



Home Chats

By MARIE ANN BEST



THE TWILIGHT STORY. CHAPTER THREE What Lady Hen Did.

Do you remember I told you Lady Hen stayed sitting on her white eggs which she hid in the barn, all night long to keep it warm? Well even when daylight came around she just felt she couldn't leave it there all alone and didn't know what to do. But just then in flew Miranda Sparrow. When she saw the egg she told Lady Hen she was right to keep it warm all the time and glad she stayed and sat there all of today too. The dark came again and she went to sleep the way she did the night before. But when the next morning came, my! but she was feeling hungry and so very thirsty too. I guess you would feel pretty hungry if you just didn't have your dinner and would only have to wait till supper time, wouldn't you? But Lady Hen did without breakfast and dinner and supper because she thought the egg might get cold. She got just awfully hungry, so this morning when she knew it was time for breakfast and the nice Lady from the big house was calling all the chickens to come as she threw out a lot of good grain, she looked out to see that nobody was around and then she crept carefully out and ran over and she had a great big breakfast. Oh, it was good, and the water was so good too. But as soon as she was finished she hurried back, afraid the egg would get cold. However she found it wasn't cold yet because she was away such a little while, so she decided she would go every morning and get something to eat and then hurry back again.

After that do you know what else she did? You can't guess, why she laid another egg in the nest, then another and another until she had eight 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8. Then she to herself, "Now I guess that's enough for me to look after."

Miranda Sparrow came flying in one day after Lady Hen had the eight eggs and whispered something in her ear and then flew out again, and after she was gone Lady Hen did what she told her to do. She would fluff up her wings out big and then can you imagine what she did? She rolled on the eggs and they didn't break for her body was so soft, but she did look funny. Then she put her bill down

and turned over each egg you see Lady Hen never had any babies before so Miranda Sparrow had to tell her to do that.

Lady Hen had been sitting on the eggs a long, long time. Just the she was there for three long weeks. Little boys and girls had their 27 day on Saturday and went to Sunny School on Sunday three times, and to school all through the week for three weeks and still she was sitting there. She began to notice no her lady hens seemed to want to have babies so late in the year, for after it was after the summer holidays, but she didn't like to ask them about it because then they would know about her eggs hidden away in well in this nice dark corner.

The very next morning something wonderful happened. Lady Hen heard something. If she had been at least bit deaf she wouldn't have heard it. Pretty soon the sound came again as plain as could be. Peck-peck-peck. Where did it come from? There here was another little noise only it had a wee bit higher sound, peck-peck-peck, and she got quite fussed up about it. At last she pecked underneath her warm body for she wondered if something was wrong with her eggs, and sure enough one of the eggs was broken and she said, "Cluck, Cluck, Cluck, well what's this? I don't understand it, but I better sit real quiet so they don't all break," but soon the eggs started to move and a big piece came off. She thought she better look under again.

When she looked under this time, oh what do you think she saw? A fluffy little head was peeping out of the egg and his bright little eyes were looking at her. Lady Hen was so excited and hurried and overed her feathers around it so it wouldn't get cold, but pretty soon of the other side she felt another egg break and here was another little fluffy head. Oh, how cute they look! She cuddled them in under her close and warm, and Lady Hen knew then these were her babies that she had waited for, for such a long time. The dark was softly creeping in round the corner and Lady Hen told her babies about the lovely night for the first time and they shut those sleepy little eyes and soon were sleeping. Next week—How about the next morning?

After The Pudding

Coming The Cake

The Christmas cake ranks next in importance after the pudding and the mince-pies, and it is wise, when youngsters have to be considered, to provide a cake not too rich or heavy. The Christmas cake, and not the pudding and mince-pies, as many believe, is the "last straw" at many Christmas feasts.

Concentrate on a cake that is fruity without being too rich or heavy. An ideal cake can be made from the following recipe:

To a pound of self-raising flour add a good pinch of salt; then rub in half a pound of margarine. When the mixture is like breadcrumbs, add a quarter of a pound each of washed currants, sultanas, and stoned raisins, and two ounces of chopped candied peel. To this add a quarter of a pound of fine white sugar and a tablespoonful of mixed spice, and stir well.

