

SEEK STAGE FAME AFTER VARIED JOBS

Actors Drawn to Footlights
at Last from Many Trades
and Professions—Born
Rather Than Made.

(New York Times.)
Actors, it would seem, are born, not made. Study of the careers of these men of the stage, for the most part, that they tried and failed at some other occupation, sometimes more than once, before finding that the buskin was the shoe that fitted. Some did begin their stage careers while hardly out of their swaddling clothes, like Joseph Jefferson, who was carried on the stage at the age of four in a paper bag by Thomas Rice, famous delineator of Jim Crow and other negro characters, but their number is comparatively small.

Many and varied have been the vocations at which those who have achieved fame behind the footlights have tried their hands, and in the early days of the theatre, both here and in London, it was not uncommon for actors, during dull seasons or after seeming to be failures, temporarily to follow some form of trade or engage in another profession. Thus we find that in the first theatre performance given in New York, staged in 1792, the part of Worthy in "The Recruiting Officer," was played by Thomas Heady, a "curious maker."

Julius Brutus Booth tried drawing, literature, printing and the law and tried the tricks of one of His Majesty's frigates as a midshipman before he found that the stage was his destiny. The second Joseph Jefferson had artistic leaning and was architect and painter by turns, his talent in these callings being put to good use on the scenery of the companies with which he toured the provinces when the lure of the stage, a part of his inheritance, was not to be resisted.

Sothorn, Se., Studied Surgery.
E. A. Sothorn (the elder Sothorn) was educated to be a surgeon, but the scenes in the dissecting room so sickened him he abandoned his studies and took a three years' course in theology. But meanwhile he was reading plays and acting as an amateur, and he soon found that the pulpit was not to his liking and became for all time a professional actor. He attempted to make an artist out of his son, E. H. Sothorn, who studied at the Royal Academy, but the latter preferred make up to any other form of paint, and was a member of his father's company.

James H. Hackett, the father of James K. Hackett, worked in the grocery store of a relative, sold groceries and crockery in Utica and went on the stage to meet pecuniary demands. He, of course, had training as an amateur. James K. Hackett, despite the ability shown as an amateur actor of twenty, practiced law when he first left the College of the City of New York.

Maurice Barrymore prepared for the British Civil Service and tried the sheepskin before starting on the career which was to find one of the most famous actor families of America. E. L. Davenport was, in his younger days, a confectioner, a wholesale dry goods house clerk and a hotel clerk. George Holland, patriarch of another line of noted American actors, was an advertising digest publication, a printer and a commercial traveler in Ireland before he discovered his real forte was that of an entertainer. Tyrone Power, the second, was sent to Florida, apprenticed to learn the orange-growing industry, but ran away from it to join the profession which was his rightful inheritance.

Wolf Was Bank Clerk.
The members of the companies now playing in Broadway have no exception to the rule. Walter Wolf, who sings the leading role in "The Lady in Ermine," was a bank clerk in the Erie City and a singer in the Mormon Tabernacle choir before his success as an amateur musical player led him to seek a stage career. Harry Fender of the same company was a St. Louis newspaper scribbler. Howard Marsh, the Baron Schooner of "Blossom Time," had decided to become a banker and studied finance and economics in the Chicago University and the University of Wisconsin. Taking his degree he entered an Indianapolis bank. But while a student at Purdue he had seen the production of George Ade's "The Fair Co-ed," and the virus took.

Eddie Dowling began earning his living as a plumber's apprentice on the east side. The stage microphone was in his system, however, for he deserted solder to join the chorus of a musical comedy. One of the few who have ever risen from that most despised of stage opportunities, the chorus man, he graduated to vaudeville, and this season burst into the spotlight as the author and leading character of "Sally, Irene and Mary," which he had written around the locale of his boyhood and of which the hero, if musical comedy can be said to have a hero, was a plumber.

Al Johnson was a "song plunger" in cheap cabarets and saloons where the tank-a-tink piano in the back room drummed out such songs as "She Was

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Only a Bird in a Gilded Cage." In New York, Washington and Baltimore, and, aspiring to things higher, had a try-out as a white-faced comedian and singer at the Winter Garden in 1911. He failed miserably and was discharged. He changed his method and applied burned cork to his face. Theatre-goers everywhere knew the rest.

George Howell, the detective in "Whispering Wires," tried salesman-

ship in a wholesale silk house and the army before he found his mark on the stage. Gaby Flury, the French actress, was the same company, was an artist and correspondent for French newspapers and traveled and sketched for them in the Orient before she came to New York, her mind set on a career as an artist. A part in "The Green Jade" was her first role.

