

SCENE 6

SETTING: The Wall Street Saloon.

TIME: Immediately following.

AT RISE: A bar and coffee house catering to the young men of the business world. Signs on the wall: "Oyster Pie - 15¢," "Beefsteak - 20¢," "Coffee - 3¢." FOSWELL and DICK enter, taking it all in.

FOSWELL

We don't belong here.

DICK

You belong wherever you are. Let's sit down.

FOWELL

(looks around)

They're staring at us.

DICK

That's because we're unusual -- we're interestin'.

WAITER

(approaching)

Wouldn't you lads be more comfortable at our lunch counter?

FOSWELL

I told you --

DICK

No, we would not! So without further fuss, two oyster pies and two coffees.

WAITER

Suit yourself.

(HE crosses to counter)

DICK

He's kinda high and mighty, ain't he?

FOSWELL

Well, a little presumptuous.

DICK

(take out a pencil and card)

Write that down.

FOSWELL

Write what down?

DICK

"Pre-sumpt ... whatever." Wonderful word. I must find a home for it.

FOSWELL

It's no good to you until you can use it in a sentence.

(HE hands card back as the WAITER approaches.)

WAITER

Two oyster pies, two coffees.

DICK

Thank you. Your service was excellent. Almost presumptuous.
(The WAITER reacts and exits.)

Wrong?

FOSWELL

(hungrily eating his food)

Wrong.

DICK

(as he eats)

See what I mean? That sorta thing is holdin' me back. You see those gents all around? They know things I need to know.

FOSWELL

They're not going to talk to us.

DICK

Watch!

(HE looks around, sees FIRST BUCK eyeing him)

Excuse me, sir. As I came in I could not help overhearing. Were you considering converting to the Erie Railroad Common?

FIRST BUCK

Uh -- yes, I was.

DICK

Good! you should. The common's goin' through the roof. I heard that on the street.

FIRST BUCK

Thank you!

FOSWELL

What did that mean?

DICK

I have no idea.

(FIRST BUCK crosses to DICK.)

FIRST BUCK

Excuse me, sir. I'm with Milbanks and Murphy.

DICK

Are you now? I'm with Foswell.

FIRST BUCK

I'm sorry. I don't know him.

FOSWELL

I know that.

DICK

Of Hunter and Foswell.

FIRST BUCK

Oh, yes! An excellent firm.

DICK

Thank you. I'm Hunter. President. Foswell is our D.I.P.

FIRST BUCK

D.I. - What?

DICK

Director of Investment Planning.

FIRST BUCK

Oh! How do you do. Would you like one of our prospectuses.

DICK

Well, I don't know. What do you think, Foswell?

FOSWELL

We're not here on business, Hunter. I don't think so.

FIRST BUCK

Of course. Forgive me. Here's my card. If I can ever be of service --

DICK

Thank you. We'll keep you in mind.

(FIRST BUCK returns to his table, then, to FOSWELL...)

Good. Now we have their attention.

FOSWELL

How do we lose it?

DICK

(directed to the room)

Big future, the Erie. We made a wise move when we converted to the Common. So one day I'll sell some of my shares and maybe open a place like this one.

FIRST BUCK

This kids' loaded!

SECOND BUCK

And he knows more than you do!

THIRD BUCK

(fumbling in his pocket)

I've got a prospectus for him.

FOURTH BUCK

Watch me!

"PUT YOUR MONEY IN"

FOURTH BUCK

(offering a prospectus)

PUT YOUR MONEY IN STOCK
AND YOU CAN UNLOCK
THE DOOR TO RICHES
INDULING EACH WHIM --

THIRD BUCK

(with another prospectus)

BUY A CORPORATE BOND
UNLESS YOU ARE FOND
OF DIGGING DITCHES!
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM --

FIRST BUCK

(still another)

I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT I'VE HEARD
NOW HERE'S SOME LOVELY PREFERRED
IT'S PAID A DIVIDEND THROUGH THICK AND THROUGH THIN --

AND IF THE MARKET GOES "CRASH"
YOU'LL STILL HAVE PLENTY OF CASH
SO YOU CAN
LIVE LIKE A LORD,
NICELY AFFORD
ANY EXPENSIVE SIN!

