

John Henry's PLAN

By GEORGE V. HOBART

Bunch and I had framed up a plan whereby we were to corral the money that Uncle Peter was losing at the race track, giving it back to him later with proper admonitions. We were seeking Ikey Schwartz with a view to having him act for us as bookmaker, and we soon located him in front of the Metropolitan. In order to dazzle him, Bunch led the way to Doctor's.

"Leave everything to me," Bunch whispered, as we shaved our heads and put our feet under a table.

"What kind of gasoline do you want to put in your boiler room?" I inquired, as the waiter drew near.

"A quart of Green Seal," Bunch ordered. "That's the only fuel for little me. It has every other kind of suds pushed off the ice. Green Seal for mine whenever I want to hear the ladies sing—how about it, Ikey?"

They flashed a grin and tried to swallow his palate, so it wouldn't interfere with the wet spell suggested by Bunch.

Ikey belonged to the "dis, dose and dem" push.

Every sentence he uttered was full of splintered grammar.

Every time Ikey opened his word-chest the King's English screamed for help, and literature got a kick in the slats.

He was short and thin, but it was a deceptive thinness. His capacity for storing away free liquids was awe-inspiring and a sin.

I think Ikey must have been hollow from the neck to the ankles, with emergency bulkheads in both feet.

It soon developed that Ikey had been up against a losing streak, and he was about ready to quit till his hoodoo went off duty, but if we were willing to pay for the chalk he'd keep the shop open another week, and follow our instructions to the letter.

"How much will it set us back for running expenses?" I inquired, while Ikey dove into the wine-glass and came up again for a long breath.

"Only a few hundred," Bunch broke in. "That's merely a detail, John. Besides, we'll make Uncle Peter pay for the medicine. If it cures his attack of rash of money to the fingers he won't care. You don't suppose we're going to open a life-saving station for his benefit and pay for the privilege, do you? Not for mine, Johnny!"

"You're right, Bunch," I acquiesced; "we'll deduct all expenses before handing Uncle Peter back his squandered fortune; that's only fair."

"In his old sweater upholstered with coin?" Ikey asked.

"Who, Uncle Peter?" I answered. "Say, he has nearly all there is in the world. Every time he signs a check a National bank goes out of existence. He tried to count it once, but he sprained his wrists and had to quit."

Ikey's eyes twinkled. He was so deeply interested he forgot to dip up the bubble-pipe.

"Uncle Peter," I went on; "why, when he goes into a bank the government bonds get up and yell, 'Hello, like a sheep-shearer. He has muscles all over him like Sandow's, just from lifting mortgages. Uncle Peter can make Rockefeller's wad look as mean as a \$5 bill at a church bazaar. Every time Uncle Peter thinks how much money he has he gets enlargement of the brain, just to accommodate the figures—am I right, Bunch?"

"Don't you get that old Gazum upset his doughnut?" Ikey asked in astonishment. "Yonsee is committing a crime to stop an old Gazabo 'like dat from eatin' loose. What he needs is a helper and a hit bit busy."

"John has his job, Ikey; don't mind him, Ikey!" admonished Bunch. "Uncle Peter is well fixed, but if he keeps on throwing his coin at the horses they'll kick their initials all over his assets, sure thing. Now, boys, it's all understood, eh? Ikey, we'll meet you at the track tomorrow and arrange our plan of campaign. Here's to our scheme, and drink hearty!"

They went overboard for a final swim in the Green Seal, when suddenly Bunch tapped me on the arm.

"Look!" he said, and the next instant I beheld Clara J., Aunt Martha and Tacks sailing over in our direction.

With a whispered admonition to Bunch to keep Ikey still I went forward to meet my wife, her aunt and her small brother.

for collecting apartment houses. He owns the largest assortment of people coops in the city. All the modern improvements, too. Hot and cold windows, running gas and noiseless janitors. Mr. Schwartz is the inventor of the idea of having two baths in every apartment so that the lessee will have less excuse for not being water broke."

Ikey never cracked a smile.

