

CANADIAN OUT-DOOR LIFE.

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE GOSPEL OF OUT-DOOR LIFE
IN THE TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS, AND THE VALUE
OF FRESH AIR AND HYGIENIC LIVING FOR EVERYONE

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Michael—The Story of a Consumptive

By GEORGE RANDOLPH CHESTER, in *Munsey's Magazine*

WRITHING, scintillating snakes of white-hot iron shot one after another out of their rolls, to come sliding lithely and rapidly along the floor toward Michael Dyer all day long, like things of malignant life. It was Michael's duty to grab these searing bars with a pair of tongs and guide them into the next set of rolls, through which they emerged longer and thinner and still more lithe, for another agile man to handle. But with that man Michael had no concern; it was upon Dan Lennon—working next to him down the dim aisle, which, like a dream of the inferno, was shot throughout its interminable length with these vivid, crawling streaks—that he turned his gloomy eyes in the occasional pauses when, for some reason or other, a beat or two was missed in that rhythmical procession of angry metal.

The cause for his somber speculation was presently revealed when Dan was attacked

by an acute paroxysm of coughing—a seizure that shook him violently from head to foot, that made him gasp and struggle for breath, and, stooping, huddle his shoulders together for escape from that intolerable pain in his chest. His next bar was already gliding swiftly on the way. Behind it was not only the force of the ponderous rolls, but the power of irresistible commercial organization that forced it through whether men lived or died; and it could not be stayed. Already it was nearing the point where it must be handled, and Dan, gaging it through his strained eyes, staggered toward it, though he knew that if he jerked or even wavered in the handling of it and swung that flexile brand against himself for but a passing touch, it would hiss its way to the bone.

Before he could reach it, however, Michael was there and had pushed him aside. His own bar was six feet behind Dan's, and by agility extraordinary in one so big he had



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