

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY AT DURHAM IN 1869

The following poetical effusion, which appeared in The Chronicle after the Queen's Birthday celebration in 1869, will be of interest to all our readers, but we'll venture to say that only few remain to remember the incidents recorded.

The files of The Chronicle for that early date of its history are not now available, and to know how we got it will be an added interest.

A few weeks ago, Mr. A. Hutton, of Missoula, Montana, wrote to Postmaster Smith asking him to get the editor of The Chronicle to produce the file and reproduce the poetry about the Queen's Birthday in Durham in 1869. In case we couldn't do so, he would send a copy for publication. Mr. Smith handed the letter over to us, and we wrote Mr. Hutton.

Last week the article reached our sanctum, accompanied by a letter from Mr. Hutton, who tells us he had the clipping in a scrap book since he was a boy. He says there are several in that part of Montana from this part of Ontario and names Charles and Harley Johnson, and Robert Harkness from Paisley, Sumons from near Toronto, McDougall from Port Elgin, and several others from near-by places.

We don't know who wrote the skit but some of our readers may be able to tell us, but we must not forget that fifty-five years have passed since then and the chances of learning definite information are not likely to be numerous.

Mr. James Burt remembers the event, but as the business of a newspaperman is to keep everything secret till it's published, we didn't ask him for particulars, nor did we say anything about the poetry. We told him, however, we would have something to inquire about in the course of a week or so, and we hope he will be able to give us an interesting account of the famous celebration. Following is the poetry:

Sure, such a gathering before
In Durham ne'er was seen
As that to-day to celebrate
The birthday of the Queen.

The Chronicle announced full long
The sports that should take place,
To congregate the jovial throng,
For jumping, "put" and race.

A greasy pole—oh, thought sublime!
To reach almost to heaven—
The lad who to the top would climb
Four dollars should be given.

Three standing jumps, hop, step and
jump.
One standing, as before,
Putting the stone, and running jump,
For each, two dollars more.

A sack race and a blindfold race,
By boys with a wheelbarrow,
And walking on a light spring-pole,
Over the Saugene's "narrow."

A hurdle race, potato race,
Boys jumping for molasses,
And slow horse race were to take
place.

And so the Birthday passes,
Agility had not alone,
For its exciting cause,
To jump the poles, or put the stone,
The popular applause.

Dollars and dimes, oh, sordid tho't,
Were added to allure them,
And many an oath and curse was
brought.

In order to secure them,
All work was in the village stop'd,
And shutters all put up,
The taverns alone were open
To give the exciting cup.

Crown Land and Post Offices were
closed,
Their blinds were close drawn
down,
And, e'er the sports began, you'd
think

A death was in the town,
The flags, 'tis true, were floating
from
Their poles, not "half-mast high,"
As if to show the strangers they
Could get a drop to buy.

