

A Railroad Novelist

PERHAPS the best known of the younger literary critics in America is Archie Bell of the "Cleveland Leader." For that reason his tribute to the work of a C. P. R. official is well worth attention. That work is a work of fiction, "Hearts and Faces" by name, and is as remote from Canadian railway life as anything could possibly be imagined. Here is what Archie Bell has to say:—

John Murray Gibson was born in Ceylon. His father is a titled Scotchman. He is a graduate of Oxford, and he has taken special courses in philosophy at various German universities. And despite some of these things, popularly considered handicaps to "getting on in the world," he came back to London and was soon editor of the well-known illustrated newspaper, "Black and White."

Realizing that he did not know as much as he wanted to know about art, a realization that came home to him each day as he sat at his editorial desk, he resigned and went to Paris to become an art student.

He lived in the famous Latin Quarter at night and spent the days in Colarossi's Atelier. Then he went to Italy and Algiers, Japan and China, and to many other countries.

Then one day, an official position was offered him by the Canadian Pacific Railway. At the age of forty-one he has achieved distinction as a practical railroad man, despite all those years of preparation that were spent in pursuits so popularly believed to unfit a man for the practical life.

The busiest men are the ones who find the most time. In the past two years, John Murray Gibson has been attending to his railroad duties with one hand, and with the other hand has been writing a novel, which has just been issued by the famous publishing house of John Lane in England and S. B. Gundy in Toronto.

"Hearts and Faces" is the story of an artist it treats of the artistic temperament as it sallies forth into the warmer world from the somewhat unpromising environment of Scotland.

George Grange is found amid rather commonplace surroundings in the first few lines of the novel. There his character, or at least the foundation for his character, is being formed. He never escapes from this environment, because he carries it with him wherever he goes.

Delightfully true pictures of Scottish ideals are sketched in the earlier chapters, and then with the first fling at the biting satire which frequently illuminates subsequent pages, George Grange throws aside his university studies. He longs for freedom and life, and falling in with a lovable old character, a Scottish painter, he also learns to paint.

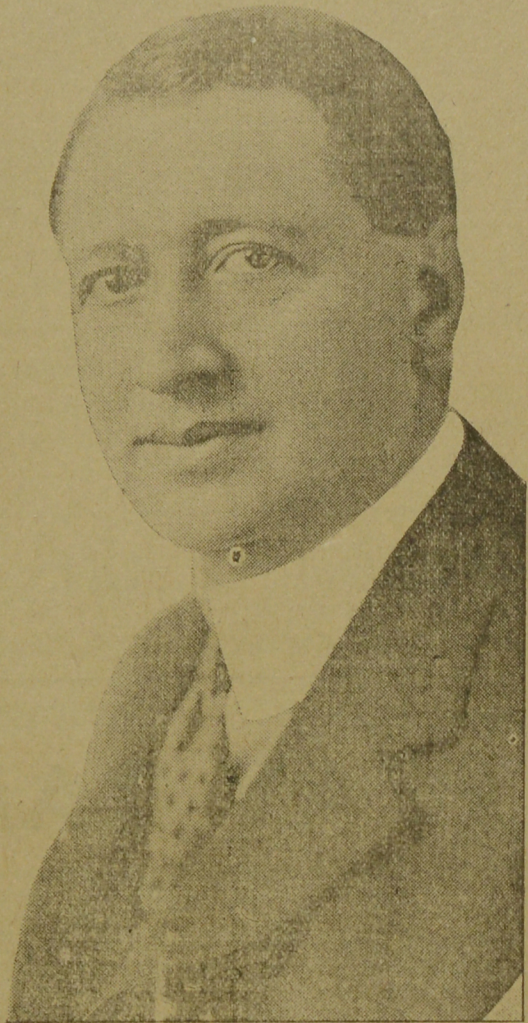
He goes to London in the great quest of success and gradually climbs the ladder by encouraging and diligent toil, until a committee waits upon him and offers him a commission to paint a portrait of the king for a fashionable club. Gibson draws a steady and grim picture of the intriguing London society folk—whom he knows well enough—and occasionally he pays his respects to the American "clubbers" in the smart set. There is no venom in his satire of his own people, not of the foreigners, but he paints portraits in words that are carefully chosen and forceful.

