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SEMI-WEERLY

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THIRTEENTH YEAR

HEPPNER, MORROW COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1895.

SEMI-WEEKLY NO. 470

SEMIWEEKLY GAZETTE.

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### BEN'S BID.

"Why don't you raise chickens for the market?" suggested Hiram Bassett, the village storekeeper, to Ben Singer. Ben was fourteen years old. His mother had died a short time before. His father was a carpenter by trade, but had been crippled by rheumatism so that he could not work. Ben, who al- Ben. ways looked on Mr. Bassett as a friend of undoubted fidelity and great re-sources, had been telling the store-but they can take all our furniture keeper how much he wished he could and everything else." get some steady work. Mr. Singer's little stock of money was exhausted; Ben. he had already sold some of his tools to get the food he and his son needed. Ben realized that the day was rapidly coming when there would be no way of getting more, unless he managed to lo something of greater profit than the odd jobs he picked up now and

then from the surrounding farmers. "I'll do it," said Ben, in response to Mr. Bassett's suggestion, and, turning about, trudged home, and all the way was planning how he might begin. A week later the "chicken farm," as

ained by sorting some vegetables for out." within a couple of weeks more there Singer felt his helplessness and the face. were five "clutches" of eggs under as disgrace keenly, and did not know many of his hens.

ture. He would have felt much happier if quickly as possible, the idea struck the it hadn't been for his father's condi-tion. Mr. Singer did not complain of sheriff's sale. The thing puzzled him was several times, but Mr. Singer's does a sheriff sell you out?" think that that was all that distressed him, but the boy could not believe it. "And the people at the sale," he con-Slowly the flock of chickens grew, cluded, "offer to buy what is offered, The eggs hatched remarkably well. and the sheriff sells to the one who downy little balls were soon makes the highest bid." running in and out of the coops where

ments of work. The first days of sum- what he had heard. mer saw him with seventy-five young chickens, some of them able to scratch for themselves. It took all he could now make to keep his father and himself in food and to provide for his farm, but he was always on the alert for a job, and was as cheerful as he could be, so that the neighbors all liked to mhon that could. Ben had told his father of his plan, and explained that as few of the farmers raised chickens, except for their own them to Waynesboro, the bigger town, sit near the windows and watch the of them were lost. A prowling 'possum got several before Ben trapped a few more. But the first of Septem-

ber came and more than sixty chickens were the boy's. Ben planned to sell thirty or forty in the early autumn and to keep the remainder till the next summer to stock his farm with afresh. He intended to go into it then on a bigger scale, and he hoped to realize enough from his sales to keep him through the winter with the part of his flock he re-

Then, one day in September, as he and his father sat in the doorway of he cottage. Ben noticed a couple of

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PADEREWSH, the Great Francist,
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MINNIE SELISMAN CUTTING. THE NEW YORK MUSICAL ECHO CO.

Sammana Marin WANTED-AN IDEA Wherean think spender and saw Hen. The bey held up three concedilar notes in his hand. The sheriff smiled. More than one man in the crowl felt like cheering the D. C. for fact the prim cave.

tears trickle down his father's face. He jumped up and threw his arms around his father's neck. He was frightened and he did not understand just what was the matter.

Presently Mr. Singer unclasped the boy's hands and looked him in the face. "Ben," he said, "I'm afraid we are in for hard times yet." "What do you mean, Dad?" asked

"The house is only rented," said Mr. "Why, they belong to us," exclaimed

"So they do, Ben, but the law gives another man the right to sell them and take the money they bring if we owe

him money and can't pay it."

"And we owe somebody money? I thought Dr. James was paid?" "So he was. But there is some one else to whom I owe money-a man I borrowed from when your mother was Lowe mm one numer couldrs. He has what they call my note. I haven't been able to pay him, and now he says he must have it. He is entitled who congratulated him on his pur-

had made a start. In his spare time he it as possible by selling what we have. dom felt on occasions of this kind, and and constructed some coops from old He was here to see me about it the there was not one of the farmers who parrels and a box or two. The pay for other day, and I tried to get him to did not come forward and speak a wo days' work he invested in three wait. But he says he's tired of wait- kindly word of praise and encouragelozen eggs, and with the money ob- ing and the sheriff'll come and sell us ment to the boy. the storekeeper bought two hens which Ben had a fairly good idea now of were just about to "set." He and his the situation. He tried to comfort his who could only strain the boy to him ather already had five pullets, and father, but it was of little avail. Mr.

what would become of them. Ben He fed his chickens from the screen- worried over what he had heard all ings he got at a small price from sev- night long, but he could find no way eral of the farmers. The hens man- out of their difficulty.
aged, too, to pick up a good deal of The next day ac took ten of his food among the bushes and in the tiny biggest chickens to the village store. garden back of the house. Ben worked He had already arranged with Mr. hard at the small jobs he was given Bassett to have them sent to a comround about, and waited with confi- mission merchant at Waynesboro and dence for the time when he should be sold. After he had delivered the able to make something from his ven- chickens and Mr. Bassett had promised to get him the money for them as

the rheumatism, though it still kept a bit yet, and he indulged a faint hope him confined to his big chair. But that, if he knew just how it was done, something worried him very much; the he might be able to hit on a way out boy could see that. He asked what it of it "Mr. Bassett," he said, "how only reply was that he suffered, he Perhaps the storekeeper had an idea felt downhearted on account of being of the trouble. But if he did, he gave so crippled. He tried to make Ben no sign of it, and tried to explain to Ben how such a sale was conducted.

