

The IRON TRAIL



BY REX BEACH

CHARACTERS

Murray O'Neil, the Irish prince, a railroad builder determined to open up rich Alaskan territory. He is a man of magnetic presence and inexhaustible power and resourcefulness. With a faithful picked crew of engineers and bridge and iron workers he attacks the natural barriers in the unknown country.

Curtis Gordon, an unscrupulous promoter and schemer. He is a man of unusual talents. He is insanely jealous of the wonder working of O'Neil.

Eliza V. Appleton, young newspaper woman and magazine writer. She is sent to Alaska by her editor to expose the men who "are trying to snatch control of an empire."

Natalie Gerard. Her mother has an unfortunate love affair with Gordon. After her rescue by O'Neil from death by drowning she and the Irish prince become warm friends.

Dan Appleton, Eliza Appleton's brother. He works as an engineer for Gordon and then casts his fortunes with the Irish prince. The team work of Dan and Eliza helps wonderfully in the tremendous Alaskan undertaking.

Then there are Tom Slater, Dr. Gray and many others ever ready to lay down their lives for the magnetic, lion hearted Irish prince.

CHAPTER I

In Which the Tide Takes a Hand.

THE ship stole through the darkness with extreme caution, feeling her way past bay and promontory. Around her was none of that phosphorescent glow which lies above the open ocean, even on the darkest night, for the mountains ran down to the channel on either side. In places they overlung, and where they lay upturned against the dim sky it could be seen that they were mantled with heavy timber. All day long the Nebraska had made her way through an endless succession of straits and sounds, now squeezing through an inlet so narrow that the somber spruce trees seemed to be within a short stone's throw, again plowing across some open reach, where the pulse of the north Pacific could be felt. Out through the openings to seaward stretched the restless ocean, on across uncounted leagues, to Saghalien and the rim of Russia's prison yard.

Always near at hand was the deep green of the Canadian forests, denser, darker than a tropic jungle, for this was the land of "plenty waters." The hillsides were carpeted knee deep with moss, wet to saturation. Out of every gulch came a braided stream which fed to milk white frezzy snow lay heavy upon the higher levels, while now and then from farther inland peered a glacier, like some dead monster crushed between the granite peaks. There were villages, too, and fishing stations, and mines and quarries. These burst suddenly upon the view, then slipped past with dreamlike swiftness. Other ships swung into sight, rushed by and were swallowed up in the labyrinthine maze astern.

Those passengers of the Nebraska who had never before traversed the "inside passage" were loud in the praises of its picturesqueness, while those to whom the route was familiar seemed to find an ever fresh fascination in its shifting scenes.

training had made him sternly practical and prosaic. Ships aroused no manner of enthusiasm in him except as means to an end. Railroads had no glamour of romance in his eyes, for, having built a number of them, he had outlived all poetic notions regarding the "iron horse," and once the rails were in his own quiet way, interweaving practical thoughts with fanciful visions, and he loved his dreams. He was dreaming now as he leaned upon the bridge rail of the Nebraska peering into the gloom with watchful eyes. From somewhere to port came the occasional commands of the officer on watch, echoed instantly from the inky interior of the wheelhouse. Up overhead rose the whisper of rushing waters; from underneath came the rhythmic beat of the engines far below. O'Neil shook off his mood and began to wonder idly how long it would be before Captain Johnny would be ready for his "nightcap."

He always traveled with Johnny Brennan when he could manage it, for the two men were boon companions. O'Neil was wont to live in Johnny's cabin or on the bridge, and their nightly libation to friendship had come to be a matter of some ceremony. The ship's master soon appeared from the shadow—a short, trim man with gray hair.

"Come," he cried; "it's waiting for us."

O'Neil followed into Brennan's luxuriant well lit quarters, where on a mahogany sideboard was a tray holding decanter, siphon and glasses, together with a bottle of ginger ale. The captain, after he had mixed a beverage for his passenger, opened the bottle for himself. They raised their glasses silently.

"Now that you're past the worst of it," remarked O'Neil, "I suppose you'll turn in. You're getting old for a hard run like this, Johnny."

