

A STORY OF



THE RAIL IN THE '80'S BY M. B. DE COURCY

The story of the Sons of the Red Rose began in The Sunday Call May 28 and will continue for several weeks. This is the best story of railroad life that has appeared for years.

(Copyrighted, 1905, by M. B. de Courcy.)

THE spring changing the orbit of a life always lies concealed beneath the hand of the Master; so to join the fatal paper was only an exhibition of bad penmanship. With difficulty he deciphered the following:

"Uintah, 6, 29, 81.
"Peter Lawrence, Canal street, Chicago, Ill.

"Hugs getting indigestible. Good. Apply to North-Western for requested transportation. Can use you."

Here followed a name railroad men conjured with. One who walked firmly along the uncertain trails of lesser men, to their end, then, with a laugh, used the whitening bones of their dead thoughts to weave the background of splendid success. From scarified lines of steel his engine waved white plumes against the serene tops of the range, or from canyon depths the steam weaved with the mists of mountain rivers. His was personality tinged deep in the acid of mighty deeds, his hands never creased a triumph or clasped over a failure. He was one who tested men as a steely climber tests his ropes—once proved they were trusted absolutely.

"Well," said Lawrence, "I took the liberty of including you in my request. Now if the following North-Western is ready we can start to-night."

"I'm ready," John replied.

"There is a young engineer in these yards with whom I must have a talk," said Lawrence, an hour later, as he twisted the requested name in his fingers amid the disorders of his room.

In about half an hour Lawrence returned, accompanied by a massively built young man.

"John Gray," he said, "I think you will meet a friend in Pat Brady."

The young man thus quaintly introduced shook hands warmly, each seeing in the other a congenial spirit.

"John," said Lawrence, "I've told Brady about you and your position. He has also told him that I think I will be in a position to help him to something better."

"Yes, and all I want is the flash of a message to join you," interrupted Brady. "I know you are a man to the to. I'll burn my bridges and come to you without strings. What do you intend to begin at?" he asked Gray, after a brief pause.

"I would like to start on an engine," replied Gray.

"Well, I hope we can get together," said Brady heartily. The trunk now being filled and strapped, Brady took his departure, and Lawrence and Gray, after a brief farewell, were left alone.

"I'll look to hear from you and soon," said Brady, as he turned to go.

Mommy's tearful farewell concluded by her saying, "Scranton, it seems the prop of me house was following its flower, but remember, you can never get beyond the woman's prayers."

"Include me, too," said Gray softly.

"Yes, sure I will," came the solemn answer.

An hour later they were amid the ebb and flow of the racing prairie. All that night the following day and until 2 a. m. the succeeding night; then Lawrence said as the train came to a grinding stop:

"This is Uintah."

Sleepily they followed a drowsy porter to a third-story room, and, soon sleeping the dreamless slumber of

utter weariness. Lawrence woke Gray by a vigorous shaking, saying:

"Get up, it is after 10, we will get breakfast, then attend to our affairs."

Chris Anderson's steak and fried potatoes having disappeared from their big tin plate, Lawrence tapped Gray's shoulder, saying:

"Now for it."

A few minutes' walk brought them before a great office building. Ascending in quick succession doors neatly labeled, "Train Master," "Superintendent," "Gen'l Manager," to pause before one bearing the legend, "President."

Passing in they found themselves in a little space railed off from a great, comfortable room. Its occupant, a bright-faced young man, arose and, stepping to the barrier, asked:

"Have you business with Mr. Blank? All right; be seated; he is engaged at present, but will be at liberty in a few minutes."

"I am," said Lawrence, as they seated themselves upon a leather couch. "I want to put you on to something; even if I was not sure of a welcome from the gentleman whom we are awaiting I would have no fear of that."

