

BIRSKY and ZAPP

By MONTAGUE GLASS

"I MET Sam Polongia in the subway this morning," Barnett Zapp, the valet manufacturer, said, as with the aid of his thumb and a quart of gravy which remained from his portion of potatoes and gravy, he demonstrated the capriciousness of a slice of rye bread.

"And how is the herring business?" Louis Birsky the real estate asked. "What do you mean—the herring business?" Zapp demanded. "The herring business is now a side issue for Sam. Him and J. Schlapp of Katzberg & Schlapp in the pants business has formed the Charos Fillum Company and next week they are going to release their first film by the name 'The Fatal Murder.'"

"The way it looks nowadays," Birsky said, "everybody has got two businesses—his regular business and the moving picture business."

"All except the feller in the cheap candy business," Zapp said. "There ain't nothing in the cheap candy business no more. Birsky, on account if a lady gives her six-year-old boy five cents he should buy himself a tuff on a stick, y'understand, he goes right away to a moving picture instead and blows in the nickel to see 'Thou Shalt Not Covet Thy Neighbor's Wife,' a feature film in five reels."

"Not alone cheap candy," Birsky said, "but every business is feeling the effects of the moving picture business—a few businesses favorable, like the delicatessen and luncheon business, which the nearest some married men has got to a home-cooked dinner since the moving pictures started is a half a pound of sliced bolony mit kartoffel salad. Then there is the spectacle business, which while in former times ladies whose husbands made from thirty dollars a week down used to get household's knee from keeping the flat looking as neat as a pin, y'understand, they have now got to be fitted with glasses for eye strain from watching moving pictures every afternoon up to five minutes before six or five minutes before whatever time the husband comes home."

"Well, there's one business moving pictures ain't improved none," Birsky said, "and that's the regular theater business. Even on first nights nowadays the fifty-cent gallery and balcony is empty excepting the ushers and a couple of dozen reporters with false mustaches and smoked glasses which was barred out by the management for claiming that the Follies should ought to be a stag. The theater managers is kicking something terrible about the way the moving pictures is eating into their business, Zapp."

"Sure I know," Zapp said, "and they are their own worst competitors, Birsky. It's like if all the saloonkeepers would become temperance lectures because they seen a chance to make a little money on the side and then complained there was no more profit in the liquor business, y'understand. Every theater manager has got also a chain of moving picture houses. They

"If You See a Man Stand Still on the Sidewalk and Make Marks," are killing the hen that laid the golden egg."

"That's all right, too," Birsky retorted, "but compared with the golden eggs which moving pictures is laying the old-time theater was a rooster, Zapp. And not only is the moving picture feller making big money, but they ain't got to invest no near as much capital as a regular theater manager. Take this here Belasco, for instance, which he specializes on re-elastic shows with telephone switchboards, restaurants and doctors' offices,

Classified. A young woman called at the Boston post office and inquired if there was a letter for her. "Business or love letter?" jokingly inquired the clerk. "Business," was the hesitating reply, accompanied by a deep blush. As there was no such letter to be found, the young lady took her departure. She came back, however, after a little while, and, in faltering tones, "Please, would you mind looking among the love letters?"—Woman's Journal.

Hope for Poor Writers. Motion pictures are being employed for the purpose of making a scientific study of the various movements in writing with a view to ascertaining how poor writers can best be taught to improve. Motion pictures have been taken of children of two groups: Good writers and poor writers. These pictures have been thrown on the screen for the purpose of analyzing the kinds of movements which characterize good as distinguished from poor writers. The investigators are not yet ready to make final deductions as to

and supposing, for instance, he's got a restaurant in it, y'understand, then every night that show plays in New York or Grand Forks or Sandusky or wherever it happens to be, they put on the stage a real restaurant, with coffee machines and gas griddles, and they broil right there in front of the audience every day steaks for ten or fifteen dollars, because Mr. Belasco is very artistic that way. If he puts on a restaurant, it's put on right; it don't make no difference what it costs; but you take a moving picture feller, and if he has got a fillum with a restaurant in it, all he does is to go to a restaurant and ask the feller that runs it he should allow for a five-dollar note the movie actors to carry on there, and pictures is taken of it with a camera. Then when you go to see the fillum, understand me, they flash on the screen:

