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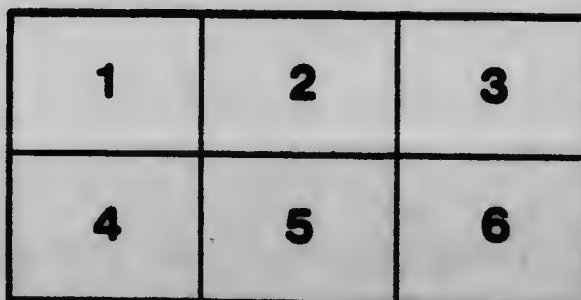
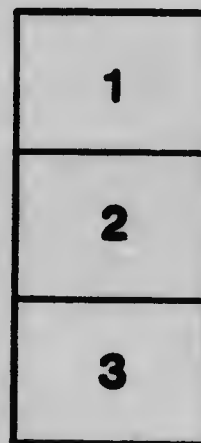
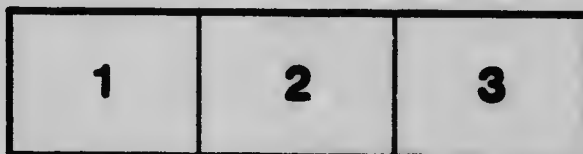
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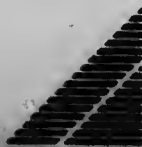
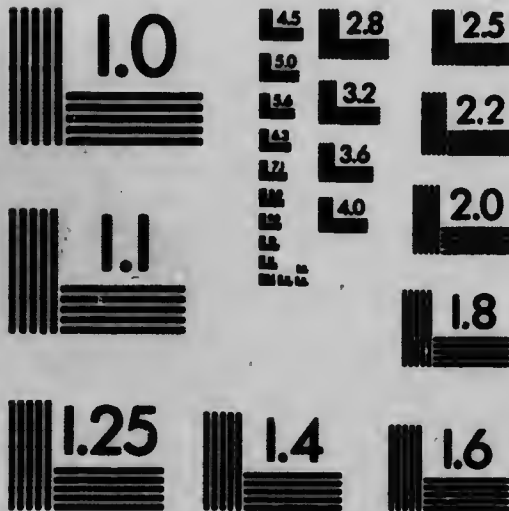
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Blasting a New Trail

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BLAZING A NEW TRAIL



"Buy a Book a Week"

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BLAZING A NEW TRAIL



A WINNIPEGGER and a Torontonion sat on the crowded bank of the Red River on May 2nd this year, and enjoyed the most picturesque panorama that has ever been seen in Western Canada. Round the bend in the river, hugging the St. Boniface shore, two York boats, with high narrow prows and long oars, surrounded by a flotilla of canoes manned by Indians from the far north, came rapidly towards the Louise Bridge, their course cheered by thousands of spectators.

This was the pageant designed to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Hudson's Bay Company, the oldest trading concern in Canada. The Company of Gentlemen Adventurers, as they called themselves in the days of Charles the Second of England, still operates over 150 fur trading posts in Western Canada, from the Saskatchewan to the Coppermine, and from the Nipigon to the Fraser. They have more Indians hunting and fishing for

Blazing a New Trail



them than ever before in their long history, and business in the northern wilderness is conducted with almost the same primitive simplicity as obtained two centuries ago.

And these Indians, brought down from the far north to Winnipeg to take part in the big celebration, were just as simple minded and arrayed with just the same barbaric splendor of feathers, beads, and buckskin as their forefathers. With the sunshine of the bright May morning dancing on their smiling painted faces, on their ornaments and paddles, they made a pretty sight, one which carried every beholder back to the stories of other days, the days of trail-blazing and settlement in the forest clearing.

"Well, this 'Fenimore Cooper' show makes me think we've made some progress in this country," said the Winnipeg man, as he pointed the stem of his pipe to the line of sky-scraper office buildings and elevators in the middle distance.

