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THE MAN FROM BIRD CENTER

Visited Europe in Order to Broad-
en Himself.

But Was Done Up at Every Turn by
Subjects of the D. caying Monarch-
ies he Went to See.

On one of the regular stops on a spur
line of a Western road, there lived a
man who would visit Europe. Some-
body had told him that traveling
broadens one. He had six weeks to
spare, so he thought he would hustle
over and get broadened about \$500
worth. He knew that sum would carry
him through because everything was
so cheap in the pauperized countries
across the sea. Once he read an ar-
ticle on "How to See Europe for \$140"
by riding a wheel, doing your own
washing and living on crackers.

This would be Marco Polo wanted
a life over and look in pity on the de-
caying monarchies of the effete east
and compare them with Bird Center.
He was afraid that if he waited a
couple of seasons they would be so far
along in the process of decay that they
would not be fit to look at.

He was a coal dealer in Bird Center,
but he sighed for further honors. He
wanted to be pointed out as the fellow
who had took in the old country. There
was one woman in Bird Center who
had skipped over and back again
before Europe knew anything about it.
This record gave her a goshawful stand-
ing in the Chautauqua. She had put
in two days in dear old Rome, but
what she saw there gave her something
to talk about for 20 years. When the
circle began to speak of art, she had
all the other girls spiked to the tan
board, because she had put in a day
and a half at Florence.

The coal dealer noticed all this, and
he realized that in Bird Center the
man who had been to Europe would be
aces and eights compared with the man
who was going to the Pan-American or
the man who had shaken hands with
McKisley. Before taking a tour it
is customary to get a smattering of
modern languages. The coal dealer
had learned that if he could pass him-
self off as a German or Frenchman, he
could travel more cheaply. So he
studied a phrase book. Before he went
away he could say: "Give to me one
Ticket for Marseilles" in French, so
that he could understand what he was
driving at. As for German, he had
"Can you not English speak?" with
both shoulders on the carpet. After
making these preparations he had his
name stenciled on a low-browed steam-
er truck. Also he secured a passport
which identified him as a male Amer-
ican and requested foreign powers to
"look all breaks, as he was from
Bird Center."

His friends gave him a farewell din-
ner. He boarded the train the en-
tire population was down to see him
off. His neighbors pounded him on
the back and gave him a box of Lottie
Lees to smoke on the trip, because they
had heard tell that it was impossible
to get a good cigar away from home.
They told him to give their best to
Bill, meaning his gracious majesty, and
to ask Kaiser Bill to take one on them.
In fact, his departure was made a regu-
lar festival of home-grown humor, and
he felt that he was something of a pub-
lic character.

Just when he boarded the liner and
came up against the sea dog who had
been across 47 times and liked heavy
weather and never had been sick, he
shook considerably. His plans for
doing Great Britain and the whole con-
tinent in one month did not seem to
excite any burning interest. Whenever
he pulled his itinerary on a ship-mate
and began to explain how he was going
to jump from Rotterdam to Amsterdam
and The Hague, all in the same after-
noon, so as to save time, he would be
told that he ought to put in at least
two weeks in each city. After that he
would keep quiet for awhile. Voyage
was not as much fun as he anticipated.

A majority of the passengers lay about
in a comatose condition, rolled up in
furry rugs. The others did numerous
jumps around the deck, like the partici-
pants in a six day match, and spoke to
no one. The coal dealer spent most
of his time in some body else's steamer
chair, sucking a lemon and trying to
get his mind off of the rolling motion.
In due time he landed on Albion's
shore, as he called it in writing to the
home paper. He had read all about
the Anglo-Saxon alliance and the
friendly feeling for Americans and
blood being thicker than water. He
expected the Duke of Newcastle on-
Tyne to be down at the dock with a
Union Jack in one hand, a stary ban-
ner in the other and an invitation to
Marlborough house held in his teeth.
But the reception committee failed to
materialize. The man from Bird
Center rode up to London in a small
compartment with several of our Brit-
ish cousins. He tried to be social and
drop a little more cement on the Anglo-
Saxon alliance, but they looked out at
the landscape and did not seem in-
clined to mix with one who had not

been presented. By the time the train
rumbled in among the chimney-pots,
they had him frozen as stiff as a board.
After he had been on the other side
for about a week he found out that if
he wanted to talk to any one, he could
go out and employ a guide.

Still, there were some who recognized
the bold relation, and they died him.
The cabbies charged him three times
the regular tariff for a four-wheeler.
He did not like to correct this flatter-
ing impression and explain that he was
merely a bonder from Bird Center
who wanted to go it cheap. So he
let go rather freely, and the first thing
he knew his letter of credit began to
look lop-sided.

He went against the London tailor
and bought a lot of strange garb with
cushions in the shoulders. The gar-
ments did not fit him, but were said to
be durable. The tailor said he could
not wear them out, and after he re-
turned home he found that he did not
dare to.

After remaining in London for a
week and getting fairly well acquaint-
ed with a waiter, he struck out for the
continent, where they had been saving
up all their had money to give to
him. He did not know how to make
change. In the excitement of travel
he forgot his four French sentences
and became so loosed that they did
what they pleased to. He was from the
U. S. A., where the currency grows
on bushes, and they felt at liberty to
go through him.

He was so busy scrapping over bills,
looking up time tables, paying excess
baggage and sending illustrated postal
cards back to Bird Center, telling
what a grand time he was having,
that he had very little time for sights.
Still he managed to look into 400
cathedrals that looked just alike and
had the same damp odor and he stood
in front of several thousand faded mas-
terpieces and let on to admire them.
After awhile all scenery looked alike
to him and when a guide tried to
pull him into a gallery he resisted.

