

From the receiver, appointed by the United States Court, we have purchased the entire stock of the O'Donahoe-Redmond-Normile Co. This company was organized less than one year ago and occupied one of the finest buildings in Omaha. The stock, which is practically new, consists chiefly of High Grade Dry Goods, and was valued at over One Hundred and Fifty-Nine Thousand Dollars. We paid the receiver Sixty-Two and One-Half Per Cent of the value. This purchase was, we think, the largest transaction of the kind ever made in the state. We have removed the entire stock to Lincoln and will have it on sale in our store, commencing Tuesday Morning, July Sixteenth. It is needless to add that it will pay you to come a long distance to attend this sale. Please remember, we purchased the stock in Omaha, but will sell it in Lincoln.

## Miller & Paine.

### LAWYERS STUNG BY FARMER

Kansas Rube Hands Stafford Legal Lights New Gold Brick.

### HOW CLEVER TRICK WAS TURNED

Warning Note for Members of the Profession Who Are Hungry for a Fee—The Disappearance of the Rube.

Popular supposition has, ever since the beginning of time, catalogued the farmer as the logical prey of the bunko man, and while the farmer may have now and then bought a gold brick or risked his money on the ancient padlock game, his turn to laugh has come at last—his turn to laugh at the smart lawyer man, too.

In various parts of Kansas within the current four weeks half a dozen or more erudite barristers have been flimflamed. The bunko artist who has thus carved for himself a new niche by discovering that lawyers are gullible, operates—how tantalizingly strange—in the role of a farmer.

That he is smooth is self-evident. Moreover, he is an actor, an impersonator of rare ability.

The experience of Robert Garvin, the most prominent lawyer in Stafford, Kan., a few days ago illustrates the plan of this ingenious bunko artist.

One afternoon a man in rural garb, looking every inch the farmer, entered the office of Attorney Garvin and awkwardly announced himself as "Thomas Spicer of Sylvia, Kan. over the line in Reno county."

"And what can I do for you?" suavely queried the lawyer, scenting a client.

"Es I was a-goin' for t' say, I jist drapped in t' ast ye how 'bout collectin' o' a debt what is owing t' my boy, Alec," answered the visitor.

"Who owes the boy and how much is the debt?" the attorney asked.

"Jim Kuska's the man what my boy worked for on the farm an' it hes run up t' a hundred an' eighty dollars."

"Why, Kuska is one of this county's wealthiest farmers. Lawyer Garvin exclaimed, "and he is certainly good for any ordinary amount—I cannot understand why there is any trouble about the collection."

"Hes this a-way," the client explained. "Ye see, one o' Kuska's horses died jist after my boy had druv it, an' Kuska he reckons he orten t' pay nothin', a-calm'n' as how th' boy was t' blame for th' horse a-dyin'." How much will ye charge me fer t' collect the a-hundred an' eighty?"

"Twenty dollars ought to be about right," replied the attorney gravely, "and if you so authorize me, I will write Mr. Kuska a letter demandin' a settlement."

"All right, let ye go, Lawyer," and the buccolic client went away, promising to call again in a few days to ascertain what progress had been made.

J. W. Kuska is a rich farmer, living near St. John, Kan., on a rural delivery route, St. John being but a short distance from Stafford. A letter, from Lawyer Garvin, couched in the usual dictatorial style assumed by collection lawyers, went out on an evening train to Mr. Kuska.

The Gold Brick.

Three days later Lawyer Garvin received a letter bearing what purported to be the signature of Mr. Kuska, saying that while he felt that the boy really ought to be held responsible for the death of a fine horse, he would, rather than be dragged into court, pay \$20 by way of compromise, and accordingly he enclosed his check for \$20, made payable to the lawyer, assuming of course that his offer of compromise would be accepted.

Shortly after the receipt of this letter

"Farmer Spicer" again appeared at the office of the attorney, and as he poked his toulled head into the doorway he inquired: "Hain't heard nothin' yet, hev ye?"

"Yes, a-r-r," triumphantly replied the lawyer. "I have a check here for \$20—Kuska wants to compromise; I advise you to do it."

"Pears t' me hits pow'ful hard fer th' boy t' hev his wages cut up that a-way, yit I ain't no lawin' man, an' I reckon as how maybe I'd better take 'im up on his offer, yit it hardly seems right."

A look of injured innocence swept over the face of Honest Farmer Spicer as he mournfully discussed the compromise, and fearing that he might back out and that eventually the case would be lost the lawyer again urged the advisability of cinching the \$20. Accordingly after some more parleying and many regrets on the part of the man who answered to the name of Spicer the two went to a bank, where the lawyer endorsed the \$20 check. When the cashier handed out the cash the lawyer retained \$20 for his fee and handed the other \$10 to "Mr. Spicer."

Parted Good Friends.

There their ways parted, and returning to his office the lawyer closed the incident—at least he thought he was closing it—by mailing to Mr. Kuska a receipt in full and an accompanying note explaining that the terms of compromise had been accepted.