"Oh, I don't know," replied the Torontonion with a wise, eastern smile. "We've made some advance, but your reference to Fenimore Cooper and those delightful stories of his which rejoiced our boyhood, makes me think of our backwardness in producing home-made literary stuff for our boys and girls. This pageant shows that there is plenty of picturesque material in the Canadian west and north country."

Blazing a New Trail



"Heaps of it," said the Red River man. "Few Canadians realize what a romantic past our country has had. This Hudson's Bay celebration is going to do something to educate western people along this line. This is a banner year as far as anniversaries are concerned. In July the Province of Manitoba commemorated its 50th birthday, and in October the Anglicans will hold a big gathering to mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the first Protestant Church in the Canadian West."

"I suppose the Hudson's Bay Company encouraged the Christianizing of the Indians," said the man from Toronto.

"Yes, their first chaplain was a Highlander, a Catholic priest, and, strange to say, the first marriage ceremony performed by him, the first in Western Canada, joined two Scotch Presbyterians. But the first Protestant clergyman was an Anglican, the Rev. John West, who arrived in the Red River settlement in 1820. He is important in two respects: he not only built the first Protestant church, but he wrote the first book about the West. We have a copy of it in the Legislative Library here. It was published in London, and is known as 'John West's Journal.' "

"I should think it would be a very interesting chronicle."

"Yes, it is particularly good in its descriptions of the habits of the Indians in this region a cen-

Blazing a New Trail



tury ago. Canon Heeney, of St. Luke's Church of this city has written a book telling all about John West and his missionary labors a hundred years ago. It is entitled, 'John West and His Red River Mission,' and will be published in connection with the Centenary celebration."

"I don't suppose any of those early inhabitants of the Red River country bothered about fiction," said the Toronto man.

"Oh, there have been a few books of the sort you mention published in this country," replied the Winnipegger, "for instance, those of R. M. Ballantyne, another friend of our boyhood, who took only second place to the peerless Fenimore. By the way, did you ever know that in his youth he was a clerk in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company?"

"No? Is that so?"

"Yes, and lived in Winnipeg for a few years. He was perhaps our earliest Western story writer. And he is still a big seller. Talking about boys' books, however, has it ever struck you that we have never had a Canadian 'Boy's Own Annual?' You and I used to get a lot of fun out of that publication when we were kids, and I am glad our youngsters can have the same high-class reading matter to-day, but it does seem too bad that no Canadian publisher has ever got out an all-Canadian production of this kind. It does seem to be

The Trail Makers Boys' Annual



MUSSON



The Trail Makers Boys' Annual

...

R.G. MacBeth M.A.
Editor in Chief



Blazing a New Trail



hard luck that every Christmas you and I have to buy 'Chums' or 'The Boy's Own Annual,' which are imported in big quantities from the old country, and have distinctively old country color and all that."

"I agree with you," said the man from Toronto. "And I am happy to tell you that The Musson Book Company are blazing a new trail in this direction. This fall they are going to publish for the Christmas trade a "Trail Makers Boys' Annual." It's the biggest boys' book of the year. The best known Canadian writers have contributed stories that will delight the heart of every boy. I think it is edited by a Western man, too."

"That is mighty good news!" exclaimed the westerner. "Here's one father who will invest in the all-Canadian Boys' Annual."

"You people out here ought to be quite chirked up over the fact that Western Canada is producing more authors than the rest of the country put together. There must be something in the prairie air that makes for authorship."

"Yes, I know nearly all of our western writers and I am delighted to think that they are making good. And speaking of The Musson Book Company, how is it that your Toronto firm is rapidly adding our western men to its list of authors?"