SECOND BUCK

BUT I SAY
PUT YOUR MONEY IN WINE
THE VALUE IS FINE
AND EVERY BUBBLE
WILL ADD TO YOUR STAKE --

FIRST BUCK

CALIFORNIA'S GRAND!
EACH DOLLAR IN LAND
OUT THERE WILL DOUBLE
UNTIL IT GOES QUAKE!

ALL FOUR

IF YOU WILL
MAKE A LITTLE INVESTMENT
TAKE A FLYER OR TWO --
YOU'LL DISCOVER
YOU'LL FEEL BRAND NEW --

JUST DON'T GO
FEELIN' FUNNY IN
PUTTIN' MONEY IN --
NEVER CATCH A BEAR UNLESS YOU
PUT A LITTLE HONEY IN --
ALL FOR YOU!

FOURTH BUCK

I KNEW A PROSPECTIN' MAN
WHO WENT OUT WEST WITH A PAN
AND NOW THAT MINER IS AS RICH AS CAN BE!

I'LL SELL YOU ALL OF HIS SHARES --
THEY'LL ANSWER ALL OF YOUR PRAYERS --

THIRD BUCK

OR YOU CAN
TEAR 'EM UP SMALL,
HANG ON THE WALL
OUT IN THE OLD PRIV-EE!

FIRST BUCK

HEY, LISTEN --
I KNOW SEVERAL MEN
WHO HAVE AN INVENTION TO UNRAVEL
ALL HISTORY'S COURSE --

SECOND BUCK

DON'T YOU COVER THAT BET!
THEY THINK THEY CAN GET
A CART TO TRAVEL
WITHOUT ANY HORSE!

ALL FOUR

IF YOU WILL
TRY A LITTLE ADVENTURE,
TAKE A GAMBLE OR TWO --
YOU'LL DISCOVER
YOU'LL FEEL BRAND NEW!

JUST DON'T GO
FEELIN' FUNNY IN
PUTTIN' MONEY IN --
MONEY'S LIKE A KINDA DAY YOU'RE
FEELIN' NICE'N SUNNY IN
ALL FOR YOU!

WE'VE A SECRET TO TELL:
SOME PEOPLE WILL SELL
MOST ANY OLD STOCK
TO ANY YOUNG PUP!

BUT WE'RE HAPPY TO SAY
WE AREN'T THAT WAY
WE'VE ALWAYS SOLD STOCK
THAT ONLY GOES UP!

IF YOU WILL
TRY A LITTLE ADVENTURE,
TAKE A GAMBLE OR TWO,
YOU'LL DISCOVER
BEFORE YOU'RE THROUGH

EVERYONE

THAT IF YOU
PUT YOUR MONEY IN,
LOTSA MONEY IN --
SOON IT'S GONNA MULTIPLY
LIKE BUNNIES WHO KEEP BUNNYIN'
ALL FOR YOU!

(Enjoying the moment, DICK accepts all of their prospectuses. By the end of the number he has accumulated quite a stack of them.)

SCENE 7

SETTING: Street outside the Saloon.

TIME: Immediately following.

AT RISE: DICK and FOSWELL come tumbling out of the Saloon.

DICK

Wasn't that a treat?

FOSWELL

I am your D.I.P.??

DICK

You couldn't be President. I'm President!
(THEY laugh)

FOSWELL

Director of Investment Planning? What do I plan to invest?

DICK

That wasn't a lie! I have no doubt that one day we'll have plenty. I was just rushin' things a bit. Hunter and Foswell, tycoons. They're livin' inside us somewhere and all we gotta do is flush 'em out.

FOSWELL

"Tycoon Foswell." If oxymoron wasn't already a word, it would be.

DICK

You ain't no kind of moron!

FOSWELL

It doesn't mean that!

DICK

(HE takes out his watch)

See this? See my father's name there? "Thomas Llewelyn Hunter." It's not real gold or nothin', but it was his. "Don't wait for Lady Luck," he told me. "She hasn't got time to pay everyone a visit, Dick. Get out there and find her." And I know she was in there tonight!

(HE waves his stack of prospectuses)

FOSWELL

If she was, she sure got an earful.

DICK

Don't be rough on her. But you gotta believe!

FOSWELL

I Believe! So how come I'm down to two cents a shine?

DICK

Well, first we got to find you a personality. Something that fits how you look. You look kinda scrawny. We can use that. And you could help me. All I know about readin' you could put in a nutshell and there'd still be room left for a small family. So what do you say?

FOSWELL

Have you got anything to read out of ?

