

# THE REAL CIRCUS---SEEN BEHIND THE CANVAS.

Vicissitudes of Life on the Road Pictured From Real Life.

Circus day in any Western town at the present time, according to the New York Herald, is very much like the circus day of old, except that there is vastly more of it. It is as much a holiday as Christmas and the Fourth of July thrown into one. The poor, benighted little New York boy who goes to Madison Square Garden thinks he has seen it all would have some of the conceit taken out of him could he be transported to some one day stand on the Western prairie on the day when the circus is billed to appear.

The first gray streaks of dawn find the town already astir with the rail road station as the centre of interest. In the old days it used to be thrupped but the time when the circus traveled from town to town in caravans is no more. Nowadays it is a very one horse show indeed that doesn't own its own rolling stock.

The small boy of course, predominates. He has secured the loftiest perch within the range of his inventive genius. Suddenly, from the dizzy height of the tallest telegraph pole he shouts, "Here she comes!" The cry is taken up below. Half a mile away, around a curve, a column of smoke is seen, trailing away toward the horizon and a few minutes later the powerful locomotive, snorting and puffing like a spirited horse, comes into view. Behind it is a long line of yellow cars, and far off at the rear end, glimmer the lights of the house, which have not yet been extinguished.

Then comes the unloading of the circus. The circus is a vast machine of which each man is really a part.

Wagon after wagon comes off the train with military precision. Two, four, and even ten horse teams are coming from the direction of the stock cars, all ready to start for the show grounds.

When Obadiah Jones's new threshing machine had arrived a few days before it had taken almost an entire day to unload it from the train, if they had undertaken to unload that pole wagon it would have taken them a week.

Meantime, away on the prairie, toward the east, a faint cloud of dust has arisen. Toward the south a similar cloud is seen, and toward the west are others. The thrifty farmers, coming from far distant points, many of them having been en route all night, begin to come in and look for suitable camping places for their families and their teams. The dust cloud grows heavier and heavier as each moment passes, until by the time the warning whistle of the locomotive drawing the second train is heard gray streaks line

out toward the horizon in every direction. Two trains have been unloaded and the eyes of the multitudinous small boy are fairly bulging from their sockets. Where will all end? A third train comes puffing in, and on this is the menagerie. The small boy is now in a state bordering on nervous frenzy. It is doubtful if he knows his own name.

Off toward the show ground goes the morning crowd. Surely they will be in time to see all the tents put up, for

the morning breeze, smells sweet and savory to the hungry throat now filling the vacant spaces around the tents. The camp cooks have already lighted their fires and the great cauldrons are sizzling upon the cranes. This means preparation for the midday meal, which even now has all been arranged and is bound to be ready for every one shortly after return from parade.

That free glimpse of the enchanted land behind the swelling canvases is given at about 10 o'clock. Who that has ever seen it on a clear, Western morning can forget the gorgeous bands of music, the cavalcade of equestrians, the open cages of wild beasts, the funny band of clown musicians, the general atmosphere of a voluntary holiday, when every boy has money in his pocket, when his whole object in life is to spend it.

But what of the streets in town during this interval? Excursion trains have been coming in from every point within fifty miles of the show town. Every train has been crowded to the very steps with eager, expectant people.

Their tickets are in their hands, where they will remain until the conductor demands them at night, for who has time to think of tickets when there is a big show in town? Thousands upon thousands of farmers have come in from the surrounding country. Their teams, unhitched, line the side streets upon every side. Vacant lots are filled with them and the alleys and lanes of the town are impassable. The sidewalks and store doors are sought as places of vantage, and an hour before the band strikes up at the show grounds there is a solid line of humanity from one end of the town to the other.

By noon every face is turned toward the show grounds. The side show properly seen and its myriad of curios and freaks explained, the tide turns toward the ticket wagon. Another

menagerie tent. Its side walls come down with a rush, its poles are carried up in a steady line, its cages picked up by waiting teams, who, at a start, start the procession of canvas covered dens toward the railroad yards. The great top comes down with a run and is unlaced into sections, rolled into huge bundles and loaded into waiting wagons, almost before the last cage has disappeared in the gloom around an adjacent corner. The head of elephants has stalked off into the night, majestically and silently, following a man who carries a lantern half a square ahead.

