

NEXT WEEK

Gratiot Co. Fair and Short Ship Races at Ithaca, Michigan Don't forget the big Program on Wednesday

Always Quality First--

There is an untarnished reputation of thirty years' standing and an investment of approximately \$1,000,000.00 behind every sack of

Lily White

"The Flour The Best Cooks Use"

Your bread, rolls, biscuits and pastries are certain to be flavorful, thoroughly delicious and wholesome when baked from Lily White.

Reject all substitutes; insist on having "the flour the best cooks use."

VALLEY CITY MILLING CO.,
Grand Rapids, Mich.

The IRON TRAIL

By
REX BEACH

Copyright, 1915, by Harper & Brother

SYNOPSIS

Murray O'Neil, railroad builder, on his way to Alaska, is a passenger on the Nebraska. The ship runs aground, O'Neil helps Captain Johnny Brennan to quell a panic among the passengers.

As the ship settles O'Neil is accused by a beautiful girl, and he plunges overboard with her. They are picked up by Captain Brennan. She proves to be Natalie Gerard, whose mother is the friend of Curtis Gordon, O'Neil's unscrupulous business rival.

O'Neil and Natalie journey to Hope together. She tells him of her mother and Gordon. When they arrive at Hope Gordon meets them.

O'Neil is impressed with the magnificence of his rival, but is sure his plans are unshaken. Tom Slater quits Gordon for O'Neil. They go to Cortes in time to save Dan Appleton in a crooked card game.

Appleton, an engineer, had worked for Gordon. He casts his fortunes with O'Neil. O'Neil leads his men to a wild country, convinced he can build a railroad up the Salmon river.

O'Neil meets his crew in Seattle, where a newspaper woman gets on the phone. She proves to be Dan Appleton's sister. O'Neil tells her his plans, but not for publication.

Eliza Appleton is sent to Omar to expose the men who are trying to snatch control of an empire. She meets her brother and Natalie. Dan is worried over a possible newspaper attack by Eliza or O'Neil.

"Oh, I'll take care of myself! I won't get in anybody's way," she said eagerly.

"I intend to see that you don't by going with you. So make your preparations, and we'll leave as soon as I can get away."

When he had gone the girl said aloud:

"Eliza Vollet, this is your chance. It's underhanded and mean, but you're a mean person, and the finger of Providence is directing you." She snatched up the silver kimono and ran into her room, locking the door behind her.

Hurriedly she put it on, then posed before the mirror. Next down came her hair amid a shower of pins. She arranged it loosely about her face and, ripping an artificial flower from her party hat, placed it over her ear, then swayed grandly to and fro while the golden dragons whirled and curved as if in joyous admiration. A dozen times she slipped out of the garment and, gathering it to her face, kissed it; a dozen times she donned it, strutting about her little room like a peacock. Her uptilted nose was red and her eyes were wet when at last she laid

"Does that mean that Gordon abandons his Hope route?"

"Yes. He's swung in behind us and the Heidenmanns. Now it's a three-sided race, with us in the lead. Melten just brought in the news half an hour ago. He was on his way down from the glaciers when he ran into a field party of Gordon's surveyors. Looks like trouble ahead if they try to crowd through the canyon alongside of us."

Young Appleton came panting up the hill. "Goodby, sis," he said. "I'm off for the front in ten minutes."

"Anybody hurt?" Slater asked.

"Not yet, but somebody's liable to be. Gordon is trying to steal the canyon, and Murray has ordered me out with a car of dynamite to hold it."

"Dynamite! Why, Dan!" his sister exclaimed in consternation.

"We have polling boats at the lower crossing, and we'll be at the canyon in two days. I'm going to lead the hillside with shots, and if they try to come through I'll set 'em off. They'll never dare tackle it."

"But suppose they should?" Eliza inquired quickly.

"Then send Doc Gray with some stretchers. I owe one to Gordon, and this is my chance." Drawing her aside, he said in an undertone: "You've got to hold my ground with Natalie while I'm gone. Don't let her see too much of Murray."

"I'll do the best I can," she answered, "but if he seems to be in earnest I'll renounce, no matter what happens to you, Danny."

