

TURNING THE LAUGH

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who has been the popular Prime Minister of Canada for so many years, is one of the thinnest of men, and he once used this characteristic to turn the laugh against an opponent who was attacking him in Parliament.

This gentleman, a big, burly man, accused him of 'fattening at the expense of the poor, deluded people of this country.'

When the time came for him to reply, Sir Wilfrid merely remarked with a smile:

'I ask the House to look at the honorable gentleman opposite and then look at me, and say which of us is more exposed to the charge of getting fat!'

UNDER EXAMINATION

Teacher in mental arithmetic: 'If there were three apples on the table, Johnny, and your little sister should eat one of them, how many would be left?'

Johnny: 'How many little sisters would be left?'

Teacher: 'Now, listen, Johnny. If there were three apples on the table, and your little sister should eat one, how many would be left?'

Johnny: 'We ain't had an apple in the house this year, let alone three.'

Teacher: 'We are only supposing the apples to be on the table, Johnny.'

Johnny: 'Would they be preserved apples?'

Teacher: 'Certainly not!'

Johnny: 'Baked apples?'

Teacher: 'No, no! There wouldn't be any apples at all, as I told you, Johnny; we only suppose the apples to be there.'

Johnny: 'Then there wouldn't be any apples, of course.'

Teacher: 'Now, Johnny, put that knife in your pocket, or I will take it away, and pay attention to what I am saying. We imagine three apples to be on the table.'

Johnny: 'Yes.'

Teacher: 'And your little sister eats one, and goes away.'

Johnny: 'Yes; but she wouldn't go away till she had finished the three. You don't know my little sister.'

Teacher: 'But suppose your mother was there, and wouldn't let her eat but one?'

Johnny: 'Mother's out of town, and won't be back till next week.'

Teacher (solemnly): 'Now, Johnny, I will put the question once more, and if you do not answer it correctly I shall keep you after school. If three apples were on the table, and your little sister were to eat one of them, how many would be left?'

Johnny (straightening up): 'There wouldn't be any apples left; I'd grab the others.'

Teacher (touching the bell): 'The scholars are now dismissed; Johnny White will remain where he is.'

MISSING DUCKS

In a country police court a man was brought up by a farmer for stealing some ducks.

'How do you know they are your ducks?' asked the defendant's counsel.

'Oh, I should know them anywhere,' replied the farmer, and he went on to describe their different peculiarities.

'Why,' said the prisoner's counsel, 'these ducks can't be such a rare breed. I have some very like them in my own yard.'

'That's not unlikely, sir,' replied the farmer; 'these are not the only ducks I have had stolen lately!'

'Call the next witness,' said counsel.

FAMILY FUN

Water Singing in a Glass.—Hold a wine-glass nearly full of water or other liquid by the stem in one hand, and draw one of your fingers, moistened, along the edge of the glass with a steady pressure, when the glass will squeak and the water leap about as if it danced to its own singing.

A Double Vibration.—Provide two discs of metal or glass, precisely of the same dimensions, and a glass or metal rod; cement them at their centres to the ends of the rod, and strew their upper surfaces with sand. Cause the upper disc to vibrate by a violin bow, and its vibration will be exactly imitated by the lower disc, and the sand strewed over both will arrange itself in precisely the same forms.

The Pneumatic Bottle.—Into a four-ounce phial put an ounce of water; in the cork sealing-wax a glass tube, which shall reach a little below the water inside, and cork it up air-tight. On plunging the bottle into hot water, or holding it to heat, the water will be driven by the air within up the tube.

On the Land

A considerable quantity of oats is being sown in the Masterton district this year, farmers being tempted to some extent by the high price of chaff.

The horse is always picking up good habits while he is contracting bad ones, and it requires a knowledge of the horse to make these good habits permanent and develop them into further usefulness.

All admire a good-looking pig, and there is no reason why good looks should not go with the highest usefulness, but neither good looks nor fancy breeding should stand for a moment in the way of the pig that combines vigor of constitution, growthiness, and reasonably early maturity with a form pleasing to the eye of either breeder or farmer.

