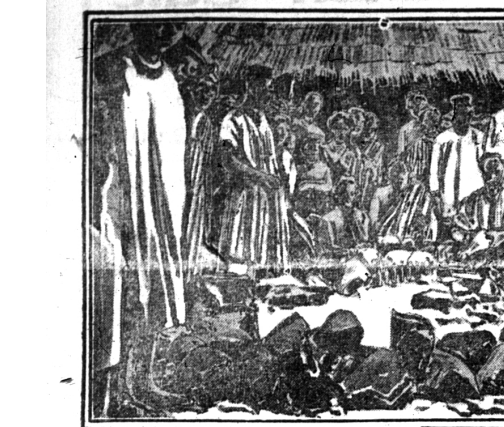
WEIRD FUNERALS OF AFRICA'S KINGS

BY GERALD A. RODERICK



TWO AFRICAN PRINCES

FUNERAL RITES

THE old king of Totoquelli was dead. It was in the Liberian hinterland, four days back from Monrovia, a region where the government levies no taxes, where the native African chiefs reign supreme, where the only statutes are the laws of the bush. A couple of English prospectors, an English rubber trader and an American missionary compose the foreign population all the way back to the French frontier. There is no part of the west coast of Africa so lightly touched by the white man, for even the occasional government officials who visit the region are black. In all the towns the babies yelled at my approach and the children fled in terror if I walked toward them.

While King Wobeh's star was in the ascendency death came out of the foggy bush and laid its hand upon him. A famous mullah (what was called to make incantations and the "sand cutter" brought out all his paraphernalia of divination and peeped impressively into the future. That which Wobeh really needed, a good physician, does not exist in that region. The mullah and the "sand cutter" gave an unfavorable prognosis, so the suffering king was prepared for his departure in the manner prescribed by the law of the bush.

Secretly and in the dead of night he was carried back into the bush to an obscure "half town" called Goomah, no woman being allowed to know his whereabouts. Courtesy to the mullah and the "sand cutter" demanded that Wobeh should promptly pass into the unknown, but the old man held on to life with his characteristic tenacity. It was several weeks before the news was quietly brought to Totoquelli that its founder was dead. The information was passed on to Boporo and King Sow came over to take charge of the town until all its palavers were settled.

The funeral of an African chief follows the law of the bush implicitly, but the details vary in different parts of the west coast. The proceedings in this case extended over a period of about three weeks.

First Wobeh's body was removed from the hut where he had died and placed in an open kitchen in Goomah. These kitchens are merely large huts without walls, or, rather, with walls about three feet high. The roof is of thatch and the floor of clay. In the center of one of these kitchens a shallow grave was dug. Then the feet were bound together, the arms were extended down the body and the hands bound together by means of a strong stick placed between hands and feet, the body was placed in the grave and lightly covered. After it had remained there for two days it was taken up by night and carried to Totoquelli, where it was again placed in a shallow grave, but in a hut where no woman could bring ill luck by looking upon it. The law of the bush shuts out all women from any approach to the dead. Then the family and the town began to make ready for the obsequies, formal notices were sent out to all the big kings within two days' walk, in order that they might come (with gifts) and assist Wobeh's spirit into rest.

The funeral continued for eight days. First the body was again lifted from the grave and "laid out" in an open kitchen carefully screened. The king's women were then segregated in another kitchen and intrusted with the duty of making great lamentation. Then the head of the "devil bush"—he is a great functionary in West Africa—came into the village to announce the king's death—a performance on a par with the formal notification given to a presidential nominee by a committee from a national convention. The "devil bush" is a sort of combination of secret society and a boys' boarding school. It is a collection of huts hidden away in the bush which women must avoid or pay the penalty of death. Here are collected most of the boys of the community and they remain in seclusion for a period varying from three to six years, being taught some sense and much nonsense. The grip of superstition is so strong that the head of the bush becomes a great man in the tribe and death is the penalty for any woman who looks upon his face. Totoquelli's "devil" preceded his entrance into the town by an unearthly yell, which was the signal for all the women and girls (and every man not a member of the "devil bush") to secrete themselves. Then with a series of ventriloquistic yells he came into the center of the town, announced the death of Wobeh, ordered the funeral to proceed and vanished into the bush. Then the real noise began.

