

# Books And Their Authors

## ROUGHING IT IN THE BUSH.

By Mrs. Susanna Moodie. McClelland & Stewart, Toronto, publishers. 506 pages. Illustrated. Price \$2.50.

There is still another of these well-known publishers' stories of early life in Canada, written by the wife of Lieut. J. W. Dunbar-Moodie, who came to Canada in 1832. They settled first on a farm near Port Hope, but soon removed to the unbroken bush ten miles north of Peterboro. When the rebellion of 1837 broke out, Lieut. Moodie was placed in command of a regiment, and his wife and family were left for some time on the farm. After the rising had subsided, Moodie, who had been made a captain, was appointed sheriff of Hastings County, and Mrs. Moodie sold the farm and joined her husband at his headquarters in Belleville. Mrs. Moodie wrote other sketches of Ontario life, also a novel, but none attained the popularity of her "Roughing It in the Bush." She died in 1885. Her facility in seeing and portraying the humorous and the picturesque in the humble pioneer life in the woods makes her narrative as entertaining as a romance. Some quaint characters are described in these pages, and vivid accounts are given of happenings characteristic of the pioneer settlements—burning the fallow, the logging bee, the charivari, journeying through the forest and by the waterways. Various types of settlers—Yankee, Scottish and provincial English—are faithfully described; and the comments upon local journalism, politics, settlers' problems, are frank and fearless, showing a thorough knowledge of her subject, and brightened by a keen wit.

ing to his religious belief. He had his own idea of the creation of the world, the origin of the different tribes, the coming of the white man, the power of Good and Evil. Miss Burkholder has collected the most attractive and important legends of Canada, especially those relating to well-known places. Many of them she secured first hand on the spot. She has in this book told them with a charm of style that makes them appeal to the readers of all ages. The volume is cleverly illustrated from original drawings by C. M. Manly. A.R.C.A.

## WACOUSTA.

By Major Richardson. McClelland & Stewart, Toronto, publishers. 457 pages. Illustrated. Price, \$2.00.

A good book never grows old. The estimate of "Wacousta," by Major John Richardson, as the greatest Canadian novel, has been borne out by the fact that since it was

Oh—"Oh, Doctor!"



Harry Leon Wilson

## BEFORE THE WHITE MAN CAME

By Mabel Burkholder. McClelland & Stewart, Toronto, publishers. 317 pages. Price \$2.50.

This is another of these enterprising publishers' attractive Canadian books, one of a series just issued. It deals with Indian legends and stories of early life in Canada, and will have a strong appeal to all healthy boys and girls. For every mysterious manifestation of nature the Indian has invented a story. Whenever he was impressed by a curiously shaped rock, by a money lake, by a crashing waterfall, he tried to explain the wonder accord-

Since Harry Leon Wilson wrote that great succession of laughing-novels, "Bunker Bean", "Ruggles of Red Gap", and "Merton of the Movies", people are expecting him to create a new clever character in American life every year. This year it is Rufus Billop, the sanitarium pest in "Oh, Doctor!" who became the strangest go-getter you ever heard of! And already "the Billop touch", which is a Wilson master touch, has become immortal.

first published in 1932, it has been re-issued time and time again, and each edition rapidly sold out. The story is founded upon the stirring incidents connected with the attempt to capture Fort Detroit by the famous Indian chief, Pontiac, in the year 1763. It is replete with romantic and thrilling situations, vivid descriptive passages, rapidly of action and intense dramatic power. The conspiracy of this wily and treacherous warrior to possess himself of the various posts held by the British in the west, and which was foiled it is said, by a beautiful Indian girl, for whom an officer of the garrison had formed an attachment, gives the groundwork for a story that grows in interest as it unfolds. The author's vivid descriptions of the manners and customs of the native red men have never been surpassed. This new edition has five superb full-page illustrations, from paintings by the well-known Canadian artist, Charles W. Jeffreys, also a portrait of the author.

## CANADIAN CRUSOES.

By Catherine Barr Trull. McClelland & Stewart, Toronto, publishers. 322 pages. Price \$2.

