



perations. trolley cars for a living has been mentioned occasionally in newspapers and magazines, but even those who have read of it are seldom aware that this is merely one branch of a far wider business-a

CAMES OF SKILLED CROOKS

specialty, in fact. The business of hurting yourself and then suing somebody for damages, like all other professions in this era of specialization, has been specialized and refined. True, there are still a great many professionals who are what may be called general practitioners, just as the family doctor still survives in large numbers in spite of the nerve specialist, the brain specialist

and the stomach specialist. Nevertheless, the specialist is the real thing in this business, as in others. The man who can fall out of an elevator every few months, the woman who can bang herself against a bolt of cloth in a department store at frequent intervals, not only conserves his or her intellect by not having to think up different methods all the time, but grows so expert by concentration that the profit is surer and the risk

almost eliminated. The profession, too, is divided into local in one locality, such as New York City, Long Island City at the furthest. There ica, June 18. are others who take the entire Atlantic under the wheels of a truck in Charleston. Still others operate throughout the entire record where the financier chose Great Britain and the United States as his mod-

est field. The growth of the business has forced the firms and corporations who have been engaged in paying out money to these financiers to take defensive action, and hence there was formed not long ago the "Alliance Against Accident Fraud," which now numbers among its members over fifty firms and corporations in various parts of he union This company, or alliance, keeps a card

index of all accident cases, and when one of its members is sued and reports the case the alliance searches its records to find if the plaintiff has ever sued anyone before. If he has, previous suits are looked up by the alliance and the defendant member is notified of the result. A card index of doctors and lawyers is also kept. In Boston, Chicago and Philadelphia a cross-index of addresses is kept. For instance, if John Smithovitch of 121 State street sues the Boston Elevated the case is indexed under Smithovitch and also under State street, so that if any of John's neighbors in that house begin a damage

be started to see if a self-hurting trust exists in that locality. How the Game Works.

In one house in Boston eleven claimants were found by this method. The way the His name is John D. Robinson. He loomed character who is the hero is a hero sure game was worked was this: A would sue up in Baltimore with a claim against the the Boston Elevated, claiming that he had United Railway and Electric company. caught his foot in getting out of a car; Detective Atkinson of the Baltimore police presentation of a scene depicting a vaude- B and C would be his witnesses. B would department produced proof that Robinson ville entertainment that becomes enlivened sue the electric light company, claiming had worked in London and collected \$215

THE BEE: OMAHA, SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 1909.

liams of Long Island City seem unable to avold hurting themselves. Williams' wife

and son also feel obliged sometimes to sue railroad companies. Rogers has a longer put together and is quite impartial as between railroad companies and dry goods stores. Rogers is a philanthropist, too, and when not suffering from injuries himself. will go to lawyers who have accident cases on hand and tell them he can get witnesses for them. He went to Thomas F. Gilroy. for instance, and told him he knew where some witnesses could be obtained in a damage suit that lawyer had on hand. Mr. Gilroy innocently told him to go shead;

but Rogers furnished so many that Mr. The profession or trade of failing off Gilroy's suspicions were aroused. He investigated and "fired" the whole crew. Among the specialists of note may be mentioned William J. Leonard, who formerly operated in Boston, but left there some months ago. Leonard has a woman partner named Mary Toner, otherwise known as Odette or Duette. She, too, had a specialty, quite different from Leonard's, and neither ever infringed on the other's patent. Leonard's specialty was elevator accidents and Miss Toner's was a refine-

ment of the trolley car method. Miss Toner's Specialty.

The usual method of getting hurt in a trolley car is to be thrown from your seat when the car gives a jerk, but Miss Toner's specialty was boarding cars just as they started and being thrown to the ground

Leonard never bothered with trolley cars except once. He practiced the profession of getting out of elevators when the car was not quite level with the landing and tripping over the casing. His record for the year 1968 was as follows:

Sued American Fidelity company March 16; Travelers' insurance company, same day; Employers' Liability company, April and general practice. Some prefer to stay 5; Travelers' Insurance company, March; Boston and Worcester Street Railway comextending their field no further than to pany, May 1; Casualty company of Amer-

In his case against the Employers' Lincoast as a field; will fall off a trolley car bility company he gave the name of John today in Boston and turn up next month Thurman and in the second of his suits against the Travelers' Insurance company that of William Ward. All were United States, and at least one case is of elevator accidents except one trolley car sult and one case where he was "struck by a team."

