

Why He Didn't Cut Across.

Senator Dubois tells of a Kentucky mountaineer who had never seen the steam cars, says the Washington Post. At last he consented to make a journey to the nearest station and behold the transportation wonder.

This mountaineer arrived a little ahead of the schedule time. He tarried impatiently near the track, so that the train could not steal by him unawares. After awhile he started out to meet the belated locomotive. He met it as it rounded a curve. Turn-

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"A Platform to Get in On."

ing about, the mountaineer ran along the track as for his life.

"Toot, toot," sounded the locomotive, slowing up, but the mountaineer only dug the gravel more industriously than ever. He soon reached the station completely out of breath.

"Why didn't you cut across?" inquired one of the bystanders. "Cut across," exclaimed the uncouth lad. "If I had struck the plowed ground the thing certainly would have caught me."

Saved by Good Nature.

This tale was told by Governor Penypacker, in beginning a response to a toast at a Pennsylvania German banquet in Philadelphia, says the Denver Times. The story, he said, showed the readiness of the Pennsylvania Dutchman to obey those in authority:

In 1864 Sheridan, under orders, burned every barn from a valley above Staunton to a certain point below Winchester. A band of angry rebels followed this raid, watching for a chance to pick up any stragglers. Among others who fell into their hands was a little Pennsylvania Dutchman, who quietly turned to his captors and inquired:

"Vat you fellers going to do mit me?"

The reply came short and sharp: "Hang you." "Vell," he said, meekly, "vatever is der rule."

His good-natured reply threw the confederates into a roar of laughter and saved his life.

Birds as Tree Planters.

That birds perform an important

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part in the economy of nature is well known to every person even superficially acquainted with ornithology. An old-time Arizona wood chopper says the blue jays have planted thousands of trees now growing all over in Arizona. He says these birds have a habit of burying small seeds in the ground with their beaks and that they frequent pine trees and bury large numbers of the small pine nuts in the ground, many of which sprout and grow.

He was walking through the pines with an eastern man a short time ago, when one of these birds flew from a tree to the ground, stuck his bill into the earth and quickly flew away. When told what happened the eastern man was skeptical, but the two went to the spot and with a knife dug out a sound pine nut from a depth of about an inch and a half. Thus it will be seen that nature has her own plan for forest perpetuation.—Chicago Chronicle.