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Filene Story by Donald Povich

Donald M. Povich

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The Filene Story

William Filene came to America at the age of eighteen from Germany after the revolution of 1848. He worked as a peddler, a tailor, a glazier until he met Clara Ballin in Hartford Conn. He married her four years later and by 1856 had saved enough money to open a small store in Salem Mass.

William did so well in Salem that in eight years he was able to send Clara and the children along with an Irish nursemaid to Germany on a trip

Clara's parents who lived near Frankfurt it is to be assumed were rather well off. they were able to send their daughter to America to learn English and when she married they sent her a thirteen case trousseau..

While his family was in Germany, William bought a wholesale business in New York. Business was so good that he was able to move his family into a luxurious home on 92nd St. Thereafter he traveled between Salem and New York. But disaster came in the panic of 1868. Filene was wiped out.

Once again William Filene was forced to start from scratch. He did that by opening a small dry goods store in Lynn Mass.

The Filene's has four sons, Edward, Lincoln, Rudolph and Bert. Edward and Lincoln were the most adept in business and it was Edward who was to become the leader of the Filene clan.

When William had a stroke in 1880, Edward, who was about to enter Harvard was forced to give up that life long desire and take over the stores.

By this time the Filenes had four additional stores. They owned a men's store in Lynn, two stores on Winter Street in Boston and a dry goods store in Bath Maine. The latter fact makes the Filenes one of the first Jews to become a part of the business community in Bath.

Edward put in almost superhuman effort for this budding chain. He worked in the two Boston stores. When they closed he would take the ferry and the cars to Lynn and work those two stores until they closed at midnight. His older brother, Rudolph had already become irresponsible and his younger brother, Bert was simply unable to run the store in Bath.

The Lewiston Journal says that mouldy old game of lakir whereby the cupidity of the crowd is excited and the local jays are expected to pass up their money for a watch chain in the expectation of getting back twice their money and a pocketful of jewelry beside, has been worked for a hundred or two this week in Biddeford, and is said to be headed for Lewiston. In Biddeford the exceeding ripeness of the crowds recalls the absurd encouragement that a Lewiston audience paid a similar adventurer in this city about a year ago. The same fellow tried it in Bath and was arrested. The present traveling artist appears in the guise of a medicine man, it is said, and gives a preliminary concert. It is safe to bet that he won't give you two dollars for one. If he comes, freeze him out.

NOTICE.

A Roche, with assignment at the office of Hogan & Hughes, Bath, Maine, at two o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, July 7, 1890.
 GEORGE E. HUGHES, Assignee.

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 Special Notice**

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 FOR SALE CHEAP**

Consisting in part of, 11 Fire Proof Safe, Desk, 1 Large Refrigerator, Show Cases, Show Cabinets, Double Cheese Rake, Platform and Counter Scales, 1 Large Coffee Mill, Meat Benches and Tools, 8 Large Tea and Coffee Canisters.

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 One Grocery Wagon, Nearly New,
 One Top Phaeton, in Fine Order.**

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 we are
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 The entire stock to
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**Regardless
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 We call your attention
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 Large**

**Our Store is
 Small**

And we

**Must Make
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A call will convince
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Lot 1

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All sizes and over 15
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They cannot be
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 this price.
 Think of it! A boy's
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