

SELBY'S SAFE.

WHENEVER I get a new job that seems like a gold mine," observed Selby, "I immediately begin to look around for the drawbacks."

"Kicking Bill, as usual," remarked his friend Eggleston. "By George, I believe you'd kick in heaven because your wings were like a swan's instead of a peacock's. What in the world have you got to grumble about now?"

"It's just like this," replied Selby. "You see, I have some very large collections to make every Saturday night, which I have to keep in the house until Monday. I don't like the responsibility. It's wearing on my nerves. I haven't a peaceful moment while the money's in the house and scarcely get a wink of sleep. There isn't a place I can put it and feel that it's secure."

"Well," suggested Eggleston, "my advice is, first to take a nerve tonic, and then to buy a safe."

"That's what I'll have to do," assented the other, "buy a safe. The expense is somewhat heavy, but I can't stand the strain any longer. Look here, Eggleston, suppose you meet me to-morrow noon at Devron's and help me to select one."

"Glad to do it, old man," answered Eggleston, "but I'll charge you a fee not only for my professional knowledge of strong boxes, but also for the advice I have given you to-night."

The next day the two met at Devron's. It was evident that the epithet of "Kicking Bill" which his friends had long ago bestowed upon Selby was not a slander. According to him there was not a suitable safe in the whole establishment. One was too large, another too small, a third not strong enough, a fourth had too easy a combination. After a couple of hours' examination of the whole stock, and when the weary salesman, having vainly extolled the merits of his wares with all his trader's eloquence, at length despaired of making a sale, Eggleston came to the rescue.

"Come now, Selby, this is all nonsense. Here's one that fills the bill."

Selby protested; but Eggleston insisted, and in the end carried his point. The safe was installed in the library, which adjoined Selby's bedroom. Like a child with a new toy, he spent the first few hours after its arrival playing with the combination until he could almost work it with his eyes shut.

The first Saturday after his purchase he brought home a fat wad of greenbacks, which he carefully deposited in the inner compartment of the safe, locked the door, put the key in his pocket, closed the outer door and twisted the combination back and forth for five full minutes; then opened it again to make sure he had locked the inner compartment, and repeated the whole process.

He went to bed that night with the key to the inner door tied to his wrist. Nevertheless, sleep was as difficult to induce as ever. If the door in the hall creaked he imagined that some one was stealing into the library, and a thorough investigation had to be made. But physical and mental exhaustion finally won the upper hand.

When he awoke the next morning his first act was to feel for the key. It had not been removed from his wrist. Next he hastened into the library. No dynamites had been at work on the safe, which stood as if gazing at him in silent disdain at his anxiety. He quickly opened the outer door, and, with trembling fingers, inserted the key into the lock of the inner compartment. A twist, a pull and its door was open. His heart leaped violently to his throat, then dropped exhausted and seemed to cease its beating altogether. Only gaping, mocking, hopeless, awful emptiness met his searching eyes. Not the slightest vestige of the treasure remained.

But who had extracted it, and how? He reported the matter to the police, and detectives were sent to the house. As is their wont, they immediately suspected the servants. Impossible! They had been in the family for years, and even if they were dishonest, how could they have gotten into the safe, especially as the key had never left his possession for a single instant, and the dealer had assured him that there were no duplicates.

What—but no, it could not be! Yet Eggleston had insisted rather determinedly upon his taking that particular safe. No, he would not believe it of his friend. Still, such breaches of friendship were not unheard of. Could it be that Eggleston and the clerk were in collusion, and that Eggleston had obtained a duplicate key? But how could he have gotten into the house? Perhaps he had bribed one of the servants.

Although he doubted him, nevertheless these suspicions made Selby very uncomfortable. However, he did not communicate them to the detectives, who were utterly at loss for a clue.

Another Saturday arrived without any hopeful developments. After much hesitation Selby again placed his collections in the safe, and personally examined every door and window before retiring. Not content with these precautions, he arose at various intervals during the night and examined the contents of his treasure box. All was well. In the small hours of the morning he fell into a deep sleep,

from which he was awakened some time after daybreak by a knock at the door. It was one of the servants. As he was never aroused from his slumbers on Sunday morning, he surmised that something was wrong. In response to his inquiring glance the maid stated that between three and four o'clock she had heard footsteps descending the attic staircase, that she had remained awake and listened attentively, but heard nothing more, and that she had only at that moment dared to venture out of her room.

