

A Race with a Train

By Mary Greene

ELEANOR Hamilton looked up from her book with a sigh. Outside the little telephone office in which she worked, the wind howled, and the rain dashed fiercely against the window panes. It was only seven o'clock in the evening but already it was very dark.

It was always lonely in the little office, and lonelier this night because everyone in Raynor's Corners but old Mr. Raynor and herself had gone to a fair in the village four miles away. It was too early for her friends to return, and, as she expected to have very little work Eleanor had brought her book with her. She delighted in books—this little girl of fifteen—and through them she had travelled far and wide, though in reality, her longest trip had been to the nearest railway station only six miles away.

She had just begun to read again when she raised her head, startled. Surely

she heard voices! Was someone returning sooner than had been expected? The speakers drew nearer. No, they were not known to her. They paused, and Eleanor listened to find out who they were. Their voices raised, and she heard that which made her catch at her desk in dismay.

A plot was on foot to wreck the express before it reached the station. It was well planned; everything was in readiness, and the men seemed confident that nothing would interfere. Just now they were congratulating themselves on having chosen a night which was quite suited to their purpose.

They had paused at the back of the office, probably out of the storm which was raging furiously. They were not able to see the light from there. Eleanor quickly blew it out and moved closer that she might hear better. But the men had ceased talking, and as the storm calmed down they began to move. Eleanor held

her breath. Would they come in? What would they do when they found she had overheard? However, they passed by, and she was left to herself.

Wreck the train! and no one there to do anything. What could she do? There were only forty minutes till the train was due. The wires were down between Raynor's Corners and the station, so she could get no word through. Yet she must do something. She couldn't stay there and let all those people be killed. What could she do? It seemed as if her brain refused to work.

Suddenly she thought of a way. Her brother had a new motorcycle which she had tried once or twice. He had intended to ride it to the fair but at the last moment had changed his mind, and had left it in the shed at home. Could she manage it? She would try anyway.

It was but the work of a moment to run to the house nearby, slip into her brother's oilskins, and get the machine from the shed. Pushing it before her, she walked a short distance to make sure the men were not near, and then sprang to the seat.

Less than thirty-five minutes to go six

miles. Time enough, perhaps, for one used to the motorcycle, but, on a dark and stormy night, over a rough and almost unknown road, it was no small task for a young girl—a girl who had ridden for only a short distance before. The light from the motorcycle could scarcely pierce the gloom. What was in the woods on either side of her? A twig snapped. Was it some wild animal or one of the men? Yet no thought of turning back was in her mind. On and on she went. Fifteen—sixteen—twenty minutes passed and she was not yet half way. She had to have more speed. Could she make it? She must. On her depended the lives of all those people.

There was the half-way mark, and she had only twelve more minutes. Was that the whistle of the train? Time seemed to drag. She could barely hold on, yet never did wheels seem to revolve so slowly. Only five minutes more! If only the train were late—but, away in the distance she saw the light of it. Which would win?

On and on she went, and on and on it flew. She could hear it thundering along. It was gaining! She couldn't make it! All those people—if only she could—but, no, still it gained. It rounded the last curve. More speed—could she do it? Yes, and with a sudden spurt she reached the track. There was not a moment to lose.

With a quick jerk she wrenched the lamp from the motorcycle and, standing in the track, waved it back and forth. Still the train came on. Wouldn't it stop in time? Yet she held her place. Then, with a sudden grinding of the brakes the train stopped. Very briefly and modestly Eleanor told her story. Then she felt herself growing faint.

It was a proud and happy girl who, a week later, boarded the train with her mother for the trip to the city of her dreams. In her bag was a pass given to her "in recognition of her bravery."

SPRING'S AWAKENING

From all the blasts of heaven thou hast descended;
Yes, like a spirit, like a thought, which makes
Unwonted tears throng to the horny eyes,
And beatings haunt the desolated heart,
Which should have learned repose; thou hast descended.
Cradled in tempests; thou dost wake,
O Spring!
O child of many winds! As suddenly
Thou comest as the memory of a dream,
Which now is sad because it hath been sweet;
Like genius, or like joy, which riseth up
As from the earth, clothing with golden clouds
The desert of our life.
This is the season, this the day, the hour;
At sunrise thou shouldst come, sweet sister mine,
Too long desired, too long delaying, come!
How like death-worms the wingless moments crawl!
The point of one white star is quivering still
Deep in the orange light of widening morn
Beyond the purple mountains; through a chasm
Of wind-divided mist the darker lake
Reflects it; now it wanes; it gleams again
As the waves fade, and as the burning threads
Of woven cloud unravel in pale air;
'Tis lost! and through yon peaks of cloud-like snow
The roseate sunlight quivers; hear I not
The Aeolian music of her sea-green plumes
Winnowing the crimson dawn?
—Shelley ("Prometheus Unbound").