AWAITING DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD

Wobeh's women and children reassembled in their kitchen and resumed their mournful chant. This is a performance in which the women of West Africa are very accomplished and Wobeh's family was large enough to be heard. Meanwhile for two days and nights the men of the town made it lively for the spirits of evil that were supposed to be hovering in the bush that surrounds the village. Guns heavily charged with powder were fired at intervals throughout the entire time, causing the evil shapes to take to flight. Most of the night was given over to the beating of drums, the women and younger men dancing in procession all over town.

When night closed in on the scene and the moon began to shed its soft light through hazy clouds the night's dancing began. There was no undercurrent of sadness in it; everybody was literally out for a good time. The dancers were drummed up in groups, the drummers shuffling all through the town to organize a procession. A second crowd was gathered under the leadership of a man with a string instrument made from a calabash, and eventually a third group shuffled along to the tune of a calabash strung with iron rings, the sound being that of a gourd half filled with dried peas.

The succeeding day was one of the most eventful of all. Before sunrise the men of the town brought large stones to the grave and walled it in, making an inclosure about six feet wide and 10 feet long. Dozens of empty gin bottles were brought and placed all around the grave. A very common custom in this coast. The mound was then leveled down and the entire inclosure covered with stones and wet sand. At the head they placed a couple of small ivory tusks, a rice bowl containing Wobeh's silver ring and some kola nuts, two pitchers and a small brass kettle. Across these was laid an unsheathed sword. The fixing of the grave was not completed until they had brought a small jug of rum and poured a little of it into each vessel. The thirst of Wobeh's spirit was apparently more easily quenched than had been that of the man in life—and, this enabled the men about the grave to put the greater part of the rum to better use.

After the grave had been properly arranged the town assembled to witness the significant ceremony of killing the white chicken. The principal nephew of the late king knelt on the grave and held the chicken's head above Wobeh's head. King Sow made a long speech and then different members of Wobeh's family gave the chicken messages to take to his spirit. This part of the ceremony was very solemn and impressive. It was clear that they implicitly believed that their messages would reach their destination.

Then the nephew pulled off the chicken's head and threw the body down on the grave. Curiously enough, the headless chicken fluttered around until it reached the head of the grave and then seemed to be trying to bore its way down to the king. It then fluttered away, the throng crowding each other in their efforts to watch every movement. When it finally ceased its struggles there was a chorus of "Ah!" followed by some excited talking. It was explained to me that when a chicken dies with its feet in the air it is a sign that the nephew has been true to the king and has not meddled with his women. In this case the chicken had died on its side.

Then another chicken was brought for another nephew to kill. It likewise died on its side and there was another chorus of excited grunts. A third chicken was killed by a niece, with the same result; but the fourth, killed by another niece, stopped with its feet in the air. The crowd went wild, caught up the girl and marched around the town with her on their shoulders. Wobeh had one relative that had been true.

This ceremony was followed an hour or two later by that of eating the chickens, together with rice cooked in yellow palm oil. The food was placed at the head of the grave and Wobeh's head wife presided over the pot. All the children squatted about on the grave and the other relatives were assembled around it. King Sow had a good many remarks to make before he called up the eldest son and motioned for him to take the palmful of rice which the widow had held out. Before eating it he made certain promises relative to peace in the family. Each of the relatives was called out in turn and required to go through the same performance. Old King Sow kept his ears open and whenever he was not satisfied with a given promise he afosé and ego; and almost down. For sale or exchange for small farm.

Parts of this ceremony were exciting; at times there were outbursts of laughter at one of Sow's jokes; very little of it was sad or pathetic. When the chief widow's turn came there was pathos in her voice, though she gave no other sign of grief. Turning her motherly face to the grave, she sat there and talked to Wobeh's spirit as naturally as if she were looking into his face. Nobody needed to cross question her.

There was nothing extraordinary for the next two days. On the first day the mourning women were taken to the creek and washed, in order that they might begin to dress up for the final feast. On the second day the men of the town were assembled under the big palaver tree and individually sworn to be loyal to the town. The oath was administered by making the man drink from a bowl of milking fluid which is supposed to kill the man if he was insincere. On this day, also, the men brought in large quantities of firewood and the women were busy threshing and cleaning rice and pots.

Then came the third and greatest day—the slaughter of the bullock and the great feast. So far as I could learn there is no sacrificial idea involved in the ceremony; the slaughter is solely for the purpose of providing for a joyful banquet. The big bullock was led to a vacant place near the grave just at sunrise, and securely tied down on its side. Its throat was then cut, the wind pipe being severed, and the animal slowly bled to death. It was 20 minutes before the animal ceased to struggle, but its tail had been severed long before, this being the especial perquisite of the men selected as butchers.

