A Runaway Trunk

By CHARLETTE HAMMOND

"No, sir," said John, determinedly, "we won't give it up if we have to go on foot!"

"Well," said Elmer, "I don't see any way unless we do go afoot, for we have only got two dollars between us, and the fare to Portland is more'n two dollars apiece."

"Pete Bateman got over harder spots than this," said John, "and I know we can.'

"Yes, I suppose so," responded Elmer. "Father might give me a dollar or so to spend at the fair next week. If it would do any good, I'd ask him, but I might as well ask the town pump."

While the two boys are laying plans, we'll find out who they are and what means this planning of theirs.

John Sheldon, a bright, quick-witted boy of fourteen, is the son of a well-to-do farmer. The other boy, Elmer Hammond, is the village doctor's son, a few months younger. The two are excellent friends. They have been reading "Perilous Adventures of Pete Bateman, the Boy Sailor." Roused by the daring deeds and wonderful escapes of the hero, a mania to go to sea has fallen upon them. They think there's no good in asking their fathers' advice, so they are laying plans in secret.

John has learned that the fishing schooner Brittomart sails for Newfoundland the twenty-fifth, and it is now the twenty-fourth.

The two boys start from beneath the "High Top" sweeting tree in the orchard where they have been sitting.

"Isn't there a way to go on the freight train?" asked Elmer, throwing an apple core toward a chipmunk, chattering on the stone wall.

"No, I guess not," answered John thoughtfully. "But I've got an idea!" he exclaimed exultantly, crumpling up his old straw hat and giving it an upward fling.

"Quick—out with it!" said Elmer.

"There's an old trunk of grandpa's up in the garret! Do you see, Elmer? Chuck what we want in that, get in, and one of us goes as baggage. What do you say to that?"

"You've struck it!" declared Elmer. "Let's go at it. I'm in for that. Why, you're as cute as Pete.' '

"We'll have to start in the morning," said John. "We'll have a gay time. We'll see a bit of the city when we're through our business with the captain."

Not a doubt but that they could go as sailors had once entered their heads. Of course Captain Daly would take them.

It was decided that Elmer should get permission and come down and stay all night with John. He was to take him what he wanted, and they'd pack what they could in the trunk.

Before Elmer started for home ,they stole softly up to the attic, brought the trunk down and put it in a dark corner of the barn.

A little after dusk, Elmer came over, bringing his best suit and his new baseball, tied together in an old handkerchief. These, with some of John's possessions, were packed in the trunk, leaving not a very roomy place for a boy. Half a dozen or more air holes were bored in the sides. All was ready for an early start in the morning.

The boys retired in good season, but not to sleep. At half-past eleven, John looked at his watch.

"Why, Elmer, if you'll believe it, is isn't but half-past eleven."

The same was repeated at one, and again at half-past two. At three they rose and dressed, went softly down the stairs and out into the cool morning.

Elmer had a little homesick twinge as they started, but John laughed at him.

Each taking a handle of the trunk, they went toward the station. They reached the station, as they hoped to, before anyone was about.

It required some talking on John's part to persuade Elmer that he, being the smaller, ought to go in the trunk. There was just room for him to curl down on his side.

He got in, John shut the cover, locked the trunk, and sat down beside it.

"How do you feel, Elmer?" he asked at length.

"Sort of boxed up,' replied Elmer. "There isn't any room to spare."

Soon the station was opened.

John bought his ticket, got his check and when the train came steaming in, he first made sure the trunk was put on, and then he got on board and off they went.

John enjoyed the ride. Twice only had he been on the cars before, and never alone.

At Dalton Station, in a yard behind the station, were kept some deer, a fox, a raven and other animals.

Their fame had reached John's ears, and, as there promised to be a stop of fifteen minutes for breakfast, he left the car and went round to see them; and for a time they quite drove his sea voyage from his mind. There came a sudden reminder, however, when he heard the puff, puff of the engine and the rumbling of the cars.

Then he started and ran round to the front of the depot, only to see the train rushing off—without him. John felt badly, but did not know what to do.

