

Bowser Cuts Grass

With the Aid of a New Mower He Trims the Lawn in His Yard, but a Series of Mishaps Causes Police Interference For Fear of a Riot.

[Copyright, 1904, by T. C. McClure.]
WHEN he had finished dinner the other evening Mr. Bowser turned up missing for ten minutes, and when "discovered" again he had on an old suit of clothes and there was a genuine agricultural smile on his face.
 "Are you going to dig a well or chop wood or—anything?" asked Mrs. Bowser as she surveyed him in considerable surprise.
 "Not exactly," he rather sheepishly replied. "Saying nothing of the fact that I need exercise and that I can save \$100 in a very short time, I am going to cut the grass in the front yard."
 "But how? With the butcher knife?"
 He sat down on the front steps, and his agricultural smile broadened and lengthened until it took in hay, oats, corn, wheat and potatoes, and had a lightning rod man come along just then he would no doubt have found Mr. Bowser a soft mark.
 "The boy will be here presently," he finally answered. "I have bought a lawn mower, and it should have been here half an hour ago. However, there is time enough. Yes, I have bought an eight dollar lawn mower, and I purpose to put a stop to the extortionate demands of the scoundrels who go about cutting grass. They have robbed me long enough. The machine will save its cost every month."
 "I fail to see how," replied Mrs. Bowser after a little mental arithmetic.
 "We have got about ten square feet of

dron, but even the youngest of human nature rejoices when a lawn mower is made to suffer. The noise also stopped a man who was passing, and he leaned over the fence and sagaciously said:
 "Cut your brickbats with an ax, my friend. You will find it easier and cheaper."
 Mrs. Bowser's heart stopped still, and the cat forgot to breathe. Both expected the man to be slaughtered in cold blood, but Mr. Bowser only gave him a pitying look and waved him to pass on. The brickbat was picked out of the grass and tossed into the street, and then steam was turned on and the mower started again. To the amazement of the children and other onlookers it cut grass. The green blades flew into the air and hovered over the machine, and the scent of new mown hay became apparent clear down to the corner. Words of admiration were being spoken on every hand, when there was another sudden stoppage. It was so unlooked for that Mr. Bowser's heels left the ground, and for an instant he seemed about to take a header. There was a general groan of disappointment as he saved himself, and the old clothespin he picked from between the blades was looked upon as no real friend of that crowd. Another pedestrian felt called upon to stop and say something. He was an old man and full of wisdom. He was also deaf, and he shouted so that he could be heard forty rods away.
 "If you knew beans from broomsticks you'd use a rake on that grass

Sweets to the Sweet.



Visitor—I've brought you a few chocolates. But I suppose you always have quantities of sweets?
 Ethel—No; I don't. I eat 'em all.

Heredity.
 Binks—Speaking of heredity, do you remember Forrester, who bought some wild land and turned it into a farm?
 Winks—Yes; he was the inventor of a very effective stump puller.
 Binks—Just so. Well, his son is a very successful dentist.—New York Weekly.

A Trembler.
 Mrs. Peck—Good gracious, Henry, how do you wear out your socks so?
 Henry—Why, you see, my dear, you make me shake in my shoes so much.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Home-seekers, Take Notice.
 Very low one way and round trip rates via the Kansas City Southern Railway on September 13, 20 and 27, Oct. 4 and 18, 1904, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas and Indian Territory.
 If interested write for further information to S. G. WARNER, G. P. & T. A., K. C. S. R. Y., 28-41, Kansas City, Mo.

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 Tickets on sale daily during summer months to St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota; Hot Springs and Deadwood, South Dakota; Denver, Colorado Springs, Pueblo and Glenwood Springs, Colorado; Ogden and Salt Lake City, Utah; and many other Summer Resorts in Michigan, Ohio, Canada, New York, and the West, limited to October 31st. Also to Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyoming and Yellowstone Park, limited to ninety days. Write for rates.

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 San Francisco, Cal.—Triennial Conclave Knights Templar, Sep. 5-9, and Sovereign Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., Sept. 19-27. Iowa Special on the Illinois Central starts from Dubuque August 30th. Write for folder and rates.
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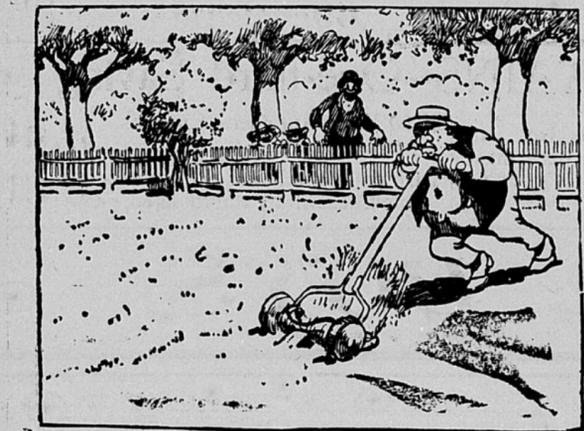
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California.
 The Chicago & North-Western R. Y. has issued a new publication entitled "California." It contains a beautiful colored map of the state, a list of hotels at California tourist resorts, with their capacity and rates, and a most interesting series of pictures showing California's resources and attractions. The prospective visitor and settler should be in possession of a copy of this profusely illustrated folder. Sent to any address on receipt of four cents in stamps. One-way tickets on sale daily Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, only \$33.00 Chicago to the Coast. Correspondingly low rates from all points.