Next take two eggs and beat them well, adding a gill of milk. Stir this in the cake mixture until the whole is thoroughly moulded together. Grease a cake tin and line with clean white paper. Put the mixture in the tin and place in a hot oven for twenty minutes. After twenty minutes the heat must be reduced, and the cake baked in a slow oven. After two hours the cake may be tried with a knife. If the latter comes out clean, the cake is done. If not, put it back in the oven and allow it to cook until the knife does come out clean.

To ice the cake, allow it to get quite cold, then cut off the top until it is perfectly flat. Take half a pound of icing sugar and roll out until

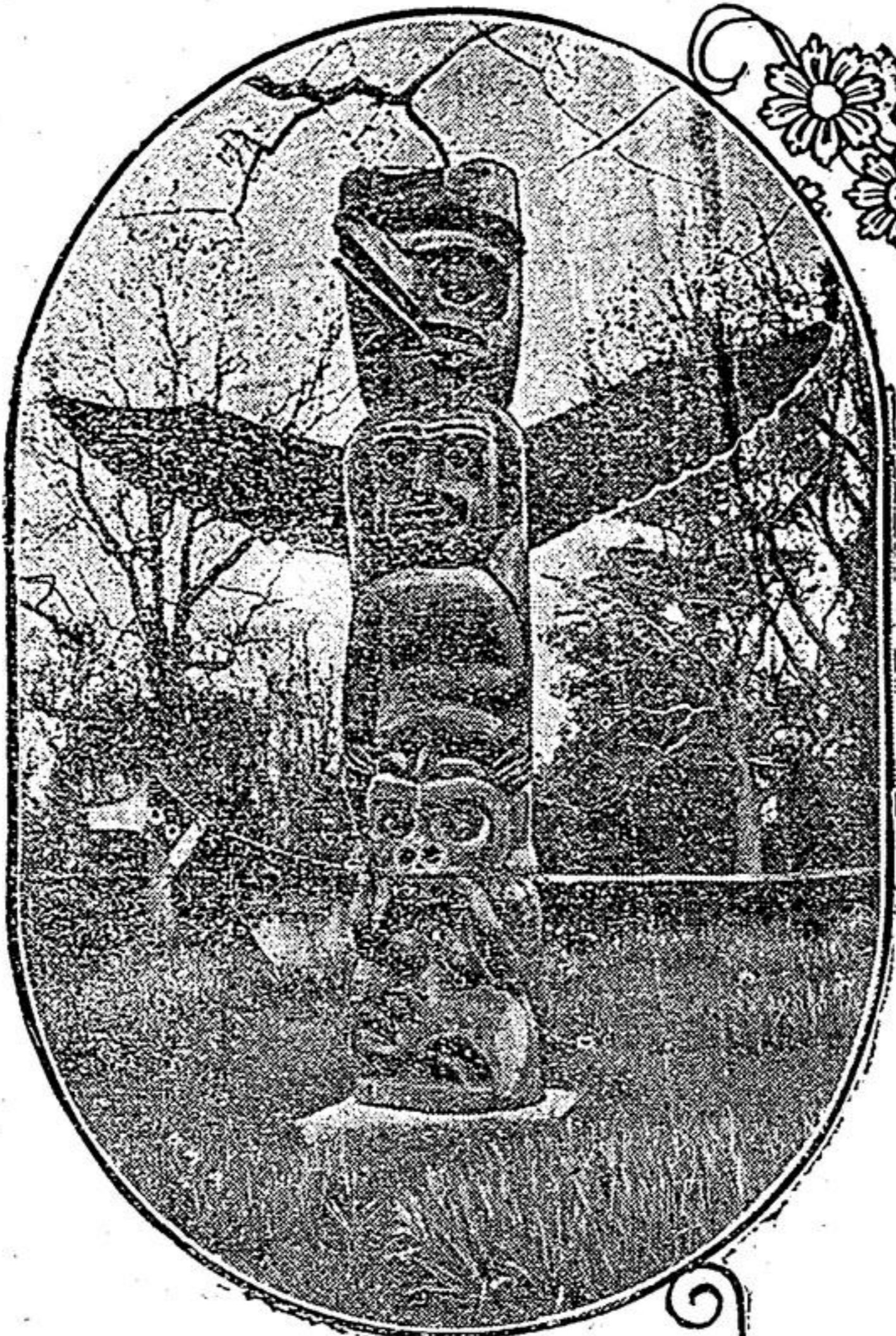
smooth. Beat up stiffly the white of one egg with a pinch of salt, then add the icing sugar gradually. Take a bread knife and, after dipping it in hot water, prepare to smooth over the icing, which you carry over the cake in spoonfuls, dipping the knife from time to time in hot water to ensure smoothness. Tea leave it to set.