Madyn Arbuckle, sitting in his Texas law office for clients who never came, read Shakespeare to kill time. That caused him to put his shingle in the window and he to the footlights. Lawrence D'Ossy and Wilton Lackawere likewise cost Blackstone aside for the prompt book. Charlie Cherry tried in vain to feel at home in a London bank and Joseph Kilgour played with the bulls and bears in the Chicago stock market until they emptied his pocket and forced him to turn his talents as an amateur actor to account. Bruce McTear sought adventure rather than a vocation in his early life and punched cattle on an Australian ranch. Robert Edison and Robert Ames sold tickets in theatre box offices before they exchanged front stage for back. Ben McIntosh was a Philadelphia newspaper scribe. The star graduate from the cow puncher ranks was Will Rogers. Charles Lawrence studied for the ministry and Otis Skinner was a bookkeeper. Raymond Hiltchcock flitted shoes on soured feet in Auburn, New York, and in Wanamaker's Philadelphia store.

Arthur Deagon worked in the iron mines of Hurley, Wis. Will M. Cressy was a carpenter, a machinist, a ma-

A YOUNG OLD MAN

Rev. Doctor Arthur Barry
O'Neill's Memory Still
Good at the Beginning
of His 65th Year.

(Moncton Times)
A letter from Notre Dame, Indiana, gives some interesting information concerning several personages formerly connected with the University of St. Joseph's. Father Patrick McBride, C. S. C., is now Registrar of Notre Dame University, and Father Lawrence V. Brughall, C. S. C., is on the faculty of the same institution. The best known former professor at St. Joseph's now resident at Notre Dame, however, is Rev. Dr. Arthur Barry O'Neill, associate editor of the Ave Maria magazine, and the author of a series of popular lectures on the Catholic clergy. A good many readers of The Times who remember the genial cleric will be interested in what one of his latest Indiana styler "Doctor O'Neill's latest stunt."

It appears that on the occasion of his sixty-fourth birthday, some two months ago, the congratulations he received from his housemates were mixed with some expressions of sympathy about his advanced age. "Of course, your walking ten miles a day, Father O'Neill, keeps you in excellent physical condition; but nevertheless, you are getting old, and your intellectual powers must be falling." He did not verbally dispute this assertion, but he did not give such direct and tangible evidence of mental power as the possession of an unusual memory. Now, it is generally acknowledged that the most difficult things to commit to memory are names and dates. So Dr. O'Neill started memorizing, in his spare moments, several series of such items.

In the course of a week he informed his sympathizers that he had stored in his memory the names and death-dates—year, month, and day, of the



month—of sixty-three deceased members of his congregation. Some ten days later, he announced his having got by heart the names of the one hundred archbishops and bishops in the United States, with the names of their incumbents, and the dates of the ordination and the consecration of each archbishop and bishop—some four hundred and odd separate items. Finally, on the fortieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, he began a final test of his "falling" memory—the learning by heart of the names and feast-days of the three hundred and twenty-five Saints in the Roman Breviary—an aggregate of nine hundred and eighty-odd items. This he accomplished in the space of a week, and, since finishing this last task, he has heard nothing whatever from his housemates as to the inevitable lessening of his mental powers.

On the face of it, it looks as if Dr. O'Neill's pedestrianism reacts very favorably on his mentality. He certainly appears to have "a sound mind in a sound body," and may well be excused for calling himself sixty-four years young.

MONTREAL DRIVE OVERSUBSCRIBED

(Canadian Press Despatch.)
Montreal, Nov. 30.—The grand total of the federated charities campaign is \$406,097. This sum represents \$56,079 more than the drive's objective.



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CONTINUE FIGHT FOR SOBER WORLD

Nations With Temperance
Legislation in Force Have
Grave Responsibility.

(Toronto Globe.)
A sober world is a possibility if the nations that have prohibition will accept their opportunity and obligations, said Wayne B. Wheeler, general counsel and legislative director of the Anti-Saloon League of America, in address at the Broadway M. E. Church on Sunday.

Canada and the United States have put their hand to the plow and they must not turn back in this conflict for prohibition, he said. The World League against alcoholism is a challenge to the Christian citizenship of the world.

"No nation can live to itself; we must share our blessings or we will lose them. The International Wet League compels us in self-defense to co-operate or fall. We cannot secure the best possible enforcement of our own laws in a separate nation if all the surrounding nations harbor liquor and smuggle it across the border," said the speaker.

