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THE W. S. HARKINS PLAYERS.

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MATINEE 10, 20 and 30c.

BRIBERY.

Our Officers and Their Relations With Army Contractors.

Officers and non-commissioned officers of the British Army have accepted presents from contractors for forty-five years to my knowledge, for I was a conduit pipe through which such presents passed for that period. I have no doubt that the system has been going on in all armies since the great Duke of Marlborough popularized it by squeezing a spooly proportion of his fortune out of reluctant Army providers.

Speaking as a contractor's agent, I would say that all such payments amount to bribery if looked at from the contractor's point of view, for they naturally expect to get something for their outlay; but, inasmuch as the majority of officers and non-commissioned officers who take these presents do so without any intention whatever of giving any return for them, it is difficult to maintain that all payments of the sort amount to bribery with the dictionary definition of "payment to induce a person to act in a certain way."

I believe that there are a great many officers in the Army who would think it a meritorious action to take money presents from a contractor and then do the opposite of what the payee of the present expected them to do. Those officers could hardly be held to have accepted bribes, though, speaking from the contractor's point of view, I should be inclined to accuse them of something worse.

In Confidence.

In such cases the contractor would certainly be guilty of bribery, for the intention would be there; but if there is no intention on the other side to do as the contractor desires the receiver is only guilty of obtaining money by a sort of confidence trick.

I well remember a case of a colonel working something like this on me. He was in command of a cavalry regiment which was giving us a lot of unnecessary trouble over the supply

of forage. It was out of the question of course, to offer him money; but I thought he might be got at through the medium of a horse, as he was a keen hunting man and a remarkably good judge of horseflesh.

I put up the idea to my governor and he sanctioned my having a try. I accordingly bought a hunter, good-looking, and an excellent jumper, and got in the colonel's way with it on every possible occasion. It was not long before he rose to the bait and asked me if the horse was for sale. I replied to the effect that it was, and on his asking the price I mentioned a sum which was about a third of what the beast had cost me.

Grey Hairs in Prospect.

He must have known that I was practically giving him the horse, but the effect the sale had upon his treatment of us was quite the reverse of what I anticipated. The very next day he came down to the forage barn while I was there and announced to me that, in his opinion, the quality of the forage was not what it ought to be. I replied to the effect that it had been passed by the garrison board of inspection and was quite up to contract.

"Do you call that meadow hay?" he asked, holding out a handful that he had dragged from the centre of a truss.

I was obliged to call it that, of course, but, if the truth must be told, it was only meadow hay by brevet.

"I certainly do," I replied.

"Well, you may be right," he said, in a way that left no doubt on my mind as to what he thought; "but I want something for my horses that seems like meadow hay to me, and I would also like to see some oats that go a few more pounds to the bushel than these. You had better write to your employers to tell them that if I don't get what I want they will very

likely be getting some grey hairs in their heads."

It was some time before I could persuade my governors that it was time to send stuff that couldn't be bought wholesale for less than about twopence a ration more than we were getting for it. But they had to do it at last, after that colonel had worked things up for us to the extent of getting the daily inspecting board to refuse to pass our stuff three days in succession.

Before I brought off that horse deal the colonel had confessed himself with complaining, but from the moment I bribed him he became hither's hostile, and a little later rubbed the injury by asking me, with a twinkle in his eye, if I had got another horse to sell.

For Two Hundred Shillings.

That was the case of a man who wouldn't do anything, although he took the bribe. It was altogether different from another instance, where when I was connected with paid out a lot of money without getting the slightest thing in return for it.

We were let in for this in connection with a contract for general supplies to a military institution, and the time it was a very smart sergeant who victimized us. He was chief clerk in the office where the contract was let every six months, and our first acquaintance with him was brought about by his whispering to me, when I called at the office one day for some information, that he "could work the oracle for us for a tenner."

We wanted the contract, and, since I had sufficient authority to spend what he wanted without consulting my principals, I promised to bring him ten sovereigns on the day we received the official notification that our tender had been accepted.

