

HE DRANK RAILROAD REPORTS

By F. E. TOMBLIN

(By Short Story Pub. Co.)

IT WOULDN'T have happened if Clarkson hadn't been a genius, but being a genius, it happened. He had early developed an inclination to loiter about railroad stations, and while still a boy a dispatch operator had taken a fancy to him and taught him telegraphy, and at the earliest moment he could leave home he turned his face westward.

At the division headquarters of the P. Q. railway, Arizona, an opening was found for him, and he was sent out on the line. His town consisted of the station house, depot and water tank. Water tanks are not particularly interesting objects, but they act as a magnet toward the weary brake-beam artist, as here he can find rest and liquid refreshment, and being few and far between in this country, rarely a train passes one without stopping for water.

Clarkson had not been in his office many days before it was firmly impressed upon him that when a tramp wanders into a desert station, the first thing he wants is water. So is the second and third. His pail of ice water would be emptied almost as soon as filled, and nothing would remain to testify that it had been filled except a wet and muddy floor, where the tramp had spilled some of the contents of the pail.

Being of a mild disposition and slight build, he did not like to argue with the thirsty, and so he set about a plan whereby he might impersonally rid himself of the water hogs. Attaching a wire to the floor of his office, he ran it to the handle of the drinking cup, so that anyone standing on the wet floor with the cup in his hand would get the full benefit of the telegraph wire when a switch or "ground" wire was put on.

When a tramp came for a drink, Clarkson would wait till the fellow had got well settled back with the cooling ice water gurgling down his throat. Then he would tap his connecting wire and send a few casual train orders chattering into the drinker's midst.

Now, it is not an Indian summer's dream of peace to drink a hot, blighted train order with sawteeth on it, and as this torchlight parade would troop down the thirsty man's throat, he would suddenly let go of the unemptied cup, mutter a few relevant but unseemly remarks and hurry away.

The fame of Clarkson's contrivance spread quickly, and the train men neglected their work to watch for tramps who might chance along to drink a car report, a wrecking order, or a batch of commercial messages. One soft-hearted conductor kindly hauled a "hobo" nearly a hundred miles to give him a drink with special S. F. H. Morse trimmings.

On one of those still and very hot days such as usually precede a storm in that section, a speck appeared in the distance down the railroad track, and Clarkson grinned as he watched it approach. A red, dusty tangle of beard covered the tramp's face, and his lank, shifting person was as raggedly attired as a scarecrow for coyotes. Altogether, he was a most happy and promising subject, and Clarkson tingled with joy as the fellow made straight for the water pail.

When he was well in the act of swallowing, the dispatches were turned on, but he continued drinking without showing the slightest visible concern. Some train hands were near and Clarkson felt that his reputation was at stake. So he turned on another wire and gave the tramp certain "inside information" on the stock market. Nothing happened. In despair Clarkson centered all the seven wires in his charge, including the overland press relay, and let the tramp have them in the next cup of water he drank. In vain. The "hobo" put down the emptied cup and sighed. "Much obliged. This makes me homesick; makes me think of the old well on the farm. Much obliged."

Then, with a good share of the telegraphic service of the P. Q. Railway company secreted in his system, he went forth refreshed and rejoicing. That night a rush dispatch from the superintendent of telegraphs was received by Clarkson, stating that he had grounded all the wires of the service, held up seven passenger trains, delayed the Associated Press dispatches, besides embarrassing the running of three perishable freight extras. The dispatch closed with the query: "What have you got to say for yourself?"

Clarkson studied the message alternately with the now empty water bucket, but not finding in them anything to "say for himself," he decided that he would sleep over the matter and answer in the morning.

He went to bed, but couldn't sleep. The image of the "hobo" calmly drinking blighted, saw-edged train reports haunted him. Restlessly tossing between his sheets, he considered. "How did he do it? His interior department may be cyclone proof from drinking something stronger, but all the others were as soggy as he, and they showed the effects of the wire all right. No, there's something about that fellow's throat—his stomach—something."

