

On the Ground Floor

By DONALD ALLEN

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There wasn't exactly a financial panic in the village of Mount Airy, but it amounted to a strong ripple. It wasn't because the blacksmith had failed or the cooper had decided to remove. The milldam hadn't broken nor the grocer run out of kerosene.

It was simply on account of an old maid, and the name of that old maid was Sarah Ann Lee.

Miss Lee was known to be fairly well-off. She was known to be rather stingy. She was known to be so cute that no tin peddler had ever succeeded in cheating her. It was known that she knew a thing or two about finance, and that Wall Street had held out scores of alluresments to her in vain. While all the rest of Mount Airy had been trying to solve magazine puzzles where premiums of \$5 were offered, Miss Sarah Ann Lee had held aloof in contempt.

But now Miss Lee had received a circular by mail. It was typewritten and confidential. It was not written from an office on Wall Street, but from one on Beaver street. Wall Street signified trickery; Beaver street signified industry. Was it not named after an animal that worked hard and gave everybody a square deal; thus, Miss Lee reasoned.

The Idaho Square Deal Silver Mining company had been formed and stock issued. The Square Deal was not an experiment. That is, it was not necessary to go looking over the big west asking where it was, and as for being a silver mine instead of coal, all a man had to do was to pick up the solid chunks lying around the mouth of it. It hadn't been discovered by an Indian squaw while hunting for her lost papoose, but had been bought outright from a man who had dug out all the silver he wanted and was now willing to give some one else an opportunity.

Engineers, experts, butchers, umbrella menders and popcorn mer-

chant were of the Square Deal came down to that day and hour and minute.

Sarah Ann Lee and her friends were to be let in on the ground floor for old times' sake. They were to be given stock at ten cents on the dollar, and in a year that same stock would be hard to find at \$1.20. Only a limited quantity was obtainable, however—just a few of her best and dearest friends. Before she left Beaver street she was presented with several specimens of ore from the Square Deal, and she went home perfectly satisfied in her own mind that there were a few honest men left in this world.

Miss Lee was not a selfish woman. She was willing that others should share in her good luck. She visited this one and that one, and told all about it. They had to believe the circular when she told of her trip to town and showed the specimens. There were people in Mt. Airy who had money in the bank—money in stockings, money in old tomato cans—money in their hind pockets. It wouldn't have come out to save the country, but it did come out to invest in Square Deal silver stock. Some families mortgaged their only cow, after investing what they had on hand, and others parted with hens and roosters which had grown old and gray in their service.

The ripple hit the school teacher, the doctor, the minister and the merchant. That "ground floor" was loaded with money for them. In one week Miss Lee disposed of \$50,000 worth of stock and carried \$5,000 in cash up to Beaver street. Then she purchased \$25,000 worth for herself and went home a smiling woman.

For the next three months she was the toast of the town. She owned the place. Not a single soul spoke of her as an old maid and wondered if her temper had prevented her from getting married. There were three months of figuring on new houses, new furniture and trips to Europe when the dividends began to come in. A hushed expectancy hung over the town. Every investor in the Square Deal expected to get a check from Beaver street any minute.

And then those busybody newspapers and the paternal postoffice department had to spoil it all. The papers proclaimed the Square Deal a swindle, and the postal authorities took up the mail. It was acknowledged that he had paid \$50,000 for the mine and had been swindled, but that didn't relieve him of the offense of swindling others. He had fed with what money he had collected and his victims deserved no sympathy.

The next ripple in Mount Airy was a lively ripple! It rippled down the street to Miss Sarah Ann Lee's house. It washed over her fence and up to her doorstep. Had she been a man she would have been dragged forth and the tar applied, but as she was not she was simply denounced as a cheat, a fraud, a swindler and several other things. She had a hard time of it for the next week. Then she called a public meeting and explained all about things as well as she was able. This wasn't enough, and she knew it wasn't, and so she added that she proposed to go to Idaho, visit the mine, and see what could be done to save the money of her friends.

This announcement brought forth cheers, and when Miss Lee finally took the train the town was at the depot to see her off. It makes a lot of difference whether people are going to lose \$10 or win a thousand. Three weeks later there came a letter—several letters—a letter for every one in Mount Airy who had invested. There was a check in each letter, of the value of the investment. Then there was a general letter from Miss Lee to be read to all. She had reached Idaho. She had reached the mine. Nothing had been heard of the whereabouts of the Square Deal of Beaver street, but she had met the man who sold him the mine and swindled him.