The young man who just spoke to us is his chief clerk. He holds an extremely enviable position, but you can see he is a gentleman. Our rough clothes and appearance are not to be noticed. It is right here, in this office, the personal of the entire executive force takes its cue. If the man behind that closed door is a boor, or a heartless martinet, every officer down to the petty roundhouse foreman is bound to be equally unattractive like manners; but if he is a broad-gauged officer, who, in respecting his subordinates, elevates himself, you will see its influence, radiating in the quiet offices and courteous treatment of all the minor officers. Now remember that once I went into a trainmaster's office. I only wished to strike him for transportation over his division. A white-faced youth forming the support of a huge pipe was the only occupant. The pipe afforded me a dividend study. Drawn over its weak outlines and receding chin was the orthodox mask of official superiority. The exact duplicate of that worn by his president, when the roar of his private car he haughtily surveys his shivering satellites or 'hands' Napoleon surveying the repulse of Ney's charge at Waterloo, or Lee when his crumbling hosts fell back at Gettysburg, might have carried in his hand a brooding eye, a little of the awful burden covering the weak lines of the immature visage before me—but I doubt it.

"Determined not to be entirely shriveled in the terrible blaze of officialdom, I divided in a weak, but I remember, 'Ahem!' No response being given, I tried it in a louder tone. Same result. Peering over his shoulder I allowed my eyes to rest upon the page facing the desk—it was 'The Adventures of Buffalo Bill.' Scarcely a word was read, and, standing off a conductor, rode out on a coal train. When a few mornings after, in a switch shanty on another road, I related the experience, I am yet sure if the receding forms a grain of recital, furnished the basis of the hilarious outbreak. Why, Scranton, that road is spotted all over the United States. The way of that trainmaster's clerk is a relay for many wires, and some at times ring far from true. I have there, nodding affectionately toward the young man seated at the table, 'a loyal young friend, but he is heavily handicapped. Office training has firmly defined limitations, so his horizon at times nips unpleasantly close.

"I want one side of that table to be the practical side. I want to be the first to know what the Inter-Mountain is bucking up against; and like my dear old

work out, might better be the court of final appeal, in a Chinese fantan lay-out."

"You are at least aware of the necessity for the creation of your office," remarked Mr. Blank, dryly, "but who is your young friend?"

Lawrence here turned to explain. In loyal words he gave a history of their meeting and the events of the last two days in Chicago. Mr. Blank listened intently.

"That they are your kind of people, Lawrence, is all I want to know. I can, I

like you more than you can realize. My office is a relay for many wires, and some at times ring far from true. I have there, nodding affectionately toward the young man seated at the table, 'a loyal young friend, but he is heavily handicapped. Office training has firmly defined limitations, so his horizon at times nips unpleasantly close.

"I want one side of that table to be the practical side. I want to be the first to know what the Inter-Mountain is bucking up against; and like my dear old

work out, might better be the court of final appeal, in a Chinese fantan lay-out."

"You are at least aware of the necessity for the creation of your office," remarked Mr. Blank, dryly, "but who is your young friend?"

Lawrence here turned to explain. In loyal words he gave a history of their meeting and the events of the last two days in Chicago. Mr. Blank listened intently.

"That they are your kind of people, Lawrence, is all I want to know. I can, I

like you more than you can realize. My office is a relay for many wires, and some at times ring far from true. I have there, nodding affectionately toward the young man seated at the table, 'a loyal young friend, but he is heavily handicapped. Office training has firmly defined limitations, so his horizon at times nips unpleasantly close.

"I want one side of that table to be the practical side. I want to be the first to know what the Inter-Mountain is bucking up against; and like my dear old

work out, might better be the court of final appeal, in a Chinese fantan lay-out."

"You are at least aware of the necessity for the creation of your office," remarked Mr. Blank, dryly, "but who is your young friend?"

Lawrence here turned to explain. In loyal words he gave a history of their meeting and the events of the last two days in Chicago. Mr. Blank listened intently.

"That they are your kind of people, Lawrence, is all I want to know. I can, I

like you more than you can realize. My office is a relay for many wires, and some at times ring far from true. I have there, nodding affectionately toward the young man seated at the table, 'a loyal young friend, but he is heavily handicapped. Office training has firmly defined limitations, so his horizon at times nips unpleasantly close.