"Well, now, I was a fool!" he thought, as he looked after the vanishing train.

He asked a man standing near when the next train went to Portland.

"Not till afternoon," was answered.

This was a blow to John. Added to his desire to reach the city was not a little anxiety as to Elmer's condition in the trunk.

What a long four hours he had to wait! Time had never dragged so before!

At last the longed-for train came and John reached Portland in safety.

The next thing was to find his trunk. He went up to a man standing near some baggage and asked him how to get trunks.

"Where's your check?" said the man.

John showed it.

The man looked among the trunks.

"There isn't any trunk like that here," he said.

John stood a minute dismayed.

"There must be one somewhere," he said, not a little anxious. "Is there another place to find trunks? '

"Not's I know of. Did your trunk come along with you?"

"I've just come," replied John; "but my trunk came this morning."

The man looked again.

"Well, the trunk isn't here, that's sure," he said.

Poor John! What was to be done? One thing was certain—he must find the trunk. He was sure it was put on board. Where was it now, and where was Elmer?

"Can you tell me what to do to find it?" asked John, very earnestly and anxiously.

"Don't worry, boy, I'll help you all I can," said the man, good-naturedly. "Did you say your trunk came on the early train? Did you see it put on?"

"Yes, sir," assured John. "I saw it put on that train myself.'

"Well, well," said the man, consolingly. "You wait here a minute and I'll see if I can find out anything about it. I guess it's all right."

John's frame of mind was anything but an enviable one as he stood awaiting the man's return. A few minutes later he came back with Conductor Parker with him.

"You are John Sheldon, are you?" asked the conductor.

"Yes, sir," answered John, a little surprised.

"You've lost a trunk, have you, my boy?"

"Yes, sir. Can you tell me where to find it?" the latter questioned, eagerly.

"Did your trunk contain anything very valuable?'

"Very," said John, "and I must find it," looking anxiously around at the trunks.

"Any objection to telling me what your trunk contained?" pursued the conductor.

John hesitated. Yes, he had decided objections. He half wished himself out of this scrape.

"There was a boy shut up in that trunk, was there?" questioned the conductor, narrowly watching John, who started visibly. "Do you think a boy could live till this time shut up like that?" added the conductor, in a sterner voice.

"I—don't know," said John, with a catch in his voice.

Running away to sea thus far had proved a doubtful pleasure.

"That's a thing you should have thought of before trying such a foolhardy trick as this," said the conductor. "If you wanted to go to sea, why didn't you do it like a man, and not sneak off like a thief?'

John stood abashed, terror-stricken, too, at the thought of what might be Elmer's fate.

"You want to go to sea, do you?" continued the conductor, ironically.

"I—don't know," faltered John. "But I want to find the trunk."

"Naturally you do," mercilessly said the conductor. "I should suppose you would after leaving a boy in a dangerous situation like that."

"Oh, sir, if you know anything about Elmer, please tell me!" with a sharper catch in his voice.

"The best thing you can do is to go home and learn the result of your folly! You may be in time to attend the funeral."

Poor John! No one to blame but himself. He feared the worst had come, and certainly wished himself at home—more, that he had never left home.

The conductor turned away, saying that he had an engagement of a few minutes, and that John could wait there if he liked till he came back. Unhappy John! He waited; for he didn't know what else to do.

Meantime, let us return to Elmer in the trunk.

Fortunately, the trunk was put in right side up, and, for a time, he went quite comfortably. At one of the stations, where more trunks were put in, one came crash on top of Elmer's. The cover cracked, and Elmer shrank down.

"Gracious, that came near smashing me! ' he thought. "Hope they won't put in many like that."

His bones were beginning to ache, and he felt stiff from being cramped in one position so long.

He tried to stretch—in vain. He then tried to turn a little, with a like result.

"Oh, dear!" he groaned. "This is anything but fun."

All this time other trunks were piling up about him, thus lessening his supply of fresh air. To add to his discomfort, he began to feel sick. His head ached—yes, and he ached all over.

