

JOHN HENRY ON THE DRUMMERS HE MET



BY GEO. V. HOBART, ("HUGH M'HUGH")

Dear Bunch: I'm headed for home, but the hurdles are holding me back. I met a whole flock of "the boys" in Rochester yesterday morning, and since most of 'em were making a flying leap for New York, you can believe me it was a swift squad of sports that climbed into one of Mr. Pullman's sleep-wagons and permitted themselves to be yanked over the rails.

A bunch of brisk ones—believe me!

There was Charlie Hammond, leading man with the "Kitty, the Kash Girl" Company; David Torrence, first heavy with the melodrama entitled "The Haunted Automobile; or, Who Stole the Muffler?" Frank Westerton, first low and sad with the "Crazy-Quilt Men"; Emmett Corrigan, who is lecturing through the provinces on "How to Play Bridge Without Impairing the Tonsils;" Malcolm William, the handsomest leading man in the show-business — when completely shaved; William Burress, the Bath-Robe King; Charlie Abbott, who sells that fine Monticello honey-dew, and Arthur Shaw.

Show travels for a clothing house in Cincinnati, and they call him Slim because he's getting so fat that every time he turns around he meets himself coming back.

He's all to the good—that boy is! And such a cut-up!

Slim knows more "look-out!" — there's-a-lady-over-there! stories than any other drummer in the business.

Then there was Nick Dalrymple and Tod Gilpin—two live ones with a full set of sparks flying.

Nick goes after the orders for a hardware house in Columbus, and he knows everybody in the world—bar one family living in Yonkers.

Nick has only one trouble, he will paddle after the ponies.

Whenever he makes a town where there's a poolroom his expense-account gets fat and beefy, and Nick begins to worry for he may win some.

He won \$12 in Cleveland once, and he spent \$218 at a boozeologist's that night getting statistics on how it happened.

Tod Gilpin cuts ice for a match-factory in Newark, and he's the life of a small party.

Tod's main hold is to creep into the "reading-room" of a Rube hotel after the chores are done of an evening and throw salve at the come-ons.

Tod tells them that their town is the brightest spot on the map, and they warm up to him and want to buy him sarsaparilla and root beer.

Then when he gets them stuck on themselves he sells them matches.

"Pipe the gang to quarters and all rubber!" said Slim, about half an hour after the train pulled out.

In the seat ahead of us a somewhat demure-looking Proposition in rainbow raggs had been sampling the scenery ever since we started.

We had all given her the glad glance, but she was very much Cold Storage, so we passed it up.

As Slim spoke, the Proposition was joined by a young chap with a loose face, who had been out in the smoking-room working faithfully on one of those pajama panatella cigars — that bite you on the finger if you show the least sign of fear.

Just then the train stopped for a few minutes, and we were put wise

to the fact that it was an incurable case of bride and groom.

"Oh! Boozy is back to his Birdie!" said the brand-new wife. "Did Boozy like his smoky woky?"

Boozy opened a bunch of grins and sat down, while wifey patted his cheek and cooed:

"Is uns glad to get back to uns little wifey-pifey!"

Dave Torrence and Charlie Hammond began to scream inwardly, with Slim chuckling like a pet porpoise.

"Sweetie mustn't be angry with Petie, but Sweetie is sitting on Petie's 'ittle hand!" said the bride, whereupon Malcolm Williams exploded, and Slim began to grab for his breath.

A Dutch brewer and his wife sat right ahead of Boozy and Birdie, and every once in a while the old hophopper would turn around and beam benignly over the gold rims at the bride.

"Boozy must snuggy-wuggy up closer to his Coozie and skeeze her 'itty af—no, no, not her waist! you naughty! naughty!"

The brewer was back at the bride with another gold-rimmed goo-goo, when his wife got nervous and cut in:

"Is id you turn your face to see someding—yes?" she snapped, and the foam-builder ducked to the window and began to eat scenery.

Westerton was almost out; Burress was under the seat sparring for wind; Slim was giving an imitation of a coal-barge in a heavy sea, and the rest of the passengers were in various stages from hiccoughs to convulsions.

"Is Boozy comy wif his 'itty weeny teeny Birdie?" chirped the bride.

"Boozy is so happy wif his 'izzy-wizzy!" gurgled the husband; "how's my little wifey-wifey?"

"Oh! she's such a happy-wappy 'ittle fang!" giggled the doffy dame, pinching her piggy's ear, whereupon the brewer tried to hand the bride another ear.

Argument.

Many a lawyer who puts up a good argument in court fails to be convincing at home.

It Pays the Farmer and the Trucker to Do This.

TILE YOUR LAND AND INCREASE YOUR CROPS

Ten of the Most Important Benefits Derived from Drainage
—By Elmer O. Fippin, New York.

