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Bishopric Wall Board Co. Limited
529D, Bank Street, OTTAWA, Ont.

believe that when he answered one of their questions he spoke with authority. The boy of the family, who is now long past the voting age, remembers to this day the astonishment that was his when he first appreciated the fact that his father was not infallible. He was in high school by that time, and had progressed far enough in his studies to be able to correct his father when the latter missed on a form of conjugation of a Latin verb.

Many times children can be made to answer their own questions, with a little directing, especially as they grow older. It takes more time and more patience to do this, but it teaches the child to think for himself and stimulates initiative. Here is an illustration, homely, of course, as all such must be.

A man visited his brother's home a short time ago, and his nephew, thirteen years old, said:

"Uncle, will you do this for me? I worked on it all the afternoon. I asked Pop before you came in, but he hasn't time."

"I'll try, lad. What is it?"
"This. If a hen and a half lays an egg and a half in a day and a half, how many eggs will six hens lay in seven days?"

"Well," said the uncle, "you are doing fractions in school, aren't you?"
"Yes, sir, but this is further along than I have gone."

"Probably not. At any rate, I don't care about doing something for you that you can do for yourself, and you can do that. Try it this way! If a hen and a half lays an egg and a half in a day and a half, how many eggs would six hens lay in a day and a half?"

"But that isn't the—"
"You'll see that it is in a minute. Go ahead."

The little fellow took pencil and paper, but the uncle said:

"No, don't bother with pencil and paper for such a simple thing as that. You'll neglect your brain if you do. Think it over for a minute and do it in your head."

The nephew thought for a while and then, brightening, said:

"Why, six hens are four times as many hens as one and a half hens, and so will lay four times one and a half eggs, or six eggs, in a day and a half."

"Well, then, if six hens lay six eggs in a day and a half, how many will they lay in one day?"

"Two-thirds that many," after another minute of thought, "or four."

"Well, got the answer?"
"Certainly. If six hens will lay four eggs in a day, they will lay seven times that many in seven days, or twenty-eight eggs."

Was that not better than saying "Too busy." "Haven't time." "Don't bother me with something you ought to be able to do yourself?" Or even doing the simple sum and showing the boy every step? He had been trying for hours, in a long and involved way, dallying with fractions that were troublesome to him, and getting nowhere. He will meet other problems of a similar kind, but next time he will try different ways until he finds the right one.



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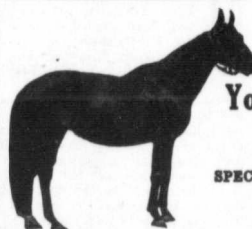
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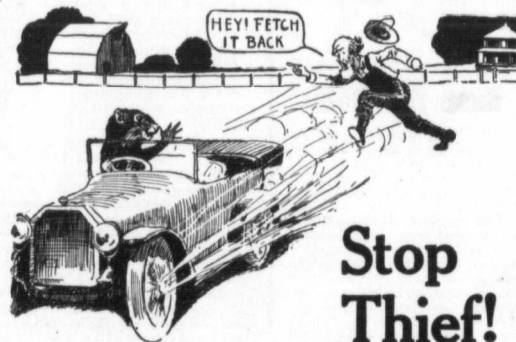
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