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Dec. 17, 1927 Knowledge of Canadian Magazine is afraid to publish "The Captain's Wife", with the two languages.

Dec. 24, 1927 My stock has sold for \$2,000, a clear gain of nearly \$900. I feel uneasy, something for nothing. (Note by THR: previous diary entries show that Maclechan had asked the advice of MacMillivray, his ~~business~~ friend, regarding a stock-market venture with part of his savings.)

Dec. 30, 1927 Walking through the Park on the soft muddy paths, I heard the tide coming in, and revolved another book on Ultime Thule. Some titles:- "The Sky Line", "The Ship Knocker", "Paul Mascarene", "A Nova Scotia Peep", "The Seven Saints of Nova Scotia", "Red Snow on Grand Pre", "An Emergency Meeting in the Beaufort", "The Look of The Towns", etc. Went to preparatory service at Fort Massey.

Feb. 23, 1928 Governor Grant is dead ... my oldest friend in Halifax. (Note by THR:- this was McCallum Grant, Lieut. Governor of N.S.) It is hard to realize that I myself am so near the end. In four years (if I live so long) I reach the allotted threescore and ten. ~~Amusing to think of~~ Curious but not terrifying. "Some ~~small~~ work of noble note may yet be done, not unbecoming ...". Even so. God help us.

Feb. 26, 1928 Lectured in Yarmouth under alias of A.R. Macleach. (Note by THR:- this odd entry means, I presume, that a bungling chairman introduced him by that name, which belonged to a Canadian politician.)

Feb. 27, 1928 ~~Spoke at the meeting of the~~ Macfield. Lovely and dispirite.

NOTES FROM THE DIARY OF ARCHIBALD MACMECHAN

March 2, 1928 Made a beginning on "The Great Ship".

March 4, 1928 Sunday. Port Massey in the morning, and found the service unprofitable. My fault, of course. ... Match introduced an illustration from one of my "Legends of the Sea". I did not know which way to look.

March 9, 1928 Negro Day. Macdonald told me that one of his schemes in the front of his brain was an archives building. (Note by THR:- this was Edgar Rhodes, then Premier of Nova Scotia.) Bennett paid me a compliment in his speech, which was rather embarrassing. Dr. Stewart said to me, coming out, "A well deserved tribute". Two public mentions of my work in a week! (Note by THR:- Professor G.L. Bennett was Maclechan's assistant in the Department of English at Dalhousie. He became head of the department on Maclechan's death retirement in 1909.)

March 10, 1928 Mail brought acceptance of "A Vision in The Night" from Macleach's. My New, walked out to the Faberners' to have tea with Dr. Strachan. Thought as I trudged along how thankful I am to God that I am able to walk even with a limp at 66!

March 16, 1928 Meeting of Canadian Authors Association at Mrs. Archibald's in the evening, not so pleasant. All women, practically. Inferior work read aloud and applauded.

*the original of
Captain's Wife copy*

the manager of Eastern Truck Company

Dec.17,1927 Rutledge of Canadian Magazine is afraid to publish "The Captain's Wife", with the bad language.

Dec.24,1927 My stock has sold for \$2,000, a clear gain of nearly \$900. I feel uneasy. Something for nothing. (Note by THR: previous diary entries show that MacMechan had asked the ~~adva~~ advice of MacGillivray, his ~~business manager and~~ friend, regarding a stock market venture with part of his savings.)

Dec.30, 1927 Walking through the Park on the soft muddy paths, I heard the tide coming in, and revolved another book on Ultima Thule. Some titles:- "The Sky Line", "The Ship Knacker", "Paul Mascarene", "A Nova Scotia Pepys", "The Seven Saints of Nova Scotia", "Red Snow on Grand Pre", "An Emergency Meeting in the Beaufort", "The Look of The Towns", etc. Went to preparatory service at Fort Massey.

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Feb.26, 1928 Lectured in Yarmouth under alias of A.H.Maclean. (Note by THR:- this odd entry means, I presume, that a bungling chairman introduced him by that name, which belonged to a Canadian politician.)

Feb.27,1928 Grant's funeral. Hurried back to lecture on Masfield. Lonely and dispirited, as if nothing mattered.

March 2, 1928 Made a beginning on "The Great Ship".

