

The Buttermilk House

How a Trust Was Busted By a Rich Young Man. M. QUAD

Did you ever hear how a hotel came to be called the Buttermilk House? It was first called the Mountain House.

When the hotel had been running for a couple of years the buttermilk craze spread from east to west, and it soon found its way to the Mountain House.

There was only one man within ten miles of the Mountain House who saw money in buttermilk, and his name was Stebbins.

Stebbins bought five cows, a big churn and cans, and he delivered buttermilk to the hotel in gallons and charged 25 cents for every gallon that he delivered.

Stebbins' business was so good that he was getting salaries of only \$30 a week. By and by a crisis came—that is, young Harper found his appetite gone, his nerves all aflutter and his ambition about faded away.

He went to a doctor, and after being questioned and thumped and poked over the doctor looked him in the face with sternness and said:

"Go west, young man! Go west, sir! But why?"

"To breathe in great chunks of ozone and drink a gallon of buttermilk every day and to come back here in about sixty days feeling as well or better than you have in the past ten years."

And the doctor, who had heard of the Mountain House and had sent three or four invalids there, advised the young man to make straight for that spot and to order a supply of buttermilk as soon as he had registered. His advice was heeded, and one morning the young man descended from the stage and entered the hotel. The place was off the railroad by fifteen miles.

They generally find out all about you very soon at a country hotel, and it was scarcely two hours before it was generally known to the landlord and among the guests that Carroll Harper had a financial and social standing in the big city in the east. It was also known to Mr. Stebbins, and when he called to take the order for buttermilk he raised the price from 25 cents to double that sum because he was dealing with a rich young man.

"Isn't that double what the others are paying?" he was asked.

"Oh, it's a little more," was the reply, "but you are rich and can afford it. What is a quarter a day to a man of millions?"

"But it strikes me as extortion." "Well, you can take it or leave it. I am the only one around here with buttermilk to sell, and I can put any price on it I like."

The young man who was the victim of an extortioner planned to get even. He took the landlord into his confidence, and there was a conspiracy to smash Mr. Stebbins' trust.

After a ten mile auto ride down the valley and back only one family was found so situated that they could help Mr. Harper carry out his plans. This family was composed of a widow and a strapping daughter. They owned and worked a little farm together, but they did not even have one cow nor any outfit with which to deal with the buttermilk question.

BUYING COMMISSIONS.

Bad Old System Now Abolished in Great Britain. Forty-five years ago the system of purchasing commissions in the Army was abolished by Royal Warrant, signed by Queen Victoria, after the House of Lords had rejected Mr. Cardwell's Bill for the "Abolition of Purchase in the Army."

Gradually the Crown took the matter into its own hands, raised regiments at its own expense, and recruited itself by the sale of commissions, obtaining a regulation price, which varied from time to time, for each step up to that of lieutenant-colonel, above which there was no purchase.

When abolition of purchase was carried by Parliament a sum of money to compensate the officers holding saleable commissions in order that they might not lose anything through the destruction of the old system.

A regulation price was eventually fixed by the Government, which ran from £420 for a first commission, or ensigncy in the line, to £1,200 for the same position in the Guards.

Each step was higher in price, and the lowest that a lieutenant-colonel could be obtained for was £4,200 in the line and £9,000 in the Guards. In addition to the Government price, which was termed an over-regulation price had to be paid to the retiring officer.

This latter fee sometimes exceeded the regulation price, and had been established by custom, although it was contrary to law. When an officer retired the Government handed over to him the price of his commission, and his successor paid him the over-regulation fee.

There were, however, at all times a number of commissions given free to sons of distinguished officers, especially of such as had been killed in action, and a certain number of nominations were in a similar manner made by the Sovereign. In theory the system of promotion by wealth was absolutely indefensible.

The hardship of an officer, unable to find money to purchase his next step, being superseded by a junior with more wealthy parents was altogether repugnant to a sense of justice, and the clamor raised in consequence brought about its abolition in the year 1871.

Pharaoh's Palace. The Museum of the University of Pennsylvania has made public a report from Dr. Clarence S. Fisher, leader of the expedition to Egypt, in which he tells of what appears to be the discovery of that Memphis had in his palace at Memphis an archeological museum something like those of the present day.

Meremphah was the son of Rameses the Great, and by many is identified as the Pharaoh of the Oppression, as described in the Book of Exodus.

The palace was discovered early in the present year, the report said. It was large and elaborately decorated, but at some time was destroyed by fire, traces of which are abundant. The palace was about 180 feet long and 100 feet wide, and contained about 20 rooms. The throne room was a magnificent chamber of about 60x40 feet.