However, there was no escaping the
Hotel Hold-Up. He thought he had
learned a few tricks in the coal busi-
ness, but these Inn-Keepers made
him look like a pale young amateur.

Wherever he stopped, a smiling
manager gave him the sleeve across the
wind-pipe and went through his
pockets. If breakfast was two francs,
he had to pay an extra of three francs
for wear and tear on the cutlery. At-
tendance was charged in the bill and
yet every employee had his hand out
and demanded his bit. They soaked
the coal dealer for candles he didn't
burn. Not that he cared so much for
the money, but he hated to be done.

After a couple of weeks though, he
got used to it and would extend his
neck and take it in either jugular with-
out a murmur.

He began to count the days until he
would see Bird Center again. He
wanted to be back where the teams
were hitched around the courthouse
square and no building was more than
15 years old and everybody said:
"Hello, Bill!"
In addition to being homesick he
was hungry. He could not get his
steak and onions. At the sad round-up
known as the tollbooth, they passed
him a lot of trimmings that he could
neither pronounce nor assimilate. He
sat in the Forum at Rome and longed
for rhubarb pie. As he floated on the
Grand canal in Venice, he realized
that green corn was coming into the
market back in Bird Center, and the
blow nearly threw him out of the gon-
dola. He stood in the majestic pres-
ence of Mount Blanc and made an open
offer of seven dollars for a cup of
mother's coffee without any dog-gone
chicory in it.

It was a joyous day when the coal
dealer climbed into a six day boat
headed for Sandy hook. He had used
the cable to get two hundred over and
above the letter. He didn't know
whether or not his trip had broadened
him, but he knew it had left him
short.

He realized that when he landed in
New York he would be searched as a
smuggler, and then sandbagged by a
huckman, but he was ready to stand for
anything that wasn't done in a foreign
language.

"The Latin races may be on the de-
cline, but they didn't refuse to take
all of mine," said the coal dealer, as
he rolled back across the vasty deep.
"The only way I can get revenge is to
go back to Bird Center and talk Europe
for the next ten years."

Moral: The time to enjoy a Euro-
pean trip is about three weeks after
unpacking.
—GEORGE ADE.

Mr. Schoff in Toronto.
Mr. Elgin Schoff, who since Septem-
ber of last year has been practicing as
a barrister in the courts of the Yukon
territory, has returned to Toronto to re-
cuperate after a serious illness. Mr.
Schoff was seized with pleurisy in
March, and had rather long fight
with the disease before he was de-
clared convalescent. He came east
about ten days ago, and to a Globe
reporter yesterday said that the terri-
tory was prosperous and the people
contented. The clean-up this year
would be not less than twenty-five mil-
lions. The changes in the mining
regulations have been welcomed by the
miners, and more fees have been paid

this year already than were paid last
year altogether. Discoveries are being
made on creeks that were formerly re-
garded as unpromising, but the chief
cause of improvement is the reduction
of the cost of mining which enables
many claims to be operated on a pay-
ing basis that were formerly unprofit-
able. The country, Mr. Schoff says, is
good for several years more, and its
future can be greatly enlarged by
the adoption of economical processes.
Mr. Ernest Schoff, a brother of Mr.
Elgin Schoff, is a druggist in Dawson,
and he, after meeting all sorts of peo-
ple, is convinced that the present
placers are good for 20 years.

Canadian merchants are getting a
large share of the trade now, about 85
per cent of the stuff coming in by the
upper Yukon route being of Canadian
origin. In food stuffs Canadian canned
fruits and vegetables are the best, but
in meats the Americans have the
standard. Bacon is very poor, but a
big Canadian firm, to whom Mr. Schoff
wrote, suggesting that they try for
the trade, said they could not see their
way to doing any more business at
present. The only point that Mr.
Schoff thinks requires a change in
administrative methods is the composi-
tion of the territorial council. The
judge is a member and the council is
really a political body, Mr. Schoff
thinks the gentlemen who occupies the
bench should be relieved of his obliga-
tion to serve on the council. —Toronto
Globe.

Echo of Fosburg Case.
Pittsfield, Mass., July 31.—Since the
trial of Robert Stewart Fosburg on
the charge of manslaughter, in killing
his sister, May L. Fosburg, a year
ago, and his acquittal in the supreme
court a few days ago, Mayor Russell
and members of the city council have
received letters and telegrams from all

parts of the country urging the re-
moval of Chief of Police John Nichol-
son. The following letter, written
in New York and mailed in Newark,
N. J., caused the mayor to act:
"His Honor, the Mayor of Pittsfield:
"Sir—It is up to you now to deal
promptly with that mountebank and
stage hero, Pittsfield's chief of police.
Strangers, other than thieves, will give
you a wide berth hereafter. They will
be slow to risk not only their lives,
but their means and reputation of the
survivors within the limits where the
grasp of that opera bouffe hero secus
all powerful. Redeem the good name
of your commonwealth. Very truly,
"CHARLES S. ROLLINS."

The mayor made public the follow-
ing reply to Mr. Rollins:
"In answer to the above communica-
tion it is only fair to state after a
crime was committed the chief of po-
lice only did his duty in gathering all
the evidence bearing upon the case.
This evidence was obtained with the
assistance of the state detective force
and submitted to the district attorney.
An inquest, secret of course, was held
by a judge of the district court. The
evidence at the inquest was submitted
to the grand jury, who, upon that evi-
dence, found an indictment against
Robert S. Fosburg. Not until after the
indictment was an arrest made. How
or wherein the chief of police ex-
ceeded his duty it is difficult to see."

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