

ELIZABETH'S BIG BOY

By MARIA CRAWFORD

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"I never believed Elizabeth really loved him, so I am not surprised to hear of her broken engagement. How did it happen?"

Aunt Martha Bradner laid down her embroidery and looked over her glasses at the girl. "You're right, Teresa," she said, slowly. "Elizabeth never loved Jim Martin. They just drifted into an engagement. She thought she was hurt the other day, but it was only wounded pride, and I knew the best thing possible had happened to her. Time, after all, is a sure surgeon; his knife may cut slowly, but it always goes deep enough to take out the sting."

"Dr. Martin has felt so sure of Elizabeth that he didn't care what he said or did or left undone, for that matter. It has been his sin of omission that I have resented most for Elizabeth. He thinks every woman is in love with him, and I am glad that everybody in this town knows that she wouldn't resent what he said the other night, or else that he would come back the next day and explain things, as he has a habit of doing, Aunt Martha."

"I have never liked his attitude toward Elizabeth, but I wouldn't interfere. Young folks can usually fix up their own matches better if we older ones leave them alone. He was always telling Elizabeth that he had to pay some attention to visiting girls for the sake of his practice, but I believe that if a doctor can't make a living by depending on his knowledge of medicine he had better go into some other business."

"If only you could have heard the silly things he said to that Howell girl. She is visiting Fanny Warren, you know, and have seen the way he



"I Wouldn't Hurt Anybody Unjustly."

tried to take care of her, you would have hoped that Elizabeth saw with our eyes just as we did. I am glad she turned him down, but how did she do it? She is always so afraid of hurting somebody."

"He came here the morning after that dance and asked her to go on a country call with him and I was dumbfounded when she thanked him and said she couldn't go. I didn't know what had happened at the dance and when he began to argue and apologize I left the room. Elizabeth cried so when she told me about it afterward that I don't think I quite understood. What did Jim say to her?"

"A crowd of us was standing with Elizabeth on the side gallery of the clubhouse, cooling off between dances, when Doctor Martin appeared on the scene with the Howell girl. He very carelessly asked Elizabeth for her dance card and after scratching his name off two places remarked that Miss Howell had just promised him those dances. 'I didn't hesitate about taking them back, Elizabeth,' he said, 'for you know we'll have to dance together for the rest of our lives anyway.' Just then Jack Dunbar leaped off the balcony railing, and with a rather nonchalant air, said: 'That's good, Doc. You've saved Miss Elizabeth and me from being abominably rude, for we were expecting to go rowing on the lake during those very dances.' I could have hugged him for it, Aunt Martha, and then he went on to tell Doctor Martin that since he had come 2,000 miles to see Elizabeth she had given him permission to take her home in his car and that they would leave early, for he knew just a 'duck of an inn' where they could get supper and he wanted her all to himself for a little while. Elizabeth took her cue immediately and they went off together to the boat-house."

"What did Jim say?"

"Not a word. His face was a study, looked as if something had flattened it out suddenly and I'll wager he didn't enjoy those dances."

"It takes something like that to make men like Jim realize they love a girl. He has been here repeatedly and telephoned a dozen times, but Elizabeth seems to have turned completely against him this time. Here she comes now."

"Teresa, how glad I am to see you,"

Elizabeth said, and then fell to crying at sight of the dear friendly face.

When Teresa would have stopped her, Aunt Martha said: "No, let her cry, dear, it will do her good. Tears for a woman are like steam in a boiler, if there wasn't some outlet child, something would have to blow up."

"Run, Elizabeth," cried Teresa excitedly a few minutes later, catching sight of a broad-shouldered fellow swinging up the path, "run, wash your eyes and put some powder on your nose for there comes Jack Dunbar here with a big box. I hope to goodness it's candy."

The young people stayed to supper; Elizabeth's Aunt Martha insisting that she needed some youth and laughter. Later the dear designing old lady felt satisfied when she heard Elizabeth's voice ring out merrily and observe that she was beginning to seem herself again. When Teresa had been taken home and Aunt Martha had declared it was time for old folks to be "abed," she had had enough excitement for one evening. Elizabeth and the young artist sat down on the vine-covered porch and looked out over the old-fashioned flower garden where the moon had mysteriously touched the blossoms with her silver brush.

"It was good of you to help me out the other evening, Jack. I have wanted to thank you ever since then but somehow I couldn't bring myself to the point."

"That little matter at the dance? I certainly enjoyed that night. I think I gave the doctor a turn he won't forget soon."

"I broke my engagement with him the next morning, Jack. He thought that he could say or do anything and my word, once given, would protect him. Real love has no sting in it and I have come to the conclusion that I have been cheating myself by a false belief."

Jack Dunbar flicked the ashes from his cigar and waited for her to finish.

