

OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

By OTHO B. SENGU.

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As Doctor Blyth stood in the hall, a young girl stepped from an adjoining room inquiring anxiously: "How do you find my father, Doctor Blyth?" "His condition is serious," he admitted, "but with good care."

"When will he be able to go out again?" "Not for weeks," emphatically. Her look of anxiety deepened. "What is your father's business, Miss Hall?" "He is manager of the local telephone system, and attends personally to repairing and keeping up the line."

"That means a great deal of hard work," sympathetically. "Yes, particularly in the winter. The circuit comprises nearly 300 phones, and the line extends out into the country in all directions."

"Discontinue it in the winter," unthinkingly. "The subscribers need it more than ever."

"Nearly all of them are farmers and depend upon their telephone for communication with the village and with each other."

"If possible, keep your father all anxiety concerning the business. I fear nervous prostration in his case."

During his round of calls, Doctor Blyth thought often of the beautiful girl with the sweet, grave voice. He was a stranger in Lindsey, and was taking up his uncle's practice.

"Fred Hall—sick—that's too bad," was his uncle's comment. "But they'll manage all right," with a country doctor's knowledge of his patients' affairs.

"Mrs. Hall is strong and a good nurse. Fidelia understands the business thoroughly. Too bad she isn't a boy—it will take about all the manager's salary to hire a man to come here from the city to do the outside work."

Doctor Blyth was disappointed when several calls were made upon the sick manager without seeing Fidelia. She was constantly in his thoughts, and her lovely face seemed always before his eyes.

By chance, his next call was in the evening. Fidelia met him in the hall as he was leaving.

"Do you feel encouraged, Doctor Blyth?" "Yes, kindly, but his nervous condition is serious. Is he worrying about the business?"

"I think not," hopefully. "I hold his position as manager, and that encourages him—he has all confidence in my ability."

"You are a brave girl," enthusiastically. "You have someone for the outside work?"

She hesitated, coloring rosy. "I have the services of a very competent lineman."

"Where is your 'central'?" "Here," indicating the room adjoining. "I've always been father's 'hello-girl,'" smiling brightly.

On several succeeding calls, the physician saw her one outside the sick room but Edith Hall, a girl about thirteen years of age, and of a disagreeable, wholly unlike her mother, she cried impatiently. "Fidelia's out, looking after the line—the lineman."

He recalled his uncle's remarks regarding Fidelia's knowledge of the business. "The brave little girl," he murmured, "with a tenderness wholly unaccountable."

"She will wish to supervise the lineman's work for awhile. I'd like to drive with little Fidelia."

On the following evening, he saw Fidelia in her office. He reported hopefully of her father, and rejoiced in her words of praise for his professional care.

"I've often thought," she observed earnestly, "that I'd like to be a doctor."

Doctor Blyth smiled somewhat satirically. "You forget, Miss Hall, I rather loathe, 'your physical inability to cope with the hardships incident to a country doctor's life. He must brave any storm or cold—a delicate girl like you couldn't endure it."

A little, flickering smile lurked for an instant at the corners of the pretty mouth.

"Don't you approve of women being physicians?" "Frankly, Miss Hall, I do not."

"Aren't you somewhat old-fashioned, doctor, not to say antiquated, in your ideas?" "Quite," he replied.

"Perhaps," "but there are so many occupations for which a woman is wholly fitted. It seems regrettable she should enter upon one entirely unsuited to her."

"And may I ask," he demurely, "what are some that you consider suitable for women?"

"Well," hesitatingly, "first home-making. A woman should be a mother, and—and mother, of course."

"Those privileges," quietly, "are denied some women, Go on."

"School-teaching," triumphantly. "Military, dress-making."

"Not at all up-to-date," smilingly, "anything else?" "Well—er—lately, 'I don't recall anything at the moment.'"

"You wouldn't approve then, of a woman being a steam-boiler captain or an engineer, or a house-painter or a machinist?"

"Certainly not. The last two are utterly impossible anyway."