Accepted it was, and the ten pounds duly changed hands. When the time came round for the next six-monthly contract to be made I went to the sergeant again and proposed a similar deal. He agreed, but said that if he would be necessary to tender at prices he would give us, so that we would be lowest. The prices he gave were less than we would have fixed if we had been tendering off our own bat but we adopted them and got the contract again.

No Other Offers.

This sort of thing went on for year for, although there had been several changes of clerks in that office, the outgoing man passed the annuity of twenty pounds on to his successor.

Then, one day, when I had paid over ten pounds to the sergeant in possession of the job, he offered, for another twenty-five to sell me something that it would be worth my while to know.

I had confidence in that young man, and I eventually paid him the twenty-five pounds he stipulated for. In return, he told me that, as he was going somewhere else and didn't much care for the sergeant who was to succeed him, he had made up his mind to tell me that there was no necessity to go on paying that ten pounds every half-year as no other firm than ours had ever sent in a tender?

Was that ten pounds we had been paying every six months to get ourselves robbed bribery? I called it double-edged brigandage. But what fools those sergeants were for not seeing that we wouldn't have minded paying fifty, or even a hundred pounds, for the knowledge that we could tender at nice fat prices, instead of cutting to the narrowest margin of profit as we had been doing!

Quartermasters Out of Court.

I think those sergeants were foolish as well as being dishonest. Since the passing of the Ill-kept Commissions Act, the giving of presents by Army contractors has considerably diminished, but I am not in a position to say that the practice has entirely ceased.

But in justice to contractors, I ought to be said that they got very little for the outlay on presents beyond fair treatment, which they ought to get for nothing; and in case it should be thought that quartermasters in particular are given to accepting presents, I will say emphatically that my experience is that this class of officer is very seldom approached by a contractor with anything in his hand. As a matter of fact few quartermasters are in a position to help a contractor in any way.—Answers.

Philanthropy and Temperature.

At the opening of a soup-kitchen for Jewish poor children recently, Sir Joseph Lyons told this story: "Getting into her carriage one day, a lady remarked to her footman: 'Jackson, it's a very cold day. Remind me when I get home to send some blankets to the poor people.'"

At the end of the drive she entered her pleasantly warmed home again and made herself comfortable with a cup of tea before the fire.

Jackson as requested, reminded her about the blankets.

"As, yes, I remember," she remarked. "But I don't think I need send them. It's so nice and warm now."

Game to the Last.

Arthur Pelkey, the Canadian, Tried to Run Race With the Timekeeper But Lost—Was Knocked Down Twice by "Gunboat" Smith in the 15th Round and Stayed Down.

San Francisco, Cal., January 2.—There were no knockdowns in the Gunboat Smith-Arthur Pelkey fight yesterday afternoon until the fifteenth round, and then two in succession brought victory to Smith. The round was still young, when Smith, after breaking from a clinch, let fly a full-sweep right for Pelkey's jaw. It was a blow that Pelkey had avoided probably half a hundred times by ducking or allowing his head to roll in the preceding rounds. By this time the Gunner reached the mark squarely and the Canadian sprawled under the ropes at the ring edge. He tried to gather himself together and directly he arose, he lurched toward Smith, intent on clinching Smith dealt him a downward chop with his right on the back of the head and Pelkey measured his length on the floor a second time.

Game to the last, Arthur tried to run a race with the timekeeper but was not properly on his legs before the fatal word "out" sounded. For Pelkey's own sake it was just as well, for he was thoroughly defenceless and he would have received another stiffening smash from the hard-hitting "gunner." It was as interesting a contest as the average fight fan could wish to witness.

If Headachy, Dizzy, Bilious, 'Cascarets'

Your Liver is full of Bile; Bowels Clogged, Stomach Sour, Tongue Coated, Breath Bad.

Get a 10-cent box now.

You're bilious! You have a throbbing sensation in your head, a bad taste in your mouth, your eyes burn, your skin is yellow, with dark rings under your eyes; your lips are parched. No wonder you feel ugly, mean and ill-tempered. Your system is full of bile not properly passed off, and what you need is a cleaning up inside. Don't continue being a bilious nuisance to yourself and those who love you, and don't resort to harsh physics that irritate and injure. Remember that most disorders of the stomach, liver and bowels are cured by morning with gentle, thorough Cascarets—they work while you sleep. A 10-cent box from your druggist will keep your liver and bowels clean; stomach sweet, and your head clear for months. Children love to take Cascarets, because they taste good and never gripe or sicken.