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April 26, 1928 "The First Gate" returned by Moore. (Note by THR:- this was Moore's name, editor of Maclean's Magazine.) Met Clark of St. John's Nfld. who I can't remember by name and patronized me over my address at Sackville last year. So did Truman, by the way. Quills combs!

March 19, 1928 Mail brought accounts of royalties from Dent (\$26.48) and from McClelland and Stewart (\$231.65). "Thus trowles my fortune in, by land and sea".

March 22, 1928 Finished, practically, "The Great Ship".

March 23, 1928 ~~Moore~~ Mail brought "The First Mate" back from "The Atlantic" with a polite refusal from E. Sedgewick. He has brought the technique of rejection to perfection. "Yim poi, I no care." Try elsewhere. A long day. I slept in my chair and then in my bed, dreaming of my mother as I saw her dying, fifty eight years ago.

March 25, 1928 Dreamed this morning that I was climbing a mountain. Near the summit the rock came out towards me, making climbing perilous, but I got over it and reached the top. "Which things are an allegory", I hope.

March 26, 1928 Letter from Saul (of Gage's) asking me to write "The Romance of The Maritimes", a sort of school history as I discover later. Don't see how I can. So many other things I want to do more, and life is so cruelly short.

March 29, 1928 Mem. of M.S.S. sold or negotiating:-

"Train Flight Across Canada"	--	Canadian National Railways Magazine
"Women of Nova Scotia"	--	Chatelaine
"A Vision of The Night"	--	Maclean's
"The Great Ship"	--	Dalhousie Review
"The First Mate"	(complete)	
"Merope and its Predecessors"	(to do)	
"Jury Rig"	(to do)	

March 30, 1928 Went to Alumni Dinner at Green Lantern with Judge Russel, and came home with him. A deadly dull affair.

March 31, 1928 Mail brought a cheque for \$60 for " A Vision of The Night". Wilcox came in with a stipple drawing of the "W.D.Lawrence's" figurehead, excellently done. Pd. \$6. Then Darrach MacGillivray, who is going to do the "Launberga" cul-de-lampe.

April 3, 1928 Attended Judge Wallace's funeral. Judge Chisholm asked me to walk with him. He loved the light and open air, genial, happy, making others happy; now he is gone. Death has been busy with my friends, and every sweep of his scythe comes nearer me.

April 13, 1928 Made a good beginning on "Jury Rig".

April 19, 1928 Dent's half-year cheque for "Sagas" royalties -- \$26.48.

April 20, 1928 "The Cartel Auguste" to be printed in the Herald tomorrow. Worked at "Jury Rig" until it was finished, but on reading it aloud to E. felt it to be unsatisfactory.

April 22, 1928 Sunday. P.M. went to the Halifax Hotel to talk to Crowell. He will buy the "Train Flight" for \$20, and wants "On The Spanish Main" for the C.N.R. Magazine.

April 24, 1928 "The First Mate" returned by Moore. (Note by THR:- this was Napier Moore, editor of Maclean's Magazine.) Met Blackall of St. John's Nfld. who couldn't remember my name and patronized me over my address at Sackville last year. So did Trueman, by the way. Quelle comedie!

April 28, 1928 "A Train Flight Across Canada" printed in this morning's Chronicle. Called on W.H. Dennis and got permission to bill him for my three articles accepted but not published. (Note: - This was W.H. Dennis, owner of the Halifax Herald and the Evening Mail.)

May 2, 1928 Walking home I met Ned Adams wearing coloured goggles and led by his wife. He is quite blind, but smiled as he told me, "Seldom comes age alone". He was once a crack marksman.

May 7, 1928 Dennis paid \$ 60 for four yarns.

May 12, 1928 I re-wrote the first half of Jury Rig, and much nearer my idea of what it ought to be.

June 2, 1928 (Note by THR:- in Toronto, where he was evidently attending a convention of the Canadian Authors Association.) At 6.45 went to Gray Gables to dine with the Canadian Forum Committee. Not deeply impressed by their manners. E. MacMillan a boor.

June 21, 1928 My 66th birthday. Usual reflections on death, and gratitude for so much health and strength as I have.

June 23, 1928 (Note by THR:- He was in Montreal) Called at the Royal Securities to see Killam's ship. It is the "Research" in the storm, with A. Churchill hanging under the counter. Killam away fishing.

