

A JERICHO FAILURE.

THE ATTEMPT TO FORM A COMPANY OF HOME GUARDS.

Pap Perkins, the Postmaster, Tells How Bill Lapham Sprung His Scheme on the Meeting and How Lish Billings Gave It a Black Eye.

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I was gittin the mail ready to put into the Tarrytown bag when Bill Lapham comes in. Bill runs a goose farm just out of Jericho and has bin gittin up in the world like a basswood tree. I've known fur the last year that he wanted to do sunthin smart to git hisself talked about, and when I scen him come in with his chin in the air I s'pected he'd hit it.

"Look here, pap," he whispers, though we was all alone, "I've struck the biggest, broadest, tallest, heftiest idea ever thought out by mortal man, and I'm hev'n hard work to catch my breath. I'll be hanged if my head don't swim and my knees wabble over it."

"Is it how to grow geese feathers on hens?" says I, knowin he'd bin experimentin in that direction.

"I'd tell you, pap, quicker'n any other man in the United States, but I



"I'VE STRUCK THE BIGGEST IDEA EVER HEARD OF."

want to keep it to hit the crowd with tonight. I want the biggest, bustinest crowd to gather here tonight that the town of Jericho has ever seen. Give every man notice as he drops in today, and along about 7 o'clock I'll hev the fire bells rung and the horns tooted. Tell 'em it's a big thing, pap; tell 'em it's sunthin that's bound to jump this town over a ten rail fence and make city lots wuth a thousand dollars apiece."

There was a good deal of excitement around town that afternoon, and when night came the crowd at the postoffice was as big as the time when war was declared ag'in Spain. Most of 'em thought Bill Lapham was goin to declare war ag'in Mexico or Canada, and everybody was lookin pale when Deacon Spooner called the meetin to order and said:

"Sons of freedom, we hev gathered here tonight to hear some remarks from our esteemed feller townsman, William Lapham, and we kin take it that them remarks will go beyond geese and goslin's. Make your p'int, Bill."

"My p'int is this," says Bill as he draws a long breath and steps out to git room. "We ar' now in the midst of the turmoil of a political campaign. Somebody is goin to be elected. I ain't sayin who it'll be, but the golden opportunity fur which Jericho has sighed is at hand. When the newly elected official takes the oath of office, he will be escorted to and fro."

"That's r'ect," says Deacon Spooner as Bill pauses fur breath. "The speaker ain't through yet, but he's made a p'int already. When he refers to the turmoil of campaign, it's not only high flown language, but a strong p'int. Go ahead, Bill."

"That escort will not only do the president proud," continued Bill, "but every man in it will be mentioned by all the papers in the United States. They'll speak of his wife and children and town and home, and he'll be a big man fur the rest of his life. He kin be elected sheriff without opposition, and if any one runs ag'in him fur the legislature they'll be snowed under. What I'm here tonight fur is to ask the questions: Why not organize the Jericho Guards? And why shouldn't the Jericho Guards be that escort?"

There was yellin and whoopin fur the next five minits, but when the deacon could make himself heard he said:

"It's a p'int, gentlemen—six or seven p'int. I've read all the speeches ever delivered by Henry Clay or Daniel Webster, and both of 'em put together never made the p'int our Bill Lapham has. Bein I hev the floor, I'll say I favor the idea. Yes, sir, I'm with it heart and soul. I want my name to go down fust fur the Jericho Guards, and I'm even willin to sacrifice myself and be captain of the company. S'posin we hear from Abner Jones on the subject."

"I s'pose it's known in this town that my great-grandfather was killed at the battle of Monmouth," says Abner as he gets off the counter, "though I ain't braggin about it. I'll jest say that I'm willin to die fur my country any time I'm called upon, and if I'm elected captain of the Jericho Guards I'll promise that no invader shall set foot on these shores and live for five minits."

"That's a p'int in that," says the deacon as he looks a bit put out. "When a man's willin to die fur his country, that's a p'int in his favor, but of course we want to hear from other patriots. How is it with you, Moses Plumber?"

"Does any man here doubt that I'm willin to die fur America?" asks Moses as he draws himself up. "My great-grandfather didn't die at Monmouth, but the blood of them seven uncles of mine that fell durin the civil war flows in my veins, and my watchword is

"Liberty or death!" As captain of the Jericho Guards you'll find me at the front, and if I don't kill at least seven invaders a week you kin bounce me out."

"The seven uncles and seven invaders is a p'int, Moses," says the deacon, "and I'm proud that we both live in the same town. Bill Lapham seems to be on easy, and I'll ask him if he has anything more to say."

"In the fust place," says Bill, "I'd like to know if everybody is in favor of organizin the Jericho Guards."

Everybody swung his hat and yelled out that he was.

"In the second place, I'd like to know if everybody wants to be captain."

Everybody swung his hat and yelled out that he did.

"But everybody can't be," protested Bill. "I don't want nobody to charge me with bein selfish or conceited, but I'm tellin you that this idea is mine and that I'm the man to boss the Jericho Guards. I believe I'm the only man in this town who wanted to enlist to fight the Spaniards."

