

STIRRING LIFE ON THE RAIL

Exciting Phases in the Careers of Railway Trainmen.

PAGES FROM STORY OF AN ENGINEER

Romances and Adventures Give Life a Peculiar Zest—From the Foot-board to the General Manager's Office.

Mr. Herbert Elliott Hamblen, author of "On Many Seas," a man who has had practical experience in railroading, has put in book form his railroad experiences...

"How she would fly down hill, the exhaust a steady roar out of the stack, the connecting-rods an undistinguishable blur, the old girl herself rolling and jumping as if at every revolution she must leave the track, the train behind half hid in a cloud of dust...

Starting as a Brakeman.

"I reported to the yardmaster ten minutes ahead of time. Sticking his head out of the door, he called out: 'Hey, Simmons!'"

"I don't want you to do anything, and I don't care what you do. I'm giving you the signal just as I get it."

"No, you ain't nuther, an' don't ye give me no back talk. Say, where you come from?"

"I am from Walton," said I.

"Sho! I thought so—another Walton punkin husker. Say, Simmons, take yo' ol' ol' ornament of yours down off o' here, and give a man that knows no signal from another, or I'll smash all the cars in the yard before night."

"Then he gave the engine a jerk back that nearly threw me off the car."

"Oh, he's all right," said Simmons. "He's a little green, but he'll get over that; then to me. Be careful how you pass the signals, bub, or the engineer can't tell what he's doing."

"I told him that I was giving them just exactly as the other man did."

"Well, that's all right. Bill is kinder cranky, but you mustn't mind that."

"We hadn't worked ten minutes more, and my arms were beginning to ache from the continuous motion, when Bill roared out: 'Say! you infernal counter jumper, what you get out of the way, so I can see that man's signal?'"

"Tired of His Job.

When we were relieved at 6 o'clock, I was tired, dirty, and thoroughly disgusted with railroading, and started for my hotel firmly determined to quit at once.

On arriving there found that she had not yet arrived. "I answered that I would wait until she did."

"Suppose she was an hour late?" "That's none of my business."

"What! would you hold those passengers there an hour with a double track ahead of you?"

"I wasn't quite sure, but answered desperately. 'Certainly, if I had orders to wait.'"

"He brought his fist down with a bang on the table, and roared out, 'That's right! I want you always to remember that when an order is given to you, it's good until fulfilled, and is to be obeyed.'"

"What rights?" "My time-table rights."

"Good again! By—some of those fellows would wait there twenty-four hours for an order to put 'em on the time-table."

"It is a serious situation when an engineer discovers that on a down grade his train has broken in two, for then the second and headless section is wild and uncontrollable and the mischief it may do is something terrible."

"There was on our division a mountain and the track down this mountain was about seven miles long and at the top was a tunnel half a mile long, opening out on the down-hill side, on a short curve, handy to look back on and see if your train was all together."

"The switch to this siding was a 'head-on' switch, the outward or downward hill track, and as that place came under the 'yard limit' rule all freight trains were obliged to come in there dead slow, which they did. Consequently conductors had become careless and were in the habit of leaving this head-on switch open after they had pulled out on one side or the other."

"Down Grade for Life.

"On the day of which I speak I had a heavy mixed train, among them being four cars of iron ore just about in the middle, and when my engine plunged into the tunnel I shut her off; for she would roll too fast after that, and need a few brakes set."

"I was early on a summer morning, and I knew the crew were apt to be asleep in the caboose so I called for brakes to be set on the engine and all went well."

"I pulled out at once and blew the 'break-in-two' signal again, and again, and again, but they would not stop, and I was obliged to pull out on the other side of the tunnel and watched the cars following each other until about half the train was through, then there came no more."

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ing my signal to comprehend the situation, and yet enough to know the only right thing to do, which was more than I had any right to expect."

"Once more toward hope rose in my breast. If he could get that switch closed, the absolute certainty of instant death at that point would be over—the chances were about one in a thousand. To spur him on, I again blew what then seemed to me the despairing death shriek of the iron devil I rode, and to give him every second of time possible, I shut off my throttle, with the immediate result that the cars bumped up against the tender with a shock that nearly threw me over backward; but I hung on and watched that man eagerly."

"I saw him reach it and stoop down, clutch the handle, and at the first effort fail to lift it out of the notch in which it lies when the switch is open; and then, as if by magic, he had the switch closed, and the rush of wind from the passing train hurled him down a fifty-foot embankment, bruising him and tearing his clothes, but fortunately doing him no serious injury."

"Well, the second section finally smashed into the first and the wreck ensued, because the train crew took an early morning nap."

