the son of a titled Scotchman, a graduate of Oxford, and former editor of the well known London Illustrated paper, "Black and White," Mr. Gibbon has crowded much into his 41 years. He speaks several languages.

WHY A DOG'S TAIL WAGS

When a dog's tail whips to and fro frantically he is not carrying on an aimless muscular exercise. He is signalling the thoughts and feelings which he cannot put into words. It is his own code, and varies according to the message he wishes to flash on his rearward semaphores. He has a short twitching motion that expresses anxiety and interest, a violent lashing that makes known his enthusiasm and affection, a steady whipping from side to side that spells hunger, and a motionless droop that signals defeat and discouragement. Canine experts have always been able to read these wigwaggings, but it took science to explain why the dog used them.

This is the explanation. When a dog is pleased and delighted he must have some outlet for his feelings. Just as a bashful boy in the presence of ladies twirls his cap or twirls about wildly in his chair, or as a person tickled beyond measure by some humorous sally rolls on the floor and holds his sides, the dog wags his tail. The human beings in the situations described above are striving through physical action to relieve the strain on their nerves. Embarrassment must be relieved through some outward convulsion of muscles. Fido becomes filled with joy, and his tail, like a safety valve, takes the pressure off his nervous system. His emotions must be translated into some physical manifestation.

JAPANESE SUPERSTITION

The Japanese have many curious superstitions about animals, the chief among which is their belief in the supernatural power of foxes. There are numberless shrines, indeed, dedicated to foxes in Japan. The badger is another animal feared by the superstitious Japanese mind. It is believed to have power to annoy people, and to be able to turn into a priest at will. The crying of weasels and the baying of dogs are considered evil omens, and such insignificant happenings send a shudder over the believers. In Japan a light-colored mouse in the house is a sign of happiness. If a spider falls from the ceiling in the morning it brings pleasure, but if at night, it is thought to be very unlucky. To see a centipede at night means happiness in Japan.

Advice About Ducks

The breeding ducks should have a stream of clear water to bathe in. It is not essential, but it gives better fertility. When the drakes are forced to tread on land they oftentimes slip and rotten eggs or dead germs result. Ducklings raised for market have water only to drink, and every precaution is taken to keep them out of it. A muddy or dirty duck will not thrive. Keep the pens as clean as possible. Feed the best and purest of foods, and be extremely careful not to have any sour food lying around, and to keep their water absolutely clear and fresh.

The Ideal Home

In building that new home build it for the future and for convenience. Don't compromise for immediate conditions. Build it so it will make more pleasant the lives of those living in it and lengthen the lives of those who must toil in it.

To sell a thing to a man who really doesn't want it is not smart; it is only making an enemy of him.

Mustard plaster will not blister if mixed with the white of an egg and hot water.

ALFALFA IN EAST

How to Sow and Care For With or Without "Nurse Crop"

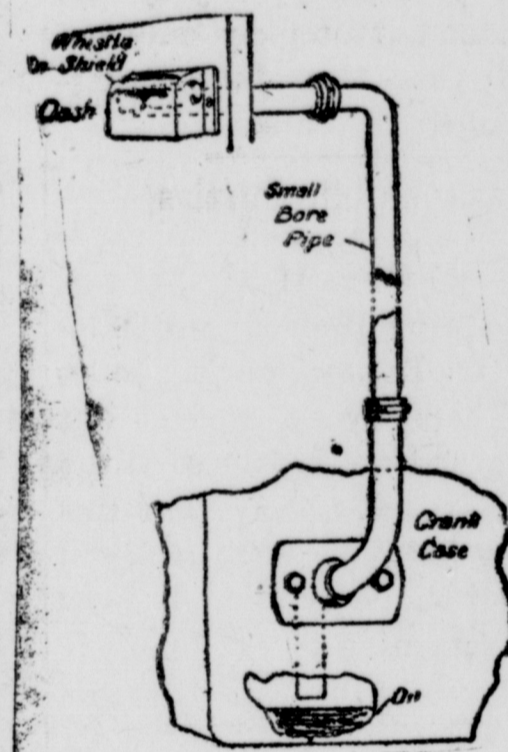
Dr. Maite of the Dominion Experimental Farm deals as follows with alfalfa growing in Eastern Canada: When sown with a nurse crop the seed is sown from the grass seed attachment of the grain drill. When sown without a nurse crop, the seed can be sown broadcast either by hand or from the grass seed attachment to the grain drill. It can also be sown in drills from the grain tubes of the ordinary seeder. In the latter case the seed should be mixed with some coarser material to prevent too thick seeding. For this purpose ground wheat crushed as coarsely as possible is generally used. The alfalfa seed is mixed with the crushed wheat and the drill set to put on the amount wanted. For instance, 20 pounds of alfalfa mixed with 40 pounds of crushed wheat, and the drill sowing one bushel per acre will mean 20 pounds of alfalfa sown to the acre.

