

Three-Ball Shops Look for 'Lively' Winter Business

Trade's Dull Now on Account of Threatened Fall in Prices—Old-Fashioned Loan Office Has Passed.

The pawnbroker who bought everything from a pair of shoes to a diamond ring is rapidly becoming a thing of the past in Omaha. Prohibition, high prices for clothing and other articles and the threatened fall in prices of all commodities, together with the general prosperity of the last few years, have resulted in the following changes in the old-fashioned "three-ball shops."

There are no more exclusive pawnbrokers. There are pawn shops by the dozens in existence, but they carry the loan business as a side issue and their main source of revenue is derived from selling new goods and not second-hand goods.

High-class jewelry, especially diamonds, are accepted for loans by all pawnbrokers.

Old Days Gone. A few accept high-priced clothing and silk shirts, musical instruments, cut glass and revolvers for loans.

But the days when an old pair of shoes "hocked" was good for half a dozen drinks for the beggars who solicited at the back doors are memories.

The Salvation Army and other charitable organizations get the discarded clothing these days.

Suits people are wearing these days cost anywhere from \$60 to \$100 and with clothing prices falling lower day by day, the pawnbroker won't pay the prospective customer more than \$10 or \$15 for a loan on the suit.

Would Pawn Anything. "If it isn't redeemed, the law forces us to hold it for six months now and maybe by that time a new suit won't be worth much more than we pay for the second-hand suit," an Omaha pawnbroker explained.

Then, too, because of the high prices of the new goods, the pawnbroker business better be a penniless boozed hound wouldn't consider values. All he wanted was booze, and he would pawn anything he had for a few dollars to quench his thirst.

And still another reason—the war and the high wages which put every one on the road to prosperity and which also stimulated a demand for new goods and not second class goods.

Hence the strange sight in the old pawnbrokerage districts of the new goods in the windows and the second-hand goods, what lies to the left, way back in a shoe case in the rear end of the stores.

"But," said a pawnbroker with a sly smile, "there may be a good time coming. Thousands may be out of work this winter and you know few saved their money when wages were high and we may get some good prices on goods for loans."

Supreme Court Must Say If Jamaica Ginger Is Hooch

Boston, Dec. 25.—Martin Waterhouse, who was found guilty in the superior criminal court of selling intoxicating liquor which consisted of Jamaica ginger for which, according to the evidence, he was paid \$1 per bottle, is to take the case to the full bench of the supreme court to determine whether that beverage is classed among intoxicants.

Nebraska Author Writes While Pie Is Baking

Bess Streeter Aldrich, Mother of Four, Is Busy With Many Household Activities.

You don't have to bob your hair, grow green eyelashes and live in Greenwich Village to write stories. You don't have to live in hotels, have a specially designed study and breakfast with your husband only on Sundays and holidays to get across in the magazines. That is all a pretty fairy tale with a Jack-and-the-beanstalk flavor, according to Bess Streeter Aldrich, Nebraska's author of 60 short stories, which include the Mason family series just finished in the American Magazine.

"To write human stories about folks a person must live a normal life and love it. I'd rather be known as one of the best cake makers in the Woman's club than to be called an author. I'd rather have you admire my baby than my latest story."

Lives at Elmwood. Bess Streeter Aldrich began her magazine career several years ago, when her first story, "The Little House Next Door," was accepted by the Ladies' Home Journal. Her personal article will be published in the February American to be followed by more short stories for which that magazine has contracted.

Mrs. Aldrich lives at Elmwood, Neb., 52 miles southwest of Omaha—in Mrs. Aldrich's own words, "a town so small that they nearly forgot to take the census."

The author of the Mason stories is known among her own town folks as just plain Mrs. Aldrich, wife of one of the bankers, and mother of four healthy children. To 11-year-old Mary Eleanor to 8-year-old James, to Charles, Jr., and to Baby Robert Streeter, she is just "mother dear."

A Jolly Person. Neighbor and friend to Elmwood folks, Mrs. Aldrich is a jolly, comfortable sort of person, easy to meet and just like the average mother who bakes and mends socks and knows that her husband likes his steak rare and his doughnuts crisp. She is an honest-to-goodness human being who has taken the job of wife and mother and is proud of it.

