

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

BIG SHEEP MOVEMENT.

Great Activity Reported Around Pendleton by Secretary Smythe.

Pendleton—Secretary Dan P. Smythe, of the State Wool Growers' association, reports great activity in the movement of sheep in this section and several large sheep sales during the past few days. One of the largest of these sales is reported from the vicinity of Arlington, where between 20,000 and 25,000 head of yearlings have been shipped to outside markets. The sale price received for the mixed yearling weathers ranged from \$3 to \$4 per head, as compared with the prices of from \$2.75 to \$3.25 received for the same grades last year. The buyers are Wright of North Yakima and R. F. Bicknell and Scott Anderson, who will ship to Idaho.

Sheep shearing in Umatilla county will last for perhaps two weeks yet, though some of the earlier shearers have already finished their season's clipping. Results from the shearing plants prove that the earlier prophecy of good clips for this year is proving as predicted. The fleeces are found to be unbroken and the staple good, due largely to the early grass and the better than common condition of the sheep because of the close winter.

The lambing season for Umatilla county will last but a few days longer, though it will not close quite so soon up in the foothills of the county. The increase this year in the county will be above 95 per cent, with the total nearer the lower figure. The increase in Umatilla county will approach the maximum this year because of the exceptionally good weather conditions. The winter left the sheep fatter than usual, due to the regularity of the snow conditions and the plentifulness of hay. Then the grass came early in the spring keeping the fat of the sheep up and adding more. The lambing season proper has found the weather conditions especially good again. Those who chanced winter lambing report an especially good increase.

WOOL CLIP GOOD.

Mitchell Growers Say Quality is Better Than Usual.

Mitchell—Woolgrowers in this locality report that the season which is just closing has been the most favorable for lambing for many years. The weather has not only been ideal but the range grass was more abundant than usual, which fact enables the ewes to start the suckling period with plenty of nourishment. All the sheepmen report that the crop of 1909 lambs will go beyond the 100 per cent mark. Shearing will start here about May 10, although those who have yearlings and mutton sheep contracted for early driving are just commencing to shear them. The wool this year is of a better quality than usual, and the prices are likewise. Farmers of this section are beginning to complain of drouth and cold north winds. Fall sown grain is not doing so well as it should and the spring sown crops will need moisture to insure a good stand. A larger acreage has been sown to grain this year than in former years and all concerned regret that the weather should remain so unfavorable.

While the weather has such a backward effect on the crops, it is pleasing to know that the range is abundantly supplied with the finest crop of grass that the stockmen could desire. All classes of stock are in fine condition, and prospects point to a favorable grazing season. No cattle or horses are moving on the market at present, but G. L. Frizzell, of Girds creek, will drive 300 head from this county to Toppish, Wash., via Arlington, about the middle of the month.

Heppner's Clip is Sold.

Heppner—Wool has been transferred in Heppner this week to the extent of over 1,000,000 pounds. W. W. Smead has purchased nearly 800,000 pounds of this for William Ellery and the balance has been secured by Frank Lea for F. Frankenstein. The lowest price paid was 18 cents and the highest 20 1/2 cents. Smead is now offering 21 cents and it is likely he will secure several more clips before the rush is over. Sheep are all sold and the wool will be practically all off the market by the middle of next week.

Shaniko Wool Clean.

Shaniko—Wool generally in this territory is of a much cleaner and finer quality than last season, the past winter having been exceptionally favorable for sheep. The output from present indications, will be considerably larger than last year. It is estimated that there will be marketed at Shaniko approximately 4,000,000 pounds during the three scheduled sales, June 1, 15 and 20. The growers' opinions vary as to the probable price to be paid.

Cruising Benson Timber.

Mist—Between 20 and 30 timber cruisers are working on the large Benson timber holdings, located on the headwaters of the Clatskanie river and along Oak Ranch creek to the Nehalem river. It is rumored among timbermen that this tract will change hands by the end of the month. A prominent Michigan syndicate is said to be in the deal.

Prune Orchard Brings \$15,000.

Salem—A. F. Hofer, W. P. Babcock and other local business men have closed a deal for the Jory prune ranch of 128 acres south of Salem. The price was \$15,250. The farm, which is one of the best in this section, will be subdivided.

FARM LANDS SOLD.

Large Tract in Yamhill and Polk to be Subdivided.

