

# The Trouble-Trail

(Continued from page 8.)

taking chances at faro. With a Moose Creek man for a partner against two men from Wade he sat in at a game of poker in a quiet corner. So lucky he was that the Wade men went broke and gave up their chairs to a pair of Eagle freighters with full pokes. In the shift of partners Casmar had opportunity to tilt back his own chair and idly survey the room. His eyes roved carelessly back and forth over the hard-bitten visages of the old-timers and suddenly fixed with startled recognition on the face of a tenderfoot sitting two tables distant. The tenderfoot was an American, very young and very drunk, in tailored clothes. With a Last Chance man for a partner he was playing against Juneau George and Juneau George's working mate, Frisco Ramsford.

On the instant that he recognized the boy, Casmar had a wild desire to leave the Lucky Strike. But the rules of the game forbade him. He had cleaned out the two Wade Creek men. He had to give the Eagle men a chance to clean him out. So Bryce pulled his fur cap low over his eyes and trusted to that and the huge collar of his mackinaw coat to act as a disguise against the tenderfoot's blank stares. For an hour the disguise held good. The music and shuffle of the dancing floor, the drone of the man who spun the roulette wheel, the rattle of chips and the whisper of the pasteboards went on.

Casmar heard the youth's voice wander up to maudlin heights, and he played his hands wickedly, with many furtive glances of irritation and anxiety. Then, as he studied his cards for a raise, a table was overturned behind, and he whirled round with the rest.

It was the tenderfoot's table, and the tenderfoot stood upon unsteady feet, shaking his fist in Juneau George's face.

"You robber! You skunk!" he denounced. "You pulled that ace from the bottom!"

"You lie!" snarled Juneau George. With wonderful swiftness the youth's hand snapped out.

"Take that!" he cried. Juneau George shrieked to the sting of a volley of chips thrown squarely in his eyes. His hand reached under his parka, but powerful fingers on his wrist jerked the hand away, and he looked up into the menacing face of Casmar.

"You're not drawing, Juneau!" Bryce warned.

As swiftly as he had grasped it, he released the other's wrist and stepped back a pace, his own right hand snuggling suggestively against his side with the thumb looped in over the loose front of his mackinaw coat.

Juneau George didn't draw. But he glowered malignantly at Casmar.

"Why in thunder'd you butt in?" he demanded.

"Because it looked like trouble for the boy, and I'm strong on the trouble-trail."

"Well, all I got to say is: look out you don't get stopped short on your trouble-trail!" growled Juneau George, rising and stalking off to the faro layout on the other side of the room.

Casmar grasped the boy's arm. "You'd better leave Moose Creek Camp quick," he advised. "And, turning apologetically to his late friends of the play, 'we'll finish that game again, boys. I'll have to take charge of the kid now.'"

"Sure, Casmar, any time you're not busy!" they acquiesced, as Bryce led the youth outside.

In front of the shed where his male-mutes were housed Casmar stopped, picked up a huge gloveful of powdery snow, and dashed it in the boy's face. The snow-bath had a sobering effect, and the tenderfoot began to stammer out his gratitude.

"Say, I—I want to—to thank—"

"Shut up!" interrupted Casmar. "How'd you get into Moose Creek Camp?"

"My name's Hasselgreaves, Marvin Hass—"

"I know it is! How'd you get into Moose Creek Camp?"

"Sis and I just came north to visit my dad. He's at Forty-Mile Post."

"Yes."

"Well, sis went right through, but I stopped off at Eagle City. I came over here with the Eagle freighters."

"To make a thundering fool of yourself, I suppose?"

"N—no! You see, my dad has some Moose Creek claims that are good. The freighters told me of one I could buy right alongside his. So I came over with them. I had a thousand of my own. I thought I'd do something for myself and surprise dad."

"You've done it, haven't you?" demanded Casmar, harshly. "And he'll sure be surprised, won't he? Where is that thousand?"

Young Marvin covered his face with his hands.

Casmar swore softly as he pulled his sledge forth from the shed, threw the harness on his malemutes, and traced them up.

"Get on!" he ordered, and clutched Marvin under the armpit with such force that he almost threw him upon the sled.

"Can you hang on?" he asked. "Or do I have to tie you on?"

"I—I can hang on," decided the thoroughly abashed youth. "But where are you taking me?"

"Taking you? I'm taking you to the kindergarten where you belong—over at Forty-Mile Post!"