"Oh, well, of course I have no respect for you as a man, having seen you without your uniform," the captain grinned in thorough enjoyment of this raffish. "I'll say nothing at all of my seamanship," he said, relapsing into the faintest of braiges. "but there's no denying that the master of a ship has many unpleasant and disgusting duties to perform. He has to amuse the prominent passengers who can't amuse themselves, for one thing, and that takes tact and patience. Why, some people make themselves at home on the bridge, in the chart room, and even in my living quarters, to say nothing of consuming my expensive wines, liquors and cigars."

"You don't like Gordon, do you?" O'Neil queried with a change of tone. "I do not! He went up with me again this spring, and he had his widow with him too."

crets from him. He's been everywhere—back twice; he speaks a dozen different languages. He outgamed me on poultry raising, and I know more about that than any man living. He can handle a drill or a coach and four; he can tell all about the art of ancient Babylon, and he beats me playing cribbage, which shows that he ain't on the level. He's the best informed man outside of a university, and he drinks tea of an afternoon, with his legs crossed and the saucer balanced on his heel. Now, it takes years of hard work for an honest man to make a success at one thing, but Gordon never failed at anything. I ask you if a living authority on all the branches of human endeavor and a man who can beat me at 'crib' doesn't make you suspicious?"

"Not at all. I've beaten you myself." "I was sick," said Captain Brennan. "The man is brilliant and well educated and wealthy. It's only natural that he should excite the jealousy of a weaker intellect."

Johnny opened his lips for an explosion, then changed his mind and agreed sourly. "He's got money, all right, and he knows how to spend it. He and his valet occupied three cabins on his ship. They say his quarters at Hope are palatial."

"My dear grampus, the mere love of luxury doesn't argue that a person is dishonest."

"Would you let a hired man help you on with your underclothes?" demanded the mariner.

"There's nothing criminal about it!" "Humph! Mrs. Gerard is different. She's all class! You don't mind her having a maid and speaking French when she runs short of English. Her daughter is like her."

"I haven't seen Miss Gerard."

"I'll be back to see that you behave yourself." The speaker laughed lightly and descended to the deck, where he found an incipient panic. Stewards were pounding on stateroom doors, half clad men were rushing about aimlessly, pallid faces peered forth from windows, and there was the sound of running feet, of slamming doors, of shrill, hysterical voices. O'Neil saw a waiter thumping lustily upon a door and heard him shout hoarsely:

Barber Shop HOTEL RILEY Plattsmouth, Nebraska First-Class Service Only Public Bath IN THE CITY Shoe Shining and Porter Service. Tel. 200—three rings Shellenbarger & Atkinson, PROPRIETORS

solefully. "It'll be tough on my misers."

O'Neil laid a hand upon his shoulder. "It wasn't your fault, and there will be room in the last boat for you. Understand?" Brennan hesitated, and the other continued roughly: "No nonsense, now! Don't make a dashed fool of yourself by sticking to the bridge. Promise?"

"I promise."

"Now, what do you want me to do?" "Keep those dear passengers quiet. I'll run for Halibut bay, where there's a sandy beach. If she won't make it I'll turn her into the rocks. Tell 'em they won't wet a foot if they keep their heads."

"Good! I'll be back to see that you behave yourself." The speaker laughed lightly and descended to the deck, where he found an incipient panic. Stewards were pounding on stateroom doors, half clad men were rushing about aimlessly, pallid faces peered forth from windows, and there was the sound of running feet, of slamming doors, of shrill, hysterical voices.

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O'Neil Shook the Fellow Until His Teeth Rattled.

different. These were mainly Montenegrins, Polacks or Slavs bound for the construction camps to the westward, and they surged from side to side like cattle, requiring Tomlinson's best efforts to keep them from rushing aft.

In these circumstances the wait became almost unbearable. The race seemed hours long, the miles stretched into leagues, and with every moment of suspense the ship sank lower. The end came unexpectedly. There was a sudden startled outcry as the Nebraska struck for a second time that night. She rose slightly, rolled and bumped, grated briefly, then came to rest.

Captain Brennan shouted from the bridge: "Fill your lifeboats, Mr. James, and lower away carefully." A cheer rose from the huddled passengers.

The boiler room was still dry, it seemed, for the incandescent lights burned without a flicker, even after the grimy oilers and stokers had come pouring up on deck.

(To Be Continued.)

NEHAWKA News

Mrs. L. C. Todd and daughter, Genevieve, of Lincoln, are visiting at the George C. Sheldon home this week.

Miss Mabel Adams, who had been visiting Miss Edna Stoll, north of town, returned to her home in Plattsmouth Saturday.