"I can tell you," said the Torontonionian. "It is



Robert Stead

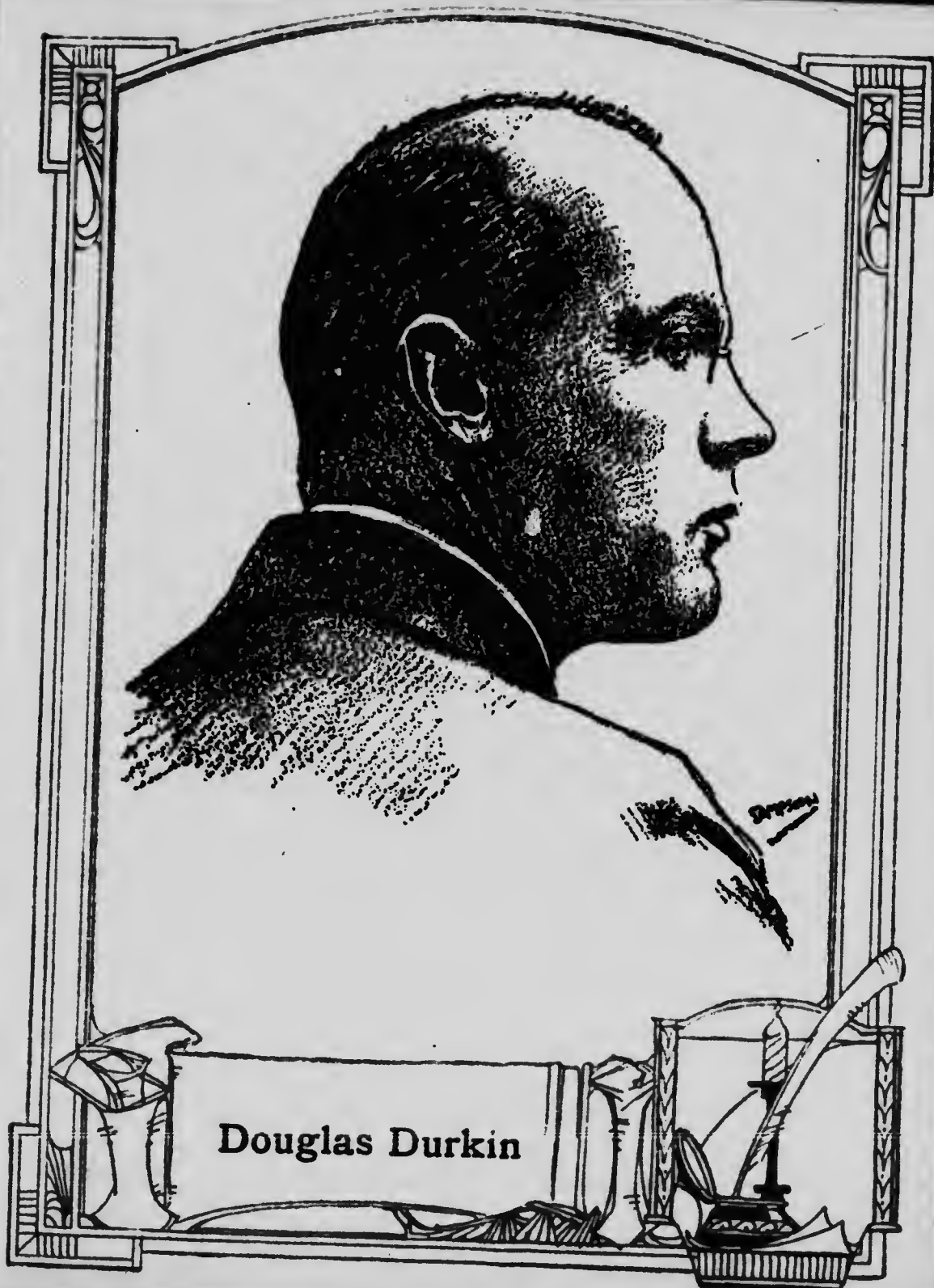
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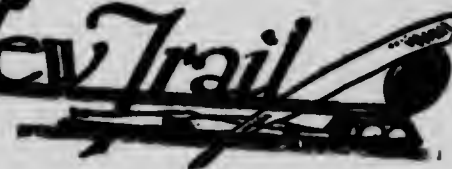
because they have adopted the right kind of policy, just what is needed to develop our native literature. Mr. Musson is for specializing in Canadian stories by Canadian authors, set up by Canadian printers and produced entirely in Canada. All this firm's Canadian publications are easily identified with the **MUSSON ALL CANADIAN PRODUCTION** stamp that appears prominently on them."