"I want one side of that table to be the practical side. I want to be the first to know what the Inter-Mountain is bucking up against; and like my dear old

work out, might better be the court of final appeal, in a Chinese fantan lay-out."

"There is to be no further argument upon this topic. I told the Allen Bros. that if they could show over a determined character, up to a certain quality, I'd build a branch to take care of it. 'The sunsets' and 'expert reports' doubled what I asked; now it is up to me to make my words good. You boys know as well as I do what I expect done, and at once. If the grade is too heavy for tractor power you will cog it; if that is too expensive, we will put in a series of inclined planes, but I've got to know in ten days what you de-

fell upon Lawrence and a pleased gleam of recognition flashed over his face. He made a quick-step forward, throwing back the gate, and said, extending both hands:

"Pete, I'm very, very glad to see you. What I wrote you six years ago, when you deserted your superintendent without a word, I mean now. I've followed and watched you ever since, and few are the details of your life with which I am unfamiliar, and to your face I say that I am well pleased with you. I wish you to enter my service. I need men

like you more than you can realize. My office is a relay for many wires, and some at times ring far from true. I have there, nodding affectionately toward the young man seated at the table, 'a loyal young friend, but he is heavily handicapped. Office training has firmly defined limitations, so his horizon at times nips unpleasantly close.

"I want one side of that table to be the practical side. I want to be the first to know what the Inter-Mountain is bucking up against; and like my dear old

work out, might better be the court of final appeal, in a Chinese fantan lay-out."

"You are at least aware of the necessity for the creation of your office," remarked Mr. Blank, dryly, "but who is your young friend?"

Lawrence here turned to explain. In loyal words he gave a history of their meeting and the events of the last two days in Chicago. Mr. Blank listened intently.

"That they are your kind of people, Lawrence, is all I want to know. I can, I

like you more than you can realize. My office is a relay for many wires, and some at times ring far from true. I have there, nodding affectionately toward the young man seated at the table, 'a loyal young friend, but he is heavily handicapped. Office training has firmly defined limitations, so his horizon at times nips unpleasantly close.

"I want one side of that table to be the practical side. I want to be the first to know what the Inter-Mountain is bucking up against; and like my dear old

work out, might better be the court of final appeal, in a Chinese fantan lay-out."

"You are at least aware of the necessity for the creation of your office," remarked Mr. Blank, dryly, "but who is your young friend?"

Lawrence here turned to explain. In loyal words he gave a history of their meeting and the events of the last two days in Chicago. Mr. Blank listened intently.

"That they are your kind of people, Lawrence, is all I want to know. I can, I

like you more than you can realize. My office is a relay for many wires, and some at times ring far from true. I have there, nodding affectionately toward the young man seated at the table, 'a loyal young friend, but he is heavily handicapped. Office training has firmly defined limitations, so his horizon at times nips unpleasantly close.

"I want one side of that table to be the practical side. I want to be the first to know what the Inter-Mountain is bucking up against; and like my dear old

work out, might better be the court of final appeal, in a Chinese fantan lay-out."

"You are at least aware of the necessity for the creation of your office," remarked Mr. Blank, dryly, "but who is your young friend?"

Lawrence here turned to explain. In loyal words he gave a history of their meeting and the events of the last two days in Chicago. Mr. Blank listened intently.

"That they are your kind of people, Lawrence, is all I want to know. I can, I

like you more than you can realize. My office is a relay for many wires, and some at times ring far from true. I have there, nodding affectionately toward the young man seated at the table, 'a loyal young friend, but he is heavily handicapped. Office training has firmly defined limitations, so his horizon at times nips unpleasantly close.

"I want one side of that table to be the practical side. I want to be the first to know what the Inter-Mountain is bucking up against; and like my dear old

work out, might better be the court of final appeal, in a Chinese fantan lay-out."

"You are at least aware of the necessity for the creation of your office," remarked Mr. Blank, dryly, "but who is your young friend?"