"One night as I was running along at a good gait, crowding the speed limit a little—for I was trying to make a certain siding ahead of the express, I saw a man looking roughly by the shoulder and said: 'Hey, you!' I wondered that the freeman should be so energetic in addressing me; so it was in a fit of ill-humor that I pulled my head in, and, snarling out: 'What do you want?' looked along the barrel of a big revolver and into a pair of fierce eyes under the shadow of a slouch hat. That was all I could see. But it was enough. I had scraped a hole in the paint on the gauge lamp globe to read orders by and the ray of light from it showed me this unpleasant sight. The cab being all in darkness the gun and eyes appeared as if suspended before my eyes, and also a voice and it said: 'I want you to slack up, right here, so's we kin git off.'"

"Robbers Drop Off.

"All right, sir," said I, and I shut right off. I reached for the whistle cord to call for brakes, but the voice said: 'Hol' on, sonny; none of that; 'tain't healthy.' so I let her roll. 'Git outter the way,' he said, and the heroism of her own comrades, more rare among nations than among individuals. I wish to express the thanks of Cuban patriots everywhere and to assure them that Cuba will not forget her champion; she will not prove ungrateful for what has been done. As our brave Gomez has said: 'Though Cuba becomes a sister among the American republics, she will remain the daughter of the United States.'"

"While we remember and appreciate the action of the United States, we do not forget that it was made possible only by the struggles and the heroism of her own patriots, who have shown to the world that Spain could never conquer them. For three years they have waged a warfare marked by sufferings and sacrifices such as perhaps have never been equaled in any previous struggle for liberty. It has been pre-eminently a struggle of the people, and the people, with a venom and barbarity of which that nation alone is capable, and on the side of the Cubans with courage in the face of sufferings, the full extent of which only the patriots themselves will ever realize."

"The sacrifices of the Cubans really began in the Ten Years' war when they gave up their land, property and slaves in the cause of independence. That war ended with promises of reform in the administration of Cuba, promises which were not kept, and were never intended to be kept. All the abuses which had led to the war were continued, and the crushing burden of taxation was made more heavy. The people of Cuba, realizing that there was no hope of release from Spanish oppression save in independence or extermination, and began to prepare for a final, supreme struggle. Years before the outbreak of the present hostilities the people within and without the island began to organize with a view to preparing for the inevitable revolution, being satisfied, after repeated and patient endeavors, that peaceful petition was fruitless."

"The leading spirits in this work of organization were officers and men who had served in the Ten Years' war. Chief among them was Jose Martí, who for five years before the outbreak of the present war devoted himself heart and soul to the cause of Cuba Libre. He went all over the United States, wherever there were Cubans in any numbers, gathering them into clubs, firing their hearts with his passionate description of Cuba's wrongs and taxing their purses for funds to be used in carrying on another contest with Spain. To improve the organization of the movement a civil and military administration was founded. Martí was at the head of the former, and Maximo Gomez was elected to lead the latter by the patriots officers who had served in the former war."

"As time went on the calls for aid from the oppressed in the island became more urgent and February 24, 1895, was set as the date for the uprising. On that day the revolution was bravely begun with a charge in a dozen different parts of the island. By the Spanish government it was characterized as a negro and bandit movement, though many of the most wealthy and influential Cubans at once flocked to the standards of Free Cuba."

"A striking example of Patriotism.

"A few examples will show the general character of those uprising. At Caguas, which is the center of a rich district, Bartolme Maso, who had been a leader in the former war, who was a man of position and who has since been elected president of the Cuban republic, rose at the head of fifty men at Selva Macha Manuel Garcia gathered a few native whites and negroes about him in the name of Cuba Libre. At Jaguez Grande the revolt was led by the village schoolmaster, who was accompanied by his seven sons."

"These men were not bandits. They had

CUBA LIBRE NO LONGER A HOPE

Passes from the Domain of Doubt to One of Certainty.

Views of TOMAS ESTRADA PALMA

President of the Cuban Junta Talks with Enthusiasm of the Prospect Before His People—Review of the Struggle.

"Cuba will remember April 19 and May 1 along with the days made glorious by patriotic victories or sacred by the shedding of patriot blood."

These are the words of Delegate Tomas Estrada Palma, the most influential Cuban leader outside the island itself and the head of the Cuban party in the United States. The dates referred to were those of the signing of the resolution of congress, which set the seal of certainty on the Cubans' long-deferred hope of release from Spanish oppression, and of the battle of Manila, which gave the first practical demonstration of the immense superiority of the United States to Spain."

"Yes," continued Mr. Palma, "Cuba Libre is no longer a hope, but a certainty. To be sure, the work is not finished. It will go on until the last Spanish soldier is driven from the island, but now it is Cuba against Spain."

T. ESTRADA PALMA



T. ESTRADA PALMA, PRESIDENT OF THE CUBAN JUNTA, NEW YORK CITY.

and not, as before, Cuba against the world. On such terms the struggle cannot last long. The end is already in sight. The patriots of Cuba at length see the goal of their ambitions realized through the noble action of the great nation which was the first American republic to free itself from the yoke of European control, although in this case the yoke was never so galling as that which Cuba has borne for 400 years."