"I'd give ten dollars to be out of this," he thought. "I wish I hadn't come in this sneaking way."

He grew sicker. He wondered if he were going to die; he was sure he felt sick enough.

At last he could endure it no longer. He heard men in the car, and he cried out:

"Let me out!"

"Hello, there!" exclaimed one of the men. "What's that?"

They stood still a minute, listening.

"Let me out! Oh, let me out! ' came in mued tones to their ears.

"Robbers!" shouted the man, jumping back. "Thieves in here!"

And for a few minutes there was quite a lively time in the car.

The trunks were pulled out, and guided by a rather stifled howl, Elmer's trunk was broken open, and a miserable, haggard, homesick boy was found.

The conductor came along, and Elmer, in a very shamefaced way, confessed all about the sea-going plan, but only after various questions from the conductor. Even John might have forgiven him for telling, if he had seen what a wretched, homesick boy he was.

"Well," asked the conductor, with a dry smile, "do you want to keep on and go to sea?"

Elmer's longing for the sea had cooled. His experience in the trunk had taken the romance out of a sailor's life for him.

"I'd rather go home than do anything else in the world," said Elmer, with more energy than he had before displayed.

Conductor Parker knew the boy's father, and he decided to send Elmer home. He had looked through the train for John, thinking to see if his mind had changed; but no boy answering his description was found, as we, who remember his adventure at Dalton Station, know.

But Elmer, a sadder and somewhat wiser boy, was left to take the next train home.

Quite late in the evening there was a rap at the Sheldon door, and a shame-faced, though light-hearted, boy was let in.

Running away to sea was never a pleasant subject to the two boys afterward.

Where Canada Hopes to Make a Record

THE OLYMPIC STADIUM AT AMSTERDAM

An air view of the new stadium which seats 40,000 now ready for the Olympic games. Canada will be well represented by her leading amateurs.

The Jew

D. V. Dinsdale in the Leeds Mercury: In times not long past, with land, social and educational opportunities, rights of citienship—all wrested from him, money (earned by the sweat of his brow) remained his only weapon wherewith to fight the world and win for himself that equal "place in the sun" to which, in common with all mankind, he was justly entitled. Society became to him an all but impregnable fortress, where "every door was barred with gold, and opened but to golden keys." Perhaps, as yet, he has scarce learnt to cease flourishing that once so magic "open sesame." If so, only time and a less frigid welcome on the part of society at large are necessary to persuade him to sheathe a weapon now, we hope, grown rusty,and to enter by every door with no other passport than his own true and undeniable merits to recommend him; where his skill and justice in business, loyalty and generosity in riendship, sociability, adaptability, and natural talents will speedily prove him an asset to any community of worth.

Bilingualism

London Times (Ind.): Bilingualism is an asset of the greatest importance in the life of any nation. The capacity to speak two tongues has an educational value that English educationists are only now beginning to realize. Border peoples who, from sheer necessity, have to speak two or more languages are said to be exceptionally intelligent. The ancient and modern influence of the Scots both in England and on the Continent and throughout the British Empire has been largely due to their gift for tongues. The bilingual Scotsmen had in old days no difficulty in acquiring the classical langauges and the French tongue. In quite recent years the Welsh have been following this ancient Scottish exemplar and have invaded London in pursuit of various industries, not excluding politics, with notable success, while the Welsh invasion of Oxford and Cambridge dates from the thirteenth century. For some seven centuries universities, indeed from the date when their own great monastic schools disappeared. Bilingualism lies behind much of the success of the Celts who have traveled into new lands.

Renunciation of War

Leo Maxse in the National Review (London): Europe has no ambition to become a pawn in the game of American party politics. That in a word explains the attitude on this side of the Atlantic towards the sensaional project of the Washington Government for the Renunciation of War . . . Having been once bitten, we are twice shy. We went through a similar performance eight years ago under the auspices of a former American President, who broke all precedent and came hotfoot to Europe for the express purpose of "making the world safe for democracy" through the instrumentality of the League of Nations, which its author conceived as a Super State (to wit, "the United State of the World"). with complete control of international relations, and therefore in a position to make international wars impossible.