Mr. Kuska could not understand the meaning of the strange missive. He had not made overtures for any kind of a compromise and had not mailed a check of any kind to Lawyer Garvin. Puzzled and thrusting for the answer to the enigma, he rode into Stafford, sought the lawyer and compared notes with him.

Then dawned upon the lawyer that he had been bunked and that "Farmer Spicer" is a confidence man and that his "son Alec" is a myth.

Mr. Kuska said he was sorry, but, after all, it was none of his affair. He didn't have any unpaid hired hands and none of his horses had been killed.

There is still more or less mystery as to the exact method of working out this confidence game, but it is believed that the sharper first of all informs himself as to the name and location of some wealthy farmer, taking care to use those located on free rural delivery routes. Then, it is believed, after the lawyer has written the letter the man follows it up, keeping close in the wake of the rural carrier. By swift movements he is usually able to lift the letter from the rural box without detection. Having accomplished this rather delicate part of the game, he finds it easy to forge an answer to the letter, inclose a forged check and then—well, all that remains is for him to get back to town and let the lawyer pay him the money.

Lawyer Garvin is just now receiving considerable notoriety because of the smooth trick played upon him, but he is not the only victim. The same game has been suc-

cessfully worked in several other Kansas towns, but, as a rule, the victims maintain discreet silence, and, even though the story leaks out, they decline to verify it. Lawyer Garvin, however, believes that he owes it to the other members of the legal profession to give publicity to the swindler, thus preventing him from further operations.

Meanwhile, every policeman in Kansas is on the alert to capture the farmer whose boy's wages are held up because of a dead horse.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

### WOMEN WANT EARLY CLOSING

Representatives of Their Organizations Go After Store Owners on Topic.

After several conferences during the last two weeks the various women's organizations of Omaha have united in an effort to induce the retail merchants of the city employing women to close their stores at 5 o'clock every afternoon except Saturday during July and August. A meeting was held at the Young Woman's Christian association rooms Saturday afternoon, including representatives from the Woman's club, Young Woman's Christian association, Woman's Christian temperance union and other woman's organizations, and it was decided to make a personal appeal to the merchants.

During the afternoon the proprietors of all the larger department stores and dry goods stores excepting one were interviewed and all were willing to close on condition that the one department store proprietor not seen would agree. This merchant is out of the city, but will be interviewed immediately upon his return.

Several of the jewelry stores have already commenced closing at 5 o'clock and a number of the larger grocery stores are on the list, agreeing to close if the other stores will. The women are keeping a careful list and will continue the work next week until all have been seen.

This action is in line with a movement that has become almost national among women's organizations. Club women in almost all the larger cities are asking the 5 o'clock closing during July and August, and where unwillingness has been encountered on the part of merchants mass meetings have been called to ask shippers to withhold their patronage from these stores after 5 o'clock.

Asked what the Omaha women would do if the local merchants failed to agree, the president of one of the local organizations said: "We have not considered that yet and we hope it will not be necessary. The one merchant upon whom the success of the plan now depends has in the past shown a disposition to do all possible to make things easy for the women in his employ and we do not anticipate that he will fail to co-operate with other merchants of the city in this."

### UP AGAINST HARD PROBLEMS

Elaborate System of Regulations Under Pure Food Law.

### WORK FOR AGRICULTURAL DEPT

Gradual Development of System of Inspection and Governing Rules—Activities of Various Bureaus.

When congress passed the pure food law last June with considerable enthusiasm, at least on the part of some, neither the congressmen nor the people generally realized what a really complicated problem they were putting up to the secretary of agriculture to enforce the various provisions. The secretary and his assistants have been wrestling with the problem ever since the law went into effect on January 1. They thought they had been wrestling with it before the law went into effect, after its passage, but this was only in a theoretical way. They had the proposition of compelling manufacturers and merchants to stop putting poisons into food in only an abstract way. Since January they have had it in the concrete, but during these five months and a half they are little further on than they were at the beginning of the year.

All sorts of samples of adulterated food articles have been sent to the Department of Agriculture, and the chemists have been kept busy analyzing and the secretary has been kept busy ruling that this article or that is injurious and its sale into interstate commerce is illegal, but this is about all practically that has been accomplished. Adulterated foods are still being made, still being sold and still being eaten. The federal law cannot touch articles of any kind unless they go into interstate commerce. The people in Connecticut can make, sell and eat as many wooden nutmegs as they choose.

Summer Cruises.

The Agricultural Department is not at all discouraged, however. On the contrary, the men in the bureau of chemistry under the Department of Agriculture, which is chiefly in charge of this matter, are enthusiastic. Last week Dr. W. D. Bigelow of the chemical laboratory started out on a tour of practice with some twenty newly appointed food and drug inspectors. On January 1 about fifty of these food and drug inspectors were appointed after a complete examination. These came to Washington and are being put through a course of training under the direction of Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, chief of the bureau of chemistry, and the man who is said to

know more about what is good to eat and what is not good to eat than any other man in the country. These inspectors are practically at school, taking a regular course in the study of how to inspect foods, how to quicken their suspicions as to adulterations, how to purchase samples to be analyzed in the chemical laboratories, and what to do with these samples.

