

SLEEPY-TIME TALES THE TALE OF GRUNTY PIG BY ARTHUR SCOTT BAILEY

CHAPTER II. The New Way to Eat.

One thing, especially distressed Mrs. Pig. Her children would put their fore feet right into the trough...



"You're all greedy," Mrs. Pig retorted.

when they ate their meals out of it. Nothing she said to them made the slightest difference. Even when she told them that they were little pigs they didn't seem to care.

"We're all bigger than Grunty is," said one of her sons—a bouncing black youngster who was the most unruly of the litter.

"I know," said Mrs. Pig. "I know that your brothers and sisters eat your share whenever they can. Farmer Green furnishes enough food for you all. And if you children didn't forget your manners everybody would get his share—no more and no less."

Now, Mrs. Pig, was not the only one that noticed how piggyish her youngsters were at the trough. One day Farmer Green himself remarked to his son, Johnnie, as they leaned over the pen, that that litter of pigs did beat all he had ever seen.

"They came a running at meal time as if they were half starved. It's a wonder they don't get in the trough all over."

Johnnie Green liked to watch the pigs. "That black fellow's the greediest of the lot," he declared. "He's getting to be the biggest. He's almost twice the size of the little runt."

"The runt doesn't get his share," said Farmer Green. "We'll have to do something to help him, or he'll never be worth his salt."

Grunty Pig looked up at Farmer Green and gave a plaintive squeal, as if to say, "Hurry, please! Because I'm always hungry."

And Blackie, his greedy brother, looked up at Farmer Green, too. He said nothing. But his little eyes twinkled slyly. And afterwards he told his brothers and sisters that Farmer Green needn't think he could keep him from drinking all the skim milk he pleased.

"If mother can't make me behave, surely Farmer Green won't be able to," he boasted.

Of course Blackie Pig was very greedy. Otherwise he would never have made such a silly remark. And he soon learned that Farmer Green was more than a match for him.

The next day Farmer Green made a long lid that dropped over the feed trough and covered it completely. And in the lid he cut seven holes. One for each of Mrs. Pig's children.

There was no more jostling at meal time. There was a place for everybody. And Mrs. Pig was delighted with the improvement. When Farmer Green filled the trough, each of the children stuck his head through a hole and ate in the most orderly fashion. To be sure, there was some squealing and grunting, and some snuffling and blowing. But it seemed to Mrs. Pig that no youngsters could have behaved more beautifully.

And Grunty liked the new way of eating, too. But Blackie made a great fuss. He complained because he couldn't stick his nose through two holes at the same time!

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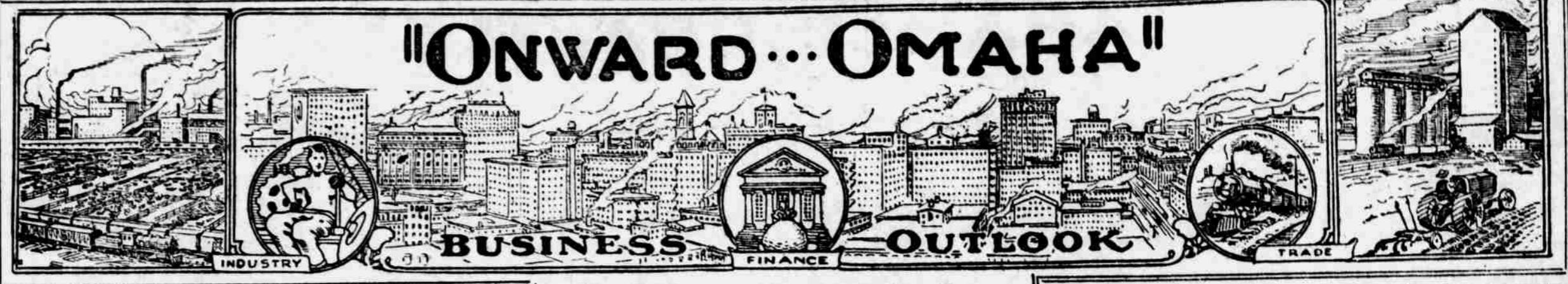
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Here are facts to ponder over: For the first seven months of the present year there were 335 accidents in which 284 were injured and 17 were killed.

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The economic loss by reason of these accidents, in deaths, injuries, loss of cars, was enormous. It is all the more alarming and calling for more thought when it is proven by statistics that at least 80 per cent of the accidents occurring could have been avoided had care been exercised.

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In June, 1920, the municipal affairs committee of the Chamber of Commerce, realizing the increasing number of motor vehicle accidents, conferred with police court judges and public officials.

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The traffic safety committee began a campaign of law enforcement, education in safety methods in the public schools and churches. Later a civilian volunteer traffic corps was organized, with 240 citizens sworn in as special officers to aid in matters involving traffic safety law enforcement.

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With the expiration of the former city government, the citizen cops lost their power of arrest. Commissioner of Police Dunn, soon after taking office, declared he would reappoint the citizen officers, but as yet this has not been done.

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Police records will show that a majority of serious automobile accidents are caused by too much corn whisky. Day after day drivers are brought into police headquarters charged with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated.

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There are careful drivers who will not drive at night for fear of being run down and injured by some careless speed maniac. It is not the fault of the police department, as many of the accidents, in fact, nearly all those of a severe character, occur in the outskirts of the city, outside of the jurisdiction of the police.

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After all, prevention of motor accidents is a matter of personal application. If each motor driver exercised the greatest care possible while behind the steering wheel, there would be fewer accidents.

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It is hoped that the traffic safety committee and its efficient corps of citizen officers will get back into action again. Automobile accidents are increasing too rapidly. This is not in keeping with the Onward Omaha spirit.

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