"The other day I received a letter from a woman out in the state who has the wrong idea about this writing game," Mrs. Aldrich said. "She wrote that she knew she could get across as a writer if Fate hadn't robbed her of a proper environment. You see she is married and lives in a small town. Of course, my correspondent thinks that is the reason she can't write successfully. Here's a bit of her letter: 'I'm handicapped by my limited horizon. I long to get out and try my wings in the literary world. But there is nothing I can write about in a small place like this. What would you do?'"

Environment Doesn't Count. Mrs. Aldrich's eyes twinkled. "Don't worry. I shall write her that if our town ever gets a population of 1,000 we'll name this street out here Fifth avenue. And I seldom have a chance to get anywhere but club and the Missionary society. Environment doesn't hamper writing. It's either here inside of you or it isn't. If it's in here it will come out, no matter what your surroundings. And if it isn't here you couldn't write if you traveled to the ends of the earth."

Asked when she found time to write, Mrs. Aldrich said: "It is really a piece of work for me. My typewriter desk stands open all the time and you'll notice it is within smelling distance of the kitchen. I write a little while the baby naps or while a pie is baking. When I sit down to the desk I write very fast, for the reason that while I have made the beds and pared the potatoes I have been outlining my story in my mind."

Cuddles Baby. "What is my code? Oh—'Have four children and love them all.' 'Cook to please your husband.' 'Keep your eyes and your heart open.' 'Really live and love life.' 'Make yourself feel sympathetic for everyone around you.'"

Mrs. Aldrich, as she sat there in a big leather rocking chair, with her 6-month-old baby in her arms, looked the part of the good old-fashioned mother. She cuddled little Robert as she told of her girlhood days in Cedar Falls, Ia., and how she had taught in Boone and Marshalltown, where she met Captain Aldrich.

"I receive countless letters from people who think they want to write," she continued. "After reading several hundred of these I seem to have a keen sense of knowing which of the writers really want to do magazine work and which ones only think they want to. That is one of the pleasures and one of the disagreeable things connected with the writing game, to encourage the worthy and to discourage the hopeless from wasting time. In my coming article in the American I have dwelt on what I consider the essential requisites for a writer: Imagination, a good English foundation and a desire to write so keen that there are no obstacles which you will not surmount to accomplish that desire."

Incidents Are True. Upon being asked if her characters were real people, Mrs. Aldrich replied: "No they are not. I take certain human characteristics and work them into story form. Many of the incidents are true."

Mrs. Aldrich opened various drawers in her filing case and showed her several hundred letters from strangers on file. These were from every state in the union telling the writer how much some simple little story had been appreciated. A woman in Alaska wrote that a certain story had made peace in a discordant household, a young sergeant with the army of occupation on the Rhine explained how the entire company had worn out a copy of the magazine reading a story "that sounded just like home," the principal of a school wrote that one story had aided him in disciplining a 12-year-old boy, a Canadian mother told how she had pinned a certain story on her dresser for comfort.

"These are the things that repay one and make you feel that even the simplest theme will find response from someone," Mrs. Aldrich said.

Canadian Aviator Plans to Solve Irrigation Problems of Canadian Farmers.

Calgary, Alta., Dec. 25.—A. E. Cole, formerly of the Royal Flying corps, has organized the Aerial Irrigation company here to produce rain by spraying clouds with liquid air.

Clouds that trail uselessly across the sky, says the new rain maker, are rain dainties gone to waste for lack of a milkmaid. He hopes to become the milkmaid of the clouds.

What these Holsteiners of blue sky pastures need, he declares, to make them let down their moisture is a silage of liquid air. He proposes to feed them from an airplane.

Condense Moisture. Cole declares the plan perfectly practicable. Clouds are rain in the form of imponderable vapor. Let a big cumulus cloud trail itself across a snow-clad mountain peak and the cold condenses its moisture. Liquid air, in Cole's scheme, will substitute for the mountain peak. Liquid air in its frigidity is an approach toward absolute zero.

When his company is in operation and a rain is needed Cole declares he will fly among the clouds in an airplane equipped with a pumpgun that shoots liquid air instead of bullets.

Like Turning Faucet. Skimming lightly about some nebulous monster, he will spray its snowy sides with frozen air, which will cause its moisture to congeal and fall upon the thirsty earth in a refreshing shower.

