The Free Bress Short Story

Adrift on the Dangerous Rip Shoals

GEORGE ETHELBERT WALSE

welfare committees of the various cities.

"Then maybe you can help me an

small shipment of food for Bordentown

"Not too big to carry on the deck?

"Twenty barrels: That's all."

"That's the spirit, my boy.

will be a small profit for you."

better lay up and fix that valve."

"He'll cut lose to save himself."

"And put in a claim for salvage."

The "Emma's" course was changed

"Sam's aboard with him." - nodded

shoveling coal when she left the dock."

Fourteen, un't he?",

"He's too young for such heavy work.

"Nearer thirteen, but he's been work-

serve him right."

dentown at cost."

HESTER MURDOCK cased his boys tied up. "Got anything on to-day? father's tugboat, "Emma," gently into the slip and brought it-to plied. Sam Witterly was superintendent a stop alongside two well-laden coal of the government dock and in charge barges Ralph, his younger brother, of the food that had piled up for early thrust his head out of the engine room. distribution to the cities to feed the "Hi, Chet!" he shoulted, "we got to get army of unemployed. Tiers of boxes and this valve fixed. It's on the blink again." barrels on the dock were filled with pork "Tie it down, if necessary. These coal butter, eggs and other provisions barges must go to Malden before night, national government had bought from the farmers to be distributed to

or the shoe factory will close down." "I know, but this valve-" Out of the office of the coal company slouched Jake Bailey. Behind him was another, incidentaly make a small profit," Stephen Holbrook, tall, lean and leath- superintendent added. "We've got s

"You heard him?" the first man re- They need it badly. It's too small a marked. "Got a broken steam valve. consignment to send by barge, and That comes of boys fussing with mach- thought-" inery. You can't trust 'em. They'd lose your barges, and you'd collect no insurance on 'em. No, sir, not if you knew the tug was broken down beforehand."

Chester, listening in the pilot house, turned red with indignation. No more disreputable tug was on the river than Jako Bailey's old "Skipper." To call the "Emma" broken down was making an invidious comparison between the two. Jake had made a bid for the tow steamed out into midstream, her decks the day before, but Stephen Holbrook had given it to the boys to help them dock was laid up with rheumatism.

"This tag, Jake, is no more broken down than your grandmother." Chester | den, and they scanned the sea ahead for | a stone and hit them. exclaimed indignantly. "We're ready to a glimpse of the "Skipper" and her tow.

pocket and ignoring the interruption; waves. "may be a little thing, but it's liable to bust on you any minute. Then where | ter, studying the sky. are you. Stranded! Stuck fast! It's a mighty big risk to take."

Stephen Holbrook was a shrewd business man, and Jake's talk was having to his brother in the engine room: "Say The Rip Shoals receded in the distance. its effect. He rubbed his chin thought- Ralph, there's Jake's tow ahead. He's and the harbor of Malden loomed ahead. fully. Ralph's unfortunate complaint way off his course." about the balky steam valve might cost if they did not work quickly.

"Get a line aboard the barge, Ralph!" swallow. Those heavy coal barges are to claim salvage." Chester whispered to his brother. "Snub too much for him in this wind. He can't it to the forward bitt of the head one." | help himself." While Ralph jumped to obey orders, Chester backed water with a great show ours." of power, drowning the escape of steam

loud churning. Stephen Holbrook raised a hand and Chester said nothing. He was watch- and stood by his father's side. I can't take any ing the tow wallowing in the heavy seas. Jake will tow the barges to Malden."

groaned Ralph. "You gave us the job. drifting straight toward Rip Shoals." We'll do it right. The value is just

leaky, not broken." Chester stepped out of the pilot house and jumped from the deck to the pier. His tare was flushed but he was cool ing will be up to Mr. Holbrook."

and respectable. "If anything happens on the trip, Mr. said. Holbrook, we'll make it good," he said.

"There's nothing seriously wrong with-" Jake interrupted with a loud laugh. "That's a joke. They make good!" He Chester watched the "Skipper" and her pointed derisively at the boys. "Why, unwieldy tow. She was drifting per!l- sharply they haven't fifty dollars between 'em, ously near the shoals. Jake would have

Chester turned on 'the man, with own tug. The coal was needed badly in. blazing eyes and clenched hands. Cap- Malden, but if the "Skipper" was lost tain Murdock had turned a lot of work Jake would lose his only means of a Jake's way during the worst days of the depression, helping the man to make a living when his old wheen tug was laid mused aloud, "and he deserves punishup for repairs. Now the owner of the ment, but after all he's got a wife and "Emma" was ill, Jake was taking unfair three children."