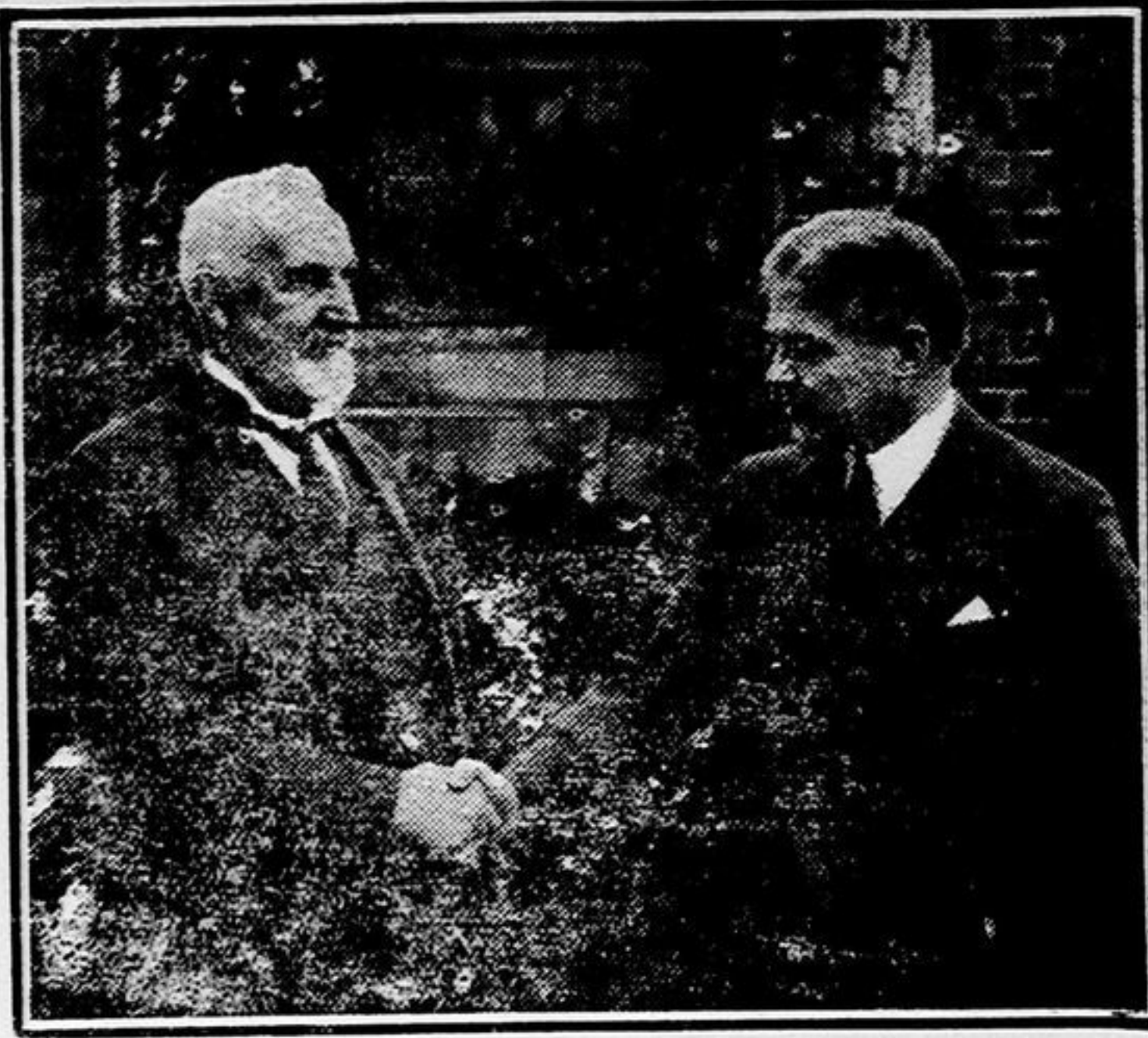
"The British" was the first we saw,
All tattered at its ease,
All tattered as the long it "braved"
"The battle and the breeze."

Mackay's red cross we next descried
Which gaily fluttered too,
And plainly told he there supplied,
"Old Tom" and "Mountain Dew."

Then Watters of The Durham Stone,
His azure banner flies,
To show he's liquor strong, "galour"
If water you despise.

But, stop my pen, what means the
flag
Half-mast on the Orange Hall?
Is it a "mourning token," hung

Presented President with Steel Spike



George Munro, pioneer track layer of the Canadian Pacific Railway, received birthday congratulations on May 21 from Mr. E. W. Beatty, during the latter's recent visit in Vancouver. This meeting between one of the public employees and the executive head of the Canadian Pacific also marked the forty-ninth anniversary of the turning of the first sod on construction at Fort William in 1875, an event at which George Munro was present.

Another interesting co-incidence in connection with the meeting is the fact that the S. S. Quebec, which carried the handful of construction men including Mr. Munro, from Sarnia to Fort William, in May 1875, was owned and operated by the Beatty Steamship Line, of which Mr. Beatty's father, the late Mr. Henry Beatty, was president.