Lawrence here turned to explain. In loyal words he gave a history of their meeting and the events of the last two days in Chicago. Mr. Blank listened intently.

"That they are your kind of people, Lawrence, is all I want to know. I can, I

like you more than you can realize. My office is a relay for many wires, and some at times ring far from true. I have there, nodding affectionately toward the young man seated at the table, 'a loyal young friend, but he is heavily handicapped. Office training has firmly defined limitations, so his horizon at times nips unpleasantly close.

"I want one side of that table to be the practical side. I want to be the first to know what the Inter-Mountain is bucking up against; and like my dear old

work out, might better be the court of final appeal, in a Chinese fantan lay-out."

"You are at least aware of the necessity for the creation of your office," remarked Mr. Blank, dryly, "but who is your young friend?"

Lawrence here turned to explain. In loyal words he gave a history of their meeting and the events of the last two days in Chicago. Mr. Blank listened intently.

"That they are your kind of people, Lawrence, is all I want to know. I can, I

like you more than you can realize. My office is a relay for many wires, and some at times ring far from true. I have there, nodding affectionately toward the young man seated at the table, 'a loyal young friend, but he is heavily handicapped. Office training has firmly defined limitations, so his horizon at times nips unpleasantly close.

"I want one side of that table to be the practical side. I want to be the first to know what the Inter-Mountain is bucking up against; and like my dear old

work out, might better be the court of final appeal, in a Chinese fantan lay-out."

"You are at least aware of the necessity for the creation of your office," remarked Mr. Blank, dryly, "but who is your young friend?"

Lawrence here turned to explain. In loyal words he gave a history of their meeting and the events of the last two days in Chicago. Mr. Blank listened intently.

"That they are your kind of people, Lawrence, is all I want to know. I can, I

like you more than you can realize. My office is a relay for many wires, and some at times ring far from true. I have there, nodding affectionately toward the young man seated at the table, 'a loyal young friend, but he is heavily handicapped. Office training has firmly defined limitations, so his horizon at times nips unpleasantly close.

"I want one side of that table to be the practical side. I want to be the first to know what the Inter-Mountain is bucking up against; and like my dear old

work out, might better be the court of final appeal, in a Chinese fantan lay-out."

"You are at least aware of the necessity for the creation of your office," remarked Mr. Blank, dryly, "but who is your young friend?"

Lawrence here turned to explain. In loyal words he gave a history of their meeting and the events of the last two days in Chicago. Mr. Blank listened intently.

"That they are your kind of people, Lawrence, is all I want to know. I can, I

like you more than you can realize. My office is a relay for many wires, and some at times ring far from true. I have there, nodding affectionately toward the young man seated at the table, 'a loyal young friend, but he is heavily handicapped. Office training has firmly defined limitations, so his horizon at times nips unpleasantly close.

"I want one side of that table to be the practical side. I want to be the first to know what the Inter-Mountain is bucking up against; and like my dear old

work out, might better be the court of final appeal, in a Chinese fantan lay-out."

"You are at least aware of the necessity for the creation of your office," remarked Mr. Blank, dryly, "but who is your young friend?"

Lawrence here turned to explain. In loyal words he gave a history of their meeting and the events of the last two days in Chicago. Mr. Blank listened intently.

"That they are your kind of people, Lawrence, is all I want to know. I can, I

like you more than you can realize. My office is a relay for many wires, and some at times ring far from true. I have there, nodding affectionately toward the young man seated at the table, 'a loyal young friend, but he is heavily handicapped. Office training has firmly defined limitations, so his horizon at times nips unpleasantly close.

"I want one side of that table to be the practical side. I want to be the first to know what the Inter-Mountain is bucking up against; and like my dear old

work out, might better be the court of final appeal, in a Chinese fantan lay-out."

"You are at least aware of the necessity for the creation of your office," remarked Mr. Blank, dryly, "but who is your young friend?"

Lawrence here turned to explain. In loyal words he gave a history of their meeting and the events of the last two days in Chicago. Mr. Blank listened intently.

