

Men Marooned by George Marsh

A THRILLING TALE OF THE
HUDSON BAY COUNTRY

"Mr. McDonald,
"Schooner Ghost, Seal Cove, Akimisk
ki Island.

"Dear Sir:

"The bearer of this letter, Joe McDonald, the Indian you sent up river to steal the trade from me, is returned to you with thanks. He tried to ambush me at Elkwan lake, and it is solely owing to the fact that I could use him as a messenger, that you look upon his handsome face again.

"The purpose of this communication is to announce that, as you intend to hog the trade of Akimisk from your strategic position at Seal Cove, I shall use my position on the Elkwan to insure that trade going to me alone, as you may spare yourself the trouble of sending any more Indians up river for you'll never hear of them again. As to the island trade, I was here first and I'm going to fight you for it.

"GUTHRIE, ELKWAN."

Then the two men started back in the leaking York boat, and after a day of slavery at the sweeps, with the help of the northeast wind and the tide, reached Elkwan, and warped the craft up out of harm's way to her winter berth on the high shore.

The fight was on, but the saving of their share of the Christmas trade in foxes, when the pelts were prime, depended on the ice. Saul had a free hand to pick up all the skins he could get hold of for Guthrie at a good price, if the Indians would wait, but the lure of the schooner's trade goods within easy reach, would be too much for the mercurial Crees, unless the strait froze, and they could cross to Elkwan for the New Year's festivities. The strait impassible, Guthrie and Etienne knew that the bulk of the valuable fur would go to McDonald. That was the problem they faced as they sat in the trade-house on their return, and made their plans.

"What makes you think that Saul can get them to hold their fur and keep away from the schooner?" Guthrie asked. Since Etienne's two evenings of smoke talk with old Saul, in his shack at Elkwan, before the Treaty Chief was landed on the island, the head man had acquired an optimism which somewhat puzzled his superior. The black eyes of the half-breed snapped. "I think Saul weel mak' de medicin' for dem. He ees beeg shaman wid dose Elkwan an' Kapiskau Cree."

"Can he control all his own people?" "Some ov dem—some not, mebbe?" "What has medicine making got to do with getting our share of the trade anyway?"

Again Etienne's leather-skinned face broke into a net work of fine lines

as his eyes lighted with amusement.

"You see, M'son Guthrie, w'en he start to work?"

Guthrie was interested. He had thought only of Saul's influence as Shaman-Chief. The use of magic in the matter of McDonald's plans lent a new aspect to the matter.

"You mean that he's going to hold a power of some kind and declare that the schooner is bad medicine—haunted by evil spirits?"

"Well, mebbe he have dream dat de schooner beeg bad luck, yes, mebbe he see devil on that schooner, I don't know. He tell me he weel mak' de medicin' lodge on de islan'."

"Well, I'll be d—m!" It had never entered Guthrie's mind that the reputation of old Saul as one having intimate relations with spirits, good and evil, could be put to use on the island. But the wily old Cree had evidently taken it for granted that he was to set his power as a conjurer against the odds which confronted the factor of Elkwan.

"Etienne, it's a great idea! If he can bewitch that schooner, we'll lick 'em yet!"

"Old Saul say he not know what he do. Some hunter ova'r dere are stranger. He talk de dog and go see dem, den he mak' medicine-lodge and breeng all the Injun to hear de spirit talk."

The idea was masterful. If the old shaman could convince the hunters of Akimisk that the schooner was "tabu," forbidden ground to the Crees—that it was the haunt of demons and spirits who had taken this method to lure the Crees to perdition, he could hold much of the trade for Elkwan. Nervously pacing the floor, Guthrie voiced his enthusiasm for old Saul's plan.

"Etienne, if he can bewitch the schooner, we'll make them work to get that fur. Why, we can use the very name against them—'The Ghost,' Haunted by devils! The Devil Ship! That's the idea! Laughing McDonald may not get the haul he figures on after all."