The author of this Canadian story comes of an English family which settled near Rice Lake, north of Peterboro. She made a careful study of the plant and animal life of the locality, and embodied much of her information in her juvenile stories, such as "Canadian Crusoes." In recognition of her work as a naturalist Lord Palmerston made Mrs. Trull a grant of one hundred pounds, and later the Dominion Government presented her with an island in the Otonabee River. She died in 1899 at the goodly age of ninety-seven, having kept her spirit of youth undaunted to the last.

The publishers are to be congratulated on issuing a series of excellent books, of which "Canadian Crusoes" is an outstanding example. These books deal with early life in Canada, and give to the present generation a true and realistic picture of the stirring adventures and the arduous work that fell to the lot of our pioneer forefathers and mothers. The Crusoes of the Canadian woods are three children belonging to families of early settlers near Rice Lake. Hector Maxwell, a boy of fourteen; his sister Catherine, aged twelve; and their cousin, Louis Peron, also fourteen years of age, set

out one lovely June afternoon to enjoy a ramble in the forest and to bring home the cattle from the Beaver Meadow. Nightfall finds them in an unfamiliar part of the woods; they have lost their way; they make a rude shelter of boughs under which they spend the night. Days pass and their parents search in vain for them, while they are unable to find their way home. For more than two years they subsist on the products of the forest and the lake—berries, rice, deer, partridge, fish and the like. They build a log shanty, and make clothes from the skins of animals. They find a young Indian maid wounded and bound to a stake. They take care of her, and she teaches them more about wood craft. After thrilling adventures with the Indians, they are discovered by a lumberman who leads them safely home.

## The Man On Watch

Bibles are to be purchased by a home and school club for the senior class in one of the common schools. If the youngsters were properly looked after at home, there would be no need for Bible teaching in the schools.

According to report, Portsmouth will have to move if it wants to get away from the penitentiary. Let the Hatter's Bay folk move into Kingston.

No wonder escaped convicts make a bee line for Glenburnie. The Glen was ever noted for its hospitality—only there is not quite as much whiskey dispensed in this old Scotch settlement as in years gone by.

Glenburnie used to have a laird—the late William Craig occupying that post of honor for many years. Has a successor ever been named?

It has been suggested that the penitentiary be built over on Garden Island. That would be a grand place for a prison and would yield great business for the Wolfe Island ferry boat.

The pound keeper should make a few visits to the east end and impound some of the cows that are allowed by their owners to wander around the streets to the annoyance of street car motormen and auto drivers.

John the Baptist hit it right at the Baptist banquet the other night when he answered the question as to what the church could do for politics by saying that it should keep out of the political arena.

It used to be said that the bar-room made many men poor. Yet the Watchman knows of men-to-day who declare the Ontario Temperance Act is keeping them poor. They must have a little liquor, but at \$6.50 a bottle it is a drain on the pocket-book.

Another crack at tobacco! A football player swallowed his cud of chewing and was choked to death. Of course gum would not have been fatal.

Now that there is so little liquor to steal, some Wolfe Islanders have taken to robbing hen roosts. Surely the Islanders should know better than that!

They are into the charivari game at Sydenham. Verona used to be leader at the charivari, and the folks around there could almost break up a wedding too, by hurling stones through the windows of the house where the ceremony was taking place. Sydenham used to be a pretty lively village, but higher education has toned it down.

Smokers are mourning because they cannot light up pipes and cigars in the closed street cars. Pity about them! How do they get along for the hour and twenty minutes they are at church worship? The Watchman likes his smoke, but does his puffing at the proper time and in the proper place, just like eating.

The prohibitionists of Canada have chosen a "wet" as their president—that is a Baptist and a college chancellor at that.

Complaint is made to the Watchman that some farmers hereabouts are paying their help only \$20 a month and working them sixteen hours a day. Is it any wonder laborers do not want to go to the farm? Counting meals and bed the help would be paid at the rate of about \$1.50 a day or less than ten cents an hour.

Lloyd George remarks that the suffering in Europe has been caused by failure to carry out the Treaty of Versailles. Yes, and a great deal more suffering has been caused the world by failure to observe the Ten Commandments.

Canadian National Earnings. Montreal, Oct. 12.—The gross earnings of the Canadian National Railways for the week ending October 7th, 1925, were \$5,566,725, being an increase of \$80,423, or one per cent, as compared with corresponding week of 1922.