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IT STRUCK A PIECE OF BRICK.

grass to cut. We have had it cut four times at 15 cents a time. We may have to have it cut four times more at the same price. The cost may possibly reach \$2 for the season. How you can save anything by paying out \$8 for a lawn mower I fail to see. Besides—
 "I may not save over \$15 or \$20 this year," he interrupted, "but there are other years to come. I am looking ahead. If I put all the back yard into grass next year it will be a regular hayfield. I have also to figure on the physical exercise. The best doctors in America are a unit in agreeing that shoving a lawn mower around is the best thing ever discovered for spinal complaint."
 "And you have finally developed that, have you?"
 Before Mr. Bowser had got ready to answer a boy came from the hardware store with the mower. It was painted red and green, and he was dragging it along the sidewalk and making as much noise as possible, and he was of course followed by a goat, two dogs and fifteen children. The procession stopped with a bang before the Bowser gate, and the crowd was at once addressed by children from across the street. If there was any circus going on around there they wanted to see it.
 "You might have known how it would be," said Mrs. Bowser as she surveyed the gathering and noticed that nearly every family on the block was sitting out to get the air.
 "Don't you worry yourself, Mrs. Bowser. I have bought a lawn mower, and I propose to use it, and if the sight of a man using such a machine sets the whole town rubbernecking let 'em go ahead and gawp. Please inform me what in thunder is the matter. Do you expect the machine to bust up and wreck the neighborhood?"
 "No, of course not; but, you see, you have never run a lawn mower before, and—"
 "And I may knock down the front fence or run over and kill three or four people! Yes, there is some danger of it, but I will be very careful of it for the sake of you and the cat. If you fear bloodshed and devastation you had better hide down cellar till it's all over. I shall now begin."
 There was a bur-r-r, and he was at work.
 Lawn mowing and watch repairing are not exactly the same thing, but before you can repair a watch or mow a lawn you must look out for clothespins, brickbats, castor oil bottles and tomato cans. That mower had just got a gait on her and was merrily buzzing away when it struck a generous piece of brick which a boy had cast into the yard in throwing at a cat and was brought up short with a sound that put people's teeth on edge. There was a chorus of delighted exclamations from the children. They were guileless chil-

dren!" he bellowed. "Some men allus begin their work wrong end to."
 For a moment Mrs. Bowser was like one paralyzed, and the cat stopped her purring to choke up, but no one was struck dead. Mr. Bowser got red in the face and his ears twitched, but he hid the volcano raging in his breast with a bland smile and removed the obstruction. As it was thrown over the fence the children scrambled for it, and a battle royal was the consequence. The attention of a policeman standing on the corner was attracted, and he came strolling down to halt at the gate and inquire:
 "Doin' the lawn mowin' act, eh?"
 "Just a little," was the reply.
 "Yes, he's mad at the grass and means to give it fits," put in a small boy.
 "I'd have hired it done," said the officer as he encouraged the boy with a smile.
 Mr. Bowser had nothing further to say, but made ready to resume work. The presence of the officer of course attracted further attention, and several vehicles stopped in front of the house that their drivers might learn what the rumpus was about. It took nerve on Bowser's part to starboard his helm and go ahead, but he would not take a bluff. He had shoved the mower almost eleven feet, and was doing beautiful work, when the shaft picked up a long piece of rusty wire and wound it up to a stop. Then the policeman laughed, the children clapped their hands, and words of satisfaction were heard from the sitters.
 "If you want my advice"—began the officer, but he was interrupted with:
 "But I don't."
 "Then I'll give it to you just the same. Take it in! You are raisin' a row and disturbin' the peace."
 "Yes, take it in!" shouted a dozen boys.
 "Take it in, of course!" echoed a dozen sitters.
 "If you don't I'll have to take you in," continued the bluecoat. "I don't say there's any law agin a man runnin' a lawn mower, but he's got to do it without creatin' an excitement. Here's a crowd that is worked up to such a pitch of frenzy that it's ready to tear down buildin's and murder Chinymen, and you've got to get that machine into the back yard or become responsible to the law."
 Mr. Bowser got it there, and, towering over Mrs. Bowser, who had vacated the steps and closed the front door, he said:
 "Woman, I have been guyed, humiliated and browbeaten, and it's all on your account. You will take the 10-10 train for your mother's home tomorrow morning, and as soon as the necessary legal papers can be made out we will see about the divorce and alimony."
 M. QUAD.

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