

BOWSER'S DIVORCE

Lack of System in Household Creates Dissension.

SHOESTRING STARTS IT.

Not Finding One Bowser Homilizes, Then Waxing Sarcastic—Fate Then Comes to Mrs. B.'s Rescue, and Spouse's Triumph is Shortlived.

By M. QUAD.

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"MRS. BOWSER," began Mr. Bowser as he came downstairs the other morning, "is this house run on a system, or is everything expected to take care of itself?"

"What do you mean?" she asked. "I mean that I have been looking for a shoestring for the last hour and a half and that nothing of the sort is to be found."

"No; I don't believe there is one in the house."

"I presume not. I presume the 200 pairs I bought in Detroit the day before we left have all been chewed up by the cat or sold to the ragman. If there's a worse run house than ours in America I'd like to see it."

"Why, Mr. Bowser, you only brought home three shoestrings, and you used two of those to tie up your papers."

"Well, where's the other?"

"I can't tell. We may have lost it in moving and unpacking."

"Don't doubt it in the least. While a shoestring is not as big as a piano or as valuable as a clock, the loss of it



MR. BOWSER ENTERED WITH A DOORMAT IN HIS HAND.

shows the want of system, a reckless extravagance truly discouraging. Have you got a piece of clothesline in the house?"

"I—I don't think so," she stammered. "Probably not, probably gone to join the shoestring. I must have something to tie up my shoe with, however, and I will use a piece of stovepipe wire."

After breakfast, when ready to go out, he said:

"Mrs. Bowser, I hope you will take this lesson to heart. Carelessness in a wife is a very reprehensible trait."

"You are just as careless as I am," she protested.

Most Husbands Models.

"No, ma'am; no, ma'am. I never mislay anything, forget anything or lose anything. Very few husbands do. I will go around the world with a pin in my vest and bring the same one back with me. If you go out into the street today you had better have a policeman go with you. If not you'll lose your purse or be robbed of your cloak."

When Mr. Bowser came up to dinner he entered the house with a smile on his face and a doormat in his hand and said:

"I found a boy walking off with this mat. Has any one taken the range out of the basement? It's a wonder to me they haven't come in after the carpets."

"That's a mat the girl put out in the barrel to be carted away," she explained.

"Oh, it is! More reckless extravagance, I see! Mrs. Bowser, I want to sit down with you some day and have a long talk. I think you mean well, but you are deficient in judgment, and your knowledge of the world is very, very limited."

"Do you know everything?" she sarcastically queried.

"Mrs. Bowser," he replied as he folded his hands under his coat and assumed his favorite attitude, "there are probably one or two things I don't know. I don't claim to know it all, and I don't say you know nothing whatever. The husband who does not, however, know forty times as much as his wife would be considered a stick of a man. Did you go out today?"

Bowser's Watch Gone.

"Was your bonnet taken off your head?"

"No, sir."

"Lucky—very lucky. You are to be congratulated, I don't!"

"Mr. Bowser, where's your watch?" she interrupted.

"My watch, Mrs. Bowser—my watch is—Great Scott!"

He dropped his hand to find the chain, but it was not there. He felt for the watch, but it was gone.

"Did you leave it at the jeweler's?" she asked as he stood with open mouth and stared at her.

"Jeweler's. No! It's gone! I've

lost it! I've been robbed!" he shouted as he danced around.

"It can't be. Feel in your pockets."

"Pockets! Pockets! Do you suppose I carry my watch in my coat pocket? I tell you I've been robbed!"

"Well, don't take on so. Your wallet is safe, isn't it?"

"G-gone!" he gasped as he put his hand up—"watch and wallet both gone!"

"You must have been robbed in some crowd," she suggested.

"Robbed! Crowd! Of course I've been robbed!" he shouted as he pranced about. "Get that infernal cat off that lounge and let me lie down, for I'm so weak I can't stand up. Where's that camphor?"

Goes For the Camphor.

She ran for the bottle as he flopped down, and for the next three minutes he had his nose in the opening. "You ought to go to the police at once," she finally said.

"G-gone, g-gone!" he gasped.

"But how could you have been robbed?"

"I dunno. Hold the bottle a little higher."

"You are so careful, you know."

"Yes."

"You never mislay anything or forget anything?"

"No."

"And never lose anything and have so much worldly wisdom?"

"Oh, my head!"

"I can't make it out. I'm so careless that I might lose a shoestring in moving here from Detroit, but you—"

"Don't talk to me! Over \$600 gone!"

