

Bowser Is At Peace

Maybe He Won't Kick Again

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Mr. Bowser got out of bed on a Monday morning, after his third cut to breakfast, and proceeded to dress. When he reached as far as his socks they were not in sight. He did not rush to the hall and call for Mrs. Bowser to come up on the gallop and explain matters. He looked around him until he found one of them on his shoe, and the other crumpled in his shoe. He had trouble in finding his collar and necktie, and his watch had somehow worked under his dresser, but he didn't make a kick—not a single kick. He ate breakfast without a kick and, as he walked up the street on his way to the office, he smiled blandly at an old horse lipping down the street.

Mr. Bowser didn't kick when he came home. He didn't kick through out the evening. He was as peaceful as a pumpkin growing under the July sun.

Tuesday morning he had the same One shoe had gotten into the closet, where he had thrown it during the night at a gnawing mouse, and it took ten minutes to remember it. The button had come out of his shirt collar, and he took ten minutes more to find it asleep in bed. Not one kick. Not one swear word. Mrs. Bowser hinted that they would soon need more coal for the kitchen range, but that did not disturb Mr. Bowser's placidity in the least.

And, walking up to the corner, he shook hands with three or four men whom he hardly knew and told an old woman that the war would soon be over and everybody would be rich. If a lonely old mule had come along and brayed in Mr. Bowser's ear he would not have raised a hair.

Tuesday evening at dinner Mrs. Bowser timidly mentioned that she wanted to do some house cleaning next day, and that she would get up in the morning an hour earlier to do so. She held her breath waiting for Mr. Bowser to say that he would stay home from the office and put in the day with her, and, of course, that he would have spoiled the whole thing, but he didn't say anything of the kind. What he did say was that if she wanted any help she could employ it and he hoped she wouldn't let herself out working too hard. Mr. Bowser got up Wednesday morning as early as Mr. Bowser did, but he didn't take hold and slung rags and chairs about. He simply sat down, and read his morning paper, much to the astonishment of the cook, who mentioned to Mrs. Bowser that she was sure going to happen. She was mistaken, however. Not even a frown appeared on Mr. Bowser's face. When he came home in the evening, he found everything as it should be, and made



He Came Back With a Souquet.

some remarks of a complimentary nature. He even went so far as to invite Mrs. Bowser to go with him to the movies, but she was obliged to decline on account of her being late. Mr. Bowser did not bound out of bed with the quickness of a bullet or the agility of an unloper. He clung to that bed as if it was his only hope on earth. Mrs. Bowser called him five times and finally came upstairs and told him in a petulant way that he would be at least an hour late at the office. He threw no shoes at her. He did not reply that he would sleep for a week and the old office might be burned for all of him. As soon as she disappeared he began rubbing his eyes. It appeared to him to think of dressing, but he knew he had slept, and in about half an hour he appeared at the breakfast table.

On the car going over-town, several passengers were astonished. Mr. Bow-

ser usually rushed into his car and took the first seat he could find in a selfish way, but this time he came in very quietly, and took a seat in an apologetic expression of countenance. That evening was a long and peaceful one in the Bowser residence. Mr. Bowser did considerable talking, and it was all pleasant talk. There was a notice which had come by mail that he had not paid his taxes yet, and that a per cent had been levied against him. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred he would have walked about flourishing that piece of paper and defying all the tax departments in the land, and threatening to have blood for the insult. But, on this occasion he read the notice and laughed over it and said to Mrs. Bowser:

"Well, I declare! I am surely getting to be a careless old man. Of course, I must pay for my negligence as all others must."

During the evening a man called and wanted to sell Mr. Bowser a horse, and another man called to see if he didn't want to invest in some coconuts in Mexico, but he turned them away with a few pleasant words, and his right shoe didn't itch to do any kicking.

Friday morning dawned as peaceful as any one could wish. He talked and smiled, and he was so pleased with



He Smiled Blandly at an Old Horse.

the general way in which the cook dropped a platter, and broke it in four places that he whispered to Mrs. Bowser that she ought to have her wages raised at least a dollar a week.

Friday evening was a replica of other pleasant evenings. The minister of Mrs. Bowser's church made a brief call and talked to Mr. Bowser about his son, and Mr. Bowser didn't get mad about it. He seemed to know that he had a soul, and that it ought to be a good soul. He promised to attend church more regularly, and the minister left in high hopes that he had rescued another human being from the downward path.

All men agree that Saturday is the most trying day of the week. If a man is ever going to be mean and grouchy, it is on Saturday. Mr. Bowser was to be tested, but he stood the trial bravely. The roof of his usual hat fell off, and he did not kick. A goat had come along and ate up some of the flowers in the front yard, but there were no threats of taking his tail and keeping it until he was brought low. Mr. Bowser simply smiled and laughed.



He Came Back With a Souquet.