To colour the icing cochineal or vegetable coloring can be obtained at any grocer's, and a few drops are added to the icing before putting it on the cake. To make almond icing, work four ounces of ground almonds into the yolk of an egg without beating, with four ounces of icing sugar as well. This makes a stiff mass which can be piled and arranged on top of the cake before the white icing is added.



"Your wife seems terribly worried."
"She is. She's worried about how to buy 24 Christmas gifts with three dollars and a half!"
"Economic deals must include the ideal of beauty as well as the ideal of plenty."
—Sir Basil Blackett.

Ancient Totem



Strange things—strange ways—have left their pristine traces among Canada's aborigines. Here we see a mighty strange totem with wings. Unusual. And in background may be made out prow of ancient dug-out.

Life of Cut Flowers Prolonged By Carbon Dioxide Atmosphere

The life of cut flowers, fruits and vegetables may be prolonged by storage in a carbon dioxide treated atmosphere, show experiments reported to the American Chemical Society by Norwood C. Thornton, of the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, Yonkers, N.Y.

Roses, one of the most perishable of flowers, responded well to the treatment. Rosebuds stored in carbon dioxide treated air for seven days were still fresh and opened slowly with good color and shape when removed to warm air, while those kept for the same period in ordinary cold storage were badly shattered. Since florists have considered three days the maximum period for roses, the treatment gave a possible gain of four days.

This is a new application of the principle on which all refrigeration by solid carbon dioxide, known as dry ice, is based. All living organisms respire, giving off carbon dioxide. This process, which leads to total decay in the case of cut flowers; fruits

and vegetables, can be delayed by the presence of carbon dioxide in the air. "To handle dry ice efficiently," Mr. Thornton explained, "it became important to determine the tolerance of various plant organs to artificially produced dioxide atmospheres. The results show that some plant organs are improved for consumption by proper percentages of carbon dioxide, others have considerable tolerance of the gas, and only a few require that minimal amounts of it be present."

"During the treatment the pear became very soft and juicy, while the peach and the banana remained hard. The banana withstood 33 per cent carbon dioxide without apparent injury to the final ripening color or flavor. This concentration retarded the coloring of the banana so that it was approximately two days longer in ripening than the controls. Citrus fruit withstood a relatively high concentration of carbon dioxide without noticeable injury during or after the storage period."

Earth's Four-Hour Day

Most people impatiently await the coming of the shortest day—because from thence onward the evenings begin to lengthen.

The date of the shortest day depends upon the exact time the sun attains its most southerly declination. If it does this before midnight on December 21, then that day is the shortest. If after midnight, then the 22nd enjoys the distinction; while if the time of most southerly declination occurs exactly at midnight, as occasionally it does, then there are two shortest days in that particular year.

Still more infrequently it sometimes happens that this time is delayed until after midnight on the 22nd, in which case, of course, the 23rd becomes the shortest day.

Judging by our modern standard, at one period of the earth's history all our days were "shortest days," for astronomers have shown that in very remote times the day lasted only about four hours.

This means that for millions of years the day has been slowly but surely lengthening. Its duration, indeed, has altered in this direction

even during the time of civilized man. We know this from study of ancient eclipses, as found in Chinese records. —C.L.M.S.

The other day a man, hitherto without a spot on his character, inquired with well-forged innocence:

"How can five persons divide five eggs so that each man will receive one and still one remain in the dish?"

After the company went all but distracted in the mazes of this proposition the fellow meekly said:

"One takes the dish with the egg."

The cause of peace is not the cause of cowardice. If peace is sought to be defended or preserved for the safety of the luxurious and the timid, it is a sham, and the peace will be base; war is better, if peace is to be maintained.

"He Got a Plenty."—"Now," said the college-man to his dad at the football game, "You'll see more excitement for two dollars than you ever saw before." "I don't know," replied the old gent; "that's what my marriage license cost me." —Malteasar

Farm Problems

Conducted by Prof. Henry G. Bell, Dept. of Chemistry, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph

The object of this department is to place at the service of our farm readers the advice of acknowledged authorities on all subjects pertaining to the farm.