If Cole's unique idea works out, farmers will be able to get rain by a process as simple as turning on a faucet, and millions of dollars will be added to the productive value of the rapidly settling farm lands of western Canada.

Man Loses Wife at Poker—Now He's Jailed for Bigamy

Geneva (Via Paris), Dec. 25.—Declaring that he had lost everything he owned, including his wife, to a "friend" at poker, Andrea Calloni, arrested here for bigamy, told the magistrate that he considered that when his opponent drew the "case card" he was legally divorced.

The game was played in Milan. First Calloni lost his cash, then his jewels, then his home and finally in desperation he staked his wife, a beautiful young girl he had recently married.

Can Pronounce His Name, But Nobody Else

Denver, Dec. 25.—"Zigmund Mik"—Police Magistrate Bray hesitated. "Zigmund Mik"—but the judge couldn't make it, so announced that anyone in the courtroom who spelled his name "Mikoclojezoelski" might step forward.

Mikoclojezoelski arose and pronounced the name, but no one could repeat it after him. He was placed under bonds for appearance in the criminal court on a charge of grand larceny.

Probably about 20 per cent gas coal and 80 per cent steam coal are used in the various industrial plants and railways of Norway.



Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 25.—Frederick Santee, Harvard's 13-year-old intellectual "prodigy," has raised a question which has set the best lawyers of his home town of Wapwallopen, Pa., by the ears. It is: "Does the same law which requires a parent to send a child to school until he is 16 require the community to pay for that child's education until he is that old?"

If it does Santee and his father, a prominent physician, intend to insist that the town of Wapwallopen pay his tuition at Harvard until he is legally beyond school age.

This is the first time the question has been raised, and the best constitutional lawyers of Pennsylvania are frankly puzzled.

"School laws are framed for ordinary boys, who get through high school about the time they are of legal working age," said one legal light plaintively. "They are not framed for prodigies. It was not contemplated that our youth would be seeking degrees in great universities before they were out of short trousers."

"Why, this young Santee may absorb all the knowledge in Harvard and want to go to Oxford or the University of Paris before he is sixteen. What could we do then?"

Young Santee, according to his classmates at Harvard, has a small boy's delight in the trouble he is causing the disciples of Blackstone "back home."

Ex-President of France Is Recovering His Health

Paris, Dec. 25.—Paul Deschanel, who was forced to resign the presidency of France because of ill health, has so far recovered that some of the electors in his old district are thinking of nominating him to the senate. Deschanel remains in the same private hospital where Stephen Pichon, former foreign minister, has spent several months.

Town May Have To Pay Prodigy's Way In College

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Plow Invented by York Men Keeps Snow Off State Roads

being made. There are 50 miles of state road in York county, all of which meet in this city, are kept cleared of snow banks by a snow plow designed and constructed by C. R. Thomas, county bridge foreman, Lee Gillan and H. C. Seng, city patrolmen.



York, Neb., Dec. 24.—(Special)—State aid roads in York county, all of which meet in this city, are kept cleared of snow banks by a snow plow designed and constructed by C. R. Thomas, county bridge foreman, Lee Gillan and H. C. Seng, city patrolmen.

During the recent heavy snow, when drifts were between two and three and a half feet deep, this plow, pushed by two automobile trucks tandem, opened the state roads.

Ploughs Through. The trucks plowed through drifts three feet deep at second speed, cutting a swath eight feet wide and within two inches of the ground. After first through, the plow was used again at half swath to move the snow four feet farther toward the ditch.

The secret of the success of this plow, according to County Engineer Fred V. Voyles, is the fact that it raises the snow above the drifts which prevents wedging.

Really Works. "This plow really works," says A. W. Ballenger, secretary of the York county commercial club. "I have had the opportunity of riding it for six miles in heavy, wet, packy snow on a road that was slippery with mud in the tracks where the trucks were moving, and yet it plowed through in fine style."

Another plow of the same style is being made. There are 50 miles of state road in York county, all of which meet in this city, are kept cleared of snow banks by a snow plow designed and constructed by C. R. Thomas, county bridge foreman, Lee Gillan and H. C. Seng, city patrolmen.

Relics of Old West Sold When Store Closes Out

Helena, Mont., Dec. 25.—Rounding out a quarter of a century of business activity in this city, Arthur P. Curtain closed one of the largest furniture stores in the northwest on its twenty-fifth anniversary.