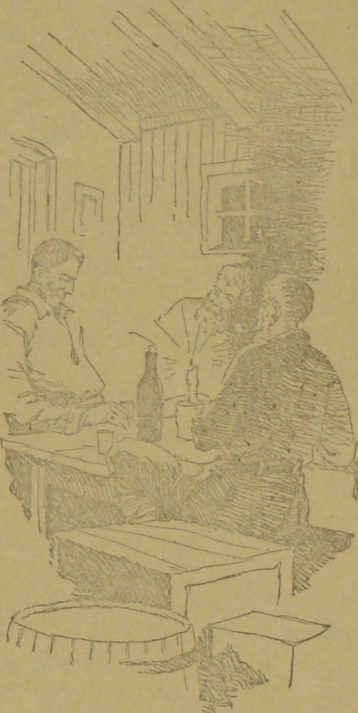
Into the night the two discussed the plan of the old Indian to undermine the operations of McDonald! Ha! Ha! against the fox pelts of Akimisk. But when he sought his bed, the thoughts of Guthrie were of the short swift days when a girl with dark straight-gazing eyes and a mass of unruly hair whose errant tendrils defied restraint, had noiselessly taken charge of the house and the stricken Ninds—who had, with such delicacy, eased the sting of the tragedy which followed his homecoming.

To the girl, who in her blond loveli-

ness, smiled from his dreser, in the dim candle light, Guthrie vouchsafed the acknowledgement of a doubtful shake of the head. "The sister-in-law the great Sir Charles Guthrie," he quoted from Clara's letter. "No you have not changed my dear. You're the same old Ethel." And he blew out the candle. But before he slept, he told himself that whatever Christmas might bring in the way of ill luck to Elkwan, it would be compensated for by the arrival of the mail team from Albany with Joan Quarrier's promised letter.

Frozen in under the lee of the timberless hills circling the cove, the schooner of Laughing McDonald lay sheathed with ice and snow, snugly wedged in her winter berth, her bare poles and stack, from the galley, alope marking her in the litter of broken ice.

In the cramped area of the little cabin, piled with boxes, sat three men: Skene, the middle-aged Newfoundland mate, with the short leg; Breaunt, the master, big, black-bearded, beefy, with small, hard eyes, which shifted over much as he talked; and on a strongly made wooden box with a heavily stencilled end, was doubled the third. Although hunched on the box of ammunition, his long arms clasping his knees, the lean bulk and length of the man were manifest. From the sleeves of his arctic overshirt, wrists and hands, eloquent of the bone and thews muffled in the thick clothes, protruded. Anywhere between Whale river on the east coast and Elkwan, the face of this man would have furnished his identification. Below rebellious russet hair and cold blue eyes, the devastation left by a shell fragment had baffled the art of the plastic surgeons. The patched semblance of a mouth, twisted with its gashed cheek into an endless leer like a gargoye on a gothic tower, stamped the face of Laughing McDonald with an aspect fiendish, diabolical. Young, with the body of a



Young, With the Body of a Viking

Viking, this man with eyes blue as the bergs which sweep its coast had returned to Canada from the war, wearing for features a comic mask, which, according to their kind, shifted the eyes of the beholders in pity or drew the stealthy snigger of derision. But most, who, for the first time looked upon the great-shouldered giant with the ice-blue eyes and mangled mouth, turned to marvel what a man for the eye must have been he who was now "Laughing McDonald."

To Be Continued.

ETCHING

(From The Commonweal)

I know a hill where a pine tree perches

On a rocky ledge, in a grove of birches

Silver birches, that seem to listen

Leaning aslant. Their long trunks glisten,

Touched by nature, the magic tinter

Pale harp-strings for the winds of winter;

Which, swaying, hold exquisite traces

Of delicate twigs, like filmy laces

On the amber sky, where sunset lingers,

Hemlocks point, with grave, dark fingers

Where gleaming Vega, pale amethyst

Keeps, near the zenith, her ancient trust.

—BLANCHE WHITING KEYSNER.

First High Powdered Motorist—

Where did you skid from.

Second Demon—Oh, I've just been

out slay-riding.

RIDEAU HALL HAS COST THE COUNTRY A LARGE SUM DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS

Ottawa—Only a few persons in an exclusive Ottawa social circle could enjoy the luxuries of Rideau Hall, J. S. Woodsworth, Labor member from Winnipeg, stated in the House of Commons last night in presenting an amendment to reduce to \$10,000 an appropriation of \$50,000 in the estimates for alterations, improvements and furnishings to the Governor General's residence.

Criticism on money spent on the vice-regal residence was freely indulged in the House of Progressives and Conservatives for the first time in several years. Hon. H. H. Stevens thought certain proposals of the Government were extravagant and not reasonable.