In another moment Clarkson was out of bed, hurrying on his clothes with the rapidity of a freeman. A dispatch to the next station

brought the reply that the "hobo" had not passed there. Evidently he was still lingering in the neighborhood of the water bucket that had made him homesick. With the aid of a track-hand Clarkson located his man snoring lustily under a switched freight car. He was taken into the station, and, after being securely bound, was told to go quietly to sleep, as worse was to come.

The next morning Clarkson sent his answer to the superintendent's dispatch, it ran:

"Grounding of wires necessary to capture Bert Alvord, and fifteen thousand dollar reward. Send sheriff; am holding prisoner." "Clarkson."

With the sheriff came a number of territorial, railroad and express officials. Bert Alvord, with his pal, who had been killed at the time, had six months previously wrecked an express car, killed the messenger, shot the governor's nephew, and made off with the treasure box. A standing reward aggregating fifteen thousand dollars was offered by the territory, the governor, the citizens, and the express and railroad companies, for the outlaw, dead or alive. And Clarkson, who had been given his station chiefly because no one else would have it, had captured Alvord and the fifteen thousand dollars.

"It was this way, gentlemen," continued Clarkson, after the water pail joke had been explained to the officials, "as I lay abed puzzling how he could have drunk those train reports and yellow press dispatches and not turn a hair, it suddenly flashed over me that out in Hell's canyon there's a pool of water that petrifies or embalms the throat and stomach of the lost cattle that drink out of it, so they lose all feeling in those parts. Why might not this 'hobo' have drunk of that water and got his throat and stomach petrified, so the electricity couldn't affect him? Then I recollected that Bert Alvord had been driven into Hell's canyon by the posse and lost track of it. It only took another thought and a half to work out the problem. The 'hobo' was Alvord, half crazy from his terrible experience, come back to civilization. So I hustled out and got my man; and now for that little fifteen thousand dollars commission."

The "hobo" nodded his head, half foolishly, half surlily. "My only regret is that I ever found that lost trail and got out of Hell's canyon. What's the good of coming back to life when you've lost your taster?"

Clarkson is superintendent of telegraphs now, and you never can tell where a genius will stop.

Chance Led Aviator to Great Discovery

Because Wilbur Wright could not keep his fingers quiet there are airplanes.

It was the outcropping of this nervous habit in an insignificant incident that led to the most amazing of the Wrights' inventions—the marvelous warping wings that made aviation practical.

The bicycle shop that the young Wrights conducted, writes John H. McMahon in Popular Science Monthly, was kept open late evenings to cater to the trade of factory employees. Wilbur was on duty one night in July.

A customer came in. If he had asked for a tire tape, a wrench or a pump the course of history might have been changed. But this customer asked for an inner tube for his bicycle tire. That tube was packed in a rectangular pasteboard box. Wilbur held the empty box by its end while the customer examined the contents. Wilbur's hands were inclined to be nervously active. He looked down and suddenly realized what he was doing with an empty box—twisting it—warping it. What was this? Can't hinge wings? Never! But you can warp them! Eureka!

Wilbur closed the shop in a hurry and rushed home to tell Orville.

Usually each brother, in the interest of truth, savagely assailed the other's idea. This time Orville heard the box story, made no argument, and just accepted Wilbur's warping amendment to the hinge principle. Then and there one-half of the problem of lateral balance of the airplane was solved for all time. It was simply a great inspiration, like Newton's falling apple.

Within a month after the warping scheme came to him the Wrights tried it out on a box kite that they flew from Seminary hill, in Dayton. A large audience of small boys begged to assist. The kite, a five-foot biplane, acted badly from the small boys' viewpoint—it scooted here and darted there like mad, but satisfied its makers, since it responded to the control cords that twisted its frame.

By means of the kite the Wright brothers were able to demonstrate that their idea of warping the wings was correct basically.