July 14, 1928 Prepared copy for "There Go The Ships". Sent off "Jury Rig" to Maclean's

July 16, 1928 Got "The Lunenburg Way" almost done.

July 18, 1928 Finishing off "There Go The Ships". Working over text of other stories, getting authorities, etc. Very satisfactory. Working over material for my last story "The Lunenburg Way", which is turning out better than I expected. John MacGillivray wants to paint my portrait.

July 20, 1928 Before my lectures took "The Lunenburg Way" in to Miss Mac Eachren to type, up four flights in the new Telephone Building. "Such a getting up stairs". Worked over contents, text, and other details of "There Go The Ships". The joy of bringing a piece of work to an end!

July 22, 1928 Have resolved to read my Italian testament through, against time, noting chapters read every day, in order to saturate my mind with Italian. Then other authors.

July 23, 1928 Our wedding day. E. liked her Chinese kimono.

July 27, 1928 Sent off M.S. of There Go The Ships.

August 2, 1928 Went to Eastern Trust, where D. MacGillivray allowed me to examine the two letter books he had taken from the safe of Enos Collins, opened by a man with acetylene torch. First letter to his mother Dec. 26, 183-, filial, about Christmas presents he had sent her.

August 3, 1928 After lectures had my first sitting with J.M. for my portrait. Amusing experience. I will not look at the canvas until it is finished. It cannot fail to be disillusioning.

August 16, 1928 Met Gordon Mackinnon and Captain Rangdale at college. They wanted to see the ships. Captain Rangdale remained and talked. Yorkshireman from the interior, never saw the sea (note by THR:- I think MacMechan meant to add "until he signed on for his first voyage".) Full of its poetry. Spent his time away out on the jib-boom end, "watching her coming at you". (Further note by THR:- This was Captain Rangdale, an adventurer in sail from the time he was a boy. He ~~travels~~ was in the whaling station at South Georgia when Sir Ernest Shackleton ~~walked~~ walked in, after his perilous voyage by boat from Elephant Island. At this time (1928) he was at a loose end, in charge of a schooner laid up at Meteghan. Soon after 1929 he became skipper of a small iron-hulled schooner called "Tilli", a capture from the Germans in War One, and for one or two years operated her in carrying pulpwood from Fundy ports to the new Mersey Paper Company mill at Brooklyn, Queens County. I was then on the Mersey staff and knew him well. About 1932 he heard of a new sailing vessel or steamer, with a hull of reinforced concrete, just launched in England. Eager to try this experiment, he went to England and joined the crew. She sailed for North America, but was never heard of again. XXX When MacMechan speaks of "the ships" at "college", he means his own collection of Nova Scotia ship models, plans and relics, which later was housed in the Archives Building on Dalhousie campus.)

August 17, 1928 Sent night letter to Champness, H.M.S. "Wistaria", saying I would join the ship at Charlottetown if his invitation held good.

August 18, 1928 Got \$100 for three summer school lectures. Late p.m. went out to Pine Hill for a swim. Water very pleasant. Could have swum across? Telegram from "Champs", delighted. Finished another "Window" in order to have my voyage without anxiety. (Note by THR:- the last reference is to a literary column which MacMechan wrote once a week for the Montreal Standard. I think it was called "A Window on Parnassus".)

August 21, 1928 Aboard "Wistaria" at Charlottetown. Found a small black scuttling object in my suitcase when I unpacked it about 3.30 a.m. Couldn't catch it. Where did it come from? Took everything out of my bag and could not find it again. (Note by THR:- "Wistaria" was a small steam warship of the sloop class, which probably had spent the past winter with the West Indies squadron. Hence, probably, the "small black scuttling object" was a cockroach, commonly found in old ships anywhere, and in new ships after a visit in tropical waters.)

August 24, 1928 Sailed in "Wistaria" to Summerside.

August 26, 1928 Remained aboard writing letters to E., Jean, Col. Wood, MacPhail, C.H.J. Snider (gloating) and A. Gordon. After ~~lunch~~ lunch went ashore for a drive to Cavendish, and turned off to see the place where Lucy Montgomery's house once stood. Mrs. Arnett (wife of the mayor of Summerside) had been at school with her, knew her well, thought her odd; fond of cheap jewelry, loading herself with it. Has made money, snugly invested in Bell Telephone Company. Would get up from table to write a poem. Got well paid. Showed Mrs. A. cheques for \$60 - \$70 for single poems.

