An Ursine Checker Player

A Veracious Nature Story

By Edwin J. Webster

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"Mighty few men are good players of both checkers and poker," said Uncle Zack Rogers pensively. "So it seems to me that Elder Allison was harsh in his severe condemnation of his pet bear when he found that once pious animal had mixed up the two games. The bear might have been redeemed from paths of sin if the elder hadn't been so hasty. As it was, the bear, after enduring a few hard buffets from the good elder, fled to a life of careless vice. And he was such a good bear at first.

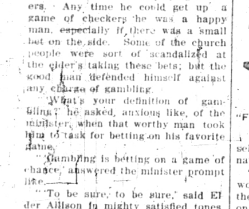
"Elder Allison had picked up the bear when only a cub in the woods one day. Some hunters had shot his mother, and it was a very hungry and lonely furry baby. The elder took the bear home with him, fed him, and sort of adopted him as a member of the family. When the bear began to grow a little it was evident that all bets on bear intelligence wanted to be cultured if they were made against the elder's pet. He had the rest of his kindred chained to the post when it came to knowing how to do things, and to do them well. Ordinary bear tricks were so easy for that intelligent animal that he never had to be shown them more than once, but Elder Allison, who was a pillar in the village church, wouldn't teach his pet any ordinary bear tricks. He said they were frivolous and an abomination to the truly good." And Elder Allison ranked class A in that division.

"The good elder had only one real division, and that was playing checkers. Any time he could get up a game of checkers he was a happy man, especially if there was a small bet on the side. Some of the church people were sort of scandalized at the elder's taking these bets; but the good man defended himself against any charge of gambling.

"What's your definition of gambling," he asked, anxious like, of the minister, when that worthy man took him to task for betting on his favorite game.

"Gambling is betting on a game of chance," answered the minister prompt like.

"To be sure, to be sure," said Elder Allison in mighty satisfied tones. That was what I thought myself. Well, it isn't any game of chance when the boys around here play with me. The only reason they win at all is that I like to make things a little interesting



"A Lonely Furry Baby."

and keep them at the game. I was sure in my own mind that I wasn't gambling, but I'm mighty glad to have your indorsement, pastor.'

"And Elder Allison marched off with the satisfied air of a man who has got the commendation of the church on an innocent recreation. The pastor seemed puzzled and not wholly satisfied.

"After awhile it got so that all the boys were sort of reluctant about playing checkers with the elder. Even when there wasn't any betting on the game they didn't care to play, for the elder always won. The elder found it sort of lonely without his favorite game. One evening the thought came to him that he could teach his pet bear to play the game. The more he pondered over the scheme the more satisfied he was that it was a success.

"Checkers isn't a game to be lightly approached by man or beast," he remarked sort of doubtfully to the bear; 'but you seem to have the intelligence of two ordinary men, my furry pet, and, besides, have had the benefit of association from cubhood with one of the worthiest men in this part of the state. I don't see why, with a little practice, you couldn't become the second best checker player in town. It would be a pleasure for me, a privilege for you, and perhaps, if later on we could get some of the boys to make a few small bets against you, there might be profit in it for the good man who owns you.'

"The bear nodded his head at the end of this little speech, as if he understood every word of it. Probably he did, being as I have said a bear that could make his mark anywhere in the great world of bears. So the elder got down the checkerboard and began teaching his pet the game.

"The good bear was as apt a pupil as the elder could have found in the whole country. Besides his natural bear intellect, he had watched the elder's games night after night, so that he practically understood the whole thing before his lessons were begun. In a week the bear could play a fair game. In a month there wasn't a person in town, except Elder Allison, who could beat him. And sometimes the intelligent bear would score a victory over the elder. But he soon learned that this wasn't healthy and meant reduced rations. The elder was a worthy and pious man; but he couldn't stand it to be beaten, especially by his own bear.

"How much sharper than a serpent's tooth is an ungrateful bear,' the elder used to sigh after the bear had won a victory over him at checkers. 'Probably you cheated when I wasn't looking, or you couldn't have won that game. I guess you had better go without breakfast to-morrow to teach you that the way of the transgressor is hard when he is found out.'

"Anyone who could have cheated the elder in a game of checkers could have stolen a buzz-saw in motion; but as the elder had charge of the rations, the good bear soon learned that such victories were unprofitable.

"Just about this time the elder thought he had his bear well trained at the checker game, and that it was about time for him to try and get a few bets from the rest of the boys against the bear, he was called to the city on important business which would probably keep him away about three months. He couldn't very well take the bear with him, for, even if the railroad company wouldn't object, it would look queer to go trapesing about the city followed by a big and unusually intelligent looking bear. So the elder hunted up Deacon Stebbins, and confided the bear to his care.

"That precocious animal is the apple of my eye,' said the elder earnestly, as he turned the bear over to Deacon Stebbins. 'Guard him tenderly, and be especially careful that he doesn't get into any bad habits. Intellectually he can look out for himself, but I'm afraid for his moral nature after my guidance is removed.'

