



An Accompany Publishing Musical Play

CHARACTERS

A Family of ENGLISH FARMERS:

Trudy, the oldest
Hector, her younger brother
Claire, their little sister

The POLITICIANS:

John Pillsbury, Governor
Mrs. Pillsbury, his wife
Mayor of Seattle

The SWEDISH LUMBERJACKS:

Sven
Hilde, his sister

A Chorus of RAILROAD
WORKERS:

Railroad Worker #1
Railroad Worker #2
Railroad Worker #3

Jean-Claude, A French
Voyageur

The Conductor, calling
stops on line

A Family of MEXICAN MINERS:

Emilio, a young father
Rosaria, his wife
Bonita, their child

A STEAM LOCOMOTIVE
Crew:

A Brakeman
A Fireman
An Engineer

James J. Hill, a mover and
shaker



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SCENES

Scene One: Northern Minnesota, 1892, Winter

Songs: *"Who Needs A Railroad?"*
"Driving The Last Spike Down"
"The Plow Will Follow"

Scene Two: North Dakota, Summer

Songs: *"Life On The River"*
"The Railroad Cars Are Coming"


Scene Three: Scenic, Washington, the Cascades

Scene Four: Seattle, Washington, train station

Songs: *"James J. Hill"*

SCENE ONE

1892. Northern Minnesota. Middle of winter. A tiny shack, home of the ENGLISH FARMERS. A small table sits center stage.

 [Sound Effect: a loud train whistle from offstage. We hear the belch of steam.]

[The entire CAST files into the stage area and sings.]

 SONG #1: "WHO NEEDS A RAILROAD?"

Who needs a railroad?
The people do
Transcontinental
And goes year-round

Gets us around
Reliability
It goes to town
Faster delivery
The cities unbound
Added mobility
And goes year-round

We live far apart
Distance that separates
With horse and a cart
System that still predates
Here on the farm
The people just can't wait
And goes year-round

Who needs a railroad?
The people do

Transcontinental
And goes year-round

Who needs a railroad? (x8)

Across the continent
Across the continent
So tell us, who needs a railroad?
The people do

[As the music trails off, the CAST exits. The stage is empty.]

[HECTOR enters, shivering, holding a large, frozen walleye. He stands center, too cold to move. TRUDY calls from offstage.]

TRUDY

Did you get the walleye? Hector?

HECTOR

Can't. Talk. Freezing.

[TRUDY enters with a saucepan.]

TRUDY

There you are. What's wrong with you?

HECTOR

Cold.

TRUDY

It's only twenty below. Do toughen up. In the pot, please.

[HECTOR drops the frozen walleye into the saucepan.]

TRUDY

Ah, breakfast. Be a good boy and go wake Claire.

HECTOR

Can't I warm up first?

TRUDY

You can do that later. Besides, there's no coal today.

HECTOR

No coal? No coal?

TRUDY

The wagon couldn't get through on account of the blizzard.

HECTOR

But it's twenty below!

TRUDY

We'll just have to keep busy, won't we?

[CLAIRE enters, in a bad mood.]

CLAIRE

I'm hungry.

TRUDY

Good morning, Claire.

CLAIRE

What do we have to eat?

HECTOR

Iced walleye, same as yesterday.

CLAIRE

I hate iced walleye!

TRUDY

It is not iced walleye. We thaw it before we eat it.

CLAIRE

Yuck.

HECTOR

That's all we've had all winter! Every morning I have to go out and fish in the frozen lake. And before I get home, the fish freezes solid. It isn't fair.

TRUDY

Fish is very tasty.

HECTOR

Does that look tasty to you?

TRUDY

Hector, go wash up.

CLAIRE

I'm cold.

TRUDY

Go put on your woolen.

CLAIRE

Why is there no fire?

HECTOR

Someone used all the coal.

CLAIRE

I am really not happy.

TRUDY

Children. We are very far from town. With the river frozen, the steamers can't get through. And with all the snow, neither can the horses. We just have to make do until spring.

CLAIRE

How long is that?

TRUDY

Not long. Winter is short in the North.

HECTOR


Only six more months.

CLAIRE

Six months! I am very cross!

TRUDY

Enough of that talk! Get ready for breakfast.

 [Sound Effect: there is a banging on the door.]

CLAIRE

Someone's here.

HECTOR

Might be a bear.

CLAIRE

Do bears knock?

TRUDY

It is not a bear!

HECTOR

Who else could make it through the blizzard?

[The SWEDISH LUMBERJACKS, SVEN and HILDE enter, covered with snow, carrying their axes.]

SVEN

Good day.

HILDE

Good day.

SVEN

I am Sven, and this is my sister Hilde.

HILDE

Ya, sure.

SVEN

Sorry to be dropping by like this.

