

THE BROWN MOUSE

By HERBERT QUICK

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CHAPTER XII

At the Farmers' Institute. Every Iowa county has its Farmers' Institute. Usually it is held in the county seat, and is a gathering of farmers for the purpose of listening to improving discussions and addresses both instructive and entertaining. The Woodruff district was interested in the institute, however, because of the fact that a rural-school exhibit was one of its features that year, and that Colonel Woodruff had secured an urgent invitation to the school to take part in it.

Such exhibits are now so common that it is not worth while for us to describe it; but then, the sight of a class of children testing and weighing milk, examining grains for viability and soil seeds, planning crop rotations, judging grains and live stock was so new in that county as to be the real sensation of the institute.

Two persons were a good deal embarrassed by the success of the exhibit. One was the county superintendent, who was constantly in receipt of undeserved compliments upon her wisdom in fostering really "practical" work in the schools. The other was Jim Irwin, who was brooding, fuming, and who felt he had done nothing to deserve fame. Professor Withers, an extension lecturer from Ames, took Jim to dinner at the best hotel in the town, for the purpose of talking over with him the needs of the rural schools.

"You've got to come down to our farmers' week next year, and tell us about these things," said Jim to Jim.

"Can't you?" "Jim's brain reeled. He got to a gathering of rural educators and told his crude notions! How could he get the money for his expenses? But he had that gameness which goes with supreme confidence in the thing dealt with.

"I'll come," said he. "Thank you," said the Ames man. There's a small honorarium attached, you know."

Jim was staggered. He tried to remember what an honorarium is. Was he obliged to pay an honorarium for the chance to speak before the college gathering? Well, he'd save money and pay it.

"I'll try to take care of the honorarium," said he. "I'll come."

The professor laughed. It was the first joke the gawking inventor had perpetrated.

"I'll not bother you to take care of it," said he, "but if you're not too extravagant it will pay your expenses and give you a few dollars over."

Jim breathed more freely. An honorarium was paid to the person receiving the honor, then. What a relief!

"All right," he exclaimed. "I'll be glad to come!"

"Let's consider that settled," said the professor. "And now I must be going back to the opera-house. My talk on soil sickness comes next. I tell you, the winter wheat crop has been—"

But Jim was not able to think much of the winter wheat problem as they went back to the auditorium. He was worth the appreciation of a college professor, trained to think on the very matters Jim had been so long dwelling over in isolation and blindness!

Callista Simms thought she saw something shining and saintlike about the comely face of her teacher as he came to her at her post in the room in which the school exhibit was held.



"Come and Tell Us About Those Things."

Callista was in charge of the little children whose work was to be deposited that day, and was a little of exaltation to which her starved being had hitherto been a stranger. Perhaps there was something similar in her condition of fervent happiness to that of Jim. She, too, was doing something outside the sordid life of the Simms cabin. She yearned over the children in her care, and would have been glad to die for them—and besides was not Newton Bronson in charge of the corn exhibit, and a member of the corn-judging team?

To the eyes of the town girls who passed about among the exhibits, she was poorly dressed; but if they could have seen the clean clothes she had worn that evening when Jim Irwin first called at their cabin they could perhaps have understood the sense of well-being and happiness in Callista's

soul at the feeling of her dress, and the "boughten" cloak she wore—and any of them, even without knowledge of this, might have understood Callista's joy at the knowledge that Newton Bronson's eyes were on her from his station by the big pillar.

"Hello, Callista!" said Jim. "How are you enjoying it?"

"Oh! I said Callista, and drew a long, long breath. 'Ah! enjoying myself' right much, Mr. Jim."

"Any of the home folks coming in to see?"

"Yes, seh," answered Callista. "All the school board have stopped by this morning."

Jim looked about him. There they were now, over in a corner, with their heads together. He went toward them, his face still beaming with that radiant smile which called to the eyes of Callista Simms, but they saw in it only a grin of exultation over his defeat of them at the hearing before Jennie Woodruff. When Jim had the extended hand, he felt the repulsion of their attitudes and sheered off on some pretended errand to a dark corner across the room.

They resumed their talk.

"And what was I saying," went on Bronner. "I want to get this guy, Jim Irwin. Ah! he's the cause of his getting the school. I'd like to be on the board to kick him off; but if you fellows would like to have some one else, I won't, and if the right fellow is named, I'll line up what friends I got for him."

"You got no friend can get as many votes as you can," said Peterson. "I tank you better run."

"What say, Ed?" asked Bronner. "Suits me all right," said Bronson. "I guess we three have had our fight out and understand each other."