"Followed by a Big and Unusually Intelligent-Looking Bear."

"Deacon Stebbins promised he would be a father to the bear during the elder's absence, so the elder went on his journey rejoicing in the thought that he had left his pet in worthy hands.

"Now Deacon Stebbins, while a good man in many ways, was a sort of a whited sepulchre, too. He was one of the pillars of the church, and generally strong in reform movements, but the deacon had a weakness for the national game of poker. Once or twice a week he used to drop down to Hal Jenkins' tavern and take a hand in a little game in one of the back rooms. The game was kept very much on the quiet, so this never injured the deacon's reputation, although it often dented his bank-roll, he not being the player Hal Jenkins and some of the rest of the boys were. Not liking to leave the precious bear at home, the deacon used to take him with him in these little excursions into haunts of vice. Of course the talents of the bear made him popular with the boys at the tavern poker room, he being a bear that would have won social success in any city, and the more Hal Jenkins saw of the bear the more delighted he was to possess him, permanently, if he could; if not, then temporarily.

"At last Hal tried to buy the bear, but of course Deacon Stebbins had no authority to sell the elder's cherished pet. Then Hal wanted to rent the bear at a mighty liberal figure until Elder Allison returned, but Deacon Stebbins wouldn't hear of this. He sort of hinted, too, that he was afraid the pious bear's morals might be corrupted by too much contact with Hal, whose heart was set mostly on things of this world. This didn't please Hal overmuch and made him more determined to get the bear.

"So Hal took two or three of the rest of the boys into partnership, and they bid for the good deacon. As a result of having so many house-plays even against him, it wasn't long before the deacon had lost most of his ready money. Then Hal loaned him some. This went, too. Hal kept this up until he had the deacon pretty well tangled up in debt. Then one day he suggested, casual like, that he needed the money. The deacon didn't have it.

"Then I'm afraid I'll have to sue for it,' said Hal, in a kind of ugly way.

"Of course this landed right hard on the good deacon. Hal probably couldn't recover a gambling debt, but he could put the deacon's reputation, with the truly good back a good many miles. After Hal had the deacon well scared, he sprung his proposition on him.

"I tell you what I'll do, deacon,' he said in a more kindly tone. 'If you will let me have that bear until Elder Allison returns, I'll call our little account square. When the elder gets back, I will turn the bear over to you, and the elder won't know he has been absent from your fostering care.'

"Deacon Stebbins was pretty joyous at getting out of debt on these terms. He turned the bear over to Hal Jenkins, remarking as he did it that the bear's long suit was playing checkers. Hal snorted at this.

"'Checkers!' he said, mighty contemptuous like. 'That's no game for either man or bear of his talents. I'll teach this cherished pet of Elder Allison's how to play a man's game. When the elder returns and finds his bear the best poker player in the county his heart ought to bubble over with gratitude towards Hal Jenkins; but I ain't by any means sure that it will.' And Hal chuckled in a pleased way to himself, there being small love lost between him and the elder.

"Of course, as soon as the bear was a little used to his new home he wanted to show off his talents in the checker-playing line, being justly proud of them. But Hal just laughed at the good bear. The intelligent animal went around for a few days with a grieved and hurt look on his face But Hal fed him well and petted him and, to make up for the loss of checkers, started in to teach the bear poker. Maybe he was a bad bear at heart, and maybe it was just his wonderful intelligence; but it took the bear even less time to learn to play poker than it had to learn checkers and he seemed to enjoy it a good deal more, too, which makes me think that at the bottom he was a sort o' Tenderloin bear and not the truly good creature he appeared at first acquaintance. Anybody who doubted the bear's ability as a poker player had only to sit in a game with him once. He didn't need to sit twice.

"Such a bear! such a bear!' said Hal Jenkins in an admiring way one evening after the furry gambler had bluffed him out of a big pot. 'No one would think to look at your innocent bland countenance that you possessed the guile you do. If you had only lived in old Mississippi river steamboat times you would have been worth a fortune to the man who owned you.'

"And just as the bear was about developed into the best poker player in town, Elder Allison returned from the city.

"Of course there was nothing for Hal Jenkins to do but to return the bear to Deacon Stebbins, who turned it over to the elder. The elder, as soon as he took his pet home with him, the faithful animal showing signs of unfeigned joy at the return of his old master. That evening the elder thought he would have a game of checkers.

"'Now we'll have a game,' he remarked complacent like, 'just to see how much you have deteriorated during my absence.'

"The bear trudged over to the place where he knew a pack of cards was kept. In the meantime the elder got out the checker board and set the pieces. The bear shuffled the cards and dealt out poker hands. Each was lousy and did not notice what the other was doing until the good elder moved one of his pieces—he always liked to have the first move. As he touch looked at the other mightily amazed.

"You may think we need the cards for counters,' snarled the elder, sort of impudently, 'but we don't. We'll only play for chips, counters, and, of course, I'll take them all.'

