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JOHN D. URIE, Atty.

OLD BESS SURE LAUGHED LAST

By MARY R. RYAN

(©, 1924, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

OLD EBEN, ruefully nursing his left knee, limped into the Bartlett Corners general store. With a nod to "Dad" Whitecross, proprietor of the store, and an uncivil glance at Joe Larrabee, who had bested Old Eben in their last three checker matches, he carefully deposited himself on his favorite box behind the stove, and stared, with unseeing eyes, at the pile of "dress goods and ladies' wear" on the shelf behind the counter.

The open box of prunes beside him, usually seductive, went unnoticed, for Old Eben, as was evidenced by the open-mouthed amazement of the small circle surveying him, was not himself this evening.

"Dude" Jenkins, who had been the town sport 40 years before, but who had long since abandoned his frivolous ways, broke the silence.

"What's allin' you, Eben? Gone and got married? I thought I saw you whitewashin' the Widow Anderson's henhouse last week."

Old Eben ceased his contemplation of the dress goods. Flashing, by way of an answer, a withering look at the audacious "Dude," he tenderly lifted his left leg over its mate, and turned a sorrowful countenance in "Dad" Whitecross' direction.

"Old Bess and me had a fallin 'out today," he began. "You know, 'Dad' durin' spring plowin', she's too busy cuttin' furrows and I'm too busy followin' the plow for us to play high jinks considerable, and that's true, likewise, durin' plantin' and harvestin'. It's different, howsomever, when marketin's over, and all that's left to do is the milkin' and other chores.

"That's why I hitched Old Bess in the carriage today for a trot over to Cummins' Crossroads.

"Bein' as this was our first chance at sportin' since last spring, I'd spruced up a bit and had given Bess a slickin' up all over. So we started down the valley road in good spirits, Old Bess never slackenin' speed until we pulled up in front of Homer Walton's grain store at the Crossroads.

"Hitchin' her to the post, I was givin' Bess a few apples as a sort of appetizer for her oats, when I noticed Sid Perkins' boy comin' along Main street with an armful of groceries that his maw had sent him to the store for. When he came to where Bess and me were passin' the time of day, he stumbled and his packages went kerplunk all over the sidewalk in front of Homer's store.

"I put the apples back in my pockets and was helping the boy pick up the groceries when I noticed what was in one of the packages."

Old Eben paused. He did not appear to notice that the checker players had abandoned their game. He had no eyes for the fact that Sim Adams had forgotten to whittle. After tenderly testing the joints of his left leg, followed by a prodigious sigh, he resumed his narrative.

"It was Cheyenne pepper, 'Dad.' And right there I made a mistake, though old Nick must had a finger in it for sure. Feelin' kind of skittish, I thought it would be a right smart joke on Bess if I put some of the pepper in one of the apples and feed it to her.

"After cuttin' a deep hole near the stem I jammed in about half a spoonful, gave her the apple and stood back waitin' for somethin' to happen.

"It didn't take long for Old Bess to find that pepper. She gave me a quick look of surprise and started to cough and sneeze, while the Adams boy and me leaned on the hitchin' rail and laffed fit to bust.

"With my sides achin' from the laffin' I fetched her some water, but Bess acted mighty suspicious before she would take any, and she sniffed careful-like before eatin' her oats.

"Toward sundown I came back to where Bess was hitched, but not likin' the way she looked at me, I didn't stop to fraternize any, but climbed into the carriage and started home.

"We'd just passed Larkin's bridge and was comin' into the valley road when Old Bess opened up with a burst of speed like she showed nine years ago when she won the county cup.

"I tried to hold her in, but she remembered the pepper and pulled away into a gallop that cut my hands and like to have shook me to pieces.

"You know that hole in the road alongside Perkins' pasture? Well, 'Dad,' Old Bess knows that hole, too, and in 10 years she has always gone around it—that is, until today."

Old Eben's audience drew closer. The ticking of 'Dad's' old clock up above the cider barrel was the only sound heard as the narrator paused before revealing the climax of his strange recital.

"When I had picked myself out of the burdock bushes and had walked the last mile to home, Old Bess was standin' at the gate, and I'll take my oath that she had a twinkle in her eye when I went up to ask her pardon."

Out of Tune

A young fellow was trying hard to explain to the salesman what he wanted.

"Now, haven't you this song? It goes zim-zim, zum-zum, zang-zang. You know."

And the salesman was trying very hard to follow him.

"Sorry," said the salesman, "but I don't seem to recognize the tune. What are the words?"

"Those are the words."