At noon he came home, saying that he would take half a day off. Gracious, but how he could upset that house in half a day. Mrs. Bowser trembled as he entered the hall, but it was a false alarm. There had been no change in Mr. Bowser. He sat around for a while, and then started for a walk, all by his lonely. He came back with a bouquet, which he had gathered on some vacant lots, and sat down to a book which he did not lay down until he had finished it. He was ready. He was not Mr. Bowser, but some other Bowser. He was an intruder. He had commenced things all over, and Mrs. Bowser could not say that she was any better satisfied with the new state of things than with the old. The old Bowser had frequent explosions; the new Bowser was too peaceful and placid and bland. Would the Bowser return in a day or two? She found herself hoping that she did the day and crackers on the hearth.

MOTOR TRUCKS TO CARRY MAILS

New Routes for Parcel Post Expected to Lower Food Costs

WITHIN perhaps the next few months motortruck parcel post routes will be in operation in various parts of the country, covering over 2,000 and 4,000 miles. One chain of motor routes will extend from Portland, Me., to New Orleans. Another will cover much of a large stretch of territory in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and West Virginia. On the Pacific coast routes will be established from San Francisco and Sacramento, Cal., via Stockton and Fruitland, a distance of 150 miles, and between Redlands and Los Angeles, Cal., via Ontario and Pomona, Cal., a distance of 70 miles.

It is the belief of the post office department that the operation of these routes, and others to be established, will materially aid in the distribution and in lowering the cost of food products.

The existing law does not provide for the employment of government-owned trucks, but it does require the rural carriers to use motor vehicles.

In the star route service, however, where the mail is carried under contract, a recent law permitted the post office department to designate the sort of vehicles to be employed, and in awarding new contracts the department will specify that motortrucks shall be employed at all routes where the routes are such as to admit of their use. These contracts are advertised for bidders, and when payment is made for the service is deemed to be exclusively for the transportation of mail.

Further extension of the employment of government-owned motor vehicles by its adoption for the parcel post service of the rural routes, will be made whenever congress enacts a law now pending for that purpose.

Operating under the law is now standards as applied to the star route service, motortruck routes, some under contract and some operated by government-owned motortrucks, are in process of establishment as follows:

New York city to Port Jervis, N. Y., via Belleville, Monticell and Dover, N. J., a distance each way of 80 miles; New York city to Hammonds, N. Y., via Mount Olive, Bradenton, Trenton, Princeton and Elizabeth, N. J., a distance each way of 114 miles; New York city to Easton, Pa., via Montclair, Morristown and Somerville, N. J., a distance each way of 94 miles; New York city to New Milford, Conn., via Pawling, Yorktown Heights, Briar Cliff and Yonkers, N. Y., a distance each way of 70 miles; New York city to Hartford, Conn., via White Plains, N. Y., Danbury and Wateryburg, Conn., a distance each way of 105 miles; New York city to Port Jervis, N. Y., via Goshen and Suffern, N. Y., a distance each way of 84 miles. Other routes being established are:

Philadelphia, Pa., to Easton, Pa., via Hallowell and Drexelstown, Pa., a distance each way of 65 miles; Easton to Reading, Pa., via Bethlehem and Allentown, Pa., a distance each way of 51 miles.

The Iron Age.

The best iron sources give the period from 2000 to 2500 B. C. as marking the transition from bronze to iron. declares the *Chicago Herald*. Prof. J. B. Wilson, in a recent article in the *Pinection Theological Review*, presents pretty nearly all of the available evidence on the subject. The "iron age" seems to have begun earliest in Asia Minor, where iron was used for various purposes as early as 2500 B. C. The people of Nippur used iron knives and arrowheads as early as 2000 B. C.

WESTERN CANADA'S CEREAL CROP

One of the Best Ever Harvested.

The cereal crop of Western Canada for 1917 was the most valuable one ever harvested; the returns from all classes of live stock have been equally satisfactory. The wool clip was not only greater than in any previous year, but the price obtained was double that of 1916, which in turn was almost double that of the year before.

As was the case in 1915 and 1916, many farmers were able to pay for their land outright with the proceeds of the prosperity of Western Canada is shown by the fact that one in every twenty of the population is now the owner of a automobile. The farming community alone is taken, it will be found that the proportion of automobile owners is still greater. The bank clearings of the leading cities of Western Canada were constantly higher than they were in the corresponding periods of 1916 and then they were higher than the year preceding. In Winnipeg \$200,000,000 more was cleared in the 11 months ending November 30 than in the same months a year ago.

The entry of the United States into the war has strengthened the bonds between that country and Canada. We are now working together for the same ends. Those who are not fighting are promoting a greater production of foodstuffs. In this connection Western Canada offers a wonderful opportunity. Not only can larger quantities of staple foodstuffs be produced, but the cost of production is lower and the remuneration greater than where land is more expensive. Notwithstanding the fact that the price of farm products has doubled during the past three years, there are millions of acres of arable land in Western Canada which can still be bought at a low price.

