

# HOW "UNCLE" WALT MASON CAME BACK

## Down And Out at Age of Forty-Five, the Famous Poet of Emporia Has Since Made a Big Success of Life.

(Continued from Yesterday)

In a few days I would have to leave the boiling hot institution, and had no place to go. Mr. White was in Colorado, and my letter had been forwarded to him, so there was a delay in getting a reply. Somehow I had counted on a favorable word from him, and as day after day went by, and the mail brought nothing, my hopelessness became absolute. Then when I had ceased to expect a reply, there came a long generous letter telling me to go to Emporia and make myself useful until he returned home, and then we'd discuss ways and means together.

I believe that was the gladdest hour of my life. You have to be down and out and well stricken in years, and ashamed that you are alive, to understand the joy of having one more chance.

And so, one October evening, as the sun was slowly sinking behind the western hills, a solitary horseman might have been seen pushing his jaded steed into Emporia. The next morning I reported for work at the Gazette office, and a small corner was cleared for me in Mr. White's private office.

I have said that I had a reputation as "a hog for work," and I lived up to it now. Work had become a sort of passion with me. It enabled me to forget for a while that I was forty-five, and dead broke, and starting in again at the foot of the ladder, in worse shape than when I first entered a newspaper office. I was a superfluous in the Gazette office; there was no real place for me; a place had been made, just to give me a chance, and of course the wages were small.

Making Good in Emporia

But I wrote so much stuff the printers were in a panic, and I was at my job by sunrise, and worked at it in the evening by lamplight. After two or three weeks Mr. White came home, and I'll never forget his hearty greeting. I had never seen him before, but he acted as though I were the long-lost Charlie Rose.

"You've been writing wonderful stuff, Walt," he cried. "Come up to

my house to-night. I want to have a talk with you."

I went and we had the talk, and my wages were raised, and I was assured that there was a place for me on the Gazette as long as I wanted it. This was balm in Gilead.

A heart-breaking time followed. In my days of riotous living I had piled up a mountain of debts. They had never troubled me when I had stayed with flagons; but when my creditors heard that I was working and earning money, they came down on me, not as single spies, but in battalions. There were lawyers and bailiffs and collectors hot on my trail all the time, and I saw that it would take me ninety-nine years to pay them all, and the weight of discouragement oppressed me again.

Had it not been for the cheery sympathy of Mr. White in those dreary days, I'd have given up trying. His sympathy wasn't the easy stuff that exhausts itself in words. In fact, he never talked about my worries; but I know he understood them, and he let me know he was ready to help me out in any way, at any time. But he preferred to see me work out my own salvation. It was by manifesting his confidence in me that he kept me to the mark. I admired him so much, and was so hungry for his approval, that I was determined to make good if it were in me to do it.

And all the time the fleshpots were calling. If I quit work for an hour I could hear the march of the prodigal sons, and yearned to be with them.

A Fund of Rhymes

There was a day when the managing editor wanted a stickful of stuff in a hurry to fill a corner on the front page. It was a Saturday and I sat down and wrote a little rhyme in prose form, urging people to go to church next Sunday. I had been writing such little rhymes for years. When working for the Atchison Globe I used to write the advertisements of grocers and coal merchants in verse, and throughout my newspaper career I employed the talent indiscriminately. I always could write verse as easily as prose.



ORTHODOX TORONTO JEWS PRAYING AT THE LAKE FRONT. Sunday, towards the close of the Jewish New Year, scores of Toronto Jews went to the water's edge for half an hour and prayed that their lives be kept clean and uncontaminated as fresh water. It is an ancient custom practised nowadays by the most religious Jews. Photo shows the scene at the foot of York street, Toronto.

The rhymes form themselves in my head as fast as I can write them down. I am never stuck for a rhyme. If there is a word in any corner of the language that will rhyme with another, it bobs up in my mind without effort.

The verse I wrote for the Gazette was printed with a border around it, and caused some comment. So I wrote another on Monday, and a third on Tuesday, and so on. The verses became a feature of the first page. In the beginning they treated of local topics, exclusively, then they had a wider range, and newspapers all over the country were copying them. It never occurred to me that the rhymes had possibilities as money-makers.

But one day Mrs. White said, in that friendly way of his, "Walt, it's time we began to figure on getting you something for those rhymes. I have been waiting to see if you could keep your lick before talking about it. You seem to be an inexhaustible fountain of verse, and I believe you can keep it up indefinitely. The newspapers are using the rhymes everywhere, and I'm sure they'd pay something for them. Now I am going to write to a friend of mine who syndicates things, and I feel sure he will sell these verses so you'll have quite an income from them."