They had fallen in love. They were to be married shortly. A man had swindled Square Deal, Square Deal had swindled others. She was to marry the swindler of a swindler to keep others from being swindled, "and please find check inclosed."

And Mount Airy was saved and an old maid had got a husband.

His Comment.

The Official Investigator—No, there's no doubt about it. The honorable gentleman is entirely innocent of this nefarious bribery charge.

The Bystander—But there are nine persons who swear they were paid to vote for him.

"Infamous traitors!"

Past and Present.

"I am as angry as Tom Jinx as I can be!"
"I thought you had forgiven his past?"
"So I had, but I have just been down to the store pricing his present."

Irish Wit.

"Och, sorr?"
"No, I am able to walk."
"Wel, sorr, may yez long be able, but seldom willis."

EXONERATE OIL CO.

PUBLISHER OF HAMPTON'S MAGAZINE RETRACTS ACCUSATION AGAINST STANDARD.

ARTICLE CAUSED LIBEL SUIT

Hampton's and Moffett Declare Upon Investigation Oil Company Is Not Connected With Sale of Impure Candies.

New York.—In the matter of the libel suits brought by the Standard Oil Company for \$250,000 damages against Hampton's Magazine and for \$100,000 damages against Cleveland Moffett, the former the publisher, and the latter the writer, of an article in the February issue of the magazine which defamed the company in connection with the sale of glucose and candy in Philadelphia, the following retractions have been signed in the office of Shearman & Sterling, the Standard Oil company's lawyers in the case, and have been issued from the company's offices at No. 26 Broadway:

"Hampton's Magazine, 66 West Thirty-fifth St., New York,
Jan. 31, 1911.

"Standard Oil Company, 26 Broadway, New York.

"Dear Sirs: In the February issue of Hampton's Magazine there was published an article written by me, entitled, 'Cassidy and the Food Poisoner.' In that article I referred to the investigation of Mr. Cassidy, with respect to the manufacture and sale of impure candies in Philadelphia, and made the statement that your company manufactured and sold impure material which went into these candies and that, when the various dealers were arrested and fined, at the instance of Mr. Cassidy, your company paid the fines.

"Upon investigation I have ascertained that your company was in no way concerned with the transactions referred to and I hasten to retract in the fullest manner all charges made against your company and to express my sincere regret that I should have fallen into this serious error. Yours truly, Cleveland Moffett."

Jan. 31, 1911.

"Standard Oil Company, New York City.

"Dear Sirs: Referring to foregoing letter of Mr. Cleveland Moffett to you, we beg to state that we are convinced that Mr. Moffett was in error in his statements with reference to your company. We greatly regret that these errors should have been made. It is the desire of Hampton's Magazine to be accurate and fair in all things. In our March number we will publish this letter and the foregoing letter of Mr. Moffett. Yours truly, Benj. B. Hampton, President, Broadway Magazine, Inc."

MUST TELL GRAFT STORY

Danville Judge Orders Prosecutor to Answer All Questions Put by Jury in Bribe Quiz.

Danville, Ill.—Judge Kimbrough in the circuit court handed down a decision in the case of City Attorney Jones, who declined to answer certain questions regarding vote selling and buying which the grand jury put to him.

The court instructed Jones to answer all questions. The opinion stated that, according to a decision of the Supreme court of the United States, a witness before the grand jury is immune from indictment. The court also held that the city election law is unconstitutional, which means that Jones cannot be questioned about happenings more than eighteen months ago.

This means that the investigation will continue until all the witnesses now summoned are examined. It is said that many indictments have been voted, but whether they are for vote selling is not known.

VOLCANO'S TOLL IS 700

Five Thousand Families in Philippines Have Been Wholly Ruined By Disaster.

Washington.—The eruption of Taal volcano and the accompanying disturbances in the Philippines killed 700 people in the town of Talisay, according to the report of the governor of Batangas province, which was cabled to the war department by Governor General Forbes of the Philippine islands.

The earthquake shocks continue, the governor general added. Five thousand families have been ruined by the disaster.

The Philippine authorities are face to face with the absolute necessity of adopting relief measures in order to avoid suffering, as the falling mud and lava destroyed the crops within a considerable radius of the volcano.

