

a trade to get a star of the start of the

there was a row of four plump tur-And Fatty keys, all sound asleep. And Fatty reached out and seized the nearest one. He seized the turkey by the neck, so that the big bird could not call out. But Fatty was not quite quick enough. Before he could cracker. pull her off her perch the turkey began to flop her wings, and she struck the furkey next her, so that that turkey woke up and began to gobble and flap her wings. Then the next turkey on the limb woke Then And the first thing that Fatty Coon knew, every one of the thirtynine turkeys that were left was going gobble-gob-gob-gobble!

And some of them went sailing off across the yard. One of them lighted on top of the porch just outside Farmer Green's window and it Her seemed to Fatty that that one made the greatest racket of all. ful indeed for the way she received

Farmer Green's window flew up and Earmer Green's voice called Spot' Spot"

Fatty Coon did not wait to hear anything more. He dropped the turkey he had seized and slipped down to the ground. And then he ran toward the woods as fast as he could go.

Farmer Green's dog Spot was barking now. And Fatty wanted to climb one of the trees by the roadside. But he remembered the narrow escape he had had when the dog had treed him near the corn-field. So he never thear the corn-So he never stopped until he reached the woods. Then he went imbly up into the trees. And while Spot was barking at the foot of the first tree he climbed, Fatty was travelling through the tree-tops toward home.

He never said anything to his mother about Farmer Green's turkeys. But the next time he saw Jasper Jay Fatty told him exactly what he thought of him. "Ha' ha''' Jasper Jay only

"Ha' ha'' Jasper Jay only laughed. And he did not seem at surprised that Fatty had fallen into trouble. To tell the truth, he was only sorry because Fatty had escaped. Jasper Jay did not like Fatty Coon. And he had told him about the forty fat turkeys because he hoped that Fatty would get caught if he tried to steal one of

them "Wait till I catch you " Fatty said.

Jasper Jay only laughed But than ever when Fatty said harder He seemed to think it was a that. joke. He was most annoygreat ing.

(Copyright, Gosset & Duniap.)

## Where It Started

The Rapid-Fire Gun, In 1881 the British government or-dered a gun that would fire six-

pound projectiles at the rate of 12 aimed shots to the minute. The gun was supplied, making the first of this type as distinguished from the smaller caliber machine-guns. France produced a three-pounder at about the same time. Hotchkiss, an American working in France, in-vented a three and six-pound model, the first order for which came from the United States. (Copyright, 1920, by the Wheeler Syndle cate, Inc.)

Delicate scales test the lifting power of small balloons used by the United States weather bureau to determine atmospheric conditions high above ground.

strike." "What!" she almost screamed. "Say that again!"

I repeated the statement, while her mouth, which had flown open at my first words, tightened like a nut-"Fiddlesticks"

she exclaimed. I repeated the ticket agent's mes-"That's just a fake. He wants to age for the second time within a give your tickets to some of these half-hour, reflecting whimsically that millionaire snobs down here whom would be letter perfect in it if the he knows, and who happen to want thirst for information on the part of my family continued. Dicky broke em-just for tonight. Did you let him bamboozle you out of your into picturesque and emphatic exreservations? You're always SO letives when he heard it, and I easy! Where was Richard that he didnt see him and settle him?" darted out of the room, glad indeed postpone an answer to the ques-I choked off the laughter that tion I knew was next on his lips as

threatened to bubble from my lips in spite of my very real anxiety tirade was so amusing in view

out being asked.

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\* \* \*

to my reply. (Continued Tomorrow.) of the real facts. But I was grate-

Dog Hill Paragrafs By George Bingham

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## Is the "Christmas Tree" Associated With Christmas?

Digging back into the folklore of various nations, we find a number of legends surrounding the light-and-present-bedecked which is now a symbol of Christmas in a majority of homes throughout the world. The Scandinavians, for example, still relate the story of the "service-tree" which sprang from the blooddrenched soil where two lovers had died, and at certain nights in the Christmas season, mysterious lights were seen flaming from its! branches-lights that no wind could extinguish.

The French version of the story is that one of the early knights found a gigantic tree whose branches were covered with burning candles-some standing erect, some upside down-and at the top, the vision of a child with halo round its head. The knight asked the pope for an explanation of the mystery, and was told that the tree undoubtedly represented mankind; the candles, good and bad humans, and the child was the Saviour.