Rhode Islanders Get 100,000th Telephone

The New England Telephone and Telegraph Company recently installed its 100,000th telephone in Rhode Island. The instrument was placed in the home of Nathan D. Zuill, of Pawtucket. Rhode Island, although the smallest State in the Union in area, now has as many telephones as the States of Alabama or Louisiana and exceeds 14 other States in the number of instruments.

Pays to Keep Up Testing of Cows

In Well-Managed Associations There Is Gain in Average Yearly Yield.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

As a result of the study of records of cow-testing associations in all parts of the country, the United States Department of Agriculture has shown that in well-managed associations there is a gain in the average yearly production of cows from year to year. In other words, even though the poor cows are culled out at first, it pays to keep everlastingly at it, as there is always an opportunity for profitable improvement.

Averages Show Increase.

To illustrate this, figures of butterfat production for three associations, one each in Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, show that for the first year the average per cow was 237 pounds,



Boys Learning to Make Babcock Test for Butterfat in Milk.

for the second year it was 255 pounds, for the third year 278, for the fourth 292, and for the fifth year 305 pounds. The last year in the series showed an average production of 68 more pounds of fat than the first year. At 40 cents a pound this amounts to $27.20 a head, and for a herd of 20 cows the increased value would be $544 a year.

Pure Breds Excel.

Production records of 17,405 pure-bred, grade, and scrub cows showed that in milk production the pure breds and grades excelled the scrubs by 12.42 per cent, and in butterfat production by 17.86 per cent.

Proteins in Sour Milk Assist Egg Production

Some of the poultry departments at the agricultural colleges have been making experiments to find out why sour milk increases egg production. A study of the analysis of sour skim milk showed it to contain 90.77 per cent water, 0.10 per cent fat, 3.93 per cent milk sugar (lactose), 0.56 per cent lactic acid, 3.65 per cent protein and 0.79 per cent milk ash or salts.

It was assumed that water alone was not the stimulating factor. The fat content seemed too low, and the distribution of carbohydrates did not point to milk sugar as a possible source of the problem.

A comparison was made of rations containing lactic acid, milk salts, protein-free sour skim milk and sour skim milk. The results showed conclusively that lactic acid in the same solution as in sour skim milk is valueless for egg production. Besides both milk salts and ash entirely failed to stimulate increased egg production.

The results all seem to indicate that it is the proteins or milk curd that is the valuable part of sour skim milk. For two years, the protein-free sour skim milk has not given as satisfactory production as the sour skim milk.

Silage in Ration Will Make Big Money Saving

It has been conclusively proved that silage in the ration makes a saving of considerable money. With dairy animals the feeding of silage saves from 8 to 15 cents on the cost of producing a pound of butter and from 30 to 50 cents on producing 100 pounds of milk. For beef production or the fattening of animals, the saving produced by silage is about $1 per 100 pounds gain, though several experiments show three and four times this figure. The average of $1 is therefore low and conservative, when we consider the growing of young stock, the feeding of dry cows and heifers, the wintering of work horses and mules.

Farm Animals Like Rye Mixed With Other Feed

Farm animals are not fond of rye, but take it willingly when mixed with other feeds. Fed alone or in large amounts it is apt to cause digestive troubles. Fed in large amount to dairy cows it produces a hard, dry butter. A limited amount gives good results. Rye is not a palatable horse feed, but may be safely fed in small amounts with oats. It should be rolled or coarsely ground. It resembles wheat in composition, but is of lower feeding value than wheat or corn. Ground rye is worth about 94 per cent as much per ton as ground corn.

Among the forty-eight States that make up the United States of America, there are five each of which has more telephones than the entire continent of Asia.

Dallas, Texas, with about one telephone for every five persons, now has approximately as many telephones as the entire Republic of Mexico.

There are more telephones in use in the single State of Pennsylvania than in France, Italy, Russia and Austria combined.

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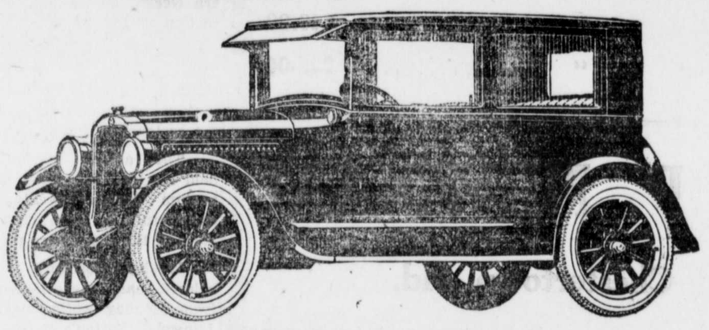
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