He kissed her affectionately and fled. Dan had a thrilling experience. He planted shots of dynamite at various places along the right of way. He met Gordon and completely cowed him. Gordon, desperate, appealed to Murray O'Neil to call off Appleton and his men. O'Neil told Gordon they were following his instructions to the letter. Gordon then sought to strengthen his position through the women. He promised to marry Gloria if she returned with him. Natalie persuaded her mother not to go back unless Gordon married her immediately, which he refused to do.

CHAPTER XI.

A Piece of Many Wonders.

CURTIS GORDON'S men broke camp upon his return from Omar, and by taking the east bank of the Salmon river pressed through to the upper valley. There they recrossed to the west side and completed their survey, with the exception of the three mile gap which Dan Appleton held.

Gordon continued to smart under the sting of his defeat, however. O'Neil had got the better of him in argument, and Natalie's simplicity had proved more than a match for his powers of persuasion. At no time had he seriously considered making Mrs. Gerard his wife, but he had thought to entice the two women back under his own roof in order to humiliate both them and their self-appointed protector. He felt sure that Natalie's return to Hope and her residence there would injure her seriously in the eyes of the community, and this would be a stab to O'Neil. Although he had failed for the moment he did not abandon the idea.

Gordon's business career had consisted of a series of brilliant manipulations whereby, with little to go upon, he had forced financial recognition for himself. No one knew better than he the unstable foundation beneath his Alaskan enterprises, yet more than once he had turned as desperate ventures into the semblance of success. By his present operations he sought not only to hamper O'Neil, but to create an appearance of opposition to both him and the trust that could be coined into dollars and cents. There are in the commercial world money wolves who prey upon the weak and depend upon the spirit of compromise in their adversaries. Gordon was one of these.

By purchasing for a song the McDermott outfit in Kyak he had placed himself in position to share in the benefits of the Heidenmann breakwater, and by rapidly pushing his tracks ahead he made his rivalry seem formidable. As a means of attack upon O'Neil he adopted a procedure common in railroad building. He amended his original survey so that it crossed that of the S. R. and N. midway between the lower bridge over the Salmon river and the glaciers and at that point began the hasty erection of a grade.

It was at the cost of no little inconvenience that he rushed forward a large body of men and supplies and began to lay track across the S. R. and N. right of way. If Appleton could hold a hillside, he reasoned, he himself could hold a crossing, if not permanently at least for a sufficient length of time to serve his purpose. His action came as a disagreeable surprise to Omar. These battles for crossings have been common in the history of railroading, and they have not infrequently resulted in sanguinary affrays.

Toward Gordon's stronghold Murray O'Neil's men worked, laying his roadbed as straight as an arrow, and as the intervening distance decreased anxiety and speculation at Omar increased.

Among those who hung upon the rumors of the approaching clash with greatest interest was Eliza Appleton. Since Dan's departure for the front she had done her modest best to act the part he had forced upon her, and in furtherance of their conspiracy she had urged O'Neil to fulfill his promise of taking her over the work.

She was greatly excited when O'Neil announced one evening:

"I'm ready to make that trip to the front if you are. I have business at Kyak, so after we've seen the glaciers

we will go down there, and you can take in the coal fields."

"I'm ready to leave at a moment's notice."

"Then perhaps you'd better help Natalie!" exclaimed Eliza, seeing all her well laid plans tottering. "Is she going?"

"Oh, yes. It's an opportunity she shouldn't miss, and I thought it would be pleasanter for you if she went with us."

O'Neil had puzzled her greatly of late, for at times he seemed wrapped up in Natalie, and at other times he actually showed a preference for Eliza's own company. He was so impartial in his attentions that at one moment the girl would waver in her determination and in the next would believe herself succeeding beyond her hope. The game confused her emotions curiously. She accused herself of being overbold, and then she noted with horror that she was growing as sensitive to his apparent coldness as if she were really in earnest. She had not supposed that the mere acting of a sentimental role could so obsess her.

To counteract this tendency she assumed a very professional air when they set out on the following morning. She was once more Eliza Appleton, the reporter, and O'Neil in recognition of this fact explained rapidly the difficulties of construction which he had met and overcome. As she began to understand there came to her a fuller appreciation of the man and the work he was doing. Natalie, however, could not seem to grasp the significance of the enterprise. She saw nothing beyond the even gravel roadbed, the uninteresting trestles and bridges and cuts and fills, the like of which she had seen many times before, and her comment was childlike. O'Neil, however, appeared to find her naive charming, and Eliza reflected bitterly:

"If my nose was perfectly chiseled and my eyebrows nice he wouldn't care if my brain was the size of a rabbit's. Here am I, talking like a human being and really understanding him, while she sits like a Greek goddess, wondering if her hat is on straight. If ever I find a girl nicker than I am I'll make her my bosom friend." She jabbed her pencil viciously at her notebook.

