

SLEEPY-TIME TALES

THE TALE OF RUSTY WREN

BY ARTHUR SCOTT BAILEY

CHAPTER I A Pleasant Home.

Now, Rusty Wren had found and shown to his wife—a hollow apple tree and a hole in a fence-rail, either of which he thought would make a pleasant place in which to live.

But since the little couple were house wrens, Rusty's wife said she thought that they oughtn't to be so far from the farmhouse.

"Why not build our nest behind one of the shutters?" she suggested. But Rusty shook his head quickly—and with decision.



Rusty Wren Saw at Once That There was No Sense in Arguing With Her.

"That won't do," said he. "Somebody might come to the window and close the shutter; and then our nest would fall to the ground. And if we happened to have six or eight eggs in it, you know you wouldn't like that very well."

Rusty's wife agreed with him on that point. But she still insisted that she wanted to live near the farmhouse; and she said that she expected her husband to find a good spot for their nest, for she certainly wasn't going to spend the summer in a hole in a fence-rail, or in an old apple tree, either.

Rusty Wren saw at once that there was no sense in arguing with her. If he wanted any peace, he knew that he might as well forget the old apple tree and the hole in the fence-rail, too. He had better forget them

and resume his search for a home. So he gave his plump little cinnamon-colored body a shake and held his tail even at a higher angle than usual, just to show people that he was going to be the head of the house—when they should have one. Then with a flirt of his short, round wings he hurried over to Farmer Green's doorway—after calling to his wife that she would beat upon it; or maybe it was so situated that the cat could thrust her paw inside. Anyhow, every possible nook for a nest had some drawback. And Rusty was wondering what he could say to his wife, who was sure to be upset if her plans went wrong, when all at once he came upon the finest place for a house that he had ever seen. One quick look through the small round opening that led to it was enough.

He knew right away that his search was ended. So he hurried back to the orchard to find Mrs. Rusty and tell her the good news. "I've found the best spot for a house in all Pleasant Valley!" he cried, as he dropped down beside her and hopped about in his excitement. "It's in a good neighborhood?" she inquired calmly.

"Yes, indeed!" he replied. "It's in a tree close to Farmer Green's bedroom window."

"A hole in a tree?" she exclaimed somewhat doubtfully. "Not an old squirrel's nest, I hope?"

"No, no!" he assured her. "It's not really in a tree. It's nailed to a tree. Come with me and I'll show you."

At that the bustling little pair hastened toward the farmhouse. And to Rusty's delight, the moment his wife saw what he had found she said at once that it was exactly the sort of house she had always hoped to have, some time.

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More Truth Than Poetry

By JAMES J. MONTAGUE



Here rioting Reds and bombs bursting in air,
Gave monarchs such grueling bother,
The left to a kingdom took care to be there
Should anything happen to Father.
For if Papa bumped off with the son out of town,
Intent on a pleasant vacation,
He'd find, on returning, the sceptre and crown
In the hands of some scheming relation.

To stick by his royal progenitor's bed,
A prince made a regular habit,
With his eye on the crown on the old fellow's head
And his fingers all measured for a fluke;
No subtle intriguers succeeded
In passing the word to a plotting Grand Duke,
To collar the crown before he did.

But now in the uttermost ends of the earth,
Engaged in the chasing of pleasure,
These youths who were measured for crowns at their birth
Are seeing the sights at their leisure.
From Boston to Gotham, from Gotham to Chi,
They are journeying hither and yonder,
With never a worry that papa may die
While afar from his bedside they wander.

For throne, that were once very pleasant to own,
According to all the advices
That come from the shattered monarchical zone,
Are quoted at very low prices;
And though a young prince may be dished of his crown,
If he's fairly good looking or clever,
He can settle him down in some live Yankee town
And live calm and happy forever.

MERELY A CHANGE OF METHOD

There is nothing startling about a wife offering her husband for sale. They've been trading 'em at Newport and Reno for years.