NEED DISCOVERS HIS SISTER IN A FASHIONABLE BROADWAY RESTAURANT. and afterwards they show the fashionable Broadway restaurant, and on the wall is a sign:

CHILI CON CARNE, 15c That's the difference between Mr. Belasco and moving picture fellers. What do they care about being artistic if it's going to cost an extra ten dollars, Zapp? All they want is to keep the expenses down."

"That's where you make a big mistake," Zapp declared. "Moving picture fellers is eaten up with expenses. For instance, the wages which moving picture fellers pay to their actors is something terrible. Five hundred a week is small already."

"Well, why not?" Birsky retorted. "Look what a moving picture actor is got to do to earn his money. We will say, for example, that he goes to work at nine o'clock. At half past nine he goes up to Central park and falls out of a automobile running thirty miles an hour. The first time he falls out, maybe, the feller that works the camera wasn't looking, so he's got to fall out again. This time somebody moves the camera, so he falls out a third time, and one way or another they keep that actor falling out of an automobile go-



"Maybe the Feller That Works the Camera Wasn't Looking."

ing thirty miles an hour from half past nine to lunch time. Supposing he does get five hundred dollars a week. Is that a life? I ask you."

"Just the same, it's a lot of money to pay," Zapp said, "and furthermore all the moving picture actors gets contracts for a year already."

"But what is such contracts worth?" Birsky asked. "If a moving picture feller wants to get rid of such a contract, all he has got to do is to get the party of the second part to play Ned in a fillum where Ned escapes back from a cliff five hundred feet from the sheriff by leaping on horse-high, y'understand, and the widow can frame the contract and hang it in the front parlor as a souvenir of the two weeks when her husband used to make five hundred dollars a week."

Zapp sighed heavily. "I got a designer which has me under a three years' contract since last Tuesday already," he said, "and if I could hire Maxine Elliott for a model and C. M. Schwab for a salesman, I couldn't get rid of that murderer's designs for the cost of the linings alone. There's big money in it for somebody who could persuade that swindler to play in a fillum where Ned gets locked in a burning ranch by the 'Mexican for a thousand dollars a week. I would pay two weeks' salary out of my own pocket, and if they ain't got a ranch to burn I would even give the moving picture concern a house out in Borough Park which I got vacant on my hands since 1913."

"Maybe you think such a thing ain't possible that a waist designer should get a job as a moving picture actor?" Birsky said. "Believe me, Zapp, the last thing in the world which is necessary in the moving picture business is experience—in particular the actors and the people which writes the scenarios. You remember in the old days, Zapp, that everybody thought he could sell clothing. Well, nowadays every fool thinks he could be a moving picture actor, and most of them are. It's the same way with writing

what the films reveal, but they are of the opinion that differences in rhythm of action and in the co-ordination of certain strokes are among the characteristics which will form a basis for judging good and bad movements. The advantage of the films is that they can be stopped at any point for detailed examination and comparison, of course, they can be repeated any number of times.

Why a Ship Floats. No ship should stay on top of the water unless that part of it beneath the surface displaced as much water as the ship weighed. If the volume of water so displaced was lighter than the ship, the latter would sink. It is a principle of nature that lighter things pass above those of greater weight.

Treatment of House Plants. Earth for window boxes or potted plants should be heated in the oven before using and will save much worry regarding little bugs and worms. Spraying plants with a syringe and a soda of naphtha soap will destroy plant lice and spiders.