Sir George Birdswood, the eminent Egyptologist, explains the Christmas tree as "being derived from the ancient Egyptian practice of decking houses at the time of the winter solstice with branches of the date-palm, the symbol

life over death." As a permanent institutionthe Christmas tree can be traced back only as far as the 16th cen-

tury, appearing, apparently for the first time in its now accepted form, in Strassbourg. For several centuries the tree remained a custom which was confined almost entirely to Germany or to those of German descent, and in 1860 the German residents of Paris could obtain a Christmas tree only with the greatest difficulty. Nine years later, however, the trees were sold in the markets and Paris uses now nearly 100,000 of them each year. The marriage of Queen Victoria to a German prince brought the tree to

England, and the German emigrant to America spread the custom through this country. (Copyright, 1920, by the Syndicate, Inc.) Wheeler

to a small boy would have. "Cuss the luck!" he grumbled, climbing out of bed. "I never yet t was now or never if she was to labor. got into a decent sleep but some awping female dragged me out of marry Benny. She realized that to attend to some fool thing. Now they could not just be engaged forget out of here while I dress, but tell me one thing first. What did that ticket agent want?" not marry on his present income. So it was up to Benny-and to her

happily ever after. But things did look dubious. And they looked a lot more dubious than. ever when Mary during the next few days did some quiet little investigationg into local conditions. Not only did it appear that the tide was running against Dawson among the stockholders, but it appeared to Mary that some sort of an undercurrent was also setting strongly against him. What was this undercurrent?

What was going on behind the scenes? Mary was a good little investi-

gator and she soon found out. And what she found amazed and horri-TUTAR fied her.

"There's something wrong going on!" Mary cried to Benny. "That crowd that is supposedly booming Dawson is really going to doublecross him. They're pretending to work for Dawson when they are really straining every effort to make mith the president!"

"You're sure?" "Absolutely!"

Benny's eyes narrowed and he lenched his fists. "I thought somehing like this was going on! But couldn't put my hand on it!" "They're going to have a meeting tonight in Smith's office," said Mary. "Maybe you could \_\_\_\_" She stopped suggestively. Benny's eyes took fire at the half veiled

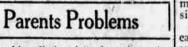
suggestion in Mary's words. 'By jove, I'll go there and break the whole thing up," he cried. Benny was as good as his word.

Early that evening he went to the place where the sub-rosa meeting was to be held. Mary was with him, Clab Hancock says if a fellow having flatly refused to remain away wants to get bawled out right good and proper just let him go into a Benny was familiar with the office man's place of business and throw and knew how to enter one of the in two or three shovels of coal with- connecting storerooms. Once there, he opened the door into the main

office and, holding Mary's hand, sat down to await events. One of the Sims boys, residing on They did not have to wait long. Gander creek, has been in a big city

for several weeks. His mother took he conspirators entered the room. a notion she wanted to see him to-Through a crack in the door Benny day, so she sat down and wrote him recognized Johnson, who had been that she had cut another ham. one of the leading factors in the

Slim Pickens who last week de cided he would trim out his mus tache, has changed his mind, thus wasting all that time for nothing.



can do the things we have in mind," Should a little girl of twelve who has learned to use her father's type-writer, be permitted to do this? Will "It'll be a good joke in Dawson, laughed Smith. "But he won't see the fun of it be bad for her health It is not likely that this little girl icculated Johnson. At this moment Benny saw red will use the typewriter sufficiently to injure herself. She is more likely nd he burst from the store room to injure the typewriter! ... It is a

fascinating toy to both boys and girls, and a little careful freedom not going to stand for this sort of frame-up. You've got to call this in connection with it might be pereal off or I'll spread it all over town the newspapers!"

After long experimenting an English scientist has developed a way to remove the gum which permeates ramie fiber, which may be extensiveused as a substitute for cotton.

mitted.

Shipping board investigations ought to make Uncle Sam, who hired thought she had no brains at all. Shipping board investigations ought to make Uncle Sam, who hired And Mary, being wise, realized that all those dollar a year men, ashamed of himself for employing cheap

## PREPAREDNESS

Apparently all the members of the league took along blackballs in ever and she knew that they could case Germany should apply for admission to membership. (Copyright, 1920, By The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

-to put Dawson over and to live now that you've come in on this flushed face told him that some tre proposition uninvited and have mendous thing had happened. gotten the whip hand on us, we'll "When you're strong and well give you what you" want provided again he's got a splendid job waiting for you-a much better job than you keep your mouth shut. "Give me what I want?" repeated you'd have had if he'd been elected Benny. " "Why," president of the Acme company. You see, when the Acme people "What do you mean?" explained Johnson. blandly, "we'll give you that job turned him down the Peerless Manu-you want so badly if you'll vote facturing company immediately offor Smith and have your proxies do fered him the presidency of their the same. Smith will then have so company and-and he says he needs many more votes for the presiloyal men like you around him. Oh, Benny, I'm so glad you are square dency of the Acme company.' For just a moment Benny gasped. Temptation came to him and honest!

