

Through a Glass Darkly

By FANNIE HURST

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The quicksilver of madness runs through the veins of a moonlit night. Poets chew their pen-ends and grope for meter. The Blessed Damocel leans out. Harlequin laughs in his tight sleeve and kicks up his heels in kinship with the world. As many maidens as there are in the world seek the perfumed garments of Romance as she rustles through the corridors of the night and sigh for or with their lovers.

Esther Lefkovich sighed, too, but faintly, as if she would not break a spell. Before the approach of the Roumanian the moon unrolled a strip of light, just as a pathway of carpet is unrolled before the feet of a bride. A hump of black, like the great silhouette of a kneeling camel, rose against the sky. Here and there at its knuckles lights twinkled. Along the silent deck couples crept out from corners, whispering, pointing in pantomime. A star shot down and died in its flight. Esther Lefkovich followed it with eyes that were melo- low to moistness.

"Esther, that you, child?"

"Mama, how you scared me, sneaking up behind me so soft!"

"Always in a lonesome place like this on top-deck I find you, Esther. Twice over this boat I've been, bringing you your heavy coat for the dampness. Here, put it on."

She slid into the garment, fastening it across the smooth V of her bared throat.

"For why, Esther, you should stay up here in the dark all alone, when downstairs the young folks got dancing and everybody is out on the lit-up decks, I don't know."

"I—I've just been alone a minute, mama."

"Ja, because now the game begins. I guess, Esther, you think it's so nice on a big boat like this, the way you let that nix from Chicago come up here with you to such a lonesome spot."

"We came up to watch the Gibraltar, mama. See, how plain it's getting out there already—that black thing. See?"

"I tell you between my husband, who leaves me alone every night to play cards, and—"

"He promised tonight he wouldn't, mama."

"Ja, but when I see his long face, right away I said rather by myself I would sit than look at it. Between him and my daughter, what runs up mountains and then gives me heart failure when she nearly misses the ship, and then on top always finds out the lonesome places like this—between the two of them I got a lonesome enough time of it myself, just let me tell you."

"But mama, dear, you've got three ladies you've met on the boat, Mrs. Kron and Mrs. Lipp and all of them."

"With the right kind of a young man not one word would I say to all the good time you want. But with such a nix who leaves you alone by yourself every night by nine o'clock and who has got in his head eyes what I wouldn't trust so far as from here to—"

"Eyes! That just shows, mama, how little you know about things. If there's one thing he has got, it's eyes, grand black eyes anybody would notice."

"Always, Esther, a person's eyes are like looking-glasses what tell the truth about him. Right through the eyes of a nix I can see just like in a mirror, grand eyes or eyes not so grand."

"You've just got to quit calling him a nix like that, mama. Who is it I'd like to know but papa drags him downstairs every night I'd like to know? Who is it? Who?"

"Tonight, Esther, your papa didn't—"

"Tonight maybe not, but every other night. It just shows Danziger's got honor, though. He's not going to get off this boat without giving them all every chance to win back. He's got honor, that's why he went down."

"I tell you, Esther, how much I think of him. So much, that I even didn't want to hear his name. Gott sei dank, tomorrow we land, and that's the last we see of him with your papa's good money, what I helped to save, in his pocket."

"Well, then, you—you quit running him down, ma. He's a prince, if you want to know it. You—well I—I could tell you something if I wanted to, but I—I won't right now—I won't. But you got to quit picking on him, ma. You've just got to. It's papa—"

"Always like I used to say to your brother Michle, when he was yet in short pants: 'Cards is spades that dig the gamblers' graves!'"

"Such silly sayings! Honest, mama, you mustn't say them in front of people. Anyway, he don't gamble, he—"

"How excited right away she gets, like it makes any difference. For my



"How Excited Right Away She Gets, Like It Makes Any Difference."

part he gambles or don't. Tomorrow we don't see him any more is all I ask. Him with your papa's hard-earned four hundred and—"

"Mama, if you keep rubbing that in, I've got to listen to it another time, I—I'll just die."

"I don't want to hear about him, Esther, no more as you do."

"Well, then, let's talk about something else. I just can't stand the way you nag and nag, mama, when you once get started."