"I don't like the matter of Woodruff acts," said Bronner. "He rounded up that gang of kids that shot us all to pieces at that hearing, didn't he?"

"I tank not," replied Peterson. "I tank he was just interested in how Jennie managed it."

"Well," said Bronner, "he seems to take a lot of interest in this exhibition here. I think we'd better watch the colonel. That decision of Jennie's was crooked."

"Veil," said Haakon Peterson, "talk of crookedness wit' Jennie Woodruff don't get very far wit' me."

"Oh, I don't mean anything bad, Haakon," replied Bronner. "But it wasn't an all-right decision. I tank she's stuck on the guy."

The caucus broke up after making sure that the three members of the school board would be as one man in Jim breathing more freely. An honorarium was paid to the person receiving the honor, then. What a relief!

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Again Mrs. Bronner felt the situation getting out of hand.

"Ain't it some of our business?" she queried. "I wonder now! By the way, Jennie keeps his eye on that Simms girl, I shouldn't wonder if it might turn out your business."

"Pshaw!" scoffed Mrs. Bronson. "Puppy love!"

"You can't tell how far it'll go," persisted Mrs. Bronner. "I tell you these schools are getting to be nothing more than sparkin' bees, from the county superintendent down."

"Well, maybe," said Mrs. Bronson. "But I don't see sparkin' in everything boys and girls do as quick as you."

"I wonder," said Mrs. Bronner. "If Colonel Woodruff would be as friendly to Jim Irwin if he knew that every body says Jennie decided he was to keep his capital because she wants him to get along in the world, so he can marry her?"

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STATE NEWS IN BRIEF

Cadillac—For the first time in the history of northern Michigan an effort is to be made to keep highways open all winter. A campaign was put on here to raise enough money to buy snow-fighting equipment and build snow fences.

Grand Rapids—Cornelius Hultenga of Grandville, for many years supervisor of Wyoming township has been selected by the Michigan welfare commission as successor to County Agent Paul Nelson. His resignation is effective January 1.

Grand Rapids—Supr. of Judge L. D. Verdier, a former legislator, has drafted a bill for submission at the next regular session of the state legislature which, if acted, will eliminate delays in the prosecuting of respondents appealing from police court verdicts.

Ann Arbor—The University of Michigan has 1066 sent to its list for graduation during the present year, according to a summary made by Arthur G. Hall, registrar. These students will graduate in three groups in February, June and August. Last year 1,097 students were graduated.

Petoskey—James J. Hitchings, pioneer lumberman and merchant in Petoskey, and former city marshal and deputy sheriff, died here last week, following a long illness. He came here in 1876 with H. Clayton Mich. His family has been closely associated with the growth and development of this region.

Ann Arbor—It would be just as wise for the farmers to discourage the development of anti-husbandry as for physical education, teachers to discourage competitive athletics in the western conference, told the Michigan physical education council at its annual session here.

Battle Creek—The Michigan tubercular ex-soldiers who are now receiving treatment in hospitals in Illinois and Wisconsin are to be sent with the least possible delay to the Roosevelt American Legion hospital here, and with their arrival at the institution they immediately will become entitled to the regular government compensation.

Detroit—Motor trucks plying on regular routes between fixed points are subject to the orders of the Michigan Public Utilities commission and may be required to pay something towards the maintenance of the roads over which they travel. That is the essence of an opinion handed down in the federal court in suit brought against the commission.

Marshall—The board of education decided to name the new park school building the "Isaac E. Cray" school. Cray was the first congressman from the state of Michigan. He was instrumental, with Rev. John D. Pierce, in planning the present school system in this state. Three of Marshall's ward schools now are named after Cray educators, all of whom lived in Marshall.

Grand Rapids—L. H. Tanner, of Detroit, was elected president of the Michigan Furniture warehousemen's association at its first annual convention here. Other officers elected were: Vice-president, A. H. Shank, Grand Rapids; Secretary-treasurer, F. F. Raseman, Kalamazoo; directors, F. Stevens, Jr., Saginaw; G. A. Kloetzel, Detroit; H. G. Bebe, Jackson, and H. H. Stevens, Flint.

Alpena—Free anti-tetanus treatments have been given all pupils of the public and parochial schools in this city. Questionnaires were sent out to all parents to obtain their consent to the treatment in an effort to prevent any tetanosis epidemics here. All of the pupils in the schools of Green Township and two in Oscoda Township already have been given the treatment, the cost of which was borne by the townships.