But the most remarkable specialty is that of G. W. McDonald, allias Daniel, who gets hit in the eye with an incandescent light. He is operating in the west now. His method is to enter a trolley car and quietly unscrew one of the incandescent lights. When the car starts or gives a terk the globe falls. As it does so Mc-Donald gives a cry of pain and claps his hands to his eye. In his hand is a compound which has the effect of inflaming the eye and making it water. Then, of course, he sues the road.

He is known to have mulcted the Little Rock (Ark.) Railway and Electric company on July 2, 1908, and the Birmingham (Ala.) Light and Power company on August 3 of the same year. Five days after ward he was in Oklahoma City and undertook to play his usual game on the Oklahoma Railway company. He failed. the Oklahoma being too sharp for him, and moved on to Guthrie, where he tried it again. The Guthrie people had been forewarned and he failed, but on Novem suit against anybody an investigation can the Memphis (Tenn.) Street Rallway company. As a result, the Memphis company has joined the alliance.

At least one of these operators allows no pent-up continent to contract his powers. by a tragedy in one of the boxes, and a that he stumbled over a stump in the dark; from the Employers' Liability Assurance





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Booms With Bath \$2 and Up. Special rates by the month or season Restaurant a la Carte. SETH E. MOSELEY, SD. Formarly of New Haven House. New Haven. Cons

limax of tenseness and fascination. Miss also wrote the play, is well adapted to her a corner too quickly and a box fell off and role and plays it with relish. Although handicapped by a bad cold last night, she landed on his foot; A and B would be his succeeded in carrying the part with aptness. The rest of the large company supports her well and makes the production a 300 cases against the Boston Elevated. In Philadelphia the Mercer brothers opwell rounded evening of entertainment. It is staged in nine scenes with special set-

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER IS ILL a man "throw a fit" in front of a street car so that the fender would hit him. At Miss Belle R. Wilson is So Sick Her one time they had a professional contor Recovery is Said to Be in tionist in their employ for this purpose. Doubt.

As soon as the "accident" took place one of the firm, in a wagon, would jump Miss Belle R. Wilson, teacher in the high

chool, is seriously ill at her home at 410 down, brush the excited spectators aside and say, "Never mind waiting for an am-North Twenty-third street and the attendbulance; I'll take the poor fellow myself." ing physician fears she will not survive Then he would load the injured man into week out. Miss Wilson took cold about six weeks ago and this developed into the his wagon, drive him to a private house grip with other complication. She has been and keep him there for three weeks under n the high school over eight years and has the care of the nurse. The physician treasure vaults are being thrown open been teacher of mathematics. Miss Wilson lives with her mother. were finally driven out of Philadelphia and operated for a while in New York,

but have since scattered. Joseph A. Shay, who recently got into trouble for trying to rig up the escape of a prisoner from the Tombs, was their counsel. Making Corporations Pay. Go To The Bottom

While in New York the Mercers formed a combination with an artificial leg dealer. spring's clothing. Where the garments are too solled to look fresh and nice, the French Dry Cleaning Process will make them look as well as in their pristine beauty. If they are hadly worn, or if you are tired of the colors, our unexcelled dyeing facilities are at your service. When a man came to him to buy a leg the dealer would suggest that he might as well get some money from some corporation for the loss of his leg and send him to the Mercers to fix up a story of how he lost it. There have been a singularly large num

French Dry Cleaning Works Phonest Doug. 4172; A-2125 ber of accidents in the Selinger family of 200 Forsyth street, New York. Ida Selinger, aged 14, was the first victim. She sued her landlord, claiming that on August 4. 1906, part of the ceiling fell and hurt her head. On September 8, 1906, Jacob Selinger was pushed against a seat on a Brooklyn car and hurt. He sued the Brooklyn Rapid Transit. On August 21, 1906. a car on De Lancey street gave a start, throwing Annie Sellnger to the floor. Then the whole Selinger family, together

with five other tenants in the Forsyth street house, sued the Consolidated Gas company, claiming that a leaking meter salt being covered with wash gravel and made them ill. It was settled for \$159. L. Edwin Oppenheim is the lawyer appearing in all these cases. The Bruhnke family of Chicago was

equally unfortunate. Its record runs thus as far as traced: Hermina Bruhnke against City of Chi- cuts, tunnels and shafts, all penetrating cago. June 20, 1897; same against same, the surface incrustation and showing pure

January 31, 1858; same against Metzel Bros., sait in the face. It is estimated that there 1996; same against Chicago City Railway are 250,000 ton of salt already exposed in Company, 1899; same against same, Sep- this deposit. tember 24, 1902; William Bruhnke (her son) McNeil & Co., December 31, 1993.

family have not been traced. Born to Trouble.