His hero is thrown into this glistening, human pot pourri, and "keep his shirt clean" up to the great moment of his life, when he falls a victim of a designing woman and loses all.

Again Scotch pluck to the rescue, however, and he goes to Paris, where many of the scenes are doubtless somewhat autobiographical. It is the Latin Quarter life of reality. Not that grotesque comedy version which we too often mistake for the reality, and not even that fascinating life sketched so indelibly by Henri Morger, which did more to popularize "Latin Quarter Life" than any of the pictures ever painted there. But life on the banks of the Seine, as it is lived by the students of art and the girls who know no other world.

Sometimes these pictures are gay, sometimes sordid; but they are never vulgar. Through them move many characters with whom the reader has become acquainted in the earlier chapters. Amid these scenes, as in London, and later in Germany and Italy, George Grange moves as the most important figure. It is the adventure of a soul. And each adventure is traced with a canny knowledge of life as it is, rather than as many writers would like to believe it should be.

And it was written by a railroad man! Still, there are enough examples of versatility in the art world to prove that such an achievement is possible. A merchant of Russia composed music that is now sung in the opera houses of the world. It does not lessen Padrevski's ability as a pianist because he is a hotel keeper in Warsaw. John Alden Carpenter, of Chicago, is a "business man," yet he composed "Adventures in a Perambulator," which caused the staid music critics of the country to prick up their ears in the last two years. Caesar Franck was a school-teacher, even when he was writing his most famous symphony.



ALD. G. A. TAPLEY RUNS FOR MAYOR OF MARYSVILLE

Town Council Will Meet Tomorrow Night--Other Items of News.

Marysville, May 3.—The so called social dances held in Orange Hall on Friday evenings are certainly no credit to the town. On Friday evening last a Dublin riot was in full swing until the burly form of Town Marshal Saunders appeared on the scene, when order was quickly restored.

The little son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Estabrooks is seriously ill with diphtheria and very little hope is entertained for his recovery.

Rev. Mr. Roberts, of Main street Baptist church, exchanged pulpits with Rev. Mr. Hicks, pastor of the Methodist church, on Sunday evening last.

The Marysville Town Council will meet in regular monthly session on Tuesday evening next.

Ald. G. A. Tapley will on Tuesday evening tender his resignation as a member of the Town Council, and will accept nomination for Mayor. The many friends of Ald. Tapley will be pleased to hear that he has at last decided to offer himself for the office. It is possible there will be no opposition.

EUROPE'S PURCHASES OF WAR MATERIAL

Washington, May 1.—Europe's purchases of war materials in the United States totalled three hundred and forty million dollars at the end of the first twenty months of war. Figures assembled today in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce show that the heaviest month was March last, when more than \$50,000,000 worth of munitions left American ports. April totals have not been compiled.

Shipments of high explosive shells and shrapnel are crossing the Atlantic now at the rate of a million dollars' worth daily and vessels are carrying half a million dollars' worth of powder a day. Fire arms and cartridges valued at more than five million went to Europe during March.

LLOYD GEORGE WILL SPEAK OUT

New York, May 3.—The London correspondent of the Tribune cables as follows:

"David Lloyd George is going to make a remarkably frank speech on Saturday, rivaling in interest his now famous 'too late' address in the House of Commons last December.

"It is expected that his speech will have a direct bearing on his future official life as well as lay here Great Britain's position. Nothing equal in frankness has been said publicly by any cabinet minister since the war began.

Premier Asquith's announcement in the House of Commons that a measure of general conscription was to be introduced immediately was at once a striking victory for the Lloyd-George-Carson-Milner group, while it was a humiliating step for Mr. Asquith and those of his followers who have been opposing conscription practically for a year.

The bill seems assured of a speedy passage. Some of the more advanced of the labor members, however, intimated their belief that the bill was not justified.