Then he wrote to Mr. George Mat-

thew Adams, with the result that the latter agreed to syndicate the poems. He hadn't much faith in the proposition, for poetry has always been regarded, by publishers and syndicate men, as something to be touched with a ten-foot pole. At the beginning of the experiment Mr. Adams paid me eighteen dollars a week for six rhymes, and this, added to my wages from the Gazette, seemed opulence and restored some of my natural optimism. I began to think that perhaps God was in His heavens after all.

The rhymes caught on, and every month or two Mr. Adams added something to my pay. That was more than eight years ago, and he has been at the same trick ever since. I have never asked him to add a dollar to my pay. He has kept on increasing the stipend with untiring generosity, and at the present time he probably pays me more than any other man ever received from rhyme alone.

A "One Shirt" Democrat

It is ten years since I came to Emporia, with my extra shirt and my nurse to me, and I expect and hope to potter around under her ancestral elms until Joe Dummar's motor hears. Since prosperity overtook me I have received flattering offers from Chicago and New York—even London. But little old Emporia is good enough for me. The people here know me for the stuffed prophet I am, and won't allow me to get swelled up with false pride. When I begin to feel important, and realize that my hat is too small, I meet Carl Ricker or Harry Peach, or somebody else who knew me when I was only an extra shirt, and I know that I can't get by with my pose. I feel that this chastening of the spirit is good for me, so I remain in Emporia. I have a modern automobile with all modern improvements, and sometimes when I am jaunting along the road I begin to feel that the sun rises and sets somewhere in my neighborhood.

Then I see a landmark that my weary eyes beheld ten years ago, when I had only one extra shirt, and I quit trying to look like Washington crossing the Delaware. Such things are good for me, for I don't want success to give me the idea that I am not a false alarm; so I remain in Emporia.

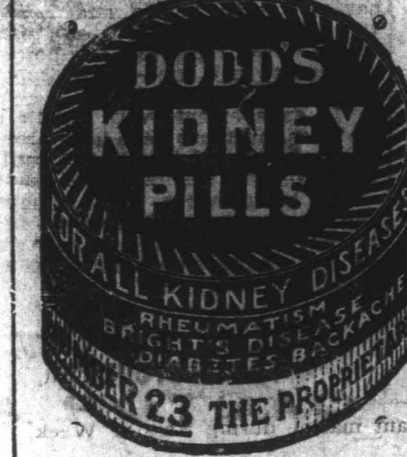
THE END

### Rippling Rhymes

VIEWING WITH ALARM.

There's always some one going round with weird predictions, dark and grim; his accents have a doleful sound, the future is a frost to him. He wets the landscape with his tears, and says we'll never whip the Hun in less than forty-seven years, and we'll be broke when it is done. He hears of victory and scowls; "the worst," he says, "is yet to come; your loud hurrahs will change to howls; the news will soon be fierce and blunt." I've seen him wander down the street and queer the town in half an hour, with tales of ruin and defeat, and forecasts drivelling and dour. No doubt if some one said, "Old soon does Wilhelm pay you for this graft?" his rage would turn him inside out—he'd act like some one going daft. He is a patriot, you bet! For Uncle Sam he'd lose a limb; it's just his way to scold and fret, and show that things look black to him. In times of peace he used to show how government was slipping cogs, and pointed out, in grief and woe, that we were going to the dogs. In times of peace he cut no grass, his doddertings could work no ill; but now that war has come to pass, he is a help to Kaiser Bill. If you're inclined to scold and mope, just can that stuff a little while, and hand out packages of hope, all decorated with a smile.

Fifty Against Two. It is not reasonable to expect two weeks of outing to overcome the effects of fifty weeks of confinement. Take Hood's Sarsaparilla. It refreshes the blood, improves the appetite, makes sleep easy and restful.



### RAIN CUT BOWLING TOURNAMENT SHORT

#### Play Abandoned at End of Third Round Yesterday Afternoon

#### ST. KITTS, WINNERS

#### Visiting Rink Carried Off First Prize in Patriotic Competition

Rain, which started early in the afternoon and soon gave indications of its intention of making a day of it, drove sixty-eight bowlers to cover at the end of the third round of the one-day patriotic bowling tournament played on the local greens yesterday, and forced a distribution of the prizes without a final play off between the six leading rinks, as had been planned. A St. Catharines rink carried off the first trophy in the tournament, a Hamilton quartette the fifth, and the other prizes fell to local bowlers.