The tour which some of them are taking now with Dr. Bigelow is a kind of "summer cruise," as one of the officials in the bureau of chemistry terms it, corresponding to the summer cruise of the midshipmen of the navy. They are visiting the various big cities like New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Baltimore, near-by cities being selected. They are purchasing in the grocery stores and drug stores samples of foods and drugs which they suspect of being adulterated and which are to be analyzed at the pure food laboratories and passed upon by the pure food board. Three packages of each article under suspicion are purchased, and upon each of these three is placed a label, which is carefully made out in triplicate form, and each package is sealed with the seal of the department. One of these packages is sent to the nearest pure food laboratory. The sample is analyzed by the chemist there, and a report made to the Board of Pure Food Inspectors at Washington. If the sample contains no adulteration and its manufacture and sale into interstate commerce is not in violation of the law, the merchant from whom it was purchased is then notified so that he may continue his sale of it. If, on the other hand, it is found to be adulterated in violation of the law, then the merchant is also notified and asked to come to Washington and show cause before the Board of Food and Drug Inspection why he should not be prosecuted. If the merchant has a guarantee from the man or the concern from whom he purchased the goods that they are not in violation of the law, then the man who gave the guarantee is summoned to a hearing.

System of Inspection.

The Board of Food and Drug Inspection is a special device or institution inaugurated by the secretary of agriculture for the purpose of relieving him of the details of carrying out this law. It was appointed on April 25, and consists of Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, chief of the bureau of chemistry, as chairman; Dr. Frederick L. Dunlap, associate chemist, and George P. McCabe, solicitor of the Department of Agriculture. These are the men who are, in effect, in charge of the whole system of food inspection, including the inspectors and chemists who will be stationed in all the big cities of the country, and may be termed the watchdogs of our stomachs. This board meets twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, for regular hearings. Even though the regular food inspectors have not gone to work, this board has had something like fifty hearings, and has made

over seventy decisions upon various articles of food.

It will be but a short time, only a few weeks perhaps, when the inspectors who are now undergoing training will be assigned to the various portions of the country to begin their inspections, purchase samples and to send them in to the various pure food and drug laboratories which are being established throughout the country. Eighteen of them, including the five or six already established, are to be at ports for the analysis of imported articles.—New York Times.

### PLAYED REAL MEAN TRICK

How Two Husbands Got Their Wives to Bet Recklessly—Then Silence.

Two of the meanest men in town live up on Capitol hill, not far from the state house in Denver. The other night one of them took his wife over to call on the other and his wife. The women brought up the subject of poker and each claimed she was an expert at the game. They wanted to play. The husband of one winked at the other man and the two excused themselves a moment on a trivial pretense. They went into the next room and the one who had winked said:

"Let's play a little trick on the old girls."

"Fine," replied the other. "What shall we do?"

"Fix up a deck of cards for them and start a poker game. Each will get a big hand before the game has progressed far and you and I will drop out. Then we'll watch the fun."

The other agreed and they got four decks of cards all alike. A deck was fixed up containing eight aces, eight kings, eight queens and eight jacks, with enough other cards to make the fifty-two. They then went back to their wives and suggested a game of draw poker.

Their plan worked to perfection. On the first deal looks of surprise and pleasure came over the faces of the two women and they began to bet. The men dropped out. It was woman against woman and the way they bet was a caution. Each was so confident of winning that the limit was taken off. Each called her husband and showed her hand.

"Well, I'll stand by my wife as long as she wants to bet," said one of the men.

"I'll stand by mine," said the other. They kept up their betting, keeping tab on the wagers, until the pot was \$50. Then one woman decided she had had enough and called for a showdown.

"I've got four aces," said the other. A look of keen disappointment spread over the other's face and two tears came oozing from her eyes. "I've only got four kings," she said in a faltering voice.

"Then I win," said the other triumphantly. "See, Charley," she said to her husband. "I've won you \$50."

One man winked at the other. "Neither

of you wins," he said. "You've both been cheating."

"Look at your hands," said the man. "You," pointing to his wife's cards, "you've got four aces, but two of them are aces of diamonds and the other two are aces of spades."

"And look at your hand," said the other husband to his wife; "you've got four kings, but two of them are kings of hearts and the other two are kings of clubs. What do you women mean by cheating like that?"

Astonishment of the women's faces soon began to give way to anger as they realized that they had been tricked. Just as one of them brought her fist down on the table the two men fled to the next room and locked the door.

That was three nights ago. Their wives have scarcely said anything more than "Yes" and "No" to the mean men since—Denver Post.