"But the bear was as surprised as the elder. He had forgotten all about checkers. He looked at the pieces sort of puzzled. Then he noticed that one piece the elder had pushed forward. That seemed to enlighten him some, though not entirely.

"I see the one check you have set,' he seemed to be saying to himself, 'but nobody has got forward yet about the board instead of sticking them up like a Christian.'

"The bear never was much of a conversationalist. He took another peep at his cards. Then he gathered up the checker-pieces, slid out one by the piece the elder had pushed forward and stacked up ten others alongside of it. It was plain that he was seeing the elder's supposed bet and raising it ten.

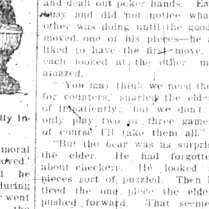
"The elder looked at this strange proceeding in amazement. Then he noticed the five cards the bear was holding and the way the checker-men were stacked up. His look changed to one of holy horror.

"'Wicked, depraved bear!' he thundered. 'Is this the way you put in your time while I am away? Learning games of chance, after my careful efforts to keep you from gambling! It's penitence and a short chain, and hard bumps that will be coming to you until you appreciate that the way of the transgressor is hard, and that it is the duty of every good bear to stick to the game at which his master can win.'

"At this the elder grabbed a big stick, and began pounding the bear. At first the bear seemed hurt, mentally as well as physically. He had been thirty-third of his poker playing ability, and now to be pounded for it. But the elder kept on showering hard words and harder blows. At last the poor bear gave a sort of sullen growl and rushed out of the door-way, but even then he turned back in a sort of shame, as if he hated to leave his old master.

"'Leave my house forever!' shouted the elder, who had evidently been to the theater while in the city. 'Never darken my door until you have forgotten all you know about poker and can bring forth fruits worthy of repentance in the checker playing line.'

"The outcast bear looked down the village street. To him could see the lights of Hal Jenkins' tavern. There he would not be beaten and abused. There his talents as a poker player would be praised and appreciated. He looked back once more at the house. The elder continued his abuse. The once good bear gave a little sigh. Then he shambled off towards the tavern, no longer the pet of a pillar of the church, but a poker playing, gambling bear, the last addition to the ursine Tenderloin.



"Leave My House Forever!"

Ancient Ireland.

For a long time all christendom looked upon Ireland as the favored home of learning. There the arts were practiced—music, architecture and the working of the metals. There the languages of Greece and Rome were studied long before they were in the rest of Europe. One of the oldest manuscripts of Europe in existence is written in Celtic, with commentaries in the Irish language. It is said by the great historian, Montelembert, that of all nations the Anglo-Saxons derived most profit from Irish schools, and that Alfred the Great received his education in an Irish university.

What the Little Workers Do.

The bee, humble worker as he is, yet has year paid the interest on the national debt of the United States, $24,310,326, and had a surplus remaining of nearly $700,000. This is almost as much as the $28,000,000 which was the value of raw cane sugar produced in the country. Yet beside the farmyard chicken the bee sinks into insignificance. Poultry products this year are worth $600,000,000, more than any crop in the country except corn.

MADE INTO STABLE

HUMBLE PURPOSE SERVED BY MAUSOLEUM OF TYRANT.

Curious Memorial of the Ruin Solano Lopez Brought on Paraguay—Country Being Brought Back Slowly to Prosperity.

A curious memorial of the tyrant Solano Lopez, who wasted and depopulated Paraguay between 1862 and 1870, stands in the city of Asuncion, the capital of the republic. It is the large and imposing mausoleum that he built for the ultimate housing of his body.

But it was never used for that purpose. When Lopez was overtaken and killed as he was fleeing his enemies did not care to give him a decent burial.

Dr. Vallentin, the German geographer, who has just written a book on Paraguay, says that it puzzled the people to decide what to do with the mausoleum. It was finally turned into a stable and is still serving that humble but useful purpose.

Grass is growing upon the lofty cupola and weeds protrude from every crevice in the walls. It is a monument to the ruin Lopez brought upon his country and himself.

Lopez has often been called the Nero of the nineteenth century, but, some historians say that he was worse than Nero. Dr. Baez, the historian of Paraguay, says that the tyranny of Lopez was the most barbarous that history records. The only excuse ever made for him is that he was insane.

He was president of Paraguay and intended to make himself king. He provoked and waged a five years' war with the united countries of Brazil, Argentine and Uruguay. He had a crown made in Paris to be ready for the coronation just as soon as he could declare himself king of more than half of South America. His idea was to build up a great kingdom, not by checkmating his neighbors, but by founding a military despotism.

He became a despot wholly unrestrained by law. All his countrymen who opposed him were shot or imprisoned. He had his own mother and one of his sisters publicly flogged in the streets. Another sister was kept a prisoner in chains.