House Rejects Amendments

Later when the Woodsworth motion had been declared lost another motion to reduce the amount by \$20,000 was offered by H. E. Spencer, U. F. A., Battle River, seconded by Miss Agnes McPhail, Progressive, South East Grey. This also was lost and the item passed the committee. In addition to the \$50,000, the House approved votes of \$60,000 for improvements, furniture, maintenance, etc., for Rideau Hall and \$19,000 being the allowance for fuel and light.

Hon. J. A. Robb, Minister of Finance, entered the debate to declare that during the war Rideau Hall had been the assembly place of many gatherings assembled there for patriotic effort. He pointed out that in those days the furnishings had become worn out.

The Minister of Finance stated that when guests from other nations and other provinces had visited Rideau Hall, it had been found necessary to go to the Rideau Club and to the Chateau in order to borrow cutlery and glassware. The rugs were in a shabby condition. Mr. Robb recalled the many distinguished guests entertained at Government House within the past few years and he felt sure that no member of Parliament would desire these visitors to leave with the impression that the Capital of Canada was down at the heels.

Rideau Hall Outlays

It was just after the hour devoted to private bills had expired that Mr. Woodsworth moved his amendment to reduce by \$10,000 the \$50,000 item of proposed extra expenditure on Rideau Hall.

Mr. Woodsworth astonished the House by going back over the years from 1917 to 1927, noting the annual expenditure incurred for up-keep of the Governor-General's home, expenditures which started out at \$75,000 and wound up in 1927 at \$128,000 and totalled them at \$862,271. That amount, he declared, did not represent the whole of the cost.

Across the page in the book of estimates from the \$50,000 Rideau Hall item, Mr. Woodsworth said there was another item for \$60,000. He did not know why they had been separated. Then he took up a list of late expenditures on Rideau Hall furnishings and read the items. They included coffee pots, \$33; coffee sets, \$225.50; cream and milk jugs, \$550; flat dishes, \$518; hot water jug, \$142.50; knives, \$681; spoons, \$170; tea seats, \$219; dozens of blankets and comforters and towels, hundreds of yards of linen, billiard table \$851; clocks, \$292; radio, \$362; piano, \$540; Baby Grand piano, \$1,650.

The three itemized lists he read totalled \$12,965, \$19,265, \$8,924 respectively.

"I ventured to read this," Mr. Woodsworth said, "simply because I believe that the people who pay for these things ought to know what is being placed in Rideau Hall, ought to know the extent to which they are furnishing this Hall."

Still Use Old China

He went on to say that "some of us" were still using the china they had when they got married, and lots of people couldn't afford a single one of the things listed.

"And yet," he added, "these are the things we are furnishing for the up-keep of two individuals who happen to be our guests here for a time. I wonder if this is setting the best example for our Canadian people."

Mr. Woodsworth read a letter from

a Government employee soliciting a \$100 a month wage minimum in order that the married men might live, but Premier King protested because Mr. Woodsworth did not name the man and anonymous letters were out of order. The Laborite proceeded, however, to show that grants to all hospital and charities did not exceed the amounts being spent by the Government to furnish Rideau Hall.

"And you turn the page," he added, "and you find another item greater than this one."

Some Conservative applause greeted the Laborite's onslaught at this juncture. "Only today," proceeded Woodsworth, "the Government refused to continue the grant to technical education, a matter affecting the future of Canadian boys and girls."

Only Few Persons Eligible

Only a few persons, in an exclusive Ottawa circle, Mr. Woodsworth protested, could enjoy the luxuries of Rideau Hall, furnished out of the public purse, and while there "are so many underprivileged people in this country, I wonder whether we are justified in adding still further to the overprivileged classes."

Soon, Mr. Woodsworth took it, the Governor-General would be a Canadian, chosen by Canadian people. Did the Government desire to set this standard of cost for him?

Alleges Extravagance

Hon. H. H. Stevens (Cons. Vancouver) said that while he had always supported reasonable expenditures for Governor-General's residence "we have before us certain proposals of the Government which are not reasonable." In addition to the annual \$60,000 Rideau Hall upkeep item, he said, there were extra being asked for. And there was an annual fuel bill of \$19,000. As no salaries came out of the amounts, the whole of the moneys voted were available for actual application.

Although Hon. John C. Elliott, Minister of Public Works undertook to explain the details of past and proposed expenditure, his voice was not audible beyond the immediate circle of benches. He said, however, that late heavier expenses were due to the extent to which Rideau Hall and its furnishings had been allowed to depreciate in former years. When he mentioned something about the household articles, William Irvine, western Laborite, interrupted with:

New House for Cups

"You'll have to build a new house to put the cups in."