"Wasn't it Musson who published Bob Stead's 'Cow Puncher?' "

"Yes, Stead was one of the first western authors to be boosted by The Musson Book Company, and he has quickly jumped into the big-seller class. His first story, 'The Homesteaders,' was published four years ago. It was a faithful description of pioneer farming days in southern Manitoba, and as it was written in a racy style and lit up by the whimsical philosophy which is a prominent feature of Robert Stead's fiction, it had a good sale. In fact it is still selling well in reprint form. Stead's second book to be published by Musson was a collection of war poetry, 'Kitchener and Other Poems,' published three years ago. It has a big circulation in the West, and helped to prepare the way for 'The Cow Puncher,' a story of Calgary,



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the best novel that was produced in Canada two years ago. It sold very well in the West. Down East its title made book-buyers somewhat shy, but some 17,000 copies were sold in this country, which puts Stead next to Ralph Connor as a Canadian big seller. Stead was brought up in Manitoba, lived in Calgary for years, and is now a high Government official in Ottawa. I understand that he has completed another novel of Alberta life, 'Dennison Grant,' which will be published by The Musson Book Company this fall."

"I have read everything Stead has written," said the Winnipegger. "There is nothing cheap or nasty about him. His stories are, to my mind, the liveliest, truest, and most wholesome that have come out of the west. What I like about Stead is that he doesn't fill up his books with mounted police, half-breeds, and wild and woolly adventures."

"Oh, yes, but the majority of the people out here are just as tame as the citizens of Toronto and Montreal, and I like a story of adventure; don't make any mistake about that. Did you happen to see a story last Christmas, 'The Heart of Cherry McBain?'"

"Yes, I read it with great interest. It had a good sale in Toronto, and The Musson Book Company published it too."

"So I believe. Well, it was written by a friend

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of mine here in Winnipeg, Douglas Durkin. He is a professor in the University of Manitoba, but doesn't write in an academic style. He was brought up in the Swan River Valley on one of the first homesteads opened up in that now wealthy farming country. In his teens he worked on the right of way of the Canadian Northern, and since then has had a romantic career in many parts of the West, from Swan River to Oregon. If any man in these parts knows life in the Canadian West in all its phases it's Douglas Durkin. He is a man's man, all right, and I feel it in my bones that he is going to be one of our leading writers in a very short time."

"For a new writer he has been very fortunate in the large sale of his first story," said the Torontonians. "I could tell by his 'Cherry McBain' story that he knew all about life in a railroad construction camp. What struck me most forcefully in that book was its unusual combination of romance and realism. Durkin can picture the brutality of life, but he seems to find everywhere the jewel in the slag heap."

"Talking about the mixture of every-day fact and romance, there is another Winnipeg author who has tried a daring experiment in that line. I do not know whether you have ever heard of him or not down east. His name is William Ingersoll, and he is a member of 'The Free Press' staff in this

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city. Like Stead and Durkin he has grown up with Manitoba, having spent his boyhood on a farm. He became a school teacher, but drifted into the city, and has been engaged in newspaper work for the last ten years or so. His first book, 'The Road that Led Home,' was published by Harper and Brothers three years ago. It was a story of Manitoba country life and showed real distinction of style. In his spare time Ingersoll is always working at short or long stories; he is a quiet individual who is absolutely devoted to his art. He would rather think up plots for stories than eat. He is more of a dreamer than any author I know."