Ancient and Modern Fairs

The origin of the statement county fair may be traced to the convenience of bringing together at stated times the buyers and sellers of the stock produce of a district. In Europe in the Middle Ages these fairs were generally connected with festivals of the church, this being considered an appropriate time for bringing a large number of people together.

One-Cent Lights Coming

Electric lights so tiny that they would cost only a cent for current to keep them burning for an entire year are reported as possibilities by the Popular Science Monthly. The new lights were discussed at a recent meeting of the Illuminating Engineering society in Detroit.

The Dairy

SUITABLE FEEDING FOR BRED HEIFERS

Bred heifers should receive particularly good care. This is especially true of those that will freshen during the next six months, says J. W. Bartlett, dairy husbandman at the New Jersey State College of Agriculture.

It is not enough to feed the bred heifer on roughage alone. Such a heifer will continue to grow until she calves, if given a good supply of feed. After freshening she will be obliged to use all of her feed for body maintenance and milk production, so the dairyman cannot expect rapid growth after the first freshening.

The basis of the feed for the pregnant heifer can well be a good legume hay and silage if these are available. She should have all the hay she will clean up twice daily and 20 to 25 pounds of silage. Until about six weeks before freshening she should be given a good growing ration. About five pounds daily of a ration consisting of equal parts by weight of corn, oats, bran and oil meal, will give good results. If she is not fat the ration should contain at least two parts of corn meal or hominy to one of the other ingredients. It may seem that the heifer is getting heavy over the shoulders and taking on a beefiness, but she will milk off this heaviness and produce a higher testing milk than if she freshens in a thin condition.

At least a month before freshening, the heifer should be put in a box stall or in the stanchion row so that she will become used to being handled. She can be watched better in such a place, also. A heifer in good or high flesh will probably have a caked udder. This need not cause worry if she is kept out of draughts and not allowed to lie on wet, cold ground immediately after freshening. Two weeks before calving, if the udder is caked, the ration should be changed to bran and oil meal, and a few days before freshening the oil meal should be discontinued. To reduce udder congestion after freshening, bran only should be fed as a grain ration for the first few days. Leaving the calf with the heifer for three or four days also will tend to relieve the condition.

Feeding Cows by Guess Is Quite Costly Habit

Feeding cows with the scoop shovel or by the "guess" method is quick, but also costly.

For if every cow in a herd of 18, explains E. J. Perry, New Jersey state dairy specialist, were offered only one-half pound of grain daily for a month, the owner of the herd would lose \$8.48 per month when feed is selling for \$48 per ton. If the cows were underfed the same amount, he would lose \$10 pounds in the month. Figuring milk at \$3 per hundred pounds, this milk would be worth \$24.30. Subtracting the \$8.40 grain cost would leave \$17.90, the net loss to the man so underfeeding. In the course of a year such a method would lose the herd owner \$200.

Better overfed a little, however, than to underfeed. Of course, no cow can be fed perfectly. Perhaps the old general rule familiar to successful dairy farmers will not be improved upon very soon. It is this: Give a cow all the good roughage she will clean up, and in addition feed one pound of concentrates a day for each three or four pounds of milk, depending on its richness.

Rules for feeding are merely statements of facts that apply to the average of large numbers of animals. Individual cows are very similar to individual persons and have differences in their inherent capacities. Therefore, a rule should only be a starting point in the feeding problem. The man who does not study his cows and cater to their peculiarities will get ahead faster if he blindly follows rules than if he feeds by guess or with a scoop shovel. The man who is most successful is he who, knowing the principles of feeding, adapts his practices according to his conditions and circumstances, to meet the individual needs of his cows.

Warts on Cow's Teats

The exact cause of warts on a cow's teats is unknown, but irritation from milking may cause these on the teats. The milk is safe for use. Warts that have slim necks may be snipped off with blunt scissors, a few at a time; then apply tincture of iodine. Masses of small warts will disappear after a time if you wet them often with a solution of one tablespoonful of washing soda in a pint of warm water, or with oil of white cedar (thuja) or if you apply a 10 per cent ointment of that oil.