"Oh, I don't know," lightly, "I can even imagine a woman being a good lineman."

he fancied there was malignant satisfaction in Edith's brief answer. "Out with the lineman."

He ventured another evening call, but Fidelia was in charge of the switchboard, and opportunity for conversation was limited to a few words.

His half-conscious resentment toward the lineman prompted a question as to his competency. "You have to go around with him all the time," he grumbled jealously.

Fidelia blushed. "The lineman is fully competent, but I like to go. I am very fond of him."

An imperative call for "central" interrupted her, and the sentence was not completed.

Blyth remembered it uneasily. Was it the lineman—or had she meant to say that she liked driving in the glorious autumn weather?

He grew despondent as the weeks went by, and no matter how cold or stormy the day, Edith gave the same irritating answer, "Out—with the lineman."

"Then he resolved to settle the affair. He loved the girl—he was sure of himself now. He would boldly make the opportunity to tell her so. She should choose between him and that red-headed fellow."

He reached the drive-way at Hall's in time to see the slim figure leap from the buggy, and dash into the house.

The doctor followed hurriedly. "Go tell your sister that I must see her at once!" His imperative command startled Edith into instant obedience.

When Fidelia entered the room, with cheeks that rivalled the crimson of the soft robe she wore, Blyth sprang toward her.

"She mentioned him back with a repelling hand, even while her eyes gave him the assurance he sought."

"You know you don't approve—you said—"

"I don't care what I said! I was with a long Fidelia. I approve of anything that you do, and of everything that you are, Fidelia, my little line-man!"

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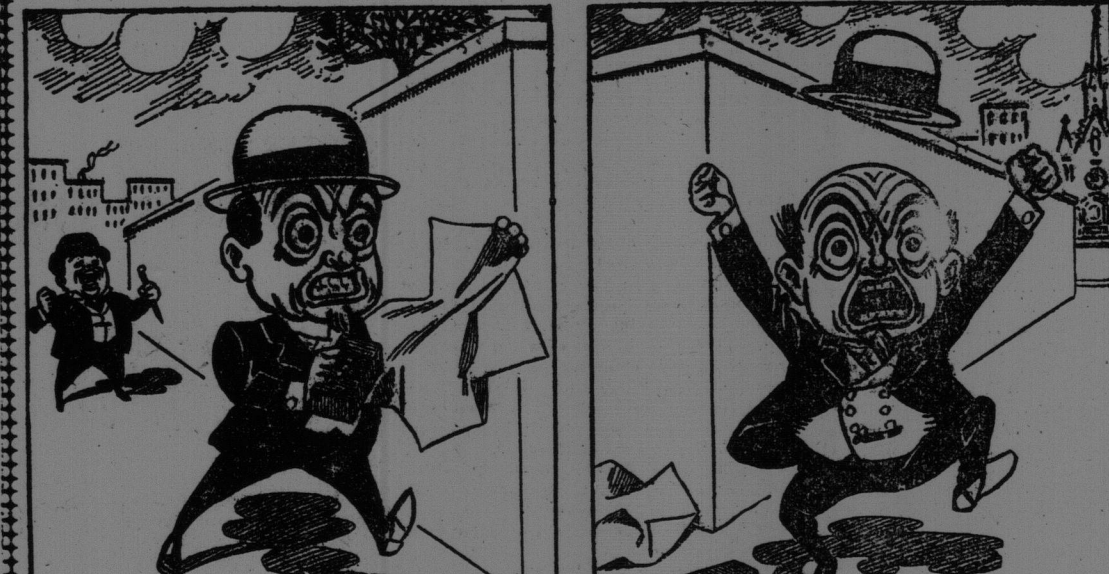
MR. E. Z. MARK AGAIN ASSISTS.

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1. STRANGER (panting)—Oh, oh!—hi! I can't go a step farther, I'm ready to drop. I've chased that man three blocks to give him this package, which he dropped.

MR. E. Z.—Here, hold my bag, umbrella and coat; give me the package and I'll catch him.