"We feel that only justice has been done Cuba by the action of the United States, but it is the justice of the brave and generous, more rare among nations than among individuals. I wish to express the thanks of Cuban patriots everywhere and to assure them that Cuba will not forget her champion; she will not prove ungrateful for what has been done. As our brave Gomez has said: 'Though Cuba becomes a sister among the American republics, she will remain the daughter of the United States.'"

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estates and families as well as their own lives to risk in the struggle, and they went to it willingly, knowing the great odds against them and the ferocity of their opponents."

"Immediately on the first outbreak the governor general declared the provinces of Matanzas and Santiago in a state of siege, but announced that all who laid down their arms within the period of eight days would be pardoned. Under these conditions Juan Qualberto Gomez surrendered and was released, but he was immediately rearrested, court-martialed and sent in chains to the Spanish penal colony at Ceuta. This is a fair specimen of the Spanish treatment of those who voluntarily surrendered, while the plan of campaign against the leaders in arms was one of bribery. From the outbreak of the war down to the present time the government has made repeated efforts to buy off the Cuban leaders, but in no case have they succeeded."

"The proportion which the revolution assumed immediately on its inception may be inferred from the fact that within a month General Martinez Campos, Spain's greatest and most famous general, was appointed to the task of pacifying the island, a task to which he vainly devoted himself. Though General Campos didn't put down the revolution he attempted to do so, and it was while he held command of the Spanish forces in the island that most of the military movements of any importance took place."

"Important Battles of the War.

"The largest battle of the war was fought in the middle of July, 1895, between 4,500

Spaniards under Campos and 2,500 Cubans under Maceo and Rabi. It is known as the battle of Bayamo or Peralejo, and resulted in the defeat of the Spanish with a loss of 400 killed and a larger number wounded."

"Shortly after this Gomez and Maceo began their march across the island from east to west. It was on this march, in the province of Matanzas, that the most important battle of the war, Malope, was fought. Campos tried to prevent the junction of the forces under Gomez and Maceo and had not succeeded. Then he endeavored to crush them at a single blow, but after fighting all day the Cubans were able to turn the left flank of the Spanish, who retired defeated. That was the crisis of the war. His patriots had been defeated, but it would have been necessary to build up the fire of revolution from a few scattered embers, a difficult if not impossible task."

"Soon after this Campos was succeeded by Weyler, who is not a soldier, but a butcher. He did not attempt any vigorous military movements against the patriots. He preferred to make war by murdering and torturing their families, and by starving the innocent. He could never subdue the patriots in that way, but he has inflicted incredible suffering on the island."

"The difficulties under which the patriots have labored need to be appreciated in order to understand what they have accomplished. In the first place, their most serious drawback has been their lack of arms. It has been impossible to arm all those who wished to fight in the patriot army. For the most part the Cubans have had to fight with guns taken from the Spaniards."

"They have had to live on the country, a country devastated for three years by torch and sword. There has been no regular commissary department to rely on for food, and while the Cuban soldiers have not suffered greatly in this respect the lack has necessarily limited the scope of their operations."

"If a Cuban soldier's horse died or went lame he had to foot it until he could get another. If he fell sick or was wounded he had to be left behind in improvised and ill-equipped hospitals, knowing that he would be butchered in his bed. Then, if the soldier had a family, there was the probability that its members would be starved or murdered, because he was fighting for his freedom."

Spanish Cruelties.

"What kind of war has Spain waged in Cuba under Weyler and Blanco? The assassinated Maceo through treachery; they have tried in vain to trap Gomez and other leaders by the same means. By the infamous order of reconcentration they have destroyed nearly 500,000 lives—500,000 people who had done nothing beyond the crime of being Cuban. That they were Cuban is proved by the fact that they were and are being starved."

"Hundreds of old men, women and children, non-combatants, have been murdered because their sons or fathers, or other relatives, were in the Cuban army."

"The Spaniards have waged a bitter war against the rich and helpless. Within six months the bloodhounds have been imported into Cuba to track hospitals. Patients and hospital attendants have been massacred wherever found, in violation of all principles of civilized warfare."

"The most atrocious of Spain's barbarities I do not mention, because Americans, even though they know something of the Spanish character, would find it impossible to believe them. But we Cubans know full well that the worst has never been told. There is no need to extend the list, however. All the world is agreed that Spain can no longer have a place on the continent ever which liberty is the watchword. Her final atrocities are like the death gasps of some monster; her fangs will soon be turned upon herself. For three years, with heroic courage and incredible sufferings, the patriots of Cuba have struggled for liberty. Their watchword through all that time has been 'Independence or Death.' That chapter of their history is almost written. Soon they will begin to undo the work of the destroyers, to restore homes and fields, and to enter on a new career under the new watchword, 'Peace and Prosperity!'"

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