"In Mr. Schwartz's apartment houses," I continued, while Bunch kicked my shins under the table; "you will find self-freezing refrigerators and self-leaving servants. All the rooms are light rooms, when you light the gas. Two of his houses overlook the park and all of them overlook the building laws. The floors are made of concrete so that if you want to bring a horse in the parlor you can do so without kicking off the plaster in the flat below. Every room has folding doors, and when the water pipes burst the janitor has folding arms."

"Quit your joshing, John! you'll embarrass Mr. Schwartz," laughed Bunch somewhat nervously, but Ikey's grin never flickered.

"Is Mr. Schwartz deaf and dumb?" Clara J. whispered.

"Intermittently so," I whispered back; "sometimes for hours at a time."

They were talking in the parlor when I saw Clara J. and Aunt Martha and Tacks. Clara J. was looking at Ikey with a look of intense interest.

"Look," he said, and the next instant I beheld Clara J., Aunt Martha and Tacks.

Peaches continued, while the thermometer went lower and lower.

"So he is," I replied, mentally arranging pleasant surprises for Tacks in the near future.

"Then why does his correspondent address him as a Bookmaker?" my wife said slowly, and I could hear the pebbles grinding each other all around me.

"I think I can explain that," Bunch put in quietly. Then, with the utmost deliberation he looked Ikey in the eye and said, "Mr. Schwartz, it's really none of my business, but would you mind telling me why you, a real estate dealer, should have a letter in your possession which is addressed to you as a Bookmaker? Answer me on your fingers."

Ikey delivered the goods. In a minute he had both paws working overtime and such a knuckle twisting no mortal man ever indulged in before.

"He says," Bunch began to interpret, "that the letter is not his. It is intended for Isadore Schwartz, a wicked cousin of his who follows the races. Mr. Schwartz is now complaining bitterly with his fingers because his letters and those intended for his renegade nephew become mixed almost every day. These mistakes are made because the initials are identical. He also says that he—

particular—letter—in—his—possession—does—not—offend—the—ladies—because—while—it—is—addressed—to—a—race—track—gambling—house—the—contents—are—quite—harmless—being—by—a—small—bill—from—the—dentist."

Ikey's fingers kept on working nervously as though he felt it his duty to wear them out, and the perspiration rolled off poor Bunch's forehead.

"Tell him to cease firing," I said to Bunch; "he'll sprain his fingers and lose his voice."

Ikey doubled up all his eight fingers and two thumbs in one final shout and absided.

"I'm afraid we'll miss the 4:18 train if we don't hurry," said Peaches, and I could see that the storm was over, although she still glanced suspiciously at poor Ikey.

"Why they two more quarts of Green Seal and let him wade around in it," I whispered to Bunch as we started for the depot.

As we pulled out of the Mayonnaise Mansion I looked back at Ikey to thank him with a farewell nod.

He was half way under the table holding both hands to his sides, and making funny faces at the carpet.

Bunch was ahead of us, indulging in another choke.

"Birds' Powers of Flight. It has been calculated that a gliding bird, at a height of 1,200 yards, at the moment when it commences to descend with motionless wings, can, setting them at the most favorable angle touch the ground at a horizontal distance of about 15 miles! If the wind fall, large birds can always, with a few wing beats, attain an altitude where they will find a wind which will permit them to continue their journey 'on the glide.'"

"I think when a man has lost a whole lot of money in that manner and then wins it back by accident he should be satisfied and not tempt Fortune again, don't you, Mr. Bunch?"

"I certainly do," replied Bunch vigorously.

"Oh, I'm all through," I added. "I wouldn't bet another dollar on a skate not if they promised to hurry it around the track in an automobile—not for mine!"

Clara J. patted me lovingly on the back and Aunt Martha beamed over her glasses.

Bunch was fixing his throat for another choke when suddenly my youthful brother-in-law, Tacks, came to the surface with a letter in his hand.

Tacks had spotted the missive lying on the floor near Ikey's chair, so young Mr. Butinski had to get busy and pick it up.

"Here's a letter I found on the floor," he chirped, and then to show the profound depths of his learning the little imp read the address in slow, deliberate tones. "Mr. I. Schwartz, Bookmaker, Brighton Beach Race Track, New York."

Clara J. went into the ice business right away quick.

Ikey never whimpered.