"A woman tried to steal my reticule in Buffalo, and I had her arrested. But it seems that you—"

"G-gone, g-gone!" he groaned.

"Haven't you any idea when it was taken?" she persisted.

"No."

"Well, I'm sorry, but this will be a great lesson to you. You will be more—"

"Mrs. Bowser," he interrupted as he suddenly sat up. "I see through it all now. It's as plain as daylight!"

"What do you mean?"

Mrs. Bowser Accused.

"I thought it necessary this morning to give you a little advice. I felt it to be my duty as a husband. This is your way of getting even."

"Why, Mr. Bowser?"

"Don't you, Mr. Bowser, me! It's as plain as that chair over there!"

"How could I rob you or tell any one else to?" she demanded.

"Never you mind. I see it all. It's all right. Mrs. Bowser—alright! Just let go this camphor bottle and take a seat in the other room. A husband will bear a great deal from the woman he loves, but when crowded too far he turns at bay. I have turned. As soon as I feel a little bit better we will come to an understanding, and you can probably take the noon train for your mother's in Detroit. Robbed! Plundered! But I see through it and know my duty!"

"But what is your duty?" she asked.

"D-i-v-o-r-c-e," he replied in a stage whisper.

"But if you had your watch and money back?"

"Woman, wo—"

"You left them under your pillow this morning. If you take the night train for Detroit you best have a guardian go along with you."

System Gets Wobbly.

"But the fact remains," said Mr. Bowser after trying hard to think of something else, "that a shoestring has been thrown away. It is wanted now, but cannot be found."

"You can take 2 cents out of my pin money," said Mrs. Bowser.

"But it's the want of system I am complaining of. If this house was run on a system you could lay hands on that shoestring at any moment, night or day."

"I think I can now. I have no system, but you have. Under your system you took that shoestring outdoors the other day to tie one of those big sunflowers up to the fence so it would not get out of the yard and down the alley."

"Woman!" he shouted.

"It's out there now."

"Never in this world!"

"Come and see."

"If it is I'll hand you out!"

It was. Mr. Bowser stood and looked at it for a moment and then turned his back to the scene of the tragedy and walked off. He had a system, but it was wobbly in the knees and weak in the back.

When the Women Rule.

The women were in power, and even the police force was a skirted brigade.

Two blushing coppers dragged a male crook into the police station.

"What is the charge?" asked the sergeant.

"Carrying concealed weapons," replied Officer Mayne Hogan. "We found this hidden under his coat."

And she produced a cage filled with mice.—Exchange.

Sacred.

Suffragette (just home after strenuous day and expecting important correspondence)—Have any letters come for me?

Daughter—Yes, mother, but I tore them up for a doll's paper chase.

Suffragette—Tore them up! I never heard of such behavior. Haven't I often told you that letters are sacred things?—Punch.

Wisdom.

"This is a fool world," remarked the cheerful idiot.

"What's the matter now?" asked the boob.

"Why, we spend half our lives trying to save time and the other half trying to kill time," replied the cheerful idiot.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

PATERNALISM OF UNCLE SAM

FEATURE OF LIFE ON ISTHMUS

Panama Zone Happiest and Best Cared For Community in World.

LANDING on the Panama canal zone from the spacious decks of a government owned steamer, riding on a government owned railway, stopping at a government owned hotel and reading a government owned newspaper of life on the canal zone as conducted almost in its entirety under government auspices, one is led to inquire: Has the United States government gone into socialism, paternalism in that locality, and, if so, has it been a success? So far as any evidence has ever been offered on the subject, writes Leroy T. Vernon in the Chicago Daily News, either in the hearings before congressional committees or in the personal observations of members of congress, the American colony at Panama, barring petty jealousies of an official nature, has been the happiest and best cared for community on this globe.

A perusal of a copy or two of the Canal Record, the official organ of the Isthmian canal commission, published under the authority and supervision of that body, which furnishes one copy free to all employees of the canal and the Panama railroad who are on the "gold" payroll, shows beyond dispute the activity of the government in the everyday life of the canal zone inhabitants. Substantially every want is met by the government, which fixes the price of food, hotel rates, railroad rates and electricity and provides churches, schools, clubhouses and places practically all government property at the convenience of the canal zone inhabitants whenever occasion demands.

Canal Medals.

The issue of the Canal Record of June 18, besides the news of progress in the construction of the canal, contained a list of the canal employees who during that week were eligible to receive canal medals for service on that great work or additional gold bars marking another year of service on the part of the older employees. It contained obituary notices and promulgated the fact that the treasury department had consented to the customs examination of household goods of employees leaving the zone in order that they might not be delayed upon their arrival at an American port.

