

ence, but Bobbie cried lustily. Their sister listened at the foot of the stairs, hoping they would soon be quiet. At last Bobbie stopped, and the listener heard him say:  
"You cry a bit, Danny; I'm tired."—  
Tit-Bits.

### A Game That Indians Play.

Perhaps some of our Beavers may like to try the Iroquois game of "Shaking the Bowl."

#### The Game of "Shaking-the-Bowl."

BY EDITH STOW.

For more than four hundred years the men of the Iroquois tribes have handed down a secret society called the "False Faces." Originally it was a religious society, but now the meetings in the various villages are occasions for a wave of merriment that sweeps through the places, catching every one in its fun. No outsider is supposed to know who are the members of the "False Faces," but on certain days of the year the young men slip out of sight and soon after this there comes trooping down the village street a weird company wearing wooden masks, hideously carved and painted, each youth carrying a staff in one hand and in the other a big rattle which is shaken in time to the shouts and the laughter.

Into each house they go, circle around the fire to bring it good luck, and then out again they pass into the street. Sometimes they enter in single file doing a shuffling Indian dance; sometimes the whole company crawls on hands and knees. If there is a man in the house, they gather him up on their shoulders, go leaping and bounding with him around his doorway, and then carry him in and set him down again. Shouting, the wild noise of rattles, merriment, and good-will fill the whole village.

One afternoon, after such a novelty of the "False Faces," I came upon two young men sitting on the grass beneath an elm-tree resting after the day's sport; and from them I first learned the Iroquois game of shaking-the-bowl.

In olden times special bowls for this game were carved out of a solid knot of wood or were woven of reeds. These were from six to twelve inches across the top, and the bottom was practically flat, as our tin cooking-basins are made. But nowadays, when bowls are so common, the Indian no longer makes these, but plays the game with any that happen to be about his home, choosing one with as flat a base as possible.

But what he still makes for himself are his game-stones and counters. A set of game-stones consists of six peach, plum, or cherry stones, burnt or blackened on one side. Sometimes the stones are used just as they come from the fruit, but the peach or the plum stones are usually worked down smaller before one side is blackened.

From one hundred to three hundred counters make a set. These are beans, cherry stones, or pieces of reed about an inch long.

Shaking-the-bowl is a game for two players, who sit upon the ground facing each other. The bowl, holding the six game-stones, is placed between them and the counters are laid in a pile at one side within easy reach of both. The first player takes hold of the upper rim of the bowl with both hands and, lifting it a little, gives it a sharp rap down upon the ground, causing the stones to leap into the air and then fall back into the bowl. His score depends upon the way the stones lie. If all are white or all are black he makes five. This he calls a "field." If five are white and one is black, or five are black and one white, he makes one. This is known as a "bird." Only these two combinations count. He continues to shake the bowl as long as he scores. All the time his opponent sits facing him, good-naturedly shouting and making up faces in hopes of distracting him so that he will make a poor play. When he fails he tosses the bowl to his rival, who catches it and now takes his turn.

Each draws his winnings from the general pile of counters until these have been divided between them. After that a man takes his score from his opponent's pile until one of them has possession of them all.

We can trace this game of shaking-the-bowl back for over four hundred years, and, undoubtedly, it was played by many generations of red men before that. It has always been one of the favorite games of the Iroquois. In the old days, when the country belonged to the Indians, they

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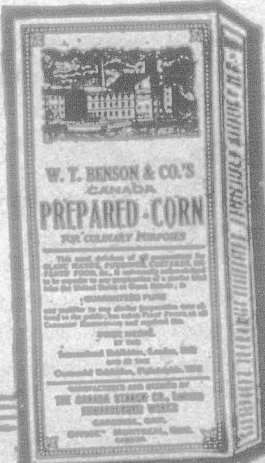
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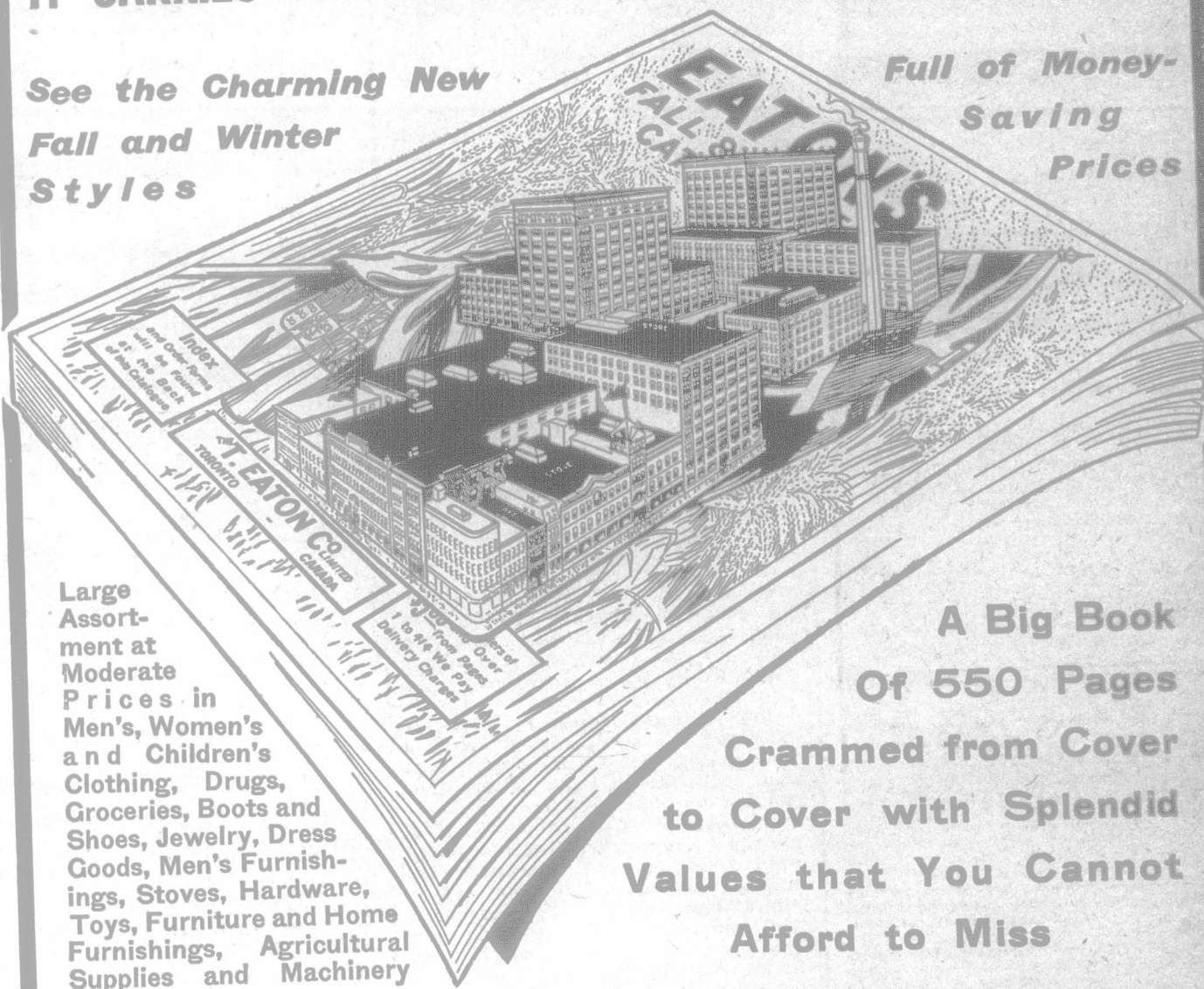


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