TRUDY

I'm Trudy, and this is my little brother Hector.

HECTOR

And she's my little sister, Claire.

CLAIRE

Are you lumberjacks?

HILDE

Ya, sure.

SVEN

We got a problem.

HILDE

Big problem.

SVEN

We finished a load of work, but we can't move the logs. River's frozen.

TRUDY

Oh dear.

SVEN

We need a steamer to move the timber downstream.

HILDE

To the mill, ya.

SVEN

We're stuck.

TRUDY

Can't you find a cart to move your logs?

HILDE

No, sure.

SVEN

Roads are all frozen. Solid ice till spring.

CLAIRE

Well, that's only six more months.

SVEN AND HILDE

Six more months!

HILDE

Sweden was warmer.

TRUDY

So, well, friends, how can we help you?

SVEN

Well, you see, we - um - well, it's like this.

HILDE

We want stollen.

HECTOR

What's stollen?

SVEN

Swedish pastry. Full of cinnamon and sugar, and sweet icing.

HILDE

Do you have stollen?

TRUDY

I don't think so.

HILDE

We want stollen.

TRUDY

I'm ever so sorry. We have fish, if you're hungry. See?

SVEN

[To HILDE] Let's go, sister.

CLAIRE

They don't want iced walleye, either.

 [Sound Effect: More banging on the door.]

SVEN

It's a bear!

HILDE

Ya, sure!

TRUDY

It's not a bear.

[JEAN-CLAUDE, the French Voyageur, storms in.]

JEAN-CLAUDE

[Excited] Mon Dieu! There is a monster! I have seen it! Bon jour, I am Jean-Claude.

HECTOR

A monster?

JEAN-CLAUDE

Oui. It is a beast that breathes fire.

HILDE

Fire!

JEAN-CLAUDE

Or maybe steam. I am not sure. But I saw it. It was horrible.

CLAIRE

Oh, let's go see!

TRUDY

We are not going out there!

JEAN-CLAUDE

Do not go, you will not survive it! [Pause] Do you have any gateau?

HECTOR

Gateau?

JEAN-CLAUDE

Cake! I am craving chocolate cake. I am in my cabin, all winter long. All I can think of is the cake. The cake!

TRUDY

I'm very sorry.

HECTOR

You can have iced walleye.

JEAN-CLAUDE

Is it chocolate?

CLAIRE

If you pretend.

JEAN-CLAUDE

[Turning to leave] Good day.

SVEN

But the monster?

JEAN-CLAUDE

I do not care. I cannot take this cold life! Let the monster have me.

TRUDY

Really now, it can't be a monster.

JEAN-CLAUDE

It is huge! It roars, it rumbles! It glides along on two steel ribbons.

HECTOR

It does?

JEAN-CLAUDE


In all my years here, chasing the furs, never have I seen such a beast.

CLAIRE

Anything's better than sitting in this shack. Let's just go have a look, shall we?

SVEN, HILDE, JEAN-CLAUDE

[Stopping CLAIRE] No, no!

 [Sound Effect: a loud train whistle from offstage. We hear the belch of steam.]

JEAN-CLAUDE

The monster! It arrives!

TRUDY

That's not a monster! It's—

[JAMES J. HILL enters, followed by a BRAKEMAN, FIREMAN, ENGINEER and The CONDUCTOR. JAMES J. HILL is holding a box of mints.]

JAMES J. HILL

James J. Hill, at your service. Would anyone like a mint?

[EVERYONE lunges at the opportunity for real food. "Righto!", "Oui!", "Ya, you betcha", etc.]

JAMES J. HILL

[Looking around] What a lovely little cabin.

HECTOR

It is?

JAMES J. HILL

[Looking skeptical] So remote...and tiny...and freezing.

SVEN

How are you coming here, Mr. Hill?

HECTOR

Through the ice, and the blizzard—

JEAN-CLAUDE

And the monsters—

HILDE

Ya.

JAMES J. HILL

My friends, I have a proposition for you. A chance that comes but once in a lifetime. Listen close.

 **SONG #2: "DRIVING THE LAST SPIKE DOWN"**

Part 1

Follow the North Star,
lakes and the streams

To the Pacific
Miles away

We built the railroad!

We built the railroad!

Driving the last spike
Driving the last spike down

Part 1

Part 2

Train on the prairie
Train with the steam

Train in the nighttime
Train in the day

Laying a steel avenue

The railroad's coming through
Driving the last spike
Driving the last spike down

Part 2

Train with the engine
Train on the track

Part 1

The whistle will blow
when it is stacked

The railroad's coming
Coming in fine

We built the railroad!

We built the railroad!

Driving the last spike
Driving the last spike...
Down!

We built the railroad!