3. MR. E. Z.—Confound that fellow! I'll make him sweat for this. I'm just going to see what is in this package. By Jove! A common brick. By ginger! I'll teach that fellow to play tricks on ME.

4. MR. E. Z.—Why, where has that rogue gone? Where is my bag, my coat, my umbrella? Ye gods! I see it all. PINCHED by a scurvy trick, and there were seven hundred dollars' worth of gold bonds in that bag, too. Oh, ye generation of vipers! Done again!

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SHIPPING.

Domestic Ports.

HALIFAX, N.S., Jan. 22—Ard, str Durango, from Boston.

Sid, strs Orinoco, Bale, for Bermuda, West Indies, Demerara, Sokoto, Cottrell, for Havana and Mexican ports.

British Ports.

ST. JOHNS, N.F., Jan. 22—Ard, str Mongolian, from Glasgow via Liverpool for Halifax and Philadelphia.

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 22—Ard, str Annapolis, from Halifax via St. Johns, N.F.

GIBRALTAR, Jan. 22—Ard, str Canopic, from Boston for Naples and Genoa.

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 22—Sid, str Ibernia, for Boston.

MELBOURNE, Jan. 22—Ard previously, bark Primus, from Dalhousie.

Foreign Ports.

SALEM, Mass., Jan. 22—Ard, strs Wm Duren, from Portland for New York; Charlie A. Sproul, from do for do.

FORTHSMOUTH, N.H., Jan. 22—Fresh southerly breeze with thick snow, becoming northeast at sunset.

Ard, strs Luther T. Garretson, from Charles, Me., for New York; Laura C. Hall, from New York for St. John.

DELAWARE BREAKWATER, Del., Jan. 22—Ard, str Prescott, Palmer, from Boston for do.

REEDY ISLAND, Del., Jan. 22—Passed down, bark Freeman, from Philadelphia for Boston.

NEW YORK, Jan. 22—Ard, strs Lydia B. Roper, from Norfolk; Lulu Wheatley, from Virginia; Adelaide Bartlett, from Fernandina; Charles C. Lister, from Charleston; Lewis N. Goward, from Jacksonville; Mary Adelaide Randall, from Jacksonville; Charles Whittemore, from Georgetown, N.C.

John J. Hansen, from Wilmington; Mary Gilbert, from Brunswick; Rebecca Douglas, from Georgetown, S.C.; Edward W. Brury, from Providence for do; Henry Gray, hence for Norfolk, returned for harbor; Clarence A. Holland, from do for Baltimore, returned for harbor.

PORTLAND, Me., Jan. 22—Ard, strs Huron, Shields, from City of Stamford, in tow, after being fitted with machinery will proceed to New York to be used as passenger boat.

SAVANNAH, Jan. 22—Sid, str Nordpol, for St. John.

CHATHAM, Mass., Jan. 22—Fresh southerly wind, with rain at sunset.

Passed north, str Ontario, from Baltimore for Boston; James S. Whitney, from New York for do.

Passed south, str Navigator, from Halifax for New York; Henry M. Whitney, from Boston for do.

Anchored near Foulke Rip lightship, one light four-master, bound south.

BOOTHBY HARBOR, Me., Jan. 22—Ard, strs Emily A. Staples, from Wintertown, Me.; Martin Draper, from SAUNDERSTOWN, RI, Jan. 22—Ard, str Golden Rule, from Yarmouth, N.S.

NEW YORK, Jan. 22—Ard, str Mexico, from Havana.

Cid, str Robert McFarland, for Havana.

SPARROWS POINT, Md., Jan. 22—Passed down, str T. Charlton Henry, from Baltimore for Boston (in tow).

ST. JOHN, Jan. 22—Bound south, str Silver Spray, from Apple River, N.S.; Wm. Matheson, from Stockton Springs, Me.; Helen M. Benedict, from Boston.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 22—Ard, str Miles M. Perry, from Portland.

Cid, bark Freeman, for Boston.

