

'It's the ten-dollar bill Mrs. Burns lost. The baby must have stuffed it into the rocking-horses, and this little boy found it and brought it back.'

'This boy? How? I don't understand.' The master of the house looked questioningly at the shabby boy with the flushed, eager face and the honest brown eyes.

'I was going to throw the old rocking-horses away and he came up and asked if he could have them for his brother, and I told him yes—Master Clarence doesn't want them any more, and they're all broken—' began the maid.

'I took them home, sir, to my little brother, and we found the bill stuffed in the seat,' said Jim simply. 'Well, you're an honest boy. You must have a reward.'

The man put his hand down into his pocket, eyeing the boy keenly as he did so, and taking quick note of the shabby but neat clothes.

'If there's one thing in this world I'm a crank about, it's honesty, and I always like to see it rewarded. Who are you, and where do you live?'

Little by little the kindly man drew from the boy the story of his crippled brother, of his father who had been out of work for so long, of their poverty, and of his trying to earn a little money by selling papers.

When he had finished, Mr. Burns said:

'Well, Jim Higgins, I like you! I like your honesty in bringing back the bill, and I like your straightforward way of telling a story. You must have a good father and mother or they would not have brought you up to be what you are. I am going to give you this now as a reward for your honesty.'

He placed a crisp two-dollar bill in Jim's hand as he spoke.

'And tell your father,' he added, 'to come around to my factory in the morning—at seven o'clock sharp—No. 15 Reed street. I need a man, and I want a good, honest one, one that I can rely on. If he's satisfactory, I can give him a steady job. And I'll see you again, my boy. I like you, and I'll see your little crippled brother. Mary—' he turned to the maid, 'see if you can't find some goodies to send the little boy—it's his birthday—some fruit or cake, or something.'

The maid disappeared, and the kind man turned again to the boy:

'You wait here, son. Mary'll bring you something to take to your little brother. I must go in now. Good-night.'

He beamed on Jim and then hurried into the house, from which Jim could hear merry, childish voices raised in welcome.

Mary reappeared with a big bag filled with fruit cake and a glass of delicious jelly. She handed it to him smilingly, and he thanked her and ran down the steps.

He could hardly get home fast enough. He was so anxious to show his present, the bag of goodies for Rob, and to tell the good news to his father.

How astonished his father and mother and little brother were when he appeared and told them everything! He was the happiest boy in the world.

'Didn't I tell you it would surely come?' asked Mrs. Higgins, beaming on her husband.

And little Rob, sitting on his rocking-horses, his pale face transfigured with happiness, rocked back and forth, and shouted, 'Hurrah!'

### FAMILY FUN

Blowing Soap Bubbles.—If your father happens to be smoking when you are blowing soap bubbles, get him to blow some bubbles for you. He just fills his mouth with smoke, and then blows an ordinary bubble with the clay pipe. The bubble will generally grow very large, and will, of course, be filled with smoke. Floating in the sunshine, some of these present a very beautiful appearance. If you want to make a very large bubble, first cover your hands well with soapsuds, and then place them together in the shape of a cup, leaving a small opening at the bottom. Then hold your hands about a foot from your mouth and blow into them. The bubbles obtained in this way are so large that they immediately burst on touching the floor.

## On the Land

### SOME WHEAT TESTS.

(By A. MACPHERSON, in *Journal of Department of Agriculture*).

Manurial and variety tests with wheat were carried out on the farm of Mr. R. Hammond, Te Moana, South Canterbury. The land on which the experiments were conducted was a light clay loam on a stiff clay sub-soil. The condition of the land prior to the experiments was as follows: In grass 1906, 1907, 1908; broken up and drained with the drain-plough in 1909, and put in turnips. On June 11, 1910, the land was cultivated with a cultivator; on June 22 ploughed 6in deep; disc-harrowed and tine-harrowed on June 23; and the seed and fertilizers sown on June 24, 1910, and then tine-harrowed. The time of sowing was too late for wheat in that district, the first week in May being the best time in which to sow for good results.

#### Manurial Tests.

The area consisted of six plots, each of a tenth of an acre. The seeds and fertilizers were drilled in under favorable conditions. The soil throughout the plots was uniform in character. The seed sown was velvet chaff, the seed being at the rate of 1½ bushels per acre.

The plots were sown with fertilizers according to a scheme designed by the Chief Agricultural Chemist. The weather conditions were not favorable to good yields. Rain fell for seven weeks after the crop was sown, then followed high winds and drought up to December, when beneficial rains fell, saving the crops. Plants in all plots suffered more or less from grub at the roots, and small birds did some damage. Plot 5 ripened first, followed by plot 6. Blight was noticeable in both these plots. All plots were harvested on February 2, 1911. Following are the results:—

Plot	Manure applied per Acre.	Cost of Manures per Acre	Grain.		Plants & Stalks to a Square Yard
			Yield per Acre	Gain by Use of Manures	
1	½ cwt. superphosphate ...	s. d. 1 4	Bushels 20.70	Bushels 3.80	Plants 73
2	½ cwt. superphosphate ..	2 7	22.25	5.35	84
3	½ cwt. superphosphate ...	5 3	22.25	5.35	106
4	No manure ...	...	16.90	...	90
5	1 cwt. superphosphate, ½ cwt. sulphate of potash, ½ cwt. seed gypsum	9 6	21.00	4.10	220
6	1 cwt. superphosphate, ½ cwt. nitrate of soda, ½ cwt. seed gypsum	9 9	22.07	5.17	69

(To be concluded.)

Those unfortunates who suffer such torture and misery with Blind, Bleeding, or External Piles, should use Baxter's Pile Ointment, which is an invaluable remedy for the speedy and effectual cure of this distressing complaint. One application gives relief. Price, 2/6, post free, from Baxter's Pharmacy, Stafford street, Timaru....

\* Plot 1: Owing to damage by small birds and the inadvertent treading of teams on it while working the adjacent land, the yield is not given, as it would not be a fair test.