

The Clock and the Knight

By JAMES OLIVER CURWOOD



CHARLES MELVILLE HAYS,

President of the Grand Trunk Railway System and of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railroad. Mr. Hays is an American who has won fame as a great railroad man in Canada and who may be knighted by King George V.

THERE is a pretty well-founded opinion over in Canada that it won't be so very long before another brilliant American will be capering over the carpet at Windsor Castle, and that King George—God bless him!—will beat him over the back with the flat side of a saber and say, "Arise, Sir Charles!"

Many years ago a man locally known as Billy Brown gave a friend a letter of introduction to another friend who had gone over into Canada, with the remark, "He's one of the brightest of our young railroaders." Charley, over in Canada, read the letter and said, apropos of Billy, the writer, "There's the coming railroad man of America."

Both hit the bull's-eye! Billy is now known as Mr. William C. Brown, president of the New York Central lines; and Charley is Mr. Charles Melville Hays, president of the Grand Trunk Railway system—the Grand Trunk-Pacific and chairman of the board of directors of the Central Vermont Railway. Charley's good American blood has made him fight shy of royalty, but all the odds are against him and just now he is under high pressure. London, as well as this country, knows that he built the new transcontinental, and that if it were not for him there would now be no "all red route"—the Grand Trunk Pacific—from coast to coast.

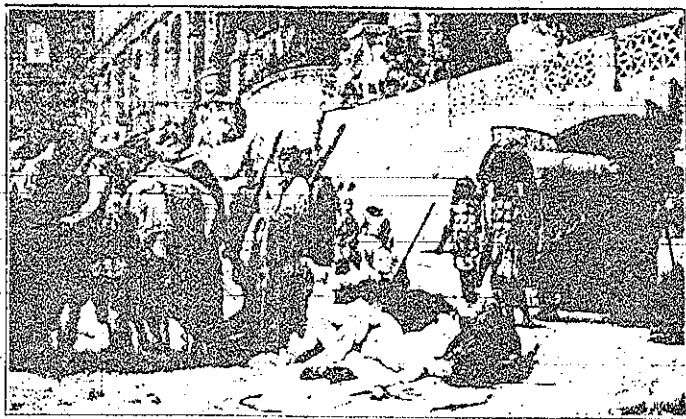
Even if he makes up his mind to accept knighthood when the last spike is driven in the Grand Trunk Pacific—and it is rumored that that will be the dramatic moment—Charles M. will not

been for that particular old clock. Charles M. firmly believes that he might have been checking up accounts even yet or perhaps buying eggs in a country grocery store—for once upon a time he thought it would be nice to own a country grocery store where one might have all the nice, fresh pears he could eat in season.

It happened like this: Charley, as he was called, was a clerk in the Wabash passenger office, when, at the close of business hours one day, the general manager of the road dropped in to inquire of the head of the department for a likely youth to be his secretary. All the clerks were either brushing their hair, putting on their coats or on the point of leaving—with the exception of young Charles M., who was still engrossed in his work. The manager was struck by this fact, and, approaching the young fellow, he asked the time of day. He asked twice before Charley seemed to hear him, and then, to his surprise, the future railroad king glanced at three walls of the room before he located the clock. That was enough and led to his immediate promotion—the first step toward the building of a transcontinental line—thirty-six hundred miles in length.

Sandy's Politeness.

Mr. MacTavish attended a christening where the hospitality of the host knew no bounds except the several capacities of the guests. In the midst of the celebration Mr. MacTavish



Nero at the Circus

Nero! The very sound of the name pictures tyranny and cruelty. Born of a murderess and schooled in crime by murderers, the life of this man has stood thru all ages as the climax of cruelty and crime. How the Christian Martyrs were persecuted and tortured by the tyrant, how he recklessly defied all precedent and created tortures and cruelties unheard of before, and how his selfish, childish weakness, at last brought him to a coward's grave, is all told vividly and masterfully in the Library of Universal History. The illustration of the tyrant at the Circus is only one of the hundreds which embellish this great work.