DICK

(The prospectuses)
These should do the trick.

FOSWELL

Foswell - and - Hunter?

DICK

Hunter - and - Foswell.

"PARTNERS"

DICK

PARTNERS,
YOU AND I, BOY -
PARTNERS,
WORTH A TRY, BOY -
PARTNERS
THAT'S WHAT WE OUGHT TO BE !

FOSWELL

SPLITTING
ALL THE WINNINGS -
HITTING
ALL THE INNINGS -
FITTING
JUST LIKE A LOCK AND A KEY !

DICK

I'VE GOT
LOTS OF QUALITIES YOU COULD USE --

FOSWELL

LIFE'S NOT
JUST FRIVOLITIES,
TIME TO SETTLE AND
TEST OUR METTLE AND

DICK

YOUR WAY'S
MUCH TOO SLOW --
THERE'S MORE WAYS
THAN YOU KNOW --

FOSWELL

THERE'RE DOORWAYS LEADING
TO LIFE A LA CARTE!

BOTH
SO HOW ABOUT IT,
PARTNER,
WHEN DO WE START?

DICK
PARTNER,
NOTHING SHIFTY --
PARTNER,
FIFTY-FIFTY!

FOSWELL
SIXTY-FORTY
IS PLENTY FOR ME --

DICK
SHARING
LIKE A BROTHER --

FOSWELL
CARING
FOR EACH OTHER --

BOTH
DARING
JUST LIKE TWO PARTNERS SHOULD BE!

YOU'VE GOT
LOTS OF LEARNING TO DO, MY LAD --
AND WHAT
I'M JUST BURNING TO DO
IS TEACH IT TO,
NOT JUST PREACH IT TO

YOU, FRIEND --
CAUSE I SEE IN
YOU, FRIEND --
ONE LIKE ME IN

YOU FRIEND, PARTNER,
I HERE BY DECLARE:
THERE'S NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT
WE ARE A PAIR!

(THEY end on a handshake. FOSWELL exits. DICK checks the pocket watch as the bells of Trinity Church toll seven times and the front stoop of MOONEY's boarding house appears.)

SCENE 8

SETTING: The stoop and street outside MRS. MOONEY's boarding house on Mott Street. A "Room To Let" sign is in the first floor window.

TIME: Immediately following.

AT RISE: DICK stops to listen as MRS. MOONEY comes through her front door, pulling a YOUNG MAN by the ear.

MOONEY

No more excuses! I told you three times I do not allow whiskey on the premises. So get out! And don't come back!

(The YOUNG MAN staggers off.)

DICK

Top of the evenin', Madam. Is the lady of the house at home?

MOONEY

Who wants to know?

DICK

I might be interested in leasin' that room.

MOONEY

Oh, Sweet Jesus, another rotten apple.

DICK

What's the matter with me?

MOONEY

I was just hopin' to find me an older gentleman --

DICK

Well, I'm growin' older by the minute.

MOONEY

-- who's a teetotaler.

DICK

Never touch the stuff. The name's Richard Hunter, E.S.Q.

MOONEY

Finola May Mooney, M.R.S. Mr. Mooney's out west -- prospectin' for gold -- but he could back -- any minute.

DICK

Is there a room?

MOONEY

I don't think it will do you. It's a very small room.

DICK

I don't move much when I sleep. And I'd be out most of the time -- at business.

MOONEY

What is your business, if I might inquire?

DICK

Oh, I'm a professional.

MOONEY

Indeed! Professional what?

DICK

Haber -- gentlemen's furnishings.

MOONEY

And did you get those at your business?

DICK

I'm just givin' an airin' to some odd sizes that don't get out much.

(DICK opens his jacket to adjust it and show the fancy inner lining. HE takes the prospectuses from the pocket.)

MOONEY

What are those?

DICK

Just some Wall Street prospectuses. Always keep 'em here, next to my heart.

MOONEY

Wall Street prospectuses. Oh. Well!