Every boy and man who could carry a gun was impressed into the army, and as the end drew near he compelled many hundreds of women to fight in the ranks. The whole country was a wilderness when the end of his life. In 1861 Paraguay had a population of over 1,000,000. There were only about 200,000 human beings in the country in 1872. The land was nothing but a waste.

It had been completely stripped of cattle, horses, sheep and goats, not a plantation was in cultivation, and there was no money to buy seed, for Lopez, and the woman Lynch, whom he had brought with him from Paris the year before he became president, had shipped all the remaining gold and silver to England for a rainy day.

Paraguay has recovered slowly from this experience. She now has a population of 500,000, immigrants are coming in growing numbers, and agriculture and commerce are advancing every year.

Cost of Mine Timbers.

The cost of every ton of anthracite is increased eight cents by the expense of the mine timbers. To supply these timbers, says the Vegetarian Magazine, requires each year the product of approximately 150,000 acres of forest.

Timber is used for cross ties for tram roads in the main haulage ways, as wooden rollers and as props. A set of gangway timber consists of two or more uprights from five to ten feet long and about 13 inches in diameter, and a collar six or seven feet long. These sets are placed on an average at intervals of five feet; one gangway frequently contains 1,000 sets, and ten gangways to a colliery is not an unusual number.

The average life of the timber is hardly above two years. Forty-five per cent. of the timbers are destroyed by decay, while breakage, wear and insects destroy the remainder. By peeling the timbers and properly seasoning them and especially by giving them a treatment in oils or chemical salts, their length of service is materially increased.

Relics of a Great Composer.

Among life's largest mocks is the fate that often befalls the manuscript of a genius. Of no one is this truer than of Beethoven. When this greatest of composers was alive he was incessantly in financial difficulty. After his death all his manuscript were sold at auction—over 200 of them—and there were—yet they brought hardly $500. This would be at the rate of about two dollars and a half apiece. The other day the manuscript of his G major sonata for violin and piano, written in F, was sold by a man in Leipsic to a man in Florence for 42,500 marks, or $10,200.

Real Estate Exchange

OF WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL

Exchange Bank, Birmingham, Mich.

The following is a partial list of Farms, City and Village Lots, and Real Estate generally which we have for sale. As our list is constantly changing, we request that parties will write us if they do not see what they want in this list.

5.

Elegant house and lot, 66 feet front and 20 rods deep on Maple Ave. East. (half an acre). Fine barn and every modern convenience. Further particulars can be bought for what the buildings cost. Will exchange for improved city property for portion of the purchase price.

65

Village lots on Woodward avenue, bounded south by land of Mollie G. Smith, east by D. G. H. & M. R'y., south by Forest street, west by Woodward avenue, 100 feet front on Woodward avenue and 132 feet deep on north side and 132 feet on south side; all in the Village of Birmingham, Mich. One of the finest building sites in the village.

66

Good, comfortable, one and one-half story house with 90 feet front on Martin Street. Fine location, plenty of room, and the price is only $1,200.

77

One set on Saginaw street, just south of land owned by John Germain, 50 feet frontage. Anyone wishing to purchase will find this a bargain. For particulars inquire of Mollie G. Smith or at the Exchange Bank

101

Farm of 81 acres in sections 22 and 15, Southfield; 2 acres best grafted fruit; 5 buildings insured for $1,100; plow land, well drained and under a high state of cultivation. Price $4,000.

103

Eighty-acre farm in White Lake township, w ½ of s e ¼ sec. 32, T. 3 N., R. 8 E., mostly level, 15 acres timber and huckleberry swamp. (Don't laugh; this swamp has netted the owner $150.00 last summer.) Three acres of good orchard, young; 7 rooms, good neighborhood; 4½ miles from Milford, 3 miles from Commerce; proposed electric road comes within a mile of the house. Price, $2,000.

114

Nine farm in the Township of Southfield; 40 acres, of which 75 are cleared and the balance in good maple timber. Two acres of orchard; building worth $3,000, and the cost originally was $4,000. Can be bought for $6,000. Half cash.

116

Farm in Southfield. Really you will begin to think we have the whole Town of Southfield for sale. Well, we have a lot of it, and there is no better farming land in the world. Only they have been asking far too much for it. Now they are just getting down to reason, and some are even cheap. For instance, 65 acres at $60 per acre; 4 buildings; fine spring and never-flowing water; all good plow land, except 14½ acres of scattering timber. No marsh land on the place. There!

123

Nice little 40-acre farm near Big Beaver (S. ½ of N. ½ of S. E. ¼ Sec. 22, Troy). Barn 32x60 and 3-story house with 11 rooms. An acre of good orchard and 6 acres of timber. Only a mile from the Rochester Electric Railway. Less than $50 per acre will buy it, and the terms are so easy that any man who means business can pay for it.

126

Vacant lots 16, 17, 18, of Willsons's Sub-division, Royal Oak village, sold at $100 each. Terms easy, with small payment down.