"That they are your kind of people, Lawrence, is all I want to know. I can, I

like you more than you can realize. My office is a relay for many wires, and some at times ring far from true. I have there, nodding affectionately toward the young man seated at the table, 'a loyal young friend, but he is heavily handicapped. Office training has firmly defined limitations, so his horizon at times nips unpleasantly close.

think, put all three of them in line. Mr. Elwood, please find the letter from Old Jasper."

The young man addressed, an amused smile lurking around his mouth, called the requisite number, then from a receptacle he accepted a sheet of note paper. Extending it to Lawrence, Mr. Blank said dryly, "Read it." Obeying, Lawrence read aloud the following epistle:

"Red Canyon, July 28. —
"Mr. John Nayland, M. M., High Line Division, Uintah:

"Dear Sir—If there is a harder combat than that of the pen, I would like to be a part of it. I have been able for the last three years to get nothing better than raw Swede firemen, and to promote those wooden shoes is a responsibility I do not care to assume, but if the men you have not one in twenty lasts as long as would a snowball in Salton Desert. Yesterday a big bull-necked individual whom only the day before I sent out to look after the engine, and I have said, and says, 'Mr. Jasper, I've no recollection of, at any time, or in any way, backing into your game. So I'm at a loss to understand why you sent me out to learn that Huron branch. The we might suggest, raised the way to Providence. If your idea of a locomotive engineer is that he be a cross between an aeronaut and a welder I can never fill the bill.

"So I have him pass to Denver. He had scarcely got out of the door before another entered. He was a grave, quiet old fellow of whose sticking I had strong hopes. In answer to my inquiry he answered in a stammering way, 'Mr. Jasper, my papers show that I dropped a crown sheet on the Illinois Central two years ago. You people were kind enough to overlook it and yesterday when I went out looking for the sheet, it was the only one I could find. I want you to know that I appreciate what you and your wife have done for me, and if I shall be obliged to tamper for doing it I'll have to leave here.' So he, too, dead-headed to Denver.

"This morning three trains laid in the yards for want of an engineer to handle them. I've got to state that I read no messages from the transportation department—simply throw away the waste basket. A man is in bad shape when he can anticipate his correspondence. However, to take the matter up seriously, something must be done, and quickly. Can you get some more ambitious men to man our engines? Men who will recognize what it means to be able to fill the bill on the worst grades in the world. It seems to me there must be a little of the old blood left in our country. If I might suggest, raised the way to Providence. If your idea of a locomotive engineer is that he be a cross between an aeronaut and a welder I can never fill the bill.

"So I have him pass to Denver. He had scarcely got out of the door before another entered. He was a grave, quiet old fellow of whose sticking I had strong hopes. In answer to my inquiry he answered in a stammering way, 'Mr. Jasper, my papers show that I dropped a crown sheet on the Illinois Central two years ago. You people were kind enough to overlook it and yesterday when I went out looking for the sheet, it was the only one I could find. I want you to know that I appreciate what you and your wife have done for me, and if I shall be obliged to tamper for doing it I'll have to leave here.' So he, too, dead-headed to Denver.

"This morning three trains laid in the yards for want of an engineer to handle them. I've got to state that I read no messages from the transportation department—simply throw away the waste basket. A man is in bad shape when he can anticipate his correspondence. However, to take the matter up seriously, something must be done, and quickly. Can you get some more ambitious men to man our engines? Men who will recognize what it means to be able to fill the bill on the worst grades in the world. It seems to me there must be a little of the old blood left in our country. If I might suggest, raised the way to Providence. If your idea of a locomotive engineer is that he be a cross between an aeronaut and a welder I can never fill the bill.

"So I have him pass to Denver. He had scarcely got out of the door before another entered. He was a grave, quiet old fellow of whose sticking I had strong hopes. In answer to my inquiry he answered in a stammering way, 'Mr. Jasper, my papers show that I dropped a crown sheet on the Illinois Central two years ago. You people were kind enough to overlook it and yesterday when I went out looking for the sheet, it was the only one I could find. I want you to know that I appreciate what you and your wife have done for me, and if I shall be obliged to tamper for doing it I'll have to leave here.' So he, too, dead-headed to Denver.