"Jake," Chester began in a thick voice, Ralph. "I saw him in the engine room

"Here! Here!" shouted Holbrook, "No arguing here! Take your quarrel someof you! Jake takes the coal down to Malden. That's all!"

Jake departed outckly, and a few minutes later when his old fussy tug steamed Bailey as an undersized, undernourished deadly a fee as the munitions of the into the slip. Chester guided the "Emma" boy, with bright eyes and a thirst for enemy.

Chest," . Ralph admitted, "it

almost shot to pieces; but to make mat- cut the townline to save himself. ters worse, many of the larger shippers and husky, while Ralph was eighteen barges."

Bott: had had considerable experience in the engine room and pilot house of the "Emma," helping Captain Murdock in vacation and rush periods. When irons for mutiny! their father was laid up, they undertook

mother, was a crack tuy, and but for the wind. To get a line aboard would be a because of typhoid typhus and pneu- kind in Eng'and, will consist of a releaky steam valve was in fit condition. ticklish job. The sea was threshing the monia. As she plowed across the harbor now, Larges around like eggshells and the In the United States war with Mexico. she left a wake of foam far astern. Ches- "Emma" plunged and rolled dangerous- in 1846-7 of 100 000, American soldiers, be treated; an operating room for major ter viewed her performance admiringly, ly. He beaded the tug for the government. When nearly abreast of them, he while 10,986 died of typhoid, dysentery, dressing and ancesth tic cubicles; a duty dock, not with any idea of picking up called his brother again. "Take the smallpox, maleria or tropical diseases, room for the staff and a sterilizing room.

(a) Harrison Branch (b) "Let me do it! It's risky, Chet." "All the more reason why I should do the job," was the affectionate reply. "Now obey orders. It must be good teamwork. Don't fumble."

> Chester seized a small coil of rope, fastened one end to his waist and the other to a four-inch Manilla hawser. Stationing himself forward he called: "Okeh, Ralph! Easte her up carefully."

The nearest barge towered above them. Although laden with coal, its deck was high above that of the tug. A misstep or miscalculation now would be fatal. Chester waited anxiously. Everything depended upon teamwork. Would Ralph "Not yet, Mr. Witterly, the boy re- be able to manage the tug? A crash would spoil all.

> Twice as the barge went down and the "Emma" bobbed up on a huge wave, Chester crouched for the jump, and then drew back. He could not cover the dis-

Ralph drew the tug nearer. For a moment he thought they would crash. Up went the barge on the top of a big wave, and then slipped down it as the tug began to rise. For an infinitesimal space of time the decks of the two were on a level; then they began to separate. In another second the chance would be lost; but Ralph saw his brother shoot out into space. He covered the distance narrowly and fell sprawling on the deck

of the barge. Leaping to his feet, he began hauling on the small line until the end of the four-inch hawser was in his grasp. "Then hustle it abroad. Glad to do The drag on this was tremendous. It our part. We'll take the cargo to Bor- seemed to weigh a ton. Inch by inch he hauled it aboard until with a final Wish desperate pull, he wrapped the end everybody showed the same. But there around a bitt and made it secure.

"Full speed ahead!" he velled to his Half an hour later, the "Emma" brother. The order was not needed. loaded with barrels of provisions. Ralph moment Ralph saw the towline fast he got up a big head of steam in spite of swung the "Emma" around and headed out while their father, Captain Mur- the leaky valve, and came into the pilot away from the shoals. Even so it seemhouse for a short chat with his brother. ed too late! The dark fangs of the rocks Bordentown was five miles below Mal- | we're so near Chester could have thrown

The townline stiffened creaking under In the protection of the harbor they had the strain, stretched, hummed like a "A broken steam valve," Jake continu- experienced no heavy seas, but once out- whip lash and then remained silent. The ed, speaking to the owner of the coal side they ran into a hard wind and huge drift of the barges was cheeked. The "Emma," like a draft horse, was tugging "Looks like a storm," remarked Ches- and pulling, making a great fuss as her propeller churned the sea into a mighty

"We'll get there ahead of it; then we'd froth. Slowly she began to make headway, Half an hour later Chester shouted and the barges unwillingly followed her. When the "Emma" landed the barges Ralph hurried back to the pilot house, alneside the pier, Jake, who had follow-

the boys the cancellation of the contract | Afater a short silence, he grinned, ed in the "Skipper" came aboard with 'Jake's chewed off more than he can a glum face. "I reckon now you're going "We're entitled to it. Jake." Chester

replied. "It looks so. Well, it's his funeral, not | Jake made no reply for a moment "This will ruin me," he groaned. "I "Might lend a hand and claim big won't get another tow long's I live." from the leaky valve by the propeller's salvage," Ralph chortled, "It would serve Sam Bailey came out of the engine room his face covered with grime and sweat