DECIES HONEYMOON IN EGYPT

Vivien Gould, After Wedding to English Lord, Will Take Trip to Africa.

New York.—It is announced that Lord and Lady Decies, the latter now Miss Vivien Gould, who are to be married February 7, will spend their honeymoon in Egypt. They will leave America February 18 by the Cunard liner Carmania. In Egypt they will spend a few days in Cairo and then visit notable points in upper Egypt.

TO RENEW FURNITURE

PIANO FINISH IS GIVEN BY MANY COATS OF VARNISH.

Much Scraping and Sandpapering Necessary in This Method—Cracks and Holes Must Be Filled With Putty.

There are various ways of renovating furniture. The best consists in the application of successive coats of varnish, each sandpapered and rubbed to what is known as a "piano finish." This method is the finish you will find on almost all the old mahogany of our grandfathers' days. The first thing, then, is to get off the dust and dirt, and to remove every particle of the old cracked and blackened varnish from the piece of furniture you wish to renovate. To do this you will need a cabinet scraper. These scrapers come in various shapes and sizes, and are made to fit the different angles and curves of the wood to be scraped. They may be bought for ten or fifteen cents. The edges are drawn filed and ready for use. If the edge is rounded the scraper will do no work. If rough or nicked the wood will be scratched and perhaps ruined. With a good scraper you will be surprised and charmed to see how quickly and nicely you can get down to the bare wood.

If there is deep carving on the piece of furniture the operation must be varied. Take wood alcohol, and with a brush or cloth apply to every nook and crevice. Let it stand for a little while and then wipe it off and scrape the wood clean as before directed. The wood alcohol will soften the varnish, so that it may be easily removed. Care must be taken not to allow the varnish to turn white. Should it do so apply more of the alcohol and wipe dry at once. If the alcohol once reaches the wood it will turn it white, provided it is mahogany, which is the only wood on which alcohol has this effect. It merely bleaches other woods.

The wood being cleaned the surface must be made absolutely smooth. For this use double sandpaper. Smooth down all the rough spots, and fill all the cracks and holes with putty, which must be allowed to harden, when it may be stained to match the color of the wood. If the placing of the putty is carefully done even a large crack or a broken piece of veneer may be so hidden that it cannot be seen when the work is finished.

The wood will then be ready for the varnish. The average amateur cannot understand that the art of varnishing differs very materially from painting. Paint is better for rubbing in with the brush, but varnish, because of the rapidity in drying, must be fowed on to the work. The work must always lay flat and remain so until the varnish has set. A varnish brush is flat and fairly stiff and fine. Put plenty of varnish on the wood, avoiding too much rubbing with the brush. It will settle into a glazed surface if you have fowed it on evenly.

As to the varnish itself, buy the best that can be had. "Finishing varnish" of a good quality is what you want. Before applying it, however, you will find that time and expense will be saved by putting on two coats of fine white shellac, allowing each coat to dry thoroughly for at least twenty-four hours. If shellac is used only two coats of varnish will be necessary.

Paprika Chicken.

Select a tender young chicken, and, after it has been cut into joints, rub the flesh with salt and powder it with paprika. When thus prepared, put the chicken into a sauce pan with a can of tomatoes and cook them together, without adding a drop of water, until the chicken is done. At this point, arrange the chicken on a hot platter, add a cupful of cream to the tomato, season to taste with paprika, add a little salt, if necessary, and pour this rich sauce over the chicken just before it is served. Although this is an extremely simple dish, it would be difficult to conceive of a more delectable method of serving chicken.

Ginger Bread.

One cupful of molasses, one cupful of sugar, two eggs, one cupful of buttermilk, one cupful of butter, four cupfuls of flour, one teaspoonful of soda, one tablespoonful of ginger, one tablespoonful of grated nutmeg, and one teaspoonful of salt.

Beat the butter and sugar to a cream, and the eggs, well beaten, then the molasses, the soda, dissolved in the buttermilk, the salt, flour and spices.

Mix well and put into a buttered and floured cake tin. Bake in a moderate oven till ready. Cut in squares and serve with cheese.

Hot Biscuits.

Two cupfuls of flour, one tablespoonful of butter, one tablespoonful of lard, four teaspoonfuls of baking powder, one teaspoonful of salt, one cupful of milk.