"This morning three trains laid in the yards for want of an engineer to handle them. I've got to state that I read no messages from the transportation department—simply throw away the waste basket. A man is in bad shape when he can anticipate his correspondence. However, to take the matter up seriously, something must be done, and quickly. Can you get some more ambitious men to man our engines? Men who will recognize what it means to be able to fill the bill on the worst grades in the world. It seems to me there must be a little of the old blood left in our country. If I might suggest, raised the way to Providence. If your idea of a locomotive engineer is that he be a cross between an aeronaut and a welder I can never fill the bill.

"So I have him pass to Denver. He had scarcely got out of the door before another entered. He was a grave, quiet old fellow of whose sticking I had strong hopes. In answer to my inquiry he answered in a stammering way, 'Mr. Jasper, my papers show that I dropped a crown sheet on the Illinois Central two years ago. You people were kind enough to overlook it and yesterday when I went out looking for the sheet, it was the only one I could find. I want you to know that I appreciate what you and your wife have done for me, and if I shall be obliged to tamper for doing it I'll have to leave here.' So he, too, dead-headed to Denver.

"This morning three trains laid in the yards for want of an engineer to handle them. I've got to state that I read no messages from the transportation department—simply throw away the waste basket. A man is in bad shape when he can anticipate his correspondence. However, to take the matter up seriously, something must be done, and quickly. Can you get some more ambitious men to man our engines? Men who will recognize what it means to be able to fill the bill on the worst grades in the world. It seems to me there must be a little of the old blood left in our country. If I might suggest, raised the way to Providence. If your idea of a locomotive engineer is that he be a cross between an aeronaut and a welder I can never fill the bill.

"So I have him pass to Denver. He had scarcely got out of the door before another entered. He was a grave, quiet old fellow of whose sticking I had strong hopes. In answer to my inquiry he answered in a stammering way, 'Mr. Jasper, my papers show that I dropped a crown sheet on the Illinois Central two years ago. You people were kind enough to overlook it and yesterday when I went out looking for the sheet, it was the only one I could find. I want you to know that I appreciate what you and your wife have done for me, and if I shall be obliged to tamper for doing it I'll have to leave here.' So he, too, dead-headed to Denver.

"This morning three trains laid in the yards for want of an engineer to handle them. I've got to state that I read no messages from the transportation department—simply throw away the waste basket. A man is in bad shape when he can anticipate his correspondence. However, to take the matter up seriously, something must be done, and quickly. Can you get some more ambitious men to man our engines? Men who will recognize what it means to be able to fill the bill on the worst grades in the world. It seems to me there must be a little of the old blood left in our country. If I might suggest, raised the way to Providence. If your idea of a locomotive engineer is that he be a cross between an aeronaut and a welder I can never fill the bill.

"So I have him pass to Denver. He had scarcely got out of the door before another entered. He was a grave, quiet old fellow of whose sticking I had strong hopes. In answer to my inquiry he answered in a stammering way, 'Mr. Jasper, my papers show that I dropped a crown sheet on the Illinois Central two years ago. You people were kind enough to overlook it and yesterday when I went out looking for the sheet, it was the only one I could find. I want you to know that I appreciate what you and your wife have done for me, and if I shall be obliged to tamper for doing it I'll have to leave here.' So he, too, dead-headed to Denver.

"This morning three trains laid in the yards for want of an engineer to handle them. I've got to state that I read no messages from the transportation department—simply throw away the waste basket. A man is in bad shape when he can anticipate his correspondence. However, to take the matter up seriously, something must be done, and quickly. Can you get some more ambitious men to man our engines? Men who will recognize what it means to be able to fill the bill on the worst grades in the world. It seems to me there must be a little of the old blood left in our country. If I might suggest, raised the way to Providence. If your idea of a locomotive engineer is that he be a cross between an aeronaut and a welder I can never fill the bill.