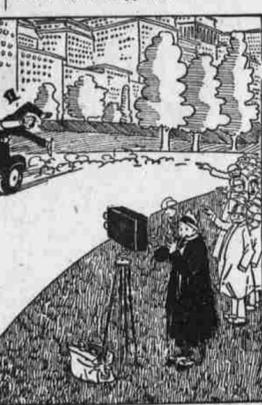
the scenarios. Take any retail dry goods concern today, and everybody from the cash girls to the store superintendent is writing scenarios on the side. Also, Zapp, if you go into a street car and a fellow opposite you is talking to himself, y'understand, you might think he's a lunatic, Zapp, but as a matter of fact he ain't crazy for from three to ten dollars, on account he is dopping out a scenario which he would sell for somewhere around that price to a moving picture concern. Furthermore, if you see a man stand still on the sidewalk and make marks on an old envelope with a pencil, that ain't no sign that he's trying to figure how it could be he is overdrawn at the bank two dollars and forty-five cents. No, Zapp, a feller could make a living nowadays collecting old envelopes and selling 'em to people to make memorandums of scenarios on."

"How do they do it?" Zapp exclaimed. "I could no more write a scenario and get away with it as a check for a million dollars."

"That's because you ain't never tried to write a scenario," Birsky said. "All you've got to do is to take a play like 'Hamlet,' for instance, and you call Hamlet Ned and the king Mexican Louis. Then you dictate the main points to a stenographer and send it to a moving picture concern which was formerly in the plumbing supply business or children's knee pants, and you're bound to get away with it, Zapp, because the only plays them fellers knows anything about is shows they used to take their customers to see, and if you are trying to sell a customer goods, you naturally don't take him to see 'Hamlet.' Am I right or wrong?"

"You don't take him to a moving picture, neither," Zapp said. "I know you don't," Birsky replied. "Asking a customer to go to a moving picture, Zapp, is the equivalent of inviting him to lunch and then blowing him at a drug store to an egg chocolate with malted milk."

"At that, there's lots of people make a luncheon off of chocolate malted milk," Zapp said.



"Maybe the Feller That Works the Camera Wasn't Looking."

"They're welcome, for all of me," Birsky said, "but so long as I've got the price I would stick to soap, meat, dessert and coffee, and I'm the same way about going to show. When I go broke, I'll be a moving picture fan too, Zapp, but as it stands, when I feel like taking in a theater I want to see a show which was written by an author, not a truck driver. Also I like to hear an actor as well as see him, Zapp."

"Me too," Zapp agreed, "and if he's got other talents besides falling out of an automobile going thirty miles an hour, Birsky, so much the better." (Copyright, New York Tribune.)

To Help Rapid Transit.

The blasting off of a 15-foot layer of rock from the top of Coenties reef in East River, New York, just east of the lower end of Manhattan, and, at the same time, the boring of two tunnels under this reef, constitute a dual engineering undertaking now in progress that is calling for unusual precautions and skillful procedure, says Popular Mechanics Magazine. The tunnel will serve as a new rapid-transit link between Manhattan and Brooklyn. The cost of cutting down the reef is being borne by the federal government and New York city. At mean low tide the reef has been 25 feet below the surface, a distance that is not regarded as safe for some heavily laden boats. The new depth of 40 feet will be more sufficient, it is believed. The tunneling, which could not well be delayed until after the channel was deepened, is progressing ahead of and faster than the river-bottom excavating, which is proceeding at right angles to the tunnels.

Two of a Kind. Bachelor (sadly)—"I dreamed last night that I was married. The alarm clock woke me." Benedict (more sadly)—"I dreamed last night that I was single. The twins woke me."—Buffalo News.

He Had Them. There were three brothers at the place where we spent our vacation this year. They were playing with a stout string one day, the two older boys pulling against the youngest boy. They were pulling around a tree stump and didn't see little Bill who put the string in his mouth and held it with his teeth, and naturally but fatally they kept on pulling. In a moment they heard a terrible yell, and ran to find Bill with blood-stained hand and mouth and the news they'd pulled his teeth out.

They all went solemnly to their mother, who pulled little Bill into her arms and wept over him. "Oh, Bill, you've lost your teeth and you'll have to wait until you're a man to have others."

"No, I won't, mamma," Bill said, and stopped crying long enough to unclasp his little blood-spattered fist. "I didn't lose them. Here they are."—Chicago Tribune.