Because of the fundamental character of the process of drainage, its effects are numerous and far-reaching. Ten of the most important ones may be given as follows:

1. Drainage removes the excess of gasoline gaze, but the old lady caught him with the goods.

"Is id to my face you go behind my back to make googly-googly eyes at someven—yes?" she growled, and in a minute the brewer's brow was against the window pane.

"Sweetie looks at Petie and Sweetie sees that Petie's p'etty face is getting sunburned, so is it?" cooed Mrs. Daffy, "and Sweetie has a dood mind to tiss him too!"

They opened a newspaper, crawled under cover, and began to bite each other on the chin.

"Go as far as you like!" said Slim, then he went down and out.

The man who helped to make Weehawken famous had his head out the window watching for an ice-wagon, and Mrs. Brew was industriously



"How's My little Girly Wirly?"

muttering "Du bist ein Narr! Du bist ein Narr!"

Just then the train pulled out and saved our lives.

Dave, Frank, Bill, Slim, Charlie, Malcolm, and I rushed feverishly up to the other end of the car to cool off, and there landed on the outskirts of a bunch of drummers, who were fanning each other with fairy-tales about the goods they sold.

"I'll back three of the lads in that collection to dream longer than any other drummers on the track.

It's a pipe that they can sell bills to each other all day and never wake up.

A guy named Mutt Dawson was holding forth.

He's a most reckless spendthrift with his words, and the meanest man to the English language I ever listened to.

Mutt was telling them about hypnotizing a John Wanamaker merchant prince in Pikesville, Ind., to the extent of \$200 for open-work socks, farmer's size, and then a chap named Jack Dean sent his balloon up by telling us how he sold the Siegel-Coopers, of Bugsport, Ia., \$300 worth of Panama hats for horses.

The Hot Air association was in full session when Buck Jones caromed over from the other end of the car and weighed-in with us.

Buck is a swell.

He thinks he strikes 12 on all occasions, but his clock is all to the piazza, Buck isn't a drummer—nay! may! take back your gold!

He'll look you straight in the eye and tell you he's a traveling salesman — on the drummer!

I think Buck sells canned shirts— Parkers for the Shine Brothers.

And now, Bunch here is where I amx one of Uncle Sam's promises-to-carry to this document and drop it in the little green box.

The Same Ever,

J. H. (Copyright, 1908, by G. W. Dillingham Co.)

IRRITABLE MAN HAS A "KICK."

Misuse of Apostrophe and Quotation Marks, Not to Mention "Kindly."

"There are two things that are misused a great deal," said the irritable man, "and the mishandling of them annoys me a lot. For one thing, some persons haven't the vaguest idea of the proper use of the apostrophe. I've seen a word written this way, 'a-utomatic,' which is meant only to indicate the plural of auto. Now, there isn't the very slightest excuse for that and it makes me sore every time I see it. Then again, other folks don't know what to do with quotation marks. I have seen a sign on an elevated station reading, 'The Keys' with the 'agent.' Now, what earthly use are those quotation marks about the words keys and agent? None, none at all. There isn't any rhyme or reason in it."

"Well," replied his listener, "there's another as bad as that. That's the use of the word 'kindly.' You hear a lot of folks using that atrocious vaudville phrase: 'Thank you, kindly.' These make me sick. I saw the other day in Brooklyn a sign, 'Gents will kindly not smoke.' Only gents would use that sort of language!"

Curious Marriage Custom.

An English traveler in northern Nigeria describes an interesting custom connected with marriage which he came across among the Fulani, a tribe of wandering herdsmen who show no trace of negro blood and are supposed to be of Asiatic origin. One might almost suppose that they had advanced ideas about the relations of the sexes. Before a man is allowed to marry he has to stand a sound thrashing without wincing. In some parts of Europe this test of fitness for the wedded state might more reasonably be applied to the woman. One is reminded of Thomas Edgeworth's friend, who in selecting a bride dropped hot sealing wax on the girl's arm and fired a pistol off near her ear.

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Argument.

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It Pays the Farmer and the Trucker to Do This.

In many cases the difference is that between a successful crop and a failure.

6. Drainage increases the available food supply in the soil. This results from the effect of drainage on

the most common method of tilling capacity, joining a lateral to main line of the aeration and soil bacteria.

7. Drainage is directly operative to change an unfavorable physical condition into a desirable one, as well as to reduce the tendency to a bad physical condition of the soil.

It may bring about the change from a granular soil. Such physical changes are most pronounced in fine textured soil. The change is produced primarily by the alternate wetting and drying to which the soil is subject. Poorly drained soil is usually in a bad physical condition. It is compact and impervious. It is well known that the tilth of a soil rapidly improves as a result of drainage.