"It wasn't the first time he has elighted me," she went on, "and lately I have been realizing that things were coming to an issue which would mean severing our relation. I wouldn't hurt anybody unjustly for the world. You are a man, Jack, and can judge for me. Do you think that I did right?"

He waited so long to answer that she turned and asked again, "Do you think that I did right?"

"More than right, Elizabeth, for a man like you that he would be glad to turn from all the world if necessary and cling to you. You trust people so, Elizabeth. I remember when we were children in Maynardville. I used to carry you across the creek whenever the water came over the stepping stones. You were such a little thing and I was such a big burly fellow that all the girls were afraid of me except you. I can almost feel your little yellow curls bobbing against my face now as they often did in those days. I used to pray for rain then, Elizabeth, so that the water would cover the stones and wet the little girls' feet unless the big boys carried them over. I was always your big boy, Elizabeth, wasn't I?"

His very tenderness seemed to hurt, and Elizabeth felt a lump rising in her throat.

"I went away, you remember, to college and never came back until last summer. I wanted to succeed and bring that success to you."

"We are all so proud, Jack, of your wonderful pictures and the great name that you have made for yourself."

"I wanted to bring that success to you, and when I came last summer and found that you were engaged to Doctor Martin I packed right up and left. I am going to Japan next month to stay a year and work. I wish that you would go with me, dear. I have the right to ask you now, for all through the years I have always been your big boy, Elizabeth, and you have been my inspiration and my dream."

"But what would people say, Jack?"

He stood up and lifted her to her feet before him. "They would say that when you were ill last year, you learned to depend on Martin, and that for a time you believed it was love. You see, I have already heard what I feel must be the truth. Don't you believe that you can learn to love me? Are you going to let the world's opinion stand between me and my great happiness, for I am selfish, dear, in this. I want you if you are willing to come to me."

"You used to carry me when I was little, big boy. Now I've grown heavier and I may be a burden."

"In that case I'm willing to risk it," he said, looking down into her face, touched by the silver brush of the moon, and Elizabeth, yielding, felt from the strength of his arms that she had found the heart home for her love and life.

Think This Over.
Fortune Teller (to plain dress)—Your husband will be a poor man.
Miss Rhine—How do you know that?

Fortune Teller—Well, rich men generally don't marry for money.

At the Card Table.
Mr. Henpeck—I don't like my wife for a partner. She never leads me anything.
Mrs. Sharp—Why, everybody says she leads you a dance.

Lacking a Point.
Blos—That was a well-rounded joke Borem told, wasn't it?
Knox—Yes—at least, I failed to see any point to it.

HOG RAISING IN OREGON.

Finest Bacon Produced From Feeds Native to This State.

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis.—That hog raising can be carried on very profitably in Oregon and the Northwest is the opinion of Dr. James Withycombe, Director of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station. Relative to this matter Dr. Withycombe says:

"The production of hogs is a neglected industry on many Oregon farms. This great American farm mortgage lifter for some reason does not receive the attention to which he is entitled. This is perhaps due to the inability of many farmers to disassociate the hog from corn. In the great hog-producing states corn is the staple food for these animals and the opinion is prevalent that there is no other feed that can successfully compete with corn. This is a mistake and it has been proven such time and again. It is a well known fact that the highest priced bacon in the world is produced in Canada and Denmark. This high priced meat is not produced from corn but from just such feeds as can be grown abundantly upon the Oregon farms. There is no better grain than wheat or barley for producing a high class pork product. Barley should be the staple hog food upon the Oregon farm. Splendid results can be secured from barley and skim milk or barley and tankage as a fattening food for hogs."

"It has been found at the Oregon Experiment Station that skim milk and tankage are both excellent supplemental foods with barley for fattening hogs. These supplemental foods lower the cost of production. Ordinarily it requires 4.5 pounds of barley to make one pound of gain but with these supplemental feeds much less barley is required for securing a similar gain."

"In a recent experiment conducted at this station, 3.21 lbs. of ground barley and 4.87 lbs. of skim milk produced one pound gain in lot 1, comprising 7 hogs, which gained in 60 days, 786 lbs. and consumed 2525.5 lbs. of ground barley and 3832.5 lbs. skim milk. In lot 2, consisting of 7 hogs, it required 3.43 lbs. of ground barley and 25 lb. of tankage for one pound gain. This lot gained in 60 days 778.3 lbs. and consumed 2676.75 lbs. barley and 191.5 lbs. of tankage. Estimating that without the skim milk or tankage it would have required 4.5 lbs. of ground barley to produce one pound gain, this would indicate that 3832.5 lbs. of skim milk saved 1911.5 lbs. of barley which at \$27.00 per ton would give a return of \$13.70 for the milk, or about 36 cents per cwt. Estimating upon the same basis for the tankage fed hogs 191.5 lbs. of tankage saved 825.5 lbs. of barley, worth at \$27.00 per ton, \$11.14. Cost of tankage, \$4.73, thus making for the investment in tankage \$6.41."

