

The Free Press Short Story

ALONG CAME PAY DAY

By E. A. GEE

"I haven't money enough to pay your way you can't stay in this town. We've got plenty of tramps here now."
"I'm no tramp," protested the gaunt, hollow-eyed youth defiantly. "I walked seventeen miles to-day to try for a job in the tire factory."

He took the young man by the arm, and after leading him for a moment, gave him a slight push. The stranger took a few stumbling steps and fell to the pavement. He struggled weakly to his feet, grasping a lamp post for support. The officer watched him, grinning. "You're a good actor, bud," he chuckled, "but not good enough. Now, he went on harshly, "quit your stalling! Beat it!"

"What's the matter with him?" asked the newcomer, stepping forward. "Nothing," replied the officer cynically. "He's just another bum playing for sympathy."
The youth's eyes flashed angrily. The newcomer stared at the young fellow intently. "He doesn't look like a bum to me," he said, briefly. "I'll take care of him, officer. Son," he added, kindly, "suppose you get in my car."

"Your work," he continued before Robert had digested the last statement, "is to check up on the men twice every morning and twice every afternoon. Your time book goes to headquarters every week. There are sixty-eight names on the book now and the men are scattered for three miles. Until you get 'em located you'll have to keep moving, but after that you'll have it sort of."

"What's the matter with him?" asked the newcomer, stepping forward. "Nothing," replied the officer cynically. "He's just another bum playing for sympathy."
The youth's eyes flashed angrily. The newcomer stared at the young fellow intently. "He doesn't look like a bum to me," he said, briefly. "I'll take care of him, officer. Son," he added, kindly, "suppose you get in my car."

"Your work," he continued before Robert had digested the last statement, "is to check up on the men twice every morning and twice every afternoon. Your time book goes to headquarters every week. There are sixty-eight names on the book now and the men are scattered for three miles. Until you get 'em located you'll have to keep moving, but after that you'll have it sort of."

"What's the matter with him?" asked the newcomer, stepping forward. "Nothing," replied the officer cynically. "He's just another bum playing for sympathy."
The youth's eyes flashed angrily. The newcomer stared at the young fellow intently. "He doesn't look like a bum to me," he said, briefly. "I'll take care of him, officer. Son," he added, kindly, "suppose you get in my car."

"Your work," he continued before Robert had digested the last statement, "is to check up on the men twice every morning and twice every afternoon. Your time book goes to headquarters every week. There are sixty-eight names on the book now and the men are scattered for three miles. Until you get 'em located you'll have to keep moving, but after that you'll have it sort of."

"What's the matter with him?" asked the newcomer, stepping forward. "Nothing," replied the officer cynically. "He's just another bum playing for sympathy."
The youth's eyes flashed angrily. The newcomer stared at the young fellow intently. "He doesn't look like a bum to me," he said, briefly. "I'll take care of him, officer. Son," he added, kindly, "suppose you get in my car."

"Your work," he continued before Robert had digested the last statement, "is to check up on the men twice every morning and twice every afternoon. Your time book goes to headquarters every week. There are sixty-eight names on the book now and the men are scattered for three miles. Until you get 'em located you'll have to keep moving, but after that you'll have it sort of."

opened his eyes. Early in the day Shevlin quietly slipped a roll of bills into his hand. Robert stared in surprise. "That's your cut for last week," grinned the older man, walking away.
Even now Robert did not fully understand. All he realized at first was that something was wrong. Gradually affairs became clear to him. He saw that the fifteen men at the other end of the fill existed only in his time book; that their checks were appropriated by Shevlin and Gregg and in some manner, cashed; that he himself was a very vital participant to the scheme. He saw why Shevlin needed a timekeeper who would follow orders. With the knowledge his whole world crumbled about his ears.

He went to the foreman's office at noon. "I can't take this," he said, miserably, tossing down the large roll of bills. Shevlin's jaw dropped. "Ain't it enough?" asked the man indignantly. As Robert shamefacedly told how he had not realized what had been going on and then quite simply said that he could not be a party to it, the other's face showed successively, astonishment, indignation, and pity. "For a moment the foreman was silent," he thought, "he said finally in a gruff tone, "you know what was up after your first day here. But even if you didn't know, you don't need to act like I was a wife-beater or something. We aren't taking money from poor people. The states paying for this and believe me the state's used to it. But," he shrugged his shoulders, "if you are dumb enough to pass up this chance at easy money, that's your hard luck, not mine."

