

PROMPTLY SETTLED.

THE FUNNY MISTAKE OF A NEW ORLEANS LAWYER.

He Saw a Great Chance to Get Solid With a Railroad Company and Didn't Lose Any Time in Fixing Matters on the Spot.

"When I first put out my shingle," said a New Orleans lawyer, putting his heels on the desk for a little chat, "I made up my mind firmly that I would allow no opportunity to pass me by on account of diffidence. No matter where I saw a chance to improve the situation, I promised myself that I would nail it on the spot—or as near the spot as possible. Well, I was still full of this youthful and very admirable enthusiasm when something—it wasn't business—called me to Washington, and on the way up our train met with an accident.

"It happened just about dusk and was not very extensive—confined, in fact, to the derailing and upsetting of one empty day coach; but, as bad luck would have it, two gentlemen were crossing the platform at the time and both were rather painfully hurt. One had his hip sprained and received several cuts, and the other got some ugly contusions and a four inch scalp wound. They were taken into the hospital and made as comfortable as possible, while some of the train crew started off with the engine to get help.

"One could see at a glance," continued the lawyer reflectively, "that the victims of the accident were men in well to do circumstances. The one with the sprained hip was middle aged and gray and the other was considerably younger, but they both had the air of business men or upper class employees. Sitting next by in the sleeper it suddenly flashed into my mind that here was the chance of my life to get solid with a big corporation. I remembered, as by inspiration, a story I had once read of a young station agent who was one of the first people at a great railroad wreck and who had gone immediately among the injured and secured written agreements of compromise from all of them at cut rates. He acted solely on his own responsibility, but he saved the road so much money that he was made receiver or sixteenth vice president or something else equally good and fat, and lived happily ever after.

"Providence seemed to have chuckled a similar opportunity on a small scale at my own head. Here were two well dressed men, injured plenty for jury purposes. As soon as they reached town damage suit shysters would undoubtedly take them in hand and the road would have a couple of mighty dangerous actions to defend. Suppose I nipped the thing in the bud by securing a favorable agreement to compromise!

"I had to admit," the lawyer went on, "that it seemed pretty nifty to tackle the sufferers before their wounds were dressed, but I remembered my resolution, dashed off a brief agreement in blank in my notebook and walked over to where they were lying.

"Excuse me, sir," I said to the elder man, "I know you are in pain, and I am going to waste no words, but come straight to the point. Such mishaps as yours usually mean damage suits with endless litigation, in which the lawyers get all the money. How would you like to avoid all that, right now, by agreeing on a mutually satisfactory figure of compromise?"

"As I made my little talk both men stared at me in amazement, but that gave me no surprise, for my proposition was certainly unusual.

"Are you authorized to make us this

offer?" said the middle aged man finally.

"Well—er—yes," I replied, giving my conscience a severe wrench; "any terms you make with me will be ratified."

"He reflected a few moments and then turned to his companion. 'What d'y' think about it?' he asked. 'I don't feel very vindictive. Do you?'

"No," replied the young man, "I'm not especially hostile. I'd settle for considerably less than the bonded indebtedness."

"Suppose you mention a figure," said I blandly.

"All right," replied the elder man. "What do you think of \$15 and a new suit of clothes?"

"I could hardly believe my ears, because I had expected him to demand \$500 at the very least, and, needless to say, I snapped at the proposition.

"I think I can assure you positively," said I, "that your offer will be accepted and carried out as soon as it reaches the general offices. Kindly sign this agreement, and I'll forward it at once."

"He put his signature at the foot of my penciled memoranda, and I turned to the younger man.

"Oh, well," said he, anticipating my question, "I don't want to be hoggish about this thing. If agreeable to you, just put me down for the same—\$15 and a suit of clothes; nothing ready made, by the way, but a good, ordinary business suit."

"You shall have it," I assured him, overjoyed at the extraordinary success of my play, and he also signed the agreement. Then I slipped away, so they wouldn't have a chance to make other conditions, and waited anxiously for the relief train. It arrived in a couple of hours, and with it was the division superintendent. I rushed up the track to meet him.

"I want to notify you to pay no attention to damage suit lawyers when we get to town," I exclaimed excitedly, "because I have already secured an agreement from both men to settle for \$15 and a suit of clothes."

"The dickens you have!" he bellowed. "Why, you confounded gibbering idiot, that's our new general manager and his secretary!"—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

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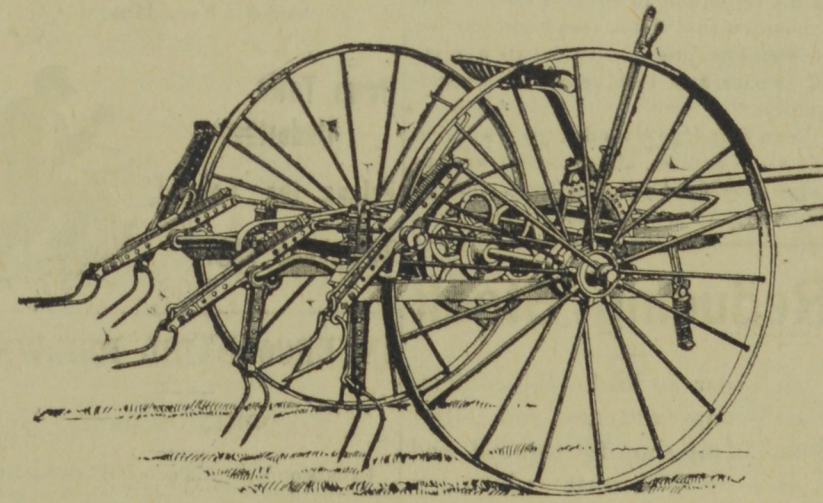
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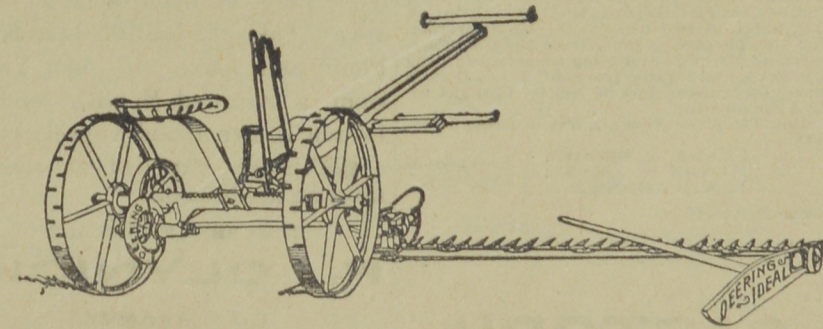
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Express for Halifax and Campbellton.....	7.10
Express for Point du Chene, Halifax, and Pictou	11.50
Express for Sussex.....	16.30
Suburban Express for Hampton.....	17.45
Express for Quebec and Montreal.....	19.35
Express for Halifax and Sydney.....	22.45
Accommodation for Moncton and Point du Chene.....	13.00

TRAINS WILL ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN

Express from Halifax and Sydney.....	6.00
Suburban Express from Hampton.....	7.15
Express from Sussex.....	8.35
Express from Montreal and Quebec.....	11.50
Express from Halifax and Pictou.....	17.00
Express from Halifax.....	18.35
Suburban Express from Hampton.....	21.55
Accommodation from Point du Chene and Moncton.....	14.15

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D. POTTINGER,
General Manager
Moncton, N. B., March 5, 1901.