Coney Island & Brooklyn railroad on Au- Angeles Times. gust 6, 1997, for a car collision; the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company on July 28, 1997 for falling over some boards in the The light single blankets that nearly

against a bolt of cloth.

A and C would be his witnesses. C would company there. Robinson went to jail fo Della Clarke, who heads the company and sue the Merchants' Express company, a year and the Alliance Against Accident claiming that an express wagon rounded Fraud gave Atkinson \$500 as a reward. One novel variation of the game is played at the expense of lawyers instead of corwitnesses. The law firm of Coakley & porations. The practitioner appears in a Sherman, in Boston, handled at one time law office with a bandaged hand and a circumstantial story of how he was injured by a street car, together with a fake erated successfully for a long time with a list of witnesses. He asks the lawyer to sort of private hospital. They had in take his case and the lawyer does so. As their combination a lawyer, a physician the client is leaving he asks the lawyer and a nurse. Their specialty was having to cash a lodge premium for \$5, and the attorney eagerly consents. He never hears again of his client .-- Philadelphia Ledger.

MYSTERIES OF DEATH VALLEY

Steadily Penetrating the Forbidden Spot in Search of Treasure.

Slowly but surely, inch by inch, in the face of drouth and intense heat, maa is solving the mysteries of Death Valley, and one by one its hitherto unlocked would produce the necessary proof, the to add to the wealth of the world. There lawyer would bring suit and there would is gold, in large and small quantities he a settlement or a verdict. The Mercers throughout the length of the valley, particularly at Skidoo and other neighboring camps in the Panaminta; there is copper aplenty, enough borax to supply the entire world for many a year, and now it seems probable that the district will soon be

known as a large producer of rock salt. These salt deposits are found in the foothills of the Avakatw mountains, at the southern end of Death Valley, and within sixteen miles of the Tonopah & Tidewater railroad. There are four dis tinct bodies, known as the Death Valley King, Salt Basin and Jumbo salt mines. The sait appears to lie in ledge form with weil defined walls, particularly on the

NEW YORK, April 9 .- Should the opinion upper or hanging walls. The deposits have been well known to of Referee Benjamin E. Tracy, on the prospectors for many years, but it was debt limit of New York City rendered tonot until the completion of the railroad day, he upheld by the courts, the city's prospects for extension of subway conthat they assumed any commercial value. struction to relieve the present cobjested Years ago some of the material was freighted to the Tecopa mine for use in transportation conditions would be appear a chlorination mill in use on the property, to be excellent. The report finds that the when it was mined for its high surface borrowing capacity of the city on June

values of silver. The Death Valley mine consists of eighty several millions greater at present. Mr. acres, and it is upon this ground that the larger part of the present development deposits has been done. The showcity's actual dabt limit. ing is 500 wide by 1.000 feet in length, the

mud to a mininmum depth of ten feet. Where the sait has been most exposed to the elements it has dissolved and mixed with the mud and gravel, forming an incrustation harder even than the rock sait. debt limit the increase in the assessment The development consists of numerous open

The King mine lies one mile to the north against Chicago City Rallway, December of the Death Valley property and shows 31, 1904; same against same, July 17, 1900; sait for more than one hundred feet in Annie Bruhnke (daughter) against Libby, width, traceable for 1,300 feet. In one place the rock salt stands fifty feet above the The later misfortunes of the Bruhnke surrounding foundation. The Salt Basin property lies one mile further to the southcast, on what is really a continuation of

of the

Elizabeth Williams of Brooklyn is an- the King deposit. Two miles further southother person who had a good deal of trou- cast is the Jumbo mine, showing a body ble in her life. She felt obliged to sue the of sale seventy-five feet across -Los on personal liberty. Here we stopped horse

Summer Coverlets.

Ridgewood depot; the Long Island rail- every one has may be made into pleasant this: We'll make our money here, but road on June 10, 1908, for falling over a mat summer coveriets by covering with a silkin Long Island City, and A. D. Matthews oline slip, tied here and there to keep it & Sons on December 15, 1998, for bumping smooth. This protects the blanket, is easily during his stay in Washington, Mr. Croker washed, and does away with the disagreesald: Thomas A. Rogers and Charles A. Wil- able feel of the wool

This will be the most gigantic sale of Wall Paper ever inaugurated in Omaha. Their stock consists of nearly 250,000 rolls. Come in and Look at Them About April 8th, at **2008 FARNAM STREET** MEW YORK'S DEBT CAPACITY country may have to face. He is there

plenty of physical strength." City May Legally Borrow Hundred and Fifty Millions More.

