

Humorous Department

An Effective Break.—A dusky dough-boy, burdened with tons of medals and miles and miles of ribbons, service and wound chevrons, stars et al., encountered a Twenty-seventh division scrapper in Le Mans a few days prior to the division's departure for the states.

"Whar yo' all be scroppin' in dis yar war, boss?" meekly inquired the colored soldier.

"We've been fighting up in Belgium and Flanders with the British," replied the New Yorker, proudly.

"Well, we ben down in dem woods — watcha call 'em woods 'way down south?"

"The Argonne?" suggested young Klinkerbocker.

"Yas, yas, dem's de woods—d' Argonne."

"You know our division was the first to break the Hindenburg line, colored boy," explained the Twenty-seventh man.

"Was it you wot did dat trick? Y'know, boss, we felt dat 'o' line sag 'way down in d' Argonne."—The Gas attack.

He Was on the Right Track.—Dr. J. M. Buckley, the Methodist divine, was asked one day to conduct an "experience meeting" at a colored church in the south.

A colored woman arose and bore witness to the preclusiveness of her religion as light-bringer and comfort-giver.

"That's good, sister," commented Dr. Buckley. "But now about the practical side. Does your religion make you strive to prepare your husband a good dinner? Does it make you look after him in every way?"

Just then Dr. Buckley felt a yank at his coat-tails by the colored preacher, who whispered ardently: "Press dem questions, doctor; press dem questions. Dat's my wife!"—Ladies' Home Journal.

Couldn't Maybe—In a Trap!—"England really did dig deeply into its resources during the war," insists Lord Northcliffe. "I am reminded of the old woman who had come up from the country to see her daughter married in London.

"Motorbuses and taxicabs were out of the question, and she was a little nervous of having a 'growler.' She chose a man with a good-tempered face, and timidly inquired:

"There is no fear of your horse running away, is there? He's not afraid of motors, is he?"

"Hess you, no mum," said the genial caddy. Why, he didn't even shy at railway trains when they first come in."—Los Angeles Times.

Yet—A zealous excise officer was sent to Ireland to try to locate several "moonshine" stills which were known to exist.

Meeting a native, the excise officer approached him, saying:

"I'll give you five shillings, Pat, if you can take me to a private still."

"Troth, an' I will, sir," was Pat's reply, as he pocketed the money. "Come with me."

For many weary miles over mountain, bog and moor they tramped, until they came into view of a barracks. Pointing to a soldier seated on a step inside the square, Pat said:

"There you are, sir, my brother Mike; he's been a soldier for ten years, an' he's a private still."—Vim.

The Sign Language.—Ephum Johnson was up before Judge Shimmerplate on a cruelty to animals charge.

"Deed Ah wasn't abusing dat mule, judge," the old man demurred.

"Did you not strike it repeatedly with a club?"

"Yassah."

"And do you not know that you can accomplish more with animals by speaking to them?"

"Yassah, but this critter am different. He am so deaf he can't hear me when Ah speaks to him in de usual way, so Ah has to communicate wid him in de sign language."—Charleston Mail.

Three Out, All Out.—"Might I ask how my three-act drama is coming on, sir? Has it been accepted?" questioned the young dramatist eagerly.

"The three members of the reading committee have read it," replied the manager, "and I think it will do with one act cut out."

"I am glad to hear it is no worse, sir," said its author, breathing a sigh of relief.

"But," continued the manager, "unfortunately each one wants to strike out a different act."—Harper's Magazine.

They Couldn't Help It.—Two friends met in the Strand the morning after an airplane raid.

"Any damage done your way?" the first asked.

"Damage! Rather!" answered the other. "Father and mother were blown clean out of the window. The neighbors say it's the first time they've been seen to leave the house together in seventeen years."—New York Globe.

The Holy Terror.—Lady.—They say Father Hooley advanced to the attack with a prayer-book in one hand and a bomb in the other.

Returned Soldier.—They're always thyrin' t' belittle a good man, mum.

Lady.—Why, wasn't it true?

Soldier.—No, lady; he had bombs in both hands.—Lady.

Taking Stock of Him.—The Suitor.—"I hope, sir, that you will consider me in the nature of an investment, even if I may not pay regular dividends."

The Girl's Father.—"My dear boy, don't talk of dividends. I shall be glad if you don't levy regular assessments on me."—Life.

He Knew.—Teacher.—"Don't you know that punctuation means that you must pause?"