The gross earnings of the Canadian National Railways from Jan. 1st to Oct. 7th, 1925, have been \$187,124,956.49, being an increase of \$17,256,315.42, as compared with the corresponding period of 1922.

One deceit brings on another. No government is safe unless it be fortified by good will.



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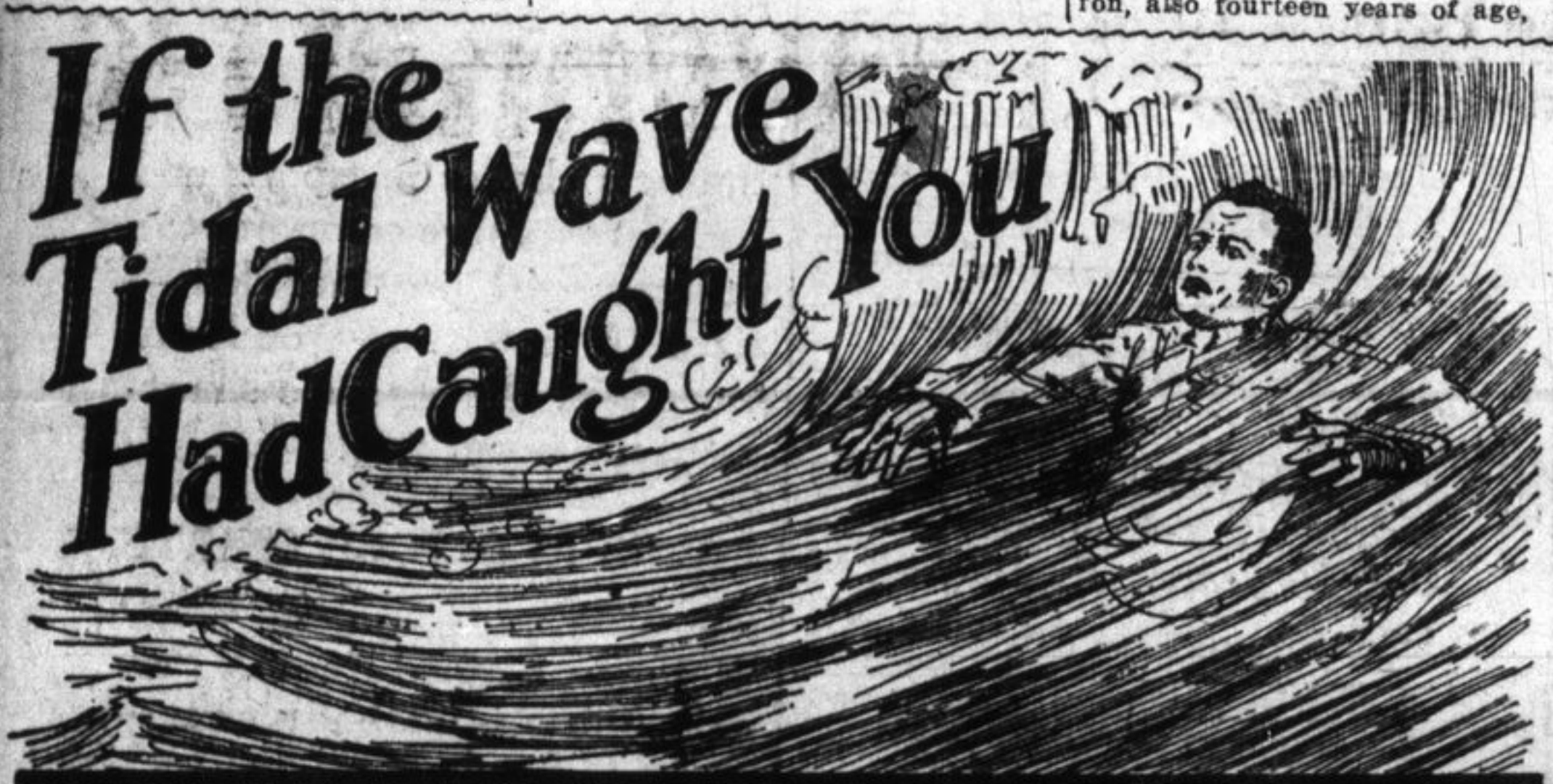
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