The Chilean government has postponed conversion of its paper currency to gold until January, 1919.

NEWS and GOSSIP of WASHINGTON



People of Washington Advised to Eat Shark

WASHINGTON—The fisheries commission advises the people of Washington to eat shark. This creature of the sea has now been introduced by the government as a new food, and according to reports of officials of the bureau of fisheries who have eaten them, they are very palatable. This is known as the grayfish or dogfish, but better known as the former.

It has been known for some time that the filefish was good for food, but it is only recently that the grayfish has been introduced; and, despite its specie, it has met with popular favor wherever it has been placed on the market.

The government has issued several pamphlets on this subject; giving him to say about them?

"The bureau has been deferring the campaign for marketing the grayfish, pending the effort to obtain back sufficiently large to supply the demand that will be created. While the quantity available this year will not be so large as was originally arranged for, owing to the late date that the packing began, in October, it is expected that the amount will suffice for a demonstration to both the public and the canners that the fish is destined to be an important food product."

Interesting Fossils Found Near Washington

Fossil shells and other fossil remains which abound in the region around Washington and have been found in the District of Columbia are more than mere curios which serve in some vague way to remind men of a past which is vast and remote, so long gone that the human mind has difficulty in gathering or entertaining the conception.

It is in the Arundel formation that some of the rich fossil finds have been made. The outcrops of the Arundel formation within Prince Georges county are confined to its northwestern portion, between Washington and Laurel, but it is believed to underlie the greater portion of the country south and east of the Anacostia river.

Logs of lignite, usually in a horizontal position and greatly compressed, are found imbedded within the formation, and large stumps are discovered standing in the position in which they grew, with the roots and trunks fossilized by iron carbonate and iron sulphide. Seeds of plants are found near some of these beds. In places the clay is charged with lignite, when it is called "charcoal clay" or "charcoal ore," and in this "charcoal clay" fossil bones are found. Hatcher, the paleontologist, exploring near Muirkirk, between Washington and Laurel, found in this formation the remains of dinosaurs.

There have been restored remains of the commonest cretaceous dinosaur of Prince Georges county, the animals being about 20 feet long. The animal remains in the Arundel formation include fossil turtles, crocodiles, dinosaurs, gastropods and many other strange things, but the dinosauria, of which a number of species have been recognized, greatly predominate.

In the National museum, gathered in large cases, are thousands of fossil shells and fossil plants found in many parts of the United States, and scattered through that great collection are perhaps hundreds, certainly scores, of specimens that are valuable to the paleontologist and which were found in the region around Washington. Each is labeled and the Washingtonian is often coming upon a familiar place name which he never thought was of any scientific interest.

Uncle Sam Propagating Dread Disease Germs

DO YOU know that the government is carefully propagating the organisms that produce in the human system the most deadly and widespread diseases? Perhaps you don't—but there is no cause for alarm. On the contrary, a visit to a germ-incubating establishment will convince any person of the efforts being made by scientists to combat the disease pests of humanity.

It is a somewhat impressive and not at all comfortable thought, on entering the room wherein the germ ovens, or incubators, as they are called, are kept, that there are greater possibilities for destroying human life here than if the apartment was filled with dynamite. In the neat polished copper receptacles are stored minute enemies of health—so minute that billions of them are contained in a vial a quarter of an eighth full of colored liquid.

The doctor who shows you through the establishment handles the vials of death with as much nonchalance as though they contained merely colored water. He explains that there are only two bottled diseases in the handling of which the most extreme care and precaution must be exercised. They are bubonic plague and glanders, the former of which is so elusive when once started in a single individual that the result of a careless handling might mean a local or even a national calamity, while the latter, if not so contagious, would mean certain death by a very loathsome process.

Among the diseases here bottled up are Asiatic cholera, the widespread sleeping sickness of Africa, tuberculosis, diphtheria, typhoid fever—indeed, practically all the maladies that are caused by the machinations of the tiny and mysterious creatures known as bacteria.