Hon. James Robb, Minister of Finance, referred to Rideau Hall as the centre of war activities during the years of the struggle. The furnishings were actually run down, he said, and unbefitting the requirements of serving Canada's most distinguished individuals. Government House in Toronto, he said, was to have been abolished at one time, but when the Progressives came into power they didn't do anything about it. And the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario had made Government House popular. How much more necessary was it for Rideau Hall to be popular.

John Evans, Prog., Rosetown, declared these furnishings were paid for "by the sweated labor of those who earn their living by the sweat of their brow today, to say nothing of the children on the farms of Canada."

Mr. Robb referred to the personal expense of the present occupant of Government House, and declared that Parliament did not stand in a good position when it criticized him. He had heard the hope expressed that this high office might be occupied by a Canadian and to that he had no objection, but it would be necessary to get a Canadian with a lot of money. Mr. Robb charged that those who are preaching economy in the House were the same who had spoken to him asking him to spend money in their constituencies.

Says Minister Asleep

Hon. J. D. Chaplin (Conservative, Lincoln) said that the Minister of Finance was a watch dog of the treasury but he had gone asleep over these times. Mr. Chaplin pointed to the expenditure on Government House as to

having steadily increased from \$75,000 in 1918 to \$128,000 in 1927. The last amount seemed very adequate to keep the place in repair.

H. E. Spencer (U.F.A., Battle River) then submitted an amendment, seconded by Miss Macphail, that the amount be reduced by \$20,000. This also was lost.

No Desire to be Mean

Miss Macphail said there was no desire to be mean toward the occupants of Government House, but it did seem as though expenditures of this kind had gone far enough. There were rumors even that two residences, one in Ottawa, and one in Quebec were not enough.

Premier King interrupted to say that such a rumor was without foundation.

Miss Macphail proceeded to say that no one would want to have the occupants of Government House borrowing their silverware or china and everyone would like to see Government House a place of beauty, but this could be secured at a more reasonable cost. It was unpleasant to speak of these things, but the debate of Thursday and Friday had clearly shown that Parliament regarded these expenditures as accessories.

William Irvine (U.F.A., Wotaskiwin) said that there were in the estimates amounts for Rideau Hall totalling \$129,000. Last night an amount for the Quebec Citadel quarters of \$150,000 was passed. Apparently the people of Canada wanted this sort of thing.

"If we are going to have royalty, let us have real royalty," declared Mr. Irvine. "I want to see," he humorously continued, "enough knives at Rideau Hall so that after the Parliamentarians have been there, there will be a few knives left." Personally he doubted the need for Provincial Government Houses and Rideau Hall, but if the people wanted "howling" they would have to pay for it.

The vote for \$50,000, an item of \$60,000 for improvements, maintenance, furniture, etc., at Rideau Hall, including grounds, a vote of \$19,000 for fuel and light at Rideau Hall passed.

SUCKERS ARE NUMEROUS IN WALL STREET

New York, May 10—No. 1 Wall has just been sold for more money per square foot than any other plot in the world is valued at—must be fairly hard and serene. We have been and still are enjoying the frenzies of the bull market. Do you know how the old-timers in Wall street refer to their customers?

"Suckers." That's what they call us. "Suckers!"

Year in and year out the Wall street clerk loses his ledger on the stroke of the hours and pads for the ferry. Sometimes his routine is interfered with by panics or booms or other naturalistic incidents, but nine times out of ten he makes his boat. His true interest is in his roses or maybe in the way the trout are rising in the Jersey streams. He deals with millions, billions, gains, losses, but never in them. His imagination is never fired.

Now and then a youngster gambles and wins and becomes a man of note. More often one loses and is fired into the dark. For the most part they do not gamble at all. Ride over on the ferry and watch their faces. A bit nervy, perhaps, after a hard day, but content.

They have seen the "suckers" come and go. Ride on top of the world for a time. Then go ragged and hang around the boards until the super-sensitive office managers throw them out. Some money suits the clerk of Wall street better than easy millions. He leaves them to the "suckers."

One thing, perhaps, that lessens his desire to get rich quickly is that he hears too many tips. Never an hour in a flourish market that one may not pick up enough to keep a Barney Baruch busy, by merely elbowing through a crowd. Very exciting at first. The "sucker" falls and falls.

Generation after generation the Wall street clerk watches him tumble.

He—May I speak to your father now?

She—Yes. He's just had an argument with mother and he's too tired to do anything but listen.