Selby's first thought was of the safe. Rushing into the library, he hastily opened its two doors. Again it was empty! Next he climbed the attic stairs. He found no trace of the thief up there. The windows were not only all nailed shut, but none of the dust-covered cobwebs which sealed them had been disturbed. The scuttle to the roof like wise was fastened on the inside. A search through the rest of the house revealed nobody in hiding, nor were there any visible means of exit, all the doors and windows being locked from within.

The servant who had awakened Selby was put through a rigid examination by the police, who were of the opinion that she was implicated in the theft and had concocted her story to divert suspicion from herself; but she was either an expert twister of the truth or innocent, for the ferrets of crime, with all their skillful questioning and cross-questioning, could find no flaws in her testimony.

Saturday came round again, and the detective in charge of the case had made no progress. Although it was not probable that a third robbery would be committed, still he was going to try the only method remaining to solve the mystery—namely, conceal himself in the library that night. Selby alone was apprised of his intention and admitted him to the house after the servants had retired. When they had both made sure that the contents of the safe were thus far intact, Selby locked the iron doors and went to his room.

But he was ill at ease. His nerves unstrung by the worry of the past two weeks, excited his imagination to the wildest vagaries. He became distrustful even of the detective. What if he should be an accomplice! The corruption of the police force was notorious. Might not this man be one of the most corrupt? Reason dispelled these fears in part, but it was several hours before sleep visited him.

Suddenly he was roughly brought back to consciousness by a shake from a powerful arm. He struggled frantically to free himself.

"Calm yourself," said a voice, which he instantly recognized as that of the detective. "What's the matter? Everything's all right."

Everything all right! How happened it then that the detective was in his room and how had an entrance been effected, for he was sure he had locked the door before retiring? How—but his thoughts abruptly changed their direction. His wandering eyes had gradually regained the power of seeing concrete things, and he all at once realized that he was not in his room. But where was he? Before him stood the detective holding a flickering candle.

"Are you awake now, sir?" asked the latter.

"Yes," answered Selby. "Look down at your feet, then." Selby did as bidden. A loose board had been removed from the flooring and in the hole thus uncovered were three wads of greenbacks. Memories of childhood came back to him. How often when a small boy had he hidden his youthful valuables beneath the very board, but he had long since forgotten its existence. In an instant he comprehended the situation. It was an odd case of somnambulism. His ever-vigilant distrust had stolen a march on his sleeping consciousness.—New York News.

The Hope of Kings.
The Czar—he rules a billion men;
He bids them live in peace or strife;
He makes them sad and glad again;
He holds dominion over life.
From where the snow enshrouds the pole
To where the sun first brings its fire,
Each serf and noble plays his role,
The Czar has all that he desires.

In Rome the Emperor, in state,
Rides forth to view the spreading scene.
To glad his eyes are things ornate,
And palaces of regal sheen.
His wishes are commands, indeed,
His subjects fear the slightest frown.
Such happiness is but the meed
Of him who wears a royal crown.

And yet the Emperor and Czar—
All powerful each in his land—
Find that there are some things to ma-
-Their vistas and their outlooks grand.
For, on each palace gate is nailed
A sign whose meaning is most clear,
A daughter with delight is smiled,
But each sign reads: "Boy wants here."
—Chicago Tribune.

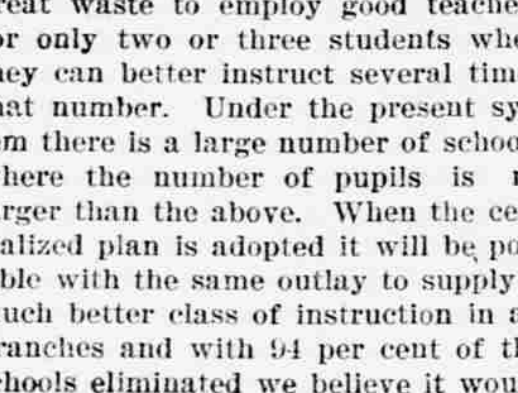
Extensive Hilarity.
"Did he smile when you offered him the chance?"
"Smile? Why he was an entire face-comedy."—New York Times.



Agriculture in Country Schools.

