A Different Sort of "High Wire Artist".—Although designed primarily to show just what electric current means to Canadians, the National Film Board picture "ELECTRICITY" does so in a most interesting manner, far removed from the style of the average 'educational' film. This is just one of the many exciting scenes.

Film Shows What Electricity Means to Average Canadian

"Electricity" is an interesting example of a film technique which is becoming increasingly popular. To begin with, an educational or instructional angle is involved — here it happens to be explaining the how and why of electricity to young people. But the technique is not that of the dry fact and figure-laden text-book, as you might expect from the title. Rather, it is a picture story from real life, in which electricity is explained in terms of the uses to which it is put.

"Electricity" opens with a young lad who lives in an "average" Canadian town. In his home he has become accustomed to a number of electrical appliances—irons, heaters, lights, and so on. He is so used to these things that he takes them for granted — never wondering how they came to be, or what makes them work.

Voyage of Discovery

Suddenly he does begin to wonder: just what is this electricity, and where does it come from? So, taking the last point first, the young lad and a group of his friends trace the electrical connections in his home to the power wires which bring the "juice" from the hydro wires on the street to the house.

Having made this discovery, our young enquirers set out to discover where the hydro wires lead. They trace them along the streets to a transformer, and from there to a hydro-electric plant. At this plant they learn a great deal about the fundamentals of electricity.

Practical and Interesting

Thus the instructional angle of the film is purely practical — and it is blended into an interesting story. The story becomes all the more interesting, from both dramatic and educational viewpoints, when the hydro-electric plant is temporarily put out of action — and the community's power supply is cut off. This gives an excellent opportunity to illustrate the vital importance of electric power in our complex world.

"Electricity" is being shown currently on the rural circuit school film programmes in Ontario counties, under the sponsorship of the Federations of Agriculture, the Department of Education, and the National Film Board.

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson

NEXT: How far is one kee?

Fiction Fun

SHORT STORY

The Other Woman

By MARION BOUCHER

When the alarm rang at seven in the grey morning, Henry reached out quickly and shut it off before it wakened Isabel. Quietly, Henry got up and groped his way to the bathroom.

It was the usual beginning of his day, but on this particular morning he felt a little rebellious. He thought of Isabel, still lying asleep, her dark hair spread out on the pillow, her red mouth curved in a half smile. When they were first married she used to get up and prepare breakfast for him. Now that the children were old enough to fend for themselves he had to make his own coffee and toast as best he could before hurrying down to the store.

* * *

He couldn't say just when it had happened but sometime during the 10 years of their married life, Isabel had changed from a devoted young bride to a spoiled wife who took her husband very much for granted. It was probably just as much his fault as hers; he was so mild and easygoing that it seemed natural for people to impose on him. Even at his own table, the children seemed in league with Isabel against him.

Look at Morley Campbell and his wife now. Morley was a salesman in the department store where Henry worked as a window dresser. He had been married a good many years but his wife always was fussing over him. Henry thought of Morley a little enviously and wondered if he dared ask him the secret of his marital bliss.

The opportunity presented itself that very day when they happened to be lunching together. A little timidly, Henry broached the subject.

"Say, uh . . . I've noticed how your wife always makes a fuss over you, Morley. How do you do it—hold her interest, I mean."

"Oh, I keep her guessing. You know, let her feel that you can find other women attractive. That's the way to treat an old lady, old man."

At supper that night he started his campaign. Isabel was talking about a new way she wanted to have her hair done.

"I think that's the way Linda wears her hair and it certainly looks smart," Henry commented.

Isabel looked up in surprise. "Linda? Who is she?"

"One of the girls at the store—very attractive. She always wears the smartest clothes."

"Really, Henry, I didn't know you were so observant." Isabel was a little piqued but she looked at her husband with new interest.

After that hardly a day went by that Henry did not mention Linda and his casual remarks were not lost on Isabel. Though she would not have admitted it, she was a little jealous and more than a little curious. Never before had her husband appeared interested in another woman.

She sat up and took notice of her meek husband as she hadn't done for years. She put herself out to be amusing and helpful. When he came home at night there was always a good dinner, with his favorite dishes carefully prepared.

When he had to work late one evening, he made it a point to let his wife know that Linda had been there too. The next morning Isabel actually hopped out of bed when the alarm rang, got his breakfast ready and kissed him goodbye.

He was busy changing a display that afternoon when he looked up to see Isabel coming down the aisle.

* * *

Isabel chattered away for a while and finally asked, "By the way, is that girl, Linda, around? You've been talking so much about her lately that I'd like to meet my glamorous rival."

Henry flushed guilty. "Matter of fact she isn't here today," he stammered. "She has a cold and couldn't come to work."

"Oh . . . that's too bad," Isabel sounded genuinely disappointed. "Will you be home early, Henry? I was able to get a steak for dinner."

Henry looked after her departing figure and breathed a sigh of relief. He had got out of that situation neatly, he congratulated himself, but he hoped Isabel wouldn't come and ask for Linda again.

* * *

It would never do, he thought, for Isabel to discover that Linda, the "other woman," was a very beautiful but very lifeless mannequin in the store window.

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JITTER

By Arthur Pointer

TWO IMAGES

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