Instruction in wool-classing seems to have caught on in the Wairarapa. The class at Tinui has a membership of 30, the Bideford class 18, Te Wharau 23, Masterton 16, and Gladstone 18. The Bideford and Te Wharau classes are conducting experiments in top-dressing the soil with different manures, with a view to seeing its effect upon the production of wool.

At the Hawkesbury College, the Kerry cattle have been in use for some time, and they are spoken highly of by the officers in charge of the dairy section. As is well known, the land comprising the Hawkesbury College Farm is of a poor nature—chiefly an admixture of sand and clay. There are thousands of acres of similar land in the State, which could be put to as profitable use were it tested in the same way. The adaptation of animals found suitable to a certain locality is an important phase of rural economy. The case of the Kerry cattle is cited to direct the attention of farmers to the expediency, where necessary, of securing animals better suited to their districts. Kerry cattle are named after the County Kerry, Ireland. Up to a few years ago they were confined chiefly to the south-western counties of Ireland. Shaw, in his 'Study of Breeds,' says that the unnatural conditions which surrounded them for centuries have made them the hardiest of the British dairy breeds. They have frequently been called the 'poor man's cow,' from the great service they have rendered to the cottager in rural districts. The extent to which they have been kept for this purpose measurably accounts for their characteristic docility.

The market at Burnside last week was exceedingly buoyant in tone, there being a general and in some instances pronounced advance in prices (says the *Otago Daily Times*). Over 4000 sheep were yarded, and a large number of them were very good quality animals. Wethers showed an advance in price to the extent of 1s per head, while the market in ewes, although inclined to be erratic, advanced to the extent of from 1s 6d to in some cases 3s per head. About 1500 lambs were penned, and prices were fully 1s 6d per head higher than they were the previous week, one pen realising the unusually high price of 24s per head. Freezing buyers were again operating heavily in respect of both sheep and lambs, and in a great measure were responsible for the general advance in prices. The yarding of cattle was not large, comprising about 140 head, and the quality was only medium, but nevertheless the market hardened as the sale progressed, and at the close was fully 10s per head higher than at the previous sale. There was a very small yarding of pigs, and it was probably due to this fact that prices showed such a big advance, there being an average rise of about 7s 6d per head for pigs fit for killing.

There were fairly large entries of stock and a good attendance at the Addington sale last week. Store sheep sold well, and fat lambs and fat sheep were firmer. Fat cattle were a shade easier, and fat pigs were likewise somewhat lower than at previous sale. The yarding of store sheep showed a still further falling off in numbers, and included some good lines of lambs and a better class of ewes than of late. There was a good demand for lambs, and prices were improved by about 6d per head. The yarding of fat cattle totalled 299 head. The quality was mostly prime, but notwithstanding this and the shorter supply the demand was not very keen and prices were somewhat easier. Steers made £7 7s 6d to £11 15s, and extra to £13 10s; heifers, £5 12s 6d to £11; and cows, £5 17s 6d to £11 7s 6d. There was an entry of 2315 fat lambs, the quality being much better than the average. There was a brisk sale for all freezing lines, and prices were firmer. The export buyers took 2169 at prices ranging from 10s 6d to 20s. The yarding of fat sheep was large. There was an active demand on the part of both exporters and butchers, and the market opened at advanced rates, prime wethers selling at 1s and prime ewes 6d to 9d better than at previous sale. The range of prices was—Prime wethers, 18s to 22s 11d; medium, 15s to 17s 6d; prime ewes, 15s to 19s 11d; extra, to 21s. Pigs were entered in large numbers in the fat pens, and there was therefore less briskness in the bidding. Choppers sold up to 69s; heavy baconers, 50s to 55s; and lighter sorts, 36s to 45s; large porkers 25s to 30s; and lighter sorts, 20s to 23s.

For Children's Hacking Cough at night,
Woods' Great Peppermint Cure, 1s 6d, 2s 6d.