FORT FAIRFIELD CHURCH BURNS

Fort Fairfield, May 2.—Fire broke out at 12:30 o'clock Tuesday morning in the United Baptist church of this place and when discovered the blaze had gained considerable headway. The firemen were soon upon the scene, but the fire had gained such headway that it was found impossible to save the building. They were, however, able to confine the fire to the church building. A brisk wind was blowing, carrying sparks some distance, but the good work of the firemen in keeping the surrounding buildings soaked with water saved the fire from spreading. None of the furnishings were saved from the building. The loss is estimated at \$9,000, insurance \$3,000.

The cause is unknown, but circumstances point very strongly to incendiarism, as there had been no fire in the building since early Sunday morning and several other fires which have occurred during the past few weeks are thought to be of an incendiary origin.

HOMESEEEKERS' EXCURSIONS

VIA CANADIAN GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS To Manitoba and the Canadian North West.

Excursion tickets will be sold every Wednesday until October 25th, to Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton and numerous other points in the Canadian Northwest. These tickets will be good for return within two months from date of issue. Full particulars can be obtained from any ticket agent of the Government Railways.

Holders of these tickets have the privilege of travelling by the new "Transcontinental Line" via Toronto, North Bay and Cochrane, Ont., to Winnipeg. Homeseekers' tickets reading via this route are good for stop-over at Cochrane, Ont., Hearst, Ont., and any intermediate station on Canadian Government Railways. Side trip tickets may also be purchased at Cochrane from points on the Canadian Government Railways east to and including Doucet, Que., at special low fare. These privileges will permit passengers to inspect the famous Clay belt of New Ontario, a rich farming country opened up by the new line of the Canadian Government Railways.

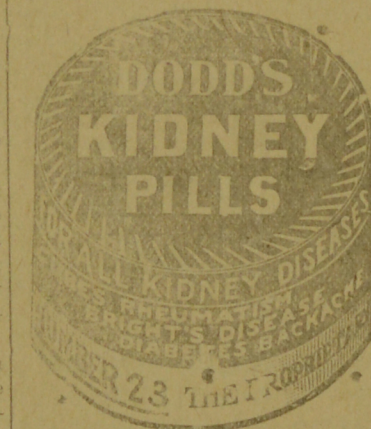
THINGS TO KNOW

To remove stains from serges and tweeds, put a tablespoonful of equilaia bark into a jug, pour over it a pint of boiling water. Let it cool, strain off and bottle. When required, apply it with a clean rag.

To clean vinegar cruets, put crushed eggshell and warm soapy water together in them and shake well. This will clean the glass well and will not scratch it.

Polished floors should be rubbed with a mixture of one-third raw linseed oil and two-thirds paraffin. Afterward polish with a dry cloth.

Old cotton blouses will make useful camisoles with the help of a little lace or embroidery.

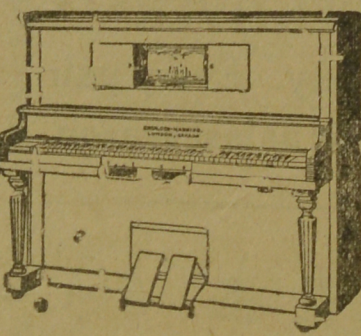


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MAINE YOUNG MAN'S MEMORY IS A BLANK

Augusta, Me., May 3.—Mrs. Ada H. Walden, superintendent of the University Hospital of Augusta, Ga., has written to the Secretary of State to inquire about a young man who is supposed to belong in Maine, but whose memory is now nearly a blank.

The letter says that on Feb. 29 a young man was found unconscious beside a railroad near Augusta, Ga., and he was taken to the hospital. Upon regaining consciousness he was found to have lost his memory. He can remember neither his name nor his place of residence. His initials are C. C. S. He believes he came from a town in Maine in which there are two banks. In one of which his father is paying teller, and the locality is famed for its potatoes.

He seems to think there are two sugar refineries in his native town. He has several times mentioned Aroostook county and seems to believe he was on his way to St. Augustine, Fla., with his mother, but left her at Washington and proceeded to Wilmington, N.C. He is an expert stenographer and is working at the hospital in that capacity.

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