Portland—More heavy buying of Oregon farm lands has just come to light. Three deals involving the transfer of over 7,000 acres in which the total money consideration was about \$275,000 were reported. Broadmead, better known as the Ladd & Reed farm located in Yamhill and Polk counties, was sold to a Portland syndicate, composed of J. R. Patterson, D. E. Keasy, L. R. Menefee and George Akers, for \$150,000. The Keasy-Menefee syndicate secured an option on this property some weeks ago from Martin Winch, representing the Reed estate, and from the Ladd interest which was closed up by the formal transfer of the title. At the same time the property was turned over to the Columbia Trust company and by this concern will be subdivided into five, ten and 20-acre tracts and put on the market.

Millmen Have Protest.

Oregon City—Complaint has been made at Salem by 17 lumber manufacturers of Clackamas county against the Southern Pacific company, with the object of compelling the corporation to provide adequate facilities for loading cars at Oregon City. It is stated that the complainants are unable to increase their business and market their products because of the failure of the Southern Pacific company to afford facilities for loading lumber in car loads. The lumbermen ask for an investigation by the State Railroad commission and it is probable that a time will be set for a hearing at Oregon City in the near future.

Gilliam Farmers Join Union.

Condon—Dr. W. R. Campbell, of Pendleton, state organizer of the Eastern Oregon branch of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative union of America, has affected an organization of farmers in this vicinity. It will be the aim to secure equitable freight rates, lower warehouse charges and to investigate the different methods of handling grain. The organization will work in conjunction with the different granges of the county and state.

Hopyards Looking Very Poor.

Portland—Hopyards of the Willamette valley are looking poorer than ever before. In some sections not more than 5 per cent of the vines have sprouted and in no instance is the showing better than 15 per cent. Generally speaking, fully 33 1/3 per cent of the hops which appeared last year are missing thus far this season and while some may appear and produce hops, it is unlikely that the average will be changed materially.

Santiam Bridged at Detroit.

Albany—A suspension bridge has been erected across the North Santiam river at Detroit, eastern terminus of the Corvallis & Eastern railroad. The bridge was erected by John Outerson, a Detroit merchant, and is the first bridge to connect the Linn and Marion county sides of the river directly above Detroit. There is an old wooden bridge a short distance above the town.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Bluestem milling, \$1.30@1.35; club, \$1.20@1.25; Turkey red, \$1.26; valley, \$1.17; forty-fold, \$1.26; red Russian, \$1.17 1/2@1.20.

Corn—Whole, \$35 per ton; cracked, \$36.

Barley—Feed, \$34@35 per ton.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$40@41.

Hay—Timothy, Willamette valley, \$14@18 per ton; Eastern Oregon, \$17.50@19.50; clover, \$11@12; alfalfa, \$13@14; grain hay, \$13@14.50; cheat, 14@14.50; vetch, \$14@14.50.

Apples—65c@82.50 per box.

Potatoes—\$1.85@2 per hundred.

Vegetables—Turnips, \$1.25 per sack; carrots, \$1.25; parsnips, \$1.50; beets, \$1.75; horseradish, 10c per pound; artichokes, 60@75c per dozen; asparagus, Oregon, 12 1/2@15c per pound; lettuce, head, 20@50c per dozen; onions, 12 1/2@15c; parsley, 35c; radishes, 15@20c; rhubarb, 2 1/2@3 1/2c per pound; spinach, 90c@1.

Butter—City creamery, extras, 24c; fancy outside creamery, 22@24c per pound; store, 18@20c. Butter fat prices average 1 1/2c per pound under regular butter prices.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 24@25c per dozen.

Poultry—Hens, 15@15 1/2c per pound; broilers, 25@28c; fryers, 18@22 1/2c; roosters, old, 10@11c; young, 14@15c; ducks, 20@22 1/2c; geese, 10@11c; turkeys, 20c; squabs, \$2.50@3 per dozen.

Veal—Extras, 9 1/2@10c per pound; ordinary, 8 1/2@9c; heavy, 7@8c.

Hops—1909 contract, 9c per pound; 1908 crop, 6@7c; 1907 crop, 3c; 1906 crop, 1 1/2c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 15@20c per pound; valley, fine, 22c; medium, 21c; coarse, 20c; mohair, choice, 24@25c.

Cattle—Top steers, \$5.50@5.75; fair to good, \$5@5.25; common to medium, \$4.50@4.75; cows, top, \$4.25@4.50; fair to good, \$3.75@4.25; common to medium, \$2.50@3.50; calves, top, \$5@5.50; heavy, \$3.50@4; bulls and stags, fat, \$3@3.50; common, \$2@2.75.