Address all questions to Professor Henry G. Bell, in care of The Wilson Publishing Company, Limited, Toronto, and answers will appear in this column in the order in which they are received. When writing kindly mention this paper. As space is limited it is advisable where immediate reply is necessary that an addressed envelope be enclosed with the question, when the answer will be mailed direct before being published. Copyright by Wilson Publishing Co., Limited.

Here are some of this week's questions and answers:—

Reader:—I have a piece of clay ground which I intend sowing for two years and I intend sowing wheat on this next year. I ask your advice in regard to the best results. Would it be wise to put any more manure on? 2. What do you think about sowing oats on sod which is to be plowed next spring?

Answer:—1. If you manure the potato ground heavily, I would not advise adding more stable manure when preparing it for wheat. I would advise, however, adding about 200 lbs. per acre of fertilizer carrying 12 to 14 per cent available phosphoric acid and 5 to 6 per cent potash. The reason is that stock manure is relatively weak in plant ripener—phosphoric acid—and the addition of the fertilizer in question will tend to balance manure and assist the wheat crop to make good root-growth and to ripen evenly. The potato will help the plumping of the grain. The fertilizer is best applied through a grain drill with the Oats may be sown on sod land which has been plowed this spring. However, the plowing should not be too deep, else the water supply for the oat crop might be seriously impaired. I prefer using plow for potatoes or some other cultivated crop since cultivation gives a chance to rid the soil of weeds before the grain and grass crops are sown.

G.O.:—I have fourteen acres of rolling clay soil to plant to beans next spring. Would like to get advice as to fertilizer. Would you advise using fertilizer on this land, and if so, how much per acre, and what kind?

Answer:—Many bean growers have obtained satisfactory returns from fertilizing their crop. In tests carried on with beans in Huron County, by this institution in 1929, the average increase for fertilizing beans was 2.93 bushels per acre. The increases in the seven experiments conducted at that time, ranged from 0 to 5.75 bushels per acre. Good results were obtained from the use of 2-12-6 or 3-10-5 fertilizers. These are usually applied at the rate of 200 pounds per acre. Best results are obtained by applying this fertilizer through the fertilizer section of the grain drill. Many bean growers recommend spreading the fertilizer 7 to 14 days before planting the beans. If you do not have a grain drill with fertilizer dropping section, any broadcasting machinery such as a lime spreader will distribute the fertilizer on top of the plowed ground. Careful harrowing and disking will work it in. When fertilizers are drilled it should be allowed to crop through the hoe on each side of the one dropping beans, but not in the hoe that is dropping the seed. If fertilizers are carefully applied as described, they supply available plant-food to the young growing crop and give it material assistance. Do not drop the beans on the fertilizers.

P.F.:—We are contemplating growing a small acreage of sugar beets the coming season and as it will be our first experience along this line, we would like to have your advice as to what analysis of fertilizer to use. One field is heavy ground with clay subsoil. The other is black ground with gravelly bottom.

Answer:—For fertilizer for sugar beets use from 400 to 500 pounds per

acre of fertilizer analysing 2 to 4 per cent nitrogen, 8 to 12 per cent available phosphoric acid, and 10 to 15 per cent potash. The higher potash fertilizer should be used on the black ground since muck soils are always short of this type of plantfood. For best results apply 200 pounds of fertilizer through the fertilizer attachment of your sugar beet drill when planting the seed. Two hundred to six hundred pounds of the fertilizer should be spread on the ground by the fertilizer dropper grain drill preceding sowing of sugar beet seed.

T.W.:—1. A five acre field has a clay subsoil with five inches of block earth on surface. Is it suitable for turnips and potatoes? 2. How deep should potatoes be planted and how many bushels to the acre?

Answer:—1. The clay soil with the block earth on top if carefully worked should be suitable for turnips and should produce fairly good potatoes. Potatoes as a rule do best on gravelly or sandy loam soil. 2. As a rule potatoes should not be planted more than 4 to 6 inches deep. Ten to twelve bushels to the acre is considered a sufficiently thick seeding.

M.P.:—1. Would it be wise to top-dress fields of wheat with manure for winter? We were not able to get the manure out earlier.

