

### SORRY SHE SPOKE

The chemist had filled a bottle with a farthing's worth of rhubarb and half a pint of water, and labelled it 'Our Half-crown Heartburn Cure,' when a lady came in.

'I want a bottle of glycerine,' she said.

'Yes,' said the knight of the pestle as he handed it across the counter. 'That will be one shilling and a penny—a shilling for the glycerine and a penny for the bottle.'

'But I had some here a month ago,' said the lady, 'and I paid nothing for the bottle.'

'Is that so?' said the chemist. 'Then that will be one and twopence altogether.'

### AN AXE TO GRIND

This phrase has frequently been attributed to Benjamin Franklin, but it was first used by Charles Miner—born in 1780, died in 1865—and occurs in an essay entitled 'Who'll turn the Grindstone?' originally contributed to the *Wilkesbarre Gleaner*, a country newspaper published in the interior of Pennsylvania in 1811.

The author says that when he was a little boy he was accosted one cold winter morning by a man with an axe on his shoulder.

'My pretty boy,' said he, 'has your father a grindstone?'

'Yes, sir,' said I.

'You are a fine little fellow!' said he. 'Will you let me grind my axe upon it?'

Pleased by the compliment of 'fine little fellow,' the gentleman's bidding was done by the boy, water being procured for him and the grindstone kept in motion until the boy's hands were blistered, the smiling gentleman keeping up his flattery meanwhile. Before the grinding was done the school-bell rang, and after the axe had the proper edge on it the man ungraciously exclaimed:

'Now, you little rascal, you've played the truant; send to school, or you'll rue it!'

The author says that he felt very much wounded and never forgot the incident, and ever afterwards when he saw one person flattering another he said to himself, 'That man has an axe to grind.'

### THE SAFEST PLACE

General Lee used to tell a story about a dorky who served in the war. It seems that during the heat of a battle the general and his attendants were posted on a small knoll watching the course of the action. They descried a colored soldier racing toward them, leaping over obstacles in his path, his face blanched with fear.

He rushed up and fell headlong on the ground in front of Lee, crying, 'Oh, Massa General, let me stay here!'

Lee saw at once that the man was almost frightened to death and useless as a soldier. It disgusted him somewhat, but his curiosity was aroused, and he asked:

'Did you come here to get out of the way of the bullets?'

'Yes, massa; where the generals am is de safest place on the field.'

### FAMILY FUN

An Amusing Experiment.—First place a piece of paper on the floor before you, shut your eyes, walk backward two steps, then try to walk on the paper and pick it up. Then stick a pin in the wall about four feet up and try to pick it off blindfolded. Stand about five or six feet away from a table, shut your eyes, then try to walk up to it without knocking against it.

Nothing grieves the careful housewife more than to see her good furniture mishandled by careless carriers. If you have to shift, be wise and get a reliable firm like the NEW ZEALAND EXPRESS COMPANY to remove your things. They are very careful, and charge reasonably too. Their address is Bond street...

## On the Land

During no time of the year is a variety of feed so important as spring. It is true that grass is nature's own food, but it is too great a contrast from the dry feed fed during the winter.

The percentage of fat in the cow's milk is determined by two things—first, the breed, and second, the individuality. The milk flow may be stimulated by feed, but the fat content cannot be affected under normal conditions.

There were small entries of stock at Addington last week. As a result of the short supplies of fat stock there was a sharp rise in prices. Fat lambs and sheep advanced several shillings per head, and there was little change in fat cattle, except that cows sold rather better. Pigs met with an irregular sale. The yarding of fat lambs was almost entirely made up of one line, only a few other small lots being penned. There was a good demand, and a considerable rise in prices, which ranged from 13s 7d to 19s 1d. The entry of fat sheep was also a very small one, and consequently prices advanced several shillings per head. The competition of butchers to fill their requirements was naturally keen, and accounted for such a marked rise in prices. The range of prices was:—Prime wethers, 21s to 27s; extra, to 38s; others, 15s 3d to 20s; prime ewes, 18s to 25s; extra, to 33s. The yarding of fat cattle totalled 177, or little more than half an average entry. There was little change in prices, cows, however, selling at improved rates. Prime beef made from 27s 6d to 32s; extra, to 35s; medium, 25s to 27s; and cow and inferior, 23s 6d to 24s 6d per 100lb. There was a short entry of pigs, and the market for fats opened at the previous week's rates, but fell away to the extent of 1d per lb. Choppers made 50s to 80s; heavy baconers, 50s to 60s; and lighter, 40s to 47s 6d (equal to 4½d to 4¼d per lb).

A prominent farmer of the Doyleston district informed a press representative that he had come to the conclusion it was almost hopeless to try to tackle the grass-grub. He had never heard of any practicable remedy or preventive, and he was fairly certain that the grub while in the ground was safe from attack, chiefly on account of its wonderful vitality. Low temperatures and wet had little or no effect, and from the trials made by Mr. M. Murphy with quicklime on the A. and P. Association's ground, it would appear that that material was of little or no value.

Prices at the Burnside market last week were higher than has been the case for some considerable time past. There was a falling-off in the yardings of both sheep and cattle, and it was due to this fact that prices showed such a decided upward tendency (reports the *Otago Daily Times*). A total of 2700 sheep were yarded, but owing to the presence of a large number of sheep of indifferent quality, the demands of the trade for prime animals were barely met. At the opening of the sale wethers were about 1s per head dearer than was the case the previous week, and as the sale progressed firmed to the extent of 1s 6d per head. Ewes opened at 1s 6d per head above the previous week's rates, and in some instances there was an advance of from 3s to 3s 6d per head. The prices realised were high all round, ewes making up to 30s 6d per head; heavy wethers, up to 31s 6d, 38s, and 40s 3d per head; good quality wethers, from 24s to 26s per head; and ordinary wethers, from 20s to 22s. About 2050 lambs were yarded, and prices were on a par with those ruling the previous week. There was a reduced yarding of 135 head of cattle, and competition was exceedingly keen. There was a general advance in prices of 15s and over per head. As indicating the high prices ruling it may be mentioned that some of the lines changed hands at £14 12s 6d, £14 17s 6d, £15 5s, £16 5s, £16 17s 6d, £17, and £17 2s 6d per head.

For Influenza take Woods' Great Peppermint Cure. Never fails, 1s 6d, 2s 6d.