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"CURSE OF SCOTLAND" HAS SEVERAL EXPLANATIONS

(T. P.'s WEEKLY)

Why the nine of diamonds should be called "The Curse of Scotland" has never been satisfactorily explained. Like the birth of a celebrated literary personage, its origin is "wrapped in mystery." Several explanations have been put forward from time to time, but very few of these can be said to be a real solution.

The three most plausible suggestions are these: 1—In the game of comets, introduced in Scotland by Mary of Lorraine, daughter of the Duke of Guise and second queen of James V., the nine of diamonds is the winning card. The game was the curse of the country, from the fact of the large number of courtiers who were ruined by it; 2—In the game of Pope Ivan, the nine of diamonds is called the pope, who was considered by the Scottish Presbyterians as a curse; 3—And one which is generally accepted as correct. The card got its name from its resemblance to the nine lozenges or, arranged side by side on the armorial bearings of Sir John Dalrymple, afterwards of Stair. He was secretary of state for Scotland during the reign of William III, and was the chief author of the massacre of Glencoe, which left such a stain upon his memory and upon the king's as well. Dalrymple's name became utterly abhorrent to the people, being regarded by them as a curse. Chamber's Encyclopaedia gives this as the real explanation.

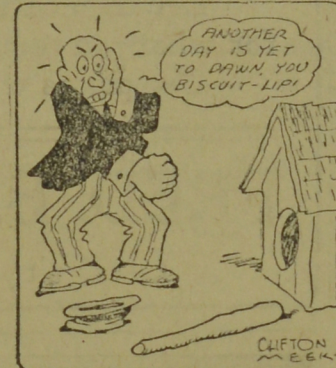
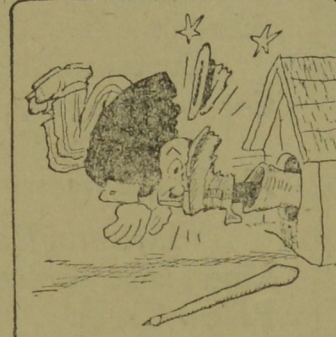
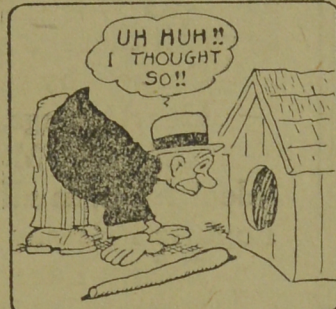
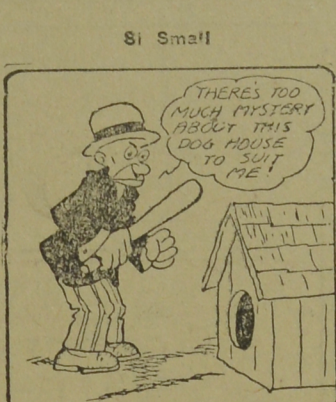
Of the other suggestions, the most noteworthy are these:—Diamond

imply royalty and every ninth king of Scotland has been a curse to his country. This explanation is rather far-fetched to say the least. It is an example of how far people will go in their desire to find a reason for the term; 2—The word curse is a corruption of "cross" and the nine of diamonds is so arranged as to form a St. Andrew's Cross. Another example of the preceding; as the nine of hearts would answer this just as well, the suggestion must be placed on one side as useless; 3—Some have it that it was on the back of a nine of diamonds that the Duke of Cumberland, "the Butcher," wrote the order for the merciless execution of the highlanders after Culloden (1746). However much this suggestion may appeal to national sentiment, it, too, may go the way of the other. The term was used in the year 1765, as the Justice Clerk Ormiston was nicknamed by the ladies "The Nine of Diamonds." There is also a caricature of the date Oct. 21, 1745, which represents the young cavalier, attempting to lead a herd of bull laden with papal curses, excommunications, etc., across the Tweed. Such are some of the common explanations of this term, and it could be wished that they were a little more satisfactory. One cannot say with certainty that any of them is the correct one, but they are the best that have as yet been brought forward.

The remark of Sir Conan Doyle that England has stood all it could from the militant suffragette, and that he anticipates "a wholesale lynching bee," shows clearly the militants have retarded rather than helped their cause.

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A Little Bit For the Wife

Two navvies working on a job some distance away from their homes had been paid, and were sauntering down the main street of the village where they were lodging. Passing the post office, one of them darted inside, and came out with a postal order for sixpence.

"Hullo," the other said, "do ye go in for competitions, Bill?" "Competitions?" queried Bill. "What do yer mean? Can't a fellow send a bit of money home to his wife?"

Especially Feet



He—Smith is a man of great parts. She—I should say so! I danced with him one night and wasn't able to walk for a week after it.



FOR SUPERIOR-MISSISSIPPI CANAL

Washington, D.C., June 2—Public officials and representatives of the commercial interests of Minnesota and neighboring States appeared before the rivers and harbors board of engineers today and presented arguments in support of the project for building a canal to connect Lake Superior and the Mississippi River. The cost of the canal is estimated at about \$8,800,000. The engineers appointed to investigate the subject have reported, while the project is feasible from an engineering standpoint the prospective commercial benefits will not be great enough to justify such a large expenditure of public funds.

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"I hope you read the Bible every day?" he remarked gravely.

"Oh, yes," she responded eagerly. "I'll just show you the chapter I read. She produced the Book, and opened the pages.

Between them lay a pair of spectacles.

"Well, I declare," she cried, "here are my spectacles that I've lost for the last fortnight!"

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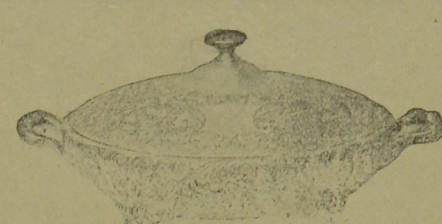
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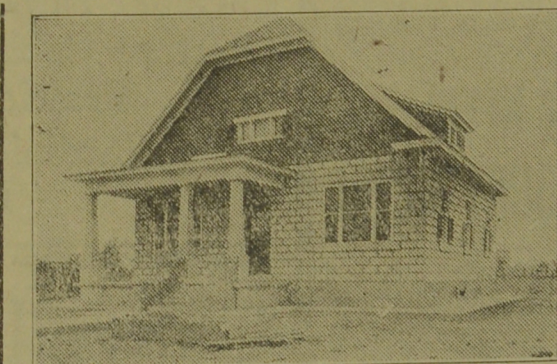
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