Ration for Dairy Cow

As long as cows with only a medium production are on rye or wheat pasture, ground corn and ground oats, half and half, make as good a ration as one can feed. Ground corn and bran mixed, two parts corn to one part bran, also make a good combination. The standard 4-2-1 ration consists of 4 parts of corn, 2 of bran or oats and 1 of cottonseed or linseed meal. In either case the grain can most profitably be fed, 1 pound to 4 pounds of 3/4 to 4 cent milk.

FARM STOCK

BETTER METHOD OF CARING FOR EWES

Thousands of pregnant ewes are lost every winter and spring that might be saved by a better method of feeding and management. Affected ewes are invariably found to have pale-colored, friable or almost rotten livers when examined after death. Often the sheep are fat and usually they grit their teeth, become weak, stagger about, go down, are paralyzed and soon die. The visible mucous membranes of the eyes and other openings of the body may be found tinged with yellow, from absorption of bile, or may be abnormally pale in color. Medicine rarely does any good, unless started the moment symptoms become apparent. Prevention is of paramount importance.

We attribute the disease to prolonged, excessive feeding of coarse, bulky, woody roughage in the absence of laxative feed to regulate the bowels, and to lack of enough exercise. Ewes should be made to walk a mile or two daily to get their hay, scattered over the surface of a distant field, a path being opened for them with a snow-plow if necessary. The hay should be clover or alfalfa, both rich in protein and possessing a vitamin that is absolutely necessary to good health and assimilation of lime salts. Timothy and swale hay, old weathered straw and corn stover, threshed clover hay and coarse, withered and frosted grass are most liable to induce the constipated condition that favors the disease in question. We regard it as self-poisoning from absorption into the system of poisons derived from the intestines and not excreted or destroyed in the liver.

In addition to the legume hay, each ewe should be given two pounds of roots or two pounds of sound corn silage daily to regulate its bowels, and, unless in good flesh from "fushing" by generous feeding at mating time, should be fed daily one-half to three-fourths of a pound of mixture of two parts of whole or crushed oats and one part of wheat bran.

It is inadvisable to feed much corn, as it is fattening and encourages sluggishness. Were the ewes properly fed and made to take active exercise every day throughout pregnancy, there would be far fewer losses. As to medicinal treatment, the drug that seems to have proved most useful is Glauber salt, the dose of which is two to four ounces, given in tepid water well sweetened with molasses.—Dr. A. S. Alexander, Wisconsin.

Gilts Should Have Good Feed in Winter Season

Gilts expected to farrow early next spring should have attention during winter. They will need a comfortable bed when bad weather comes. Not only is shelter desirable but a warm bed of straw is advisable.

The feed should be such as will enable them to make bone, muscle and to function the vital organs properly. As a rule gilts are bred quite young and there is very little time for growth and development before they are to nourish their offspring. That means that we as farmers and animal husbandmen must feed properly.

There is generally very little for gilts to get in the form of grazing at this season of the year. It is of course well that grazing be had but it is not easy to provide for at this time. But the feed must be suitable so that the gilts will be prepared for the spring pigs.

Protein feeds in considerable quantities will generally be needed. Skimmed milk, tankage, meat meal, shorts, ground oats, bran, cotton seed meal, etc., are good sources. Remember that cotton seed meal should not be fed without caution. One part cotton seed meal to five or six parts grain is safe, according to experiments. One part tankage or meat meal to nine parts grain is generally recommended.

Fine Way of Marketing Feed at a Good Profit

Lamb feeding has been profitable during the past few years, and offers a good means of marketing feed at a profit. Good western range lambs are generally safer to feed, since farm raised native lambs are frequently troubled with stomach worms. Lambs which are infested with stomach worms will not make good gains in the feed lot and losses are likely to occur.

The market prefers fat lambs that do not weigh more than 90 pounds, hence feeder lambs should not weigh more than 70 pounds when put into the feed lot.

