

said the man. 'Let's see what you know about figures yourself. How do you find the greatest common divisor?' Slowly and deliberately the orator took a glass of water.

Then he pointed his finger straight at the questioner. Lightning flashed from his eyes, and he replied, in a voice that made the gas-jets quiver:

'Advertise for it, you ignoramus!'

The audience cheered and yelled, and the wretched man who had asked the question left the hall a total wreck.

### SOME BULLS

During a debate upon the second reading of the Irish Land Bill in 1896 Lord Londonderry concluded a period with: 'This is the keystone of the Bill; are you going to kill it?'

Sir Frederick Milner, speaking on the Budget, said: 'A cow may be drained dry; and, if Chancellors of the Exchequer persist in meeting every deficiency that occurs by taxing the brewing and distilling industry, they will inevitably kill the cow that lays the golden milk!'

Lord Curzon: 'The interests of the employers and employed are the same nine times out of ten—I will even say ninety-nine times out of ten!'

Discussing Mr. Asquith's Licensing Bill at a meeting at Shoreditch last year, a member of Parliament roused the great audience to a frenzy of enthusiasm by declaring that 'the time had come to strip to the waist and tuck up our shirt-sleeves!'

### A FRIEND IN NEED

Telephone young ladies are used to being called up to give the correct time of day; to being called down by the man in a hurry for reporting that the number he calls does not answer when he is 'sure' some one is awaiting beside the 'phone at the other end for his signal, but a Sydney telephone attendant has one on them all when it comes to being a bureau of information. This call came to the Sydney switchboard:

'Say, operator, my wife has gone away and left me to cook the Sunday dinner. I have got along all right except for the spinach, but that's got beyond me and I can't even find a recipe book. How do you cook the stuff?'

It wasn't exactly telephone business, but he got the directions. In the suburbs of Sydney there is some woman who is extolling the virtues of her husband as cook, and the recipient of the praise isn't saying much.

### WHEN HE'D GET HOME

A certain boy was taking home his father's empty can, when a bigger boy came along and gave the can a kick. This was not resented.

'Ho! You don't care if I kick it?'

'No, I don't.'

'Do you care now?' giving it another.

'No, I don't mind.'

'I'll make you,' and the can was kicked along the gutter till the bottom came out.

'How do you feel now?'

'All right. My mother borrowed it from your mother this morning, and you'll know what she says when you get home.'

### FAMILY FUN

The Resistance of Inertia.—Fix a needle in each end of a broomstick, rest the needles on two glasses placed on chairs, with the needles alone in contact with the glasses (says *Popular Science*). If you strike the broomstick violently with another stick the former will be broken, but the glasses will remain intact. The impulse given by the blow has not time to pass on through the particles of the broomstick to the particles in the glass. The particles of the broomstick separate before the movement can be transmitted to the glasses. This explains how you can with a flat wooden rule strike one of a tall column of coins or checkers and displace it without toppling over the column.

To Make a Hole in Metal.—On the end of a block of hard wood, the fibre being in a vertical position, lay the medal or other metal. Take an ordinary bottle cork and put a fine but straight sewing needle lengthwise through the cork from the top and far enough so the point is just visible underneath and no farther. Give the needle a slight kink at the top, thus snapping it off even with the surface of the cork. Stand the cork on the metal to be punctured, with the point of the needle downward, and strike a moderate blow with a hammer squarely on the upper end of the cork, and the needle will be driven through the metal.

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

The presence of lambs at this period of the year causes one to wonder whether the spring is at hand (writes the Amberley correspondent of the *Press*). On three farms in this locality there is already a fair number of lambs.

Matters in connection with the formation of a Cow-Testing Association at Eketahuna, on the lines of the Dalefield Association, are going ahead. It is anticipated that everything will be ready for testing the cows of dairy farmers during the coming season. There is a movement on foot to form a similar association at Pahiatua.