BOSTON, Jan. 22—Ard, str Kirby Bank, from Buenos Ayres; tug Gypsum King, from Philadelphia; towing two barges; str Alice Maud, from St. John; Havana, from Liverpool, N.S.

Sid, str Boston, for Yarmouth, N.S.; Belov, strs George H. Ames, from Fernandina; Theoline, from Brunswick.

Cid, strs Saxonia, for Liverpool; Caledonia, for Manchester; Canadian, for Liverpool; ship Timandra, for Buenos Ayres.

CALAIS, Me., Jan. 22—Sailed strs, Lanie Cobb from New York via Broad Cove, for mooring.

VINEYARD HAVEN, Mass., Jan. 22—Arrived strs B. I. Hazen, Edge-water for do; Wm. P. Boggs, do for New Bedford; Charles H. Kinloch, Long Cove, for Philadelphia.

Sailed strs Georgia, for St. John; City Island; Buconco, (Br) from Hanstport, N. S., do.

Miscellaneous.

VINEYARD HAVEN, Mass., Jan. 22—Schr. H. R. Emmerson, (Br) Captain Edgett, from Weehawken, for St. John with cargo of coal, carried away rudder head off Faulkners Island; Long Island sound, during westerly gale 20th inst. She succeeded in reaching this port last evening and will have a new rudder stock fitted before proceeding.

Schr. Samuel J. Groucher, Baltimore for Boston at this port received head-rails from Boston today to replace those lost off the passage and will proceed first chance.

NORFOLK, Va., Jan. 22—The British str. Allegheny, Captain Harden, from London, Dec. 30, for Newport News, which was eight days overdue passing in the Virginia Capes today.

HIGHLAND LIGHT, Mass., Jan. 22—Strong increasing southeast wind with snow at sunset, a large fleet of schooners and tugs with barges passed into the bay late this afternoon and will have a bad night in making port. Some of them will probably put into Provincetown.

CITY ISLAND, N.Y., Jan. 22—Bound south, strs Silver Spray, from Apple River, N.S.; William Matheson, from Stockton Springs, Me.; Helen M. Benedict, from Boston.

CANADIAN PACIFIC

Two Express Trains

Leaves Montreal daily 9:40 a. m. First and second class Coaches and Palace Sleepers through to Vancouver.

Calgary, Tourist Sleepers Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays.

Montreal to Calgary. The Pacific Express Leaves Montreal daily 9:40 p. m. First and Second Class Coaches and Palace Sleepers through to Vancouver.

Tourist Sleepers Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Montreal to Vancouver.

These trains reach all points in Canadian North West and British Columbia. W. D. HOWARD, D.P.A., C.P.R., St. John, N. B.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY

ON AND AFTER TUESDAY, JAN. 15th, 1907, trains will run daily (Sunday excepted) as follows:

TRAINS LEAVE ST. JOHN. No. 6—Mixed train to Moncton... 6:30

No. 2—Express for Halifax, Campbellton, Point du Chene... 11:30

No. 14—Express for Quebec and Montreal, also Pt. du Chene... 12:00

No. 10—Express for Moncton, the Sydney and Halifax... 12:35

TRAINS ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN. No. 9—From Halifax and Point du Chene... 6:30

No. 7—Express from Sussex... 9:00

No. 12—Express from Montreal, Quebec and Pt. du Chene... 12:45

No. 5—Mixed from Moncton... 1:30

No. 23—Express from Halifax, Moncton, Pt. du Chene and Campbellton... 1:40

No. 1—Express from Moncton... 2:10

No. 11—Mixed from Moncton (daily)... 4:00

All trains run by Atlantic Standard Time; 24:00 o'clock midnight.

NOTE—A special train (with buffet sleeping car attached) will leave Truro every Saturday night for Sydney and Sydney Mines, after arrival of No. 34 (Maritime Express) from Montreal.

CITY TICKET OFFICE: 3 King street, St. John, N. B. Telephone 271. GEORGE CARVILLE, C. T. A.