

PROVED HIS ABILITY.

A Tenderfoot's Wonderful Feat in Herding Sheep.

In the west they tell this story about the east, perhaps by way of retaliation for some of the tall stories about the west that they tell down east.

A young man, just graduated from an eastern institution of learning, went to the west and applied at a large ranch for a job.

"What can you do?" asked the owner. "Nothing much, but I'm willing to work and can learn," replied the eager applicant.

"Know how to ride a horse?" "No, I never rode one in my life."

"Rather a slim chance for you to be useful here, I'm afraid." "What have you to do for a man if he could ride?"

"Herding sheep." "I think I could get along at that very well without a horse."

"Young man, I'm afraid you don't know much about this business. I have a large ranch here and some thousands of sheep. A man without a horse would make a pretty poor show."

"Well, I'll tell you; when I was at college I was the champion sprinter of the institution. I believe I could do you some good service. I have a long distance record too. I wish you'd give me a chance and let us see what I can do."

With a good natured but pitying smile the ranchman said all right and bade his new man to get some supper, turn in and be ready to go to work early the next morning.

A FOG AT SEA.

It Frightens the Timid and Even Discourages the Brave.

This curious picture of an arrival at the Hook of Holland is by C. Lewis Hind: "I awoke suddenly. It was full daylight. My watch indicated 4 in the morning. We should be nearing the Dutch coast. But why had the boat stopped? Why had the devastating screech of the screw ceased? I clambered from my berth and withdrew the curtain from the porthole. Sea and sky had gone. We were enveloped in a dense fog. The wall of the siren roused the passengers. A fog at sea unstrings the nerves of the timid and discourages the brave. I noticed that the landing platform had been extended and that two life lines were coiled upon it. On the bridge were five men. The captain stood in the center with two of his subordinates on either side. They leaned over the rail peering into the wall of fog. I went forward. Three of the crew were bent double over the bows seeking the black mass that might be moving toward us. I could almost fancy I heard the crash, the shouts and the rush of feet.

"The air was damp. I went below. A dozen passengers were gathered around the breakfast table sipping tea and toying with toast. When the siren wailed my neighbor, a girl, who was about to eat a mouthful, replaced the crust upon the table and folded her hands. A woman cried silently. A large, flabby man took the seat adjoining mine, rested his elbow upon the table and covered his eyes. I thought he was praying, but when the steward advanced and stood inquiringly before him he raised his head for a moment and said, 'Ham and eggs.'

"Those homely and unfamiliar words relieved our depression; also the vessel began to move faster. Soon the siren ceased, and when the captain slouched into the cabin and called for a cup of hot coffee we—well, I think some of us could have danced a jig. I went on deck.

"There was Holland. The sun was scattering the fog. We passed the place where the Berlin was wrecked. Pooh! Who minds fear on the morning after, with all the adventures of a new day waiting?"

"What lambs? I have no lambs. This is not the lamb season." "Well, I chased eighty-five of them in, and I tell you I had a time of it too."

The ranchman went with the young tenderfoot to see what the story he told was about.

And, sure enough, huddled up together, frightened and tired out, were eighty-five wild jackrabbits.

"All right, young man; I think you'll do," said the ranchman.—Chicago Record-Herald.

A duel in which Bismarck was once engaged had a very amusing origin. It occurred when he was chief secretary of the Prussian legation at Frankfurt. He went much into society and one Christmas attended a big ball. During the height of the festivities Bismarck's attention was directed to an exceedingly pompous individual who strutted about the room. This was a M. de Clancy, a noted French duelist. Later on this important individual took part in the dance, but having omitted to leave his hat at the proper place had perforce to hold it out almost at arm's length while he danced.

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Well Trained. Old Lady (improving the occasion)—Ah, my poor man, you would not be in this position if you had received an early training in some trade or calling. Tramp—Don't you talk to me about not knowing what you don't know nothing about, missus. No training, indeed! Why, I was in prison afore I was four—m.—London Mail.

First Family Row. "Do you know who created the first family row on record?" "I suppose it was Adam and Eve when they raised Cain."—Stray Stories.

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