In describing this room the museum announcement stated that "it is probable that this throne room, if not the same, is similar to the one in which Moses and Aaron confronted the Pharaoh, demanding that the people of Israel be permitted to go. The authorities in Egypt admit that a great discovery has been made."

In the rooms were found gold ornaments, scarabs, vessels, and vases. The most interesting find, the report stated, was a collection of relics, partly of the Stone Age and partly of the Sixth Dynasty (about 4500 B.C.), which indicated that Meremphah was a collector much like modern men or nations. The stone implements included knives, razors, sickles, and arrow heads.

POET AND TRAMP.

W. H. Davies Called the "Genius in a Doss-House." Poets seem born to poverty, and the vicissitudes of their lives have provided stories far beyond the imagination of the novelist.

Mr. Davies' literary talent evinced itself when, at a very early age, he wrote a paper at Newport, Mass., where he was born. "In Defence of the Stage," which he read to a religious gathering, and which so startled the deacons that they proposed for him an unhappy end.

Young Davies, however, was not allowed to follow his literary bent. In due course he was apprenticed to a picture-framer, and became an efficient workman. The "wanderlust" seized him, however, and when, on the death of his grandmother, he found that he benefited under her will to the extent of a few pounds, he promptly paid for a passage to America, where he proceeded to tramp the States in search of those adventures and experiences which so appealed to him.

It was through trying to board a train that the poet, missing his footing, caught his foot in the step of the car and was dragged several yards, the accident necessitating the amputation of his leg at the ankle.

It was shortly after this that Mr. Davies returned to England, and with his belongings—a cotton shirt, a pair of stockings, and a handkerchief, wrapped up in brown paper, he reached London with a couple of sovereigns in his pocket. Then he settled down to literary work, composing verses, tragedies, and comedies in the kitchen of a doss-house.

And as no one would publish his verses, he had a couple of thousand copies printed in pamphlet form, which he hawked from door to door. In due course he got together a few pounds, which he promptly paid to a London printer to print and bind an edition of 250 copies of his poems. This cost him £15.

Once again, however, he was doomed to disappointment. Nobody would buy the book, and he was thinking of destroying the lot, when it got into the hands of Mr. A. St. John Adcock, the distinguished author and critic, who read it, went and interviewed Davies, and wrote a column article for an evening paper on how he found a great poet living in a common doss-house. And it was in this singular fashion that the genius of this Welsh writer became known.

Savages and Their Teeth. The common idea is that the diet and climatic conditions of the negroes are the cause of their having beautiful teeth, but some authorities dispute this. Thus, in some parts of Africa, where an infant has gone through the "teething" period, his mouth is rinsed out with an infusion of leaves of a native tree possessing a constituent which causes the gums to shrink, so tightening the teeth.

The natives living near the source of the Nile employ the roots of a pod-bearing plant to relieve toothache, while another tribe farther west use an infusion of kasso seeds for the same purpose. The toothbrush as used in this country is, of course, unknown to the savages, but many of them have a most effective substitute. They use a piece of wood from certain trees which contain beneficial qualities. Further, this stick is free from the great objection to brushes, that it can be renewed at very frequent intervals, and is thus always fresh and wholesome—a great advantage over the toothbrush of civilized races.

Memorial to Warneford. In the town of Wilts a unique memorial will be erected to Flight Lieutenant Warneford, who brought down a Zeppelin from an aeroplane last summer and was himself killed with a journalist in a flying accident a few days later.

The memorial will be erected by the contributions of the Warneford family in all parts of the world, including the British Isles, France, Italy, India, New Zealand, Canada, and Antigua.

The famous exploit of young Warneford has reunited the family, many members of which had entirely got out of touch with their kindred. The Rev. H. L. Warneford, who organized the memorial work, is to write a family history. The earliest known Warneford was instructor in Greek to Charlemagne, the great conqueror.

Australian Bread Prices. Details of the regulations fixing the prices of flour and bread in the principal cities of Australia are given in an article in the Melbourne Age. The price of flour is fixed at \$4.75 a ton, except in Western Australia, where it is \$5.45. The price of bread in states other than Western Australia is fixed at 12.3 for a four-pound loaf sold over the counter, and 14.2 cents in Western Australia. Where a fraction of four pounds is bought, a proportionate price is to be charged.

What's the Use. We can learn much from a study of insect life. Even the thousand-leggedger doesn't go so much kicking as the average man.

It depends largely upon yourself how you are held in the community. Charity, a whole lot of times, consists of more than bread and butter. There are times when the leader in society is a leader in nothing else.

A FAMOUS BATTLEGROUND.

