

## THE GRAND SCHEMER

HE PLANS A DEVICE THAT WILL TAKE THE PUBLIC BY STORM.

Major Crofoot originates the M. W. B. Company, filling a long felt want, and incidentally takes in a lawyer friend.

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The grand promoter sat at his desk in his office with a wandering look on his face and 40 cents in change spread out before him. He had been counting that change over and over and figuring how many times the \$28 he owed his landlady, the \$12 he owed his tailor, the \$4 he owed his hatter and the \$75 he owed various other people would go into that 40 cents. He was still about it when he heard a step on the stairs. It was the step of an aggressive man. As it came nearer it betokened the step of a determined man. As the door was burst open without preliminary warning the major recognized the fact that he was face to face with a circumstance. For one brief second his knees weakened, and he caught his breath with a gasp. Then he was on his feet with hand outstretched and a smile on his face and saying:

"Bless my soul, but if you had been two minutes later I should have been on my way to your office! Come in; come in."

"I didn't know as you would remember me," dryly replied the visitor as he looked around the office.

"What! Not remember Thompson of Thompson & Thompson, attorneys at law! You must be joking. My dear



"I WANT TO TAKE YOU IN."

MAD, Major Crofoot never forgets the face or name of a friend. You more than any other man in the world have been in my thoughts for the last three days, and, as I remarked, I was about to start for your office. Thompson, shake hands again."

"I haven't time," replied Thompson. "Look here, major, bills against you to the amount of \$200 have been put into our hands for collection. You promised to pay that old board bill two months ago. I want to know what you are going to do?"

"Do, my dear Thompson? Why, I'm going to give you a check in about ten seconds for the whole indebtedness. You could have had your money long ago if you had given me the slightest hint. Major Crofoot has a good memory, but how can you expect him to keep track of shillings when he is dealing in thousands of dollars."

"I heard you were promoting a little," said the lawyer as he waited for the check.

"Ten companies formed in the last three months, my boy, and the eleventh just ready to be incorporated. Grand aggregation of over \$300,000,000 capital thus far, and every company bound to pay at least 80 per cent dividend. What do you suppose I've got on hand now?"

"I can't say, and as I'm in a hurry you may fill out that check."

"The biggest scheme of all—the ne plus ultra!" whispered the major with a flourish of his right arm. "I expected to stop at ten, but this scheme came pushing along and I had to take it up. It's the richest of them all. It'll pay 100 per cent profit from the very start. In a week from now the Standard Oil company won't be on earth."

"But I'm here about those bills."

"My dear Thompson, walk with me. When I was hard up, you were one of the few who did not lose confidence in my integrity. The man or woman who trusts Major Crofoot never regrets it. I might not have picked up this eleventh scheme but for you. I wanted to let you in. I wanted to reward you for your faith in me. Thompson, my boy, sell out your law business—give it away—get rid of it before night."

"I want to know about those bills," said the lawyer as he came to a halt.

"The last and best scheme of all," continued the major as he got hold of his arm again, "is the Musical Washboard company, organized on a capital of \$20,000,000. The idea is strictly original with me. Washboard runs a music box while you rub. Music box can be placed in the laundry, parlor, kitchen or even the next house. May arrange later on to have 'em connected with drug stores, kindergartens and public schools. Twenty-four tunes in the box, evenly divided between sad and lively. As the washerwoman rubs away at one of your colored shirts the music box strikes up 'Comin' Thru' the Bye.' She changes off to a sheet or pillowslip, and you have 'Home, Sweet Home,' with variations. Thompson, shake hands!"

"I won't do it. I came here to notify you that these bills must be paid at once or you will be haled into court."

"It's a hummer, my boy—it's a success from the start. Costs nothing extra for the music, you know. While you are hiring a woman in the laundry

for a dollar and a quarter a day she's furnishing music for the parlor free gratis. Put a bedquilt on the washboard and you can hear the strains of 'The Old Oaken Bucket' from garret to cellar. Let the woman tackle a tablecloth, and everybody goes dancing to the tune of 'Maggie Murphy's Home.' Drug stores can have it at a slight cost for their patrons, and public schools needn't pay a cent. Rub-a-dub-dub! Music by the box! Thompson, don't miss it. Don't throw a good thing over your shoulder. I want to take you in. I have taken you in. You are to be secretary of the M. W. C. at \$20,000 a year."

"That's all wind," bluntly exclaimed the lawyer, "and it won't work. Will you draw me a check for \$200?"

"Isn't it a wonder that somebody else didn't strike on the idea?" whispered the major as he patted Thompson on the shoulder. "The washboard has been known for 200 years. What was easier than to make friction run a music box to soothe the sorrowful, lull the ailing or enthrall the discouraged? It would have saved thousands of lives annually, prevented thousands of suicides, and yet no one thought of it. Thompson, shake hands! It's the secretaryship at \$20,000 a year for you, and I'll get you \$50,000 worth of stock at ground floor figures. Months ago, when I was hard up and couldn't pay a bill of \$7, you put your hand on my shoulder in a brotherly way and said you had every confidence in my financial integrity. Do you imagine I've forgotten that, Thompson? Not by the grave of my grandfather! I never think of it without the tears coming to my eyes."

"Do you want to be sued for these accounts?" demanded the lawyer when he could get in a word.