"Bill makes a p'int, and we can't deny it," says Deacon Spooner, "but when I offered to lead them guards to victory or death I felt that I was the man to do it. I don't want to crowd Bill Lapham out of place, but—"

"Neither do we!" yell 40 men.

"But he must see!"

"Of course he must!"

Then thar was yellin and shoutin and a great uproar, and Bill Lapham said it was a doggone crowd, and he could lick any two of 'em rolled together. Deacon Spooner hammered on the stovepipe with his cane till he could be heard, and then he said:

"It appears as if we all want to lead the Jericho Guards and die fur our country, and it further appears as if this meetin was gittin mad about sunthin. I notice Lish Billings over by the 'lasses bar's. Lish, what d'you think about things? D'you want to be captain, same as the rest?"

"Noap," replies Lish in his keerness way.

"Ain't you willin to die fur your country?"

"Not by a jugful, but if I was thar wouldn't be any Jericho Guards to die with. You've all bin wastin your breath."

"How's that?"

"Thar's jest 96 men in this town," continues Lish, "and when the war was goin on and thar was talk that it might come to a draft the hull crowd of us went to the doctors to be examined. We had busts and ruptures and short legs and sprung knees. We had consumption and rheumatism and heart trouble. We was deaf and nigh sighted and toothless. Thar wasn't one blessed critter in the hull 96 who was fit to jump over a tow string or chew peanuts, and I kinder reckon we'd better git sunthin soft to eat fur breakfast and carry each other home."

M. HOME.

MULES, RATS AND MEN.

Miners Show Wisdom In Paying Heed to Certain Phenomena.

"Well, that isn't superstition; it's reality," and the coal mine inspector didn't seem a bit pleased with the suggestion that superstition might sometimes be responsible for the actions of miners.

"Coal miners," he went on to say, "are not superstitious. Hear noises? Of course they do, but do people suppose those noises are imaginary? It beats all how little is known generally about coal mining."

"Folks get it into their heads," the inspector continued, "that a man who will quit work in a certain part of a mine because he sees the rats deserting that section is superstitious when, as a matter of fact, he simply displays sound judgment. Very soon after the rats quit sounds will be heard, and later on a slide follows. What would have happened to the man had he credited his fears to superstition by disregarding the exodus of the rats and the subsequent noises?"

"Rats are the first of a mine's inhabitants to realize danger, and then comes the mule. Man is the last. So it is only natural that he should take as positive indications of trouble the actions of the others, and he should not be regarded as a superstitious creature on that account."

"After rats desert an entry it is next to impossible to get a mule into it, not because the rats left, but because the mule realizes the danger. Left to themselves rats or mules would never be caught in slides in mines, but it is different with men, who will not follow the lead of the other two."—Denver Post.

A Cruel Joke.

A Yale Summit girl recently played a cruel joke on her mother, and this is how it happened: She accidentally found a love letter that her father had written to her mother in the halcyon days of their courtship. She read the letter to her mother, substituting her own name and that of her lover. The mother raved with anger and stamped her foot in disgust, forbidding her daughter to have anything to do with a man who would write such nonsensical stuff to a girl. The girl then gave the letter to her mother to read, and the house became so suddenly quiet that she could hear the cat winking in the back yard.—Salisbury Press.

Down and Up.

"Hello, Mike, do you find much to do now?"

"Yes. I'm jest after cuttin down a tree, and tomorrow I'll have to cut it up."—Albany Journal.

False friendship decays, is like the ivy and ruins the wall it embraces, but true friendship gives new life and animation to the object it supports.

Never say die. Expire sounds much better.—Chicago News.

Prices that surprise values that tell. Free quick, rapid sellers that appeal to taste and economy. Our whole store is ready for your business.



We want your trade only if we can give you more for your money than you can get elsewhere. Our best advertisement is never printed. Our goods speak for themselves.

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS.

The Entire Stock Must be Sold.

THIS announcement will certainly be a surprise to the people of Crawford county, as everybody was well aware that I had established a large and successful business. Sixty days ago I had no more idea such a thing would happen than you did. I went east and visited the best markets in America, such as Chicago, Cincinnati, Philadelphia and New York and bought liberally the newest, choicest and fanciest goods ever brought to Denison. After placing all those orders and coming home, I received a letter from a man in the east with the proposition to go into the wholesale business. I have made up my mind to accept same. I don't leave Denison on account of being dissatisfied with the business I have done here, for I have done splendid for a new beginner and I couldn't have hoped it better. Having a chance, however, to materially increase my present position, the prospect is much better than staying in the retail business. This is the explanation "why" I am selling out. Now listen. After making up my mind to leave here, I tried to stop the manufacturers from shipping the goods I had bought, but they would listen to no countermand, so they shipped the goods. Already the shelves are loaded from the floor to the ceiling and new goods are arriving daily.