Mexican Girl Licensed as Wireless Operator

MISS MARIA DOLORES ESTRADA, a Mexican girl, who has been residing in Washington for nearly a year, has been granted the first wireless operator's license of the first grade ever granted to a woman in this country. Miss Estrada is an expert telegrapher and "did her bit" in the Mexican revolution as a telegraph operator. She saw many hardships in connection with the revolution, at one time being imprisoned for 25 days without anything to eat but moldewed bread.

She served on the official staff of General Carranza and at one time was nearly captured by Villa, who had heard of her and wished to have her with him. When Villa invaded the Mexican capital, after his break with Carranza, he searched for Miss Estrada, but could not find her hiding place, which was in a cellar in Chepultepec. It was on the suggestion of Carranza that Miss Estrada came to this country, in order to learn English. She decided, however, that she might also learn wireless telegraphy at the same time, and, therefore, has studied it during her stay here.

She is living with Mrs. S. T. Macauley at the Alabama apartments, but expects to return to Mexico, where her mother now is residing.

Miss Estrada suffered imprisonment when she was captured by the followers of Huerta, and was threatened with death. While in prison, however, forces opposing Huerta came upon the town, Mazapil, in the state of Zacatecas, and after a battle which Miss Estrada witnessed from a window in her cell, defeated the Huerta forces and subsequently rescued Miss Estrada.

INTERESTING ITEMS

Artificial flowers can be restored by being held in steam. Brazil supplies coffee enough to make 119,000,000,000 cups of coffee a day.

The letters E. P. N. S. on silver-plated teaspoons mean "electro-plate on nickel silver."

Both the stepped legs and the bracing legs of an Oregon inventor's step-ladder telescope so that it will stand evenly on uneven surfaces.

CANADA AGAIN A PRIZE WINNER

Highest Premiums Awarded at Many Exhibitions.

The Fall fair season is past and a retrospect of them shows that Western Canada is stronger than ever in the matter of exhibits, and has taken more than her usual share of the prize money. From Western Canada to Texas is a long look, from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba to the southwestern corner of Texas is several days' journey, but the enterprising farmers from this new country to the northwest were wide awake to the possibilities that waited them at the International Dry Farming Congress held at El Paso, Texas, a few weeks ago, to bring to the attention of those in that far-off corner what the land of Western Canada could do in the production of grains and roots from its soil. And what did these farmers do? The first thing was to carry off the first prize and sweepstakes for wheat. That was a foregone conclusion, for it has now become an established fact that nowhere else in the world is there grown wheat of the high character and market value of Western Canadian wheat. The same may be said of oats, of barley and of rye. But when it came to notice that Western Canada took first prize for alfalfa, it was then that more special attention was given to the products from Western Canada. It showed that in that country there lies the opportunity for supplementing the wonderful native grasses, so full of nutrition that with the tamed varieties, among them being alfalfa, the cattle with no other food were fattened and fitted for the shambles. Western Canada's worth was proved as probably the greatest mixed farming portion of the continent. When the steers from the Western Canadian prairies reach the Chicago stockyards they bring the top price and outweigh those from other places where grass fattening is the process. But it was not only in grains that Western Canada carried off the highest honors at the El Paso exhibition. Potatoes, parsnips, beets, carrots and rutabagas also took the highest honors. In root production this country is becoming favorably known.

The question often arises as to markets. There is always the highest price awaiting the producer, and as soon as the Hudson Bay Railway, now about completed, reaches the Bay, there will be an additional outlet for the product of the farm. The Pacific coast route, via the Panama canal, will give another outlet of which full advantage may be taken. With virgin land selling at from \$15 to \$20 per acre, and improved farms at reasonable prices and on easy terms, there is no better opportunity for the man with limited means and a desire to secure a home at the least cost in a country where he can soon become wealthy, as thousands of others have done, than in Western Canada. To the man with less means and who is prepared to accept a farm of 100 acres free, the Dominion Government offers him his choice in districts that have land of the highest type, but at present being from ten to twenty miles from a railway.