Whatever method used, the ground should be harrowed and rolled immediately after sowing and then the surface of the rolling lightly broken with a brush harrow, a weeder or a tilting harrow. If the land is deficient in plant food, alfalfa may be sown in rows about eighteen inches apart. By this method, however, a crop is obtained which, though it may be satisfactory as to quantity, is somewhat inferior in quality to the crop obtained when the seed is sown broadcast or in drills from the seeder.

LIKE A HUNGRY BABY

You Can Make Your Automobile Engine Cry For Oil

An Englishman is responsible for a new automobile accessory which virtually makes the engines call for oil



When the oil gets low. A continuous alarm is sounded if the lubricant in the crank chamber falls below a given level. The device consists of a small brass tube with a whistle of suitable size fixed in one end and mounted on the dash.

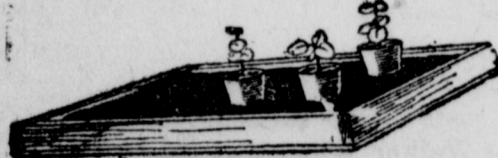
The tube is inserted through the crank chamber and the air pulsations produced by the moving piston have the power to sound the whistle. This can only be done, however, when the oil goes below the level of the tube which is placed so that its end will be just above the bottom of the case—or as soon as the quantity of oil becomes too low to get to the cranks.

Use a Knife Blade

The newest way to remove small particles of metals that become lodged in the eye is with a magnet, and as these small particles are flying about in the air most of the time it is a good thing to know that a knife blade makes a splendid magnet for this purpose when properly treated. Unscrew the cap and remove the diaphragm of a telephone receiver and gently stroke the knife on one of the magnet's exposed. Be sure you use the same magnet. Within a very short time the blade will become sufficiently magnetized to be used on the eye.

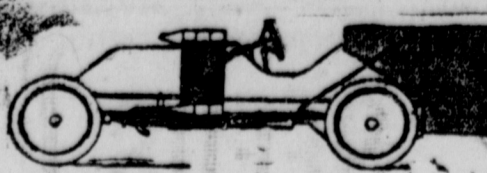
Paper Flower Pots

A good way to start plants is to plant the seed in a cylinder of paper



filled with earth and set in a tray that is also filled with earth. There is no bottom in the cylinder and the plant can be left in it throughout its life. When sufficient growth has been attained to warrant transplanting the plant, cylinder and all are set into the ground. The roots will break through the paper if it is necessary for them to do so. This makes transplanting a much cleaner and quicker job than the old method of taking the plants from pots.

Rudder Prevents Auto Skidding



Hundreds of deaths have been caused and many horrible accidents resulted from the skidding of automobiles on wet streets or when going at high speed around curves. A thoughtful French autoist has had great success with a device, which is nothing more nor less than a huge rudder attached to the rear of the machine which presents a large surface to the air and can be swung so as to meet the wind and hold the rear end of the machine in line. The rudder used on the machine shown in the sketch was made of metal and adjusted firmly to the chassis.

BURGLAR TRAPS AND PROTECTORS

Better Keep the Midnight Marauder Outside Than Fight With Him After He Enters the House

Most burglars are amateurs at the business; lots of them have little real burglar experience, and they are easily outwitted. Naturally it is much more pleasant to keep a burglar out of the house than to put him out when once he has loaded his bag.

A good way to fasten windows is to run screws through the upright frames, connecting both upper and lower sash.

Locks on door can be easily opened from the outside; bolts are more secure, but if the bolt is placed as usual, with the bolt running along the door and the socket on the frame any burglar can cut through the door and move the bolt. Reverse the bolt, placing it on the casing, with the catch or socket on the door and you've foiled the man on the outside.

If you can't bolt the door, slip a

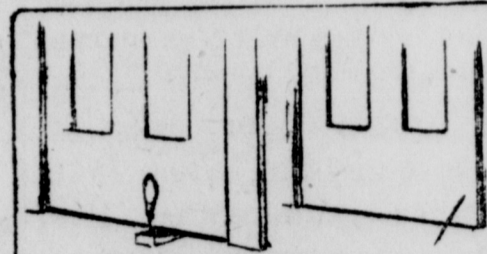


Screws to Make Window Sashes Burglar Proof

wedge beneath it, having the big end of the wedge fastened to the floor by a nail or any sharp pointed tool, such as an awl.

A double pointed nail with one end resting against the door, the other against the floor, will make it impossible for any one to open the door from the outside, for the more one would push the farther the nail would be jammed into both door and floor.

Another good way to protect doors is to pile some kitchen pans on a table with the broom extending from the pans to the door. When Mister Burglar opens the door he pushes against the broom and the broom throws the pans on the floor. Result:



Wedge or Double-pointed Nail to Keep Door From Opening

A great noise, and burglar runs for his life.

If there is anything burglars don't like, it's noise. Tie a weight to a cord, run the cord across the door near the top, fastening it on the other side. When the door is opened it presses against the cord, breaking it and sending the weight down with a great crash.

One man who was bothered with intruders coming into his kitchen and making away with food, hung a broom

on water, tied it over the door with just a couple of inches of bucket, extending down over the door. When the door was opened the bucket was overturned, drenching the man below. The burglar never found out how he got his ducking, but he never got over the threshold.

