

Bowser the Politician

He is Called Upon by the People to Lead Them to Victory, but When They Make a Strong Demand For Beer He Has It Out With Them.

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THERE was such a self important bearing about Mr. Bowser when he entered his house the other evening that Mrs. Bowser noticed it at once and wondered whether he had finally hit a ten dollar prize in a lottery. He carried himself erect, looked down upon her in a patronizing way, and she was kept on the ragged edge a full half hour before he condescended to explain:

"No, my dear woman, I have not been investing in lottery tickets. It is simply that the political theories I have always held are soon to bear political fruit."

"I didn't know you ever held any," she somewhat bluntly replied.
 "Perhaps not. It is not necessary for a husband to sit down and tell his wife everything. Nevertheless, I have



"I DENY IT, WOMAN!"
 had some theories. Heretofore they have been rather in advance of the people, but the people are now going to catch up."

"In other words, you are going to fuss around with politics again."
 "Your language is very ambiguous, madam," he stiffly replied. "I do not understand what you mean by fussing with politics."

"Why, you have gone into politics three or four times and had a lot of red nosed loafers hanging around, and—"

"That will do, Mrs. Bowser. There is no call to discuss this subject, especially as your animus is so apparent."

"But we will discuss it," she persisted. "Last year you heard the people calling on you to rise and help them throw off the yoke of tyranny or some such nonsense, and you let them make a guy of you to the amount of at least \$50. When they could get no more cash out of you for beer they dropped you with a thud."

"You—you say that to me, do you?"



ENTER THE DELEGATION!

gasped Mr. Bowser as his face turned almost purple and his eyes hung out.
 "Certainly I do. Do you remember in what condition you came home the last night you were out?"

"Woman, no man on the face of this earth would dare talk to me as you do! It is true that the people called upon me last year to lead them, and it is true that—that—"

"That you did not lead them."

"That I was ready to, but for the sake of harmony in the party I drew back and decided to wait till another campaign. How dare you assert that I was made a guy of! How dare you assert that I was dropped with a thud!"

"It may have been a crash instead of a thud," she answered, "but you suddenly went out of politics."

"I deny it woman—I deny it!"

"And when you came home that night your hat was broken, your coat torn up the back and somebody had skinned your nose. Added to this, you called yourself Mr. Bowser and wanted to go to bed on the doorstep."

"And she is talking that way to me—to me!" whispered Mr. Bowser to himself as he sat and stared at her.

"And the dear people have become thirty for beer again and are calling on you to rise once more!" she continued after a moment. "Just give 'em

to understand that there is nothing but cold water ahead of them and see how soon they'll stop calling."
 "She's talking to me—to me!" he exclaimed as he struck himself on the leg to see if he had turned to stone.

"You speak about your political theories and about their being ahead of the people. You haven't got any, and if you had a thousand the people wouldn't want them. You don't care shucks about getting, and no one has ever heard you talk politics for five minutes. Don't let them make a guy of you again, Mr. Bowser."

"A guy of me!" he repeated as he rose up in all his majesty. "Woman, beware! One more insult will drive me to the mad line. This may not technically be called your fifteenth attempt to assassinate me in my own house, but all the malevolence and malignity are there just the same. I came home here expecting a delegation from the Union Preserving and Reformation club to wait upon me at half past 7 o'clock and tender me the nomination of alderman of this ward, and you—you malign my theories, insult my principles and seek to cover my character as a patriot with ignominy. By Joseph, but I won't stand it—I won't stand it!"

"About your pet theories," said Mrs. Bowser as he stamped to and fro. "Please let me hear what they are?"
 "Not one word!" he sternly replied.
 "Have you been looking forward, looking backward or looking seven ways for Sunday?"

"Um!"
 "And so the people want a leader and are calling? Who are they, Mr. Bowser? Please name five or six of the most prominent?"

"Not a name, woman—not a name! It is now close to the hour when I expect the delegation, and perhaps you will do me the favor to withdraw to your room. Let me say to you in the same breath that this subject need never be opened between us again."

"That means you are going into politics again?"
 "I shall lead the people, madam."
 "To what—to what?" She wanted to ask to what saloon, but she faltered over it, and he said:

"I shall lead them to victory through higher and nobler paths, and the day will come when you"—

But a ring at the bell cut him short, and while he went to open the door in person Mrs. Bowser skipped upstairs. Enter the delegation—very shiny silk hats, very shiny noses, very mellow condition. They numbered three, and all three threw themselves upon Mr. Bowser at once and respectively cried out:

"Ah, old man!"
 "It's old Bowser himself!"
 "Shake, old pard!"

