

*(The lights start to glow into a dawn effect, which is followed by a gradual morning light, which increases to noon through the action of the act.)*

**STAGE MANAGER.** *(cont.)* The First Act shows a day in our town. The day is May 7, 1901. The time is just before dawn.

*(Cock crows offstage.)*

The sky is beginning to show some streaks of light over in the East there, behind our mount'in. The morning star always gets wonderful bright the minute before it has to go – doesn't it?

*(He stares at it for a moment, then goes upstage.)*

Well, I'd better show you how our town lies. Up here – *(that is: parallel with the back wall)* – is Main Street. Way back there is the railway station; tracks go that way. Polish Town's across the tracks, and some Canuck families. *(toward the left)* Over there is the Congregational Church; across the street's the Presbyterian. Methodist and Unitarian are over there. *(off down right)* Baptist is down in the holla' by the river. Catholic Church is over beyond the tracks. Here's the Town Hall and Post Office combined; jail's in the basement. Bryan once made a speech from these very steps here. Along here's *(Main Street, parallel with the back wall)* a row of stores. Hitching posts and horse blocks in front of them. First automobile's going to come along in about five years – belonged to Banker Cartwright, our richest citizen...lives in the big white house up on the hill. Here's the grocery store and here's Mr. Morgan's drugstore. *(pointing right and left behind him)* Most everybody in town manages to look into those two stores once a day. Public School's over yonder. High School's still farther over. Quarter of nine mornings, noontimes, and three o'clock afternoons, the hull town can hear the yelling and