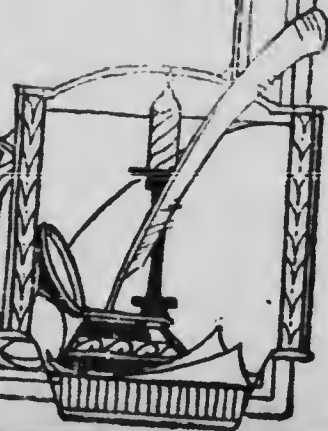
"But how can a dreamer be a realist?"

"Oh, the newspaper has kept Ingersoll in touch with the actual. He has been forced to observe details and to study character. He has been working on a new novel for the last two years, and as I am a good friend of his he allowed me to read the manuscript. And I want to tell you that he has introduced a new idea into current fiction in this story. He has had the nerve to make a servant girl the heroine. He brings Daisy into Winnipeg from a Manitoba farm and describes her adventures in the home of one of our rough-and-ready knights. She falls in love with a chauffeur and moves in a circle which no Canadian author has ever thought of writing up before. One of her acquaintances is a pugilist, and perhaps the

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Will E. Ingersoll



Plazing a New Trail

most skilful chapter in the story is the description of a sparring-match from Daisy's point of view. So far as I know nothing like it has ever been done before. It is a most unusual book all through, this servant girl romance. 'Daisy Herself' is the title of the story and Musson will publish it this fall."

"Another Musson author, eh?"

"Yes, and I miss my guess if Ingersoll does not become a popular author. That he has great ability is apparent from the fact that O'Brien selected his short story, 'The Centenarian,' which originally appeared in Harper's Magazine, as one of the best twenty published in American magazines last year. Ingersoll was the only Canadian to carry off such a distinction, so far as I know the first to be included in any year-book of the American short story. He is more of a phrase-maker than any of our Canadian writers."

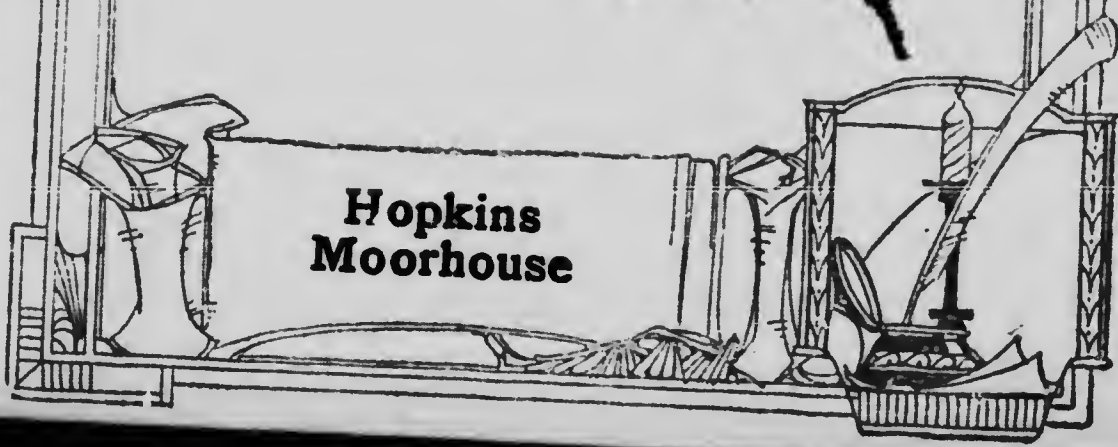
"I have run across short stories in 'The Red Book' by another Winnipeg man, Hopkins Moorhouse, and have just read a new novel by him. Do you happen to know him?" asked the easterner.

"Sure I do," replied the Winnipegger, loading up his pipe. "I used to know Moorhouse when he was night editor on the London 'Free Press.' Later on when he came west and edited 'The Trail' magazine here I used to contribute an occasional article to that ill-fated publication. Through lack of capital that project failed, but Moorhouse has never



SAMPSON

Hopkins
Moorhouse



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lost the urge to write. Perhaps you have seen his book, 'Deep Furrows?' "

"You mean that much-talked-of history of the Grain Growers movement in the west? Yes, I read that book and hardly knew whether to call it a romance or a history."