Mr. Bowser didn't like it a bit, but by a great effort he worked up a floor-walk, smile and rubbed his hands and said it was a fine evening.

"You bet!" answered the chairman of the delegation as he gave him a slap on the back. "Say, Bowser, you sly old

dog, we are going to elect you by a clean 2,000 majority."
 "Clean 2,000."
 "Clean 2,000."

"Well, I am in the hands of the people," sentimentally replied Mr. Bowser. "If called upon to lead them to victory I'll do my best."
 "Of course you will, old man."
 "Of course."
 "Of course."

"I suppose we ought to get to work and plan the campaign?"
 "Yes. Put on your hat and overcoat, and we'll go over and leave in three beers apiece first. Beer and Bowser—hurrah!"

"Gentlemen, there will be no beer."
 "What! No beer?" shouted the three in chorus.
 "Not a drop."
 "Then, no beer no Bowser. Say, you are an old stiff, you are. You couldn't run for chimney sweep."
 "Out!" said Mr. Bowser as he pointed to the door.
 "Ya!"
 "Ya!"
 "Ya!"

And when he closed the door and turned around Mrs. Bowser sweetly inquired over the banister:

"Was that you coming in or the campaign going out, Mr. Bowser?"

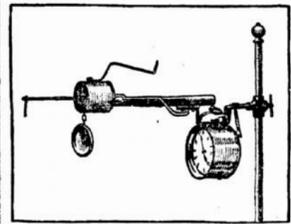
M. QUAD.

AUTOMATIC FIRE LIGHTER.

Match ingeniously ignited by an Alarm Clock.

The automatic match lighter shown in the accompanying illustration, which is taken from the Scientific American, is the invention of Mr. E. Max Gortman of Melbourne, Australia, and it is an exceedingly simple yet ingenious apparatus, capable of being put to various uses. The apparatus consists of a mechanical arrangement for lighting a match at any desired time, the releasing of the match moving mechanism being accomplished by an ordinary alarm clock. For this purpose the alarm winding thumb piece is enlarged so as to form a lever that will strike and release a catch, which in turn releases a coiled spring that suddenly pushes a match holder over a piece of sandpaper, thus lighting the match. The lighted match is thrust beneath the grate of a stove and lights the fire. It can also be made to light a candle, a lamp or a gas stove in the same manner.

The whole arrangement is mounted on a bracket that slides on a vertical rod extending upward from a pedestal.



MATCH PUSHED OUT, LIGHTED

and the bracket can be clamped at any desired position on this rod.

The small lever attached to the alarm winding thumb key of the clock is curved so as to strike the curved releasing catch. A regulatable stop screw is arranged on the bracket and can be set to stop the curved thumb key lever after it has struck the releasing catch. The releasing catch is simply a curved wire fastened in a sleeve within the center cylinder. Both sleeve and cylinder are slotted so as to allow the curved wire releasing catch to slide forward with the central pin when the former has been pushed out of a notch at the rear end of the slots by means of the lever on the clock.

Outside of the central pin, which slides in a sleeve, and between this sleeve and the outer casing is a strong coiled spring which presses against the curved wire releasing catch and through it pushes the central rod ahead when the catch releases.

A spring bumper is placed within the cylindrical case at its forward end for the purpose of cushioning the central pin and stopping it without an extremely sudden jar, which might extinguish the match.

STREET CAR VENTILATION.

Details of an Experiment on a Brooklyn Line.

Reports of the experiments being conducted by various boards of health, with a view to improving the ventilation of closed street cars and railroad passenger coaches, have been received at Washington, says the New York Times. One experiment was made in Brooklyn with a car of the Brooklyn Heights railroad, under the direction of Dr. Walker, chief of the department of health of that city. Dr. Walker sought the simplest possible means of securing a steady current of air sufficient to keep the atmosphere fresh, but without subjecting the passengers to a draft.

According to the report, Dr. Walker had the two openings made in the "deck sash" about ten inches apart, into which were fitted slats to deflect the intake of air to the roof of the car. Between these openings a shingle was extended from the side of the car so that the wind would strike against it when the car was in motion.