Bowling was commenced sharp on time in the morning with seventy-two rinks scheduled to play and only four defaults. The contestants were divided into sections, or flights, which played alternately, and it had been planned at the end of the third round, to match the leading rinks in one section against the leaders of the other. By noon the first round had been completed, and the second was played through early in the afternoon. Rain fell during the third round, but the majority of the bowlers were able to finish. It was found necessary, however, in view of the condition of the greens, to call off the final round, and the prizes were awarded as follows:

- First prize, set of electric stoves, J. L. Pattison, F. J. Graves, J. M. Intosh and A. M. Ecclestone. St. Catharines. Plus score of 33 in three games.
  - Second prize, electric lamps, W. J. Muir, E. Corey, A. Ames, D. Thorburn, Pastimes; plus score of 32 in 3 games.
  - Third prize, smoking sets, D. Hubbard, D. McPhail, T. McPhail, Dr. Wiley, Heathers; plus score of 31 in 3 games.
  - Fourth prize, N. McIntyre, D. Cooper, F. Reid, J. A. Grantman, Heathers; plus score of 29 in three games.
  - Fifth prize, L. Sixsmith, H. D. Hahn, C. Smith, F. Small, Victorias, of Hamilton; plus score of 23 in 3 games.
  - Sixth prize, R. T. Whitlock, J. W. Shepperson, W. Lahey, H. B. Beckel, Heathers; plus score of 22 in 3 games.
- At all three greens lunch was served at noon, and tea at the conclusion of the day's play, by the ladies of the Women's Patriotic League, who gave their services in aid of the Sailor's Fund. The presentation of prizes took place at the Brantford Club at six-thirty p.m., and the bowlers dispersed after singing "Rule Britannia" and the National Anthem.

Yesterday's tournament was the second annual one held under the auspices of the county association, and high credit is due to those concerned for the success achieved in the face of unfavorable weather yesterday. In particular, commendation is due Mr. F. S. Blain, the association's indefatigable secretary, who once more proved himself a glutton for work, and discharged more duties in connection with the preliminaries and actual supervision of the tournament than any other three men could have undertaken. Brantford bowlers are fortunate in having a man with such a capacity for organization in charge of their affairs.

MURDERING CHRISTIANS  
By Courier Leased Wire

Washington, Sept. 12.—According to an official dispatch from France, now has been received in Paris from Teheran, Persia, concerning reports of the murder of Christians by the Turks. Among the victims were several priests.

A GRAIN EMBARGO  
Buffalo, Sept. 12.—A grain embargo won't be affected on all railroads entering Buffalo from the west. A heavy rail movement of wheat from Ohio, Indiana and Michigan was the cause, according to Charles Kennedy, vice-president of the Food Administration's grain corporation. About 1,600 cars of wheat are held up in the railroads yards because of inadequate facilities to get them to the grain elevators. The embargo does not affect the movement of grain by lake, which began last night with the arrival of the steamer M. Warner, with a cargo of 225,000 bushels of wheat.

### REX Theatre

Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
**RITA JOLIVET**  
—IN—  
"Lest We Forget"  
Immortalizing the Sinking of the Lusitania

**Charlie Chaplin**  
—IN—  
"The Rink"

**Fight for Millions**

Coming Monday  
Harold Bell Wright's  
"The Eyes of the World"

The most popular Love and Adventure Story of the Times with  
**JANE NOVAK**

### BRANT Theatre

Showing Special Features  
**DOROTHY DALTON**  
—IN—  
"The Mating of Marcella"  
A startling Drama of Married Infelicity

**Gertie Van Dyke and Brother**  
High-Class Singing Novelty  
**The House of Hate**

**Mutt and Jeff Carton**

Monday Tuesday Wednesday  
**THE ALL-STAR PRODUCTION**  
"MISSING"  
An unusually dramatic story dealing with the present war, featuring Thomas Meighan, Robert Gordon, Sylvia Breamer and many other notables.

### GRAND OPERA HOUSE, Saturday Sept. 14

Matinee & Night  
The Liebler Co.'s  
Stupendous Production

# THE GARDEN OF ALLAH

NOT the Motion Picture  
MAIL ORDERS NOW  
Filed in order of receipt, when accompanied with check or P.O. order.

Traveling in Its Own Special Train of 8 Cars.

100 PEOPLE "THE MIGHTIEST PLAY ON THE PLANET."  
PRICES: \$1.50, \$1.00, 75c, 50c.  
Matinee: \$1.00, 75c, 50c, 25c.  
Seats Now on Sale at Boles' Drug Store.

### SUTHERLAND'S

## Headquarters for School Books and School Supplies

We carry everything required for use in the Collegiate Institute, Public Schools and Separate Schools

# J. L. Sutherland

"ATHLETIC GOODS"

## See to the Children's FOOTWEAR

Don't wait until the last bell rings to get the children's school footwear—Bestir yourself now. Stocks are larger and more complete and prices are lower than they will be later on.