"Well, it was both. It might be called a romantic history, for in the battles of the western farmers against the big interests there were plenty of high lights, and Moorhouse was too old a journalist not to play them up. But that book is a volume of great importance in the political and economic history of our country. It will live in the archives. Some 20,000 copies have been sold in Canada. Moorhouse, however, is first and foremost a writer of fiction."

"Coming west on the train I read a new story by him, 'Every Man For Himself.' Is that his latest?"

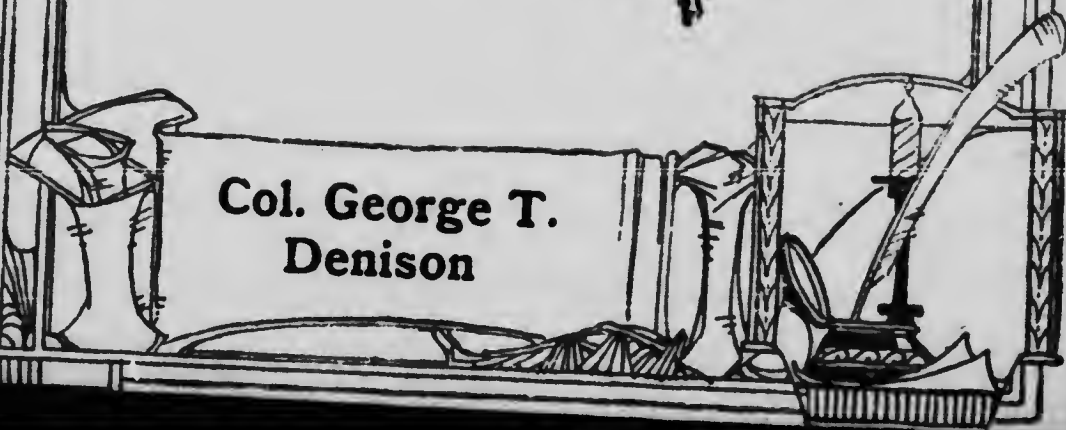
"Yes, and once more it is a Musson all-Canadian production."

"Well, by George, this man Musson ought to move his plant out to Winnipeg! It strikes me he has cornered the author market here."

"Just about. Ralph Connor is a lonely survivor yet outside the Musson fold. But remember what I said to you a little while ago, the west is turning out a lot of writers these days, and most of them are hooking up with The Musson Book Company



Col. George T.
Denison



Plazing a New Trail



because that publishing house does its darndest to boost Canadian novelists, and is very enterprising in its publicity work. Authors appreciate a live publisher."

"Moorhouse seems to have gone east both for the publisher and the scene of his new yarn."

"Yes, he lays the opening scene down in your city, along your beautiful waterfront. I think you will agree with me that the chapters in that book, particularly the fight in the wilderness of Algoma and the girl's ride in the locomotive, are the kind to keep one up late."