The column of "social life" proclaimed the fact that for fifty years Christ church, on Colon beach, built by the original Panama Railway company, still remained the official church of that road, now, however, resting in the control of the American church. A list of the societies connected with the church and their varied activities was set forth.

Among the official circulars carried in the issue was one fixing officially the rates at the Hotel Tivoli, operated by the commission. These rates were officially signed by the subsistence officer of the canal commission and fixed the prices to be paid per room by the day, week and month, besides setting forth the rates, with or without meals, for meals only and the "tea room service," where tea is daily served between 3 and 6 p. m., just as in any first class American hotel. Special rates for employees of the canal are made wherever possible. The last page contains the items from the commission clubhouses at Culebra, Empire, Gorgona and Gatun, showing that moving picture shows, tennis, pool, glee clubs, volley ball courts, tennis, gymnasiums, running tracks, indoor and outdoor baseball and teachers of Spanish are provided to attract the employees of the commission within their influence.

Celebrating the Fourth.

A week later the Canal Record showed how generally the government

DREAD LAST MAN'S BANQUET.

No Survivor of Company B, First Minnesota, Wants to Dine Alone.

The "last man's banquet" has just been held at Stillwater, Minn. Eight men attended, and twenty-three vacant chairs, draped in black, occupied places at the table, on which rested a cedar chest containing a bottle of champagne. Some day, when death has reduced the veterans of Company B, First Minnesota, to one man, this survivor will attend the annual banquet, and after calling the roll he will drink to the memory of his thirty gallant comrades who fought shoulder to shoulder with him at Bull Run and at Gettysburg.

The sentimental custom began in 1886, when Louis Hospes, father of one of "the boys," presented the wine on condition that the bottle remain unopened until the "last man's banquet."

"That last banquet is going to be far more heartrending than any of our battlefield scenes," said one of the veterans. "And none of us hopes to hear the cork pop."

Lane Asks For \$50,000.

Secretary Lane of the department of the interior has asked the senate and house committees on public lands for a deficiency appropriation of \$50,000 to be used in facilitating the disposition of 2,200 land appeal cases which have accumulated in his department.

Government Takes a Hand In Everything, Even Household Affairs.

had extended its aid to make the Fourth of July celebration one long to be remembered on the zone. Practically every committee was composed of canal employees, including those high in rank in the service. Among the notable steps taken were the utilization of the government ships Ancon and Colon as resting places for the women and children; likewise the Cristobal schoolhouse, the government hotels and the Y. M. C. A. buildings. The commissary department made a parcel check room out of one of its storehouses; lemonade and ice water were served free at street stations; dressing rooms were set aside at the swimming beaches, and the police notified all bathers that they would call them in time to see the aquatic sports; maps of the city were distributed to all in order that they might find their way about easily and locate their friends; an orchestra was provided for dancing on the ocean piers, the fireworks were supervised by an army captain, and a special train service for the day was arranged to suit the convenience of the population. Substantially all that was required of the canal employees was their presence upon this gala occasion, and the government did the rest.

In the same issue the commission set forth the rates for electric power on the zone, whether for family or commercial purposes. The object of the commission was to furnish the service at cost, and a sixteen candle power lamp, including all renewals of the lamp, was advertised for 30 cents a month. Enough power to run a fifteen horsepower engine will be furnished on the canal until further notice for \$50 a month.

"Market Prices."

Upon the arrival of the food ships from American ports it is the practice of the commission to set forth the "market prices" in Panama, and these prices remain fixed to the employees until officially changed. They are fixed so as to cover the cost of the provisions to the government. The item in the issue of June 25, read as follows:

"The following changes in the price list of cold storage provisions published in the Canal Record of June 11 are effective June 25:

	Cents.
Celery, per head.....	11
Lettuce, per pound.....	12
Squash, per pound.....	12
Turkeys, per pound.....	7
Apples, per pound.....	7
Roe shad, each.....	75
Shad roes, per pair.....	40
Cauliflower, per pound.....	12
Green peppers, per pound.....	12
Cantaloupes, each.....	12
Watermelons, each.....	60

"These are articles placed on sale in the last week."

