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PEOPLE AND PLACES

Keys, Railroad Critic.

"THE railroad world is still an oligarchy, it is true; but it is no more an autocracy. Whatever one may say, this fact stands out beyond a question; there is no Harriman the Second," writes Mr.



Mr. Clement M. Keys,
Is an Expert on Railroads.

Clement M. Keys in *The World's Work*. A Canadian is Keys, who for the past ten years has been historian of the big railroad kingdom of the republic. Railroads is his specialty, though he sometimes takes a fling in one of the big New York magazines at some subtle phenomena of finance or insurance. If Clement M. Keys only knew the economics of his subject it is hardly likely that editors would rate him among the half-dozen highest-priced writers outside of fiction in America; he sees beyond the Blue Book. He puts red blood into his articles. They are drama. He knows human nature; was a student of it long before he became expert on that which runs into steel rails. Years ago, he had fiction ambitions. The writer remembers a story of Keys, which appeared in the *Canadian Magazine*, a symposium of Quebec life in the real Drummond style. Hawley, the Moores, J. J. Hill, the Goulds and Vanderbilt—all these czars of transportation are now Mr. Keys' characters; he has sized up their methods; he knows the personalities behind them. Just lately, Mr. Keys has been outlining for readers of *The World's Work* the situation of the past six months, since Edward Harriman came back from Europe and died. "Death and easy money," explains Keys, and he tells of the invading armies encroaching on the Harriman lines; the Pearson incident of a few days ago was only an incident in the disruption of the late wizard's kingdom. Fascinating drama!

It is interesting to dig up a few facts concerning the young critic of Uncle Sam's institutions. Clement M. Keys was born in Chatsworth, Ont., thirty-four years ago. He spent most of his youth at Clarksburg. There he lived the usual academic life of a bounding Canadian country boy with more restrictions than some, however, as he explains himself in a recent letter to the *CANADIAN COURIER*: "Like most clergymen's sons, I had only a passing acquaintance with money."

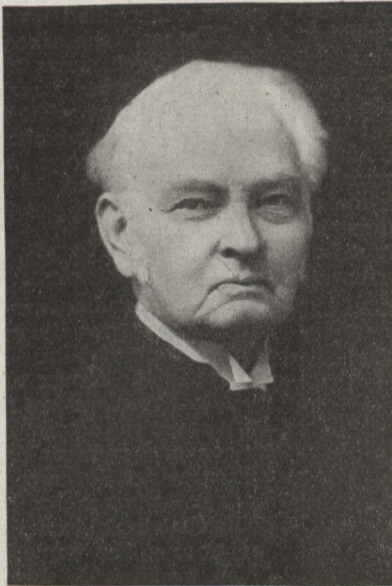
He plugged through Lindsay Collegiate, and by 1893 was cribbing away at Homer in University College, Toronto; sending in copy to various Toronto publications, whose small cheques helped to pay his fees.

Teaching classics at Ridley College was his first job after graduation. That lasted till 1901. The easy penury of teaching wasn't exciting enough for Keys—even with an occasional football work-out under Counsell of Hamilton. Wanderlust seized him. What should it be—Atlantic or Pacific? He says he tossed a coin. All he wanted was free-lancing and eating flapjacks in the big world of New York, about the time Stringer, O'Higgins, McFarlane, and Heming were just getting on their feet. Gradually he worked himself on to the *Wall Street Journal* as reporter—salary ten dollars a week. It is notable that the *Journal* made it twelve his third week; three years later he was railroad editor. In 1906 *The World's Work* signed him; for this great magazine he has fulfilled many big assignments, interviewing some of the most exclusive men in railroading.

* * *

A Sky-Pilot of the Trails.

"AS God is my witness, if you have this man shot you are his murderer." The young clergyman who thus remonstrated with the half-breed Riel, forty-one years ago, on that cold, grim morning that Thomas Scott was led out for execution, died the other day at Toronto. Rev. George Young was the first Methodist missionary in Manitoba; he was a sky pilot of the trails; he belonged to the West of the past like Robertson, the Presbyterian, to the days when bad men were picturesque—



Rev. George Young,
Late Renowned Missionary of the Prairie.

horse thieves, whiskey smugglers, and alcoholised red men. Fort Garry was Dr. Young's mission. Here, as a young man, he began by ministering to the prisoners whom Riel gathered in on his rampage back in '69; he comforted Thomas Scott in his last hours. Dr. Young was a great Canadian missionary. He came to Fort Garry as the humble emissary of his church; he lived to see it Winnipeg, a city of churches.

Dr. Young has a son in Regina. Major Young it was who brought Riel from Regina to Winnipeg fifteen years after his father's encounter with the rebel. The son has still the handcuffs in his possession.

* * *

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