

APRIL 25, 1897—FIFTY-SIX PAGES.

SOME OF THE MANY PHASES OF THE ANNUAL MAYDAY HEGIRA.

MANY ARE TO MOVE.

Thirty Thousand Chicagoans Will Change Homes.

VANS ARE IN DEMAND.

Record Is Some Thousands More than Last Year's.

COST OF THE PROCEEDING.

Queer Vagaries Displayed Before the Men on the Wagons.

THINGS TAKEN AND THINGS LEFT.

Now is the moving time. During the next few weeks a large number of Chicagoans who through the days of the winter have lived in fair contentment, at peace with themselves and their surroundings, will catch the most virulent form of spring fever. The earliest symptom in which the disease manifests itself is a settled belief that its victims would be better off somewhere else. Its last stage is marked by the appearance of furniture vans and the crash of falling crockery.

The week preceding and the two or three weeks following May 1 the personal property which graces the establishments of some 30,000 single individuals and families in whom the disease has reached its last form, is estimated, will be loaded into wagons and vans and "moved." The victims are not so many in number as last year, but the conditions are to be believed, but it is a considerable showing. Last year in the neighborhood of 33,000 unfortunate victims of circumstances went through the same experience during the brief spring days of the moving season. The city is larger now than it was then, and there might well be expected a larger and more lively exchange of dwellings than in years previous, but other considerations have entered in to limit this year's moving. The two most important are the "hard times" and their effect upon the landlords.

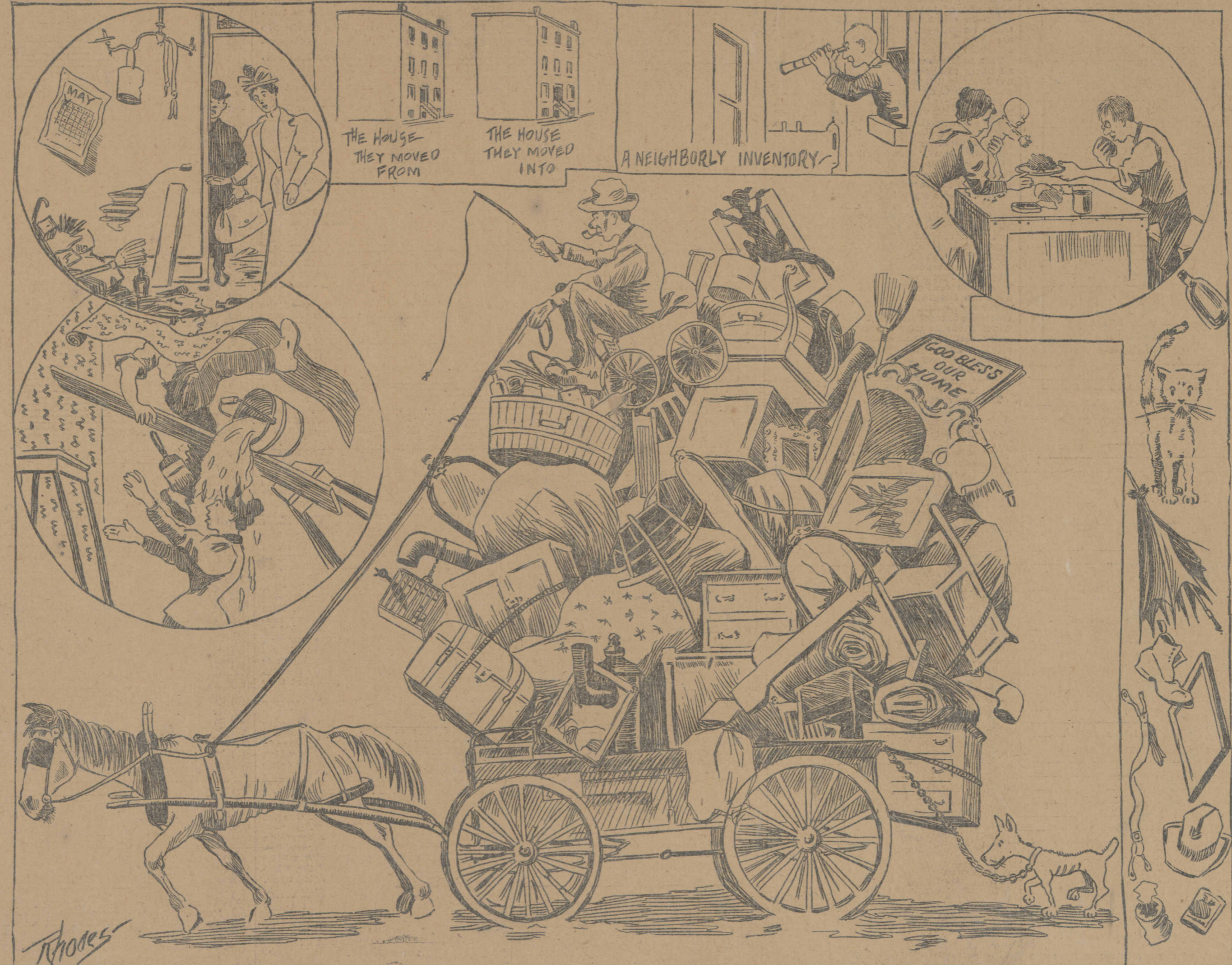
The unpleasant lack of currency of the realm with which to defray the cost of city charges which has oppressed many people during the last year or so has the tendency this spring to discourage moving upon slight grounds. Furniture vans, and new cars and window washing, and other attendant evils of moving cost money, and there is a quite general belief among tenants that it is better to endure the inconveniences than to take upon themselves the financial burden of seeking a new home.

