

BOWSER'S NEW IDEA

Takes Notion to Raise Fine Berries—In His Mind.

CHANCE TO MAKE THOUSANDS

So He Thinks, but Before He Gets Through He Takes a Drink, and Then Some More—"I'm a Jackass," He Tells Wife.

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Mr. Bowser had made a poor show of hanging on to himself during the dinner hour. It had been apparent to Mrs. Bowser from the first that he had something to communicate, but he wanted to be questioned about it. She had asked for no information, and when the sitting room had been reached he could stand it no longer. He fussed around for a few minutes and then finally said:

"Mrs. Bowser, of course women don't pay much attention to those things, but I presume you have read or heard of the strawberry?"

"I have even eaten them," she replied.

"Then you know that it is one of the most luscious of our small fruits and finds a ready market at a high price. In glancing at the boxes of strawberries in front of a grocery did it ever occur to you how they were grown, where they came from and the profit there was in the business?"

"It has, Mr. Bowser. I have never seen one of the berries yet without thinking of the tremendous profits. I think I have read somewhere that thousands and thousands of persons have become millionaires from growing strawberries."

Mr. Bowser looked at her for a minute to see if she was in earnest, and as she kept her face straight he concluded that she was and said:

"I wish to have a little talk with you this evening. Something happened to-



"I'LL BE HOLDING THE PLOW BEHIND A YOKER OF OXEN."

day that I wish to discuss calmly and coolly and in a business way. You have long known that I am afflicted with lumbago, rheumatism and heart disease."

"Certainly. You have got 'em bad. I was just wondering to myself this afternoon how much longer you could stand it. You have lived now three years longer than I thought you could."

Mr. Bowser opened his mouth to yell "Woman!" at her, but closed it again. It was possible that she was not speaking in sarcasm. After a glare he said:

"The doctors all tell me that I shall be no better until I get out into the country. That's a matter we have gone over before. You have contended that I was not strong enough to do heavy farm work, and I have let it go at that."

"But you think you are physically able to grow strawberries?" she demurely suggested.

"Ah, now we come to our subject! Did you ever hear of a man named Scroggins?"

"I never did."

"Too busy attending bargain sales, of course. Well, Scroggins is a fruit grower. He gave us the Scroggins strawberry, which leads in lusciousness and sale all others in market. He was in the office today, and hearing that I wanted to get out into the country, he made me an offer to take the berry off his hands. He doesn't think there is no euphony about it. When you hear the name Scroggins you at once think of a red headed, squint eyed man, with red whiskers."

Bowser Berry a Winner.

"But if it was called the Bowser strawberry?"

"That's it! You have hit it exactly. There's your euphony. There's the name for the public to roll under its tongue. Here's your Bowser strawberry! Nothing like 'em! Fresh, sweet and luscious! Scroggins wants it to be the Bowser strawberry instead of the Scroggins."

"Well?"

"Well, we sell this house and lot this winter, and next spring we go out in the country to grow the Bowser strawberry. That's what I was getting around to say to you—\$10,000 the first season, and my health is restored besides. It won't be six weeks before I'll be holding the plow behind a yoke of oxen."

"I see," replied Mrs. Bowser, "and now for details. How extensively do you intend to go into the business?"

"Well, the more berries the more money, you know. Scroggins thought I ought to begin with at least a hundred acres. I can double the acreage every year for six years. What are you going to do?"

"I want to figure a little," replied Mrs. Bowser as she got pencil and paper.

"But what's the use? Scroggins and I went over the figures three different times to be sure about them."

"Yes, but we'll go over them once more. What sort of a farm have you in mind?"

"Why, about 200 acres to begin on. I think we ought to exchange even up."

"Yes, but that leaves you without capital to begin the strawberry business."

"Capital! What do we want of capital?"

"Perhaps you won't want any, but we'll see. The first thing next spring will be to prepare your ground. It must be plowed two ways, dragged, leveled and enriched. Do you know what the cost will be?"

"A mere bagatelle."

"Just so. If a man and a team prepare two acres a week they are hustling. You'll have to buy the team, plows, drags and all that. If you are in a hurry to get the plants in you'll have to set four men and four teams at the work. You must have a windmill and at least a thousand feet of hose; mustn't let your plants burn up in a dry season."

"There you go!" shouted Mr. Bowser as he rose up to walk around. "I knew you'd be making figures before you got through!"

"We have to, you know. We'll say your hundred acres are all prepared and you have got your well, your windmill, your pipes and your hose. Now come your plants. What did Mr. Scroggins say he should ask per hundred?"

"He—he didn't say."

"Well, put it at 50 cents a hundred. They ask that even for the common plants. I think they put 400 plants to the acre. That's 40,000 plants. The man who sets out an acre of plants per day is doing well. You can keep one man at it a hundred days or hire five men for twenty days each. The cost will be the same."

"By Thunder, Woman!"

"By thunder, woman, by thunder!" gasped Mr. Bowser.

"These acres must be weeded and watered and the runners cut off the plants. Many will naturally die and must be replaced. You must hire four or five men to do all this."

"Never, woman; never in this cold world! You simply sit there making a fool of me. By John, but how you would like to see me on the way to the poorhouse! How you would chuckle!"

"And now," continued Mrs. Bowser, "we will say your hundred acres of strawberries are ripe. They have got to be picked. You must figure on 2 cents a quart for that and on at least 200 pickers. Then they must be boxed and—"

"Enough! Enough! I won't listen to another word!"

"They must be boxed, carted to the depot and shipped. You must figure a tickly sum for the boxes and for the shipping. You may also have to hire extra teams for thirty days. If your berries are put out on a firm market, you will get a good price; if not, then you won't get enough to pay for the shipping. Again!"