Enough spasmodic theorization on teaching practical agriculture and esthetic nature study in country districts has been expended to pay off the national debt, says the Rural World. Let us pass into the next stage of the argument and get down to ways and means. If our children are to receive elementary instruction in chemistry, soil physics, vegetable biology, botany and all the rest of the list, it follows that some one must teach them. How many are really capable of teaching anything beyond the "a, b, abs." with their hands tied behind them? It is not enough that a teacher may call up the class in geography and perfunctorily conduct a recitation with her eyes glued to the book. A teacher should inspire pupils with the love of study. He should make the recitation interesting. All this applies not only to the teachings of agriculture but to all branches taught in the country school, and serves to emphasize the need of adopting the central or township school system. It is very difficult for any teacher to develop the proper interest and enthusiasm in the work of any branch of study with only an attendance of two or three pupils. On the other hand, it is a great waste to employ good teachers for only two or three students when they can better instruct several times that number. Under the present system there is a large number of schools where the number of pupils is no larger than the above. When the centralized plan is adopted it will be possible with the same outlay to supply a much better class of instruction in all branches and with 94 per cent of the schools eliminated we believe it would be possible to obtain an instructor for each of the remainder that would be competent to give instruction in the elementary principles of agriculture. We believe our agricultural colleges have the capacity to turn out such instructors as fast as they would be wanted for such positions; and, as in all other things, whenever a demand is created the supply will be forthcoming. The instruction may be crude at the start, as are most new enterprises; but everything must have a beginning and strength is gained by growth and experience. Some of the European countries have been going ahead of us in putting these things into practice. For example, in the rural districts of Sweden a garden is attached to every school, and the children receive practical instruction in the cultivation of flowers, fruits and vegetables, and in the management of hot beds, green-houses and so forth.

Handy Gates.
The following sketch shows a farmer's handy gate made of 1x3-inch slats throughout that need no braces and does not sag. The posts at the center and on hinge end rest on slats fastened



HOW THE MACHINE WORKS.

nect with the cow's teats, and the pressure, it is claimed, causes the milk to flow readily. We know nothing of the merits of the machine. The illustration is given to indicate the continued efforts that are being made along the line of dairy inventions.—Farm and Ranch.

How Fruit Men Co-operate.
Co-operation in fruit selling has reached an advanced stage in the Michigan apple belt. For instance, in the case of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ludington, the stock amounts to five hundred shares, and each subscriber must take at least one share for five acres of orchard. The company owns a large packing house, with a side track on one side and a wagon drive on the other. There is a wide veranda on both sides, enclosed with slats. Six roller grades, which separate the fruit into three sizes, are used. Baskets are stored in the second story, and drop down through chutes to the packing tables, which are covered with canvas. When the fruit is delivered, each man receives credit for the proper number of bushels of the given varieties. The fruit is then graded and packed, and each person receives his share of the proceeds when the fruit is sold. The secretary of the company looks after the buying and selling, and has charge of the packing house. In this way a uniform product is secured which large buyers can depend upon, and the middleman and his exactions are excluded.—Massachusetts Ploughman.

Revelations of the Seed Tester.
In a test of five hundred varieties of lettuce by the United States Department of Agriculture, it was found that 132 of them were Black-Seeded Tennis-Ball under other names. A sample of crimson clover seed, costing \$5.75 per bushel, contained so little live seed that \$704 worth would contain only a bushel of good seed. Some Kentucky Bluegrass was so poor that a pound of live seed would have cost \$2.18, and a sample of timothy tested at the rate of \$17 per bushel for the live seed. Some of the seeds sprouted well enough, but the plants were of the wrong kind. Thus a sample of allezoe clover seed contained 328,000 weed seeds in a pound, or at the rate of twenty million per bushel. Such results explain the cause of some mysterious crop failures and equally strange invasions of new weeds.

To Produce Good Wool.
Wool is affected by breed, climate and food. Sheep will thrive in some sections much better than in others and wool from some flocks will bring higher prices than other wools. To produce good wool a sheep must be well fed, but not too much so. If the food is not sufficiently nutritious the wool will lack in strength, be dry, harsh, flabby and rough to the touch. Wool from sheep that are kept on pastures which provide an abundant herb age is long in fiber, soft, white and strong. It is claimed that all nutritious foods produce fine wool, but it is not necessary to make a selection of foods if the sheep have a variety.