Much of the furniture displayed in Curtain's store in the early days was brought in by ox teams from Fort Benton, where it was taken from Missouri river steamboats.

Before the doors were closed Curtain staged a sale that was unique. Prices were slashed on every article, and among the articles offered and which eventually found a purchaser were a few beautifully made ivory and pearl inlaid roulette wheels.

A big assortment of iron shoes used for oxen were sold to a south American buyer. Curtain will retire to private life.

For softening box toes of shoes a device has been invented that subjects them to steam from electrically heated water running through cotton waste.

4-Year-Old Boy Amazes Teachers With Brain Tests

Los Angeles Lad Speaks Languages, Peruses Treaties—He Is Normal Youngster, But Dislikes Girls.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 25.—Ezra Rachlin, a 4½-year-old boy of this city, is attracting much attention among California educators because of his remarkable mental attainments.

Ezra is devoting himself particularly to mathematics, but in his lighter moments he plays a great piano in the drawing room of the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Rachlin.

Speaks Yiddish. He speaks Yiddish, Russian and English with remarkable fluency. Sometimes he peruses poetic and rationalistic treatises. As a sample of his literary favorites can be mentioned "The Sunken Bell" of Hauptmann, "Fairy Tales of Eastern Europe" and "The Wonderful Adventure of Nils."

According to his mother Ezra has never been pushed in his mental development in any way.

Like Other Children. "His life is very simple and quite like other children," said Mrs. Rachlin. "I expect to have him trained by a special tutor, but not send him to school until he is practically ready for college work."

"He learned to read phonetically and we began training him so early only because he demanded information along all lines."

Ezra has just one aversion, so far as is known. And that is little girls.

London Girls Wear Bracelet on Ankle

London, Dec. 25.—Like all the so-called "fashions" and fads of the feminine world, the wearing of the wrist watch round the ankle has passed. Now they are wearing a small silver chain.

A smartly-dressed woman was seen walking along Regent street wearing a small chain of silver fastened round her ankle. To a mere uninitiated man it looked useless, but it looks quite dainty upon an elegant silk stocking.

Starting Monday---The Greatest Values of the Passing Year

SUITS and OVERCOATS

In a Gigantic Five-Day Sale

Glance at that price column to the right, compare those offerings with the best you have ever encountered. Every price reduction is genuine. It's the one dominant clothing sale of 1920

Big assortment of models for men and young men—smart, snappy, designed for young fellows and conservative models for their elders. Fancy mixtures in a big variety of new colors and patterns. All wool through and through—See our window display.



The reductions and comparative prices advertised by this Great Clothing Store are not exaggerated. The Palace clothes we now offer at these sensationally reduced prices are the most remarkable values on the market today—you actually make immense savings on every purchase. The clothes are always substantial values at their original prices—when you pay less you make the difference.

- \$30-\$35 Suits and Overcoats Choice in Sale Only **\$19.50**
- \$45-\$50 Suits and Overcoats Choice in Sale Only **\$24.50**
- \$55-\$60 Suits and Overcoats Choice in Sale Only **\$29.50**

Year End Clearance of TROUSERS

- Prices Smashed Beyond Recognition.
- All Palace \$6.50 Trousers, to go at.....**\$3.98**
- All Palace \$8.00 Trousers, to go at.....**\$4.98**
- All Palace \$10.00 Trousers, to go at.....**\$5.98**
- All Palace \$12.50 Trousers, to go at.....**\$6.98**

Buy trousers now, match up that odd coat and vest while these extreme low prices prevail. Blue serge included in this sale. Every wanted size.

Reversible Leather COATS HALF PRICE

Here's the super-sale offer of this year-end event. Fine quality leather reversible coats in several styles, choose without reserve at exactly one-half price.



Year End Offerings in Boys' Suits, Overcoats and Mackinaws

- If you want to dress your boy in styles of the hour at a cost that is unbelievably low, then make it a point to bring the youngster down Monday early.
- Sturdy Suits, Overcoats and Mackinaws in all sizes from 6 to 18 years.
- Values to \$12.00 **\$6.98**
- Values to \$18.00 **\$9.98**
- Values to \$25.00 **\$14.98**