In 1881 when construction was begun on the last lap of the company's line between Yale, B. C. and the Coast, Mr. Munro was given charge of track laying at Emery, B. C. and when the last and famous "gold spike" was driven at Craigachie by Lord Strathcona in 1885 he took possession of the steel spike which replaced the gold one and after treasuring it for almost 29 years as a memento presented it to Mr. Beatty.

Out for the church's fall?

Lo! who is this comes gliding on
So steadily with speed?
'Tis Walter Spencer from the Sound
On his velocipede.

And well indeed, he rides "the beast"
(As well as e'er did Byron)
It is the easiest way, at least,
To carry so much iron.

How many fruitless efforts made
The greasy pole to climb,
I need not tell, for I'm afraid,
'Twould take up too much time.

The spring-pole, too, amusing all,
Gave many a lad a ducking,
Tho' one succeeded, in his fall,
The "three-dollar flag" in plucking.

So passed the day, well pleased were
they,
Who like athletic jumpings,
But nothing I would like to say
About the Calthumpians.

A "feu de joie" of course was fired
By Durham's volunteers,
Who gave the Queen, e'er they re-
tired.

Three loud and hearty cheers,
A concert in the Orange Hall,
(One of no mean renown)
Delighted all the musical
And tasterful, in the town.

Thus ended, with some broken heads
A day that all delighted,
And many who had come from far,
Believed themselves requited.

FIRST THINGS.

The first Roman Catholic church was built at Annapolis 1608.

The first Protestant church was built in Halifax.

The first Methodist Church at Point de Bute, N. B. 1790.

The first Baptist church at Sackville in 1763.

The first Presbyterian church at Onslow 1764.

The first Anglican service in Canada was held at Annapolis.

St. Paul's church, Halifax, was the second Anglican church in Canada. It was commenced in 1790 and finished five years later.

The first Sunday School was opened in 1785 in connection with St. Paul's church, Halifax.

The first representative Assembly in Canada met in Halifax, 1758.

St. John, N. B. is the oldest incorporated town in Canada, receiving its charter on 18th May, 1785.

LOOK THEM OVER

Get the habit of looking over our Small Classified Ads. on page 7. There may be money in it. Small Ads. too late for classification will be found on page 5. If you have anything to sell a Small Ad. may bring you a buyer. If you want to buy anything, let the public know about it in The Chronicle. An outlay of a few cents may save you a lot of trouble and make you a lot of dollars.

Judge—What's your name, occupation, and the charge?
Prisoner—My name is Sparks, I am an electrician, and I am charged with battery.
Judge—Put this guy in a dry cell.

Read the Classified Ads. on Page 7. It will pay you.



PROVINCE OF ONTARIO Agricultural Enquiry Committee NOTICE

To Whom it May Concern:

The Special Committee appointed to enquire into and report on agricultural and other economic conditions in the Province will hold sessions in place and time as follows:

DURHAM, Tuesday, June 17, Town Hall, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

WALKERTON, Wednesday, June 18, Town Hall, 2 p.m.

THORNHURST, Thursday, June 19, Town Hall, 2 p.m.

All who desire to supply information or make representations useful to the Committee concerning any branch of Agriculture and industries related thereto are hereby cordially invited to attend.

Hon. Dr. Jamieson, Chairman. P. F. Cronin, Secretary.

A LITTLE OF THIS AND THAT
The most annoying thing about zero weather is to have some old-timer tell how it used to be.
The death rate is now 12 out of every 1,000. From that we presume that 988 stop, look and listen.
The most absorbing home stretch is the effort to stretch a pay cheque from one Saturday to another.
Size doesn't matter much. The smallest offices may cause the most serious cases of swelled head.
A philosopher is a bum actor who

thanks heaven he didn't live in the age when the dinosaur laid eggs.
As we understand it, a movie star is a perfect lady if she behaves except when full of booze.
Gland extracts may cure the feeble-minded, but aquittal cures the insane.
Nowadays the lucky child is the one born with a silver tongue in his mouth.
What puzzles us is how the dentist knows when these he-vamps are unconscious.