## III.

CASMAR hurled his malemutes down-river even faster than he had driven them up. His long whip spoke continually, and he never stopped to talk. Only, at times he turned his ear to the back-trail, listening attentively. Juneau George was a sullen, treacherous character, and there was the possibility of his following them in an endeavour to make good his threat.

By the dim light of the stars and silver aurora they rocked past Brown and Bear Creeks and at midnight came to the mouth of the Forty-Mile River. On the outskirts of the straggling camp Casmar pulled up abruptly.

"Here's the Post," he announced. "Think you'd have been able to make it yourself?"

"Not to-night," confessed young Hasselgreaves, getting up off the sledge. "Even if I had have got out of that fracas at Moose Creek!"

"You wouldn't have got out of it," Casmar assured him. "Juneau George would have fixed you. He's that kind. Plugs tenderfeet from the front and sneaks up behind a sourdough's back. But I'm leaving you here. This trail's the main street. Go up it past Ramsome's Rest saloon till you come to the N.A.T. & T. store on the corner. Turn that corner to the right. Your father's is the sixth cabin from the corner."

"But look here," protested Marvin, whom the swift ride through the frost had done much to sober, "I can't let you go like this. You pulled me out of a nasty hole. What's your name?"

Casmar understood that if there had have been enough light young Marvin would have known without asking. He was sober enough now to recognize him, but Casmar did not want that recognition.

"Name?" he echoed. "They call me the bad man, because I'm always on the trouble-trail. And that's a road you'd better stay off, boy. Pull yourself up short, good and short. I know a fellow of your set down South who started the way you're starting, and, well,—there was a girl in it, too. They crossed words one day, and he was so thundering stiff in the neck that he wouldn't go to her and patch things up. Instead, he hit the North, and he's been raising general and particular Cain ever since. He sure was a plague and a pestilence in the Canadian Forty-Mile until to-day!"

"He died, eh?" ventured Marvin.

"No, he was outlawed," explained Casmar, whirling his sled about.

As he straightened out his string of malemutes, there sounded from up

# The Ogilvie Flour Mills Company, Ltd.

## Thirteenth Annual Report of the Directors of the Ogilvie Flour Mills Company, Limited, for the Year Ended 31st August, 1914.

The Annual General Meeting of the shareholders of The Ogilvie Flour Mills Company, Limited, was held at the head office of the Company, in Montreal, on 8th October, 1914, Mr. C. R. Hosmer, President, in the Chair.

Among those present were: Mr. C. R. Hosmer, Mr. W. A. Black, Sir Montagu Allan, C.V.O.; Mr. H. S. Holt, Mr. A. M. Nanton, Mr. W. R. Baker, Mr. Shirley Ogilvie, Mr. C. R. Black, Mr. George E. Drummond, Mr. W. H. Evans, Mr. Charles Chaput, Mr. G. M. Heath, Mr. W. P. Fogarty, Mr. S. A. McMurtry, Treasurer, Mr. G. A. Morris, Secretary.

The President submitted the following report, and moved its adoption: A Balance Sheet, showing the Assets and Liabilities of the Company, also profits for the year, is submitted.

The Company's accounts have been audited by Messrs. Creak, Cushing and Hodgson, Chartered Accountants, whose report is presented herewith.

The issue of \$600,000 six per cent. First Mortgage Bonds, which were known as Series "C," the proceeds of which were used towards the cost of the Medicine Hat flour mill and elevators, were disposed of during the current year.

The Company's flour mill and elevators at Medicine Hat have been in successful operation during the year, and are proving to be a wise investment both as regards profits and for the protection of the Company's Western and Pacific business.

The Company's flour mills, elevators and other properties are in first-class condition. Most liberal expenditures are constantly being made to keep them up to the most modern standard of efficiency.

The usual dividends have been paid during the year on the Preferred and Common Stock.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed) CHAS. R. HOSMER, President.  
October 8th, 1914.  
Mr. W. A. Black, Vice-President and Managing Director, in speaking of the report, said:

If we except the month of August, when the War started, conditions have been normal, sales in the domestic and export markets being quite up to the average, notwithstanding increased competition; and you will note a substantial margin over dividends and fixed charges has resulted.

During the year all our plants have been carefully gone over, and the cost of all renewals and upkeep has been written off as usual against earnings.

