

Bowser's Winter Scheme

It Met the Fate of Many Other Great Ideas.

By M. QUAD. Copyright, 1914, by Associated Literary Press.

After dinner, during which he had seemed much preoccupied, Mr. Bowser had passed through the kitchen into the back yard and poured about two pails of water into an empty barrel.

The cook looked at him suspiciously from the half open door, and Mrs. Bowser wondered what he was up to, but nothing was said until he had kicked off his shoes and settled down for the evening.

"Perhaps the discovery only alluded to very soft snow," suggested Mrs. Bowser.

"Soft snow be hanged!" he shouted. "I tell you this is all right. The stuff I put in cost \$1.50, and it's bound to work."

"Then why don't it work? And if it cost \$1.50 for two pailsful, how are you going to remove snow for a cent a ton? I hope you have got a good thing, but it strikes me—"

"Oh, yes; you are always being struck!" he interrupted. "And this very minute you are hoping I will make a failure of this thing. But I won't, though. Perhaps it needs more stirring."

He seized the stick and stirred and swirled and poked, and again the clunk of ice was heard. The smell was ranker, but that was the only result.

"Perhaps the dying sailor left the wrong manuscript," said Mrs. Bowser quietly, by way of breaking the painful silence.

"Why don't he take a teakettle of hot water to melt it?" queried the cook.

"By the living jingo, but she'll work or bust!" shouted Mr. Bowser as a wave of anger surged over him.

"Stand back there and gimme more room!"

He seized the barrel with a strong grip and upended it over the chunk of ice and then gave it a kick that sent it flying across the yard.

Mrs. Bowser and the cook had retreated to a safe distance, but the cat had advanced to satisfy her feline curiosity.

As the barrel went rolling the cat screamed and began jumping up and down, but in half a minute changed from jumping to a wild career about the yard.

"You ought to be ashamed to kick a cat!" exclaimed Mrs. Bowser as the cartwheeling barrel.

"I never kicked her!" he replied. "What in thunder can all her? Gimme a club till I drive her over the fence!"

He was looking about for a weapon when he gave a sudden start. Then he uttered an exclamation and tried to lift both feet off the ground at once.

Then he kicked off his shoes and seemed to start in pursuit of the cat, and he had circled the yard twice before Mrs. Bowser and the cook grabbed him.

"Water—a pail of water—my feet!" he howled, and as soon as the water was drawn he plunged his feet into the pail.

"Now, then, will you explain this circus?" asked Mrs. Bowser as a look of relief came to his face.

"The acid got to my feet," he replied. "There was a gallon of acid, you know. The cat must have stepped into a puddle of it."

Mrs. Bowser got out the bottle of sweet oil and some rags, and the blistered feet were made comfortable, and their sole owner and proprietor hobbled upstairs and stretched himself out on the lounge.

Mrs. Bowser hadn't called him a lunatic or an idiot, but he felt that he had lost prestige and must regain it. She was still cuddling him when he sat up and pointed a finger at her and hoarsely whispered:

"Woman, I understand all!"

"All about melting snow?" she innocently asked.

"All about why my experiment was a failure. Don't seek to hide your guilt by looking at me in that bold-faced way. While I was gone to the drug store you sneaked down and put salt or ashes or vinegar or something into that barrel."

"How foolish of you!"

"That will do! Denials are useless. You can go home to your mother by the 10:20 train tomorrow, and my lawyer will notify you of the legal steps I take. Woman, avanti and leave your victim to die in peace!"

And, having squared himself and accounted for the failure of his experiment, Mr. Bowser drew up his legs and fell into a peaceful slumber.

A Matter of Regret. Husband (at breakfast table)—Oh, for some of the biscuits my mother used to make! Wife (sweetly)—I'm sorry you have not got them, dear. They would be just about stale enough by this time to go well with that remark.—Boston Transcript.

More Modern. Atlas set down the world and got on top of it.

"The next time I carry the world on my shoulders," said he, "I think I'll make a stock company of it."—Life.

Unkind. "Dearie, I've long had something on my mind."

"I wish you wouldn't brag so Frederick."—Detroit Free Press.



THE CAT TIPTOED FORWARD AND SMELLED OF THE CHUNK.

where they want to draw saw logs to mill, but it is a source of expense to the amount of millions of dollars in the cities. It costs New York city alone about \$350,000 to get rid of her winter's snow.

The snow must be shoveled up and carted off, you see.

"Yes, I see."