The cook house, stable, tents, blacksmith shop, barber shop, band tent, side show, together with the numberless other smaller tents, have been expeditiously, yet silently packed and taken to the cars. In three-quarters of an hour the "big top" stands alone, its gaudy poles reaching far up into the darkness of the sky. At the railroad yards everything is bustle and activity.

The light show is out, the concert is finished, and the last of the performers skurries toward his trunk, which has been left upon the open space where the dressing tent once stood. A quick change of costume, a banging trunk lid, and the last member of the company takes his way to the train. By midnight the show is on its way to the next town.

Town Where Everybody is Irish. Of Benedicta, Me., Professor Bate-man writes: "If there is another town in this country like it I am unable to locate it. The peculiarity of the place is the fact that the population is composed exclusively of Irishmen. There is not a family in the entire township through whose veins courses any other blood than that of the Emerald Isle."

Lewisohn (Me.) Journal. An expert declares that he knows of at least 600 counterfeiters of the old masters which are now hanging in private galleries in the United States, all purchased at high prices.

always new. One is love, another is the circus. The little limbed man, who twists himself almost inside out, the stily clothed woman, who fly through midair while you hold your breath; the clowns, who make you laugh in the same old way that they made you laugh years ago—who can resist the glamour of it all?

And the strange sights behind the scenes! Lucky the man or boy, in that town who rejoices in the acquaintance of somebody connected with the show. He is the hero of the year. Countless times does he retell the stories of what he saw in the dressing rooms.

The evening performance is but a repetition of that of the afternoon. Within all is a sense of mystery, with varied lights blazing. Outside a different scene presents itself. A few minutes after the performance begins, hundreds of hurrying men attack the

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## RAILROADS ON EARTH.

A Railway Sharp Gives a Few Comparative Statistics on Railroads. "Speaking of railroads," remarked a man who seemed to know what he was talking about, "it is rapidly becoming the thing not to say 'railroads' but 'railways' for the rest of the world, and a good one it is. It is a better word and a pleasanter one to the tongue. But that isn't what I was asked to talk about. I think it was the railways on earth, wasn't it? Yes. Well, the total mileage is 432,955 miles, divided up as follows: Europe, 157,200 miles; Africa, 116,000 miles; Australia, 13,188 miles; North America, 205,695 miles; South America, 24,926 miles; Asia, 26,890 miles.

"Of course, North America leads with nearly half of all the railway on earth, and the United States leads North America by 181,717 miles; and it only falls short about 8000 miles of having more than all Europe, Asia and Africa combined, which is not so bad for a young and growing country that didn't have a mile of track seventy years ago.

The ratio of railway to area is greatest in Africa, which has only 8169 miles to 11,514,000 square miles of territory, or about one mile of track to 1400 square miles of territory. Asia, with 14,710,000 square miles, has 26,890 miles of track, or one mile to 547 square miles; Europe, with 157,200 miles of track to 33,000,000 square miles, has a mile of track to 208 of territory. Australia, 287 miles of track to one million square miles, and North America has a mile of track to 32 of territory. The United States beats them all with one mile of track to every 16 miles of territory.

"In the ratio of road to population the United States gives a mile of track to every 400 persons; Europe makes a ratio of one mile to 245 persons; Africa can only give one mile of track to every 15,592 persons, and Asia is by far the poorest, with only one mile of track to every 31,610 persons. The place for the railway boomer to go and grow up with the country is Asia.

"To sum up, there is a total area in the world of 51,328,000 square miles, occupied by about 1,500,000,000 people, which would give one mile of railway to every 119 miles of territory and the same to every 3,424 persons, which may be taken as an indication that the demand for new railways will continue for some time yet."

New York Sun.

## POPULAR SCIENCE.

A cup of very hot milk taken at bedtime will effectually prevent sleeplessness. Experiments in England have proved that fine coal is an excellent material for sewage filtration. It has been discovered that alcohol is among the by-products which can be obtained from coke-oven gases.