Driving the last spike
Driving the last spike down

Part 2

Train at the station
Train at the line

Laying a steel avenue

The railroad's coming through
Driving the last spike
Driving the last spike...

Laying a steel avenue

The railroad's coming through
Driving the last spike
Driving the last spike down

JAMES J. HILL

There you have it. I am building a wonder of the world.

HECTOR

A railroad.

JAMES J. HILL

Smart kid. Thanks for listening.

JEAN-CLAUDE

But why?

JAMES J. HILL

Think, my friends. A line to stretch from the Midwest all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

TRUDY

Through the mountains?

JEAN-CLAUDE

Through the snowstorms?

SVEN

Through the desert?

HECTOR

I don't think there's a desert.

HILDE

Ya, desert, ya.

JAMES J. HILL

I need workers! I need a rail crew! Young, strong, fearless people to pound the spikes and lay the track, and folks, I need you. Come with me to the West!

SVEN

Well...

JEAN-CLAUDE

You see...

TRUDY

You're very nice, Mr. Hill.

SVEN

But...we have our lumber to move...when the rivers are clear.

JEAN-CLAUDE

And I my furs...when the ice melts.

CLAIRE

[Depressed] In six months.

TRUDY

And even though we can't bring our fish to market, we still have to stay here.

HECTOR

Why?

TRUDY

To guard them!

CLAIRE

No one wants those old walleye!

JAMES J. HILL

There's adventure. New places. Money.

HILDE

Money?

JAMES J. HILL

And new foods.

SVEN

Did you say food?

JAMES J. HILL

Wouldn't you all like to try sushi?

JEAN-CLAUDE

Is it chocolate?

JAMES J. HILL

That can be arranged.

JEAN-CLAUDE

Well...I do not like adventure.

JAMES J. HILL

I see. Well. Perhaps the Governor could convince you!

ALL

Governor Pillsbury!

[MRS. PILLSBURY enters.]

MRS. PILLSBURY

Actually, I'm Governor Pillsbury's wife. He doesn't care for the cold. So he sent me.

CLAIRE

How do you do, ma'am.

MRS. PILLSBURY

What a cute little...igloo you have here.

HECTOR

It's not an igloo.

CLAIRE

It's just cold.

MRS. PILLSBURY

Mr. Hill will change all that! We need the railroad! To move your grain! To move your lumber! To move your beaver furs! To get you something better to eat than these frozen stones!

TRUDY

It's not a stone, it's a fish.

MRS. PILLSBURY

And we need you to help us build it!

JEAN-CLAUDE

The railroad can help with all that?

MRS. PILLSBURY

Yes! We can turn this frozen land into food!

TRUDY

But everything here is forest. We're farmers, it's no use to us.

MRS. PILLSBURY

That's where you're wrong, missy. There's an old saying that you may have forgotten.

 **SONG #3: "THE PLOW WILL FOLLOW"**

A food and logging nation we became
Thanks to all the white pine and the grain
The lumberjack chews, the farmer swallows
Farming the land once the trees are hollow

Part 1

Lay the axe

The plow will follow!

Lay the axe

The plow will follow!

Lay the axe

The plow will follow!

Lay the axe...The plow will follow!

Part 2

Lay the axe

The plow will follow!

Lay the axe

The plow will follow!

Lay the axe

The plow will follow!

Lay the axe...The plow will follow!

Crops grow with the weather and the rain
Homes are built of wood from timber plains
The logs in the mills, the farms grow tall
Chopping in spring and harvest in fall

Part 1

Part 2

Lay the axe	Lay the axe
The plow will follow!	The plow will follow!
Lay the axe	Lay the axe
The plow will follow!	The plow will follow!
Lay the axe	Lay the axe
The plow will follow!	The plow will follow!
Lay the axe...The plow will follow!	Lay the axe...The plow will follow!

The farmer and the lumberjack are friends
One has means the other has the ends
One rides a plow, one a canoe
One provides wood, the other food

Part 1

Part 2

Lay the axe	Lay the axe
The plow will follow!	The plow will follow!
Lay the axe	Lay the axe
The plow will follow!	The plow will follow!
Lay the axe	Lay the axe
The plow will follow!	The plow will follow!
Lay the axe...The plow will follow!	Lay the axe...The plow will follow!

JAMES J. HILL

Step this way, and get your hammers! To the West we go!

[They all rush out. End of Scene.]

[As the scene shifts, The CONDUCTOR steps to the front of the stage.]

CONDUCTOR

Swan River! Grand Rapids! Cass Lake! Bemidji! Crookston!
Mallory! Grand Forks! Next stop, Devils Lake, North Dakota! All
aboard!



*[Sound Effect: a train whistle blows. We hear the roar of the
steam engine. The CONDUCTOR moves to downstage left.]*