The engine finally stopped. It was in the midst of a tent village besides which flowed one of the smaller branches of the Salmon. In the distance the grade stretched out across the level swamps like a thin, lately healed scar, and along its crest gravel trains were slowly creeping. An army of men like a row of ants were toiling upon it, and still farther away shone the white sides of another encampment.

"Oh! That's Gordon's track," Eliza cried quickly. "Why, you're nearly up to him. How do you intend to get across?"

O'Neil nodded at the long thin line of moiling men in the distance.

"There's a loose handle in each one of those picks," he said.

(Continued next week)



The Pathe Pathephone

Children can play it without slightest danger of injury from sharp needles to child or record.

Prices \$15. to \$225.
Double-Faced Discs 65c to \$4
SAPPHIRE BALL

This ingenious device does away with the bother of changing needles. It cannot scratch or wear the records. Reproduces the music in a richer, more natural tone than you have ever before heard.

Pathephones, \$25 and up, equipped to play ALL makes of Disc Records.
On the Pathephone, you may play any disc record regardless of make. Pathe Discs recorded here and abroad—a vast collection of musical gems. Prices from 65c to \$4—all double faced including operatic selections. You can equip your present phonograph to play Pathe Discs.

Attractive terms for payments.
ALMA MUSIC STORE
Smith & Maney. Wright House Bldg.

When we buy for cash we get a Discount. Why not YOU?

We give 25% Discount for Cash

Safety First Hard Kansas Winter Wheat Flour at 95c a sack, or \$7.25 a barrel. Why not get in on this before the advance?

Cream Prices: 28c cash; 29c trade.

Forest Hill Elevator Co.

Forest Hill

Solid Comfort

For less than a-Cent-an-Hour

What gives more comfort than a cool breeze, on a hot day in the city? And how much isn't one willing to spend to get it—yes, spend to go after it and often not get it?

Yet, a cool breeze is one of the most easily derived of all hot weather comforts and one of the least expensive, when obtained from a Peerless Electric Fan.

Peerless Electric Fans

It can be used in any room having an ordinary incandescent lamp socket. All you have to do to get a breeze is to connect fan to socket and turn the switch.

Alma Grain & Lumber Co.

Electric Department



How it looks when illustrated.
"She sat down on the old man pretty hard."
The Bread Line
Not the bread line familiar to residents of large cities where thousands are out of employment and starving, but a line of our prosperous citizens, such as may often be seen, leaving this bakery with our good bakery goods.
Join the Procession
THE MODEL BAKERY



"Oh-h!" Her eyes were round and astonished. "Oh-h! It's for me."

It cut upon her bed and knelt with her cheek against it.

"Gee, if only I were pretty!" she sighed. "I almost believe he—likes me."

Tom Slater laboriously propelled himself up the hill to the bungalow that evening and seated himself on the topmost step near where Eliza was rocking. She had come to occupy a considerable place in his thoughts.

"Where have you been lately, Uncle Tom?" she began.

Slater winced at the appellation.

"I've been out on the delta hustling supplies ahead. Heard the news?"

"No."

"Curtis Gordon has bought the McDermott outfit in Kyak. He had a wild plan to build a railroad from Kyak to the coal fields, but he never got farther than a row of silver stakes and a book of press clippings."

Coal Coal Coal

We are delivering to our customers the finest coal we have ever handled. It is so good that we feel like telling you people about it. In future we shall fill all orders with this QUALITY—and we believe that coal buyers who start using this coal will thank us for bringing it to their attention.

Marvel Ashless Coal

And from now on we shall bring its advantages regularly to your notice in this space.

Alma Elevator Co.

Bell 48 Union 70

The Alma Record \$1.00

MR. FARMER

When You Are in Alma

Call on us and look over a complete line of

Johnston Grain Drills

with Fertilizer attachment or plain, also Up-to-date Wagons

At the rear of G. V. Wright's Furniture Store.

R. M. HYDE

Both Phones The Johnston Man

Try The Record Want Ads.