146

Farm, 87¼ acres; good buildings; 3 acres timber, 7 acres orchard, one mile east of the Electric Railway, in Royal Oak township; in W. ½ of N. ½ of ¼ Sec. 22, loam and clay soil. If you come with a good hard cash in your hand, you can buy it for $3,800.

147

Nice little house for someone of small means (¼ acres in n w ¼ of n e ¼ of sec. 8, township of Troy. House 3 rooms; barn in good shape; well; both bank and surface water. One mile to the Rochester Electric fare to Detroit 15c. A. F. D All cash and no grumbling will buy it at $750. Hurry up!

187

Three celebrated Copper Soil farms, about one-half mile north of Birmingham on the D. U. R. electric line, and right among the summer homes of some of the most prominent and wealthy citizens. Three hundred and forty-five acres of exceptional fine farming land, with buildings, well adapted to the requirements of a first-class stock farm. Forty acres will be advertised, for the matter of fruit there are forty pear trees and five hundred plum trees, and six acres of bearing apple orchard. One of the finest 40-rod mile race tracks in the state is situated on the farm. There are also three wells, and they're supplying an unlimited amount of mineral water which, if analyzed, would be advertised, as it would be worth more than the price of the farm from $25 to $50 a month is even now realized from its use at this water. Which is acknowledged by the first medical specialists of the present day to be the best known remedy yet for Diabetes and the virulous other kidney diseases. A chemical analysis of this water will be furnished on request. The principal dwelling on the place cost over $10,000 to put up with the money. It has a modern hot air furnace and all the other conveniences which are almost considered necessary now-a-days. A good brick tenant house with fast twelve good buildings in all.

No. 162

Seventy-acre farm in Waterford township. Price $2,500; $1,000 cash, balance on easy terms and long time; buildings valued at $1,000; cranberry marsh produces 75 to 100 bushels per year; within 2 miles of cultivation; Clarkston 3½ miles, Waterford four miles.

No. 167

Wants to trade for 50 or 60 acres on or near electric. Ninety-four acres on east ½ of southwest ¼ Sec. 11, Troy township; fifty acres cleared; valued at $8,000 (insured for $4,700); flowing well; barn; farm well adapted for stock or dairy; 1¼ miles from Troy Corners, where there are good schools and churches. Pure fit to Detroit; $6,000 terms.

No. 171

Finest building site between Birmingham and Pontiac, on electric railway, just north of Birmingham, among the country homes of such men as Booth, Barbour, Epdicott, Brady, Shaw, Conkey, and others. Two buildings valued at $1,000, which is timber, and pretty little branch of River Rouge runs diagonally thru the place with plenty of elms and oaks to make beautiful building lots, good drainage, fine orchard of 2 acres. Price is $4,000. If you have the cream you must expect to pay for it.

170

Farm of 225 acres on the town line between Troy and Bloomfield. Seven good buildings valued at $8,000; 18 acres oak and hickory timber, 5 acres best bearing apple orchard, 2 acres peaches, 2 acres plums; branch of the River Rouge runs through east end; 4 good wells, 3 miles from Pontiac; adjoins the celebrated Joy Stock Farm; well drained; 1½ miles from the Detroit & Pontiac electric. Nice little drive for a pleasant afternoon; come on and we'll show you the prettiest place in Oakland county.

180

Seven-room cottage on west side of Bates street, 42 feet front, 120 feet deep. You couldn't build the house for the money, and that's all we ask for it. City water, wood shed, cellar, all ordinary conveniences. Call and see this house before it is gone. Show it to you any time.

180

Farm in Avon township; 55 acres of good clay loam, all cleared and under cultivation; good buildings; small amount down. For sale or exchange for small farm.

181

Farm for sale in Town of Southfield; 80 acres all cleared; four acres good orchard; gravel and clay loam; three buildings worth $3,000, insured. Will sell for $3,000, enough cash down to secure

185

Corner lot, 100 feet front on Maple avenue, 132 feet deep; one good building, insured; plenty of small fruit. A bargain for $1,000, one-half cash down.

187

House and lot, in Campbell Subdivision, Birmingham; buildings insured. Come in and ask the price, and set us surprise you.

188

One of the best-arranged and finest-equipped residences in Oakland county, and one of the best location—East Maple Avenue, two blocks from electric line. Has toilet, hot and cold water, city gas, 10 rooms, 2 stories and basement, barn for three horses, 2 buildings, fine orchard, 132 feet on Maple, 264 feet deep; plenty of room for chickens and garden; good soil, fine workingman's home. What else do you want, anyway? Will sell cheap and 12 feet front by 150 feet deep for $2,800. One of our best bargains.

191

Vacant lots Nos. 54 and 55, Block B, Willsey's sub-division, Royal Oak Village; most desirable of this growing village. Price $350 each—on inside.

Pens in a Ton of Steel.

A single ton of steel will make about 10,000 gross of steel pens.

