

A Pioneer of Note

Written for The Western Home Monthly by Francis J. Dickie

RECENTLY there died at Athabasca Landing, Northern Canada, "Old Capt. Shott." To people in the great world, that dwellers in the Northland speak of as the "outside," this announcement will cause no stir for there he is unknown to fame. But in the historic annals of the Northland long will linger his name, for he was the first man to run the Grand Rapids of the Athabasca River and in the doing changed the whole commerce of the northland.

again till the fear of the rapids was conquered. So by proving the river's channel was practicable he changed all the commerce of the north country and the fur catches of the seasons came out over this new route and provisions and trade goods went in.

Still though he had proved that the channel could be run by scow, the many that went in did not like to trust their loaded boats to this white water; but fortunately, right in the centre of the



The brigandish looking old gentleman in shirt sleeves is the late Capt. Shott

Perhaps out of laziness or the desire to save work—reasons that have similarly caused some of the world's greatest discoveries—did Capt. Shott first dare the dangers of taking a scow through the rapids some fifty years ago. Up until then all the goods that went into the great wilderness of Northern Canada in Alberta and Mackenzie Land were brought in by Prince Albert over a chain of lakes and rivers to Methye Portage on Lac La Loche, then on, via the Clearwater River to Fort McMurray and the country beyond. This was known as the Clearwater Route; and even to the hardened voyageurs of the country was a terrible trial. Fifty odd years ago Capt. Shott, then in the prime of his husky manhood, came to hate the rough Methye Portage and the length of the Clearwater Route. Another way was offered to the "outside" via the Athabasca River to Athabasca Landing then to Edmonton where were railroad-

rapids, and running the full length so that both ends touch on fairly calm water, is a strip of land known as Grand Island. This strip offered a safe and easy portage for the goods and to carry them a railroad was built by the Hudson's Bay Company. It is the shortest one in the world, a scant quarter of a mile in length. It is built of strap iron laid on wooden rails and ties. It carries no passengers. Its freight rate is \$2.50 per ton payable in advance, every man handling his own. One man attends to all departments so, unhampered by the weight of expenses of trainmen, section hands, presidents and boards of directors and other costly necessities that are the profit reducers of other lines, this little road has flourished and at the end of this year showed a net profit of a million dollars to the company on an original outlay of about a thousand. Its rolling stock is two battered lorries (flat cars) the motive

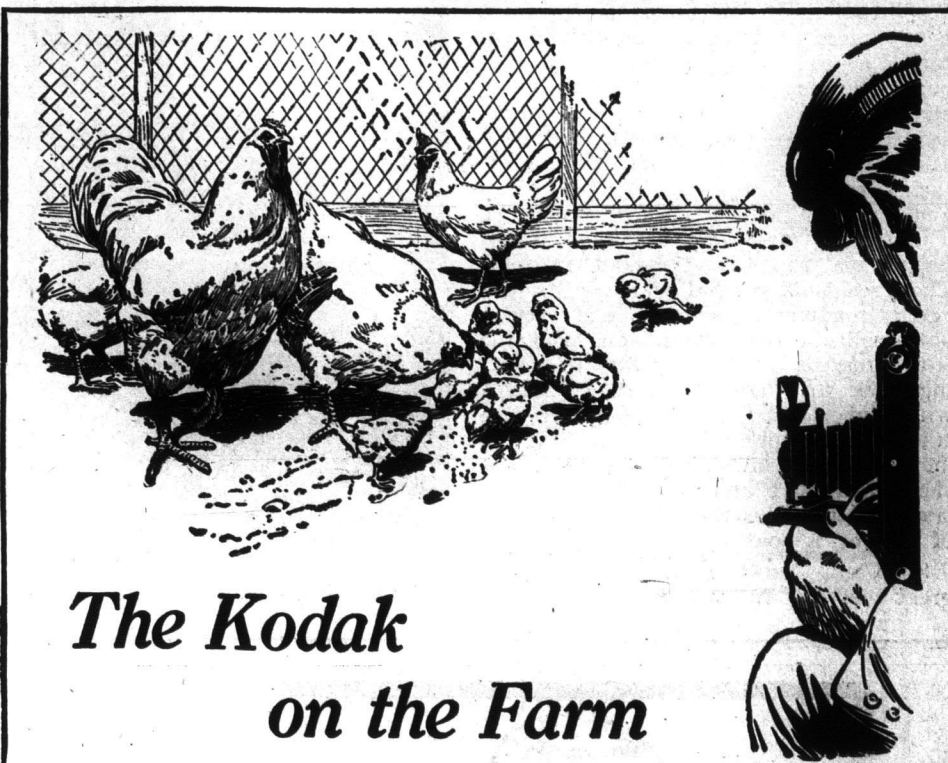


Shooting Rapids on the Athabasca River. There are ninety miles of them between the landing and McMurray