Throughout the issues of the commission newspaper appear at all times encouraging words relative to the work on the canal and the "human touch" as exemplified in marriage notices, personal items and praise of this or that shovel crew which during the last week or month "broke all records for excavation" on the canal. Each month the paper prints the aggregate record of work done on the canal the month previous, and each month this record shows the "estimated" amount of excavation growing smaller and the aggregate amount of filling and concrete work growing larger. The influence of a family newspaper like the Canal Record upon those whose deeds it records, with the activity of the government itself in all matters affecting their personal welfare, will doubtless cause many Americans now in Panama to regret the day when the canal itself is finished and their work is done.

NAMES TWO GOOD ROAD DAYS

Missouri Governor Expects Free Work Up to \$1,500,000 in Value.

Governor Major of Missouri has issued a proclamation setting apart Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 20 and 21, as public holidays, to be known as "good road days." Every able-bodied man in the rural districts and city of the state is to put in these days working upon the public highways.

The governor asks that all ordinary business be suspended and that wherever possible the men put in full time on the permanent improvement of the roads, dragging, ditching or making culverts or bridges or whatever will tend to accomplish the greatest good.

Women in the rural districts are requested to aid by furnishing the volunteer workers with lunches and encouraging them with their presence and good cheer.

The governor estimates that work approximating \$1,500,000 in value will result.

Trip For Columbus' Bones.

Assistant Secretary of State Osborne, who recently returned to Washington after a trip to the West Indies, as a result of his visit to the Dominican Republic and Haiti suggests that the bones of Christopher Columbus, which are at Santo Domingo city, be placed aboard the first ship to go through the Panama canal.

Minute "Movies" of the News Right Off the Reel

Leaning tower of Pisa is tipping more every year and is in danger of collapse.

Italian embassy in Washington has started the fashion of a gold handkerchief ring worn on the left cuff button.

"Poison squad" in state chemical laboratory, Trenton, N. J., ate eggs three years old. The only effect was an application for a raise in pay.

Baby carriage was given to a Thompson (Conn.) man, sixty years old, as a premium for getting married a short time ago. He has just sued for divorce.

A fast train on the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad has just put a powerful searchlight on the observation car to show the scenery en route at night.

Because he never missed writing a letter to his mother each week of the fifteen years he has been in America a young Russian tailor in St. Louis is heir to \$500,000 left by his bachelor uncle in Liban.

CRITICISM OF SCHOOLS UNJUST, SAY EXPERTS.

System immeasurably ahead of That in Vogue in Former Times.

Current criticisms of the public school are discussed in a report just issued by the United States bureau of education. Among other things, the contention that the "three R's" are neglected in the modern school is answered with the emphatic statement that "the three R's are better taught today than they were fifty or sixty years ago."

"We frequently hear that there are 'too many subjects,' 'too many facts and frills,' and hence neglect of the R's," says the report. "The critics who utter this sort of criticism seldom agree on exactly what the facts and frills are, but they invariably look back to a golden past when the so-called 'fundamentals'—reading, writing and arithmetic—were taught in such a way as never to be forgotten. As a matter of fact, the system of today is immeasurably ahead of the school system of the past. The growth has been steady. Whatever may be said against the enrichment of the course of study, its 'facts and frills,' the contention that the essentials, so called, have suffered in comparison with the past falls flat."

In discussing current criticism generally, the report finds that much of the criticism of the public schools of today is due to a marked change in the purpose of public education. "The charge of a curriculum 'behind the times' and the demand for vocational subjects represent no mere call for different school subjects as such, but a complete transformation in the idea of what the public school should do. "Those who criticize the bookish curriculum of the public school, whether elementary or high school, are really striving for what they conceive to be the changed purpose of education—to reach all the children of all the people with the kind of training that will make them not merely intelligent in respect to things that are in books, but will equip them directly for the kind of life, economic and social, which they will lead when they leave school—while those who oppose the innovations do so because they do not concede this broader though apparently more specialized purpose."

GOLDEN AGE FOR FARM HANDS

Mells Offers Eligible Sisters and Buggy Rides as Lures.

Ray Mells, a farmer of Dorset, a small town near Andover, O., simply can't keep help this summer, yet he offers inducements that really ought to bring him an army of husky youths. Here are a few of the inducements Mells offers to lure some good, strong, willing farm hands his way.

Each man may have a horse and buggy on Sunday or in the evenings. The quitting time every evening is 6 o'clock, with nothing to do on Sunday but rig up in Sunday best and go to meeting, after which a good dinner will be waiting.

Wages that will compare with the best paid anywhere in the locality, with the most considerate treatment during working hours.

