

HOW FAKE AUCTIONS GET YOUR MONEY

Public Relations Commission, American Bankers Association
(This is one of a series of articles exposing the wiles of sharpers who are after your money.)

NEARLY everyone is ready "to take a fling" at getting something for nothing or at least for less than it is worth. Because of this many are duped into paying more than regular market prices for things they buy. This class of people is especially susceptible to the appeal of anything resembling an auction. Fake auctions with the cards stacked against the buyer are very common. They rank high among the fraudulent schemes of the country.



W. R. MOREHOUSE

The "here today and gone tomorrow" auction faker rents a fine looking house in some high-class section of the city in which he plans to operate. He furnishes this house with the cheapest imitations of high-class furnishings, with here and there a fine piece which is to serve for bait. Certain pieces are alleged antiques with a thread of glorious history behind them. Of others it is claimed that they have been handed down for generations, originating with some person noted in history or with some famous Southern family. Of other pieces it is maintained that they are made of rare and precious woods imported from far across the sea. The overstuffed furniture, it is claimed, is all high grade of standard manufacture.

Regardless of its superiority and antiquity, the furniture must be sold at once, for the owner is compelled to take an extended trip, the family physician having ordered travel and a change of climate as a means of saving his life. Nothing is to be spared and the deep slashings of the auctioneer's ax—must go on with no price too low. Individual pre-auction sales, of course, will be arranged for persons who are unable to attend the auction.

The day of the sale is here. Purchasers are arriving. They are met at the door by the woman member of the outfit—a dramatic person who knows when to shed tears at the thought of having her happy home broken up and her valuable furnish-

ings torn from her. She tells her sad story—how she must leave her home and go to distant lands with her husband whose health is broken and life in danger. But she is resigned to her "awful calamity" and will sell all her lovely furniture even at a great sacrifice. As she directs attention to certain pieces of furniture her voice quavers. She almost sobbers aloud as she names the price she is forced to accept. "Less than half the original cost, but price is no object. We must take the train tomorrow," and she wipes a tear from her eye. Fully convinced the sale is genuine, and sympathizing with the unfortunate woman, buyers clamor for the furniture.



Victims Clamor for Fake Pieces

But no sooner are the articles transferred from their setting in the slightly darkened rooms of their original owner and displayed in the sunlight of the purchaser's home, than the truth about the sale begins to dawn in the mind of each new owner. Close examination reveals that evidently this wonderful collection of furniture was but odds and ends and unsalable pieces picked up from second-hand stores by those fly-by-night fakers. Some proves to be the rankest of imitations of the cheapest grade, and the overstuffed is so poorly constructed that it squeaks and weaves under the lightest weight.

The Birds Have Flown
When those who have been cheated rush back to the house the next day, intent on making it "hot for the faker,"

Messrs. Catch 'em and Skin 'em.
An investigation of the store made six months later disclosed that its stock was then larger than the day it announced the auction. Its sales in the interior had exceeded \$500,000. The facts are that two trucks had backed up to the rear of the store nightly and unloaded new merchandise, principally odd lines and job lots picked up here and there at a bargain. Under the guise of a legitimate auction, or private sale at auction prices, fourteen times as much furniture was sold in the six months as the store contained at the time of the failure. Comparison of sale prices disclosed that victims were persuaded to buy liberally on the assurance they were getting sacrifice prices, when as a matter of fact they were actually paying from five to 25 per cent more than reliable stores were charging for better goods.

Fake auctions and private sales are used not only for furniture but also in the sale of jewelry and other merchandise. The lesson which this story teaches is that there is nothing to be gained by patronizing such sales. On the other hand, there is a better than 50-50 chance of sustaining a loss. Not all auctions are fraudulent, for some are conducted fairly and honestly, but before you draw your savings from the bank and spend them for auction goods it will pay you to get the facts. For your own protection make it an unbreakable rule to confine your expenditures and investments to reliable firms and individuals in dealing with them you are assured a square deal.

PASTORS' CHILDREN TO HONOR PARENTS

Memorial Takes Form of Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

Chicago.—"Silver keys to golden memories." In these five words are epitomized a national movement, with its headquarters here, which has as its objectives:

Creation of a sunshiny, life and health-giving memorial to the spirits of thousands of America's best-loved men and women, and

A lasting and complete refutation of the old theory that the majority of ministers' children are ne'er-do-wells.

The "golden memories" are those which all of us treasure of the kindly ministrations, the heart-felt sympathies and the helping hands extended to us in times of stress by pastors or our acquaintances.

The "silver keys" are the dollars that are pouring into the Methodist Ministers' Sons' and Daughters' association, for the memorial which that organization has planned and on which construction is expected early this year.

Plan Great Sanatorium.

That memorial is to be the Methodist Ministers' Memorial sanatorium at Colorado Springs, Colo. It is planned as the principal unit of the National Methodist Episcopal Sanatorium for Tuberculosis—a project embracing almost a million dollars in buildings and equipment.

"Our unit," says Rev. J. W. Irish, D. D., executive secretary of the association, "will cost about \$300,000 and will afford us—the sons and daughters of Methodist ministers—an opportunity not only to honor our fathers and mothers, but also to assist in caring for the more than a million persons in America who are afflicted with this dread disease. The service will be non-sectarian and will be provided without cost to those who are unable to pay the cost of their fight for health."