Picardy is Scene of British Victories of Agincourt and Crecy. If historical associations inspire to brave deeds, the British forces in their offensive against the Germans along the Somme River should be heartened to extraordinary acts of valor by the thought that they are fighting in Picardy, says a war geography bulletin of the National Geographic Society.

This ancient province of France, now divided into four departments—the Somme, Oise, Pas-de-Calais, and Aisne—has two battlefields whose very names quiver with the pulse of Englishmen. For it was at Crecy that the Black Prince won his spurs, and Agincourt that Henry V., commanding his yeomen with their cloth-yard bows, utterly overthrew the flower of French chivalry.

Picardy is a treasured name in romantic literature and in French history. It had a literature of its own in the twelfth century and its soldiers were among the most valiant in France, being known as the Gascons of the North.

The province was a natural battleground for the French and English during the Hundred Years' War, for its shores extend along the North Sea and the English Channel, to the River, As, above Valais, to a point below Dieppe. Fifteen miles north of Abbeville, one of the principal cities of Picardy, is Crecy, where, until late in the nineteenth century, there still stood the old windmill from which Edward III. of England in 1346 watched his beloved son, the first Prince of Wales, at that time only 16 years of age, triumph over Philip of Valois. On this occasion the English were outnumbered four to one, and they wrought terrible havoc among the enemy, the losses of the vanquished being variously estimated at from 10,000 to 30,000. One of those who fell in this fight was the chivalrous John, King of Bohemia, who, although blind, led a heroic charge for his French ally. Some historians trace the Prince of Wales' crest of three ostrich feathers and the motto "Ich dien" (I serve), to this battle, the Black Prince adopting them from the fallen John in memory of the event.

Less than 20 miles northeast of Crecy is Agincourt, where English archers, nearly 70 years later, after letting fly their clouds of arrows against the heavily armored nobles, attacked them with hatehats as they sounded helplessly in mind. Five thousand Frenchmen of noble birth, including their commander, d'Albret, constable of France, fell in this battle, while the estimate of English losses was astonishingly low, some chroniclers giving only 13 men at arms and 100 foot soldiers.

Several towns of Picardy—Amiens, Soissons, and Beauvais—owe their names to the ancient tribes which inhabited this section, known as Belgica Secunda, when the Romans maintained armed camps along the valley of the Somme. In the third century Christianity was introduced, and St. Quentin, from whom the important town 20 miles east of Peronne gets its name, was martyred at that time.

Picardy was the heart of Merovingian France in the fifth century, for Clovis named Soissons as his capital, while Charlemagne designated Noyon as his principal city, and the lesser Carolingians in turn similarly honored it.

By the treaty of Arras in 1435 the royal towns of the Somme Valley were ceded to Burgundy, but 42 years later, after the death of Charles the Bold, Louis XI. regained them. During his brief eras of peace the province thrived as a center of the weaving industry, Flemish immigrants having introduced the art.

Australia's "Slackers." Australia has recruiting troubles also. The Sydney N. S. W., Herald says on the subject: "As a member of the recruiting staff put it—something will have to be done. 'Look at the trams going to the race course last Saturday!' he said: 'They were packed to suffocation with young men all, or rather the majority, of military age. They had already seen the cables telling of the fight in the North Sea, but that would not appeal to them. It was the most disgusting sight I ever witnessed, and yet these people arrogate to themselves the name of sportsmen. While these young able-bodied men who should be forced into the firing line if they won't volunteer, were going out to back their fancy in thousands, we had an example which would shame them if they were capable of shame. A white-haired man came into the office and unobtrusively gave his age as 44 years and 11 months. Just in time,' he said, 'can't help my hair being white; that was due to a shock.' We passed him through only to learn the next day that his real age was 70. That would make a good story for the 'real sports' in Pitt Street to-day, who come to settle up and collect their winnings, but you can't do anything except conscription with these 'real sports.' What would make them blush would make an ordinary man leave the country."

Arranged With Enemy. There's a story going the rounds just now that shows how America was deprived of one of her fighting men. A visitor to a West-end restaurant in London, being waited on by a particularly tall and fine-looking waiter with a foreign accent, asked the man his nationality.

"Oh, I'm a Hungarian," "How comes it, then, that a big, strong fellow like you is not in the firing line?" asked the visitor.

"Well, sir, it's like this," replied the knight of the napkin, pointing to a brother waiter a few tables off.

"You see that man? Well, he's a Serb, and we have what you call 'paired'."

A word of encouragement is like oil to machinery that needs it. Style and beauty alone find it difficult to establish a bank credit. You and I speak in praise of our ancestors, or else keep quiet.