The People of Crawford County Now have a very exceptional opportunity to buy new, stylish and up to date dry goods at Wholesale prices. We offer a few prices to just give you an idea of what this sale may mean to you.

Underwear Department.

This department is heavily patronized with us at present. A good reason why as we are selling underwear cheaper than it was ever sold here before and its going pretty fast. In a few weeks we hope to be pretty well cleaned up in some lots, so come at once and secure some bargains.

- Ladies and childrens fleece lined union suits, cheap at 50c, special..... 25c
- Ladies heavy ribbed vests and pants, real value 35 special..... 22c
- Ladies extra heavy ribbed vests and pants made of very fine Egyptian combed yarn worth 50c..... 33c
- Ladies all wool vests and pants, regular price 85c special..... 59c
- Ladies silk plaited vests and pants worth 1.25 special..... 79c
- Of childrens wear we have an assortment worth from 30 to 40c at..... 19c
- Boys heavy ribbed shirts and drawers all sizes special..... 19c

Cloak, Suit and Fur Dept.

In this department we have made special efforts and have secured the noblest and most stylish goods we could possibly get in Collarettes, Scarfs, Animal Scarfs—the seasons latest production, and muffs of all description. Our line of Capes, Jackets and Suits is fully equal, if not superior, to our fur's.

- Black Sheared Coney Collarettes, regular price, \$2.50, special sale price..... \$1.65
- Black sheared Coney Collarettes, regular price, \$4.50, special sale price..... 2.98
- Sheared coney combination, lined with bright satin, real value \$4.50, special price..... 2.98
- Genuine Beaver collarettes with tabs and tails in front, regular price \$30.00, special price..... 19.85

Scarfs at all prices. The assortment is so large we cannot quote them here.

- Ladies all wool Kersey Jackets, lined with satin, made with either storm or fur collar very nicely trimmed with appique, worth 15.00, sale price, Ladies all wool Kersey, nicely finished and lined variety of colors, worth 12.50, special..... 7.75
- Assorted lot black and tan jackets worth 9.00 and 10.00, sale price..... 4.95
- Assorted lot ladies jackets worth 5 and \$6 will go at..... 1.98
- Fine fancy Golf Capes worth 12.50, special sale price..... 7.50
- Extra large fancy plush capes with heavy mercedized lining sold for 9.00, special..... 4.98
- One lot plush capes worth 6 and \$7, special sale price..... 3.75
- One lot cloth capes cheap at 5.00, special price.. 1.98

We have misses and childrens jackets at almost any price. We have about 50 or 60 Ladies Tailor made suits that will go at this sale for about half price, so you can buy a suit for less than the material is worth.

Miscellaneous Bargains.

- Germantown yarn worth 85c per lb. special..... 40c lb
- One lot wool shawls worth 35c special..... 19c
- One lot childrens and boys heavy fleece lined hose worth 15c..... 10c
- One lot heavy fleeced wrappers worth 1.25..... 75c
- One lot double fold dress goods a yard..... 43c
- Assorted lot dress goods, large variety of patterns and colors, worth 30 and 35c a yard..... 10c

We will make great reductions on all dress goods. If you need anything now or even if you don't it will pay you to buy.

We have a large variety of outing flannel in a large range of collors and patterns.

- One lot light and dark outing flannel worth 7 1/2c..... 4c
- One lot light and dark outing flannel worth 10c..... 7 1/2c
- One lot wool flannel all colors worth 35c..... 17 1/2c

A LARGE, COMPLETE ASST. of COMFORTS and BLANKETS.

- Good large comforts worth 1.00 special price..... 69c
- Good heavy comforts covered with satin worth 1.35..... 95c
- Big size cotton blanket sold as high as 65 and 75c each..... 25c
- All wool blankets worth 3.00..... 1.75
- Very fine grade all wool blankets sold as high as 4.00..... 2.65

The above are just a few of the many bargains. In fact, everything in our store will go at greatly reduced prices, for the only way we know of to quickly dispose of a large stock is to down the prices. We would like to quote more prices, but the newspaper man must reserve some space for locals and politics. So, in a special friendly and business way, you are respectfully invited to call and see us, even if you do not buy, and prove to yourself that the above are honest values stitched with truthful words.

Capital \$100,000. Deposits, \$300,000

Crawford County State Bank.

DENISON, IOWA.

The Best Security for Depositors. Farm Loans at Five Per Cent Interest.

This Bank is incorporated under the laws of the State of Iowa. This gives the best security to all depositors, not only to the amount of stock, but the personal property of each share-holder is held to the amount of his share for any loss to the bank. Incorporated banks are under the control of the State Auditor, who can at any time examine the business, and according to his his investigation the published statements are made. Depositors in an incorporated bank have more security than the confidence imposed in the officers. They have the best security, because the capital stock can not be used at pleasure for outside speculation and investment. The Crawford County State Bank is the best incorporated banking institution in the County. A general banking business done.

Passage Tickets Sold. Insurance Written. Loans Negotiated.

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