'I had no idea that there was such an extensive area of agricultural land in this portion of Amuri,' said the Hon. D. Buddo whilst viewing, from a point of vantage on the Lyndon No. 1 settlement, the extensive nature of the flat agricultural land that there is on that settlement. Speaking on agriculture in the Dominion generally, Mr. Buddo expressed the opinion that New Zealand was as yet only on the fringe of it, and stated that the possibilities of grain growing for the future were simply enormous. Again, referring to the land stretched out in front of him, he said, 'And this in Canterbury, a province generally reckoned to have every available acre of agricultural land under intense cultivation.'

Manure should be considered as one of the crops, and its quality should be maintained more than the quantity, as bulk may add nothing to its value. So says an American trade journal, which adds:—'In many respects the manure crop is the most important of all, for the reason that, to a considerable extent, the yield of the other crops are more or less dependent upon the manure, so that in securing a large quantity of manure the farmer is aiding very materially in increasing the yield of the others. The fault of many who accumulate a large manure heap is that they rely too much on the quantity. The more concentrated the plant food, the lower the cost of spreading in proportion to the benefits derived; hence quality should be maintained by not allowing of loss from rains or by overheating of the heap.'

The fact that supplies of winter fodder are gradually becoming shorter is evidently having the effect of compelling owners to send their surplus stock to the Burnside weekly sales; and, while this is a usual occurrence in early winter, the consignments coming forward this season have been very much larger than those in previous years. The yardings of sheep and lambs at Burnside (says the *Otago Daily Times*) were again very large. About 4800 sheep were penned, but bidding was not quite so keen as at the previous sale. At the opening of the sale values were about 1s per head lower, and, although the market hardened towards the close, prices did not reach the level of those ruling of late. This may probably be accounted for by the fact that the quality was on the whole not up to the previous week's standard. About 3600 lambs were penned, and they sold very well. Freezing buyers continue to operate very heavily in respect of both sheep and lambs. A yarding of 170 cattle comprised an exceptionally fine line from the Kaitangata district, which made up to £15 12s 6d per head. Outside of this lot the cattle were of medium quality, some of them being very poor. The market, however, displayed a firming tendency, and there was an advance in prices of from 10s to 15s per head. Pigs sold well, but the big advance in the price of porkers the previous week was not maintained.

At Addington last week there were fair entries of stock. Fat cattle were easier in consequence of the large supply. Store sheep sold well. Prime fat lambs were firm, and fat pigs showed some improvement. Prime fat sheep sold well, but medium and inferior ewes were rather easier. There was a fairly large yarding of fat sheep, including some large and prime lines of wethers and a few lines of prime ewes. There was a good demand for all well-finished sheep, both ewes and wethers, and the previous week's prices were firmly maintained. The range of prices was: Extra prime wethers, to 34s; prime, 18s to 23s 3d; medium, 15s 6d to 17s 6d. The yarding of fat lambs totalled 3799, including a fair proportion of prime quality. There were 2821 taken for export at 9s 10d to 10s 6d; 117 by butchers at 12s to 15s 10d. The supply of beef totalled 370 head—an increase of nearly 100 over the previous week, and included several large consignments of prime cattle from the North Island. The greater part of the yarding consisted of prime steers, but in consequence of the heavy supply there was a decided decline in prices. Steers made £7 10s to £10 10s; extra, to £17; heifers, £5 5s to £10 15s; and cows, £4 10s to £10 17s 6d. North Island steers made £10 to £12 12s 6d. A medium entry of fat pigs met with an improved demand and better prices. Choppers sold up to 84s; large baconers, 50s to 55s; smaller, 37s to 45s—equal to 4d to 4½d per lb; large porkers, 30s to 34s; smaller, 25s to 28s—equal to 4½d per lb.

## PORTRAITS ARE OUR FORTE.

Sittings a pleasure, not an ordeal at the "Tesla" Studios, opposite Post Office, Wanganui, so the hackneyed phrase no longer required—sooner have a tooth out.

Enlargements made from any photo. in black and white, sepia, or water colours.