

A RUNAWAY GIRL'S TRIAL.

HER SUFFERINGS WHILE DISGUISED AS
A MALE TRAMP. **A**

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 9.—Yardmaster James Dewey found a young tramp asleep in a box car this morning, and was about to administer very rough treatment when he discovered that the tramp was a girl. She was clad in male attire, very ragged and much too large for her. She was very dirty and presented a deplorable appearance.

She was placed in the hands of the police matron, and on being washed proved to be an exceedingly pretty girl, seventeen years old. She said her name was Josie Lorif, and her father was a farmer of Miller County. She had run away from home with the purpose of earning her own living. She first answered an advertisement soon after her arrival in Chicago, and secured employment in a clothing factory as sewing girl. Her wages were so small she was compelled to seek the humblest quarters, and lived with a poor woman in a squalid part of the big city, helping at the housework in part payment of her board. Two weeks ago she became so homesick and downhearted that she determined to go home, but not having earned or saved the amount of her fare she decided to "beat" her way in box cars and on freight trains. Taking a pair of ragged discarded trousers, a greasy coat much too large for her, and a heavy cast-off pair of shoes, she started. She traveled two days walking on the railroad tracks and stealing rides at night in cars, but her constitution was not strong enough to stand the ordeal. The third day out she succumbed to chills and fever, and became delirious. A railroad man's wife living on the outskirts of some small town she does not remember the name of took her in.

For eight days she was confined with fever. The few dollars she had earned she gave to the lady who helped her and to the physician for his medicine. Two days ago, after the fever had left her, she put on her old ragged men's clothes, and, without the usual formalities of parting, took her leave and resumed her journey. She walked until yesterday forenoon, when she crawled into an empty box car at some station in Illinois, where the train was on a side-track, and when she woke up this morning she found a man tugging at her coat and telling her to get out of the car. Her parents have been communicated with, and she will be sent home.

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