

POOR DOCUMENT M C 2 0 3 5

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1921.

ARTHUR STRINGER AND HIS WORK

Although Mr. Stringer was very busy finishing a new book when I called to see him recently he kindly consented to tell me of his life, and expressed himself honored to think the Circle of Young Canada was giving him notice. He said he was better acquainted with the Circle than we suspected, and that he found the page vital and alive, and very interesting to grown-ups who have been jaded and dulled by the world.

John Arthur Stringer was born in London, Ont., in the year 1874. His book "Lonely O'Malley" gives a good idea of his boyhood. He received his education at the London Collegiate and was there partially civilized, so he declares. He then went to the University of Toronto, then to the University of Oxford. After leaving Oxford he spent a year and a half in Germany. Mr. Stringer began publishing his poems at the age of sixteen. His first poem was published in Goldwin Smith's paper, "The Week," and a kind and encouraging note from Mr. Smith fired the youthful poet with the ambition to follow the thorny path of literature. His second poem he sold to the Canadian Magazine. While at the University of Toronto he contributed a great deal to the "Varsity" and did sketches for "Saturday Night." Mr. Clark of the latter paper was the first to pay him money for his stories.

After returning from Germany Mr. Stringer accepted a position on The Montreal Herald at a dollar per day. After leaving the Herald he accepted an editorial chair with the American Press Association. His first novel, "The Silver Poppy," was written and published, and feeling he needed more time to spend on his writing, he resigned his position and became a free lance. Harvey O'Higgins, Arthur McFarlane and Arthur Stringer then clubbed together and rented the top floor of a tumble-down, old mansion on lower Fifth avenue, New York. Here they wrote to their heart's content, and tried to scare the fabled wolf from the door. What poet does not have trouble with that savage beast? Mr. Stringer sold his first three stories in a bunch for twenty-five dollars, on the condition he was paid cash, as the three young writers were desperately in need of the money. In the next studio was Ernest Seton Thompson, who appeared very prosperous and famous to the struggling young scribblers.

Slowly but surely they made their way, even taking the matrimonial venture. Then, tiring of New York and longing to be with his own people once more, Mr. Stringer left the skyscrapers and came to Canada, purchasing a beautiful farm at Cedar Springs on Lake Erie, seven miles from lovely Rondeau. Here, at "Shadow Lawn," he was peace and quiet to be found as well as inspiration.

Mr. Stringer is very fond of travelling and generally spends his winters in globe trotting. One winter he spent in Southern California, where he wrote the life of Mary Pickford for the Motion Picture Magazine. Another winter he spent in lovely Florida, another cruising the Caribbean Sea and visiting South America. One winter was spent in Paris and Rome, and one in Sicily, but he is always glad to come back home to Canada again.

Several novels have been published by this popular author. They are "The Silver Poppy," "The Wire Tappers,"

"Phantom Wires," "The Under Groove," "The Gun Runner," "The Shadows," "The Door of Dread," "The Hand of Death," "The Prairie Wife," "The Prairie Mother." His last book, "The Prairie Child" is appearing serially in The Picorial Review and will come out in book form in the spring of 1922. In this book we will once more meet charming Charlie McKail and find out how Peter and Duncan win out.

As a poet Mr. Stringer is as famous as a novelist. His volume, "The Woman in the Rain," runs the entire gamut of human emotions. "Sappho and Leucadia" is imaginative, passionate, and artistic work of surpassing quality. He has published several volumes and, although he is not at present publishing poems in magazines, he has not given up poetry by all means. He is working from time to time on a volume of poems that will be published next year, and on a second volume for 1922.

He is keenly interested in the Canadian Authors' Association and wrote a very interesting article on the aims of the association for MacLean's Magazine of April 18, and hopes it will have a beneficial effect on the work of the association. His books produced on the motion picture screen. Whether the pictures do Mr. Stringer's work justice I cannot say, never having had the pleasure of seeing them.

He at present resides during the winter in Chatham, and has two charming little boys—Bob and Barry. Bob asked the other day why he should be spanked for telling stories, while his daddy got money for doing the same thing. Mr. Stringer was just getting ready for a four-week trip through the Northwest, ten days canoeing down the Peace River, a few days in the Rockies, and then a detour down the Pacific Coast to Vancouver, where he will no doubt find setting for a new novel. He wishes young people never to forget that he wants to be reckoned as a good Canadian and will always remain so.

ROSE O' THE RIVER.
SHOULDER TO SHOULDER.
(Montreal Herald.)

The new United States ambassador to Great Britain, Colonel George Harvey, has arrived in England with a message of good will and friendship that comes at the right time and will be cordially echoed on both sides of the Atlantic. In reply to the Southampton welcome he made what may be called a shoulder-to-shoulder speech which must appeal strongly to the people overseas. "I am directed," he said, "to extend to England the full co-operation of America in all good works, and if this great empire

and the great republic get together shoulder to shoulder, they cannot and will not fail to save themselves and the world."

It is the spirit in which the ambassador goes to Great Britain he will see world affairs in an identical light, but both stand for the things that will make the world a better place to live in. Their efforts to cultivate civilization must run straight and true and on a path of confidence in both hemispheres and nothing is better calculated to do it than this same shoulder to shoulder policy.

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