Whilst the harvest in our Northwest has not resulted in as large a crop as the preceding year, the quality in the main is satisfactory, and the total monetary return should equal, if not exceed, that of last year. Some considerable area suffered very severely from drought and heat, but the Dominion Government has taken the matter in hand, and are furnishing feed where necessary to enable those requiring assistance to prepare the land this Fall and seed for Spring sowing. It is to be hoped that the farmers will make the most of the present opportunity to put under seed the greatest possible area, for owing to the War the demand for grains of all kinds will be very great from this side of the Atlantic, and prices are likely to remain on a high level for at least another crop year. Our recent advices from the West indicate that this policy is being carried out by our farmers, and favorable weather has prevailed for Fall ploughing.

The following gentlemen were elected Directors of the Company for the ensuing year:

Sir Montagu Allan, C.V.O.; Mr. W. A. Black, Mr. Charles Chaput, Mr. George E. Drummond, Mr. C. B. Gordon, Mr. H. S. Holt, Mr. C. R. Hosmer, Mr. A. M. Nanton, Mr. Shirley Ogilvie.

And Messrs. Creak, Cushing and Hodgson were appointed Auditors.

At a subsequent meeting of Directors the following officers were appointed: Mr. C. R. Hosmer, President; Mr. W. A. Black, Vice-President and Managing Director; Mr. S. A. McMurtry, Treasurer; Mr. G. Alfred Morris, Secretary; Mr. J. R. W. Papineau, Assistant Secretary.

## BALANCE STATEMENT, 31st AUGUST, 1914.

ASSETS.	
Cash on hand and at Bank .....	\$ 54,684.67
Bills Receivable .....	68,584.55
Open Accounts Receivable after making full provision for all Contingencies .....	1,549,829.50
Stocks on hand of Wheat, Flour, Oatmeal, Coarse Grain, Bags and Barrels .....	1,234,379.14
Stables, Plant, Barges and Office Equipment .....	49,470.00
Investments .....	197,050.28
Current Assets .....	\$3,153,998.14

Real Estate, Water Powers and Mill Plants in Montreal, Winnipeg, Fort William and Medicine Hat; Elevators in Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan; Property in St. John, N.B., and Ottawa, as at 31st August, 1913 .....	\$5,891,407.88
Added during year for additions to Mill at Medicine Hat, Warehouse at Calgary, Interior Elevators, etc. .....	236,202.04

Investments for Officers' Pension Fund .....	6,127,609.92
Goodwill .....	25,591.75

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	\$9,307,200.81
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LIABILITIES.	
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Bank of Montreal .....	\$ 863,885.51
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Accounts Payable .....	823,367.79
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Provision for Bond Interest and Dividends to date .....	120,250.00
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Current Liabilities .....	1,807,503.30
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Officers' Pension Fund .....	67,231.05
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First Mortgage Bonds .....	2,350,000.00
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Capital Account—Preferred Stock .....	2,000,000.00
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Capital Account—Common Stock .....	2,500,000.00
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Profit and Loss Account .....	
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Amount at credit 31st August, 1913 .....	\$ 472,522.84
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Net Profits for year .....	581,943.62
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	\$1,054,466.46
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Less:	
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Interest on A and B Bonds .....	\$1,750,000
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Interest on C Bonds (9 months) .....	105,000
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Dividends on Preferred Stock .....	27,000
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Dividends on Common Stock .....	2,000,000
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	472,000.00
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	\$6,850,000
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	582,466.46
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	\$9,307,200.81
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Indirect Liabilities:	
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Customers' Paper under Discount .....	\$ 584,242.00
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We have audited the Books of the Company for the year ended 31st August, 1914, and certify the above to be a correct statement of the affairs of the Company at that date as shown by the Books.	
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CREAK, C. SHING & HODGSON, C.A., Auditors. September 24th, 1914.	
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To the Shareholders of the Ogilvie Flour Mills Company, Limited, Montreal.	
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Gentlemen,—We beg to report that we have audited the Books of the Company in Montreal, Winnipeg, Fort William and Medicine Hat for the year ended 31st August, 1914, verifying the Cash and Bills Receivable on hand, the Bank Accounts, and the Accounts Receivable.	
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The Stocks on hand of Wheat, Flour and Supplies are valued on a most conservative basis and are certified as to quantity by the Superintendents of the various Mills, confirmed by the Mill reports.	
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Ample provision has been made for all Contingencies in respect of Customers' Open Accounts, and while no provision is made for general depreciation, a large sum has been expended on Improvements to the Plants, and charged against the earnings of the year.	
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(Signed) CREAK, CUSHING & HODGSON, C.A., Auditors.	
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