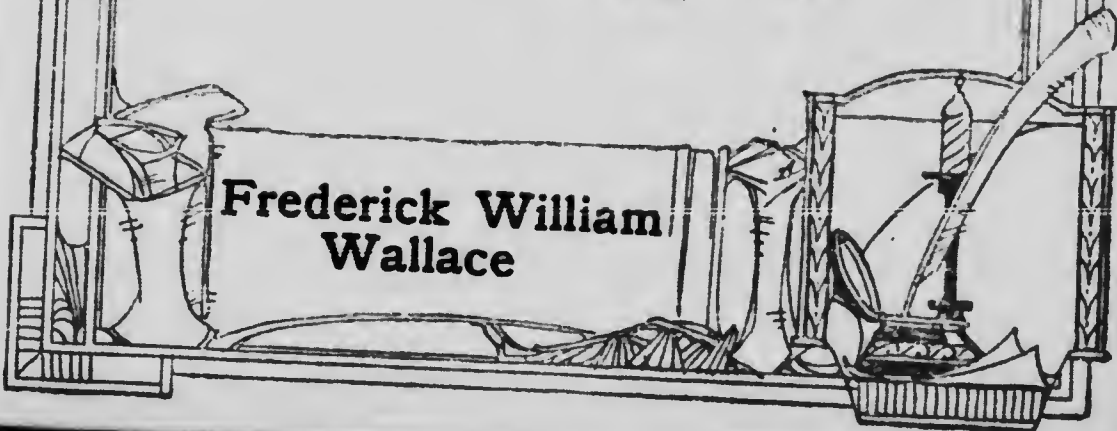
"Do you know the porter was quite wrathful because I persisted in occupying the smoking compartment until 1.30 a.m. in order to finish 'Every Man For Himself.' It has machine-gun action all right, and I can guarantee it as a sure cure for the sleeping sickness. It is brimming with color and life and the zest of adventure and romance. There are parts of it which are positively breathless."

"Toronto readers ought to be interested in that story anyway," said the western man. "It isn't often that you find a Winnipeg author laying the scene of a romance in Toronto, and now that I think of it, I do not know why it is that you don't grow any novelists in your city."

"Oh, we go in more for solid stuff," said the Toronto man smiling. "We are pretty strong on biographies, memoirs, essays, and history. This is



**Frederick William
Wallace**



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what might be expected from the chief educational centre of Canada. When we indulge in anything light, we usually choose the poem rather than the novel to express ourselves. We have a numerous band of poets in our city."

"But none of them very great?"

"No, nothing extra special. After all, as befits an old city, memoirs are our specialty. Last year Sir John Willison published his reminiscences, and this year my old friend, Col. Denison, on his 81st birthday, published 'Recollections of a Police Magistrate.' As Colonel Denison is the grand old man of Toronto, universally beloved as our finest type of citizen, and, as he has been magistrate of Toronto for nearly half a century, his book ought to have a big sale."

"It will sell well wherever Toronto boys are located. I for one am eager to read his anecdotes of the past. When I was in newspaper work in Toronto I used to 'do' the police court once in a while and I always admired him for the way he broke through legal red tape and handed out good old-fashioned justice. A kindlier or more upright magistrate never sat on the bench."

"Well, the Colonel's book is the only worthwhile publication Toronto is responsible for this season."

"But what about Montreal or the far east? Last year two or three maritime novelists got out

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volumes. Is there anything coming from that quarter next season?"

"Montreal doesn't seem to be much more prolific than Toronto, but I know that one good novel is coming from Montreal this year. It is entitled, 'The Viking Blood,' and is by Frederick William Wallace, editor of 'The Canadian Fisherman.'"

"Is that the man who wrote 'Blue Water' some five or six years ago? I certainly enjoyed that story of down-east fishermen."

"The same man, and this time he writes about the same life. His father was a sea-captain and he himself spent years with the men who fish off the banks of Newfoundland and on the coasters which ply the Atlantic from Halifax to Boston. He is master not only of sea-craft, but of 'Blue-nose' speech and mannerisms. During the war Wallace was sailing master and navigator of a 'Q' ship, a Bank fishing schooner fitted out by the Imperial Navy. He cruised the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Grand Banks on the look-out for German submarines. In his new novel of sea-life he describes the adventures of a Scotch boy in a large four-mast barque on a voyage from the Clyde to Vancouver. Coming back again from Victoria to Halifax, the young sailor enters the Bank fishing fleet and there he finds the real romance and fascination of seafaring. This excellent story will open the eyes of Canadians to the grand qualities

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of the fishermen of our maritime provinces. Wallace allowed me to read it in manuscript, and I can promise you a good time when you get hold of it in book form this fall."