The carcass was then skinned and King Sow sat in his leopard chair while the bullock was cut up. He kept a careful watch to see that not even an ounce of meat was taken by anybody. Two large brass kettles and a large basket were placed in front of him and in these were placed the internal organs and the choicest cuts—the king's meat. Now and then one of the butchers would overlook some small piece, but the king never looked nothing; he had the effrontery promptly rectified. Altogether he received about one-third of the bullock. The remainder was cut up and distributed among the families to be cooked; positively no part of the animal except the hide and horns was discarded. There was not quite enough to go around, so the king ordered a dog killed to make up the deficiency.

Bessie Was Willing.

"Oh, dear," said the tired mother, "I wish I were a little girl again like you!" "Well," rejoined five-year-old Bessie, "let's play you are my little girl, then you act naughty and I'll spank you and send you to bed without your supper."

MRS. GILMAN IS PESSIMISTIC

Lecturer Sees Little to Praise in Either Men or Women of the Present Day.

That modesty with which it has been the custom to believe the fair sex is enshrined is a misnomer, if the statements of Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Gilman are to be accepted as correct. Lecturing recently at the Women of Woodcraft hall, Mrs. Gilman declared woman's modesty was doubtful. "She will expose two square feet of snow white bosom," she said, "and then shudder at exposing two feet."

But women were not alone in coming in for censure. Everyone did. That is, everyone who has a brain, or who chooses to believe he has. The person with a brain was told that in reality the brain was hopelessly damaged. "Cracked" was what Mrs. Gilman called it. "That people's brains are generally more or less cracked is shown by their inability to accept new ideas, and the disconnection between what they know and how they behave," was one of her expressions.

Then Mrs. Gilman told the women that the instinct of a mother was only an animal instinct. She said that, accordingly, only one woman in 20 knows how to take care of her infants. "Taking care of children cannot be done by instinct," she added, and recommended the founding of popular nurseries.—Portland Oregonian.

Designed by Nature.

Parents might as well try to turn back the waters of the Niagara as to decide what profession or business their sons should adopt. God gives to every man a particular work he can do and in the performance of which he can be happy, but the place in a man can fill with satisfaction to himself and others is that for which nature designed him.—Exchange.

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. Furnace, bath, closet, etc. Can be bought for what it cost to build it. Will exchange for improved property for portion of the purchase price.

55

Village lots on Woodward avenue, bounded south by land of Mollie G. Smith, east by D. G. & M. R. Ry., south by Rowe street, west by Woodward avenue, 108 feet front on Woodward avenue, 198 feet deep on north side and 148 feet on south side; all in the Village of Birmingham, Mich. One of the finest building sites in the village.

77

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

147

Nice little home for someone of small means 1¼ acres in s w ¼ of n e ¼ of sec 34, township 2 Troy, house 7 rooms; barn in good shape; will add bath and house never dry. ¼ mile east of Rochester Electric fare to Detroit; pr. R. P. D. All cash and no grumbling will buy it at $75. Hurry up!

No. 167

Wants to trade for 80 or 60 acres on or near electric. Ninety-four acres on east ¼ of southwest ¼ sec. 11, Troy township, three miles from village of Birmingham, Mich. One of the best farms in the county. Has 10 acres of timber, 2 acres of orchard, balance in cultivation. Fair sized house and barn; well and windmill; 2 miles from electric car line; 1 mile from choice factory and Village of Franklin; 2½ miles from electric road; telephone, R. F. D., and $45 per acre will get it if sold before March 1. Postal will get full particulars, or we will take you to see it at any time.

178

Seven-room cottage on west side of Bates street, 66 feet front, 126 feet deep. You couldn't build the house for $1,200, and that's all we ask for it. City water, wood shed, cellar, all ordinary conveniences. One of the best bargains we have. Show it to you any time.

180

Farm in Avon township; 35 acres of good clay loam; all cleared; small orchard. We build clay loam; all cleared; small orchard. We build to suit; $20 feet deep; plenty of room for chickens and garden; good barn, fine workshop. Say! What can you want more, anyhow? Will sell house and 52 feet front by 150 feet deep for $2,800. One of our best bargains.