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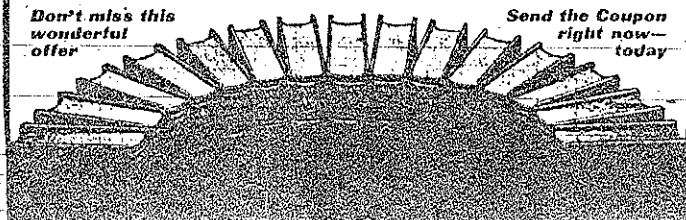
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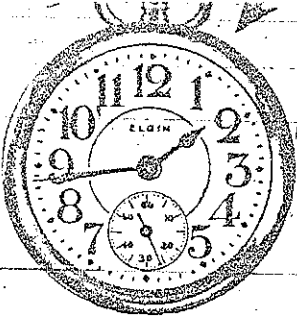
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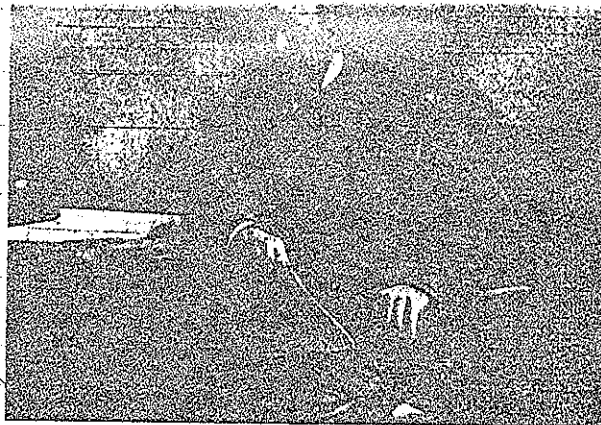
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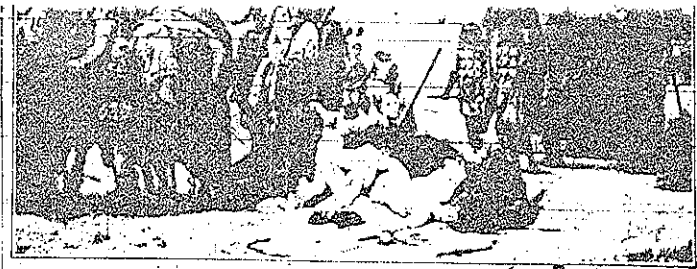
Even if he makes up his mind to accept knighthood when the last spike is driven in the Grand Trunk Pacific—and it is rumored that that will be the dramatic moment—Charles M. will put all the blame on a common, unvarnished, American clock, and one that didn't keep very good time at that. If Sir Charles of the future has a coat of arms, there will be on it a clock rampant, with a bar sinister in the shape of a railroad spike. At least he swears that the clock will be there, for if it had not

been for that particular old clock, Charles M. firmly believes that he might have been checking up accounts even yet or perhaps buying eggs in a country grocery store—for once upon a time he thought it would be nice to own a country grocery store where one might have all the nice, fresh pears he could eat in season.

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Mr. MacTavish attended a christening where the hospitality of the host knew no bounds except the several capacities of the guests. In the midst of the celebration Mr. MacTavish rose up and made the rounds of the company, bidding each a profound farewell. "But, Sandy, mon," objected the host, "ye're not goin' yet, with the evenin' just started?" "Nay," said the prudent MacTavish; "I'm no' goin' yet. But I'm tellin' ye good-night while I know ye."



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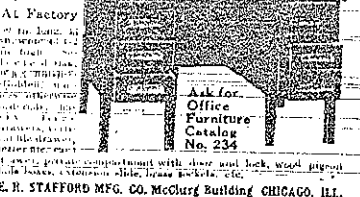
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