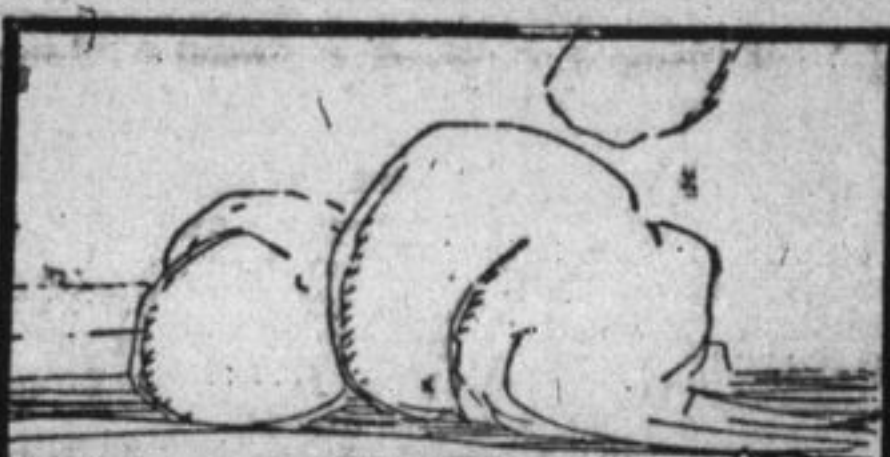
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Farm Laborers



Some men are experts at making others never seems to be aware of the fact.



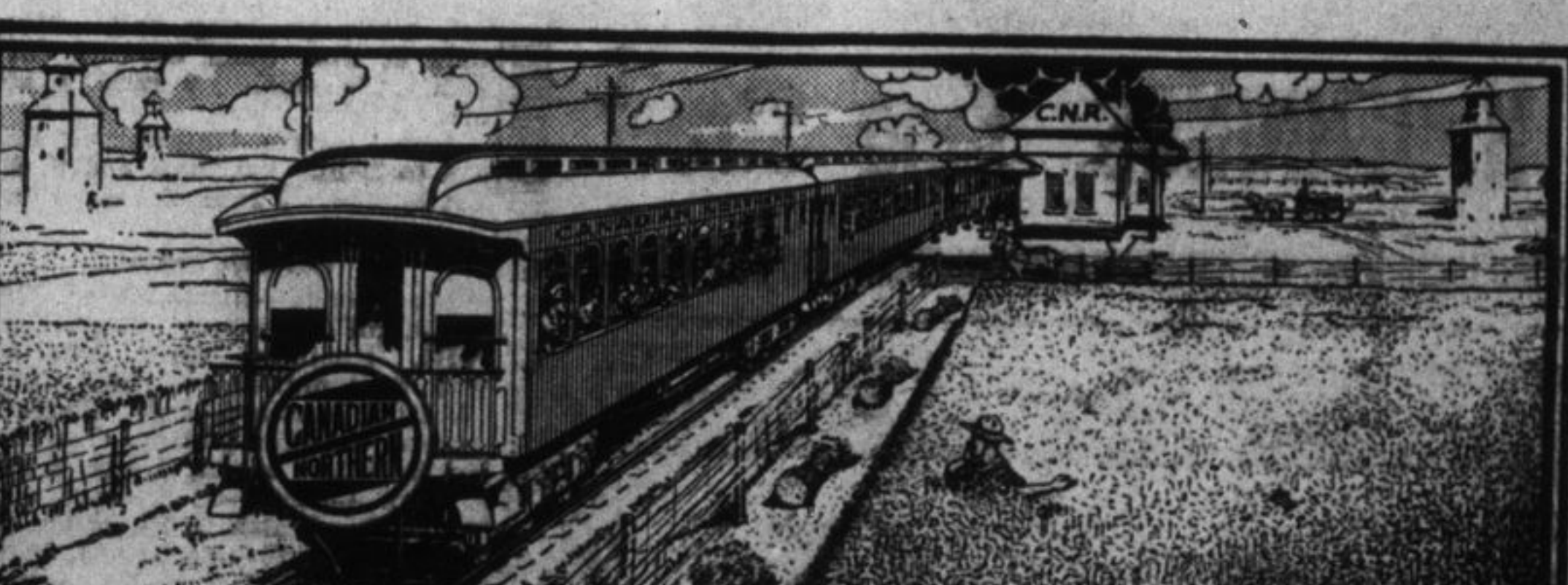
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For tickets and leaflet showing number of farm laborers required at each point, also wages paid, apply to nearest C.N.R. Agent, or R. H. Ward, Station Agent, or M. C. Dunn, City Agent.

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