Three men, an American, an Irishman and a Canadian were boasting about how long they could sing.

"I could sing for 24 hours easily," said the American.

"That's nothing at all," said the Irishman, "I could sing for a week."

"Well," said the Canadian, "I could sing the Maple Leaf Forever."

The Merchants Bank of Canada

STATEMENT OF LIABILITIES AND ASSETS AT 30th APRIL, 1920

LIABILITIES		1920	1919
1. To the Shareholders			
Capital Stock paid in	\$	8,400,000.00	7,000,000.00
Rest or Reserve Fund		8,400,000.00	7,000,000.00
Dividends declared and unpaid		338,159.22	194,194.00
Balance of Profits as per Profit and Loss Account submitted herewith		260,774.98	574,043.32
	\$	17,398,934.20	14,768,237.32
2. To the Public			
Notes of the Bank in Circulation		14,791,027.00	13,316,033.00
Deposits not bearing interest		45,368,876.69	43,552,214.61
Deposits bearing interest (including interest accrued to date of Statement)		114,132,175.79	91,904,993.37
Balances due to other Banks in Canada		2,747,402.86	2,614,696.64
Balances due to Banks and Banking Correspondents in the United Kingdom and foreign countries		831,997.39	105,076.96
Bills payable		2,117,441.21	464,153.05
Acceptances under Letters of Credit			
Liabilities not included in the foregoing			
	\$	197,387,855.14	166,725,404.95
ASSETS		1920	1919
Current Coin	\$	4,193,117.50	4,946,946.33
Deposit in the Central Gold Reserves		7,500,000.00	7,000,000.00
Dominion Notes		8,407,003.25	8,405,602.50
Notes of other Banks		1,170,482.00	985,044.00
Cheques on other Banks		11,093,195.77	6,082,616.99
Balances due by other Banks in Canada		9,400.50	3,215.80
Balances due by Banks and Banking Correspondents in the United Kingdom		445,034.79	123,496.50
Balances due by Banks and Banking Correspondents elsewhere than in Canada and the United Kingdom		1,561,157.87	1,903,040.10
Dominion and Provincial Government Securities, not exceeding market value		7,893,229.90	6,005,573.65
Railway and other Bonds, Debentures and Stocks, not exceeding market value		4,507,688.10	4,119,705.32
Canadian Municipal Securities and British, Foreign and Colonial Public Securities other than Canadian		13,239,204.59	15,238,399.32
Call Loans in Canada on Bonds, Debentures and Stocks		6,471,494.31	5,134,690.71
Call Loans elsewhere than in Canada		6,206,537.78	2,801,857.72
	\$	72,697,546.36	62,750,188.94
Current Loans and Discounts in Canada (less Rebate of Interest)	\$113,198,913.90		
Loans to Cities, Towns, Municipalities and School Districts	3,587,491.69		
Current Loans and Discounts elsewhere than in Canada (less Rebate of Interest)		116,786,405.59	95,874,426.04
Liabilities of Customers under Letters of Credit as per contra		1,117,268.51	332,918.12
Real Estate other than bank premises		2,117,441.21	464,153.05
Overdue Debts, estimated loss provided for		604,325.33	782,326.64
Bank premises at not more than cost (less amounts written off)		352,737.25	386,973.56
Deposit with the Minister for the purpose of the Circulation Fund		*2,576,630.21	5,253,269.48
Other Assets not included in the foregoing		377,000.00	366,000.00
		758,500.68	515,149.12
*After crediting amount received in respect of Premises transferred to The Merchants Realty Corporation, Limited.		\$197,387,855.14	\$166,725,404.95

H. MONTAGU ALLAN,
President.

D. C. MACAROW,
General Manager.

Report of the Auditors to the Shareholders of The Merchants Bank of Canada

In accordance with the provisions of sub-Sections 19 and 20 of Section 56 of the Bank Act, we report to the shareholders as follows:—

We have examined the above Balance Sheet with the Books of Account, and other records at the Chief Office of the Bank and with the signed returns from the Branches and Agencies and have checked the cash and verified the securities of the Bank at the Chief Office against the entries in regard thereto in the books of the Bank at 30th April, 1920, and at a different time during the year and found them to agree with such entries. We also attended at some of the Branches during the year and checked the cash and verified the securities held at the dates of our attendances and found them to agree with the entries in regard thereto in the books of the Bank.

We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion, the transactions, of the Bank which have come under our notice have been within the powers of the Bank, and the above Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Bank's affairs, according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us, and as shown by the books of the Bank.

VIVIAN HARCOURT, }
GORDON TANSLEY, } Auditors.
(of the firm of Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths & Co.)

MONTREAL, 25th May, 1920