

ARMY BY DANIEL POWLES.



"HITTING THE GRIP"

tramps despite them and call "gay cats." But from this great host of casual workers—the despair of socialists—the ranks of the tramps and the yeomen are kept full. Indeed, in this great creation of men that the city pushes forth each spring and receives back each autumn the tramps might be likened to the non-commissioned officers and the "regiment" to the commandments of regulations. These "gay cats" are simply the private soldiers. But no matter by what name they are known to penologists, they all spring from the same soil, and are all alike in their nature. Freight trains carry most of them about the country. Despite the attempts on the part of the various railroads to abate the tramp evil, it appears to be irremediable. As fast as it is subdued on one road it is sure to break out on another with increased force. The "gay cat" is the lowest and most degraded of the underworld. He is generally devoid of intellect and lacking in physical courage. Therefore he sneaks into an empty box car and makes his journey slowly, but in comparative comfort. The professional "holo" and some of the "yeomen" on the other hand, scorn the freights and disdain to ride on the baggage car and the locomotive tender, or on the trucks of the wheels, under the cars themselves. Riding "blind baggage" is comparatively comfortable and the riders are liable to have lumps of coal thrown at them by the fireman. "Holding down the rods," though, which is one of the slang terms for riding the cheap restoratives, is a more dangerous and objectionable enough to warrant a further description. Thousands of "gay cats" and others risk their lives blindly in this every hour of the 24. This item in the butcher's bill of the railways is enormous.

Now he is running a large and gaudy saloon in Portland, Ore., and trying to forget that he ever rode the trucks on a fast train. The men who ride thus on the passenger trains—fifty to much of it—soon grow deaf of one ear and blind of one eye—sometimes totally deaf and sightless. This is caused by the terrific roar which whistles against the rails and the continuous rumbling of "blast" and gravel. Many tramps try to protect their heads and faces in some way, but it is impossible to avoid the danger of bursted ear drums or hopelessly damaged eyes. When a car crawls out from under a fast train after a 20-mile run he looks but little like a human being.

During the summer the "gay cat" works with persistence as nature has given him. If he cannot find work he is not above begging or stealing in many cases. Long ago the farmers used to let tramps lodge in their own houses. Now they make them lodge in abandoned barns or in open air camps. At berry or hop-picking they are paid by the quantity gathered, in the harvest or hay fields they receive the minimum of a dollar a day and their food. In a camp of "gay cats" night they gather around the fire and play cards for small stakes or tell stories. Sometimes a "gay cat" money goes in gambling, but he is often despoiled by the professional "holo," who takes his coin away from him by brute force. One who has been heavily carried with gambling has "stuck up" and rob a group of several "gay cats" without much difficulty. The tramps roam, by the way, is often held up and robbed in the longest journey. Sleep is precarious and may lose his grasp for a second, and he goes under the hurrying wheels. "This manner of death is called 'creasing the rails,' which is quite graphic enough to warrant a further description. Thousands of "gay cats" and others risk their lives blindly in this every hour of the 24. This item in the butcher's bill of the railways is enormous.

There are some travelers' tales that have been told so often by "gay cats" and by tramps that they have become tradition—almost classics of their kind. One is the story of a man named "Shorty" who was a "gay cat" riding the west coast on a fast passenger train in the west some years ago. There was a bad wreck during the night and many were killed. "Shorty" escaped with dirt and blood, and really very seriously hurt, finally succeeded in extricating himself from the wreck and crawled out. By that time it was daylight and the relief train was on its way. "Shorty" was a man of education and intelligence. Greeting with pain which was not simulated he let the company surgeon and claim agent "Shorty" signed a waiver of damages in five or ten minutes and got \$3,000 in cash. He was taken to the company's hospital, cared for and cured. Strangely enough he kept his money.