A prominent physician declares that a plentiful diet of onions, served in various ways, will protect children from many ills. An old physician once said: "If people fully realized what it meant to themselves to laugh and then laughed as they should ninety per cent of the doctors would have to go out of the business."

To open the shell of an egg without spilling the contents, a new appliance is composed of two flat plates fastened together at one side with round apertures for the top of the shell and a slot between the plates for the passage of a knife. To convert an ordinary bathtub into a vapor or medicated bath a flexible cover is placed over the edges with an aperture for the neck, and the medicinal ingredients are placed in a permeable bag suspended from the under side of the cover.

The first spectrum photograph of a meteor is the remarkable object lately secured by the Harvard University. It is hoped that this will show something of the condition of shooting stars and meteorites on first entering the earth's atmosphere. Equatorial in British North America is the only place in the British Empire, according to a recent climatological report, that exceeds London in cloudiness. Equatorial is also the lampest place in the empire, while Adelaide, in Australia, is the driest. Ceylon is the hottest and northwest Canada the coldest possession that the flag of England floats over.

The village of Great Catworth, in Huntingdonshire, England, is built upon an enormous bonder of chalk. This bonder is half a mile long and must have been carried eastward a distance of twenty-five miles by some great iceberg. It was dropped to the bottom of the glacial sea, where it became partly covered and surrounded by blue-gray boulder clay. A Russian chemist has discovered a most powerful anesthetic. It is several thousand times more powerful than chloroform, volatilizes most readily and acts when freely mixed with air at great distances. Experiments are being made at St. Petersburg to see if it cannot be enclosed in bombs, which would have the extraordinary effect of anesthetizing instead of wounding the enemy.

## KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED.

### TRACING HORSE THIEVES.

Farmers of the Northwestern Counties Employ Detectives. During the past year horse thieves have been raiding the northwestern section of the state, taking many valuable animals. Detectives have recently succeeded in locating several of the stolen horses. They were traced to the lumber woods of Forest, Elk and Cameron counties, where they were sold to lumbermen. Lester Gadsby, of Venango county, and a supposed member of the gang, has been arrested for stealing a horse belonging to Mr. Henderson of Irwin township, who, assisted by Pittsburgh detectives, found the animal in Elk county and also located one belonging to his neighbor, a Mr. Wade. So rapidly did the thieves can horses into the lumber woods that the market was glutted, and a number of the best animals were shipped to Buffalo, Cleveland and Pittsburgh and sold. The arrest of James Wilson and Murphy at DuBois, Gadsby here, and other members of the gang were brought about by the confession of a member, and has led to the startling discovery that the loss to farmers in the aggregate was about \$25,000 during two years.

Police residing in the vicinity of Little Italy, 20 miles north of Franklin, in Crawford county, are greatly excited over the discovery of gold in that section and consequently have been formed for the purpose of prospecting. Over 50 acres of land have been leased and work will begin at once, some time ago. M. W. Ferguson, of Tyroneville, found a piece of rock carrying a small amount of free gold on the farm of E. K. Bailey, near Little Italy, which he handed to M. E. Steinmetz, a mining expert of Colorado, who was visiting in that section. Mr. Steinmetz has had to make an examination of the rock, his former experience had taught him that gold-bearing rock could be found in almost anyilly country sufficient to make a mine.

A committee of Chicago engineers and concrete experts, came on Thursday to inspect Reading's great sewer, the longest and deepest sewer in the United States. The sewer is nearly 15,000 feet in length and ranges in diameter from 4 feet 6 inches at the starting point to 14 feet at the mouth, and a small section of 96 feet has a diameter of 28 feet. The asphalt ranges from 18 to 24 inches in thickness. The work of construction began in August, 1906, and was completed in 14 months. Reading's great sewer, the longest and deepest sewer in the United States, is nearly 15,000 feet in length and ranges in diameter from 4 feet 6 inches at the starting point to 14 feet at the mouth, and a small section of 96 feet has a diameter of 28 feet. The asphalt ranges from 18 to 24 inches in thickness. The work of construction began in August, 1906, and was completed in 14 months.