Hogs Loose in Orchard

When fed liberally and given plenty of water hogs are not likely to cause much if any damage in an orchard. However, hogs may do considerable damage by gnawing the trees or destroying the roots. If allowed in the orchard they should be watched closely and removed if they begin injuring the trees. If it is necessary to keep them in the orchard the trees should be protected by some kind of inclosure for the trunks to prevent the hogs injuring them.

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Cutting Glass Under Water.

Submerging glass under water does not necessarily mean that it will cut easier, but it is much less likely to crack than when cut in air. The cutting sets up vibrations in the glass which have a tendency to crack it. These vibrations are greatly reduced if the glass is placed under water during the cutting process.

Animal Species.

The biologist, Hunter, estimated that there were 518,000 species in the animal kingdom divided into 15 classes. The different insects are numbered 360,000 or over two-thirds of the total number of species in the animal world. There are 13,000 fishes, 1,400 amphibians, 3,500 reptiles, 13,000 birds and 3,500 mammals.

Attitude for Success.

He that would relish success to a good purpose should keep his passions cool and his expectations low; and then it is possible that his fortune might exceed his fancy; for an advantage always rises by surprise and is almost always doubled by being unlooked for.—Ohio State Journal.

Early Lighthouse.

The first lighthouse built by the United States as an independent government is at Cape Henry, at the entrance of Chesapeake bay. It was finished in 1792, when fish oil was used for lighting, sperm oil being substituted in 1810.

Lotus Gingerbread.

The legendary lotus, the fruit of which made Ulysses' sailors forget their homes, is supposed to have been the same plant now used by natives of northern Africa to make sun-dried cakes which taste like gingerbread.—Science Service.

Lamp Burned Long.

A funeral lamp placed in the year 45 B. C., in the tomb of Tullia, daughter of the great Roman orator Cicero, and wife of Diabella, is said to have been kept burning constantly for 1,500 years.

Quaint Custom.

By a curious law dating back to 1779, all the grapes left on the vines after the harvest in the vineyard at Beaters, France, go to the benefit of the poor and the owners can be fined for picking the culls.

Mankind's Oddities.

Mankind are very odd creatures; one-half censure what they practice, the other half practice what they censure; the rest always say and do as they ought.—Benjamin Franklin.

Relativity Again.

Some of the sun spots are said to be thousands of miles in diameter, and yet think of the fuss a girl makes over an ordinary freckle.—Boston Transcript.

English Poets Laureate.

Geoffrey Chaucer, who lived from 1328 to 1400, was the first to assume the title of poet laureate of England. As early as the reign of Henry III there had been a versificator regis or king's poet.

Knowledge and Practice.

A wise man not only knows when to keep still but does it.—Boston Transcript.

Different When Polished.

Diamonds in their natural state are usually of a dull lead color.

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Business Propaganda.

You can't always tell about anything; maybe there is a sleeper in the statement, and just as like as not the man who broadcast the opinion that pedestrians have the right of way and don't have to hop around to avoid being run over by a motorcar is an attorney who is looking for damage suits to settle.—Albany Press.

The Fool's Fire.

Every morning in the country forest fires burn up the equivalent of a bushel basket full of \$10 bills. When the last bill is in ashes our daily waste of \$100,000 is accomplished and we square away for the day's work to replace with thought and sweat what folly has destroyed.—Colliers.

Knowledge and Power.

Knowledge is power when applied to purpose, that is, when it is used; for, in and of itself, it is incapable of accomplishing anything. He who uses knowledge wisely is a benefactor to his fellow man.—Grit.

The Barefoot Explorers.

Two boys, eight and eleven, started out of the city to explore the world. Both were barefooted. It is the way of explorers—always forgetting something.—Public Ledger.

Old University.

The oldest university under the United States flag is Santo Tomas university in Manila, founded by the Dominican friars in 1605. The friars still conduct the university.

Home Team.

Ad in Chicago paper—"Widow with five would like to meet widower with four children. Object, baseball."—Boston Transcript.



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