Landlords Are Unusually Obliging. And the landlords, on their part, betray a most decided aversion to parting with a good tenant. One manifestation of this is the readiness with which they fall in with the suggestion of changes and repairs to make the house more satisfactory, to some extent not to be so general in Chicago as it was a year ago or the year before that.

Still, about 30,000 prospective movers in not a bad outlook for a demand for the conveyance of goods and the usual lively experience in the trades which will be witnessed in the case of houses not forgetting the time-honored and respectable profession of carpet beating. The request for vans is already making itself strongly felt, and people are finding increase in the unutterable joy of the owners thereof and the pleasure of all men who make a portion of their living by scraping plaster off the wall with a trowel and furniture moving. With sufficient room to keep each horse's head clear of the wagon in front of it the line would be some 143 miles long. It could, if there were no delays, be made in two days.

What It Costs the City. But it would be a costly proceeding. Moving time represents the outlay of a considerable sum of money by Chicago people. Furniture vans at \$4 an hour add rapidly to the wrong column of the account book, especially if the driver possesses an intelligence capable of grasping no smaller unit of time than half a day, as sometimes occurs. And the wagons in most instances are but a small part of the whole outfit. Carpets have to be made over, more or less repairing of old or buying of new things has to be done, help costs money, and a hundred and one things of which no one can ever think until they become absolute necessities aid in bringing up the grand total. There are families which, by the help of an express wagon and a natural aptitude and an unusual necessity for economy, have moved from one house to another at an expense of \$10. These families can be found, but it is easier to discover others which have squandered that amount. If, in a spirit of conservatism, one selects \$25 as the lowest possible average paid out by the victims of the moving spirit for the transfer of furniture and for other attendant expenses, then it costs Chicago three-quarters of a million to go through its spring experience.

A large number of our families who engage in this lively scrimmage for the best places, in fact the most of them, will move into houses which some other family has just vacated. Indeed, they will be lucky if they do not find their belongings piled on the walk in front of the house before the former occupants have got out of the way. In the course of human events this misfortune has occurred more than once. But whether they find the house vacated or occupied, they are, in colloquial terms, "going it blind." There was once a family which moved out of a house because it did not have a kitchen in the basement and when they got to the new house found that that did have a kitchen in the basement either. The main objection in moving had apparently been forgotten in the numerous questions which the process entailed up, but here it happened to be known. Moving is the ancient game of "Puss-in-



the-Corner," as played, by "grow-ups," and such accidents are likely to occur in this class in the east. There are stories of men entering disused houses after a long lapse of time and being greeted by a thin and frowny creature bearing evidence of having once been constructed on feline lines, but now consisting of a large head and two big eyes attached to a tail-like body. It is a seemingly inevitable part of the feline nature to regard all moving as an invention of the gentleman who is said to find work for idle hands, and it is a pleasing but not always healthful practice of the animals to secrete themselves in some retired portion of the house until all sounds of the disturbances have ceased and the outside door has been locked.