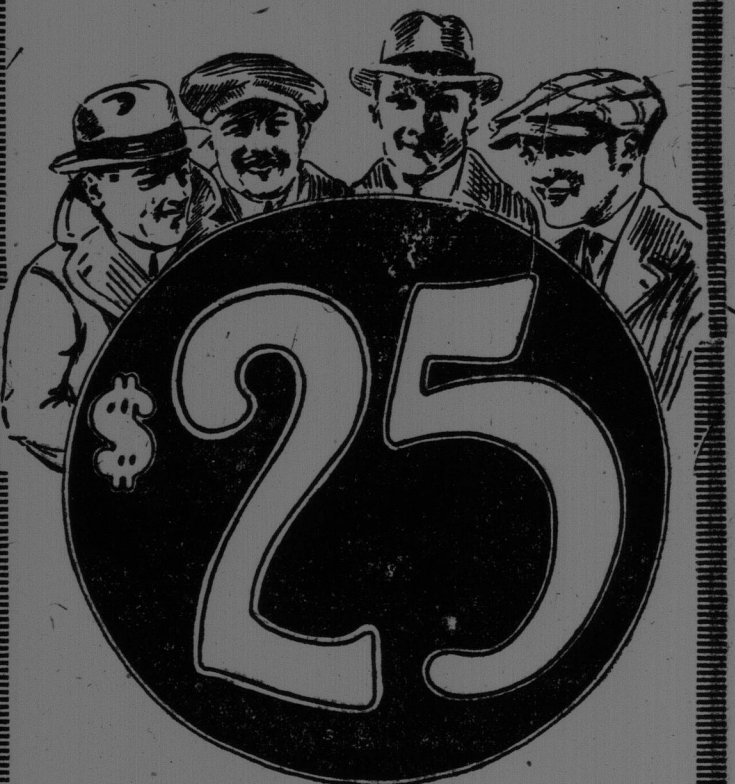
"God has so made us as individuals and nations that we cannot stand still; we must move forward or fall backward. There must be no retreat movement in this great moral reform that is decreasing drunkenness and crimes related thereto, and increasing the health, wealth and happiness of the people," was another comment.

The last great fight in this struggle for a sober world is to overturn laws which are being used to encourage lawlessness. If the outlawed liquor interests can successfully defy these laws because they do not like them, then any other group opposed to other laws will, by the same method, defy those laws and the government itself will fall. We will meet this issue and win by the same organized force that secured prohibition, concluded the speaker.

ASBESTOS IN B. C.

Development work is now under way on asbestos claims in British Columbia located on Mount Sprout, 24 miles south of Revelstoke. These claims are located at an elevation of 4,200 feet above sea level, and about 2,800 feet above the nearest railway. The location of the claims, necessitating the expenditure of a considerable amount of capital to bring them to a profitable producing stage, is the only obstacle to their rapid development.

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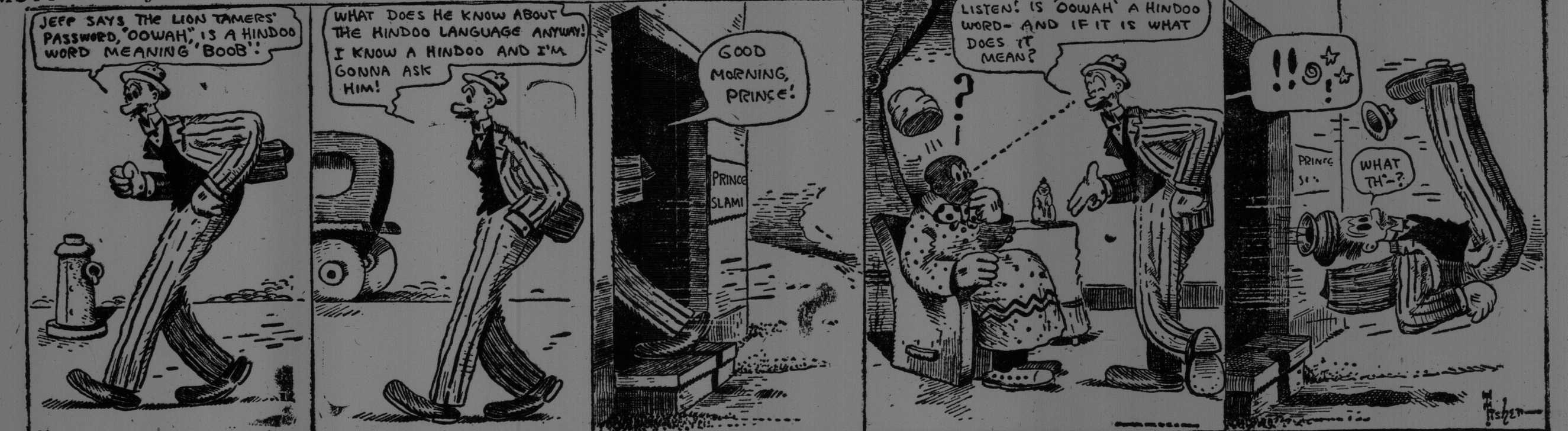
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By "BUD" FISHER