Sift the flour into a basin, rub the shortening finely into it, add the baking powder and salt, then add the milk gradually. Turn out on to a floured board; toss with a knife until the whole surface is floured; put lightly with a rolling pin until one-half inch thick. Cut in rounds and bake immediately on buttered tins in a quick oven, about twelve minutes.

EXCELLENT GRAIN FIELDS IN WESTERN CANADA

YIELDS OF WHEAT AS HIGH AS 54 BUSHELS PER ACRE.

Now that we have entered upon the making of a new year, it is natural to look back over the past one, for the purpose of ascertaining what has been done. The business man and the farmer have taken stock, and both, if they are keen in business detail and interest, know exactly their financial position. The farmer of Western Canada is generally a business man, and in his stock-taking he will have found that he has had a successful year. On looking over a number of reports sent from various quarters, the writer finds that in spite of the visitation of drouth in a small portion of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, many farmers are able to report splendid crops. And these reports come from different sections, covering an area of about 25,000 square miles. As, for instance, at Laird, Saskatchewan, the crop returns showed that J. B. Peters had 12,800 bushels from 320 acres, or nearly 40 bushels to the acre. In the Blaine Lake district the fields ranged from 15 to 50 bushels per acre, Ben Crews having 1,150 bushels from 24 acres; Edmond Trotter 1,200 bushels off 30 acres, while fields of 30 bushels were common. On poorly cultivated fields but 15 bushels were reported.

In Foam Lake (Sask.) district 100 bushels of oats to the acre were secured by Angus Robertson, D. McRae and C. H. Hart, while the average was 85. In wheat 30 bushels to the acre were quite common on the newer land, but off 15 acres of land cultivated for the past three years George E. Wood secured 45 bushels. Mr. James Trautner, near Regina (Sask.) is still on the shady side of thirty. He had 50,000 bushels of grain last year, half of which was wheat. Its market value was \$25,000. He says he is well satisfied.

Arthur Somers of Strathclair threshed 100 acres, averaging 25 bushels to the acre. Thomas Foreman, of Milestone, threshed 11,000 bushels of wheat, and 3,000 bushels of flax off 600 acres of land. W. Weatherstone, of Strathclair, threshed 5,000 bushels of oats from 96 acres. John Gonzilla, of Gillies, about twenty-five miles west of Rosthern, Sask., had 180 bushels from 3 acres of wheat. Mr. Gonzilla's general average of crop was over 40 bushels to the acre. Ben Cruise, a neighbor, averaged 45 bushels to the acre from 23 acres. W. A. Rose, of the Walderheim district, threshed 6,000 bushels of wheat from 240 acres, an average of 25 bushels, 100 acres was on summer fallow and averaged 33 bushels. He had also an average of 60 bushels of oats to the acre on a 50-acre field. Wm. Lehman, who has a farm close to Rosthern, had an average of 27 bushels to the acre on 60 acres of summer fallow. Mr. Midsky, of Rapid City (Man.) threshed 1,000 bushels of oats from 7 acres.

The yield of the different varieties of wheat per acre at the Experimental Farm, Brandon, was: Red Fife, 38 bushels; White Fife, 34 bushels; Preston, 22 bushels; early Red Fife, 27 bushels.

The crops at the C. P. R. demonstration farms at Strathmore (Alberta) proved up to expectations, the Swedish variety oats yielding 110 bushels to the acre. At the farm two rowed barley went 48½ bushels to the acre. Yields of from 50 bushels to 100 bushels of oats to the acre were quite common in the Sturgeon River Settlement near Edmonton (Alberta). But last year was uncommonly good and the hundred mark was passed. Wm. Craig had a yield of oats from a measured plot, which gave 107 bushels and 20 lbs. per acre.

Albert Teskey, of Olds (Alberta) threshed a 100-acre field which yielded 101 bushels of oats per acre, and Joseph McCartney had a large field equally good. At Cupar (Sask.) oats threshed 80 bushels to the acre. On the Traquair farm at Cupar, a five-acre plot of Marquis wheat yielded 54 bushels to the acre, while Laurence Barknel had 37 bushels of Red Fife to the acre. At Wordsworth, Reeder Bros' wheat averaged 33½ bushels to the acre, and W. McMillan's 32. William Kraft of Altz (Alberta) threshed 1,042 bushels of winter wheat off 19½ acres, or about 53 bushels to the acre. John Laycroft of Dinton, near High River, Alberta, had over 1,100 bushels of spring wheat from 50 acres.