Greenville—Avery C. Marks, of this city, who has rounded out a service of more than a third of a century with the postoffice, received a personal letter from Postmaster General New expressing the department's appreciation of his long and faithful record and extending wishes for future welfare and happiness. Marks entered the service March 15, 1888, and is a clerk. He will draw a retirement allowance for the rest of his life.

Ann Arbor—One or more graduates of universities in the British Isles will be admitted to the University of Michigan under the provisions of the Frances E. Riggs fellowship, the rules of which have been made public here. Reginald Ivan Lowell, a graduate of the University of London, is now a student at Michigan under the foundation and the donation is interested in bringing to Michigan at once some woman graduate from an English university.

Saginaw—The widening and deepening of Shiawassee river from the point where the Flint river outlet joins it back about 10 miles to the head waters, is being considered, according to County Drain Commissioner David A. Nicol. If this project is carried through, as well as the Flint river cut off, one of the biggest steps toward solving the drainage problem of the Saginaw valley watershed will have been taken. Four other counties, besides Saginaw, would benefit by the improved drainage of the Shiawassee river.

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Hypo-Cod Will Quickly Relieve the Most Stubborn Cough or Cold for You.

There is no reason why anyone should go through this winter suffering with cold after cold or a bad cough. Hypo-Cod, the great health-builder will relieve and rid you of the most stubborn cold or cough. It will also keep you free from colds if you start taking it now, as it will build you up to the point where you won't catch every cold that comes along. William Hoskin of Yale, Mich., writes: "I suffered from bad colds and coughs all of the time. I was always

taking a fresh one. My head was always stopped up and I felt miserable all of the time. After reading about Hypo-Cod and how it rid and kept you free from colds, I got a bottle and started to take it. It certainly worked wonders for me. After taking several bottles I am free from my cough and cold, and my what an appetite I now have! I feel better all over and I am going to continue taking Hypo-Cod for I want to keep well and free from colds." Hypo-Cod is easy and pleasant to take and is sold by all druggists. If you have a cold or a cough and want to lose it get a bottle of Hypo-Cod and start taking it today.—Adv.

Wertless Land Reclaimed. Over 6,000 acres of formerly worthless, unhealthy marsh lands just south of Rome, Italy, have been reclaimed and brought under cultivation.

Kind words not only butter parsnips, but they win fortunes.

COFFEE ARRIVES BY WATER

Chicago.—The arrival recently of a cargo of coffee at the Clark street dock of Reid, Murdoch & Co., marked the first of such shipments coming to Chicago by water from the South American coffee plantations.

The firm purchased the coffee in Colombia, transported it by mule to Girardot and thence entirely by water from this point to the interior of South America to the heart of North America where it was unloaded at the docks of the company in Chicago. This marks a distinct advance over the former methods of transporting coffee and has affected a material saving in cost.

In the future practically all coffee will be shipped to Chicago by water from Colombia, said John MacMahon, vice president of the company.

On to Him. Burroughs—"Good morning, Brown. Good morning, weather, isn't it?" Brown—"Not for bracing me! I can't lead you a cent."—Boston Transcript.

Cuticura for Pimples. To remove pimples and blackheads smear them with Cuticura Ointment. Wash off in five minutes with Cuticura Soap and hot water. Once clear keep your skin clean by using them for daily toilet purposes. Don't fail to include Cuticura Talcum. Advertisement.

Should Say So. Sue—When Paul kissed me good night, he kissed me on the ear. Lu—Gee, you sure cap great!

Say BAYER ASPIRIN

Demand Genuine BAYER ASPIRIN—Insist Unless you see the "Bayer Cross" on tablets you are not getting the genuine Bayer Aspirin proved safe by millions and prescribed by physicians 23 years for

Colds Headache Neuralgia Lumbago
Pain Toothache Neuritis Rheumatism

Genuine Bayer Aspirin—Accept only "Bayer" package which contains proven directions. Handy "Bayer" boxes of 12 tablets. Also bottles of 24 and 100—Druggists.

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Take your choice and suit your taste. S-B or Menthol Bavor. A sure relief for coughs, colds and hoarseness. Put one in your mouth at bedtime. Always keep a box on hand.

SMITH BROTHERS

S.B. COUGH DROPS (Menthol Bavor)

Famous since 1847

CONSTIPATION

Take a good dose of Carter's Little Liver Pills—then take 2 or 3 for a few nights after. They cleanse your system of all waste matter and regulate your bowels. Mild—as easy to take as sugar. Genuine bear signature—Bartlett.

Small Pill. Small Dose. Small Price.