"Who is publishing it?"

"Once more, The Musson Book Company, and I believe they are also behind Col. Denison's 'Recollections.'"

"All I can say is that Musson seems to me to be blazing a big trail this year with such a team of all-Canadian authors. Pretty soon we won't need to worry about the exodus of our native writers to the United States."

"Not if you and I and other Canadians patronize home industry in the writing and manufacturing of books."

"Well, the Hudson Bay Indians must be near the old fort by this time. Let's go up town and have lunch."

A price list of the books referred to in this article as well as some other interesting Canadian works, will be found on the following pages.

CANADIAN FICTION

DURKIN, DOUGLAS,

THE HEART OF CHERRY McBAIN.

Cloth, \$1.50 net.

THE LOBSTICK TRAIL (in preparation).

HALIBURTON, JUDGE,

SAM SLICK THE CLOCKMAKER, His sayings
and doings; with an introduction by E. A.
Baker, M.A. Frontispiece, 442 pp.

Cloth, \$1.50 net.

INGERSOLL, WILL E.

DAISY HERSELF.

Cloth, \$1.75 net.

THE ROAD THAT LED HOME. Cloth, 1.00 net.

KING, BASIL,

THE THREAD OF FLAME. Ill. Cloth, \$2.25 net.

MOORHOUSE, HOPKINS,

EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF. Cloth, \$1.75 net.

STEAD, ROBERT,

DENNISON GRANT.

Cloth, \$1.75.

THE COW PUNCHER.

Cloth, \$1.00.

THE HOMESTEADERS.

Cloth, \$1.00.

WALLACE, FREDERICK WILLIAM,

THE VIKING BLOOD. Ill.

Cloth, \$1.75 net.

BLUE WATER.

\$1.75 net.

Page Twenty-five

CANADIAN TRAVEL BOOKS

CAMPBELL, DR. WILFRED,

THE CANADIAN LAKE REGION; Its Beauty, History, Romance and Mystery. New and enlarged edition. 37 illustrations. 256 pp. Cloth, \$2.00 net.

COPPING, HAROLD,

CANADIAN PICTURES, with 36 plates in colour illustrating Canadian Life and Scenery. Reproduced from original drawings, with descriptive letter press by E. P. Weaver. Cloth, \$5.00 net.

LEMOINE, J. M.,

PICTURESQUE QUEBEC. A sequel to "Quebec and the Present." Original edition (1882) with maps. Cloth, \$3.50 net.

LONGFELLOW, HENRY W.,

EVANGELINE, with a description of the Evangeline Country. An illustrated souvenir for tourists, 120 pp. (in preparation). Paper, 50c.

CANADIAN POETRY

ANONYMOUS,

CANADIAN CANTICLES. 126 pp. Cloth, \$1.00 net.

CAMPBELL, WILFRED,

SAGAS OF VASTER BRITAIN. Poems of the Race, the Empire and the Divinity of Man. With Frontispiece Portrait. 176 pp. Cloth, \$2.00 net. Leather, \$3.50 net.

GORDON, ALFRED,

POEMS. 134 pp.

Cloth, \$1.25 net.

JOHNSON, E. PAULINE (Tekahionwake),

FLINT AND FEATHER. (Complete Poems), with an introduction by Theodore Watts-Dunton and a biographical sketch of the author. Illustrated by J. R. Seavy, 6th Ed. Revised and Enlarged. 200 pp.

Cloth, \$2.25 net.
Leather, \$4.50 net.

MacCUAIG, WILLIAM WILBER,

SONGS OF A SHANTY-MAN, and "Dialect" Poems of French-Canadian Life. With full-page Illustrations in color and black and white by Wm. F. Binger. 96 pp.

Cloth, \$1.25 net.

MACKENZIE, G. A.,

IN THAT NEW WORLD WHICH IS THE OLD. Poems of the New Life. 96 pp.

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