Specials for Saturday

9 pair Women's Bamboo Suede Strap Slippers sizes 3-7. Regular \$4.50 for \$3.50

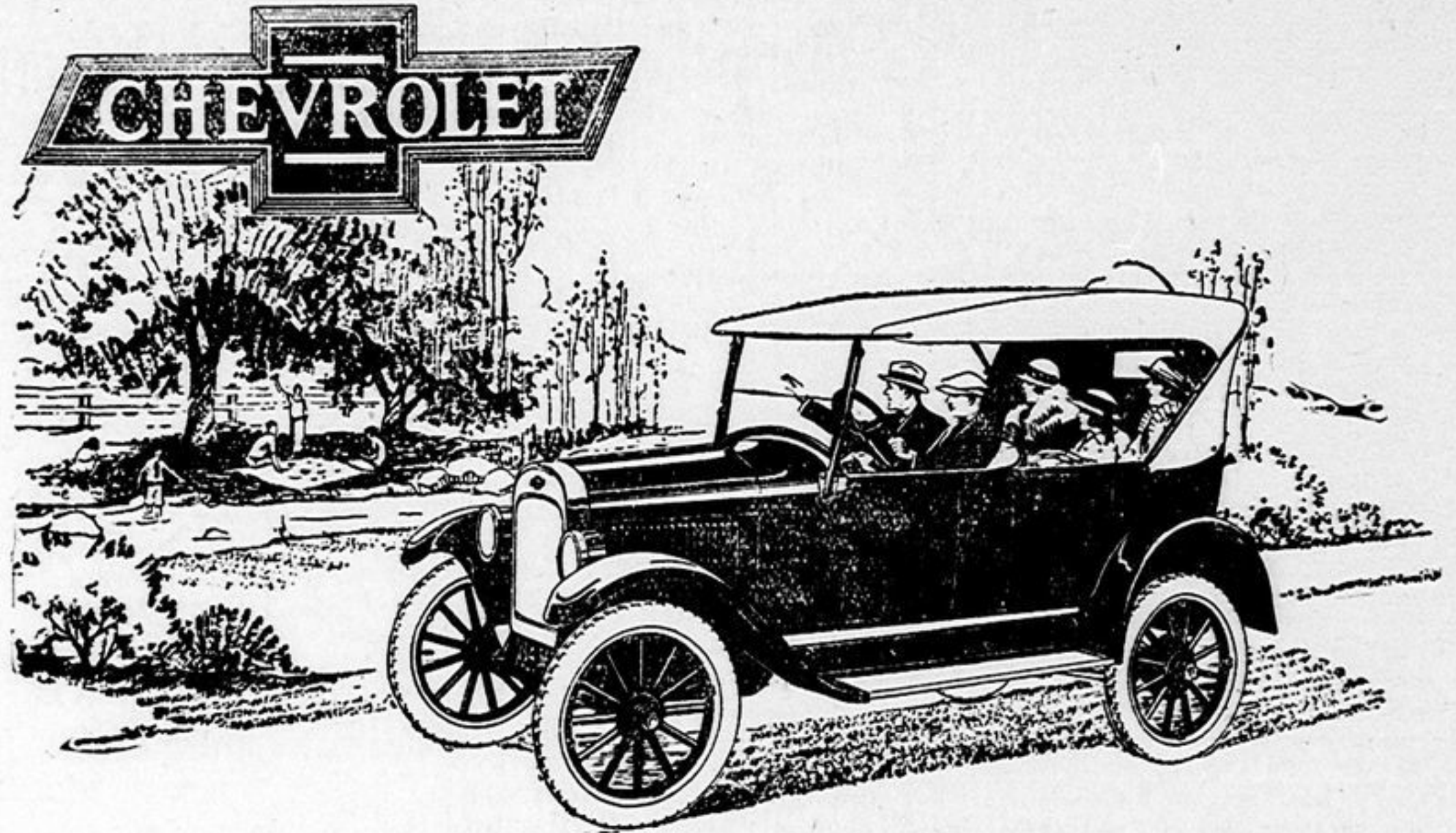
Infant's Choco. Strap Slipper, sizes 5-7½. Regular \$1.75 and \$2.00 for \$1.35

Infant's Pat. and Kid Strap Slipper, sizes 2-7½. Regular \$1.50 for 90c

Women's Black and Biege Silk Hose at 75c.