Then Bunch took the letter from the open-eyed Tacks and leaped to the rescue while I came out of the trance slowly.

"It's too bad Mr. Schwartz forgot his ear trumpet," Bunch said quickly, and Ikey was wise to the tip in a minute.

Clara J. sniffed suspiciously and I knew she had the gloves on.

"Mr. Schwartz's affliction is terrible," she said with a chill in every word. "How did you converse with him before our arrival?"

"Oh! he understands the lip language and can talk back on his fingers," I hastened to explain, looking hard at Ikey, whose mask-like face gave no token that he understood what was going on.

"I thought I understood you to say Mr. Schwartz is a real estate dealer!"

Very early spraying with Bordeaux is the thing for all kinds of fungus rot and for peach leaf curl.

Fresh, green bone is of itself almost a complete feed, and may be used as a special material for egg production.

Farmers should not buy more land until that which they already have is producing to its maximum capacity.

Exercise is of prime importance in several ways. It keeps the pigs nimble and in a healthy condition generally.

Before putting the chicks into the brooder it is a good plan to sprinkle them carefully with a good insect powder.

One of the first needs of the pig is a comfortable place in which to pass more than half of the time, sleeping and resting.

Breeding stock should be selected for health, strength, vigor and maturity first, utility second and fancy points third.

It is a well known fact that properly managed a 20, 40 or 80 acre farm will return in addition to a living, a fine income for the family.

The dairyman having a productive farm of 150 to 200 acres can easily raise six to eight of his best marked female calves each season.

The annual income from milk and butter in the United States is said to be more than the output of the gold and the silver mines.

Carrots are fed to horses not so much for their feeding value, but for their influence in keeping the digestive organs in good condition.

It requires ice to handle milk, cream or butter, so see to it that you will be fully supplied with this cheap article for next summer's use.

Fowls should always be starved for at least 24 hours before being killed, so as to have their crops and intestines thoroughly free from food of any kind.

There is a steady demand for nuts. The English walnut, pecan, Spanish, Japanese and American chestnuts, butter nuts and shellbarks are the most profitable.

The difficulties experienced in spreading poultry manure, on account of its sticky consistency, may be obviated by mixing with loam, peat or common stable manure.

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Buttermaking is an art.

Fresh fruit is always delicious.

Gapes is caused by a small worm in the windpipe.

Most farm buildings are built too close to the dwelling.

In preparing a seed bed for sweet clover do a thorough job.

Very little is known about the actual value of rye as a poultry food.

The barn that is banked up will have fewer draughts over the floor.

Don't leave your valuable farm machinery standing unprotected in the field.

Oat straw is an excellent rough feed for sheep. Wheat straw is next in value.

Overcrowding the ewe flock during the winter months is a frequent cause of severe losses.

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Provide shelter for all of the animals on cold and rainy nights of spring weather. Shelter means saving of feed, and making the animals grow and produce better.

The feeding or care of young Indian Runners is the same as for any other breed, but compared to chickens the housing and management required are much easier matters.

If you will figure what poor roads cost you every year you will soon realize the necessity of improvement and you will be surprised to see how easily the improvement can be made.

It is the custom of some farmers to raise a litter of pigs from a sow in the spring that she is a year old, then fatten her for the fall market and keep sows from her litter for breeding the next spring.

An English writer commenting upon the various devices in use whereby a succession of rhubarb may be obtained, states that the most economical and most effective system that has come under his notice is to plant the roots in special beds raised slightly above the ground surface, and having wide alleys between.

While corn, alfalfa, clover and wheat products are generally conceded to be the staple hog feeds and will never entirely be displaced, they will in the future be used more in a combination with other feeds which will give to the hog a more natural allotment of bone, blood, muscle and tissue-building material and heat, fat and energy.

Plan for hatching season.

Keep the hens busy these cold days.

Charcoal is good stuff for the hen's digestive tract.

It's mighty poor policy to let the stock shrink in winter.

Don't feed your fowls so that they will eat too much at once.

Just because fat hens are not good layers, do not starve your fowls.

The best cows are the cows that will fill the pocketbook most quickly.

More cattle die from the effects of being drenched than from tuberculosis.