"Well, suppose the snow could be melted on the streets and in the yards and the water run off into the rivers; suppose it could be done for about a hundredth part of the expense of removal—would there be worldwide fame and millions of dollars for the inventor of the process, or nothing?"

"It would be a splendid idea," said Mrs. Bowser.

"Now you are talking. Now you are offering the encouragement to your husband expected of a wife. Say, my dear woman, I wouldn't sell my secret for \$5,000,000."

"You can melt the snow on the streets, can you?"

"I can melt it as fire melts grease. I can clean a whole city block with one barrel of fluid. I can melt snow for about a cent a ton. It's a discovery that will knock the world off its feet."

"And how did you discover the process?"

"Partly by means of an old manuscript left by a sailor who died in the hospital and partly by a man who was out of work and was willing to part with his information for \$5. It's straight and sure, and within two hours I'll be melting ice to prove it."

"I hope there's something in it."

"Something in it! My dear woman, where I start with one barrel of water I'll end up with ten barrels of gold! Your words of encouragement have done wonders for me. I must now go to the drug store after a few ingredients."

He went, and he returned with three bottles and a gallon jug, the contents of which were poured into the barrel.

Mrs. Bowser still further encouraged him by coming downstairs to see him pour and stir and mix, and the cook was kind enough to remark that Mr. Bowser looked like a man who would not knowingly blow up or set fire to his own house in order to kill off a poor working girl at \$15 per month.

It was an hour before the experiment was ready. The dead sailor's manuscript and the hard up man's advice were to the effect that the mixture need not stand over ten minutes, but Mr. Bowser wanted to make a sure thing of it. The stuff had a rank, acid smell, but he sniffed at it as heartily as if it had been cologne.

A chunk of ice was brought from the refrigerator and laid on the ground, and with a

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT ABIDES

Wondrous indeed was the mission of the Christ Child! He gave himself to the world on the first Christmas day, and with him came every other good gift.

With him came beautiful tables and good cheer in lordly and homely homes and happy parents and merry children. Men's hearts thawed out, and long faces grew shorter, and sad eyes twinkled with glee, and evergreens sparkled with candles and bore marvelous fruit of loving gifts, simple or costly, in millions of homes.

The trees wither; the toys get broken; the glowing tables are lightened of their load. Dec. 25 is succeeded by the cold, dark days of mid-winter, but the spirit of Christmas abides. In a way every day is a Christmas day, for the Christ Spirit does not take its flight. Every day of the year fighting, every spirit goes about their humble, homely tasks. Every day some one is catching the blessed contagion of Christmas and learning that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Ah, yes, every day is a Christmas day to him who leads this secret of secrets! —Rev. P. S. Henson, D. D.

CHRISTMAS SEALS WIN.

Widespread Sales Prove Their Hold on Favor of the Public.

MORE than 44,000,000 Red Cross Christmas seals were sold last December, according to a report issued by the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis and the American Red Cross. In this way \$440,000 was netted for anti-tuberculosis work in various parts of the United States.

The sale in 1913 is a gain of 4,000,000 seals over 1912, or 10 per cent. It is hoped that this year the 50,000,000 mark will be reached. The seal design for 1914 has been selected, and orders for the printing of 100,000,000 seals have been placed.

New York state led the country last year with a sale of over 10,500,000 seals or one for each man, woman and child in the state. Of this number more than 6,825,000 were sold outside of New York city. Pennsylvania came next with a sale of 3,125,000, Ohio was third with 2,800,000, Wisconsin fourth with 2,700,000, and Illinois fifth with 2,500,000. Hawaii sold the most seals per capita, the total sale being somewhat over two for each inhabitant. Rhode Island came second with a sale of two per person.

Beginning with a sale of 13,500,000 in 1908, in six seasons the revenue which these little holiday seals have brought to the anti-tuberculosis campaign has more than tripled, an aggregate for the period of over \$1,900,000 or 180,000,000 seals.

Business Even at Christmas. She was a sentimental young girl and had devoted much time and tender thought to the home decorations for Christmas. Her surprise may be imagined when she came downstairs one morning and found the decorations moved around. The mistletoe boughs that had been half hidden in secluded places had been substituted for the holly wreaths and were now hung in the front windows in plain view of passersby.

"Say, sister," explained her little brother, "you've had that mistletoe hanging up for nearly a week and you haven't had a single customer. You're not up to date. What you want to do is to advertise."—Judge.