Ben asked several questions before that number of new hens, which he turning over a dimly defined project had bought and paid for in install- which had been suggested to him by

A week later Hen received the money for his chickens-three dollars and eighty cents. He was a proud boy, and he would have shown his satisfaction more if it had not been for the impend ing trouble, which made his father so miserable that he could not leave his bed. Hen bought some fruit for twenty-five cents, and took it home to him, but Mr. Singer was feeling so bad that he ate of it only sparingly. On a Monday in the early part of the

use, he thought there ought to be a next month the sheriff, in pursuance chance to make something by shipping of formal notice, arrived at the house to make a sale to satisfy Mr. Singer's five miles away. Mr. Singer was not creditor. Quite a crowd had gathered altogether confident of the success of about the cottage, and there was not such an experiment, but he said noth- one present who did not sympathize ing to discourage the boy, and used to with the carpenter and his son. Ben's father was very ill that morning and broods and talk to Hen about them. could not leave the bed. The sheriff July and August went by, and the mounted a box in the yard and began young chickens thrived. Only a few a description of the goods to be sold. It was a pitiful array, after all. A

few tools, a miscellaneous assortment the marauder. Cold and rain killed off of cheap furniture, a kitchen stove with some cooking utensils and china, and some linen and blankets. But one item in the lot-the chickens-the sheriff counted on as his drawing card. Half a hundred of fine hens and marketable chickens were cooped in a nearby pen, and upon the value of these the county officer dwelt at length. Then, when he thought he had the crowd sufficiently around, he named a starting figure in default of an actual

"Sixty dollars for this choice lot of chickens and household goods," he

There was no response. He repeated the announcement, then dropped the figures to fifty dollars. Still no one The sheriff made some further re-

crowd was dumb. No one felt inclined to buy out the crippled carpenter and The sheriff tried again and again, dropping the figures lower and lower, and all the time growing more vociferous in the explanation of the bar-gain which was offered. He did not specially like the job, for he had been told about the case by some of the vil-lage people, but he had a duty to perform, and he knew he must get as much out of the sale as he could.

The figures had dropped to ten dollars, but silence reigned, except for a defiant erow from one of the roosters in the pen. Mr. Singer's creditor, evidently, had no representative on the ground, and even the low price named was not taken up with.

The shgriff dropped his offer now, a dollar at a time, but, apparently, in vain. It looked as if the sale would come to nothing. Nine! Eight! Seven! Six! Five! Four! Not a response came from those

about. "Three dollars!" The sheriff was smiling at the ridiculous offer, and was just about to name two dollars and one dollar in muck succession, hoping for no raply, when a boyish voice, closs at hand, answered

"I had three dellard" The officer looked down on the speaker and saw Ben. The boy held Highest of all in Leavening Power .- Latest U. S. Gov't Report

placer. But the officer knew he could not accept the offer at once. "Three dollars I am bid!" he an

swered. "Who bids four?" No one spoke. "Three dollars and a-halt, then?" he

Every one was silent, and the suggestion of three dollars and a-quarter, likewise, went unanswered. dollars was the one bid offered, and,

after one expostulation, the sheriff Ben hanged the money to the sheriff, Ben called it, was a fact; at least he to it right off, and will get as much of chase with an earnestness he had sel-

> But Ben was listening to little of all of this; he slipped away to his father, while the tears streamed down his

The chicken farm was saved, and the chicken farm proved a success. A year later, when Mr. Singer was once more working steadily, and his rheumatism was gone, his creditor was paid in full the amount borrowed from him, and the proceeds from Ben's chicken farm did not a little to make up the sum required .- Chicago Inter Ocean.

SOME STAGE GAGS. Little Things That Made a Variety Come

dian's Auditors Laugh. the favorite comedian appeared before the audience of a local variety theater with the limp so characteristic of him, there was a ripple of applause. The only way that he could properly introduce himself was by singing a song, and he at once bravely complied with the time-honored custom, says the Philadelphia Call.

"I wore a new pair of shoes the other day," he announced, after the piano rapid growth and prolific yield of seed, player had stopped. "They didn't hurt me until I met two policemen. Then I got pinched."

Something else I must tell you, their mothers were confined. Four he left. Then he walked slowly home, the other night when a woke up and acre is a fair yield, and this will promore "clutches" of eggs were under and all the while, in his mind, he was saw five mice playing poker. They duce 50 gallons of oil worth \$1 a gallon. calling and raking in the chips. They by, but I did.

"Suddenly the puss made a leap. The game ended with the same old story-everything went into the kitty."