The car with which the experiments were made was filled with smoke from burning rags and refuse until the atmosphere was rendered unbearable. It was then set in motion at the rate of fifteen to eighteen miles per hour, and within two minutes and thirty seconds the air in the car was declared absolutely fresh and pure. It is estimated that during the time the car was in motion 300 cubic feet of air per minute came into the openings in front of the shutter, and that a similar amount was exhausted in the rear.

Electric Railroad at Mont Blanc.

An electric railroad is to be built up Mont Blanc on the plans of M. Ballot, an engineer of great ability. The cog-wheel system used on the Jungfrau road will be employed, and the railroad, which will start from a point 8,260 feet above the sea level, will terminate only 810 feet below the summit of the mountain. The tourist will be 14,970 feet above the sea when he steps out of the cars. In making the ascent of 11,710 feet from the starting point the road will traverse nearly eleven miles to lower the grades as much as possible and obtain the most favorable conditions for construction.

A Motor Torpedo Boat.

The British admiralty has decided upon having a motor torpedo boat built. The vessel will be 180 feet long and carry on her deck a tube that can be trained all round. It is proposed that the motor should be placed below the water line and covered with a protective deck. One advantage the motor boat possesses over the steam propelled one is that it has no funnel and makes no smoke. This renders it more difficult of detection at nighttime and of course more effective for use in an attack made under cover of darkness.

ELECTRIC RAILWAY SCHEME.

Aitkin Age: Articles of incorporation were filed last Wednesday with the secretary of state by the Mille Lacs & Minneapolis Electric railway with a capital stock of \$150,000 of which \$80,000 has been paid in. According to the articles the road is to start from one of the lake ports of Mille Lacs in Mille Lacs county and be built towards and finally to Minneapolis. The road is for the transportation of passengers and freight. The highest amount of indebtedness that can be incurred is \$80,000. Following are the incorporators: C. S. Kathan, Mora, Minn.; J. N. True, Little Falls; E. P. McQuillin, Aitkin, and C. H. Warner, Aitkin.

C. S. Kathan is president of the new company, F. P. McQuillin, vice president, and J. N. True, secretary and treasurer. Mr. McQuillin, when seen in regard to the matter informed the Independent that it is the intention to build from a point on the southeast shore of the lake to either Mora or Milaca, at once, and eventually on to Minneapolis. The only thing wrong about it, as it appears to us, is that Aitkin is not included in the project, but that is a matter that can and should be overcome by the people of Aitkin.

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Dorothy Dodd

ORDER FOR HEARING UPON PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF DESCENT OF LAND.
 STATE OF MINNESOTA,
 COUNTY OF MORRISON,
 In Probate Court.
 In the matter of the estate of Daniel L. Fosdick, deceased.
 The petition of Lydia A. Fosdick having been duly made and filed in this Court, representing among other things that on Daniel L. Fosdick, who resided last prior to his death at Rail Prairie, Morrison county, state of Minnesota, died at Rail Prairie in the county of Morrison, in the state of Minnesota, on the 22d day of February 1894, seized of an estate of inheritance in certain lands, and that more than five years have elapsed since the death of said Daniel L. Fosdick, deceased, and that administration has not been granted or had of said estate in this state and praying that the descent of said lands and of the interest of said petitioner therein be by this Court determined and said lands assigned to such persons as may be entitled thereto by law.
 Now, therefore, It is ordered that the said petition be heard at a term of this Court to be held at the court house, in the city of Little Falls, in said county of Morrison, state of Minnesota, on Saturday, the 26th day of Nov., A. D., 1904, at 10 o'clock a. m.
 It is further ordered, That notice of said hearing of said petition be given by the publication of this order once in each week for three successive weeks in the Little Falls Herald, a weekly legal newspaper, printed and published in said Morrison county, at Little Falls.
 (Seal) E. F. SHAW, Judge of Probate.
 Dated Oct. 26th, 1904.

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SCHOOLS ELIGIBLE TO STATE AID.
 Attorney General Donahower has ruled that no country school is eligible for state aid unless the school is open five consecutive months. The answer was given in reply to a request from the superintendent of schools in Swift county. The school board in one district desired to have half-day sessions as a public school and the other half as a German school. This would in reality make the school for half a day a public school and the other half a private one. The attorney general rules that the school must be conducted for five consecutive months according to the requirements of the state before any state aid can be given. The department of public instruction holds that it would be very detrimental to the public school system to the state to establish any precedent in the matter of splitting up the work to suit the demands of district of certain districts.—Ex.

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