

## "A Little Nonsense Now and Then"

He—Do you remember Horatius at the bridge?  
She—I don't think I ever met him. You know, we invite so few men to our card parties.—Stray Stories.

A street car with the front sign reading "Dorchester" and the side signs "Ashmont and Milton"—a motorman of Hibernian extraction and a nervous woman.

The dialogue: "Does this car go to Dorchester?"  
"Yes, leddy; get right on."  
"Are you sure it does?"  
"Yes, leddy; get right on."  
"But it says, 'Ashmont and Milton's' on the side."  
"We ain't goin' sideways, leddy; get right on."

Not long ago the editor of an English paper ordered a story of certain length, but when the story arrived he discovered that the author had written several hundred words too many.

The paper was already late in going to press, so there was no alternative—the story must be condensed to fit the allotted space. Therefore the last few paragraphs were cut down to a single sentence. It read thus:

"The Earl took a Scotch high-ball, his hat, his departure, no notice of his pursuers, a revolver out of his hip-pocket, and, finally, his life."—Every-body's.

An Irishman was suddenly struck by a golf ball. "Are you hurt?" asked the player. "Why didn't you get out of the way?"

"An' why should I get out of the way?" asked Pat. "I didn't know there was any assassins around here."

"But I called 'fore,'" said the player, "and, when I say 'fore,' that is a sign for you to get out of the way."

"Oh, it is, is it?" said Pat. "Well, thin, when I say 'foive,' it is a sign that you are going to get hit on the nose. 'Foive'."—New York World.

The hostess summoned one of her guests to the lawn to try his luck with the new moon, and said: "You must hold this silver dollar in your left hand, look at the new moon over your right shoulder, make a wish, and it will come true."

The thing was very quickly done, and they rejoined the party. Later the hostess asked if the wish had been made, and, upon being informed that it had, she remarked:

"Where is my silver dollar?"  
"Oh!" replied the guest. "I wished that I might keep the silver dollar, and it came true."—Harper's.

"Yes," said Mr. Meekton, of the Washington Star. "I'll go shopping with you and carry the bundles. Put, Henrietta I shall insist on one thing." "What do you mean?" "When you leave me waiting for you for an hour or so on the corner in front of a department store you must take the trouble to explain to the policeman who I am."

Young Man: "So Miss Ethel is your eldest sister. Who comes after her?"

Small Brother: "Nobody ain't come yet, but Pa says the first fellow that comes can have her.—Stray Stories.

An old farmer was driving along a lane near a golf-course and stopped for a moment to watch the game.

"What's that?" he demanded curiously.

"Golf," was the reply. "Want to try your hand, uncle?"

"Don't mind if I do," declared the farmer, wrapping the lines around the dashboard and climbing down.

The caddy gave him a few points about hazards and bogeys and finally one pointed to a flag on a hill 50 yards away. "At the foot of that pole," he said, "you must hole. The object is to put this ball in the hole with the smallest number of strokes."

The farmer took the club, sighted for some time, and then he swung a whale of a stroke. The ball soared high into the air, and fled unerringly toward the hole. It fell short, bounced, rolled, and came to rest a few feet from the objective—a hole. "That made the experienced players miss it," the farmer exclaimed.

## THE COST OF LIVING AND INSURANCE.

Every day we see items in the daily newspapers dilating on the increasing cost of practically all commodities, and almost daily we read of wages being increased, or of demands being made and strikes threatened, if they are not increased, usually to a maximum of about 25 per cent. In the October issue of "Field Notes," the official paper of the Northwestern Mutual Life of Milwaukee, Wis., there is presented a graphic illustration of commodity prices for a twenty-five year period \$11.50 now is worth about as much as \$9.75 was worth last year, or as \$8.75 was worth two years ago. \$11.50 now is worth not a cent more than was \$5.75 back in 1896 or just twenty years ago. It stands to reason, therefore, that a man who sought to protect his family twenty years ago by \$20,000 life insurance, now needs in excess of \$40,000 or twice what was then sufficient. The man who sought to protect his family with \$20,000 life insurance two years ago, now requires an additional \$10,000 to keep his insurance protection on the basis he originally intended. The same percentage maintains all along the line, whether your patron is the holder of a \$1,000 policy or of one for \$100,000. As "Field Notes" remarks, "There is no excuse for failure to write a large volume of business during the remainder of the year, for the people have the money to pay for insurance and the rising prices offer the best possible reason for men who are now insured to increase their lines." And it might be remarked in passing, life insurance costs, not more, but actually less, than it ever did in the past. In this respect, it stands practically alone.—Insurance World.

## DECEMBER FIRE LOSSES.

The losses by fire in Canada and the United States for December amounted to \$231,442,995 as compared with \$182,836,200 in 1915. The losses in both countries for the past forty years aggregate \$6,281,260,220. The December losses by fire in Canada include that at Peterboro, Ont., which caused a loss of \$1,500,000; a tannery at Quebec, loss \$35,000; a business block at Ottawa, loss \$100,000; in Montreal, a garage and other smaller fires, loss \$35,000; at Summerside, P.E.I., two business sections, \$112,000; at Campbellford, Ont., bridge works plant, \$60,000; Barrie, Ont., a college building, \$100,000; at Toronto, car barns and repair shops, \$500,000; and Farnham, Que., asylum buildings, \$250,000.

## PROMOTIONS IN MANUFACTURERS' LIFE.

Mr. J. B. McKechnie, General Manager of the Manufacturers' Life Insurance Company, announces that the directors have made the following official appointments: Mr. L. A. Winter to be Treasurer, Mr. A. J. Prest to be Secretary, and Mr. E. S. Macfarlane to be Assistant Secretary. All three have been for many years in the service of the company, the new Treasurer for twenty-four years, the Secretary fifteen years, and the Assistant Secretary, thirteen years.

## A RECORD INSURANCE POLICY.

All insurance records were broken in contract written by Equitable Life Assurance Society of New York, with Union Pacific Railroad involving over \$30,000,000 on the group plan, under which is provided insurance equivalent to one year's salary, not to exceed \$2,500, on each employee. Equitable also wrote \$7,000,000 insurance on Montgomery Ward employees, and on Studebaker Corporation's 10,000 employees and 18,000 of B. F. Goodrich Co.

## DID A DAY'S WORK.

The solicitor who sold a \$30,000,000 policy to the Union Pacific Railroad covering most of the 40,000 employees felt he had done enough for the day and went home directly after lunch.

## TORONTO'S ASSESSMENTS.

According to the annual report of Assessment Commissioner Foreman, the total value of assessable property in Toronto upon which the taxes will be paid has increased \$6,187,732. For 1915 the total assessment was \$592,123,873, while for 1916 it was \$598,311,605.

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