Our Hard Knock Shoes for Boys and Girls have established a reputation for themselves and for us, and wise mothers in ever-increasing numbers are coming here for their children's footwear needs.

Again we say—get the youngsters fixed UP—DO IT NOW.

# COLES SHOE CO.

122 Colborne Street Both Phones 414.

AUSTRIAN OFFICIAL,  
By Courier Leased Wire  
Vienna, Sept. 11.—(Via London)—  
In the Anzoni sector of the Austro-Italian front, where the Ital-

ians had penetrated the Austro-Hungarian lines, the situation was restored yesterday by an Austrian counter-attack, the West Office announced today.

# NOTICE TO UNITED STATES CITIZENS IN CANADA.

By the United States Military Service Convention Regulations, approved by the Governor-in-Council on 20th August, 1918, MALE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES IN CANADA, WITHIN THE AGES for the time being SPECIFIED BY THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES prescribing compulsory military service, except those who have diplomatic exemption, ARE MADE SUBJECT AND LIABLE TO MILITARY SERVICE IN CANADA, AND BECOME ENTITLED TO EXEMPTION OR DISCHARGE THEREFROM, UNDER THE CANADIAN LAWS AND REGULATIONS. The regulations governing this liability are published in the Canada Gazette (Extra) of 21st August, 1918; copy whereof may be obtained upon application through the post to the Director of the Military Service Branch of the Department of Justice at Ottawa.

UNITED STATES CITIZENS of the description aforesaid who were IN CANADA ON 30th JULY, 1918, HAVE SIXTY DAYS FROM THAT DATE within which TO EXERCISE AN OPTION TO ENLIST or enroll IN THE FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES, or TO RETURN to the United States; and THOSE WHO for any reason SUBSEQUENTLY BECOME LIABLE TO MILITARY SERVICE IN CANADA HAVE THIRTY DAYS FROM THE DATE of the accruing OF SUCH LIABILITY within which to exercise the like option. It is stipulated by the Convention also that certificates of diplomatic exemption may be granted within the optional periods aforesaid. EVERY CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES TO WHOM THE REGULATIONS APPLY is required to REPORT TO THE REGISTRAR under the Military Service Act, 1917, FOR THE province or DISTRICT WITHIN WHICH he is, in the manner by the regulations prescribed, WITHIN TEN DAYS AFTER THE EXPIRY OF HIS OPTIONAL PERIOD and will be SUBJECT TO PENALTIES IF without reasonable excuse HE FAILS TO REPORT. For the information of those whom it may concern Sections 3 and 4 defining the requirements of registration, with which it will be necessary strictly to comply, are set out substantially as follows:—

3. EVERY MALE CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE AGES for the time being SPECIFIED IN THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES prescribing compulsory military service, not including those who have diplomatic exemption, WITHIN TEN DAYS AFTER THE EXPIRY OF THE TIME LIMITED BY THE CONVENTION within which the Government of the United States may issue him a certificate of diplomatic exemption, SHALL TRULY REPORT TO THE REGISTRAR BY REGISTERED POST, and in writing which is plainly legible, his name in full, his occupation and the date of his birth; stating also whether he is single, married or a widower; and if the latter, whether he has a child living; also if married, the date of his marriage; and stating moreover his place of residence and usual post office address in Canada; and, if he reside within a city or place where the streets and dwellings are named and numbered, the name and number of his street and dwelling; or if he reside in another place, the lot and concession number, section, township, range, and meridian, or other definite description whereby his place of residence may be located, having regard to the custom of the locality in which he lives; and IF WITHOUT REASONABLE EXCUSE HE NEGLECT OR FAIL TO

REPORT IN THE MANNER and with the particulars aforesaid within the time limited as aforesaid, HE SHALL BE GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE, AND SHALL BE LIABLE UPON SUMMARY CONVICTION to a penalty not EXCEEDING FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS, AND TO IMPRISONMENT for any term not exceeding six months, and moreover he shall incur A PENALTY OF \$10.00 FOR EACH DAY after the time when or within which he should have registered during which he shall continue to be unregistered.

4. EVERY UNITED STATES CITIZEN WHO HAS DIPLOMATIC EXEMPTION, although not otherwise subject to these regulations SHALL WITHIN TEN DAYS after the granting of the same truly REPORT TO THE REGISTRAR, in like manner and with the same particulars as required by the last preceding section; and in addition he shall embody in his report a true and complete statement of the particulars of his certificate of diplomatic exemption, NEGLECT OR FAILURE without reasonable excuse to comply with the requirements of this section SHALL CONSTITUTE AN OFFENCE PUNISHABLE IN THE MANNER AND BY THE PENALTIES provided in the last preceding section.

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, MILITARY SERVICE BRANCH.