Harry A. Davis, a frigate of Xenopolis, was held up Thursday afternoon while returning home from Greenville. Four masked robbers stopped his horse and one covering him with a revolver, Davis was told to throw up his hands, and did so, while one of the party went through his clothes, securing \$100 and a gold watch. They then took Davis to a nearby house, where they searched him for money. Davis claims that he knows the men, that they saw him in the bank and supposed he was drawing money instead of depositing. Arrests are expected.

The land has been filed for record in a sale of mining rights, the consideration being \$750,000. The lands are a part of the holdings of the Southwest Consolidated Coal Company, comprising 125 acres of coal lands and 233 acres of surface and a right of way for a railroad plying in South Union and George townships, Fayette county. The tract was sold to the H. C. Erick Coal Company several days ago, the deal being part of the plan whereby the interests of the two companies were being separated. A Brown was held up and robbed by two negroes and a white man, shortly after dark Friday night, near the Bremer round house, Greenville. They took his hat, shoes, overcoat and coat and vest. Brown came out to this city in his stockinged feet.

Michael Holotaki, of near Altoona, last night shot his brother, Joseph, against a tree, probably fatally wounding him. Michael was arrested, but both he and his brother claim that the shooting was accidental, neither knowing that the weapon was loaded. In the Welsh mountains, Lancaster county, Jerry Green, colored, struck Peter Buzard with an axe, because the woman's kiss him. She may die. The parents of each are in the penitentiary for murder and attempted murder. Ernest Faber, a miner at the Black Hill mines north of West Newton, was struck by the timber on a railway on the hillside & thus and instantly killed. He was a widower, aged 39 years.

Three negroes held up and robbed Peter Kallio and John Kallio at Dunbar Tuesday night. A Slav is reported to have been robbed and shot at Trenton. William Lemax, a colored man, charged with Tom Lynch of murdering Charles Stauffer, at Hill, was arrested and taken to Greensburg jail. They admit their guilt.

Washington is to have a new opera house. The proposition is by Robert Johnston and Richard Frost, heavy property owners, and W. D. Roberts, druggist. The Bethlehem Iron Company loaded twenty-five forgings for five, six and eight-inch diameters, weighing ninety tons, for shipment to the Washington navy yard.

To the U. S. A. M. from neighboring towns met Thursday night at Independence and addressed Charles S. Grant of Muncie, Indiana, for vice-president. Hearty applause was given to the speaker, named for the vice-president, who will have to change his name, there being a lobbyist in York county. A hemlock tree has been cut in Jefferson county measuring 158 feet in length, which cut seven 10-foot logs and three eight-foot logs. Monroe county jail is now provided with a stone yard, and the prisoners are preparing stone for macadamizing country roads.

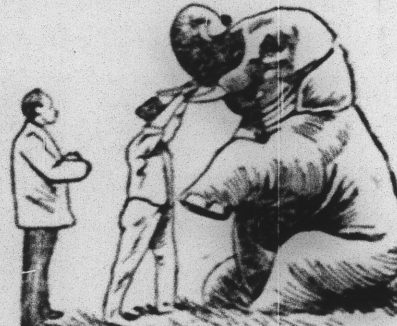
Dummett's chief of police refused to obey the mayor's order to stop an "Egyptian" performance and the show went on. Believers in people are going to dig for gold, which tradition says is buried in a cavern on the Lynn farm, near that town. Attorney William Fairman of Pung-sawney has been discharged for nine months for accepting unlawful fees. The mayor of Jeannette has suspended Chief of Police Fox, but not ordered an Egyptian show arrested. Citizens of Washington have contributed \$105 and a quantity of provisions for the Cuban sufferers. News Castle has taken in the borough of Mahoningtown, making its population 20,000. A large number of counterfeit silver dollars are in circulation near Buffalo, a recent rat hunt at West Alexander culminated with 4,500 dead rats.



CLOWNS MAKING UP.



THE MEN'S DRESSING ROOM.



DRESSING A SICK ELEPHANT.



IN THE LADIES' DRESSING ROOM.