193

Thirty-five-acre fruit farm, 1¼ miles south of Birmingham, on the town line; 6 buildings, insured for $1,300. All kinds of soil—clay, gravel, sand and dark loam. Last year this farm produced 125 bushels raspberries, 20 bushels blackberries, 125 bushels strawberries, 10 tons hay, etc. A gravel ridge 60 rods in length, with an almost inexhaustible supply of gravel, is worth almost the price of the farm alone. No waste land and only a light estate of timber. Worth looking at anyhow. Price $5,000; terms easy.

194

Fifty acres in Township of Troy, adjoining the Joy Stock Farm; 6 buildings, house, barn, basement barn, plenty of small fruit, orchard of assorted fruit; within 2 miles of Pontiac on D. U. R.; 3 wells and fine spring. Price $4,000.

195

Fifteen acres in Township of Royal Oak; 8 buildings; small grove of maples in a pretty fine location; new land, well drained; clay bottom, top soil; corner of the 9½-mile road and Campbell road; ¼ mile east of the electric road; adjoins D. U. R. Hudson and Duffield tracks. Will sell for $500.00 per acre; 1½ miles north of State Fair Grounds. Price $300 per acre; will exchange for Detroit property.

196

Six acres, part of s w ¼ of n e ¼ of section 34, Troy township, one mile from Birmingham; 13-room house with furnace; fine lawn; excellent barns; fine shade trees; 2 acres of young peaches, 4 acres bearing peaches, and 4 acres apple orchard, which bore last year a considerable apples the past year. One mile south of Franklin. Daily mail and telephone service. Abundance of never-failing water pumped by windmill and piped to house and other buildings. Eighty acres and the Birmingham, and will be sold to one party to use it as Booth, Barbour, Epdicott, Brady, Shaw, Conkey, and others. Two buildings valued at $1,000, which is timber, and pretty little branch of River Rouge runs diagonally thru the place with plenty of elms and oaks to make beautiful building lots, good drainage, fine orchard of 2 acres. Price is $4,000. If you have the cream you must expect to pay for it.

197

Ten acres 1-mile east of Royal Oak village on electric line, and 40 fine acres closed, in acres timber and huckleberry swamp. (Don't laugh; this swamp has netted the owner $150.00 last summer.) Three acres of good orchard, young; 7 rooms, good neighborhood; 4½ miles from Milford, 3 miles from Commerce; proposed electric road comes within a mile of the house. Price, $2,000.

198

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199

One hundred and six acres, ¾ mile east of Northwood station on the Detroit & Avondale electric and ¼ mile west of Flint line. D. U. R. Good buildings, new and modern; 2 wells, two good barns, tool house and milk house; all in first-class condition. Will exchange for improved Detroit city property. Price $125 per acre.

200

One hundred and twenty-six acres near Birmingham; good buildings, well fenced, fine orchard, Rouge River and Quarton Lake River runs through the farm; ½ mile from Birmingham on Worth looking at by any one. It's any day. Oh, yes; the price is $10,000, and the terms easy. Farms not as good as this are being sold at this past year, in the immediate vicinity, for $150.00 per acre. Let us take you to see it. It will please you, and if you don't buy we won't grumble.

201

Fine 2-story residence on Maple Avenue, corner of High Street; 50 feet front, 125 feet deep; hot water heater, hot and cold bath, toilet, city gas, 2-strip water, stone foundation in the D. & P. class of city residences. Cement walk (cost $200); and best neighborhood in town. House would cost at least $3,000 to build to-day; any one to build it for less and see what they say. You can buy this beautiful home for $2,800, and have your own way about payments. Ask the man at the bank.

203

Forty acres on the line of the Flint electric, at Harris Corners, in Troy township. Excellent soil, clay loam, no waste; one of the pleasantest locations for building a nice country residence. The place is held for more money, but make us an offer of $2,000 cash, and we will see what we can do for you.

208

Five acres and 4 good buildings, making a nice little home near the little Village of Southfield. Stores, school, church, two railroads. The buildings cost more to build than the price asked for the place, and are well worth looking at. The price is $1,000, and $250 cash will take care of it, and the balance you can pay at your leisure.

209

Fine home with good barn on Tennent Street. Good 5-story house, plenty of fruit, beautiful people trees on south side make it a shady, restful residence. Would cost $2,500 to build the house alone, and $2,200 will buy it if you take it right off the bat. Owner is leaving town, and that's the reason.

211

Just an acre of land. (Ever read that book that was so popular some years ago, entitled 'One Acre Enough?' No? Well, you ought to. It's worth while.) There's a house on this acre. Good little house with 4 rooms, in Southfield village. Possession given any time before April 1, and $225 gets it if you come prompt.

212

The premises formerly owned and occupied by the late G. C. Gibbs in the Township of Troy, Oakland county. Analysis of this water will be of the road, with 20 acres of land can be bought separate if desired. Seventy acres on the north furnished on application. Also has all other necessary buildings. Location exceptionally fine; ½ mile from electric line—Flint Division of U. R. After you take out the cost of the house and buildings, the price we ask would bring the land down to about $45 per acre. Make you to see it any time.