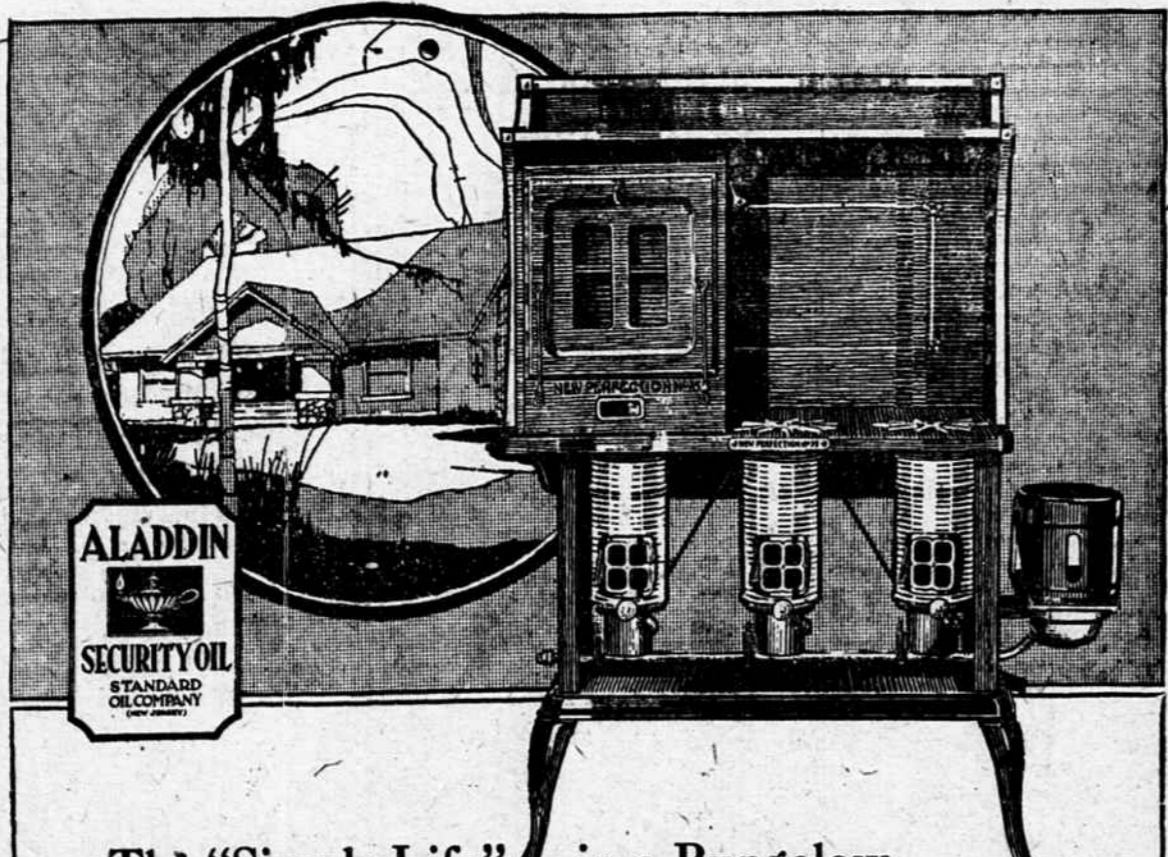
Willie.—"Of course I do. An auto driver punctuated his tire in front of our house Sunday and he paused for half an hour."—Boston Transcript.

He Carried On.—Fond Mamma.—"Oh, look, papa, how solid baby feels this morning. Catch hold of him."

Papa.—Yes, there certainly seems a difference. He was all "holier" last night."—Tit Bits.

Just Work.—Lady.—Do you want employment?

Tramp.—Lady, yer means well, but yer can't make work sound any more yevvin' us'n' a word of three syllables.—Tit Bits.



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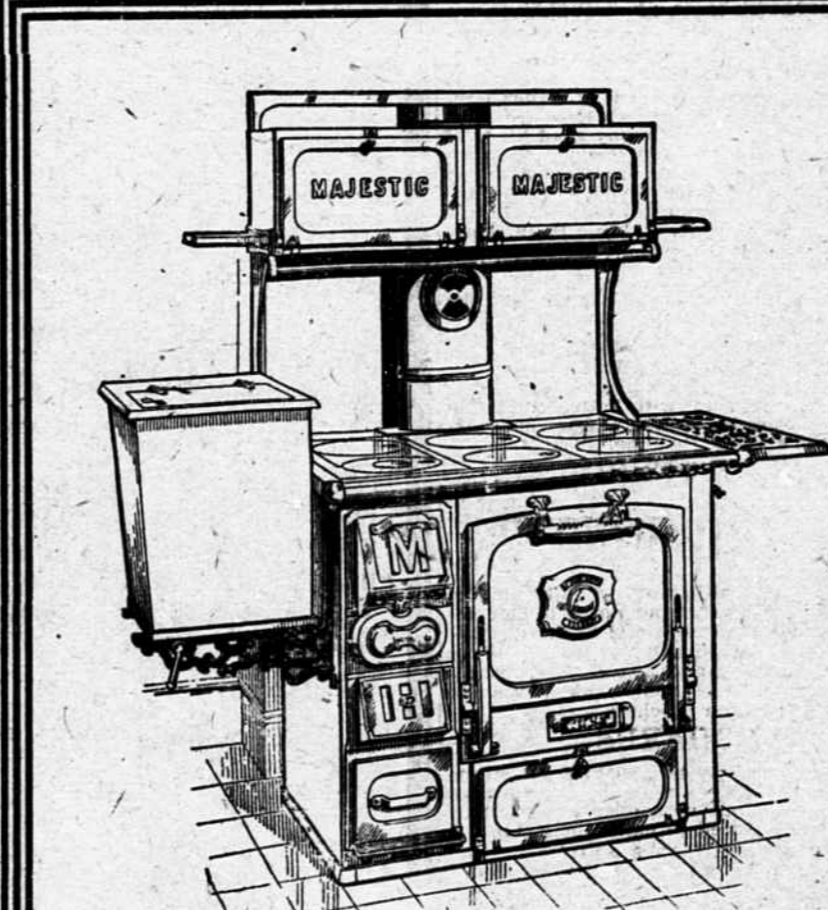
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