Potato peelings fed raw in not too large quantities are good for the laying hens.

Warmth should be supplied to all farm animals but not at the expense of fresh air.

When figuring up the profits from the cows for last year don't overlook the fertilizer.

Men love their families, but are inclined to neglect the crops that can be produced for the stable.

Exercise is good for the animals and they should get their share every day when it is possible.

A good dairy sire is one that produces daughters which give more butter-fat than their mothers.

Eggs should be gathered often, especially if the weather is cold and they are to be used for hatching.

Much of the success in poultry keeping depends on the vigor and vitality of the birds themselves.

A male bird that is gallant, always ready to share with the hens, is preferred to one that is too generous.

The by-products of the dairy can be made almost as profitable as the straight products if rightly handled.

A cheap separator is worse than none. Get one that does not waste each year more than the original cost.

Yearlings and heifers should be early taught to drink warm milkfed stop in winter, and cold stop in summer.

Get all the wood ashes you can and apply them to the garden and truck patch soon as you can, and then plow it in.

The number of hens a farmer should keep depends on his interest in the business and the time he is willing to devote to it.

Unless a bird is matured and possesses size, vigor and a sound constitution, it should be barred out of the breeding pen.

For idle horses, straw and well-cured corn fodder may take the place of hay, giving a half ration of corn morning and night.

A man who has a good quality of dairy products and a high-class of dairy stock for sale seldom knows what competition is.

If you are to get eggs, you must have healthy, vigorous hens, and if you wish to keep up the supply you must retain the vigor.

As every poultryman knows, or should know, protein is an important and invaluable ingredient in the ration for egg production.

In planning adornment for the doorway avoid straight lines as much as possible. Set the trees and shrubs in groups or irregular lines.

It is very important that the water drunk by the cows giving three or more gallons of milk daily be warmed to about 60 degrees F.

In winter dairy farmers often forget that nothing is cheaper and more beneficial than pure air, sunlight and a reasonable amount of exercise.

The calf that goes into winter quarters lousy will not do well. Rubbing the calf with a cloth moistened with coal oil and lard will put a quietus on the lice.

It is essential in raising beef to know the characteristics of a prime breed, for in order to command the top price the animal must be in the pink of condition.

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LIVED LONG WITHOUT EATING

Men and Animals Have Made Some Remarkable Fasts a Matter of Record.

The record for fasting, so far as humanity is concerned, is held by Granie, a French murderer, who determined to starve himself to death, and from the day of his arrest refused to eat. In spite of every effort on the part of his warders, who first tried tempting him to eat by placing the most dainty meals in his cell, and when that failed, attempted feeding him by force, he held out for 63 days, at the end of which time he died. Up to then the longest authenticated fast on record was that accomplished by Giovanni Succi, who fasted at the Royal Aquarium, London, for 45 days. But these records sink into insignificance when compared with the fast of a pig of Dover, enshrined in Dr. W. B. Carpenter's "Manual of Physiology." This pig weighed 160 pounds and was entombed for 160 days by the fall of a portion of the chalk cliffs. When dug out it weighed only 40 pounds, but to the surprise of its owner was alive.

THIRST.

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RAILROAD MAN WRITES

REMARKABLE LETTER

In 1903 and 1904, I was a terrible sufferer for about five months with kidney and bladder trouble. I could not sleep nights and was obliged to get up ten or fifteen times to urinate. I passed mucus and blood continually. One doctor said I was going into consumption and gave me up to die. Had two other doctors but received no help from either of them and am sure I would have been in my grave had I not seen your advertisement in the "Daily Eagle Star." After taking several bottles of Dr. Kimer's Swamp-Root I was entirely cured.

In the last two years I have been a railroad fireman and have passed two examinations for my kidneys successfully, so that I know that my kidneys are in excellent condition now as a result of your great preparation, Swamp-Root.

Yours very truly,
GEORGE KENSLE,
1422 Mary St.,
Marquette, Wis.

Personally appeared before me this 25th of September, 1908, George Kensler, who subscribed the above statement and made oath that the same is true in substance and in fact.

HENRY GRAASS,
Notary Public,
Door County, Wis.