"Only," he added, as an afterthought, "you'll have to keep your mouth shut." "The statement came to Robert like a thunderbolt. Until that moment he had not realized that there was a further problem involved. Could he, knowing the state was being robbed, remain silent? The foreman looked at the youth searchingly. "Say," he demanded slowly, "you're not thinking of turning squealer, are you?"
He received his answer from the other's eyes. He became violently angry. He berated the young man mercilessly as being dishonest and faithless. "And don't think," he concluded harshly, "you can get away with anything. You and I have got lots of ways of closing your mouth."

He reached the boulder, and at the risk of his life, jerked out the fuse frantically, and buried it from him. There was a groan of relief from Shevlin. A few minutes later the foreman walked rather weakly into his office. Robert followed him. "I'd do almost anything for you, Tom," he said brokenly, "but I just haven't the right to keep quiet about—"

"Aw, pipe down," growled the foreman, still breathing heavily. "Can't you wait till I'm sure I'm alive? I just got through living forty years in forty seconds." He mopped his forehead. "Son," he continued earnestly, "when a man thinks he's all set to cash in, things that looked all right once begin to look a little different. While that fuse was sputtering in my face, I began to get lots of things straightened out. And when I saw you run up to pull out that fuse, I finished straightening 'em out. You were right, Bob, and I was wrong. I can handle Gregg and we're turning back all we've collected. How's that?"

WHERE CANADA'S BEST COMPETE WITH THE WORLD in land and water sports
Olympic champions, athletes of various nations compete in one of the most comprehensive sport programs ever held in the Dominion.
World championship powerboat races (225 cubic inch class) Sept. 8, 9 and 10...
World professional championship swims, men 5 miles, Sept. 1; women, 3 miles, Sept. 3...
Diving exhibitions twice daily by trio of world famous professionals...
Archery championships Aug. 31 to Sept. 4...
Junior track meet and junior regatta Aug. 31...
Table Tennis championships Aug. 28 and 29...
Athletic Day track meet Sept. 5...
Yacht and dinghy races...
Softball and other sports competitions afloat and ashore.

SO MUCH A CLOUT, SOME COAXING, A GOOD REASON, HOW COULD IT?, NO PASSEZ, ONE GOOD THING
Famous Boxer: "Win, lose, or draw, I get \$50,000."
Reporter: "I see. Every clout has a silver lining."
"Your diet should include plenty of iron."
"Put, doctor, I haven't a tooth in my head."
"The fear of ignorance is one reason why we get an education." — Harry Emerson Fosdick.

Cues for CANNING
JAR RUBBERS 3 Dozen 14c
FRUIT JARS Doz. 99c, \$1.13, \$1.53
FRUIT PECTIN McLean's Package 14c
XXX VINEGAR White or Brown Gal. 38c
MUSTARD SEED 2 oz. 5c
CASSIA BUDS 3 oz. 10c
KEEN'S MUSTARD 2-oz. Tin 13c
CATSUP FLAVOR Parke's Btl. 35c
ORANGE CREAM SANDWICH BISCUITS 2 Lbs. 25c
HEINZ DELICIOUS CREAM SOUP MUSHROOM 2 16-oz. Tins 25c
STONEY CREEK RED PITTED CHERRIES 2 No. 2 Tins 25c
LUX SOAP FLAKES Lg. Pkg. 21c
SURPRISE LAUNDRY SOAP 5 Bar 23c
S. O. S. SCOURING PADS Pkg. 14c & 23c
GLASSCO'S NEW CHERRY JAM (Wm.) 32-oz. Jar 25c
LIBBY'S PLAIN AND STUFFED HOLIDAY OLIVES 17-oz. Jar 30c
MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE 1-lb. Tin 35c
LINED SCHOOL SCRIBBLERS 5 for 10c
SALADA TEA 1/2-lb. Brown Package 31c
IODIZED FREE-RUNNING SALT Package 6c
BORDEN'S EVAPORATED MILK 6 6-oz. Tins 25c
3 16-oz. 25c
CARROLL'S LIMITED
STORE CLOSSES SATURDAY NIGHT—10.30 P. M.
MILL STREET Free Delivery PHONE 158

APPLES Duchess 3 Large Size 11c
Potatoes GOOD COOKERS 6 16-oz. 17c
Onions Sound and Dry 5 lbs. for 13c
Bananas Golden Yellow Hard Ripe Per Dozen 25c
Canteloupes 3 Sugar Salmon, Large Size, Pink Flesh 20c
Oranges Nice Size Sweet and Juicy, dozen 21c
And Other Fruits at Special Prices
CARROLL'S LIMITED