Hogs—Best, \$7.50@7.75; fair to good, \$7.25@7.50; stockers, \$6@6.50; China fats, \$6.75@7.

Sheep—Top wethers, \$4@4.50; fair to good, \$3.50@4; ewes, 1/2c less on all grades; yearlings, best, \$4.50@4.75; fair to good, \$4@4.25; spring lambs, \$6.

FAIR IS COMPLETE.

Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition Will Start on Time.

Seattle's two expositions are just about ready for the bell tap. The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition is ninety-nine per cent, complete, which means that everything is done save sweeping the floors, and the other exposition, which consists of the most magnificent scenery and the longest list of interesting tours boasted by any American city, is always ready.

Railroad experts the country over declare that the success of the A. Y. P. is already assured, but for this fact they do not give the whole credit to either the management or the publicity campaign. On the contrary, they declare that the imminent influx into the Northwest is due more largely to Northwestern resources and home possibilities and to Northwestern and Alaskan scenery and romance, more than to any other power of attraction.

Nightly now the exposition grounds are lighted for the enjoyment of the pre-exposition crowds which daily go to the grounds. For weeks the attendance has averaged close upon 5,000. If special free days were counted it would be a larger figure than this. A cold spring somewhat delayed the first flush of the floral effects, which are on a huge scale, but warm May days have brought out the blooms.

Practically all of the exhibits are installed in the Manufactures building and in the Oriental and European buildings. The installation in the Palace of Agriculture is somewhat slower but will not be behind at the right moment. The government exhibits are well along with the exception of the Hawaiian and Philippine exhibits, which arrived late. However, they will be complete to the last detail by June 1.

Most of the foreign exhibits are in place and those that are not are receiving the finishing touches.

And while work is being pushed rapidly ahead on the exposition proper, arrangements are going forward just as fast that the visitor may take advantage of the "second exposition." New steamships are arriving daily for excursion trips to various points around the sound and along the coast. The numerous resorts in the Cascade mountains are close at hand either by the Great Northern, Northern Pacific, Burlington or Milwaukee railroads and the Canadian Pacific takes one quickly to Banff, the wonder spot in the Canadian Rockies.

STATES MAY LOSE.

Appropriations for Rivers and Harbors May Revert to Government.

Washington, May 10.—Unless congress takes specific action at the special session now in progress, nearly \$1,000,000 appropriated for river and harbor improvements in various sections of the United States will be turned back into the national treasury, much to the chagrin of many congressmen and senators.

This situation arises over the "covering back" section of the sundry civil bill, approved March 4. This section provides that all unexpended balances of appropriations that remained on the treasury books June 1, 1904, except permanent specified appropriations, judgments and findings of courts and trust funds and appropriations for fulfilling treaty obligations with the Indians be carried to the surplus fund and covered back into the treasury, "provided that the money is not needed to pay existing treaties."

To meet the situation, Senator Burton has introduced a resolution providing that the section of the sundry civil bill in question shall not be construed as applying to the unexpended balances in river and harbor appropriations which may be essential, in the judgment of the secretary of war, for the maintenance and prosecution of the work for which it was appropriated.

Among the appropriations that will revert are: Mouth of Columbia river, Oregon, \$24,000; entrance to Coos bay, Oregon, \$23,000; restraining barriers Sacramento and Feather rivers, California, \$14,000; and harbor at Tacoma, Washington, \$11,000.

Daily Shocks Continue.

Rome, May 10.—Since the great earthquake of December scarcely a day has passed without shocks, more or less strong, being felt at Messina, Reggio and surrounding districts. The observatory in the Calabrian earthquake zone has registered from December 28 last, up to today, 213 shocks. Since the former date there have been no shocks strong enough to destroy buildings. Tottering walls have been overthrown, but there has been practically no loss of life since the day of the great disaster.

Suggests Gambling Antidote.

Butte, Mont., May 10.—"Go after the fellows who own the buildings where gambling is conducted," said District Judge Donlan this morning to Assistant County Attorney Baldwin. "They're the people to prosecute. I want to see you get some of them. And I want to say right now that gamblers will get no more continuances in this court. These fellows have been petted around as if they were useful citizens, but it doesn't go any more."

1,000 Cabdrivers Strike.

Chicago, May 10.—One thousand cab drivers went on strike tonight, following a conference between the liverymen's association and the union. The drivers demanded \$14 a week, and refused to compromise for \$13. Tomorrow 100 funerals are scheduled to take place. The police refuse to give funeral processions right of way.



