

THE CELINA DEMOCRAT

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FRIDAY, December 23, 1910

THE INITIATIVE OF POKES

By WALT MAKEE

(Copyright, by J. B. Lippincott Co.)

"If I wasn't afraid o' losin' me job—" the boy began sullenly as he faced the conductor with clenched fists.
Garvin of No. 9 had brought him into the baggage car by the ear—an organ that had been at once soundly cuffed. But the little trainboy was as game as he dared to be.

agoin' to telegram you in root, as they say? Got a girl?"
For once Pokes looked at the taunting Briggs, and he looked at him witheringly, almost contemptuously.
"Have you?" he said, "but I got a mother."

"I'll be in the station before the train stops. He won't see me. It's a five-minute stop. That'll give me all the time I need. Are we on time?"
"Ten thirty-one and a half." Briggs was looking at his watch. "Due there in half a minute. We're just right. We leave at thirty-seven, unless we slide—and it doesn't look that way; we just passed the up switch."

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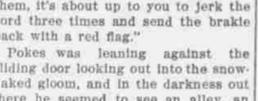
By ARTHUR M. CHASE

(Copyrighted by Short Stories Co., Ltd.)

The door of my outer office opened sharply and a deep voice addressed the office boy.
"Stand over against the window, sonny, for I've brought contagion. Is the boss in? Yes? Then just wait till I give him a scare."

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