"So I have him pass to Denver. He had scarcely got out of the door before another entered. He was a grave, quiet old fellow of whose sticking I had strong hopes. In answer to my inquiry he answered in a stammering way, 'Mr. Jasper, my papers show that I dropped a crown sheet on the Illinois Central two years ago. You people were kind enough to overlook it and yesterday when I went out looking for the sheet, it was the only one I could find. I want you to know that I appreciate what you and your wife have done for me, and if I shall be obliged to tamper for doing it I'll have to leave here.' So he, too, dead-headed to Denver.

"This morning three trains laid in the yards for want of an engineer to handle them. I've got to state that I read no messages from the transportation department—simply throw away the waste basket. A man is in bad shape when he can anticipate his correspondence. However, to take the matter up seriously, something must be done, and quickly. Can you get some more ambitious men to man our engines? Men who will recognize what it means to be able to fill the bill on the worst grades in the world. It seems to me there must be a little of the old blood left in our country. If I might suggest, raised the way to Providence. If your idea of a locomotive engineer is that he be a cross between an aeronaut and a welder I can never fill the bill.

"So I have him pass to Denver. He had scarcely got out of the door before another entered. He was a grave, quiet old fellow of whose sticking I had strong hopes. In answer to my inquiry he answered in a stammering way, 'Mr. Jasper, my papers show that I dropped a crown sheet on the Illinois Central two years ago. You people were kind enough to overlook it and yesterday when I went out looking for the sheet, it was the only one I could find. I want you to know that I appreciate what you and your wife have done for me, and if I shall be obliged to tamper for doing it I'll have to leave here.' So he, too, dead-headed to Denver.

"This morning three trains laid in the yards for want of an engineer to handle them. I've got to state that I read no messages from the transportation department—simply throw away the waste basket. A man is in bad shape when he can anticipate his correspondence. However, to take the matter up seriously, something must be done, and quickly. Can you get some more ambitious men to man our engines? Men who will recognize what it means to be able to fill the bill on the worst grades in the world. It seems to me there must be a little of the old blood left in our country. If I might suggest, raised the way to Providence. If your idea of a locomotive engineer is that he be a cross between an aeronaut and a welder I can never fill the bill.

"So I have him pass to Denver. He had scarcely got out of the door before another entered. He was a grave, quiet old fellow of whose sticking I had strong hopes. In answer to my inquiry he answered in a stammering way, 'Mr. Jasper, my papers show that I dropped a crown sheet on the Illinois Central two years ago. You people were kind enough to overlook it and yesterday when I went out looking for the sheet, it was the only one I could find. I want you to know that I appreciate what you and your wife have done for me, and if I shall be obliged to tamper for doing it I'll have to leave here.' So he, too, dead-headed to Denver.

"This morning three trains laid in the yards for want of an engineer to handle them. I've got to state that I read no messages from the transportation department—simply throw away the waste basket. A man is in bad shape when he can anticipate his correspondence. However, to take the matter up seriously, something must be done, and quickly. Can you get some more ambitious men to man our engines? Men who will recognize what it means to be able to fill the bill on the worst grades in the world. It seems to me there must be a little of the old blood left in our country. If I might suggest, raised the way to Providence. If your idea of a locomotive engineer is that he be a cross between an aeronaut and a welder I can never fill the bill.

"So I have him pass to Denver. He had scarcely got out of the door before another entered. He was a grave, quiet old fellow of whose sticking I had strong hopes. In answer to my inquiry he answered in a stammering way, 'Mr. Jasper, my papers show that I dropped a crown sheet on the Illinois Central two years ago. You people were kind enough to overlook it and yesterday when I went out looking for the sheet, it was the only one I could find. I want you to know that I appreciate what you and your wife have done for me, and if I shall be obliged to tamper for doing it I'll have to leave here.' So he, too, dead-headed to Denver.

"This morning three trains laid in the yards for want of an engineer to handle them. I've got to state that I read