Answer:—You will be well advised to top-dress winter wheat with manure, especially if the wheat has not made a very heavy top growth. Do not put too heavy a covering of manure. About 2 to 4 tons to the acre has been found to be most effective. This will tend to lodge the snow over the wheat and will, therefore, protect the wheat and gain more moisture for it. In the spring as soon as the field is sufficiently dry to go upon, it may be advisable to top-dress the wheat field with 250 pounds per acre of a fertilizer analysing about 2-12-6. This will give the early growing wheat a good start and should help in the general vigor and yield of the crop. Fertilizers can be applied as a top-dresser by broadcast spreading them with a lime and fertilizer spreader or by crossing the grain with a regular grain drill, applying the fertilizer through the regular fertilizer section. Care should be taken to have the discs or hoes suspended so that they will not injure the growing crop.

World's Most Wonderful Bank

The recently completed head office building of Lloyd's Bank in London is probably the most wonderful in the world. It has taken more than four years to erect, and during that time 600 men have been engaged incessantly upon the work.

Labour-saving devices have been brought to a fine art. There enters, let us say, a customer who wishes to inquire the size of his balance—or, more likely in these days, his overdraft. The clerk of whom he makes his inquiry writes down the message upon a telewriter. This is reproduced automatically and instantaneously in a department several floors away where the bank ledgers are kept. The ledger clerk looks up the amount and records the figures on the telewriter. Next moment these are passed over the counter to the customer.

In the basements of the bank far below ground level are bombproof strong rooms with huge steel doors weighing many tons. Yet so beautifully balanced are they that a child can open them—once the key has been turned in their burglar-proof locks. All corridors are patrolled incessantly, and a wonderful system of mirrors enables the guardians to see round distant corners.

The park-keeper found a tramp asleep on one of the seats. "Hi, you!" he exclaimed, shaking the man's shoulder. "I'm going to close the gates." "All right," murmured the tramp, sleepily. "Don't slam them."

Far be it from me to assert that what everybody says must be true. Everybody is often, as likely to be wrong as right.

What New York Is Wearing

BY ANNABELLE WORTHINGTON

Illustrated Dressmaking Lesson Furnished With Every Pattern



2813

Featherweight tweed provides a new appeal for the tailored utility frock that will slip easily under the winter coat.

This snappy model adopts slimmness through its clever cross-over effect of the bodice and panel at front and back of the skirt. The button trim adds still further to its slenderness. The youthful fitted plaited arrangement at either side gives smart flare.

Style No. 2803 is designed in sizes 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 and 46 inches bust. Size 36 requires 4 1/2 yards 39-inch with 3/4 yrd 35-inch contrasting.

Black canton crepe with vest of white, rich wine red crepe patterned woolen with blending shade plain woolen and dark green crepe marocain with vest of lighter green shade are attractive combinations.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number, and address your order to Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto.



"Bobby, do you believe in Santa Claus?"

"Sure. He's been to our house already and hid a doll in ma's desk and a rocking horse in the coal bin."

Some Mighty Midgets

It has been proved that the common snail can draw a load which is fifty times heavier than itself. If an elephant were as strong, in proportion to size, it would have to move nearly 270 tons.

That is only one specimen from Nature's collection of "mighty midgets" that perform in secret on land and in the sea.

Even the strongest man find it difficult to lift more than their own weight. Yet, a bluebottle fly can lift more than 30 times its own weight, while it can draw a load that is 150 times heavier than itself.

Objects which are about forty times heavier than themselves are often carried by the mason wasps.

You have seen those ear-splitting powerful drills which are used to tear up the road? Well, there is a mollusc, known as the plidcock or pholas doctylas, which can rival their power, and is a superior worker, as it makes no noise.

Silently, but none the less efficiently, the plidcock bores through the hardest rock as casually as if it were soap.

By loving whatever is lovable in those around us, love will flow back from them to us and will become a pleasure instead of a pain; and earth will become like heaven; and we shall become not unworthy followers of Him whose name is Love.

—Dean Stanley.

Ha! Ha! Ra for Pa!—So your son got his B.A. and M.A.? "Yes, indeed, but Pa still support him."
—"Royal Arcanum Bulletin"