193

Thirty-five-acre fruit farm, 14 miles north of Birmingham, on the town line; 6 buildings, in excellent repair; 5 acres of apples; all kinds of soil—clay, gravel, sand and dark loam. Last year this farm produced 125 bushels raspberries, 20 bushels blackberries, 111 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 under a high state of cultivation. Worth looking at anyhow. Price $5,000; terms easy.

194

Fifty acres in Township of Troy, adjoining the Big Stock Farm; 5 buildings, good house, basement barn, plenty of small fruit, orchard of excellent fruit; 5½ miles from Flint Division G. R. & I. R'y; 3 wells and fine spring. Price $4,800.

199

Fifteen acres in Township of Royal Oak; we buildings; small grove of maples in a pretty farm; new land, well drained, clay loam; balance high and rolling; one of the 9-½ mile road and Campbell road; ¼ mile east of electric road; adjoins J. L. Hudson and Duffield tracts, which are held at $500.00 per acre; 1½ miles north of State Fair grounds. Price $500 per acre; will exchange for Detroit property.

198

Ten acres 1 mile east of Royal Oak village on cellent farm land. Well under fence and cultivation. Price $1,200. The place is well fenced, and the price will enable you to build the kind of house you may require.

201

Fine 3-story residence on Maple Avenue, corner of High Street; 50 feet front, 122 feet deep; hot water heater, bath and cold bath, toilet, city water; every convenience found in the best class of city residences. Location is one of the best and best neighborhood in town. Would cost at least $3,000 to build to-day; ask any one to build it for less and see what they say. We can buy this beautiful home for $2,800, and have your own way about payments. Ask the man at the bank.

219

Tidy little place for some one with moderate means. Corner Chesterfield Palm, Campbell Addition. Lot worth at least $800, and the house at least $1,200; that's $1,700, and we are only advancing all along the lines in that location. If you can't build it, we consider an offer of $1,400, and if that is too high after we have you over the premises, we will introduce you to the owner and you can make your own terms, too.

222

Two-story tenement or terrace, on the east side of Woodward Avenue. Two distinct 3-story houses of 7 rooms each. Furnace, water-closet, bath, hot and cold water, city water and gas; each independent of other apartment. Rent, $25 per month each. Forty dollars per year will pay all taxes and insurance. Good barn on the premises, and lot 50 feet front. Same can be had for age on Woodward, and 185 feet deep; room for a nice garden, and the property is worth the money. A steady income from the other. This is something to ponder over. Come and let us help you ponder. We always at your service. If you can't call, write.

229

A pleasant and sightly farm of 71 acres in West Bloomfield, ¼ mile from the Northwestern electric; 4 acres apple orchard; 5 acres timber; buildings worth $2,000, and the price is $5,400—and it is well worth it. Has a sandy loam soil, under high state of cultivation. Better investigate.

241

Fine new house with all modern conveniences, within 300 feet of the mile 12 Woodward Avenue line; 8 rooms, hard-wood finish; lot 56x100; plenty of fruit. You could not build the house for $3,000, and that is all we ask for the premises. Well worth looking at.

243

Farm of 160 acres, Sarlow county, 2 miles from Fergus Station, on the M. C. R'y. Clay loam good buildings, all new; at $40 per acre. Better look at this farm if you come right away—now. The place is within 2½ miles of active coal mines, and there is a rich coal deposit under the entire farm; 6 miles to Chesaning; 18 miles to Owosso; 4½ miles St. Charles; 2 miles Fergus; 2 miles Ashley; plenty good fences, and adjoining worth the money.

244

If you could buy an acre and a quarter of land with a brick house equipped with hot and cold water, bath, water closet, furniture, and every possible convenience, also barn, chicken house, plenty of fruit and cement walks—and the house alone cost $6,000—for $2,500 on easy terms, you'd call it a snap, wouldn't you? Well, we can do it. Come on and we'll show you.

246

One hundred and twenty-seven acres in the Township of Avon. Ten buildings; worth $5,500. 7 acres of timber, 5 acres of orchard; well watered (Gilson Brook runs through the farm), and good land; is 120 feet above the river; fine cedars, 4 wells, 3 of them bouncers; 80 rods of wire fence, and only a mile from the thriving Village of Rochester. Will trade for a smaller farm or small member an offer of $8,000, with one-third cash. Take you to see it any old time at all.

247

House, barn, and about an acre of good garden land on north side of Adams street, fronting; old-fashioned house, and a cozy home at a low price. Party has decided to go West and wants to sell badly enough to make a decided sacrifice. Ask the man at the bank about it.