There is no question but what swine husbandry, when properly conducted is profitable in Oregon. From a number of experiments conducted at this station results show that it costs approximately 3.5 cents per pound to grow a hog to a fattening stage. For example, pigs farrowed in the early spring and allowed to run on clover, alfalfa, vetch, or rape during the summer and fed a small supplemental feed or grain can be brought to a fattening stage in the fall, weighing about 125 pounds at a cost of about 3.5 to 4 cents per pound. Presuming at this time they are placed in fattening yards and fed for 60 days on ground barley, of which it will require 450 pounds to produce 100 pounds gain. Thus at this time the hog will weigh 225 lbs. and at present market values worth 8 cents per pound, or \$18.00. The cost of production will be about as follows:

"Cost of maintaining breeding herd about \$2.00 per pig; initial weight at time of fattening, 125 lbs. at 3.5 cents per pound, \$4.37; 450 lbs. of barley at \$27 per ton, \$6.07. Total cost of production, \$12.44; net profit per hog, except labor, \$5.56. This of course allows commercial rate for all food consumed. If skim milk or tankage be fed even better results would be secured. It is evident that there is good money in hogs."

"Sows should farrow two litters a year. The fall pigs could be wintered in Western Oregon very largely upon roots and kale with a small supplemental feed of grain and fattened in the spring or early summer. In Eastern Oregon they could run on early sown grain or be fed some roots or nicely cured alfalfa or pea hay."

"In the matter of breed there is little difference in the leading breeds of hogs. It is largely a matter of personal choice with the farmer. It is not necessary to have pure bred hogs to make a success of the industry. Pure bred sires, however, should always be kept. Some growers have excellent success in crossing breeds, for example, taking high grade Berkshire sows and crossing with pure

bred Poland China sires or vice versa. This is feasible with a graded herd, but too expensive with pure bred herds."

"Young pigs should not be fed coarse, bulky feed, neither is coarse grain, such as ground oats and barley, good when the pig first begins to eat. These coarse feeds irritate the intestinal tract and may be responsible for producing what is generally known as thumps and convulsions. The ideal food for a young pig is skim milk and shorts or middlings. Food of this character should be fed until the pig is at least three months old. Then again the pig should have exercise. Many pigs are ruined by being fed rich feed without being given any exercise. They are prone, under such conditions, to develop rheumatic arthritis which is a very serious trouble. This, however, can be entirely eliminated through exercise. Young growing hogs, in fact all hogs, should be provided with clean, comfortable quarters during the winter months, as hogs are very susceptible to cold and suffer if not provided with warm sleeping quarters."

"Hogs should be finished for the market at the earliest practicable age. The younger the animal the lower the cost of production. A four months old pig will make a pound gain with at least one-third less feed than a one year old hog. Economy in production means growing the pig in the open field during the summer and finishing it for the market quickly in the fall in a fattening period not exceeding over about sixty days."

NOTES FROM THE EXPERIMENT STATIONS.

(From Washington Experiment Station, Pullman, Wash.)

The only remedy for China lettuce is absolutely clean cultivation. A cultivator or harrow should be rigged with knives, so that it is possible to "shear" two or three inches below the ground, and completely cut off all young vegetation. You should go over the ground often enough to prevent any leaves from appearing above the ground. This kind of treatment will gradually wear out the weed. However, if you neglect the cultivation in busy times, the good you have accomplished will be lost, and you will have to begin over again. It is by reason of this neglect that many people are led to say that clean cultivation is not a success. It is a success, and the only method, when it is thoroughly done.

The best method of keeping the gophers away from your trees is to rid the orchard of gophers. This can be done with comparative ease and with very small expense if the owner will carefully go over the field with pieces of poisoned carrots, and place a piece in every place where the gopher shows fresh work in the soil. The carrots should be cut into pieces about the size of a quail egg, with a small slit made in the side of the piece in which a few crystals of strychnine are inserted. This dissolves to poison the entire piece of carrot. It will be necessary to go over the field twice or three times during the fall or early spring before one can be sure that it is entirely free from this troublesome orchard pest.

"Strawberry mildew" is an old Eastern disease of the strawberry which in recent seasons, has been found in the West. Where it is found, carefully rake off as much of the trash and leaves in the spring as possible. Do this just after growth starts. Destroy all of the leaves, for mildew will live over in these leaves, and be there to bother the plants another year. After thoroughly cleaning up the patch, give it a thorough spraying with Bordeaux mixture. This is to be done before the plants start into active growth. Watch your plants very carefully during the growing season, and spray again if it is necessary.