Does, according to the accounts of those who have to do with moving many people, are seldom left behind. As a general thing the dog is the first member of the family to enter the new house. Birds are not so fortunate. More than one bird has found itself and its cage the only piece of furniture left in a deserted dwelling, but rescue is commonly only a matter of a short time. One voracious narrator, engaged as an "experienced handler of fine furniture" by a North Side firm, relates that he once knew of a parrot, left in this unfortunate position, which attracted attention to its deserted condition by the enthusiastically shrieking, "Good-by! Good-by!" until it aroused the neighbors. The slight odor of alcoholic stimulants upon the gentleman's breath need cast no reflection on the story.

Ways of the "Movers." In the spring moving these urban suburbanites have their own ways, but they form only a small portion of the great army of "movers" who yearly pack up their possessions and plod about the city. These, with their belongings, are both the joy and the woe of the more stationary citizen and the man of the moving van. They have ways of their own and manners of their own, and, if the statements of the men who move them do not have any doubt with them, they are all alike. "There's one thing they all do," said the gentleman who presides at the furry, fur-smelling carnivals of a portion of the North Side. "They watch 'em and see. You'd do it yourself if you were going to move. They fix everything into three lots—the things they're sure they want to take, and the things they're sure they don't want to take, and the things they don't know whether they want to take or not. Two of the lots they don't have any trouble with. The third one—the one they don't know whether to take or not—others them. Along comes the lady of the house. 'Why, we don't want that,' she says. 'Yes, we do,' says the man of the house. 'It's sure to come in handy.' And then they don't know, and back it goes on the same list, and in the end it's bundled into the wagon with all the rest of the things they don't know about, and away it goes. That's why the last load always looks as though we'd picked it up as we went along."

The name of the things that "movers" are unable to decide about and so take along is legion. There is a family on the South Side which has moved six times in eight years. The youngest member of the family is now 17 years old. But if that family moves again this spring it will carry with it a trayed and play-worn rocking-horse, which has occupied an obscure portion of the basement in every house which the family has tenanted since its birth. The things which "movers" intend to take

with them and forget are nearly as many in number. One of the favorite articles in this class is the cat. There are stories of men entering disused houses after a long lapse of time and being greeted by a thin and frowny creature bearing evidence of having once been constructed on feline lines, but now consisting of a large head and two big eyes attached to a tail-like body. It is a seemingly inevitable part of the feline nature to regard all moving as an invention of the gentleman who is said to find work for idle hands, and it is a pleasing but not always healthful practice of the animals to secrete themselves in some retired portion of the house until all sounds of the disturbances have ceased and the outside door has been locked.

Everybody in the car across as a series of houses shrieks was omitted from the report of the pastboard box. "My parrot—O, my parrot!" wailed the woman. "You brute, you have washed my bird!" It was indeed true. The green and yellow parrot uttered a few more moans, then expired in the arms of his frantic mistress. "I was just taking him home from the West Side," she sobbed. "He was a very suitable bird. I've been offered as high as \$300 for him. I shall bring suit for damages at once."

When one looks at the case from every point of view it is evident that it is a complicated affair. "Now, children," said a teacher of drawing to the pupils in one of the big public schools, "I am going to give you a chance to use your own ingenuity. You may draw the thing that you want most, whatever it is. I will give you fifteen minutes and then I will go around and see what you have done. Think hard what you would most prefer and just how you would like it, and then draw the picture just as you would like to have the picture."

Twenty little figures of the mixed nationalities always present in the Chicago public schools bent down over their papers with the greatest interest. It did not take any great length of time for each young mind to decide on what it wanted most on earth, and the small figures were soon at work. At the end of the fifteen minutes most of the sketches were completed and the teacher began her round of examination. One small boy had drawn a picture of the dog he had lost a week or two before. Another had attempted a bicycle, making a sketch that resembled a much-mutilated pair of eye-glasses. A little girl had drawn a doll. The teacher went along, praising, criticizing, and correcting. At length she reached a small boy with a strongly Hebraic cast of countenance. She took a good look at the sketch, then at the boy, and nearly burst out laughing.