249

Nice, warm, old-fashioned house on the south side of Royal Oak. Two buildings best class of residences in the village. Plenty of room for a good garden, and it can be bought for $1,600. Why not? Well, just come and talk it over with us, and after you look the premises over you will make us an offer anyhow.

250

Now, here is a "Beauty!" House, barn and chicken houses, with two acres of land on west side of Woodward, opposite Electric Park; known as Hamilton Place. Seven rooms, bath, toilet, two cellars, furnace room, good hot-air furnace, gas, gravel and sandstone, one of the best equipped lot of buildings in the county. Fruit, shade trees, flowers, beautiful lawn; buildings largely new. Price, $5,500 cash and $1,000 mortgage, and balance of purchase price can be had on long time and low rate of interest. Without doubt this is the finest location and the best lot of buildings on earth and the price is right.

251

House and lot in Campbell's Subdivision; corner of 65x110, fine hedge on front and side, cellar, city and cistern water in the kitchen, fine veranda on front and side; chicken houses, pens, coops, sheds—all bearing—and some smaller trees. $1,400 will buy it, and terms can be made so that it won't tax a millionaire to handle it. Come on.

258

Lots 29 and 34, Buell's Addition, Birmingham, Price $400 for both lots. Terms, $25 cash; balance on contract.

269

House and lot, east side Woodward Avenue; will exchange for other property; lot 105x47; house 8 rooms; small barn, large garden, some fruit; $1,000; buildings are insured for $800.

270

House and lot, west side of Ann Street, 2-story frame cottage, cement-block foundation, 8 rooms and cellar. One block from Woodward Avenue. $1,800; terms easy.

271

Forty feet front on Southfield Avenue, 176 feet deep; 2 buildings, 6-room house, 3 bedrooms, water in house, garden, fruit, new cement walks; $1,350.

273

New cement house, one block from Woodward Avenue, 4 bedrooms, bath and closet on second floor; 6 rooms downstairs; large veranda, hot-air furnace, hot and cold water, hardwood floors, good barn large enough for horse or auto; cement walks, cistern, etc. Worth looking at; also worth more money than we ask for it, but we'll sell it for $3,500 on easy terms.

274

Nice little country place for some one of small means. House, barn, and all necessary outbuildings with two acres of good land; buildings insured for $725; cistern, good location, 2½ miles from Clawson on the Flint electric line; $900; terms easy.

275

Fine new house and 102 acres of good and on west side of Woodward Avenue, near Pontiac; 14 rooms; 2 buildings; 15 acres timber, 8 acres now in wheat; fine orchard; good school, one mile; convenient to church; good hay crops; cement walks, cistern, good new stables, 40 acres plow land, 20 acres timber—and a trifle over $100 per acre will buy it. Glad to show you any time, and if you don't buy you will not be scolded a little bit. Worth looking at anyhow.

303

One of the nicest lots on the Buell addition, facing on Woodward Avenue, 40 feet frontage and 120 feet deep. Corner lot, and one of the most desirable building lots in the village. Can be bought for cash at a price that will surely appeal to any one—either for building purposes or an investment.

304

Fine large 8-room house three blocks from electric, practically rebuilt this year; water-closet, bath, electric lights, city water, small barn, lot 80x132; best neighborhood and location in the village; cement walks; house newly painted and decorated, ready to occupy without further expense. $3,900.

305

New 7-room cottage just finished, one block from electric, lot 60x90, west of Woodward Avenue, north side of street; house 28x30. One cozy home for any one of small means. Everything new and neat. Has never rented or occupied. Sure to please you at $1,600.

306

Two-story cottage on Campbell Addition, two blocks from cars; 4 rooms, city water, good well, cellar, small fruit; cost $1,200; will sell for $1,350 cash. Worth more money, but owner has best of reasons for selling.

307

Twenty-seven acres on the line of the Rochester electric in Troy township; rich sandy loam and clay; new buildings; 15 acres orchard; good school, one-quarter mile; 1½ miles from Detroit; 1.8 cents, and can be bought for $2,700 on easy terms.