213

Fine little farm of about 75 acres in Royal Oak, on the line of the Rochester Electric; 2 miles north of Royal Oak; fare to Detroit 15c; good clay loam; 7 feet deep; good pure water; 3 acres bearing apple orchard; 3 buildings, insured for $1,275, and $4,000 will buy it, subject to a small mortgage, which can run at the pleasure. Will exchange for improved Detroit city property.

215

Decidedly the prettiest lake farm in this county of lakes. Situated on Wing Lake, noted for its beautiful fishing, 4 miles west of Birmingham; 13-room house with furnace; fine lawn; excellent barns; fine shade trees; 2 acres of young peaches, 4 acres bearing peaches, and 4 acres apple orchard, which bore last year a considerable apples the past year. One mile south of Franklin. Daily mail and telephone service. Abundance of never-failing water pumped by windmill and piped to house and other buildings. Eighty acres and the Birmingham, and will be sold to one party to use it as a home. Don't worth the money, we'll take you for a ride on the lake, catch you a nice string of bass, and then you'll give us twice the money. And it's worth it, too. Try it.

216

A new, modern dwelling, constructed by a well-known builder for his own use, from best concrete blocks; boiler and furnace heat; in one of the best localities in our village; lot 60x100 feet; 12 large shade trees; hot and cold water, cistern, cess-pool, hot-air furnace, 2 rooms beautifully finished in hard wood; large attic. Best of any house for the money at $5,500. Let us show it to you any day—any time.

217

Farm of 80 acres on Section 1, Troy; 5 buildings, 4 acres beech and maple timber, 76 acres cleared, 3 acres orchard; 2½ miles from Birmingham on D. U. R. Can be bought for $2,800, and that's one of the best bargains we have on our list. $1,000 cash, and the balance on long time at low rate of interest. Seems as if that ought to interest almost anybody

219

Tidy little place for some one with moderate means. Corner Chesterton Drive, in Campbell Addition. Lot worth at least $600, and the house is insured for $1,200. Will sell house and lot and advancing all along the lines in that location. If you come right along we will consider an offer of $1,500, and if that is too high after you have looked over the premises, we will introduce you to the owners, and you can make your own terms. That's fair.

221

Fine house and two and one-half lots on Davis Street, Brownell's Subdivision. Hot and cold water, furnace, water-closet—everything! Also has cement walk in front of the house and on east side of the Presbyterian Church. Will sell house and lots, or the different parcels separately. Prices very reasonable. Ask the man at the bank.

222

Two-story tenement or terrace, on the east side of Woodward Avenue. Two distinct 5-story houses of 5 rooms each. Furnace, water-closet, bath, hot and cold water, city water and gas; each independently of other and separate. Rents for $15 per month each. Forty dollars per year will pay all taxes and insurance. Good lawn on each house, and the lot is 76 feet front on the best frontage on Woodward, and 150 feet deep; room for a fine garden; can live in one house and rent the other, or occupy income from the other. This is something to ponder over. Come and let us help you ponder. Always at your service. If you can't call, write.

223

For sale or exchange—Brooks Farm, 114 miles west of Birmingham, on the best stone road in Oakland county; no waste land; 15 acres timber; 2 acres orchard; new stable for 12 head cattle and cattle barn, stable 16 head cattle; hay for 100 head; corn crib and chicken house. 2 miles of life—every 4 rods. A good flowing well; 2 miles to 2 young fruits. Apply at farm, or Exchange Bank, Birmingham.

And No Ball Games.

Russia celebrates 56 general holidays each year.

225

Forty-acre farm on Section 7, Troy; 5 acres best, 6 acres orchard, 34 acres timber; 2 wells; new house (3,000); 3-room house, good cellar, well and windmill; water piped to house and barn; 2 miles to new wire fence with cedar posts; 2 acres strawberries, 1,000 bbl. yield; 800 peach trees, 200 pear trees, 150 plums, 100 pears and—$2,000 will buy it. Only little farm, free and clear, 10 miles from Rochester by line, and 2 miles east of Kimball's Corners, on the Pontiac line.

227

Five acres just outside of the corporation limits of Birmingham, about 1½ miles from the Woodward Avenue, on the Pontiac electric line; one acre in front, about 50 rods deep, with nice little creek (branch of the River Rouge) crossing the back end of the property. Specially adapted to the county for a nice little home. No buildings on it, but can be bought cheap enough so that you can build to suit yourself. Will sell on easy terms, or set homes among the many in the Bloomfield Hills district. Fields & Mitchell will be pleased to give you particulars. Rather show it to you, though.

228

Fine stock farm in the Township of Troy; 200 acres; no waste land; 2 orchards, 1 of 5 acres, 1 of 2 acres; good house and six other buildings; on gravelly ridge; farm well fenced and properly drained; one mile from Birmingham; 3 miles from D. U. R. 10-acre grove of beech and maple timber, plenty of water on the farm; 2 wells; price only $8,000. Terms easy and price $60 per acre. Reason for selling, would like to have the money. Now is the time of buying such a farm as this. Take you out to see it any day.