Delicately Expressed.

As everybody knows, Friday is market day at Mudbury. It was on a Friday, therefore, in the town square, and not a hundred miles from the Anchor, that Farmer Giles met Farmer Grump.

"Hallo, Giles!" said Grump. "Looking out for a good horse?"

"Always ready to find one," replied Giles.

"Ever see that little bay mare of mine?" Giles nodded.

"Well, she's yours at a rock-bottom price," continued the other.

Giles looked thoughtful for a minute. Then:

"Nay, nay," he said, "I've only got gold on me, and I don't want to break into another quid if I can help it."

Back Was Lame For Two Years

Stomach Troubles and Weakness of Kidneys Cured by Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills.

There is an enormous amount of suffering from liver and kidney derangements and stomach troubles that could easily be avoided by using Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills. If you could only realize the scores of everyday ills that arise from a sluggish condition of the kidneys, liver and bowels you would not be long in giving this medicine a trial.

Mrs. Edward Stewart, New Richmond, Ont., writes: "I want to tell you how thankful I am for using your Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills for stomach troubles and backache caused by weak kidneys. I was unable to wash any clothes for over two years on account of my back being lame. I read the Almanac and began using these pills. Two boxes made a complete cure. I can do my own washing and other work now, and want to say to lady friends that they do not know how much I appreciate Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills." 25 cents a box all dealers or Ed. Jackson, Bates & Co., Ltd., Toronto.

The NICKEL THEATRE! Mid-Week Programme

2 Reels—"THE CHAINS OF AN OATH"—2 Reels

A Vitagraph drama, featuring Earle Williams, Edith Story and William Humphries.

THE COWBOY AND THE BABY—A very funny Pathe Comedy.

CAPTAIN BARNACLE—REFORMER—An interesting dramatic offering by the famous Vitagraph players.

Eighteenth and last week of Arthur Priestman Cameron, Sings Wednesday, "There's an Exhibition"; Thursday, "The Motor Car."

KINDLY NOTE—Owing to unforeseen circumstances Tingle and Williams will be unable to appear for some time. Announcement later.

The Crescent Picture Palace.

Big Mid-Week Programme Wednesday & Thursday.

Marguerita Fisher and Bob Leonard in "THE SHADOW." A powerful Rex drama.

"THE SPIDER"—A beautifully colored Japanese drama played by real Japs.

"THE TWINS OF DOUBLE X RANCH"—A lively western comedy.

"HE COULD NOT LOSE IT"—Another good comedy.

Mr. Dave Parks, Baritone, sings the illustrated song "Always take a girl named Daisy"

Afternoon Sessions, 2.30; 5c. Evening Sessions, 7.15; 10c. The Crescent is well ventilated and heated and absolutely fireproof.

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OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

Our well known

12 cents

in Pink, Cream, Red and White, is as good as ever.

We would like you to see our 10 cent Pink that we are selling this week for

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Without Meat but you cannot live without Vegetables.

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SPECIALIZING ON POTATOES.
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100 Sacks
Choicest Scotch Table Potatoes,
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Telephone 393 for a sample sack or two.

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Fresh Poultry Just in, Jan. 7th, 1914.

50 selected TURKEYS.

10 cases Plymouth Rock CHICKEN.

PURITY BUTTER,
2 lb. prints.

EDENS' PURE SOLUBLE COCOA,
1/4 tins, only
15c. tin.

BULLDOG BRAND TEA,
30c. lb., 5 lbs. at 30c. lb.
Take it for breakfast it will
make you fit for the day's work.

20 lbs. HOLYWOOD CABBAGE,
FRESH RABBITS.

25 lbs. SELECTED SALT HERRING.

50 lbs. No. 1 BALDWIN APPLES,
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300 small bags MIXED OATS,
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FISH—Frost Fish, Smelts, Finnan Haddie, Kippers, Fresh Oysters.

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