"In addition to all this," says Mells, "I have two good looking eligible sisters and have offered to let the boys get busy and win them if they can. There's the horse and buggy for their use every Sunday."

The harvesting of the crops in Mells' neighborhood has been greatly delayed owing to the shortage of help. All other farmers in the vicinity have experienced the same trouble as Mells.

Fastest Armored Cruiser.

The new German armored cruiser Seydlitz at her trials in Danzig made a record speed of twenty-nine knots. The vessel displaces about 25,000 tons and was estimated by her constructors to attain a nominal speed of twenty-five and a half knots.

Putting the O' in Mexico

When government is reeling, And people are aflame, And half the population is a mob, And factions are appealing, For backers of their name, And those who are not robbers are out to rob, Oh, what a joyful feeling To hear old Sam proclaim, "O'Shaughnessy is going on the job!"

These Anglo-Saxon fellows May do as diplomats When 'tis at four o'clock is on the job; Their howdydos and hellos And lifting of their hats May satisfy a French or Russian mob, But down among the yellows, To end the country's apats, O'Shaughnessy is going on the job!

If greaser or if gringo Has treason in his head A Smith or Jones may only stand and sob, And talk the Spanish lingo As if Hidalgo bred, And twiddle with the seals upon his job, But none of that, be jingo, When beef and cabbage fed O'Shaughnessy is there upon the job!

D'ye ever know a creature Who had a name like that Who acted like a shilly-shally slob? The Irish fighting feature Sticks out beneath his hat, Or why should he be born an O, be-gob? So, Mexicans, come meet your New style of Democrat, O'Shaughnessy is ready for the job! —John O'Keefe in New York World.

TO URGE DENMARK TO HAVE FARM BOYS' CAMPS.

Leading Cattle Expert Approves Work in North Dakota.

That North Dakota must follow the example of Denmark in abandoning the one crop plan in favor of the dairying industry and similar industries, while Denmark can well follow the lead of North Dakota and the United States generally in the education of its young farmers in agricultural high schools, farm boys' encampments and similar institutions, was the declaration of Lars Frederiksen, the leading cattle expert of the Danish kingdom, who is in the United States to study agricultural conditions.

Mr. Frederiksen is the special representative of the United Agricultural societies of Jutland. He visited the farm boys' encampment, which was held at Valley City, N. D., by the North Dakota Better Farming association in connection with the Valley City Chautauqua, and was much impressed with the work that was being done. The fact that 112 boys, directly off the farms were brought together from several counties and given a ten day outing in which there was mixed a liberal amount of instruction appealed to him as one of the best ways of training the future farmer.

Upon his return to Denmark, Mr. Frederiksen said, he would begin at once efforts to organize similar encampments throughout the country. In no nation has the idea of agricultural education been carried forward to the extent that it has in America, Mr. Frederiksen said.

North Dakota and other northwestern states are today facing the same problem which Denmark faced and solved thirty years ago, the visitor told the boys attending the camp. Denmark depended upon one crop until the fertility was gone from the soil and the people were forced to seek new ways of earning a living on the farms. The dairy cow solved the problem, and today the little kingdom of Denmark supplies the United Kingdom with butter and Germany, to a large extent, with beef.

Conditions are far better for dairying in the northwestern states than in Denmark, he declared.

DANGER SEEN IN GENIUSES.

Educational Expert Says Brilliant Children Make Worst Criminals.

Children of exceptional mental brilliancy are even greater dangers to society than those defective or abnormally stupid. This is the conclusion of Dr. Maxmillian P. E. Grossmann of the United States bureau of education in a report just made public.

The educational expert based his statement on the comprehensive study made in the schools of the United States.

"It is often the exceptionally bright child or even the genius whom we find on the wrong side," said Dr. Grossmann. "The stupid and weakminded criminal is not so dangerous as the clever and intellectual criminal."

As a remedy for the uplift of misguided juveniles the scientist advocates united effort on the part of educators, medical men, social workers, charity organizations, welfare societies, juvenile courts and other agencies.

He declares in his report that all separate organizations are doing commendable work in this connection, but that joint action is necessary. He also advocates the passage of legislation giving the community the right to direct the educational training of every child.

New Way of Treating Wood.

A special treatment of native woods for use in the better grades of furniture has been tried with success in Germany. Freshly cut birch, oak, elm or spruce is buried in earth mixed with lime and other materials and left for from three to five months. A remarkably fine color is imparted to the wood thus treated, so that it can be used without painting or staining, and after such treatment it has practically no tendency to shrink or swell.