ing facilities. But on this river, one hundred and sixty-five miles above the Landing, lay the Grand Rapids, a stretch of water a little over a quarter of a mile in length in which distance there is a drop of sixty-five feet. Capt. Shott was a master boatman, and a daring "whitewater man," and spurred on by his hatred of the older trail he took up the challenge of the Grand Rapids which from time immemorial had been conceded impassable even by the men trained from earliest boyhood to the dangerous river navigation of that land. Capt. Shott ran the right hand channel in a scow and, that all might know that this doing was not merely lucky accident, he did it over again and still once

powers for which must be furnished by the shippers.

The system of overcoming the dangers of the rapids is very simple. Following the unloading of its freight at the upper end of the Island the scow is nosed once more into the river and shot through the right hand channel. Manned by swarthy half-breed boatmen trained from youth to "white water" the scow goes through the seething stream making the quarter mile in seventy seconds (actual time by stop watch made recently). Reaching the smoother water at the other end of the Island it floats a little way and is then held against the current by the boat men. At the same time a man arrives at the end of



The Kodak on the Farm

EVERY live thing on the farm is worth a photograph—and just now when chicks and lambs and calves are arriving so rapidly is a most interesting time to start a Kodak record—such a record often becomes more than interesting, it becomes a business asset.

Picture taking is very simple by the Kodak method and less expensive than you think. Ask your dealer or write us for our new booklet, "The Kodak on the Farm."

CANADIAN KODAK CO., LIMITED

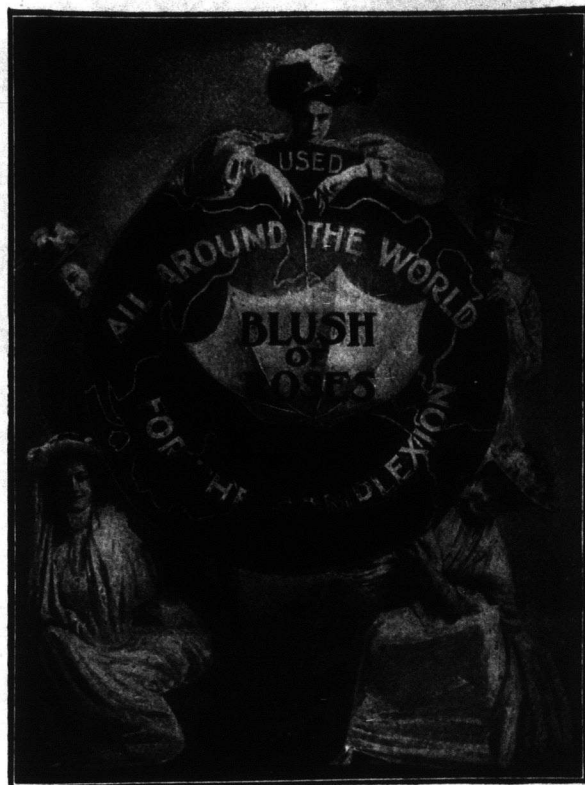
610 KING ST. W., TORONTO

SUPERFLUOUS HAIR

Moles and Warts successfully removed. Eczema and acne treated. Facial treatments. Scalp treatments. Soft water Shampooing. Manicuring.

Mrs. McConechy, Suite 5, Credit Foncier Bldg., Regina, Sask.

FREE! FREE! TO LADIES



A Bottle of Blush of Roses

The regular price of the bottle of Blush of Roses I send free is 75c. In other words, it is a regular full-sized 75c bottle that I give to any lady absolutely free. The most perfect face preparation and complexion beautifier. Whitens the face as soon as applied, still its use cannot be detected. BLUSH OF ROSES is clear as water; no sediment to fill the pores. BLUSH OF ROSES will positively remove tan, freckles, pimples, blackheads, liver spots, moth-patches, erysipelas and salt-rheum. Remember this, no matter how dark or sallow your complexion may be, you will see it improving day by day until a clear, smooth and beautiful complexion is obtained. Gentlemen who admire a lady's fine, clear complexion are not adverse to having the same themselves. And why should they hesitate to use the BLUSH OF ROSES? It is clear as water, takes the shine from the face, removes all the impurities of the skin and leaves no sign like powder or paint. The only clear, pure and harmless face preparation made. Cures eczema and all skin diseases. Price 75c per bottle. Address Mrs. Frances E. Currah, Windsor, Ont.

Write For Free Trial Offer

Blush of Roses is Also For Sale by the
T. EATON CO. LTD., TORONTO and WINNIPEG