"THE ROOM"

MOONEY

THE ROOM ISN'T LARGE
AND IT'S NOT OVER-SUNNY --
THE FLOOR KIND OF WAVES
AND THE CEILING SLANTS FUNNY --
BUT, BUCKO, ME BOY
IT'S THE BEST FOR THE MONEY
YOU'LL PAY --

IT ISN'T A CASTLE
IN CORK OR KILKENNY --
BUT BETTER THAN MOONEY'S
YOU'RE NOT FINDIN' ANY
FOR GETTIN' YOUR MONEY'S WORTH
DOWN TO THE PENNY
I SAY --

YOU CAN EAT HERE AS WELL, IF YOU CARE TO --
IF YOU'RE PARTIAL TO IRISH LAMB STEW --
WITH PLENTY OF CABBAGE AND LOTS OF POTATOES --
THERE'S EVEN SOME LAMB IN IT, TOO --

YOU'LL GET A FRESH TOWEL
ON THE DOT, EVERY SUNDAY --
TWO SPANKIN' CLEAN SHEETS
EVERY FOURTH OR FIFTH MONDAY --
THE WEEK STARTS ON SUNDAY
AND SUNDAY'S JUST ONE DAY
AWAY --

SO, DEAR MISTER HUNTER,
YOU BETTER MOVE IN BY
TODAY!

DICK

Sounds perfect, Mrs. Mooney. How much?

MOONEY

You mean you don't want to see it first? Well, actually, that's wise.

A SMART GENT LIKE YOU
CAN'T BE LIED TO OR LEAD ON --
I MEET ALL ME OTHER
COMPETITORS HEAD ON --
AND IF I AM LYING,
MAY GOD STRIKE ME DEAD ON
THE SPOT!

THE ROOM COMES COMPLETE
WITH A WINDOW AND CURTAIN --
I CLEAN IT MESELF
WHEN ME BACK ISN'T HURTIN' --
UNFORTUNATELY,
ME POOR BACK HAS BEEN HURTIN'
A LOT!

DICK

It has a real ceiling?

MOONEY

Well, most of me rooms do.

THERE'S A VERY NICE CHEST WITH A MIRROR,
SOME HOOKS, AND A HANDY WIDE SHELF --
A COMFORTABLE BED,
BUT NO SMOKING IN BED!
IN FACT, NOTHIN' IN BED BUT YOURSELF! --

THE ROOM'S NICE AND PRIVATE
SO NO ONE CAN SEE IN --
THERE'S NO FINER ROOM
FOR A FELLA TO BE IN --
A HOME ANY BETTER
YOU'LL SOON BE AGREEIN'
THERE'S NOT --

SO, DEAR MISTER HUNTER --
I COULD NOT BE BLUNTER --
ME DEAR MISTER HUNTER --
YOU BETTER MOVE IN LIKE
A SHOT!

DICK

What's the rent?

MOONEY

I ought to have a dollar a week.

DICK

Say seventy-five cents and I'll take it.

MOONEY

A dollar, and I change the sheets every week.

DICK

Seventy-five, and you can change 'em twice a month.

MOONEY

Ninety cents, and I'll make your bed.

DICK

Seventy-five, and I'll make my wn.

MOONEY

You'll pay every week -- in advance?

DICK

Here you are!

(HE takes out some coins)

MOONEY

Done! So, when will you come?

DICK

Now.

MOONEY

Good! Where your luggage?

DICK

There not much. I'll bring it down from The Box.

MOONEY

Where's that?

DICK

Wall Street.

(counting out coins)

Fifty...Seventy-five...

MOONEY

I'm certain you'll get used to the mattress. Just stick to the left.

(SHE starts to leave)

Oh. And the bath's down the hall, with hot water every single evening. From seven to seven-fifteen.

(SHE exits)

"RESPECTABLE (REPRISE)"

DICK

HEY, WILL YOU LOOK AT ME!
NOW I'VE GOT RENT TO PAY --
AND I'VE A PROPER BED
TO LAY MY HEAD
AT CLOSE OF DAY --

(MOONEY returns)

MOONEY

Silly me. I forgot. Here's your key.
(SHE exits)

DICK (contd)

A KEY TO CALL MY OWN,
A DOOR THAT LOCKS --
I MIGHT SLEEP EVEN BETTER
IN A BED
THAN IN A BOX --

THE LAP O'LUXURY
AND ALL COMPLETE --
A BATHROOM, BEST OF ALL,
THAT'S DOWN THE HALL
NOT DOWN THE STREET --

THIS LIFE IS NEW TO ME
BUT I ALREADY SEE
THIS ROOM AND I REFLECT
COMPLETE RESPECTABILITY.

(LIGHTS FADE except on one of the upstairs windows. DICK looks up and enters the house.)