3. Contrary to a frequent belief, drainage increases the amount of moisture available to crops. This is the result of two factors. First, when the soil is granulated to the condition of good tilth, the total capillary capacity is increased. The soil is then able to both readily absorb the rainfall and to retain a larger proportion of it than would otherwise be possible, against the time of dry weather.

Second, the wider and deeper distribution of the plant roots in drained soil will develop a saturated soil. If the water table is near or near the surface, the roots spread out laterally instead of penetrating deep.

8. Drainage greatly reduces the injury to winter crops resulting from "heaving" or the freezing of large amounts of water in the soil. This process raises the upper layers of soil, carrying all shallow root plants with it, and if some of their roots happen to be fastened in the subsoil, these may be broken off. Such effects are most noticeable on tap-rooted plants, such as the clovers, but it is almost as injurious to the grass and grain crops.

9. Drainage reduces or prevents erosion. Erosion is the washing of the soil as the drainage water flows down the slope. A saturated soil is in the right condition for erosion to be most serious. On the other hand, thorough drainage permits part of this excess to be drawn off beneath the surface in channels provided for it and which are not subject to such injury. Further, on clay soil where the injury is liable to be the result of outlet due to the water flowing of water being away because it higher than mouth cannot readily penetrate the tile drain, the effect is well known to those who have had experience in tile draining.

4. Drainage promotes the aeration of the soil, that is, the exchange between the soil air and the external air. A supply of oxygen is necessary to the proper growth of the living organisms in the soil. Such a supply is largely, if not entirely, excluded from a saturated soil. The removal of the water makes a place for air and the granulation or loosening-up process which occurs

A method of facilitating the joining lateral to movement of air into and out of the soil. The supply of air increases the food available by its direct action on the minerals in the soil and by promoting the growth of desirable bacteria. It also hinders or prevents the growth of many undesirable bacteria.

5. Drainage permits the soil to maintain a higher average temperature than is possible on wet soil. The granulation of the soil results from drainage—as mentioned above—so that much more of the rainfall is absorbed and thereby retained for the use of plants.

10. Drainage increases the yield of crops. This is, of course, the obvious purpose of drainage as applied to agriculture. It is one of the two fundamental purposes of drainage, the other being increased healthfulness. The increase varies with the original condition of the land. On acknowledged swamp land, such as is included in the first group of drainage conditions, the difference is that between no crop

by the changes in the physical condition of the soil resulting from drainage—as mentioned above—so that much more of the rainfall is absorbed and thereby retained for the use of plants.

A clergyman in an interior town married a woman from whom he received a dowry of \$10,000 and a prospect of more. Shortly afterwards, while occupying the pulpit, he gave out a hymn, read the first verse and proceeded to read the fifth, commencing:

"Forever let my grateful heart," then he hesitated and exclaimed: "The choir will omit the fifth verse." Some of the congregation read the verse for themselves and smiled as they read:

Forever let my grateful heart. His boundless grace adore, Which gives ten thousand blessings now And bids me go for more.

Real Self-Possession.

Not long ago a young couple entered a railway carriage at Sheffield and were immediately put down as a bridal pair. But they were remarkably self-possessed and behaved with such sang-froid that the other passengers began to doubt if their first surmise was correct after all.

As the train moved out, however, the young man rose to remove his overcoat, and a shower of rice fell out, while the passengers smiled broadly.

But even that did not affect the youth, who also smiled and, turning to his partner, remarked audibly:

"Joy, May! I've stolen the bridegroom's overcoat!"—Tater.

EAGER TO WORK.

Health Regained by Right Food.

The average healthy man or woman is usually eager to be busy at some useful task or employment.

But let dyspepsia or indigestion get hold of one, and all endeavor becomes a burden.

"A year ago, after recovering from an operation," writes a Mich. lady, "my stomach and nerves began to give me much trouble.

"At times my appetite was voracious, but when indulged, indigestion followed. Other times I had no appetite whatever. The food I took did not nourish me, and I grew weaker than ever.

"I lost interest in everything, and wanted to be alone. I had always had good nerves, but now the merest trifles would upset me and bring on a violent headache. Walking across the room was an effort and prescribed exercise was out of the question.

"I had seen Grape-Nuts advertised, but did not believe what I read, at the time. At last when it seemed as if I were literally starving, I began to eat Grape-Nuts.

"I had not been able to work for a year, but now after two months on Grape-Nuts I am eager to be at work again. My stomach gives me no trouble now, my nerves are steady as ever, and interest in life and ambition have come back with the return to health."

"There's a reason."

"Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Read 'The Road to Wellville,' in pigs."