If you are going away even for the day, don't pull down all the window shades and close the windows. That tells a burglar looking for "jobs" that the house is not occupied, and he may try to enter either then or that night.



There'll be a Frightful Racket if a Burglar Opens This Door

Unchanging Fashion
The thermometer which has served as a model for all those made ever since was constructed by Fahrenheit at Amsterdam in 1724.

ELECTRICITY IN HOMES

Canadian Housewives Encouraged to Use It in Summer

The use of electricity in the home is gradually developing. Its original utility as a source of light has been extended to the supplying of energy for the electric iron and toaster, the sewing and washing machines and the vacuum cleaner. Electric ranges are coming into general use, the first objection, the relatively high initial cost of the range, having been overcome. One domestic use which electricity seems admirably adapted but which, thus far, has received insufficient attention is that of providing hot water. In many Canadian homes, the furnaces or coal ranges are provided with attachments to supply hot water for the kitchen, bath room and laundry during the winter months. As the furnace remains unused from the middle of spring and coal ranges are not regularly used during summer, the supply of hot water throughout the house is lacking from May to November. Supplying this service by electricity is a great convenience to the householder, and, at the same time, opens a new field for the desired summer load to the central station or other organization dealing in electric energy.

Several Canadian central stations, aware of the benefits to be derived from such a load, have introduced special systems of charging for this service. In Toronto, one organization has an arrangement with one small (500 watts) and one large (2,000 watts) heating unit; the idea is to charge for the small unit on a moderate flat rate basis and keep it operating constantly for ordinary domestic needs, while the large unit, which need be used only for abnormal requirements, such as laundering, is charged for at a low meter rate. The cost of the installation, including jacketted tank, plumbing, etc., is \$30.00. Many companies do not meter the consumption of the hot water heater, charging a monthly flat rate for this service.

These companies have also been encouraging the "cooking-by-wire" movement; usually, it is stipulated that water heater and range are to be served through the same double-way switch so that both the range and the heater are not operated at the same time. The water heater is usually kept on continually except when using the range; thus, the boiler is heated over night and, if properly jacketted with non-conducting material, remains hot enough through the day to supply the demand while the range is in service.

SPRING FIRE-PEAK

If the forest fire ranger was represented by a line rising and falling as the danger increased or decreased there would be a sharp rise or "peak" in the few weeks after the winter snow leaves the woods. This is so much the case that the term "Spring Fires" is well known to every forester. The ground is dry, the dead leaves and herbage are sapless and tindery, and the least spark may start a fire that will sweep whole miles of forest. All who go to the woods are cautioned to see that they are especially careful to put out completely their camp fires and to see that no fires start from matches, pipes, cigar stubs or live stumps. Canada has many fire guardians on duty in the spring but if these rules are observed much more timber will be saved than can be saved through the most strenuous efforts of fire fighters. The time to stop a forest fire is before it starts.

This is the can that holds the coffee you hear so much about



SEAL BRAND Coffee try it!

In 1/2, 1 and 2 pound cans. Whole-ground-pulverized—also Fine Ground for Percolators. 166

Alsace Will Bring Wealth To France

In 1904 deposits of potassium salts were discovered in Upper Alsace district. Thirteen wells have been bored which permit an estimate to be made of the value of these deposits. The value is put at two thousand four hundred millions of pounds.

By taking possession of the Mulhouse district, an area of about thirty seven miles in width, France will, therefore, obtain possession of capital enough to cover the whole expenses of the war.

"An excellent affair," adds the writer, and if the estimate is correct he is certainly right, for no gold mine that ever was discovered can be mentioned in the same breath with this subterranean treasure house. Mineral deposits have a deal more to do with wars than is generally supposed.

Many people have marvelled why Italy went to such enormous expense and trouble to conquer Tripoli.

The fact is that Tripoli has deposits of sulphur even greater than those of Sicily. I only knew that Germany wanted Tripoli, and that once Germany laid hands on the country, she herself would at once lose her monopoly of sulphur and with it a revenue of some millions a year.

To come back to the present war, the reason why the Russians at once proceeded to overrun Galicia was because of its treasures of petroleum. Galicia is the fourth greatest producer among oil-bearing countries. The output is some nine million barrels a year, and British companies control a large part of this output.

On November 21st, 1914, a British expedition took Basra, a town of about forty thousand people, fifty-six miles up from the Persian Gulf. Basra is a detestably unhealthy place, but it is particularly suitable for naval use, and contains oil enough to keep our navy going for generations to come.

Scraps For Fowl

For a small flock (six hens and a cock), and where there will be more or less table scraps, it is best to feed the scraps (bread, potatoes, meat, etc.), in the morning, and in the evening give a grain ration of a mixture of equal parts of corn and wheat, allowing a handful to each fowl. Where there is not a good supply of table scraps, substitute a morning mash of whole oats soaked for about an hour in hot water, and then after being drained, mix with sufficient bran to absorb the moisture. To this mixture add about 15 per cent. of yeast scraps.