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GRAND VIEW OF CLOUDBURST

What a real cloudburst, in like is described by a Scotland correspondent of Country Life. "A few years ago it was almost exceptional of exceptional character," he declared on the Cairngorm mountains, and an old watcher, who has his hut almost exactly where the cloudburst struck, gives the following details: On July 18, 1901, the morning opened brilliantly and warm, with a cloudless sky and brilliant sunshine, but toward noon heavy clouds formed on the hills, and it rapidly became so dark that it was almost impossible to read. He was standing in the door of his hut, when suddenly he heard from the hill across the glen a report like a thunderclap, followed by a noise like the tearing of linen, only a thousand times

louder and more majestic in sound. Then he noticed that a solid mass of water had struck the hilltop, and that it, bounding up again with the force of the impact, had descended on the hilltop immediately behind his hut. Immediately after a tremendous volume of water came pouring down both hillsides, forming great rills in the hills as it swirled irresistibly in its course. The channel of the stream was quite 12 feet deep, and large rocks were tossed down its course as if they had been pebbles. The sand and stones brought down by the water so damaged up the river that an extensive loch was formed. During the time of the cloudburst the weather a mile or two up the glen ran open air to make good citizens—or at least to transform parasites on society into producers—than anything else, so the penologists say.

Real Estate Exchange

OF WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL
Exchange Bank, Birmingham, Mich.

The following is a partial list of Farms, City and Village Lots and Real Estate generally which we have for sale. As our list is constantly changing, we request that parties will write us if they do not see what they want in this list.

5. Pleasant house and lot 90 feet front, 120 feet deep, on W. 1/2 of sec. 10, T. 10 N., R. 10 W., 1/2 mile from town. Price \$1,000. Will exchange for improved acreage for parties on purchase.
6. Village lots on Woodward avenue, bounded by Woodward, 1/2 mile from town. Price \$1,000. Will exchange for improved acreage for parties on purchase.
7. One set on Bagshaw street, just north of lead owned by John Green, on lot frontage. Any one wishing to purchase will find this a bargain. For particulars inquire of M. O. Smith or at the office.
10. Right-of-way farm in White Lake township, 1/2 mile from town. Price \$1,000. Will exchange for improved acreage for parties on purchase.
11. Pleasant building site on Woodward avenue, bounded by Woodward, 1/2 mile from town. Price \$1,000. Will exchange for improved acreage for parties on purchase.
12. Seven-room cottage on west side of Bates street, 1/2 mile from town. Price \$1,000. Will exchange for improved acreage for parties on purchase.
13. Farm in Apsco township, 1/2 mile from town. Price \$1,000. Will exchange for improved acreage for parties on purchase.
14. Corner lot, two front on Maple avenue, 1/2 mile from town. Price \$1,000. Will exchange for improved acreage for parties on purchase.
15. One of the best-arranged and most-located farms in the county, 1/2 mile from town. Price \$1,000. Will exchange for improved acreage for parties on purchase.
16. Fifty acres in Township of Royal Oak, 1/2 mile from town. Price \$1,000. Will exchange for improved acreage for parties on purchase.
17. Six acres, part of a lot in N. of section 10, T. 10 N., R. 10 W., 1/2 mile from town. Price \$1,000. Will exchange for improved acreage for parties on purchase.
18. Ten acres, 1/2 mile east of Royal Oak village on Woodward, 1/2 mile from town. Price \$1,000. Will exchange for improved acreage for parties on purchase.
19. One hundred and twenty-five acres, 1/2 mile from town. Price \$1,000. Will exchange for improved acreage for parties on purchase.
20. A new, modern dwelling, constructed by a well-known builder for his own use, but now for sale. Price \$1,000. Will exchange for improved acreage for parties on purchase.
21. This little place for some one with moderate means. Price \$1,000. Will exchange for improved acreage for parties on purchase.
22. Front-endement or terrace, on the east side of Woodward Avenue, two distinct lots, one 1/2 mile from town. Price \$1,000. Will exchange for improved acreage for parties on purchase.
23. Farm of 100 acres, 1/2 mile from town. Price \$1,000. Will exchange for improved acreage for parties on purchase.
24. Pleasant building site on Woodward Avenue, 1/2 mile from town. Price \$1,000. Will exchange for improved acreage for parties on purchase.
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Many Tons in Seam of Coal. A four-foot coal seam yields 6,000 tons an acre.