"Jake there's one way we can comchanges with the insurance company. with the small tug struggling desperately promise," Chester replied, sharply. "You to hold them steady. "He's in a tight have denied Sam his chance to get a "Ah Mr. Holbrook that isn't fair!" place!" he exclaimed, finally. "Jake's decent education. If you'll promise to send him to school until he graduates, "Good night, if he lands on them!" I'll waive my claim for salvage. Morewhistled Ralph. "He'll lose his old tub." over, I'll not report to Mr. Holbrook."

> "Why-er-you mean-" Jake stam-"Too bad for the barges. The worry- mered in amazement. "I mean you must keep Sam in school 'We've got to help Jake!" Chester for the full term until he graduates, and not make him work on the Skipper.

> > forbidden." "Why-why-"

He's too young; besides child labor is

"Sure! Sure! Sammy can go to to abandon the barges soon or lose his Sam stared from one to the other You want me to go to school, Chester?"

he asked in wonderment' "Yes. Don't you want to go?" "If Dad will let me," the boy stam-"Jake's treated us like dirt." Chester mered; then with brightening eyes. "Maybe I'll be first in my class again. was, you know, before I left."

WARS AND EPIDEMICS

Xerxes were defeated in their invasion ing since he was twelve. Never finished of Greece by plague and dysentery. In all of the wars from that time on to the Chester frowned. He recalled Sam Great War of 1914-18 disease was as

knowledge. To deny him the opportun-In a recent American book on "Disity to finish school was unfortunate. A. ease in Military Compaigns," Lieut. was all my fault. I didn't know they dark flush came into the young pilot's Col. Nelson Mercer says that the United cheeks. Jake Bailey was not so poor States losses in the last war were 58,119 his older that he could not afford to hire a fire- from disease and 50,385 were killed or man and let his son finish school. It died of wounds. A large percentage was from the influenza epidemic of 1918. "There they go!" Ralph yelled sud- By that time, typhoid had been brought denly. Either the barges had broken under control and there were only 2,200 lean one. The towing business had been loose or the captain of the "Skipper" had cases among more than 4,000,000 soldiers

and there were only 200 deaths. "Get down in the engine room!" Ches-During the Spanish American . War, hesitated to trust their town in to such ter shouted. Give me all the steam you typhoid caused 20,904 cases, and 2,188 young men. Chester was twenty, s rong, can! We've got to hook up to those d.aths. That war in which 379 men died in battle, was responsible for 4.795 "It's risky. Chet., They're close to the deaths from disease, most of the troops

never reaching Cuba. "Obey orders, or I'll have you in Similar stories of epidemics have come down from previous wars. In 1741, be-Ralph grinned, leaped down the iron cause of a typhus epidemic among the

and 112,000 from wounds.

FIRST DIVISION LEADERS



Chief of the General Staff of



COL ARMAND A. SMITH Commander of the First Infantry Bri-



LT.-COL C. S. L. HERTZBERG



MAJOR P. KELLY

Senior officer of the pay service at Canadian mi.itary headquarters in En

UNDERGROUND OPERATING ROOM

Nothing is more directly affected by war conditions than civilian hospital management and the way the crisis was met in England gives an idea of the immensity of the problem before hospital

The evacuation of the patients from the hospitals in London and other cities was performed with celerity and smoothness. As in the case of the evacuation of children. lans for removing hospital patients had seen made months in advance. De a l's were so carefully planned that clock-like precision marked the actual evacuation. Ambulant patients were taken away in cars provided by friends of the hospi ais; thin at a static hour coaches arrived for patients wait

At some of the hospitals strong suo asements protected against gas have been made riadia for casualtie, of air raids.

An underground operating room being built under the foundations of a to carry on his business until his recov- steps and plunged into the engine room. Austrian defenders of Prague, the French new block of Suildings at the Hospital Ignoring the "Skipper." Chester head- were able to capture that city. Later. for Sick Chi'dren. London. The under-"Emma," named after their ed for the barges, dirfting before the Napoleon had to retreat from Moscow ground accommedation, the first of i. ceiving room with eighty seats and st only 1.549 were killed or died of wounds. casualties with three tables and ninca tow there, but to make repairs to the wheel, Ralph. Keep her on her course. In the Civil War, the Union Army lost The electric light and water supply are but don't hit the barges. I'm going to approximately 200,000 men by disease, from sources in ependent of the main

SENSIBLE HEALTH RULES

"Sensible living for the modern woman." ... I use the -world "sensible." says Prunella Stock, leader of League for Tealth and Deauty, because I feel that it particularly applies to the modern woman's outlook on life.