MUTT AND JEFF—By BUD FISHER



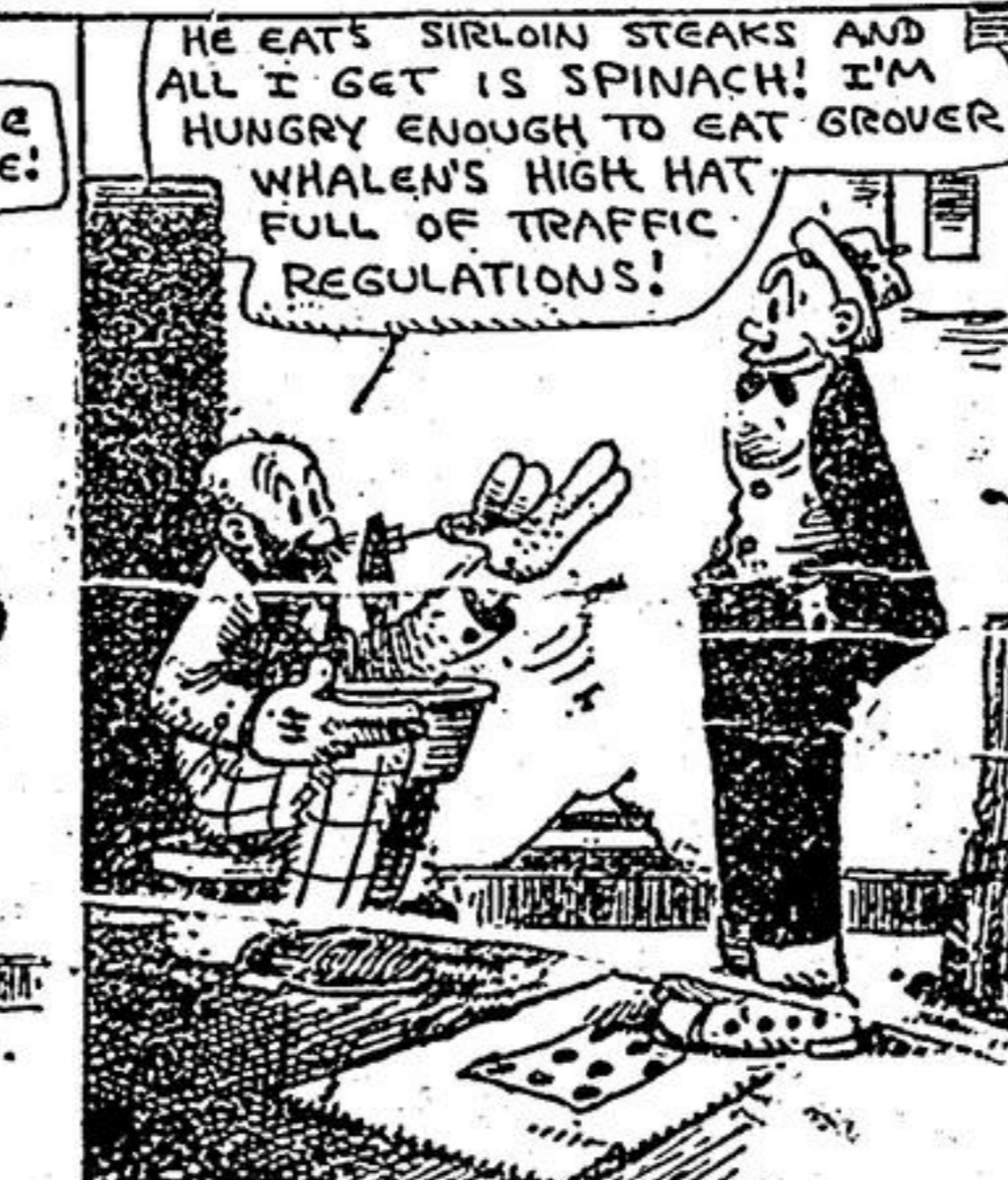
YES, GEEVEN, IF THIS EIGHTEEN-DAY DIET IS A SUCCESS, MUTT WILL TRY IT HIMSELF!

HE'S THE SAME OLD MUTT!



I'VE ALWAYS HATED SPINACH! MUTT HAS CERTAINLY GOT A BIG HEART. HE GIVES ME ANYTHING HE DOESN'T WANT. IF THIS WAS MY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY, MUTT WOULD GIVE ME A SPLINTER!

TEE HEE!



HE EATS SIRLOIN STEAKS AND ALL I GET IS SPINACH! I'M HUNGRY ENOUGH TO EAT GROVER!

WHALEN'S HIGH HAT FULL OF TRAFFIC REGULATIONS!



WAITER, BRING ME A SIRLOIN ABOUT THE SHAPE OF RHODE ISLAND AND THE SIZE OF TEXAS! BROWN IT UNTIL THE CHEF DROWNS IN GRAVY!

JEFF'S DIET IS CERTAINLY MAKING ME HUNGRY!

O.K. SIR!