"There is no again about it!" shouted Mr. Bowser.

"Again, if it should happen to be a rainy season?"

"Will you stop?"

"Certainly. You said you could make \$10,000 out of strawberries the first season. I was merely showing you that—"

"That you didn't believe it, that it couldn't be done, that I am the biggest Jackass in America, that you—that's the part you think a wife ought to play. If some one offered me a gold mine for 15 cents, you'd snuff at it. By thunder, woman!"

And he rushed down the hall and clapped his hat on his head and rushed outdoors and disappeared in the darkness of the autumn evening, and when he came stealing upstairs four hours later he was whispering to himself:

"Ten thousand dollars first year, and 'er Bowsher strawberry takes 'er cake over everything!" M. QUAD.

Truth Comes Home Slowly.

"I guess," said the wise old codger, "the public must be satisfied that I've been nothing but an old fossil for the past twenty years or so."

"What led you to that conclusion?"

"The fact that I'm just beginning to realize that I am not as young as I used to be."—Catholic Standard and Times.

Suffering and Dollars Saved.

E. S. Loper, of Marilla, N. Y., says: "I am a carpenter and have had many severe cuts healed by Bucklen's Arnica Salve. It is by far the best healing salve I have ever found." Heals burns, sores, blisters, fever sores, eczema and piles. 25c at Chas. N. Clarke's, druggist.

Mixed Sensations.

"Do you enjoy your new automobile?"

"Not much," answered the nervous man. "When it runs I am apprehensive, and when it doesn't I am annoyed."—Washington Star.

Pleasant and Most Effective.

T. J. Chambers, Ed. Vindicator, Liberty, Texas, writes, December 23, 1902: "With pleasure and unsolicited by you I bear testimony to the curative power of Ballard's Horehound Syrup. I have used it in my family and can cheerfully affirm it is the most effective and best remedy for coughs and cold I have ever used. Sold by Chas. N. Clarke."

A Humane Woman.

The Cabman—Gimme your bag, lady, and I'll put it on top of the cab. Mrs. Oatcake (as she gets in)—No; that poor horse of yours has got enough to pull. I'll carry it on my lap.—London Tit-Bits.

A Stitch in Time

will save nine. So will a bottle of Ballard's Horehound Syrup always kept on hand save many a spell of sickness. A sure cure for Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis and Whooping Cough. Mrs. S.—Hot Springs, Ark., writes: "I keep a bottle of Ballard's Horehound Syrup in my medicine chest, and thank my forethought many times. It has prevented many severe spells of sickness." Sold by Chas. N. Clarke.

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Can you afford to trifle with so serious a matter as to neglect a bad cold or cough, when for a trifling amount you can secure a bottle of "Hickory Bark Cough Remedy," that is guaranteed to cure or money refunded. Price 25c, 50c and \$1.00 per bottle. For sale by Chas. N. Clarke and dealers everywhere.

The Way They Work It. When the little Podunk doctor Finds his repertoire of pills Proves entirely unavailing To relieve your aches and ills He advises rural quiet.

When the mighty city doctor Finds his potions and his drugs Do not cure your aching body Of bacilli and of bugs He advises rural quiet.

When the country man falls down, So the city doctor gets you, To uphold your system slumped, So the country doctor gets you, When the city man is slumped, McLandburgh Wilson in New York Sun.

The old remedies are the best. Hickory Bark Cough Remedy has been in use for over one hundred years by the old Dutch Danksards of Pennsylvania and is still in use by all the old families of Western Pennsylvania. It is absolutely pure: made from the bark of the white or shell bark hickory tree. The bark is shipped from the east, and manufactured in Salem, Oregon. For sale by Chas. N. Clarke and all dealers.

Cute Kid. "But, Willie," said the bad boy's mother, "didn't your conscience tell you were doing wrong?"

"Yes'm," replied Willie, "but, you know, you told me not to believe anything I hear."—Houston Post.

Simple Cure for La Grippe. La grippe coughs are dangerous as they frequently develop into pneumonia. Foley's Honey and Tar not only stops the cough but heals and strengthens the lungs so that no serious results need be feared. The genuine Foley's Honey & Tar contains no harmful drugs and is in a yellow package. Refuse substitutes. Clarke Drug Co.

There are abysses that love cannot cross, but it can bury itself in them.—Balsae.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy a Favorite.

"We prefer Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to any other for our children," says Mr. J. J. Woodbury, of Twining, Mich. "It has also done the work for us in hard colds and croup, and we take pleasure in recommending it." For sale by Keir & Cass.

Doesn't Agree. "You should never take anything that doesn't agree with you," the physician told Mr. Marks.

"If I had always followed that rule, Maria," he remarked to his wife, "where would you be?"

The Jumping Off Place. "Consumption had me in its grasp and I had almost reached the jumping off place when I was advised to try Dr. King's New Discovery; and I want to say right now it saved my life. Improvement began with the first bottle and after taking one dozen bottles I was a well and happy man again," says George Moore, of Grimsland, N. C. As a remedy for coughs and colds and healer of weak, sore lungs and for preventing pneumonia New Discovery is supreme. 50c and \$1.00 at Chas. N. Clarke's, druggist. Trial bottle free.

The Young Baby. From a morning paper: "Nurse wanted to look after young baby, age about eighteen." We do not know much about the subject, but is that particularly young for a baby?—London Globe.

Bert Barber, of Elton, Wis., says: "I have only taken four doses of your Kidney and Bladder Pills and they have done for me more than any other medicine has ever done. Mr. Barber refers to DeWitt's Kidney and Bladder Pills. They are sold by Keir & Cass.

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