

"I don't ask that you drive slow, Henry," observed the thoughtful wife, "but I do insist that you keep your life insurance premiums paid."

A San Franciscan who died last week arranged to have his horse chloroformed and buried with him. Just what the horse thought of this touch of sentiment has not been disclosed.

A new mountain chain, 1,000 miles in length, has been discovered in Siberia. Evidently a lot of little things have been overlooked in that country.

A famous scientist says that it is a man's brain development which shortens life. If this is true we know some folks who ought to live to be a thousand at least.

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## HOW FAKE AUCTIONS GET YOUR MONEY

By W. R. MOREHOUSE  
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.



Victims Clamor for Fake Pieces

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 "fateful calamity" and will sell all her lovely furniture even at a great sacrifice.

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 sale at the interior had exceeded \$600,000. 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.

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 these fly-by-night fakers. Some proves to be the roughest of imitations of the cheapest grade, and the overstuffed is so poorly constructed that it squeaks and weaves under the lightest weight.

Not all auctions are fraudulent, for some are conducted fairly and honestly, but before you draw your earnings 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.

When those who have been cheated rush back to the house the next day, intent on making it "hot for the faker," (A future article will present means to foil crooked promoters' wiles and tell how to separate good from bad investments.)

### MASSACHUSETTS PROPOSES TO DOUBLE STATE POLICE

With state-wide and united support already in evidence, and without opposition from any source, there is every prospect that the Massachusetts State Police patrol, as the force of uniformed troopers is officially known, will be substantially increased within the next two months. Favorable action has already been taken by the legislative committee on public safety on a bill to provide for an increase in the force, and the Ways and Means committee has held a public hearing on the proposal, with a favorable report understood to be imminent.

As proposed by General Alfred F. Foote, commissioner of public safety, the bill would provide for an immediate increase of sixty men, bringing the size of the unit from 140 to 200, with a maximum of 300 to be reached by easy stages during the next two years. A bill embodying this plan was introduced in the legislature by Representative Slater Washburn of Worcester, and from the outset has met with nothing but the wholehearted support of the public generally.

## STATE POLICE ASK INCREASE FOR PATROLS

MORE MEN NEEDED TO PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY BY CURBING RECKLESS DRIVERS  
Tourist Associations are Behind Movement

Plans of the Michigan Department of Public Safety with regard to the State Police for the coming two years have been held in shyness pending action by the Legislature on the requests for appropriations. This state has had a much smaller State Police force than other states of comparable area and population and a small increase in appropriations has been asked to permit of a moderate extension of the force.

A large part of the funds allowed for the Department of Public Safety go to the various inspect divisions, such as the Fire Marshal's office, the oil and building inspection, the transfer of prisoners, supervision of paroled prisoners, guarding of convicts employed on highway construction and similar duties so that only a portion of the appropriation is available for the fingerprint bureau, the detective bureau and the uniformed force for patrolling the highways, prohibition enforcement and other law enforcement activities.

The increase asked this year is for more uniformed men. Even such a small state as Connecticut has many more uniformed men of the State Police on its highways than Michigan.

Two New Posts  
Two important new posts have been asked, one near Adrian and the other at Prudenville. The first would cover patrol work on the Chicago-Detroit highway and the other would be of service in the northern resort section. If sufficient funds are allowed, it is proposed to continue all of the other posts which have been established during the past year. Michigan last summer had about one-third as many State Police detachments as the state of New Jersey and about the same number as Maryland.

Tourist associations and automobile clubs have both been very anxious for an increase in the number of State Police posts and a reasonable increase in the force to give better highway patrol. This is an incentive to tourist travel in the state.

Recently the state purchased 60 new motorcycles for the State Police. This means that about 50 men can be put on highway work as a certain number of machines have to be held for reserves while service machines are being given mechanical overhauling.

A prominent lady lecturer whose name is a household word, but which we appear to have mislaid, objects to the phrase "beautiful but dumb," as applied to women, as being untrue. Well, of course, they ain't all beautiful.

Bless are the poor, they shall have no trouble in the courts over champagne baths.

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## Breakfast Is Ready



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