We realize that good health is essential to our well-being, our happiness, so we set out to attain our object, calmly and with confidence,

I think the most important thing to and determination are required, we must remember is that, while perseverence temper our enthusiasm with moderation -in other words, take our physical training seriously, but sensibly, too. Anything drastic, either in exercise or diet, must be ruled out.

With regard to actual training; unless you have some organic complaint, or are recovering from a recent illness, you may start exercises straight away, always bearing in mind the fact that your. body is probably out of condition and must, therefore, not be over-taxed.

Regular exercise will soon accustom you to the extra exertion, however, and as your joints and muscles become "loosened" and more supple, any feeling of tiredness will disappear.

Pifteen minutes' actual exercising each morning is what I usually recommend, but this, of ocurse, is apart from any other exercise, such as tennis, swimming, dancing, walking, etc., which may be

taken later in the day. It is best to exercise before an open window; only then do you get that grand feeling of exhilaration.

Having concluded your fifteen minutes exercise, you will be ready for breakfast. With regard to diet, or what I prefer to call "sensible feeding"-I observe no set rilles on the subject.

Always make a point of getting out into the fresh air at mid-day. I consider it better to take a substantial meal in the evening. Those of you who play tennis or go swimming after working hours will probably find this awkward: it is a question you must decide for yourself-do whatever is best under the circumstances.

THE CONQUEST OF PNEUMONIA

The American Public Health Association, meeting in Pittsburg, labels pneumonia as "public health enemy No. 3." indicating that this affection comes third in the category of life destroyers and being only exceeded in this respect by heart disease and cancer. . There are signs that pneumonia may be conquered at an early date.

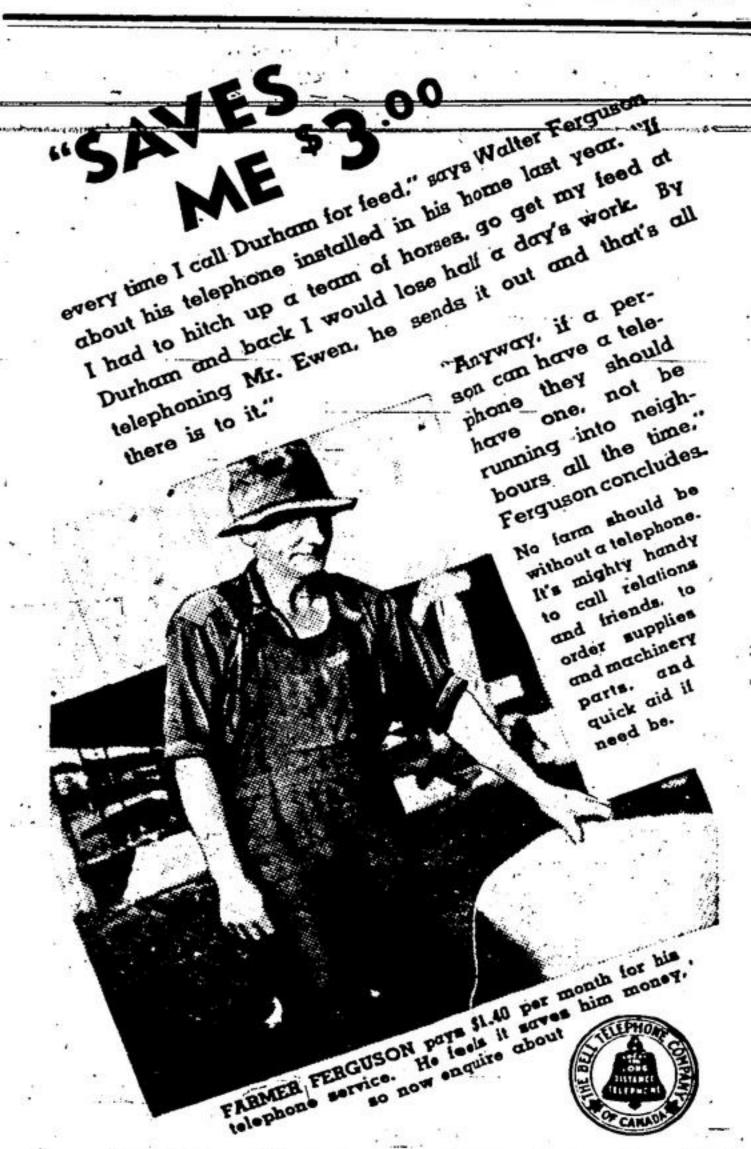
Heretofore, the use of serums, oxygen tents and careful nursing have been