Doctor Irish added that probably no movement in the history of Methodism ever has struck such a popular chord of appeal and that the success of the venture is assured. In his offices at 740 Rush street, he already has the names and addresses of 10,000 sons and daughters of Methodist ministers.

"Our greatest concern now," he continued, "is that of obtaining as nearly as possible a complete list of the sons and daughters of Methodist ministers and their wives. The opportunity which our association affords these folks of memorializing their parents is such that we have issued a general appeal to the public everywhere to send us names and addresses of any known sons or daughters of our pastors."

"So great is the interest in our activity that the Chamber of Commerce of Colorado Springs donated 23 acres of land within the city limits for the location of our buildings. The site adjoins that of Beth-El General hospital, nationally known for its achievements in surgical and general medical treatment.

"One unit of our sanatorium, a heating plant and laundry large enough to provide for future expansion, already have been erected on our site."

Ministers' Sons Rank High.

Development of the hospital memorial to children of preachers, has brought to light an almost startling array of prominent personages who were the sons or daughters of ministers.

John Hancock, first signer of the Declaration of Independence, was a preacher's son, as were eight others who signed that document. One of every nine of the Presidents of the United States have been ministers' sons, while in one of every four ministrations, America's Presidents had daughters of ministers as the nation's first lady.

One of every five persons in the Hall of Fame in New York city is the son or daughter of a preacher.

In the industrial field, in science invention, literature and the arts, many of the outstanding names are those of ministers' sons.

Bishop Edwin Holt Hughes of Chicago is president of the association; Rev. Merle N. English, D. D., of Oak Park, Ill., is vice president. Other officers, besides Doctor Irish, the executive secretary, include L. O. Jones, Lincoln, Neb., secretary, and Dr. C. S. Woods, Cleveland, Ohio, treasurer.

Riga, N. Y.—Wild dog hunting is the leading sport here. Several packs of wild dogs have wandered through the countryside, attacking domestic animals and even chivalry people.

All Slogans Have Passed Into History

Now things can be more seemingly hazardous than the vicissitudes of fortune which have befallen phrases and sentences, equally striking and equally arresting in themselves, writes the earl of Oxford and Asquith in McCull's Magazine. Some of them have perished without leaving so much as an echo behind, while others have been binzoned on the banners of mighty hosts or become the rallying cries of great causes or have passed into the common currency of mankind—Burke's "thousands of swords leaping from their scabbards," the Hungarian nobles' cry, "Mortemur pro rege nostro," Maria Theresa's bright "angel of death hovering over the stricken homes of a war-worn people," Lincoln's "government of the people, by the people, for the people," Italy's "Fara da se," Danton's "tous men non soit fieri que la France soit libre," Jefferson's "that government is best which governs least," and the elder Pitt's scornful rebuke to his cringing partner, Newcastle, is one of the greatest adventures in our annals—"fewer words, my lord, for your words have long lost all weight with me"—all these come from an anthology which will never be exhausted so long as men can breathe or eyes can see.

But there are words spoken or written equally worthy of remembrance, some of them almost wholly forgotten, others serving in a mutilated shape, which are among the most to be deplored of the lost fragmentary treasures of history.

Interesting to Note

Origin of Surnames

It was not until after the Norman conquest that surnames were adopted. They were first given as nicknames to suit particular individuals. Today we rarely find any appropriateness in the names we bear. The greatest hero of the day may easily carry the name of Coward, while Mr. Fox may be anything but sly. Yet it is probable that the first man to bear the name of Fox was pre-eminent in cunning, just as the first Parrott, or Parratt, was most likely a great talker.

Many people were named by reason of their possession of some quality which was associated with a particular animal. Hart, for instance, was no doubt a great runner, and Nightingale could sing. As for the Ruddocks (robin redbreast) and Woodalls (woodwate, a woodpecker), they probably received their names from the signs they favored outside their doors.

The most interesting names are those which plainly originated through the occupation of those who held them. There is no doubt about Shepherd, Hedger, Herd, or Hoard. Ackerman was the man who drove the plow over the acres; Swinart tended swine; and Calvert looked after the calves; while Wethered was a wether-herd, and Goddard a goat-herd.—London Answers.

Bizet Died a "Failure"

Bizet, the composer of "Carmen," probably the most successful of all classic operas so far as the scope of its popularity is concerned, died at thirty-seven, and it is said he was broken-hearted over the apparent failure of the opera on its first presentation.—Washington Star.

Dentist Cheaper

Moscow, U. S. S. R.—American toothpaste costs dearly in Russia. Six tubes to be mailed to an American newspaper man here were held up at the soviet post office for minute examination and then the correspondent was assessed a duty of \$11 a tube.

Snapshots of Cruiser Emden Stir Germans

Wilhelmshaven, Germany.—There was excitement among members of the German navy when the cruiser Emden departed on a world tour. For sailors on board a British tank ship were observed to be photographing the German naval vessel as she steamed out of port.

Wild rumors began to circulate in this harbor, describing the network of a big English espionage system.

But these stirring stories were quickly dissipated by the Frankfurter Zeitung, which wrote: "Nowadays there are few jobs for foreign spies. The plans of the Emden are known to members of the interallied military control commission better than they are to the builders in Wilhelmshaven."

He Never Doubled
After the wreck of the logging railroad the superintendent asked the badly damaged negro fireman: "Are you married?"
He replied sadly: "No, suh, boss, dis am de wurstest fix ah was evah in." —R. R. Telegrapher.

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By F. O. Alexander



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All Mixed Up