

Give the meddlers half a chantz an' be hivins the government will have to hire half of us to inspect the other half. 'Twill be like this:—Wan of the kids will wake up in the middle of yer beauty sleep yellin', "Hurry up pa, and get up; there's foive inspectors in the kitchen waitin' fer ye to sign their papers. One's vaccinat'in' the cook, one's examin'in' brother Moike on the Shorter Catechism, one's fumigatin' the cat, an' the other two is waitin' to search the house fer cigareet papers."

A law is a funny thing. It is not only in the way it is expected to act; but also in the ways that no wan cud foresee.



## THE RAGGED EDGE

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A man there was who had a scheme, a scheme unique and bold;  
He never paid old debts, and new ones he let get old,  
But this yarn is of ancient date, such scheme would fail to-day;  
Direct or indirectly, we all have got to PAY.

Wanting things for one's comfort that are above one's means,  
Although it is not poverty, like poverty it seems;  
And it isn't really what you need that pinches like the devil,  
But what folks think you ought to have to keep up to their level.

To live upon the ragged edge is not a pleasant fate,  
You surely lose your balance one day soon or late;  
On the ragged edge you suffer one way or another,  
And you have the pleasant choice if it be this way or the other.

Live within your means, without such things as make  
Your little world worth while to you, and gratification take  
In the idea that you're straight, and owe no man a debt;  
That when your little check comes in can't easily be met.

Or, on the other hand, get all you think you need,  
And owe therefor with lordly grace, and to appearances take heed.  
Discount the future thus; but then beware the dun,  
Who tirelessly doth follow him who into debt doth run.