August 27, 1928 "Wistaria" sailed from Summerside!

August 28, 1928 Anchored in Ellis Bay, Anticosti. Exploring the Chateau Menier.

August 30, 1928 At Ellis Bay. Put on dinner jacket for lecture, gave it on quarter deck. An easel for my diagrams of the Rover's (movements? -- THR). About 30 attended, some standing. Officers in greatcoats in front. "Wistaria" sailed for Bay of Seven Islands during the night.

August 31, 1928 (Wistaria at anchor in bay near Clark City, on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.) Spent the evening quietly. A little under the weather.

Sep. 1, 1928 Off my feed.

Sep. 2, 1928 Resolved to land at Rimouski.

Sep. 4, 1928 We left this beautiful lonely place. I transferred to Morris's cabin. He came to the sick bay the night before and insisted on changing. Rather late but rather than seem rude I gave in.

Sep. 5, 1928 Arrived at Rimouski. All my money went in tips, messing bill, and ticket home.

Sep. 14, 1928 Called at Chronicle office for my cheque, found it had been mailed the night before. Don't like being so eager.

Sep. 15, 1928 Deposited \$30 (payment for "The First Mate").

Sep. 22, 1928 More proof, the last ten galleys of "There Go The Ships". Letter from French asking for the M.S.; too many corrections.

Sep. 24, 1928 M. took Pratt and me out to Studley in his car. I showed him our marine exhibits and Shirreff Hall. Then he went to the hotel. In the evening I attended his recital. He told one good story of a Newfoundland dog which took a line ashore and saved 93 people. Otherwise I was only confirmed in my previous estimate of his verse.

Sep. 25, 1928 Heard from McClelland & Stewart. Royalties for six months ending July 31 -- \$198.27

Sep. 26, 1928 An unpleasant day. Luncheon for Roberts and Norwood came off at 1.20. Norwood did not turn up so we began without him. There were 23 altogether, I think. Afterwards in a corner of the room, with Will Allen for witness, I asked him for authority to contradict the story Pratt told me about him. He denied it. I intend to follow it up. (Note by THR:- Charles G.D. Roberts had just returned from a stay of several years in Europe. Robert Norwood, who had a wealthy Episcopal church in New York, usually spent the summers at Hubbards, N.S., his birthplace. Roberts was now 68. He had lived chiefly off wealthy women abroad for ^{years} half his life and was more notorious as a rake than as a writer. Apparently Pratt, a jovial and earthy man, had told MacMechan a tale of Roberts's sexual obsession. Norwood was a bon vivant, a practical joker as well as a poet; he had organised (with much aid from Andrew Merkel of Halifax) the summer group of N.S. poets, male and female, who went on merry expeditions by car and schooner about the province. They regarded MacMechan as a stuffed shirt.)

Sep. 27, 1928 Met MacGillivray almost his first remark was, "How is Roberts behaving himself?" He told me about a scene in his house when he asked some men in to meet him. "Reeked of the Pit". Bliss Carman also. Decided not to attend the recital. E. rang up Mrs. Merkel to say that I would not come. She said that Norwood did not come yesterday because he did not receive a written invitation. So I wrote a note explaining. Maureen took it over.

Sep. 29, 1928 Rose betimes. After breakfast went into town, paid Walsh's bill, and then went to the hospital to see Lorne Pierce. He was better, but weak. At his request I sent a day-letter to his wife, and followed it up by a letter.

Sep.29,1928 (continued) For my sins, met Roberts in the street and had to shake hands with him.

(Note by THR:- Charles D. Roberts and Bliss Carman were giving poetry recitals together, in various Canadian cities, and apparently were in Halifax ~~together~~ at this time. So, too, it seems, was E.J.Pratt. Pratt, a professor at the University of Toronto, was then at the height of his career as a native poet. Roberts and Carman were long past theirs, a pair of old men basking in the light of other days. Neither Roberts nor Carman had ever been able to make a living by the pen; both had lived as parasites on impressionable people with money, usually women, although Carman had none of ~~the~~ satyr about him. Roberts was and remained a satyr, even in his sixties and seventies, revelling in his sexual prowess. MacMechan's rigid Presbyterian morality, his high sense of dignity, and his keen Scots sense of the value of money, all set him apart from people like Pratt and Carman and Roberts, who cared nothing for such things.)