Where Santa First Appeared. It was in New York, or, rather, New Amsterdam, that Santa Claus made his first American appearance in some thing like the garb and manner now familiar to all of us. From the Netherlands the Knickerbockers brought with them the Christmas of love and sympathy in religion, of comradeship among neighbors and of festivity in the family.

Notice for Publication. U. S. Land Office at Great Falls, Montana, November 19, 1914.

Notice is hereby given that IRVING T. TYSON, of Kenilworth, Montana, who on August 24th made homestead entry, serial No. 622487, for NE 1/4, NW 1/4, township 28, north, range 8 east, Montana meridian, has filed notice of intention to make claim to the land above described before L. E. Flint, U. S. Commissioner at Great Falls, Montana, on the 5th day of January, 1915, by two of the following witnesses: Fred Hieberg, E. K. Johnson, Arthur Brummet, T. Gill, all of Big Sandy, Mont. R. N. SUTHERLIN, Register.

Notice for Publication. U. S. Land Office at Great Falls, Montana, November 19, 1914.

Notice is hereby given that JOHN H. WILLIAMS, of Fort Benton, Montana, who on April 5, 1910, made homestead entry, serial No. 611480 for west half section 32, township 24 north, range 9 east, Montana meridian, has filed notice of intention to make claim to the land above described before Herbert D. Schmidt, U. S. Commissioner, at his office at Fort Benton, Montana, on the 5th day of January, 1915.

Notice for Publication. U. S. Land Office at Great Falls, Montana, November 19, 1914.

Notice is hereby given that HELEN CHRISTIANSON, formerly Helen Shappell, of Loma, Montana, who on Dec. 21, 1910, made homestead entry, serial No. 610241 for NE 1/4, NW 1/4, township 12, township 25 range 2 north, and E 1/2, NW 1/4, section 27, township 25 north, range 11 east, Montana meridian, has filed notice of intention to make claim to the land above described before A. L. Sutherland, U. S. Commissioner at Colony Bay, Mont., on the 12th day of January, 1915, by two of the following witnesses: Robert A. Lee, Edward Chappell, Richard Chappell, Sarah Chappell, all of Loma, Montana. M. W. HUTCHINSON, Register.

Notice for Publication—Isolated Tract. Notice is hereby given that, as directed by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, under provisions of Act of Congress approved March 18, 1912 (37 Stat. 1912), pursuant to the application of KATHERINE L. STOCKING, serial No. 629165, will offer at public sale, to the highest bidder, but at not less than \$3.50 per acre, at 9 o'clock a. m., on the 15th day of January, 1915, at this office, the following tract of land: NW 1/4, NW 1/4, section 24, township 24 north, range 7 east, Montana meridian.

Notice for Publication—Isolated Tract. U. S. Land Office at Great Falls, Montana, November 19, 1914.

Notice is hereby given that, as directed by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, under provisions of Act of Congress approved March 28, 1912 (37 Stat. 77), pursuant to the application of ROBERT THOMPSON, serial No. 629275, will offer at public sale, to the highest bidder, but at not less than \$3.50 per acre, at 9 o'clock a. m., on the 20th day of January, 1915, at this office, the following tract of land: NW 1/4, NW 1/4, section 12, township 24 north, range 7 east, Montana meridian, containing 37.37 acres.

Notice for Publication—Isolated Tract. U. S. Land Office at Great Falls, Montana, November 25, 1914.

Notice is hereby given that, as directed by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, under provisions of Act of Congress approved March 28, 1912 (37 Stat. 77), pursuant to the application of CYRUS T. NEUBERT, serial No. 629275, will offer at public sale, to the highest bidder, but at not less than \$2.00 per acre, at 9 o'clock a. m., on the 20th day of January, 1915, at this office, the following tract of land: SE 1/4, SW 1/4, NE 1/4, NW 1/4, section 12, township 24 north, range 7 east, Montana meridian.

Notice for Publication. U. S. Land Office at Great Falls, Montana, November 23, 1914.

Notice is hereby given that ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, of Loma, Montana, who on September 17, 1909, made homestead entry, Great Falls, serial No. 62112, for E 1/2, NE 1/4, NW 1/4, and SE 1/4, NW 1/4, section 35, township 27 north, range 8 east, Montana meridian, has filed notice of intention to make three year proof to establish claim to the land above described, before Herbert D. Schmidt, U. S. Commissioner, at his office at Fort Benton, Montana, on the 2nd day of January, 1915.

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