"Come, sit down quiet by mama, Esther."

"Yes, mama!"

"But for why, Esther, just to please me, don't you first go down and bring up that grand new leather portfolio that Abe brought you down to the pier."

"Now, mama—"

"Ach, go on, Esther, bring it up and write to him a letter on a sheet of that pretty pink writing-paper that's in it. See, right up here by the moon-shine you can see to write and I add a line, eh?"

"Mama, please don't nag."

"Here, right in my handbag, Esther, is the little silver key on the little silver ring to the case it came in. Not once have you asked for it. So thoughtful a boy, Esther; he knows such a careless girl you are and on a silver ring with your name on, he has yet the silver key put on."

"The way you keep talking about that portfolio, mama, like it was made of gold."

"I only say, Esther, what a grand thing it would be if Abe would meet us when we got to Paris. Like he says, Esther, all what he waits for is the word from you that he should come. Right to me on the pier, saying good-by, he said those words."

"No wonder, the way you stuck next to him, mama."

"Think, Esther, a smart boy like Abe what is always so thoughtful of everybody to help us around in Paris, where you got to be so careful, they say, you don't get cheated, eh? Next to Michle himself, nothing could give papa so much pleasure either as Abe should be there with us. Here, baby, right here is the silver ring. Run down once and underneath your berth out of the case get the portfolio and write to him on the pink writing paper, eh?"

"Oh, mama, you—you get me so mad. Honest, I—oh, I could just get the way you keep at me. Please, mama, let—let my affairs alone."

"All right, Esther, I let them alone. Your old mother only wishes you the worst. She wishes you to forget a grand honest boy like Abe for a dressed-up nix what you meet on the boat. I'll let you alone. I'll let you alone. Right back in my bag goes the silver key-ring. I'll let you alone."

"That's what I want you to do."

"I tell you, Esther, this pain what I got over my heart yesterday and today ain't for nothing. I tell you the excitement when you nearly missed the boat this afternoon, and for a mother to see all of a sudden her baby begin nonsense with a nix from Chicago what nobody don't know nothing about, except what he brags himself, is enough to give heart failure. Better we had stayed right at home in—"

"Oh, mama, I just got to bite my tongue to hold in. That's how mad you and your old fogy ideas make me. What do you know about—about things that go on in the—the real world; about an up-to-date fellow like him that's been around the world three times and knows things? You and your old fogy ideas don't count, mama."

"Esther!"

"They don't. They—they just don't. I—I'm sick of you always picking on him when you don't know. I—Oh—oh—oh!"

She was off into the rearward gloom of the deck, cramming her handkerchief against her lips, inarticulate sobs escaping from her icy edge; down two flights, in and out, skirting the edge of deckspread groups skirting their laughter and the froth of conversation, and in a deserted corner of the oak balcony, a generous ledge elaborated to a writing-room and overlooking the luxurious, bright-lighted lounge-room, she found refuge. Dance music floated up to her light and remotely, and the foam of lighter laughter.

A galaxy of incandescents burned through crystal prisms upon the informal leather chairs of the great

room, upon full-length mirrors in gilt frames; upon imitations of a famous pair of fifty-three-inch Mandarin jars and half-a-dozen small walnut tables with carved tassels at their four corners, chessboards here and there, a king or pawn left standing. The paraphernalia of idleness was everywhere about: a periodical, face downward; a woman's work-bag. Finally and beneath the left balcony, a group of eight sitting silent about a round table. The quiet rattle of bone chips; an occasional spoken word, but low and staccato.

From her balcony, sitting there a small huddle of squandered emotions and bankrupt vitality, her hair fallen away and the red rims fresh about her eyes, Esther Lefkovich caught sight of that table, though directly beneath her balcony, through one of the long mirrors opposite. She leaned forward; then farther, her lips opening. A tear dried and left a vitrified glistening on her cheek.

Through the mirror and the gray air of cigar smoke, shirt-sleeved and



Through the Mirror and the Gray Air of Cigar Smoke.

hunched over a flare of five cards lifted close before his eyes, she beheld her father. And around the table, above open collars and vari-colored, vari-sized stacks of chips, a circle of men's faces, unrelaxed and as if carved from cherry stones.