E. F. Knipe, near Lloydminster, Saskatchewan, had 800 bushels of wheat from 20 acres. W. Metcalf had over 31 bushels to the acre, while S. Henderson, who was hailed badly, had an average return of 22 bushels of wheat to the acre.

McWhirter Bros. and John McBain, of Redvers, Saskatchewan, had 25 bushels of wheat to the acre. John Kennedy, east of the Horse Mills district near Edmonton, from 40 acres of spring wheat got 1,767 bushels, or 44 bushels to the acre.

J. E. Vanderburgh, near Dayslow, Alberta, threshed four thousand bushels of wheat from 120 acres. Mr. D'Arcy, near there, threshed ten thousand and fifty-eight bushels (machine measure) of wheat from five hundred acres, and out of this only sixty acres was new land.

At Fleming, Sask., a Winter's wheat averaged 39 bushels to the acre and several others report heavy yields. Mr. Winter's crop was not on summer fallow, but on a piece of land broken in 1882 and said to be the first broken in the Fleming district.

The agent of the Canadian govern-

ment will be pleased to give information regarding the various districts in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, where free homesteads of 160 acres are available.

UNKIND.



Wife—I smell something like leather burning! Is it that cigar?
Hubby—No; but I wouldn't wonder if it's the crust of that pie you just put into the oven.

FRENCH BEAN COFFEE, A HEALTHFUL DRINK

The healthiest ever; you can grow it in your own garden on a small patch 10 by 10, producing 50 pounds or more. Ripens in Wisconsin 90 days. Used in great quantities in France, Germany and all over Europe. Send 15 cents in stamps and we will mail you a package giving full culture directions as also our mammoth seed catalog free, or send 31 cents and get in addition to above 10,000 kernels unpassable vegetable and flower seeds—enough for bushels of vegetables and flowers. John A. Salzer Seed Co., 182 S. 8th St., La Crosse, Wis.

Lucidly Expressed.

An old Pennsylvania German living in the mountains had a hard three hours' dusty walk to accomplish one morning and he rose very early to make his start. He had gone but a little way when he was overtaken by an automobile, which was probably the first that had passed along that way. The driver picked up the old man and they were at his destination in about 20 minutes.

"Danks so much awfully mit de ride. If I had known myself to be here already two hours in front of de clock yet I vud be at home fast asleep already to start unless I knew you vud not have picked me up since."

A Hint.

Teacher—I have been trying for some time to get the room so quiet that we could hear a pin drop. I have dropped the pin several times but you have been making so much noise that it has been impossible to hear it. What do you think we had better do, children?"

Reddy Backrow—Tie a dumb-bell to it next time, teacher.

Important to Mothers

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it bears the Signature of *Wm. D. Mitchell* In Use For Over 30 Years. The Kind You Have Always Bought.

Raising the Temperature.

Frank had been sent to the hardware store for a thermometer.

"Did mother say what size?" asked the clerk.

"Oh," answered Frank, "gimme the biggest one you've got. It's to warm my bedroom with."—Success Magazine.

His Opinion.

Nephew—What do you think of the opera?

Uncle Josh—Them women in th' boxes ought to be able to raise enough money on their diamonds to buy some clothes with, by jinks!

BEAUTIFUL POST CARDS FREE.

Send 2c stamp for five samples of our very best Gold Embossed, Good Luck, Flower and Motto Post Cards; beautiful colors and loveliest designs. Art Post Card Club, 731 Jackson St., Topeka, Kan.

When the millennium comes there will be schools to which janitors and railway porters will be sent to learn something about ventilation.

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets cure constipation. Constipation is the cause of many diseases. Cure the cause and you cure the disease. Easy to take.

Men are known by the good they do rather than the goods they have.

Even a stingy man loosens up when asked for advice.

TO CURB A COLD IN ONE DAY
Take LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE Tablets. Druggists refund money if it fails to cure. E. W. GROVE'S signature is on each box, 25c.

There is a lot of difference between making good and making others good.

Many who used to smoke 10c cigars now buy Lextra's Single Binder straight 5c.

A dead heart enjoys being a lively conscience—on others' affairs.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Cures all humors, catarrh and rheumatism, relieves that tired feeling, restores the appetite, cures paleness, nervousness, builds up the whole system. Get it today in usual liquid form or chocolate tablets called Sarsatabs.