303

Now, here it is! Best-equipped stock farm in the county. Township of Troy, Section 15. Eleven house and seven other ample buildings, all practically new; 28 acres oats, cold pure water piped to all the buildings; 125-barrel storage tank; water in every field but three, beautiful shade, fine view, no waste land, and every acre under high state of cultivation—altogether one of the most beautiful as well as profitable farms in this country of fine farms; buildings insured for $12,000; big old-fashioned fire-place, hardwood floors, bath, water-closet, etc., in fact all the buildings are modern in every respect. Two cheap to mention in public, but we will tell you all about it if you will call or write.

309

Vacant lot, Merrill Plat, fronting on Metcalf Street, 40x108, near Methodist church, fine location. Price $800.

310

Brand-new 2-story cottage, finished in golden oak, with bath, water-closet, city water, electric light, and every convenience to be found in best-appointed city residences. Located on Cass avenue, only two blocks from electric, and two blocks from Birmingham High School. Price $3,400, terms easy. You must be convinced that this is very cheap after you look after it yourself, for it is well-equipped, cozy little home. Let us show it to you.

311

Six-room, 1-story cottage on Daines Street, two blocks from electric, in good repair, with fine cellar, city water, and a good well; lot 50 feet front by 92 per month, and can be bought very cheap, as owner, for reasons, must sell his money. Too cheap to mention in public, but we will tell you all about it if you will call or write.

312

Eight-room, 2-story dwelling on west side of Southfield Avenue; large barn, fine shade, cement walk, good neighborhood. Why, see here! The buildings would cost at least $5,000 to build to-day besides the other improvements, and that's all we ask for the whole outfit. Price $3,700, and terms balance on mortgage on easy terms. If you don't like this you will be sorry after you have bought elsewhere.

313

The very cream of all farms on or near the electric on Woodward Avenue, between Birmingham and Pontiac. Lot 66 rods deep, and Square Hills district; 106 acres, nice old-fashioned farm house and barn; 2 wells; 80 rods wire fence; cement and frame additions—7 buildings in all; 10 acres of good timber; beautiful branch of the River Rouge runs through the farm near the house, with fine old elms and other shade trees; 3 acres of finest kind of fruit; 2 acres of asparagus; farm well fenced and one of the best and most productive in the county. The price is low for a farm so near Detroit, but higher than other places in the vicinity, and 10 times more desirable than any we have had for sale ever here to put on the market. We want you to know about it. Take you to see it any time—any day.

Ants' Eggs.

Strange as it may seem, each ant has at least six eggs. Aside from this multiplicity of eggs, they are located in just about the most unlikely place imaginable—on the antennæ. So sensitive are their feet that they will detect the impact of a small birdshot dropped on a table from a height of about six inches and about 14 feet distant from an artificial nest placed at the other end of the table.—St. Nicholas.

Original "Biscuit."

"Biscuit" was until the eighteenth century spelled "bisket," as still pronounced, the current spelling being merely a senseless adoption of the modern French spelling without its pronunciation. "Bisket" originally meant a twice-baked bread of the kind alluded to by Shakespeare in "As You Like It," where the melancholy Jacques informs the duke that his "brain is as drie as the remainder bisket after a voyage."

Constitutionally Inapt.

"It's purty hard work for some folks to git erlong, even when they are kerried."—Bolton Herald.

298

House, barn, wagon shop, blacksmith shop, two lumber sheds, two acres of land, fine orchard; buildings in good repair; 2½ miles from electric, in Village of Franklin, prettiest village in Michigan. All ready for an enterprising blacksmith and wagonmaker to make a good living in a prosperous farming community. Best of reasons for selling, and $3,000 cash will buy it right off the bat.

299

FOR SALE—80-acre farm all under cultivation; good buildings; on route; mail routes and telephone line. Four miles from railroad station, in a well-settled country, and ½ mile from a proposed railroad from Grand Rapids to Ludington, which is sure to be completed within two years. This farm is all level land, well, the very best for corn, hay, oats, onions or peppermint. A good distillery and pedler to go with the farm. One-half mile to churches and school. This farm is well worth $4,000 of but to make a quick sale will take $2,500 —$1,500 cash and balance on easy terms.

300

GOOD BUSINESS CHANCE—Country store, stock of general merchandise, house and lot for sale. Eight-room house, hard and soft water, hot air furnace in store and dwelling, scrotyline gas machine; stock will invoice $2,000; sales run from $30 to $35 per day. One mile from electric. Telephone and R. F. D. line. Farm traded for on account of reasons for selling. Will make sacrifice for cash. Take you to see it any day. Address H. E. Dep't Exchange Bank, Birmingham, Mich.

