

wanted it, and there was a tussle for it.

"I got the shoe, a black eye, a torn finger from a rusty nail in the shoe, and a summons for assault and battery."

"It wasn't a very good start, but I thought I'd give it a fair trial. Of course, in nailing the shoe above the front door I managed to smash my thumb and fall from the step-ladder."

"Then I sat down and waited for the luck to begin. That shoe seemed to be endowed with the power to attract trouble in every form."

"Duns, bailiffs, the landlord, measles, and poverty were rarely out of the house, and my faith was shaken."

"Then one day, when a rate-collector was standing on the top step, that shoe came down with a crash—"

"Ah!" interrupted a sympathizer. "Luck at last!"

"Not a bit of it," sighed the unlucky one. "It missed him by a foot."

"Safely Invested."

"Tell yer what, John," said a farmer just returned from London, to his son: "I've been an idiot to let my money stay in th' savings bank at 2½ per cent. all these years, when they pay 5 per cent in London."

"I don't believe they pay so much interest!" said John, with a determined air.

"Oh, yer don't, Mr. Smarty, don't yer? Well, I've just lent £20 at that very rate to-day. I'll tell you how I done it. I met a young man in front of the Mansion House, and he says to me, says he: 'Sir, I would like to borrow £20, for which I will pay 5 per cent. interest.'"

"But," says I, 'I don't know you, and how am I to tell that you will pay me the interest?' 'If you doubt me, sir,' says he, 'I will pay you 5 per cent. in advance.'"

"Well, that looked safe enough, so I gave him two £10 notes, and he paid me 20s. back for the interest right on the spot. I'm to meet him at the same place every year and get the interest. I tell you what, John; it makes me wild to think what I've lost all these years."

Then There Was Silence.

The west-bound omnibus was crowded, and the occupants were listening with delighted interest to the "high-toned" conversation of two stylishly dressed ladies, one of whom was accompanied by a very small boy.

Soon every one around knew, without asking, that one of the ladies had recently moved into "a larger house, farther west."

"Do you know, dear," she was saying, "we had such a trying time getting things into order on the last occasion we removed, that this time we just handed the house over to—" (naming a fashionable firm of house-furnishers) "and they did everything. My husband and I went touring on the Continent until things were in order."

Here confidences were interrupted by "sonny" shouting: "Oh mummy, look!"

"He is such an observant child. What is it?" she continued.

"See," he cried, pointing to a smartly-groomed individual on the pavement. "there's the man who comes every week for the furniture money."

Scot and Cabman.

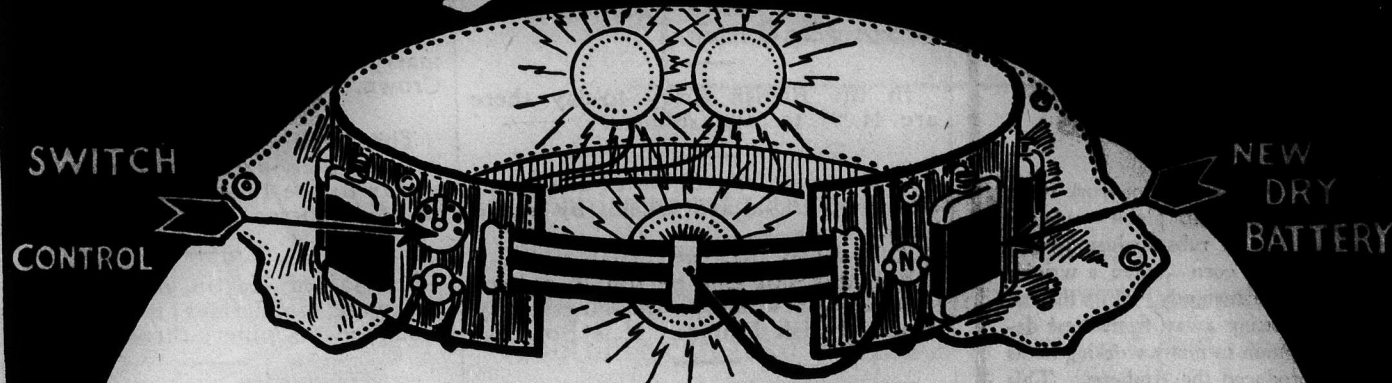
A Scotsman arrived at Euston Station one day by a noon train and gravely asked a cabman if he could drive him to catch a train at Waterloo Station at four o'clock. Cabby, after much cogitation, thought he could do it in the time. The traveller got inside, and for three hours and fifty minutes that cabman drove the man from the North by devious ways across London. When he was set down at Waterloo the Scotsman sought a policeman.

"What's the fare from Euston?" he asked.

"One-and-six," was the response.

"Here," said the canny one, "will you kindly settle with the cabman while I get my ticket?"

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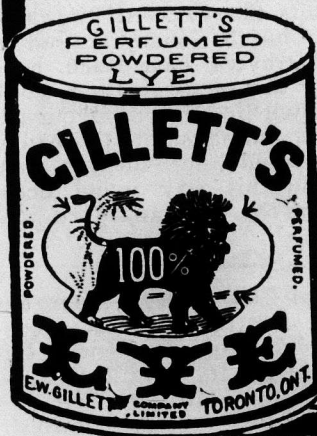
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