Western Canada has an enormous acreage prepared for seeding to wheat in 1918. It is larger than in 1917, and will probably surpass the record area planted into crop in the year 1915, when the largest crop ever known in the West was harvested. The year 1915 should also see a further increase in live stock activity.

Farmers have been investing considerable sums in cattle; the high prices secured for wool and mutton have opened the eyes of Western farmers to the possibilities of sheep and such with the demand for breeding animals last fall that it was impossible to meet it adequately; the campaign for greater hog production is expected to yield an increase of between 25 and 50 per cent in 1918.

Those who are contemplating coming to Western Canada cannot do better than to come in the spring when they can put in a crop and harvest it from the fall. In this way they will be able to achieve something that they not only be of great benefit to themselves, but also to the great cause for which the Allies, including the United States, are now fighting.—Advertisement.

These routes are now surveyed and are being advertised for bids. Where satisfactory bids are not received government-owned trucks will be used.

These routes already in operation with government-owned trucks are from Washington, D. C., to Leonardtown, Md., a distance each way of 54 miles; from Annapolis, Md., to Baltimore, Md., a distance each way of 65 miles; from Washington, D. C., to Baltimore, Md., via Ridgeville; from Baltimore to Philadelphia, Pa., via Bel Air, Md., Oxford and West Chester, Pa., a distance each way of 110 miles; from Baltimore to Gettysburg, Pa., via Westminster, a distance each way of 53 miles.

Routes in the middle states will form a chain from Indianapolis, Ind., to Columbus, Ohio; Columbus to Zanesville, O.; Zanesville to Wheeling, W. Va.; Wheeling to Pittsburgh, Pa.; Pittsburgh to Uniontown, Pa.; Uniontown to Cumberland, Md.; Cumberland to Hagerstown, Md.; Hagerstown to Staunton, Va.; Staunton to Lynchburg, Va.

Further extensions contemplated but not surveyed are, from Charleston, W. Va., to Columbus, O.; Columbus to Cincinnati, O.; Cincinnati, O., to Louisville, Ky.; Louisville to Chattanooga, Tenn., and Chattanooga to Atlanta, Ga.

Most Likely One.

"On what ground did she sue him for divorce?" "Somewhere in North Dakota, I believe."

To keep clean and healthy take Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. They regulate liver, bowels and stomach.—Adv.

Might seem a hard night, but it puts up a hard night.

Files Cared in 6 to 14 Days

Druggists return GUARANTEED pills to customers. Refund, including Postage. First application gives title. See.

And Uncle Sam should see that we get pure food for thought.

FRICITION IN FAMILY IS FATAL

Unpleasantness in Home Creates Intangible Impalpable Atmosphere, Driving Children Away!

A few serene words from the father, a sharp rebuff from the mother, that was all. But was it all? What about the effect upon Johnnie and Susie, sitting there quietly at their parents' notice that Thomas slipped out of the house at the first intimation that there was to be a quarrel between father and mother? They were quiet, but their little minds are seething and they are clothed in the language of educated, respectable persons; and long after these harsh and unkind words had been spoken the atmosphere of the family living room remained charged with an emotional disturbance in which no one could concentrate his mind upon his reading or study.

Family friction is always fatal to happiness, says Mary A. Lassalle in *Mother's Magazine*, and when there are children in the home it is almost sure to work irreparable harm upon their minds and souls.

One of the most powerful causes of the exodus of young people from their homes at an age when they are not

needed to enter upon the work of life is friction in the family. Young people are by nature loyal to their parents and it is almost never that a young person will give up as a reason for his leaving home the fact that his father and mother quarreled or nag at each other or do not agree upon certain points.

Friction in the home creates an intangible, impalpable atmosphere in which the sensitive child chokes and pants for the free air of happiness, of joy and stunted mentally and morally.

Had Seen Pictures.

Quite recently Bessie, an inquisitive little miss, was talking with an aunt who had watched something in excess of 200 pounds.

"When good people die they go to heaven, don't they, auntie?" the little girl inquired innocently.

"Yes, dear."

"And they have wings and fly all around everywhere, too, don't they?" she persisted.

"Yes," returned the aunt.

"Well, auntie," the little child finally said, "I bet when you die and get wings and fly all about folks will think you're a Zeppelin."

and iron is claimed to have been in use in Babylon five centuries earlier. India is known to have had iron in abundance in 1500 B. C. and the Chinese mention it as having been in use there in 2540 B. C. or nearly 5,000 years ago.

Where Cancer is Common.

Cancer is very common in the richer and more luxurious countries of the world, less common in the frugal countries, and very uncommon or absent in those countries where simple cereal

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to every woman, but good health is vitally important. Attention to liver, kidneys and bowels will improve beauty and health.

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are a boon to women, because they regulate the functions of all these organs without any irritation or disagreeable effects.

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