Race for a Wife

BY HAWLEY SMART

CHAPTER IV.

The next day Pearman became excessively enamored of his hopeful son's project, though he did not at all disguise to himself the difficulties that stood in the way of its accomplishment. If he had not had the advantage of such an education as Sam had had, yet he had made a large fortune by trading on the weaknesses of his fellow-men. Those who achieve this, though it may be little to their credit, become more thoroughly acquainted with the springs of the human mind than all the metaphysicians and philosophers who have ever written or dreamed about it. The son might be an astute man enough at his vocation of the turf, but he was a child, compared to his father, when computing to what extent he could persuade, bind, or break men to his own will. The son thought the advantages of such an alliance must be so transparent in a worldly point of view to Harold Denison that he would be a willing coadjutor in the scheme, for the moment it was proposed to him; the father at once foresaw the old family pride that would be up in arms against him the instant he mooted the idea.

But he said to himself, "I have had much to do with Harold Denison, and should know him thoroughly. He is selfish at heart to the core. In all those troublous days of his, when I was settling his affairs, I never knew him dwell upon what the results might be to his wife and daughter. It was ever what he had to give up. He'll scout this proposal with indignation when I first mention it to him; but he'll come round to it in time. As for the girl's that's Sam's affair; but when Denison has once made up his mind to her marrying him, he's as likely a man as I know to turn on the domestic screw heavily. I've seen that orifice worked more than once, and it's generally pretty efficacious. They run away with somebody else afterwards, occasionally, but that's the fault of the husbands' not keeping them within bounds. Yes; I'll ride over and see Denison to-morrow. It won't be a very pleasant job, I doubt; but I am used to that."

The owner of Glinn felt that slight nervous perturbation that invariably attends the call of a large creditor. The noise of the carriage wheels had merely produced a feeling of languid curiosity; but the announcement that Mr. Pearman wanted to see him made the squire's pulse quicken, and it was with an anxiety he was unable to disguise that he welcomed him in his own peculiar slow tones.

"Sit down, Pearman. Take that armchair, and make yourself comfortable. I hope to heaven you haven't come to make me the reverse?"

"Not at all, Mr. Denison. My visit is not a business one, though I have something I should like just to talk to you a little about presently. Shocking weather we're having. Bad for the farmers—very, isn't it?"

"You may say that. Nothing we have to sell seems to be doing anything. All farm produce is a drug in the market. How's the Coriander going on? It looks like your gathering a terrible harvest in April at Newmarket, anyhow. The horse is doing well, I suppose?"

"Yes, I believe so. You know, Mr. Denison, I'm getting too old myself to see after such things. I leave all that to Sam; but he tells me the horse will run well for the 'Guineas' bar accidents."

"Run well?" "Bar accidents?" Why, "bar accidents," he must win," cried the ever sanguine Denison. "I never bet now, as you know; but in the old days I should have had a thousand on him."

"Ah, well," said the old lawyer, "there's where it is. You always would believe in certainties in racing. I never myself got further than believing a horse would run well."

"Yes," laughed the squire; "and in consequence you made a fortune while I lost one. I'm afraid, too, it would be the same thing all over again if I could begin once more."

Pearman shot a keen look at him from under his grizzled brows, and thought most assuredly that it would be so, and how very much it would facilitate his present design if the squire was a little involved in that way at present. He of course knew the main part of Harold Denison's entanglements, but even he, though his principal man of business, did not know how bad things really were. It would have given him more confidence to unfold the object of his embassy had he been possessed of such knowledge.

"Well, Pearman," continued the squire, "I am afraid I have no money left to put upon Coriander. Those old days are gone. Yes," said Denison, bitterly; "half-pence are of more account to me now than sovereigns were then. But what is it you want to talk to me about? Nothing to my advantage, I'll be bound."

"I'm afraid not; not that it might be. But I've never been able, Mr. Denison, to induce you to listen to anything to your own advantage."

"Gad, sir, I can call to mind very few of your propositions that tended that way. A few hundreds to be saved here and there, at the cost of total abandonment of my social position—cases in which the saving was incommensurate with the sacrifice."

"You judge me hardy, Mr. Denison. On the occasions to which you allude, pardon me if I say that it was on overstrained delicacy on your part which prevented matters being brought to a more satisfactory conclusion. It is the way with you all," muttered the old lawyer, musingly. "You forget these scruples when they might be of use to you, and hamper us, who have to put your affairs straight, with them afterwards."