## MUSKMELON LITERATURE.

The Fruit Has Formed the Theme of

Lovers and Writers. Muskmelons have played a part in history. They caused the fall of Arques and led Mack to the capitulation of Ulm. One day, says the Paris Le Temps, Abbe Bernis came to dine with the marquise de Pompadour, who was furious because the maitre d'hotel had forgotten to serve melon. "Shall 1 get two muskmelons for you, madame?" He paid two louis for them. "Delightful," said the marquise. "My compliments, Monsieur l'Abbe." Bernis was happy until the moment when the clock struck his eye. "What makes you sad?" asked the pompadour. "Oh, madame la marquise," he replied, "my friend Maivin and I have only one pair of trousers for both of us, and he is waiting for it to go to dinner." The pompadoor gave a pension of three hundred thousand livres and an abbey to him. His friend became, under the same pro-Bonaparte said: "Oh, you are learned! ornamental borders. Do you know how to make melons grow?" The strategist exclaimed: that the United States can rely upon continued: "You have read La Quin- in gold for several years to come. tinie?" "Yes, general," the strategist marks about the articles for sale and tried again at forty dollars. But the Polybins. Good day, sir," Bonaparte

HARD LINES.

Medical Men suffering from Too Much Philanthropy

through a trial of much the same sort as that which lately afflicted their professional brethren in Cork. They complain of the inadequate pay they re-

ceive from the societies formed by the

working people to secure medical attendance on the cooperative principle. In Brussels, as in many places elsewhere, the poor club together for medical aid, and engage a practitioner, who attends them for a fee which is almost purely nominal. This might be endured, and is endured, on the consideration that the insufficient offerings of the poor man will be made good by the liberality of those who are better off in the world. But that is just where Brussels fails. The well-to-do middle class has contrived to secure a footing

in the "mutualist" societies. Persons who are quite able to make good the deficit in the medical exchequer help to increase it. They come in as poor men in such numbers that the unhappy practitioner hardly knows where to look for his legitimate fee. He has protested, but his last state is worse than his first. The protest was addressed to the offenders only, and they had no difficulty in persuading the vast majority of the genuine working class members to make common cause

with them. The doctors are the best abused persons in Brussels just now, and twenty of them have resigned their office in the mutualist societies. As prelude to a possible strike of doctors, this seems to signalize one of the most awful dangers of the time. It would be awkward, however, if-by a pure coincidence, of course-the death rate should diminish during the continuation of the strike.

It is predicted that before many years the sunflower will come into general cultivation in this country. as a plant it has no superior for vigor, leaves and stalk, all of which can be utilized. The seeds are especially good as feed for fowls, and when mixed with grains they are relished by all farm "I was sleeping in a ceilar animals. Fifty bushels of seed to the were deep in the game-raising and In China a valuable fiber, used in silk weaving, is obtained from the stalk, didn't notice a cat behind a barrel near by, but I did. The orientals mix their tobacco with cured sunflower leaves, and make a yellow dye from the flowers, which are also rich in honey and wax. The sunflower grows riotously in the United States, and stands

all extremes of weather well. Oraining a Take.

ane Fanfulla of Rome announces that the project of the draining of the Trasimenian lake, which has been talked about for more than two thousand years, will at last become a fact. A syndicate of capitalists has bought up the territory surrounding the lake, and the immense undertaking will be started this year. The circumference of the lake, in which there are three small islands, is more than thirty miles. Its depth averages nine feet. It is proposed to finish the work inside of two years, and it is to cost twelve million lire (two million four hundred

thousand dollars).

Treasure in a Burial Ground. Near the battlefield of Marathon, in Greece, a prehistoric burial mound recently opened yielded eleven old Mycenman vases, two of them gold, and some gold earrings. At a place called tection, archbishop of Lyons. One Krikella, where the Gauls were driven evening a strategist was explaining to back by the Greeks in 279 B. C., and Bonaparte what he should have done if over twenty thousand of them slain, a Mantua had not surrendered. Bona- bronze helmet has been found, and at parte asked: "You have been in the Lycosura the mosaic floor of the temple wars, monsieur?" The strategist re- of Despoins has been laid bare. In the plied: "No, but I have read Polybius, center two lifelike lions of natural size Marshal Saxe and Chevaller Folard." are depicted, surrounded by successive

THE director of the mint estimates "General!" indignantly. Bonaparte producing at least \$53,000,000 per year

REV. A. W. MANN, the pioneer deaf answered. "You do not know how to mute preacher, writes: "The ratio of deaf make melons grow, although you have mutes to the hearing is as 1 to 1,600, so read La Quintinie, and yet you talk to there are over 40,000 in the United me about war became you have read States and about 1,000,000 in the world." A PRELIMINARY report of the secre-

tary of the treasury of the operations of the internal revenue bureau during the fiscal year ended June 30 last, shows that the total collections from all sources were \$140,005,076, an increase of The medical men of Brussels, accord- \$5,440,680, as compared with the colleging to the London News, are passing tions during the preceding fiscal year,

TIE CWEN ELECTRIC BELTS AND APPLIANCES INSURE TO THE SICK THESE GREAT POINTS OF ADVANTAGE OVER ALL IMITATORS



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