"Why, Ikevy," she said, after getting her face straight, "you surely do not mean that is the thing you want most on earth. Wouldn't you sooner have a sled, or a top, or a pony, or something?" "Nope," said the boy. "I want says dat is de best ting to haf, and I vant it most of all." The teacher argued and persuaded, but in vain. The small pupil knew what he wanted and stuck to it. Finally the teacher decided the case was hopeless, and proceeded to point out the defects in the sketch. It was the rough, though tolerably accurate, representation of a large, spiny, heavy, cartwheel-sized American silver dollar.

fighting the cause of the Union would have been lost. He was assigned one of the most appalling tasks ever entrusted to a commander. He did his duty faithfully to the bitter end, and triumphed. In thirteen months after Lincoln handed him his commission Lieutenant-General and entrusted to him the command of the armies of the war was virtually ended.

GEN. GRANT'S PERSISTENT HAMMERING Those Who Criticized This Policy Were the People Called "Stay-at-Homes." Gen. Horace Porter's "Campaigning with Grant," now running in the Century, deals with the battle of Gettysburg in the Century.

Combination of a Stout Man, a Disobedient Woman, and a Hatbox Furnishes a Problem. Last Thursday afternoon a woman carrying a medium-sized hand-box boarded a North Side car. There was room for the box on the seat beside her, and she sat there instead of keeping it in her lap. At the next corner a man came in. He was a stout man whose exceeding bulkiness evidently made walking or standing a tiresome task. He looked around for a place to sit down. The only available seat was the space occupied by the woman's hand-box. He walked over and stood in front of her, looking hard at the box the while, but she made no move toward taking it away.

"Madam," he said at length, "will you kindly make room for me?" She regarded him critically. "I don't see how I could very well do that," she said. He flushed deeply at her allusion to his unusual size. "Madam," he said testily, "if you don't take that box up and let me sit down there I'll sit right down on the box and mash your hat."

"Even if it should take the box away," she returned, "I wouldn't begin to make room for you."

"It's against the law," he retorted, "for people to fill the seats in public conveyances with packages. I tell you I'll sit on the box."

IN THE SAME CLASS. "Go away!" said the cook wrathfully. "You are a tramp!" "Aye, let it be so!" said Thirty-Hannigan, dramatically. "Yes never forget that you, too, madam, are but a pan-handler."—New York Journal.

A CORRECTION. Nurse (dandling child)—Rock-a-cook-horse to Banbury Cross— (Child struts up in date)—Tush, Parkies, when bicycles are so cheap these days?—New York World.

NATURAL PECULIARITIES. "I wouldn't like to marry an auctioneer," remarked Miss Northside. "Why not?" asked Miss Manchester. "Auctioneers are all more bid men." "And I wouldn't like to marry a road commissioner?" "Why not?" "He is likely to be wayward."—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

DOWNFALL. "Aleworthy has quit drinking entirely since he married." "He has quit drinking, but he has contracted the bargain counter habit."—Indianapolis Journal.

HER GREAT CLAIM. "Ha! Miss Bellacour claims to belong to a very old family." "Yes—Well, she's justified. There are six of those girls, and the youngest of them must be at least 35."—Cleveland Leader.

BADLY BEATEN AT THEIR OWN GAME. How the Business Man Who Could Not Understand Restaurant French Contrived to "Get Even." He was a typical Chicago man, well dressed and amiable looking, with the air of one accustomed to enjoy a good dinner backed by the unutterable bliss of a healthy appetite. Now there is nothing which so dampens the ardor of a hungry man as expasperating and unnecessary trifles; therefore, when he picked up the bill of fare and found it printed in choice restaurantese French he uttered a strong adjective. He was serenely itself, however, when the waiter approached.