ELOQUENT ORATORY

In politics when money talks it never fails to an interested and respectful audience.

DESTROYING IT ALTOGETHER

We don't think much of Premier Giolitti's plan to end secret diplomacy. If it ceased to be secret it would cease to be diplomacy.

I'M THE GUY

I'M THE GUY who doesn't smoke, but takes all the cigars you offer him just the same. I pretend I'll smoke them later, "after dinner," because if I admitted that I don't smoke you wouldn't offer them to me. Accepting your cigars saves me a lot of tips, and I can use them in my business and not have to buy them for customers I want to treat. If you're easy enough to part with them, why shouldn't I take them? Of course, I know you offer them because you want me to enjoy them and wouldn't give them to the strangers I hand them out to, but what you don't know won't hurt you. Sometimes they only crumble in my pocket and are absolutely wasted, but as it isn't really my loss and

Condition of Boy Struck

By Truck Is Improving
David McMullen, 17, 3508 Avenue C, Council Bluffs, motorcycle messenger for the Western Union in Omaha, who was struck by a truck driven by Charles Jones, negro, 2220 Willis avenue, Saturday morning at Forty-eighth and Dodge streets, is reported to be getting along nicely at the University hospital where he was taken. Jones is being held by police pending McMullen's recovery. See Want Ads Bring Results.

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The Key to Prosperity

By PAUL GREER.

The key to Omaha's prosperity is transportation.

Let's see how we are fixed for hauling the golden output of the Midwest to market.

"Transportation conditions are better at vital points today than they have been any other time this year," is the carefully weighed opinion of Carl R. Gray, president of the Union Pacific railroad.

"The problems out west here revolve around the box car. Particularly in times of enormous grain crops, closed cars tend to pile up in the east, while here we have a surplus of coal cars, which we do not need. Under a plan of reciprocation among the railroads, empty box cars are rushed back. In the last seventy days, with this artificially stimulated movement, we have stopped the drain on the west's cars."

Omaha's key to prosperity is transportation, and the capacity of the railroads is being steadily increased. Of one hundred new engines ordered by the Union Pacific, fifty have already been received. New refrigerator cars are also arriving, to reinforce the trains carrying meat and other perishable products.

Ten railroads hum with traffic in and out of Omaha. The merchandising service out of this market is prompt and reliable. The delays of the war period are now largely a thing of the past.

It has been true right along that the congestion of traffic was principally in the east. Omaha wholesalers and jobbers, with their large stocks ordered ahead of requirements, have been able to overcome delays on inbound materials and serve the people of the middle west.

Let C. E. Childe, manager of the traffic bureau of the Chamber of Commerce, take the stand. He can tell something new about the advantages of Omaha as a market center.

"In point of service, Omaha has a distinct advantage over many of its competitors," Mr. Childe declares. "All through freight trains for Nebraska points start at Omaha. This means that service to country merchants from here is just as prompt as from intermediate points that may be somewhat nearer."

"The increase in freight rates brings a new factor into the advantages of trading at home. Charges for hauling interstate traffic have gone up 35 per cent. Freight rates within the state of Nebraska have only been increased 25 per cent. This gives an advantage of 10 per cent lower freight rates for Nebraska business houses that buy in their own state."

This is worth clinching in your mind. Just make note of these two facts:

You get prompt service by trading in Omaha. And you save money on freight charges.

These advantages are what might be called differentials enabling Omaha to place its goods on the market more favorably than is possible for its competitors. To every business man it is highly important to have an individual differential. This may consist of better management, better labor supply, better location or lower costs of production.

Whole cities can have differentials over other cities just as can one business house over another. The life blood of a city is its business with the outside world, and those centers that are now forging ahead are the ones that together with natural advantages, are creating new advantages by city promotion.

Favorable transportation facilities is only one factor in Omaha's growing industrial importance, but it is a large one.

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