First in the foreground the cool, collared vision of Mr. Danziger, drawing unto himself from the center of the table a great mass of the vari-colored chips. In silhouette she could see her parent shuffling a fresh deck of cards, dealing them five times around with a quottish motion, across the table-top. Then her gaze returned and lingered upon the figure beside him, in godlike calm opening the fan of his cards ever so slightly, discarding, tossing his offering of chips lightly to the center of the table, and every so often and with great frequency scooping in the center lot of them.

Watching that vandeville of slight without sound, the imperturbable breadth of his back, the imperturbable line of his profile, the muscles which rose on the backs of his hands with each scooping-in, lights flickered for a moment in Miss Lefkovich's eyes; then burned quietly in their depths like altar candles.

Suddenly, as she watched, chin cupped in palm, head dropped into the hunch of her shoulders, she leaned forward, gripping the edge of the divan; leaned closer, her quick breath, too light to flutter a leaf, coming through her open lips. Passed a quarter-hour, a half, an hour, and still she sat there immobile her hypnotized eyes on the mirror. Two spots of color came out round and burning on either cheek and one heat wave raced another through her body.

With the great effort of pulling her strength together, she rose finally, but trembled and grasped at the balcony rail for support. Then, after a last interval, she tiptoed down a brief carpeted staircase to the near door of the Lounge, lifted a fold of heavy brown portiere, and slipped into it; stood there an additional quarter-hour, her hand at her throat.

Reaching out from that fold, she might have brushed her father's sleeve. A waiter pussy-footed through the doorway, almost touching her. At that moment, and with a devillike bound that landed her even farther than her gauge, Miss Lefkovich lit beside the card table, her small tight fingers closing over Mr. Danziger's relaxed wrist. The white face of a playing card flashed upward for a second and, wrenching it from his surprised fingers, she danced backward from him, waving it.

"I got you! Got you! I saw him, pa. Saw him work it five times. Saw him, pa! Saw him every time." She leaped toward her father, waving the card higher above her head, the tremolo of hysteria in her voice.

"Always under his cuff he worked it—the far side. Look for yourselves and see what else he's got there. Here's the ace, pa. I don't want it. Take it! Take it! Take it!"

In the sudden upheaval of chairs scraping backward and a great tangle of arms flung across the table for the wrist she had released, Mr. Danziger tugged free for the moment, made a lunge from the table, his under jaw shot forward and his cuff wrenched open.

"She-devil!" he cried. "She-devil—a he!" Lunged again, but a sudden group closed about him, muffling out his speech, and with the soft thud of grapping bodies in her ears, breathy outcries, feet scraping against soft carpets, chairs overturning, gurglings, she felt trembling up the two decks, soles tumbling one over the other from her dry lips.

In the identical quiet of the top-deck, moon-washed, Gibraltar rising closer and blacker and hunch-backed in the pale night, Mrs. Lefkovich lay muffled in sleep and a steamer-rug, her mouth open to the taste of salt and her hand across her heart, as if a hurt lay there.

Beside the steamer-chair in a huddle, Miss Lefkovich buried her head deep into the sag of her mother's skirt.

Mrs. Lefkovich woke with a start. Sleepy, her perceptions rose and fell. "Who—who's that? Aaron?"

"N-no, mama."

"Esther—that you? Is that you come back?"

"Yes, mama."

"What's the matter baby; why child, you look—"

"No, no, mama, nothing! Don't get excited."

"But Esther, what—"

"Nothing, mama, nothing! I forgot and came back—"

"Forgot?"

"The key-ring, mama; the silver key-ring. Give me!"

ORDINANCE NO. 324.

AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE NAMES OF CERTAIN STREETS IN THE CITY OF ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA, AND NAMING CERTAIN STREETS IN THE CITY OF ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA.

Section 1. That the name of the street heretofore named Bignell Avenue in First Addition to South Alliance, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Hudson Avenue.

Section 2. That the name of the street heretofore named Fowler Avenue in South Alliance, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and First Addition to South Alliance, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Potash Avenue.