"Look here, waiter," he said, "there is nothing on this menu that I care for." "No, sir, we don't serve them in Lent." "No, sir, not a single one." "This is too bad, you may bring me some tempus fugit!" "Haven't got them, sir." "Well, perhaps you may have E pluribus unum?" "The waiter brightened up. "It seems to me I have heard them speak about that, sir," and he rushed off to the kitchen, but returned empty-handed and said regretfully: "We haven't got it." "Leave you got pro bono publico?" "No, sir." "The waiter by this time was almost crazy, but the guest was placidity itself and asked quietly: "Have you vice-versa?" "The waiter could only desperately shake his head.

People Want Cheaper Homes. There is a general tendency among tenants to seek cheaper quarters, not from choice but from necessity. People who have been paying \$35 a month for a room who are looking for \$25 quarters, and they are easily found. Numerous flats of seven and eight rooms, with a bath, may be had as low as \$20 and \$22.50 a month, while \$23 or \$30 will secure equally large and comfortable apartments with heat. This is not an adequate rental for a room, in some instances when the cost of the property and its maintenance is taken into consideration, but is the natural outcome of a surplussage of dwellings and scarcity of tenants who are able or willing to pay a higher price, and its maintenance is given themselves in small suites of five or six rooms can find plenty of nearly kept steam-heated flats at \$20. On the South Side there are a number of big apartment buildings, in which four and five room suites, with heat, are rented as low as \$18. Most of the North Side buildings are held at a higher price, \$22.50 being about the minimum. On the West Side regular apartment buildings, such as are popular in other sections of the city, are few in number. The minimum rental in the best of them is usually \$20 for five and six rooms with heat. The first-story flat houses, with seven rooms on the first and eight on the second story, are the favorite West Side residences, and for these all sorts of prices are asked. One man will demand and get \$40 a month for a seven-room steam-heated flat, while right across the street an exact duplicate of the apartments can be had for \$30, and two blocks away a similar flat will be offered at \$25.

Effects of the Modern Flat. CHICAGO is getting ready for the annual May-day hegira, and with it the week the moving van with its load of household goods will be a common sight on the streets. From various causes the people who rent homes feel impelled to change their abodes once a year. Moving, with all its discomforts and expenses, has no terror for the woman who thinks she is securing better or cheaper quarters than those she has occupied during the last year. As a rule the relations of landlords and tenants are generally desiring of late during the seven months dating from May 1, but in April signs of discontent break out and for thirty days there is trouble. The old landlord refuses to reduce the rent, and many times he is justified in this owing to the small return he gets from his investment; or he declines to make improvements in the way of papering, painting which the tenant considers necessary, and at once the woman of the house dons her bonnet and begins the hunt for new quarters. She scans the Sunday Tribune "to rent" columns closely and turns her husband and the boys into a stalking brigade to round up and inspect the hundreds of places which, from the advertised description, strike her fancy. There is no peace in the family until the matter is settled, which is usually just before the general moving day, and then quiet comes for another eleven months.

Residence Rents Are Lower. It is evident that the household expenses of Chicago people will be materially reduced this year. Rent charges for residence property in all parts of the city are undergoing a vigorous lashing, the cuts in many instances being as much as 10 to 20 per cent. even on first-class buildings. Churches, stores and office apartments in the central downtown districts remain firm at former prices, but as a natural result of hard times and dwindling incomes people are forced to decrease their expenditures, and the effect is seriously felt by owners of residence property kept for rental purposes. Some landlords are standing firm, but many are forced to reduce their prices, but it is against the advice of experienced agents who are in a position to read the signs of the times aright. An agent who does an extensive business in the renting of flats and houses sums up the situation like this:

Woes of Some Tenants. Changes in methods of construction have led to changes in the relations of tenants and landlords and brought on a curious and sometimes annoying condition of affairs. A few years ago, comparatively speaking, flats and apartment buildings were rarities, and such a thing as a landlord furnishing heat for a tenant was unknown. Nearly all the rented structures were houses and the tenant signed a lease by which he bound himself to keep snow off the roof, clean the sidewalk, repair broken glass, pay plumbers' bills for mending broken water pipes, and a lot of similar things, while at the end of the time lease and its conditions are still insisted upon save by agents of modern thought, who have special papers drawn to suit the class of property they handle. The tenant

(Continued on eighth page.)

