

Screenings

"I thought you said when we began this case in court," said the lawyer, "that it wasn't the money you were after, but the principle of the thing."

"I did say that, but what of it?"

"Do you still feel that way about it?"

"Of course I do."

"Well, in the event, since we have just won a splendid victory, I'll keep the money the jury awarded you, and you may have the verdict."

A certain farmer had always led his bull around by kindness and moral suasion. It was a big bull and it had a front-line trench look in its eyes, and up to date there had been no trouble.

"Better get a nose-staff for that boy," warned a neighbor, "he'll turn on ye one uv these days and gore you in the middle of next year."

"Don't ye worry," was the self-confident answer, "that bull knows me—we're friends."

And the next afternoon the critter happened to have a slight touch of indigestion from too much spring grass and he chased his owner over a five-acre lot, finally chasing him up a tree.

"Thought you knew that bull," said the neighbor.

"I do," was the reply, "but we were temporarily estranged!"

Moral—Better not trust the bull.

There was fire in the eyes of the man who led the sad-looking horse as he sought out the dealer.

"Look here!" he said, "I don't want this horse you've sold me. It balks; I can't get it to go over the bridge."

"That's the reason I sold him," said the dealer calmly.

The angry purchaser pinched himself to make sure he was awake.

"No doubt," he said, sarcastically, when at last he could trust himself to speak; "but allow me to tell you that you've sold the animal under false pretences, and I'll—"

"False pretences be jiggered!" said the dealer. "Didn't I advertise, 'Owner wishes to sell for no other reason than he wants to get out of town?'"

"Yes, but—"

"Well, that's why I sold him. He never would take me out of the town. P'raps he will you—if you're patient. No time to argue. Good day."

Adventures in Plurals

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,

But the plural of ox should be oxen, not oxes;

The one fowl is goose, but two are called geese,

Yet the plural of mouse should never be mooses;

You may find a lone mouse, or a whole nest of mice,

But the plural of house is houses, not hice;

If the plural of man is always called men,

Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?

The cow in the plural may be cows or kine,

And the plural of vow is vows, never vine,

If I speak of a foot and you show me your feet,

And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beef?

If one is a tooth and the whole set are called teeth,

Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

If the singular's this, and the plural is these,

Should the plural of kiss be nicknamed keese?

Then one may be that and three would be those,

Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,

And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.

We speak of a brother and also of brethren,

Then masculine pronouns are he, his

and him,

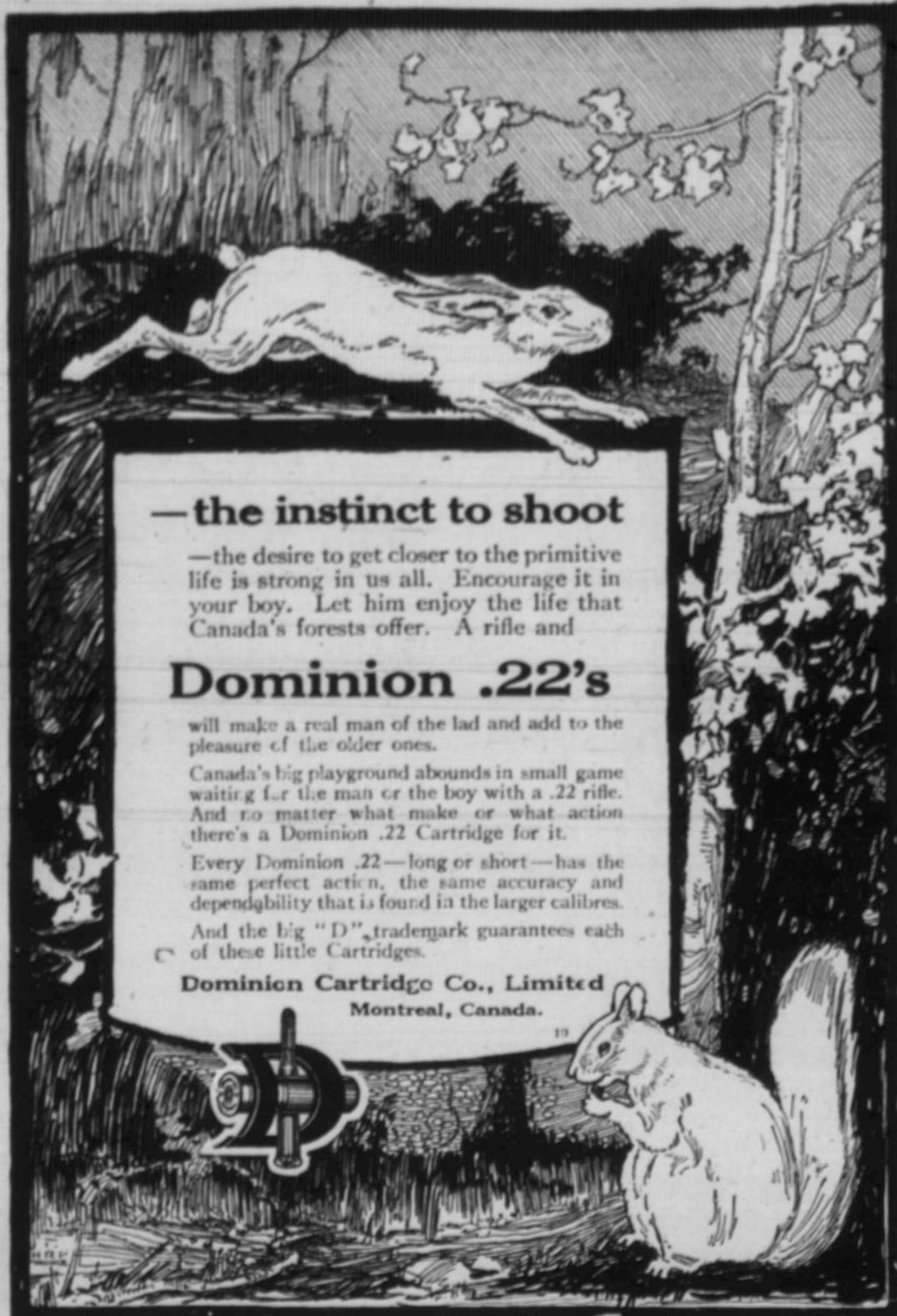
But imagine the feminine, she, shis

and shim,

So the English, I think will all agree,

Is the most tedious language you ever did see.

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