

Directory.

SOCIETY.—Established 1866, incorporated 1864. Meets in St. Alex. Hall, 92 St. Alex. Street.

NO. 2.—Meets in St. Gabriel New Centre and Laprairie and 4th Friday 8 p.m. President, 885 St. Catherine.

NO. 3.—Meets Wednesday at 8 p.m. in St. Gabriel New Centre and Laprairie and 4th Friday 8 p.m. President, 885 St. Catherine.

NO. 9.—President, 208 St. Andrew Street. Secretary, J. O'Leary. Treasurer, J. O'Leary.

NO. 13.—Meets in its hall, 230 St. Andrew Street. President, J. O'Leary. Secretary, J. O'Leary.

NO. 14.—Meets in its hall, 230 St. Andrew Street. President, J. O'Leary. Secretary, J. O'Leary.

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THE MAN AT THE LONELY STATION.

Though it fell more than fifteen years ago, the story is still a live one in Langley Canon and Sutton's Bowl. As for Harry Pulver, he is likely to whisper of it in the delirium of his last breath.

The scene of it lay in a sea of land long ago tossed up and fixed on a chaos of troughs and gigantic billows, a canon and sunken bowl out that mountain-flow which rolls in of British America and southward across Montana.

Pulver himself was of New England stock. His father, an architect of some repute, had sickened with tuberculosis, and, of course, when too late, joined the colony in Colorado.

At the end of a year death closed the matter for Pulver, Senior, and the widow and big boy, by one hazard and another, came ultimately to live in Ogden. Here the son got to school for a couple of years, following these with two or three years of desultory employment of various sorts, ending in some months of study of telegraphy at home and further months as an unpaid "student" at a little station up in Idaho.

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time, and on that account fall asleep at night and let trains go by, and that sort of thing.

At seven o'clock Pulver felt responsibility descend upon him, the weighty task of preserving human lives and property. He felt it heavy and, to a degree, fearsome.

He straightened up with a gasp of surprise, the piece of iron in his hand. He wrenched the door wide and leaped into the passenger-room. The robber was there with revolver leveled. In the instant of their meeting Pulver noted that the man was rather short in stature, but strongly fashioned; that a long coat covered him to the knees, with a fur cap pulled down solidly over his head, and that the black cloth mask blew out from his mouth with sudden, startled breath.

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The express safe stood in a corner of the office; there was money in the ticket drawer. Was he going to yield to another without a struggle that which had been placed in his keeping? He stood in a grove of thought.

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ankles in the moment of his forward swing. He had jerked the youth's feet back and Pulver, spinning around, crashed upon the floor. In a twinkling the two men leaped upon him, fairly crushing out his breath.

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battering and pounding through a billow of clamorous sounds. To the man by the door his roar was faint and far off, like the dreamy noise of falling waters. "Brace up—and—be—a—man," he breathed, trying to get his stiffening hands above the base-board of the room; then, closing his fingers as if clutching the lever, he sighed and trembled and fell eternally still.

The engineer of the "wild" pushed back the frosted window of the cab and looked up at the signal as the light turned on; they would reach with frost. He opened the throttle a notch wider, making for the meeting point with the express at Sutton. He had feared he would find the end train was all right; they would reach home and wife and child the quicker at the distant division station! Thus with its crew ignorant of the tragedy and impending catastrophe the train went down Langley Canon after Pulver.

Poor fellow! As hard as man ever strove Pulver strove. Above him raced a glimmering storm of stars tangled with waving ribbons of the aurora, by him flashed the whirling walls of the station were white, covered, bulging masses of stone, there streaked with black torrents of spruce and pine. He heard nothing save the noise of the car and the turning of his breath and blood in their labor but he felt the ore train behind him. How soon would it overtake him? How soon would he be crushed between the trains? The questions were like spurting flames if he could but breathe freely! If he could only tell them! As he plunged and struggled the taller man snatched one of the revolvers from the set. "Don't kill him, Bill; he's got to open the safe!" gulped the other, heeled back in the great room. "Look out!" Pulver had wrenched his right hand loose and had caught the taller man by the throat, bearing him backward toward the lever, but the pistol-belt suddenly came down, getting the young fellow's head, sickening, deadly involuntarily they fell, and he staggered back and fell in pitiful fashion near the inner partition.

For a moment he lay quivering, his eyes unopened and twitching, then suddenly he grey still, and looked straight at the men. The pupils of his eyes were dilated, and though he stared hard at them, he seemed gazing at something far away. An instant later, he bounded up like a steel spring released, and sprang through the door into the freight room. He went over the boxes and barrels like a flying deer, and burst out upon the platform facing away and in its stead came the south end of the great room. His dumfounded assailants plunged after him, but he fled down the track like a melting shadow. In his semi-delirium of mind he recognized and headed but one thing; up from the south, a dozen miles away, he seemed to see the express rushing toward him like a burning star. He was to meet and stop it.

As he flew along the track he tore the stifling gag from his mouth, and the bitter cry came into his throat like ice. At the south end of the switches, an eighth of a mile from the station, he came upon a hand-car standing on the rails. With a cry he stopped abruptly. From some distance back in the gray darkness came the sound of running feet. He gave the car a push, sprang upon it, and threw his weight upon the handle-bar. The wheels began to burr and hum; the dull blur in his brain faded away and in its stead came a keen, painful, burning activity of mind, abnormal and strange, for by nature he was big and slow.

This car was the means by which the robbers had come to Langley, he told himself, and this means by which they had hoped to escape. They had stolen it from the section house, probably at Sutton. Some of the section-men's tools were still on the car; he felt them under his feet. Suddenly he threw back his head with a cry of joy. The switch, the right hand down at the margin of Sutton Lake! He had remarked them as he came up on the mail. If he could but gain the switch and throw it! With some-thing of mad passion he poured all his great strength into the wheels, right hand down, and down Langley Canon, through the echoing groove of the canon.

Up near Langley Station his two pursuers had stopped. Pantingly the shorter one looked up toward the sky. Throbbing up the northern heaven and pulsing into the incomparable dome flowed the slimy, ghostly streamers of the aurora. By times these burned red through all their gray web, again they glowed pale and flickering, then gushed upward, radiant, indescribable.

"Look at that, Bill!" whispered the one who first saw the vision. The other looked, and ended the stare with an oath. "It's nothing but a hundred feet from shore, but his bravado had in it no awe. 'Let's get the ticket money and skip,' he said. 'Where do yeh s'pose Jim is? Heard 'em shoot, but seen nothing of 'em since.' 'Don't know. Listen! There's a train coming from the north! Let's get out of this, Bill!' They ran across the tracks, and entering a road that bordered the ridges, disappeared in the gloom.

Truly a train was coming. Down the main trestle, roaring through the silence of the night, came the ore "wild." Inside the station a poor soul was making life's last effort—a supreme struggle to do a deed worthy of man. Inch by inch, foot by foot, the tramp operator was dragging himself toward the signal lever. He had heard the dispatcher's order to Pulver, and now the roar of the approaching train came to his dulling ears. "Brace up and be a man," he said, "whispered the crawling figure. A red trail marked his progress. He was almost to the signal when the train burst across the switches, but gripped with mortal injury he tried in vain to lift himself to the lever. Again and again his trembling hands crept up the wall as he lay upon the floor, but each time slipped guttering down, and the "wild" went by.

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ed upon the conductor and others when they turned back to the switch and found a young fellow, battered and bleeding, lying insensible at the base of the target. Three hundred feet southward stood the ore "wild." "Who is he, anyway?" cried the conductor. "Great