Logged-off lands treated with an application of well-rotted stable manure should produce good crops of potatoes. If the manure is not available in large quantities, light applications of nitrate of soda put on soon after they start to grow produce good results. This fertilizer should be used at the rate of 75 to 150 pounds per acre, and should be given just as the crop needs it. It will therefore be necessary to give two or even three applications during the growing season.

One should not experience difficulty in growing potatoes on bottom land or sandy soil. However, if land is peaty, it may dry out a little too early if it happens to be in a comparatively dry section. If early potatoes are desired, probably the best variety would be the Early Ohio. But if you desire to grow late potatoes, the Burbank is a satisfactory one. Some people are very much in favor of the Beauty of Hebron, while others think there is nothing equal to the Early Rose.

Persons who wish to plant flowers in the spring that will grow during the summer and be in good shape during the fall could make use of the very late varieties of sweet peas, any of the asters, zinnias and possibly a few pansies. Another plant is the cosmos. Get the late flowering sorts of these, and delightful results will be secured.

MESSAGE FROM VENUS

J. S. ASTRONOMER CLAIMS TO HAVE ACCOMPLISHED FEAT.

Head of Naval Observatory at Mare Island Declares the Star is Inhabited by Intelligent Beings.

San Francisco, Cal.—Prof. Thomas Jefferson See, the famous astronomer who is now in charge of the United States naval observatory at Mare Island, has established communication with the planet Venus, according to information obtained here. Further, that he has received a message from Venus.

It is claimed by Professor See that not only is Venus inhabited but that the inhabitants are of a high order of intelligence, capable of reasoning and of receiving and responding to communications from the earth and other astral bodies.

Just what the nature of the message Professor See received from Venus he declines at this time to make known. He is reserving that detail for the official report he is preparing to make of his remarkable discovery.

That Professor See is not a visionary and that his statements can be accepted with credence may be attested by his career. He is a graduate of the University of Missouri, class of '88. After his graduation he matriculated at the University of Berlin, where he received a doctor degree. He was for three years in charge of the Yerkes observatory at the University of Chicago.

While in Germany Professor See startled astronomers by his discovery of the so-called "double stars." After leaving Germany Professor See entered the service of the United States, becoming attached to the naval observatory service. He now holds the highest rank in that service, bearing the title of captain.

Professor See says that he now feels quite certain that he has established his remarkable theory showing the evolution of the stellar system, which, if true, as Professor See believes, knocks into a cocked hat nearly all of the reasoning on cosmical evolution that has been accepted since the time of LaPlace. Professor See claims this theory has been vitiated by a false premise to the effect that the planet had been detached from the sun by acceleration of rotation, when the matter of this globe was originally expanded into a nebula filling their orbits, and rotating under conditions of hydrostatic pressure and that the satellites have been detached from the planets in the same way.

All this reasoning Professor See claims, on the shedding of planets and satellites under the supposed influence of the accelerated rotation of the relatively large central bodies which govern their motion, is now invalidated.

He says it is also demonstrated in more ways than one, but especially by means of the important criterion proposed by Rabinet, in 1891, and heretofore very generally overlooked, that the planet and satellites could never have been detached by rotation with the existing momenta of momentum, and must therefore have been captured and built up in a resisting medium revolving as a whirling vortex and essentially devoid of hydrostatic pressure.

In this way, and in this way only, can these small bodies have been formed, and their orbits reduced in size and transformed into such singular circularity, according to Professor See.

FARMER GOES ON A RAMPAGE

While Angry at His Wife He Kills Dog, Shoots Horse and Fires House and Barn.

Danville, Ill.—Newton S. Melton, one of the wealthiest farmers in Vermillion county, is in jail here on charge of arson and attempting to murder his wife. The offenses were committed after a trip to Danville, in which he sold some hogs to a packing house.

Returning home he accused his wife of hiding the animals. She denied the charge and Melton, with a shotgun, drove her into an upstairs room. She barricaded herself and Melton fired through the door. He then ran out into the yard, killed a pet dog and shot the ear off the family driving horse.

Melton then set fire to a new \$5,000 barn, an old barn and fired the family dwelling in three places. The shooting and flames attracted a crowd of farmers, who armed themselves, and they finally overpowered him.

Boosts \$3 Violin to \$300.

Alma, Mich.—A \$3 violin can be transformed into a \$300 one by George Porter, a jeweler of this city. He discovered a chemical process for aging the wood while repairing a violin for a friend which removes all sap and resin, just as time does. A cheap violin, so treated and submitted to an expert, who owns a \$300 instrument, was pronounced as good as his own.

Sues Husband's Slayer for Support.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Abandoning all attempts to have Frank Chowe tried for murder because he shot and killed her husband, Mrs. Michael Chekan has brought suit for \$15,000 against Chowe for the support of her four small children. It was found the killing was accidental.

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Where is Hof? What has become of the old-fashioned boy who referred to his knife as a "frog sticker"? And what, by the way, has become of the old-fashioned Barlow knife?

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