The Peace River country, now being opened for settlement and reached by railway affords excellent opportunity to the homesteader. To secure information as to Western Canadian lands write the Canadian Government agent, whose name appears elsewhere in this paper.—Advertisement.

Why Wood Rots.

Many plans have been devised to keep wood from rotting, and the best means has been found to be the use of some solution on the wood to be protected that worms and microbes can not digest. These pests attack wood by the millions and soon eat away so much of the substance that the log or timber is "rotten" and falling to pieces. Creosote is a common preventive, and salt water also tends to ward off the insect army.

Russia is the only country in which the production of flax fiber has increased consistently in recent years.

High Cost of Living

This is a serious matter with housekeepers as food prices are constantly going up. To overcome this, cut out the high priced meat dishes and serve your family more Skinner's Macaroni and Spaghetti, the cheapest, most delicious and most nutritious of all foods. Write the Skinner Mfg. Co., Omaha, Neb., for beautiful cook book, telling how to prepare it in a hundred different ways. It's free to every woman.—Adv.

Glad Tidings. How dear to my heart is the old yellow pumpkin, when orchards are barren of stuffing for pies; when peaches and apples have long been a failure, and berries no longer dazzle my eyes. Then fondly I turn to the fruit of the cornfield—the fruit country lads are taught to despise—the old yellow pumpkin, the mud-covered pumpkin, the pot-bellied pumpkin, that makes such good pies.

Mme. Zira, the fortune teller, must have had some good news for you.

"Correct," answered the man who issued from the mystic portals with a broad smile on his face. "I own this shebang, and business is so good she has leased it from me for another six months, rent paid in advance."

Trifle Slow. "Does your husband never offer to help you with the dishes?" "Frequently, about the time I am ready to hang up the dishpan."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Whenever You Need a General Tonic Take Grove's

The Old Standard Grove's Tasteless Chilli Tonic is equally valuable as a General Tonic because it contains the well known tonic properties of QUININE and IRON. It acts on the Liver, Drives out Malaria, Enriches the Blood and Builds up the Whole System. 50 cents.

Fore sight. "Father, what is foresight?" "Foresight, my son, consists of retreating what you do before you do it."

Blank Copy of Wrapper.

Advertisement for Castoria medicine, showing a bottle and text: "Net Contents 15 Fluid Drachms 900 DROPS CASTORIA For Infants and Children. Mothers Know That Genuine Castoria Always Bears the Signature of J. C. Ayer & Co. In Use For Over Thirty Years CASTORIA"



Boschee's German Syrup

For 31 years has been the quickest, safest, and best remedy for coughs, colds, bronchitis and sore throat. It acts like magic soothing and healing the lungs, the very first organs to get out of order when one catches cold. 25c and 75c. sizes at all Druggists and Dealers. Keep a bottle always handy

THICK, SWOLLEN GLANDS

that make a horse Wheeze, Roar, have Thick Wind or Choke-down, can be reduced with

ABSORBINE

also other Bunches or Swellings. No blister, no hair gone, and horse kept at work. Economical—only a few drops required at an application. \$2 per bottle delivered. Box 3 M. B. ABSORBINE, JR., the antiseptic liniment for mankind, reduces Cysts, Wens, Painful, Swollen Veins and Ulcers, \$1 and \$2 bottles at dealers or delivered. Box "Evidence" from W.F. YOUNG, P. O. F., 310 Temple St., Springfield, Mass.

Erker's

608 OLIVE ST., ST. LOUIS. Established 1876. We can duplicate your broken from glass pieces. No re-examination necessary. PRICES REASONABLE

The Old Yellow Pumpkin. How dear to my heart is the old yellow pumpkin, when orchards are barren of stuffing for pies; when peaches and apples have long been a failure, and berries no longer dazzle my eyes. Then fondly I turn to the fruit of the cornfield—the fruit country lads are taught to despise—the old yellow pumpkin, the mud-covered pumpkin, the pot-bellied pumpkin, that makes such good pies.

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