"A Denison of Glinn, sir, is not to be included in the same category as a bankrupt trader, I presume," remarked the squire, haughtily.

"No; but it would be better both for him and his creditors if it could be so. You repudiate the idea of all compro-

mise, and say, 'In time, everybody shall be paid in full.' The result is, you never get clear, and the creditors are never satisfied."

"But they will be in time," returned Harold Denison; and the uncertain tones in which he uttered the words were a stringent commentary on his previous speech.

"It's just about that," said Pearman, "that I'm wishing to talk to you now. It's a cruel pity that a fine old property like Glinn should be broken up. A good deal of it, you see, has fallen into my hands."

"You need not remind me of that," interrupted Harold Denison; "I am quite aware of the price I am paying for the follies of my younger days."

"It is not likely I should recall such disagreeable facts to your memory, if I had not something to propose with regard to their being to a considerable extent wiped out. You will do me the justice, I think, Mr. Denison, to admit that since I have had the honor of being your pecuniary adviser, I have never held biters to your lips, when I deemed anything more palatable would meet the exigencies of the case?"

The squire nodded assent. He certainly had a confused idea that Pearman had made a pretty good thing out of the adjustment of his affairs.

"Now," continued the attorney, "I see a way in which you may be relieved from all immediate embarrassment connected with money matters, and by which Miss Denison may be the eventual mistress of Glinn in its original integrity."

Denison started. To be released from the harassing strain that lies on him now with regard to pounds, shillings and pence—that the old property should once more cumulate in his daughter—opened a gorgeous prospect to his eyes. It was a piece of good fortune that he had never dreamed of. But he knew his man by this time well. What was the price he was to pay for this? He said nothing, but inwardly his brain was busy in vain conjecture as to what Pearman would demand as his guerdon for producing such a transformation scene. The idea of that worthy solicitor ever doing anything without an ulterior motive was one he never entertained for an instant. What would he want? What did he mean?

CHAPTER V.

A silence of some five minutes ensued between the two men; the old lawyer was anxious that the tempting bait he held out should be thoroughly gorged before he was called upon to state upon what terms all this might be brought about. His best experience of men told him that there was no such mistake in life as hurrying—an axiom most of us learn, though generally too late but to derive minor advantages therefrom.

"This sounds too good to be true, Pearman," at length remarked the squire, "if it can be done, you must have some infernal riddle to the proposition, that it is hardly possible I should assent to."

"It is not likely that this can be brought about without some valuable assistance from yourself," rejoined the solicitor. "But will you bear steadfastly in your mind the great advantages that will accrue immediately to yourself, and ultimately to Miss Denison? Will you, moreover, be good enough to hear me patiently to the end?"

The squire nodded an impatient assent.

"You must, of course, be quite aware that now Miss Denison has arrived at a marriageable age, her great personal attractions have claimed the attention of a good many young men in the county."

The attorney paused, but his auditor looked grimly at the fire, and expressed his feelings by neither word nor gesture.

"Well, a young gentleman of considerable property, and still better expectations, who has had the privilege of meeting Miss Denison, is so struck with her charms and accomplishments that he has commissioned me to ask your permission to try whether he cannot succeed in inducing her to accept him as a husband. On the point of family he is quite aware that he has no pretensions to Miss Denison's hand; but as regards income, I think there would be nothing to be desired."

"Who do you mean?" broke in the squire. "Has Maude given him any encouragement, that you come with this story to me?"

"My dear sir, his acquaintance with Miss Denison is far too slight for anything of that kind ever to have been even thought of on his part. He is merely anxious to have your permission to try his luck. Without that, believe me, he would never dare to aspire to your daughter's hand."

All this show of deference induced the squire to listen to the proposition, at all events, quietly. Who on earth Pearman could have in his eye he had no idea. That he could mean his son all this time never entered Harold Denison's head. He certainly knew he had a son, but, mixing so little as he did in the county now, he had barely seen him, nor had he, but at odd times, even heard of him.

"But who is it, man? Let's know the name of this bashful suitor? It's a quality one sees little enough of in these days."

"My son, Mr. Denison, is the gentleman who solicits your permission to do his best to win your daughter."

"Your son! Why—and here the squire stopped, perfectly thunderstruck. It was a leveling age, he knew; that the tide of democracy was at the flood, he was aware; that our cherished institutions were looked on with disdain, that there were people who saw no virtue in coronets, and thought an Established Church a worn-out institution that it would be as well to do away with, he had heard; but that the son of a confounded money-lending attorney should presume to dream of mating with a Denison of Glinn he had never contemplated. For a few min-

utes he was literally speechless; then the pride of race surged up. He was of a line of whom it had been often said that their tongues were as sharp ready as their swords.