301

Good two-story house and barn on south side of Maple Avenue, East; 75 feet frontage and 70 rods deep; 10-room house, good cellar, excellent garden, large barn, plenty of bearing fruit trees, and small fruit in abundance. Two blocks from electric. Price $2,800; half cash, balance on long time and easy terms. City water and gas. Conditions make a sale very desirable. Better look it over.

302

Nice little farm of 65 acres, about a mile from the electric; 7-room house just finished, fine new barn with accommodation for 30 cows, cement floors, stanchions, good new stables, 40 acres plow land, 20 acres timber—and a trifle over $100 per acre will buy it. Glad to show you any time, and if you don't buy you will not be scolded a little bit. Worth looking at anyhow.

303

One of the nicest lots on the Buell addition, facing on Woodward Avenue, 40 feet frontage and 120 feet deep. Corner lot, and one of the most desirable building lots in the village. Can be bought for cash at a price that will surely appeal to any one—either for building purposes or an investment.

304

Fine large 8-room house three blocks from electric, practically rebuilt this year; water-closet, bath, electric lights, city water, small barn, lot 80x132; best neighborhood and location in the village; cement walks; house newly painted and decorated, ready to occupy without further expense. $3,900.

305

New 7-room cottage just finished, one block from electric, lot 60x90, west of Woodward Avenue, north side of street; house 28x30. One cozy home for any one of small means. Everything new and neat. Has never rented or occupied. Sure to please you at $1,600.

306

Two-story cottage on Campbell Addition, two blocks from cars; 4 rooms, city water, good well, cellar, small fruit; cost $1,200; will sell for $1,350 cash. Worth more money, but owner has best of reasons for selling.

307

Twenty-seven acres on the line of the Rochester electric in Troy township; rich sandy loam and clay; new buildings; 15 acres orchard; good school, one-quarter mile; 1½ miles from Detroit; 1.8 cents, and can be bought for $2,700 on easy terms.

303

Now, here it is! Best-equipped stock farm in the county. Township of Troy, Section 15. Eleven house and seven other ample buildings, all practically new; 28 acres oats, cold pure water piped to all the buildings; 125-barrel storage tank; water in every field but three, beautiful shade, fine view, no waste land, and every acre under high state of cultivation—altogether one of the most beautiful as well as profitable farms in this country of fine farms; buildings insured for $12,000; big old-fashioned fire-place, hardwood floors, bath, water-closet, etc., in fact all the buildings are modern in every respect. Two cheap to mention in public, but we will tell you all about it if you will call or write.

309

Vacant lot, Merrill Plat, fronting on Metcalf Street, 40x108, near Methodist church, fine location. Price $800.

310

Brand-new 2-story cottage, finished in golden oak, with bath, water-closet, city water, electric light, and every convenience to be found in best-appointed city residences. Located on Cass avenue, only two blocks from electric, and two blocks from Birmingham High School. Price $3,400, terms easy. You must be convinced that this is very cheap after you look after it yourself, for it is well-equipped, cozy little home. Let us show it to you.

311

Six-room, 1-story cottage on Daines Street, two blocks from electric, in good repair, with fine cellar, city water, and a good well; lot 50 feet front by 92 per month, and can be bought very cheap, as owner, for reasons, must sell his money. Too cheap to mention in public, but we will tell you all about it if you will call or write.

312

Eight-room, 2-story dwelling on west side of Southfield Avenue; large barn, fine shade, cement walk, good neighborhood. Why, see here! The buildings would cost at least $5,000 to build to-day besides the other improvements, and that's all we ask for the whole outfit. Price $3,700, and terms balance on mortgage on easy terms. If you don't like this you will be sorry after you have bought elsewhere.

313

The very cream of all farms on or near the electric on Woodward Avenue, between Birmingham and Pontiac. Lot 66 rods deep, and Square Hills district; 106 acres, nice old-fashioned farm house and barn; 2 wells; 80 rods wire fence; cement and frame additions—7 buildings in all; 10 acres of good timber; beautiful branch of the River Rouge runs through the farm near the house, with fine old elms and other shade trees; 3 acres of finest kind of fruit; 2 acres of asparagus; farm well fenced and one of the best and most productive in the county. The price is low for a farm so near Detroit, but higher than other places in the vicinity, and 10 times more desirable than any we have had for sale ever here to put on the market. We want you to know about it. Take you to see it any time—any day.