Section 3. That the name of the street heretofore named Sigafos Avenue in South Alliance, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and First Addition to South Alliance, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Grand Avenue.

Section 4. That the name of the street heretofore named West Boulevard, in South Alliance, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Mississippi Avenue.

Section 5. That the name of the street heretofore named Painter Avenue in First Addition to South Alliance, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Flack Avenue.

Section 6. That the name of the street heretofore named North Boulevard, in South Alliance, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and First Addition to South Alliance, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Hills Street.

Section 7. That the name of the street heretofore named Pine Ridge Avenue in Hills Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and Hitchcock, Hill and Snedeker's Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Platte Avenue.

Section 8. That the name of the street heretofore named County Road in Sheridan Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Emerson Avenue.

Section 9. That the name of the street heretofore named Potash Highway in Home Builders' Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and Brown's addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Potash Avenue.

Section 10. That the name of the street heretofore named Grande Avenue in Drake's Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, Home Builders' Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, Fairview Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and Nebraska Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Grand Avenue.

Section 11. That the name of the street heretofore named Arizona Street in Belmont Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Seventh Street.

Section 12. That the name of the street heretofore named Colorado (8th) Street, in Belmont Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Eighth Street.

Section 13. That the name of the street heretofore named Nebraska (9th) Street, in Belmont Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Ninth Street.

Section 14. That the name of the street heretofore named Dodge (9th) Street, in Belmont Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Belmont Street.

Section 15. That the name of the street heretofore named Reddish (10th) Street in Belmont Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Tenth Street.

Section 16. That the name of the street heretofore named Nevada Street in Simonson's Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Tenth Street.

Section 17. That the name of the street heretofore named Potomac Avenue in Simonson's Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Flack Avenue.

Section 18. That the name of the street heretofore named Roosevelt Avenue in Belmont Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Potash Avenue.

Section 19. That the name of the street heretofore named Grand Avenue

in Simonson's Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Potash Avenue.

Section 20. That the name of the street heretofore named Sixth Street in Simonson's Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and in Duncan's North S. de Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Grand Avenue.

Section 21. That the name of the street heretofore named Fifth Street in Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, Walnut Hill Addition, being a subdivision of Lots Thirteen, (13), and Fourteen, (14), of Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, Estes's Subdivision of Lots Twenty-nine, (29), and Thirty, (30), in First Addition to Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, First Addition to Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and Second Addition to Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Mississippi Avenue.

Section 22. That the name of the street heretofore named Fourth Street in Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, Walnut Hill Addition, being a subdivision of Lots Thirteen, (13), and Fourteen, (14), of Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, First Addition to Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, Summit Place, Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, being a subdivision of Lots Twenty-four, (24), Twenty-five, (25), and Twenty-six, (26), of First Addition to Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and Second Addition to Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and Second Addition to Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Duncan Avenue.

Section 23. That the name of the street heretofore named Third Street in Amended Forest Subaddition to Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, Summit Place, Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, being a subdivision of Lots Twenty-four, (24), Twenty-five, (25), and Twenty-six, (26), of First Addition to Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and Second Addition to Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Duncan Avenue.

Section 24. That the name of the street heretofore named Second Street in Amended Forest Subaddition to Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and Second Addition to Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Missouri Avenue.

Section 25. That the name of the street heretofore named First Street in Amended Forest Subaddition to Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and Second Addition to Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Yellowstone Avenue.

Section 26. That the name of the street heretofore named First Street in Amended Forest Subaddition to Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and Second Addition to Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Eleventh Street.

Section 27. That the name of the street heretofore named Washington Avenue in Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, Walnut Hill Addition, being a subdivision of Lots Thirteen, (13), and Fourteen, (14), of Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Twelfth Street.

Section 28. That the name of the street heretofore named Garfield Avenue, lying to the north of Second Addition to Duncan's North Side Residence Tracts, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Fourteenth Street.

Section 29. That the name of the street heretofore named County Road in Johnston's Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and Johnston's Subdivision, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Emerson Avenue.

Section 30. That the name of the street heretofore named Harrison Avenue, in Johnston's Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and Johnston's Subdivision, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Toluca Avenue.

Section 31. That the street lying to the east of Johnston's Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and Johnston's Subdivision, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, heretofore unnamed, be and hereby is named

Cheyenne Avenue.