Food for Fattening Fowls.
Always fatten a fowl as quickly as possible. Ten days is long enough to get a fowl fat, and it should be confined either in a coop or a number 1 small yard. Give plenty of fresh water, and feed four times a day, beginning early and giving the last meal late. A mixture of corn meal, tare parts, ground oats, one part, scalded corn, one part, crude tallow, one part, should be the best for the first three meals with all the corn and wheat that can be eaten up clean at night. Weigh the articles given, and do not feed by measure.

Storing Ice.
When filling an ice house, place a layer of sawdust fully a foot deep upon the bottom, then put in the ice, packing it closely to within a foot of the side walls, cutting the blocks carefully and evenly to make the mass solid and compact. A twelve-inch space should be allowed, and the sides should be filled with sawdust. Do not fill nearer than three or four feet of the roof, and put about six inches of the sawdust on top of the ice. If sawdust cannot be had, chopped straw, wheat chaff, or

marsh hay can be used, but sawdust is the best material.—New England Farmer.

Selling Produce by Mail.

It is not hard for a farmer to work up an interest in advertising a desirable article in the right way and through the right means. But half the battle is in properly answering the inquiries received. By lack of promptness, clearness, definiteness and test some letter writers will drive away possible customers about as fast as good advertising brings them in. Use a typewriter, which can be bought second hand for a few dollars; answer letters the same day received; by next mail if possible. The first satisfactory reply that reaches the buyer is likely to get his order, and in making the reply satisfactory everything counts. Inclose a sample or picture of what is being sold, if expedient, and try to fix his choice on a definite article or specimen at an attractive stated price, judging what he wants from his letter. It is this tact in adapting the reply to the prospective customer which counts as much as anything in securing orders. His confidence is to be secured, his questions and scruples clearly and tactfully met, and his imagination aroused over some special and definite offer.—American Cultivator.

An Automatic Milker.

Here is a machine for milking cows. It is a can-shaped reservoir of special construction, made airtight so that a vacuum may be produced by the air pump on the cover. Rubber tubes con-



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nect with the cow's teats, and the pressure, it is claimed, causes the milk to flow readily. We know nothing of the merits of the machine. The illustration is given to indicate the continued efforts that are being made along the line of dairy inventions.—Farm and Ranch.

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Hints for the Housewife.

Add a little soda when stewing a fowl to make the flesh more tender.

The remnant of stewed or preserved fruit left from tea will improve a tapioca pudding the next day.

Tinware may quickly be cleaned by rubbing it with a damp cloth, dipped in soda. Rub briskly and wipe dry.

To prevent new lamp wicks from smoking, soak them thoroughly in vinegar before using, and let them dry before being put into the lamp.

To skin beetroot easily and quickly put it into cold water directly it is cooked. Pass the hand down the root and the skin will come off at once.

To prevent gravies from becoming lumpy, remove the pan from the fire while the thickening is being stirred in, after which set the pan back on the fire and cook thoroughly.

An Important Discovery.

Granton, Okla., Feb. 9.—After ten years E. H. Gosney of Granton has at last found a cure for Kidney Trouble. Mr. Gosney suffered very severely with Kidney Complaint and some ten years ago made up his mind to find a cure if one was to be had.

He has tried and tried and experimented with every kidney medicine he could hear of. Although he was always disappointed he kept on trying till at last his perseverance was rewarded and he found a complete cure.

He is a well man to-day and explains it as follows: "Everything failed to cure me and I was growing worse and worse till I tried a new remedy called Dodd's Kidney Pills and I had not taken many of them before I knew that I had at last found the right thing. I am entirely cured and I cannot say too much for Dodd's Kidney Pills."

If you would retain your friends don't remind them of their faults.

Only the sympathetic are entitled to sympathy.

Short-sighted people are naturally close observers.

Mrs. Winslow's SOOTHING SYRUP for children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, etc. 25c bottle.

Marriage adds either to a man's happiness or to his misery.

If a man has neither friends nor enemies he has lived in vain.

When the average man tells a lie he is in a hurry to prove it.

Kissing a woman's lips is considered a great insult in Finland.

Leave your worries at home when you travel. You can get a fresh supply wherever.

These crisp mornings Mrs. Austin's Pancake flour tastes delicious. Ready in a moment. Buy from your Grocer.