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A demonstration of any of the models gladly given on request.

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YOUR BOY and HIS FUTURE

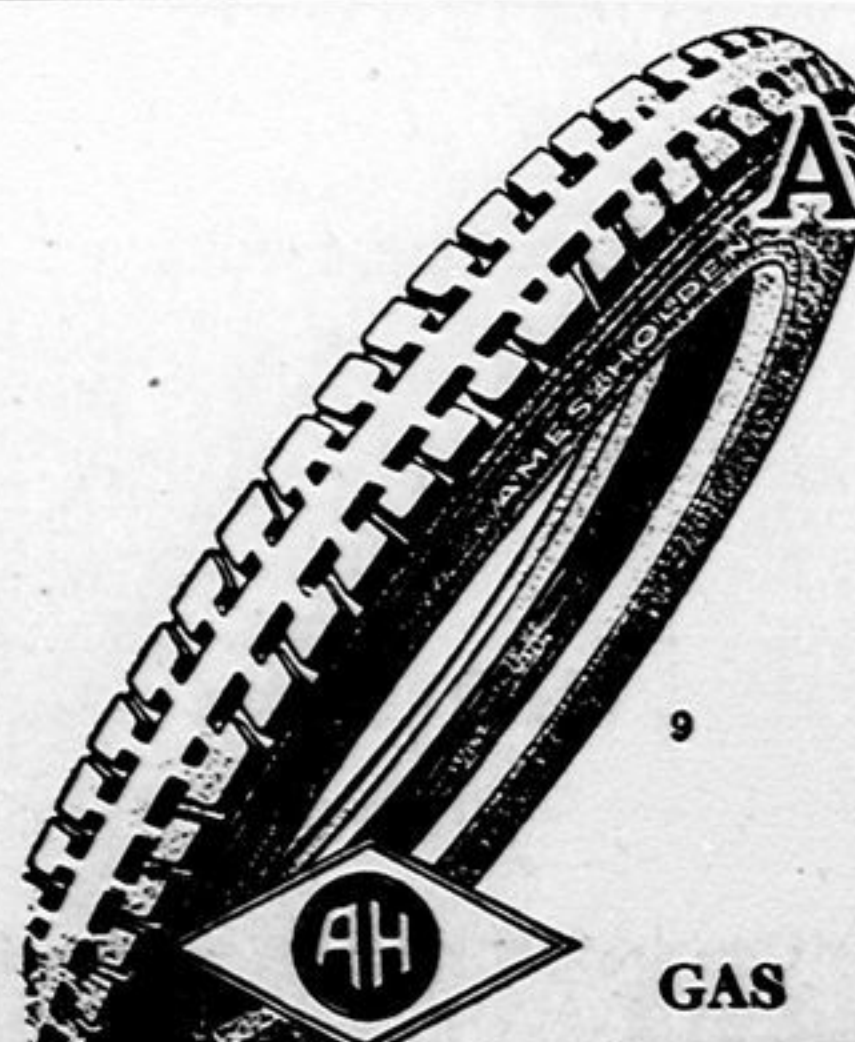
NO one starting out in life ever expects to fail. Youth is always hopeful, but hope alone cannot bring success.

If your hope is to see your boy a success in the world, securing independence and comfort—the vision of so many, yet the attainment of so few—adopt a regular savings plan for him now, and teach him in his tender years the value of saving something out of every dollar.

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