DICK CROKER ON PROHIBITION atrical war.

Former Tammany Chieftain Says Present Movement Will Drive Many Rich Americans to Europe.

derstood. 30 tast was \$106.205,714, and is presumably

Calculating the permanent debt of the city at \$517,844,345, the referee found that the constitutional borrowing power at the close of the last fiscal year was more than \$106,000,000, and that to calculate the present roll for 1968 must be allowed for. As the assessment roll showed an increase more than \$450,000,000, the apparent concluion is that the present borrowing capacity of the city is probably nearly \$150,-000,000. This estimate is far larger than any previously made.

Dick Croker on Prohibition.

Commenting tonight on the wave of prohibition legislation now sweeping over the country, Richard Croker predicted that this course, if persisted in would drive rich Americans abroad, where more liberal views prevailed.

"Europe," said he, "can give us points racing, one of the grandest sports there We legislate is. We class it us a crime. as to what and when a man shall drink. The whole question will resolve itself to

will go to Europe to enjoy it." Speaking of the president, whom he met

"He is a fine, hig, splendid, wholesouled man, genial and smart. He'fl be

more than equal to any emergency this ing the assistance of ministers and others country may have to face. He is there with the poise and the brains, backed by plenty of physical strength." Theatrical Managers' War. The announcement today by the Messrs Shubert that they have withdrawn from

HYMENEAL.

Matherly-Vardaman.

Mundin-Miller.

Miss Helen Miller, daugter of John Mil-

Shubert that they have withdrawn from the Theatrical Managers' association is the first gun, according to the Tribune. of what will undoubtedly be a big the-

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of the late firm of

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their magnificent stock of strictly up-to-date

German, French, English and Domestic

WALL PAPERS

which will be sold at about

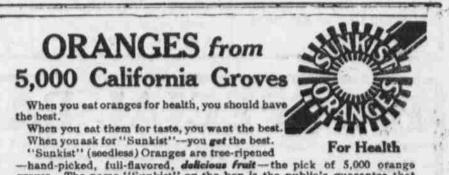
ONE-TENTH THE ORIGINAL VALUES

Collins-Nelson. Miss Myrtle M. Nelson, daughter of The Shuberts, it is stated, have long been Walter Nelson, and William M. Collins, all the syndicate composed of Klaw & Er- Charles W. Savidge Thursday at 4 p. mr. langer, Nixon & Zimmerman, Charles at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. L. A.

Frohman and Al Hayman, and a fight Bennett, 206 North Nineteenth street. against them is said to have been planned. But the Shuberts, according to the Trib-Miss Cora M. Vardman, daughter bat une, have taken the initiative and are pre-Frank Vardman, and William A. Matherly pared to make the fight a thorough one. were married by Rev. Charles W. Savidge A new managers' association, which will at his residence, at 4:30 p. m., Thursday, include David Belasco, Harrison Grey Fiske They were accompanied by Warren J, and the Shuberts, will be formed, it is un- Savage and Mrs. Frank Faber.

They Want Their Sunday Off. ler, and George A. Mundin were married

30 last was \$105,205,714, and is presumably several millions greater at present. Mr. Tracy was appointed by the supreme court as referee in injunction proceedings, the determination of which hinged upon the city's actual debt limit. Bunday funerals in Chicago have been placed under the ban of the Carriage and Cab Drivers' union. The jebus consider themselves entitled to a day of rest, so themselves have adopted resolu-tions condemning Sunday funerals and ask-



-hand-picked, full-flavored, **delicious fruit**—the pick of 5,000 orange groves. The name "Sunkist" on the box is the public's guarantee that these are the best to be had.

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> Give the children oranges. Ask for "Sunkist." Your dealer has a fresh shipment today. California "Sunkist" Lemons are juicy and mostly seedless.

Try this recipe for Lemon Sherbet: Rub the yellow rind of five lemons with ½ pound of loaf sugar. Crush the sugar to powder, put it into a sauce pan with a plut of water and simmer gently until sugar is dissolved. When cold, add the strained juice of the lemons. Take out the rind and serve in sherbet glasses. (Will serve seven persons.) Mostly Seedless

STATE OF