principal agencies in treatment. Last year that of dagenan or sulfayridine was added, with spectacular results. The mortality, in closely checked experiments, came down from 25 to 8 per cent. Last week the Mellon Institute of Pittsburg announced the development of another new anti-pneumonia drug. known by the overpowering name of "hydroxyethylapocupreine." It is made from quinine and is said to be more effective than dagenan, not causing the nausea, vomiting and other nasty effects

of the latter. Needless to say all these new drugs are potentially dangerous in the hands of the inexperienced. They must be carefully used and applied in the proper dosage. They are emphatically not remedies to be sold to everyone over the drug counter.

Another remedy for pneumonia appears under the head of a vaccine and Dr. Felton, of the National Health Institute of Washington, D.C., says tha it constitutes a preventive of "grea promise." Its effects last only for abou one year, but preliminary experiments show it to be quite effective in preventing pneumonia. Perhaps when the coming wincer is over, we shall be able to speak with more confidence regarding these new remedies.-John W. S. Mc Cullough, M.D., D.P.H.

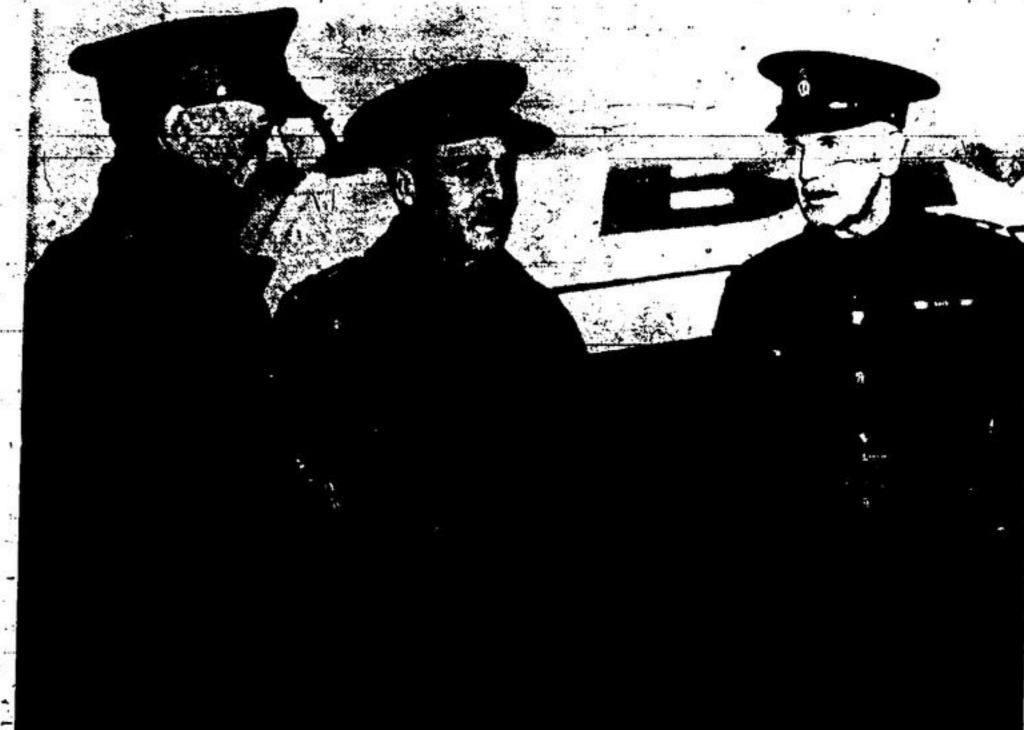
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First Division Commande: Inspects Lakehead Unit



Major-General A. G. L. McNaugaton Commanuer of Canada's first overseas division, paid a visit to Fort William to inspect the Fourth Field Ambulance Corps, only Lakehead unit in First Division. Major-General McNaughton is shown, Left, conversing with Lieut.-

Colonel J. V. Williams, Centre, of Winnipeg, Medical Officer, Military District No. 10, and Lieut.-Colonel G. R. McCariney, Officer Comanding the Aumbulance Corps, are the General arrived by airplane.