She—"Love-making is the same as it always was!" He—"How can you tell?" She—"I've just read of a Greek maiden who sat and listened to a lyre all night."

THOUSANDS VISIT GARDENS AT HAMPTON COURT

Sunday crowds enjoy the blaze of glory in the gardens of this historic o ld seat of Royalty in England. Few Canadians who visit England miss seeing this beauty spot.

Canada Fostering Land Settlement by the British

Committee on Immigration Presents Its Report to the House of Commons

Ottawa — A reduction in ocean rates of £10 for British immigrants is recommended in the report of the select standing committee on agriculture and immigration, tabled in the recent Parliament. While in the opinion of the committee the responsibility and control of the selection of immigrants, no matter by whom recruited, must rest solely with the Government of Canada, it suggests that special efforts be made to extend the field of activity of the provincial authorities, particularly in the matter of the placement, settlement and supervision of immigrans, and that the Federal Government consider contributing to defray the cost of provincial co-operation.

To prevent expense and unnecessary inconvenience to the would-be immigrant it is recommended that greater care be given to the physical examinations before leaving the home lands, and that in the British Isles local doctors, under the control of the Canadian medical authorities, should make these examinations. Approval, in the report, is given to previous efforts to encourage the young British immigrant, and it recommends that the age limit for boys be extended from 14 ot 19 years.

Extension of the assisted passage privileges to the families of immigrants from Great Britain is recommended by the committee, but it does not feel that the 3000-family settlement scheme be further extended until after the present experiment has been tested.

The committee approves of the extension to other provinces of the tripartite agreement with the British, federal and provincial governments for the encouragement of land settlement by British immigrants. Under this scheme the Provincial Government provides the farm, the British Government supplies $1500 for stock and equipment, and the Canadian Government recruits the settler and promises settlement and supervision free of charge, and, in addition, shares on a 50-50 basis any loss on account of stock and equipment.

A review by the committee of the present immigration policy shown that the British immigrant is in a specially favorable position as compared with the continental, while all citizens of the United States are eligible to emigrate provided that they are physically and mentally sound and in a position to maintain themselves until employment can be secured. With them as with the British no passport is required.

The committee held 36 sittings and called upon 29 witnesses, including Robert Forks, Minister of Immigration and Colonization; Sir Henry Thornton, president, Canadian National Railways; E. W. Beatty, president, Canadian Pacific Railway; membersof Parliament and officers of social welfare and immigration organizations.

Canada Building Many Motor Highways

Montreal.—Reports from all provinces received by the Canadian Good Roads Association indicate that higher expenditures will be made this year on Canadian highways than during any past year in their history. The great increase in motor traffic in Canada, combined with the annual summer influx of motorists from the Unitted States, are causes behind the increased expenditure on highways. Last year the enormous total of 3,153,800 automobiles entered Canada from the United States four touring purposes, and it is expected the motor tourist traffic from the South this year will break all records.

New Canadians to Celebrate

Winnipeg, Manitoba.—New Canadians of Canada will stage a Folk Song and Handicraft Festival in this city to demonstrate some of the cultural contributions they are making to Canadian life. The festival will be presented by fifteen racial groups in picturesque costumes, songs and dances, illustrating the wealth of are and music brought to Canada by recent settlers from Europe.

The extensive areas available for farm settlement in Western Canada have been attracting immigration not only from Great Britain and the United States, but also from the Continent of Europe in considerable numbers, and this festival is expected to prove an important factor in bringing the various races ino friendly contact with each other and insuring a fuller appreciation of the contribution each is making to Canadian national life.

The Typical Englishman

London Sunday Times (Cons.): The reason why people of all parties up and down the country like Mr. Baldwin is because he speaks their thoughts aloud for them. He is in a real sense the "typical Englishman." Again and again he is heard voicing the common-sense view; it may not be very profound, but it is always plain and it appeals to the public's better nature. Mr. Baldwin makes the man in the street articulate.