"And your reward for trusting me is this," continued the major—"the salary of \$20,000 is only a starter. I'll double it after the washboards get into the market. The \$50,000 in stock will pay you \$25,000 a year in dividends at the very least, and perhaps double that, and there you are. You can safely put your first year's income down at \$95,000. Is that enough, Thompson? If not, just say the word, and I'll add \$20,000 to it. Meanwhile—"

"Meanwhile I want no more of your wind!"

"Meanwhile, my dear secretary of the M. W. C., I owe \$200. You have the accounts to collect. Just mark 'em collected,' and I'll pay in the \$200 to hold your stock. Always have to have a deposit as evidence of good faith, you know. If it was anybody else, I'd demand a certified check for \$10,000. Thompson, go home and throw your lawbooks out of the window."

"I'll be hanged if I do! I want to know!"

"Throw your lawbooks out of the window, dissolve the partnership, and then take your position as secretary. No hurry for a day or two, but don't wait too long. I want to get the articles of incorporation through as soon as possible and patent the idea. Good-by, Thompson, goodby."

"But I want that check!" protested the lawyer as he was pushed out.

"And the washerwoman rubs and the box plays on," replied the smiling major. "We'll have 50,000 washboards playing 'Yankee Doodle' and 'Home of My Soul' before the month is out, and if you want \$15,000 in advance on your salary and profits send your boy around and I'll fill out a check. Good-by, Thompson, goodby, and remember to keep mum till our patent is secured."

The door was shut and locked, and there was grim silence for five minutes. Then the major heard threats and vows and mutterings, and some one went slowly down stairs.

M. QUAD.

### Crowing Matches.

The Belgian artisan spends his leisure in a very curious manner. He keeps a special cock for crowing, and the bird which can outcrow its fellows has reached the highest pinnacle of perfection. The mode of operation is to place the cages containing the roosters in long rows, for it appears that one bird sets the other off crowing. A marker appointed by the organizers of the show is told off for each bird, his duty being to note carefully the number of crows for which it is responsible in the same fashion as the laps are recorded in a bicycle race. The customary duration of the match is one hour, the winner being the bird which scores the highest number of crows in the allotted time. A great number of these competitions have taken place in the Liege district, and in some cases heavy bets have been made on the result.

### Radishes.

Radishes originated in China, where they have been cultivated for many centuries and sometimes grow as big as a man's head. In Germany the old fashioned country mothers cure hoarseness and cough with radish juice mixed with sugar candy. The radishes of today have no flavor, no character. Formerly their sharp, biting taste made them palatable.

### A Jury Room Gem.

A gem from the records of a Missouri court, given in an address by Hon. William H. Wallace, is the following lucid verdict in a lunacy case: "We, the jury, impaneled, sworn and charged to inquire into the insanity of Heskiah Jones, do occur in the affirmative."

### Two Bad Bites.

Diogenes, being asked, "What is that beast which is the most dangerous?" replied, "Of wild beasts the bite of a slanderer and of tame beasts that of the flatterer."

If the average man could read the story of his life he wouldn't believe it.—Chicago News.

A man who finds no satisfaction in himself seeks for it in vain elsewhere.

### Goat in Hen's.

Goat has been produced in hens by a Breslau doctor who fed them with meat. He gave the hens nothing but horseflesh without fat and as much water as they liked, with deplorable results to the unfortunate fowls. Having instilled the disease, he then undertook to drive out the uric acid by administering eggshell, which relieved the hens to a certain degree.

### A Strong Hint.

Harry wanted to give Lucy a birthday present, but could not make up his mind what it should be; so the next time he called he frankly told her the difficulty under which he was laboring. "Want to make me a present, Harry?" exclaimed Lucy in well counterfeited astonishment. "Why, Harry, you forget yourself!" Harry took the hint and offered himself on the spot.

When a man is hungry, he doesn't waste much time reading the bill of fare.—Chicago News.

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2:30 p. m. Week days only. For Falls Creek, DuBois, Curwensville, Clearfield, Punxsutawney, Butler, Pittsburg, Brockwayville, Ridgway, Johnsonburg, Mt. Jewett and Bradford.

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**SOUTH BOUND.**  
2:34 a. m. Daily. Night Express for Punxsutawney, Dayton, Butler and Pittsburg.  
7:12 a. m. Week days only. For Big Run, Punxsutawney, Butler, Pittsburg and intermediate points.  
10:54 a. m. and 7:43 p. m. Week days only. For DuBois, Stanton, Sykes, Big Run and Punxsutawney.  
2:44 p. m. Daily. Vestibuled limited. For Punxsutawney, Dayton, Butler and Pittsburg.

**NORTH BOUND.**  
2:21 a. m. Daily. Express for Ridgway, Johnsonburg, Buffalo and Rochester.  
7:28 a. m. and 3:30 p. m. Week days only. For Brockwayville, Ridgway, Johnsonburg, Mt. Jewett and Bradford.  
12:52 p. m. Daily. Vestibuled limited. For Ridgway, Johnsonburg, Bradford, Buffalo and Rochester.  
1:00 p. m. Week days only. Accommodation for Reynoldsville.  
Trains for Curwensville, Clearfield and intermediate stations leave Falls Creek at 7:28 a. m., 2:40 and 10 p. m.  
Thousand mile tickets good for passage over any portion of the R. & P. and Beach Creek railroads are on sale at two (2) cents per mile.  
For tickets, time tables and full information apply to  
E. C. DAVIS, Agent, Reynoldsville, Pa.  
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1899 **TWELFTH ANNUAL** 1900

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