229

A pleasant and sightly farm of 71 acres in Westbloomfield, 2½ miles from Birmingham; 2 orchards, 2 acres orchard, 4 acres good timber, 5 buildings worth $2,000, and the price is $3,000, and it is well worth it. Soil sandy loam and clay loam, subsoil clay; cultivation. Enter Inquire.

230

Seventy-one-acre farm in Township of Troy; 5 buildings, well fenced and drained, well watered; branch of River Rouge runs through the farm—never dry; 1½ mile from good school; house 2-story, 8 rooms, basement, 24x30 feet; barn 30x36, two good wells, and $6,000 will buy it. Figure it out and see what you will get for it. It is not desirable farms in the Township of Troy, and that's one of the best farms for fine farms in the world. No! Well, well prove it to you if you'll let us.

231

Two-story, 7-room house in good repair; well cistern, cellar, fruit, etc. House would cost more than $1,400 to build—and that's all we ask for it. Property situated on Bates street, between itt and Marcha, on Chester Street. Terms easy.

232

Farm of 57¼ acres, just outside the Village of Birmingham; 2 miles from the D. & P. electric line to Detroit, half-hour service; land all cleared; two acres; four buildings, all in good condition. Best open location between Bath and Pontiac.

233

Farm of 107 acres, one hour's ride from City Hall on Jefferson Avenue; 1,000 feet on Lake St. Clair; 7 acres of apple orchard; splendid buildings. The price is very low.

234

Farm of 77 acres, 40 rods from D. & P. electric line. All cleared, good buildings; 10c fare to Detroit. This farm can be purchased very cheap.

235

Farm of 80 acres—will exchange for Detroit property; 10 acres of mixed orchard; buildings as fine as any in the county, in excellent condition; 2 miles from Birmingham; on account of improvements and location this farm is a bargain at the price asked. Write us, or better yet—call.

236

Forty-six acres, all improved, no buildings, good land, well fenced, flowing stream through the place. Worth the money for a little over $50 per acre will buy it.

237

Four vacant lots in the Randall Addition. Excellent building places in a rapidly improving part of the village. If you will come and look at the lots for $100 cash you can do so, and then if you want to build a house on one of them, having its funds, come and see us about it and we will make arrangements at low rates and easy terms.

238

Vacant lot on Woodward Avenue, on street car line, 50 feet front and 132 deep. One of the best building places on the most popular street in the village, and—$200 will buy it for cash. Want to build on it and don't happen to have the money? Come and see us about it, and we can arrange matters. Come and see us anyhow.

239

Vacant lot in Castle's Plat; price $300, and will exchange for Detroit vacant.

240

Small house with lot 50x150, $1,000 cash. Larger house with lot 60x180 and all ordinary conveniences for $2,200, or will sell the whole outfit, both houses and about 3 acres of land, on south side of Maple Avenue, for $5,500.

241

Fine new house with all modern conveniences, within 300 feet of the west side of Woodward Avenue; 8 rooms, bath, hot and cold water, 2 kinds of fruit. You could not build the house for $2,000, and that's all we ask for the premises. Well worth looking at.

243

Farm of 160 acres, Sabina county, 2 miles from Fergus Station, on the C. S. & M. R'y. Clay loam, good buildings valued at $5,000, and $8,000 will buy the farm if you come right away—now. The place is within 2 miles of active coal mines, and there is a rich coal deposit under the farm. Fergus Station is 12 miles from Chewaing; 16 miles to Owosso; 45½ miles to Charles and 22 miles to Saginaw. Well drained, good fences, and altogether worth the money.

244

If you could buy an acre and a quarter of land with a brick house, 7 rooms, with hot and cold water, bath, water closet, furnace, and every possible convenience, with a barn, chicken house, plenty of fruit and cement walks—and the house alone cost $8,000—for $2,000 on easy terms, you'd call it a snap, wouldn't you? Well, we can do it. Come on and we'll show you.

245

Lot 7, Block 1, of Campbell's Subdivision, Village of Birmingham, Mich., on corner of Park Street and Forest Avenue. Without doubt the most desirable lot for building a residence on this very popular subdivision. Price $250; but there are other things that we could like to whisper to you. Come and, let us take you to see the property.

246

One hundred and twenty-seven acres in the Township of Avon. Six buildings worth $6,000; 7 acres of timber, 5 acres fine bearing orchard (Clinton river runs through the farm); no marsh land; 13 feet deep to water; 3 never-failing wells, 2 good houses, 2 barns in good repair, well fenced, fine soil and convenient to the village of Rochester. Will trade for a smaller farm or will consider an offer of $6,000, with one-third cash. Take you to see it any old time at all.

Land of Twins and Triplets.

Scotland is said to be the land of twins and triplets. In