Section 32. That the name of the street heretofore named Delaware Street in Johnston's Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and Johnston's Subdivision, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Fourteenth Street.

Section 33. That the name of the street heretofore named Vermont Street in Johnston's Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, and Johnston's Subdivision, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to Fifteenth Street.

Section 34. That the street lying to the north of Johnston's Subdivision, an addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, heretofore unnamed, be and hereby is named Sixteenth Street.

Section 35. That the name of the street heretofore named Harrison Street in Wyoming Avenue Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to First Street.

Section 36. That the name of the street heretofore named Harrison Street in Reddish Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to First Street.

Section 37. That the name of the street heretofore named Harrison Street in Snedeker's Addition to the City of Alliance, Nebraska, be and hereby is changed to First Street.

This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication according to law.

By R. M. HAMPTON, Mayor.

Attest: GRACE H. KENNEDY, City Clerk.

TO ORGANIZE LOCAL COUNCIL FOR BOY SCOUTS

(Continued from Page 1.)

stopped holding meetings a short time after the drive. The scout commissioner handed in his resignation. The scoutmaster in charge of the first troop removed from the city. In the past several months the second troop has been practically disbanded, and all efforts to organize new troops were temporarily abandoned.

Ben W. Keach, the present and sole scoutmaster in the city, who has been in charge of scout activities, and has been doing good work in arousing interest in the organization, made a brief talk, in which he told of the needs of the Scouts. The chief need at the present time, he said, is a permanent quarters. The boys in troop 1 meet once a week for drill and practice, and they have been using the city armory. A good share of the time, he said, they find, when they appear for drill, that the armory has been given to other organizations for other purposes. The last meeting night, he said, the boys were compelled to assemble in the city jail.

The returns from the present survey of boys in the city, being made by the Rotary club, are just beginning to come in. One object of this survey which will include every boy in the city between the ages of ten and eighteen is to show how many of them would like to belong to a scout troop. Mr. Keach stated that it was probable, when the returns are all in, that they will show that at least 400 boys in Alliance are eligible to be scouts or junior associate scouts. Several men are in line for scoutmasters, and some of the older boys in troop 1 will have reached eighteen years within a few months, and will be available for assistant scoutmasters.

The Rotary committee plans to take up with the city manager the matter of securing the use of the armory by the boys on definite nights each week, when dances and other entertainments will not be allowed to play hob with the schedule. If more than two troops are organized, it will probably be necessary to set apart two nights a week for the scouts.

There is also needed some money in order to meet necessary expenses in connection with extending the activities of the organization, but the decision was to leave this up to the scout council, as well as other details of the organizations. Several members of the original council have removed from the city, but a meeting will be called and the council will elect new ones to take their places. The council will then select a scout commissioner, similar in duties to an army major, and then scoutmasters and assistants; will be appointed for the new troops as fast as they are formed.

Several other suggestions for boys' work were made at a recent meeting of the Rotary club, but the organization will not attempt to cover too much territory at one time. When the scout council is again functioning, it is probable that other plans will be taken up and pushed. The club's belief was that the Boy Scout organization was the most important influence in boys' work, and that until it is going and growing, other plans should be temporarily abandoned.

County Court Is Busy for a Day Over Small Sum

County Judge Tash spent several weary hours Thursday in listening to the evidence in the case of the A. H. Jones Co. vs. F. A. Bald. The Jones company sued to recover \$59, of which \$22 covered interest on a note which had been made a book account, and the balance covered repairs to a Reo car, owned by Bald and sold to Henry Rust. The court allowed the first sum as a book account, with interest at 7 per cent instead of 10 per cent, the legal interest rate for promissory notes. The damage to the car covered a broken axle, for which the Jones company, Mr. Bald and Mr. Rust all three sought to avoid cost of repairs. The court held that Mr. Bald was not responsible, and left Rust and the Jones company to make their own agreement. Mr. Bald introduced a counterclaim of \$105 which he claimed due him for commission on a Reo car sold to C. R. Wiese. There was considerable testimony covering this, the court finally deciding that inasmuch as the purchaser was in the city and had not been called as a witness, the claim could not be considered seriously.