"I ----- I'm glad, too!" ejaculated Benny, too happy to say anything sorely. There was hardly a chance more as Mary bent over and kissed of Dawson being elected, anyhow. him. And if he took up this offer then

Common Sense

By J. J. MUNDY.

The Other Fellow.

everything would be smooth sailing —he and Mary could get married at once. And, after all, he'd merely promised to help Dawson and lots promises were broken every day the business world.

But Benny came of good stock. Loyalty was inherent in him. double-crossing entirely foreign to his nature. And, after the first e course of a year. wave of temptation, he gave John-son his answer: "Not in a thou-sand years! And I'll just tell the folks what you're doing by getting this story into the papers.

"No you don't!" suddenly cried Johnson, leaping at Benny. Johnson was a husky, belliger-ent individual and he bore down will take time or is in the mood. whether you yourself profit by the tempestuously upon Benny, Benny advice you consider so good-for th saw that he'd have to fight. other fellow But there were too many You say to your Sunday school

nents for him. He fought hard, but class, "love your neighbors," but you just despise those snobby little blow after blow was rained upon him, not alone by Johnson, but by women who pass your home each his assistants as well. He, heard Mary scream. Then, suddenly, day with their high-heeled shoes and perky little noses held so high in the everything went black.

When Benny came to himself he And what have they ever done to found that he was in a bcd in a you? Nothing. It is only that you hospital. Mary was seated near him holding his hand. She smiled have no patience with frivolous empty-headedness, as you think. gladly and radiantly at Benny as he opened his eyes and looked at

me!" Mary cried. "You've been sick a long time "How long?" queried Benny weakly. "What's happened?

The Acme elections over!" "And-?" queried Henny, "Nobody but Dawson would be

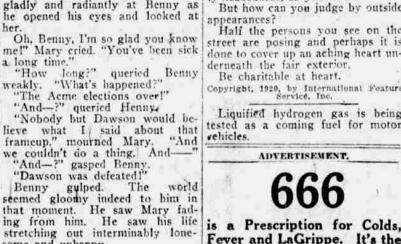
situation frankly. "We'll make Smith the president "And-?" gasped Benny. "Dawson was defeated!" easily," declared Johnson. "Then we

Benny gulped. The world seemed gloomy indeed to him in that moment. He saw Mary fading from him. He saw his life

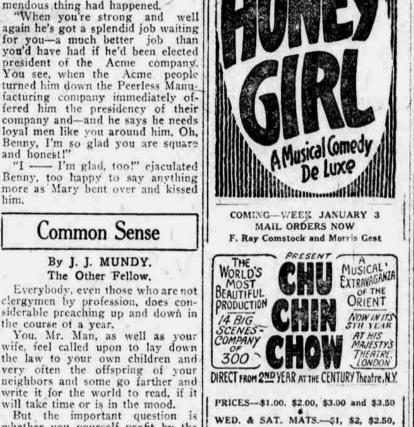
some and unhappy. some and unhappy. cried Mary, squeezing Benny's hand tightly.

ke a young tornado. "You crooks!" cried Benny. "I'm wonderful thing happened!" "What?" gasped Benny again, weakly.

Johnson looked startled at first, but quickly regained his composure. n fact he smiled shyly to Benny. "Don't get excited, young fel-low," Johnson grinned, "Of course, cagerly as Mary's shining eyes and CHRISTMAS DAY



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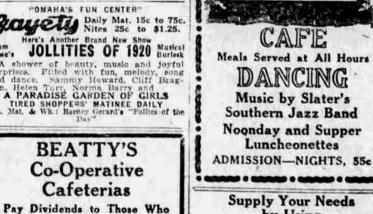
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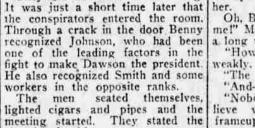
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"Dawson heard of that meeting in Smith's office, too. He was hiding up there when we were. He heard



and the the the march in the second