"Excuse me," he remarked; "I was aware that the times were so far advanced that our daughters were regarded as salable commodities out of their class of life. I was not aware that social gap between myself and my son was so effectually bridged over. My son, sir, will have to take his chance with the young man from the butcher and Mr. Muffatee, who keeps the drug establishment in Xminster. I shall presume to influence Miss Denison in choice."

Old Pearman had many times in course of his career moralized upon weakness of losing one's temper about anything, but the squire's sneer drove the blood to his pale temples.

"You take a high hand, sir—no hand. I asked you to listen to me patiently, and you insult me. I spoke you humbly enough to start with, but I tell you now that wealth chooses mate from blood in these days, and many as well-born as Miss Denison has married not a bit better lineage than mine."

"Perhaps so. People forget themselves in all classes, and forfeit their social status; but it's getting time for some grubbers to learn one thing, and that is—that possession of all the gold in California does not constitute a gentleman, or entitle a man to claim alliance with gentle blood!"

The old solicitor's lips quivered, and his lean fingers played nervously with his watch chain, as he replied:

"I did not come here to argue our mutual social position. I came here to afford an embarrassed man, for whom I have a sincere regard, in spite of all the hard names he heaps upon me, an opportunity of freeing himself from those entanglements. I advanced a proposition which gave him a chance of in some way repairing the evil that the early follies of his youth had entailed on his child, destined to pay her full share of such indiscretions. The days of such prejudices are past, I tell you, Mr. Denison; and once more I ask you not to give me an answer now, but to reflect upon the proposal I have made to you."

"You do us too much honor, Mr. Pearman. Permit me to observe that I must decline all further consideration of the subject. I am perfectly convinced the alliance you propose with such a delicious oblivion of all status of society would be extremely unsuitable. Allow me to make Miss Denison's acknowledgments for the distinction you would have conferred upon her, and to ring for your carriage."

"Very good, sir—very good," cried the old attorney, as he rose in his wrath; "the time will come, maybe, when you'll think that old Sam Pearman would have been a good man to have had at your back. I say nothing, Mr. Denison; but you'll find that you have not made many gross mistakes in your career than this morning's work." And, muttering to himself the irate old gentleman left the room.

"I wonder what the world is coming to!" muttered Harold Denison. "The idea of a child of mine marrying the son of a money-lending solicitor!"

Then his thoughts reverted to that ten thousand pound mortgage, and the angry words of the old man at parting, and he reflected, moodily, that there was little likelihood of much time being granted anent the payment of the interest in future; indeed, it was more than probable that Pearman, in his anger, would call in his money. All which considerations harassed Harold Denison's mind not a little, and he thought, if it had to be done again, he would reject the old lawyer's proposal with rather more courtesy.

(To be continued.)

A Valuable Clev.

A woman entered a police station in Holland and asked the officer in charge to have the canal dragged.

"My husband has been threatening for some time to drown himself," she explained, "and he's been missing now for two days."

"Anything peculiar about him by which he can be recognized?" asked the officer, preparing to fill out a description blank.

For several moments the woman seemed to be searching her memory. Suddenly her face brightened.

"Why, yes, sir. He's deaf."—Every body's.

Diplomatic Bobby.

"Bobby," called his mother, "did you give your baby brother a slice of that raisin pie?"

"Yessum," answered Bobby, "and mamma, after I had given it to him I noticed that he had the slice with all the seeds in it."

"You careless boy! Never the least consideration for your little brother, I suppose."

"Oh, yes, mamma, I had lots of consideration."

"You did?"

"Yes, indeed. When I saw all those seeds I was afraid they might give him appendicitis, so I ate his slice too."

As Modified.

The usual crowd of loafers were seated around the stove in the village grocery.

"I never lied to my wife in my life—" began one of the bunch, when he was interrupted by a unanimous laugh that was loud and long.

"That I didn't get caught at it," ended the speaker, after the laugh had subsided.

Had Him Foul.

"She says you are a fool."

"All right."

"Are you not going to take her to task for making such an assertion?"

"Nope, she has evidence in her possession by which she can prove her statement."

"She has?"

"Yes, I proposed to her once."—Houston Post.

Straight Hint.

Husband—Let me see, how long has it been since Uncle John was here?