GOOD AUTO ROADS TO OMAHA The cost of Bridge Tolls for Round Trip using our Commutation Books Auto and Driver, round Trip..... 50c Extra Passengers, each,..... 5c \$10.00 Book,..... \$5.00 \$5.00 Book,..... \$2.50 Commutation Books Good any time and Transferable.

PLATTSMOUTH Auto & Wagon Bridge Co.

Francis dressed the wounds, and at last reports was getting along nicely.

Miss Anna Steinhilber arrived last Tuesday from Indianapolis, Ind., and will spend the summer visiting at the Dan Rumlun and George Oehlerking homes.

Mrs. James Allison of Plattsmouth is here visiting her daughter, Mrs. Charles Stone. She is accompanied by her grandson, Robert Hasenyazer, also of Plattsmouth.

Orley Clements went to Peru Tuesday morning for a couple of days' visit with his brother, Sanford Clements, who is teaching agriculture at the state normal summer school.

Sam Panska, who is in the employ of the Union Pacific at Ogden, Utah, is here visiting with his sister, Mrs. William Bornemeier, and his brother, Reinhart Panska. He expects to be here for several weeks.

Miss Mable West, niece of Dr. and Mrs. P. VanFleet, who spent two weeks at the Methodist Episcopal parsonage decorating and burning a complete set of China dishes, left her home at Alexandria last Saturday.

Misses Edith and Ruth Miller, who are spending their vacation at home, will both teach school next year. Miss Edith at Bartley, Neb., and Miss Ruth at Trumble, Neb. They graduated from the Peru normal this year.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CASS COUNTY, NEBRASKA.

Frank W. Sivey, Plaintiff. The Plattsmouth Ferry Company, a Corporation, et al., Defendants.

To the Defendants: The Plattsmouth Ferry Company, a Corporation. The unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives, and all other persons interested in the estate of Sam'l H. Moer, also known as S. H. Moer, deceased; Alfred Thomson, Mrs. Alfred Thomson, first real name unknown; the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives and all other persons interested in the estate of Alfred Thomson, deceased; the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives, and all other persons interested in the estate of Joseph P. Crosswait, also known as J. P. Crosswait, deceased; Wilkins Warwick, personal representative of the estate of Joseph P. Crosswait, deceased; J. P. Worley, whose first real name is Jesse P. Worley; Mrs. Jesse P. Worley, first real name unknown; the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives and all other persons interested in the estate of Mrs. Jesse P. Worley, first real name unknown; deceased; the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives and all other persons interested in the estate of John W. Haines, deceased; Edward J. Weckbach, Gertrude H. Weckbach, Eugene H. Weckbach, Louis G. Weckbach, Grace Weckbach, Joseph V. Weckbach, Frances Weckbach, Mathilda L. Costelloe, Martin P. Costelloe, Katie E. Weckbach, and the unknown owners and unknown claimants of and parts of lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

NOTICE In the county court of the County of Cass, Nebraska. In the matter of the estate of Sarah E. Van Doren, deceased.

All persons interested in the above entitled estate will take notice that on the 11th day of July, 1916, at 10 o'clock a. m., in the office of the county judge in Plattsmouth, Cass county, Nebraska, a hearing will be had upon the petition of Ray A. Van Doren, that administration of the estate of Sarah E. Van Doren be granted to Frank H. Van Doren, and that the court enter its order fixing who are the heirs of said deceased.

AGENCY FOR MONUMENTS. R. L. Probst is the agent for the Glenwood Monument works and would be glad to call and show samples to those desiring anything in this line. Call telephone No. 4012.

Letter files at the Journal office.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In County Court, State of Nebraska, Cass County, ss. In the matter of the estate of Charles R. Craig, deceased.

Notice is hereby given to the creditors of said deceased that hearings will be had upon claims filed against said estate, before me, county judge of Cass county, Nebraska, at the county court room in Plattsmouth, in said county, on the 20th day of July, 1916, and on the 21st day of January, 1917, at 10 o'clock a. m., each day, for examination, adjustment and allowance.

UNION Ledger

The oil well is down now about 900 feet and they are still drilling. Nothing doing yet, but soon.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Bragg and son motored over from Seymour, Ia., last Friday, for a visit with Mr. Bragg's aunt, Mrs. Nancy Garrison.