A caterpillar's eyes can see nothing at a distance beyond 2-5th of an inch.

For something good try Mrs. Austin's famous Pancake Flour; easy in a jiffy. Your Grocer has it on hand.

The waters of the Dead Sea, where no rudder has been seen for centuries are now being pried by German motor boats.

Women clerks employed in the German state railway offices are not allowed to work later than 10 p. m. or begin earlier than 6 a. m.

Three hundred shoe makers who struck for higher wages in Philadelphia in 1786, were the first workmen to adopt such tactics in this country.

At Swedish weddings among the middle and lower classes, the bridegroom carries a whip. This is an emblem of his authority in the domestic circle.



Mrs. F. Wright, of Oelwein, Iowa, is another one of the million women who have been restored to health by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

A Young New York Lady Tells of a Wonderful Cure—

"My trouble was with the ovaries; I am tall, and the doctor said I grew too fast for my strength. I suffered dreadfully from inflammation and doctored continually, but got no help. I suffered from terrible dragging sensations with the most awful pains low down in the side and pains in the back, and the most agonizing headaches. No one knows what I endured. Often I was sick to the stomach, and every little while I would be too sick to go to work, for three or four days; I work in a large store, and I suppose standing on my feet all day made me worse."

"At the suggestion of a friend of my mother's I began to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and it is simply wonderful. I felt better after the first two or three doses; it seemed as though a weight was taken off my shoulders; I continued its use until now I can truthfully say I am entirely cured. Young girls who are always paying doctor's bills without getting any help as I did, ought to take your medicine. It costs so much less, and it is sure to cure them.—Yours truly, ADELAIDE PEARL, 174 St. Ann's Ave., New York City."—\$5.00 (or 10¢ if original of above letter showing genuineness cannot be produced.)

WESTERN CANADA
Is attracting more attention than any other district in the world. "THE GRANARY OF THE WORLD." "THE LAND OF SUNSHINE."
THE NATURAL FEEDING GROUNDS FOR STOCK
Area under Crops in 1902—1,987,359 Acres.
Yield in 1902—117,922,724 Bushels.
Abundance of Water, Fuel, Plentiful, Cheap Building Material; Good Grass for Pasture and Hay; Fertile Soil, a sufficient rainfall, and a climate giving an early and adequate season of growth. Homesteads of 160 Acres Free, the only charge being \$10.00. Also 40 to 640 Acres, \$10.00. Railways to all the best districts.
Send for Atlas and other literature to Superintendent of Immigration, Ottawa, Canada, or to W. V. Bennett, 801 New York Life Bldg., Omaha, Neb., the authorized Canadian Government Agent, who will supply you with certificate giving you reduced railway rates, etc.

FREE TO WOMEN
To prove the healing & cleansing power of
PAXTINE TOILET ANTISEPTIC
we will mail large trial treatment with book of instructions absolutely free. This is not a tiny sample, but a large package, enough to convince anyone that it is the most successful preparation known to medicine as a cleansing vaginal douche and for the local treatment of woman's special ills, curing discharges and all inflammation, also to cleanse the teeth, mouth, and cure catarrh. Send to-day a postal will do. Sold by druggists or sent postpaid by us, 50 cent large box. Satisfaction guaranteed.
P. PAXTON CO., 218 Columbus Ave. Boston Mass.

In order that a rainbow may be produced the sun must not be more than 42 degrees above the horizon.

Panthers have appeared in large numbers at Kabylia, Algeria. A committee at Algaria is organizing a hunt.

Shortly after sewing her own shroud, a woman named M-sowska died this week at Podol, Bohemia, aged 107.

900 DROPS

CASTORIA

A Vegetable Preparation for Assimilating the Food and Regulating the Stomachs and Bowels of

INFANTS & CHILDREN

Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral. **NOT NARCOTIC.**

Recipe of Old Dr. SAMUEL PITCHEE
Pumpkin Seed -
Aloe Senna -
Rhubarb Sals -
Ginger Seed -
Peppermint -
Oil Turpentine -
Mint Seed -
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Waterproof Paper.

A Perfect Remedy for Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, Worms, Convulsions, Feverishness and LOSS OF SLEEP.

Fac Simile Signature of
Chas. H. Fletcher
NEW YORK.
At 6 months old
35 DROPS—35 CENTS

EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

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For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of

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CASTORIA

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