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SHORT STORIES.

MANY amusing stories are told of Roy Bean, the famous U. S. justice of the peace. He is a unique type of a rough frontiersman, with good hard sense, and there is no red tape about the justice he deals out.

On one occasion he was examining a witness who had a cigarette in his month, and one of the bystanders called the justice's attention to the fact.

"I don't see why he can't lie just as well with a cigarette in his mouth as out of it," replied Judge Bean, as he continued questioning.

He was called once to hold an inquest over a man found dead. Among the effects of the deceased was \$53 and a six-shooter. As funerals were cheap at Langtry in those days and there was more than enough money on the body to bury it, the question of what disposition to make of the funds was soon solved by the justice fining the deceased for carrying concealed weapons the sum remaining after the interment had been paid for.

A Presbyterian minister, residing in a Sydney suburb, says the *Herald*, when in York street met an old acquaintance, who appeared to have just emerged from a wholesale drapery warehouse, outside which stood a horse and buggy. The acquaintance, a draper in a country town, made known his desire to get a cheque cashed, and inquired whether the clergyman could introduce him to some one who would oblige him, the banks having closed. The minister said, "We will go at once, if you'll drive," concluding that the turnout belonged to the visitor. The visitor, fancying that the trap was the clergyman's, said, "All right," seized the reins and drove to a shop in King street where the paper was negotiated. It was only natural that the success achieved should be duly celebrated, so the companions drove on to the Oxford, where both alighted. They were about to enter the hotel when the clergyman asked his friend whether the horse would stand. "Stand?" exclaimed the draper, "isn't it your trap?" "No," responded the minister with emphasis; "isn't it yours?" Another answer in the negative knocked the proposed rejoicings on the head and brought consternation to the speakers. They determined to drive back to York street as speedily as possible and make restitution of the property which they

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had appropriated. Unfortunately for them, the owner, a carrier, had missed his trap, and had already reported the matter to the police. At the corner of Pitt street the carrier espied his vehicle, with the minister and the draper in it. He at once demanded of a constable who was on the scene that they should be locked up. Explanations were attempted, but it was considered that a police station, if not a police court, would be the best place in which to settle the difficulty. The parties accordingly went to the lock-up in Clarence street, followed by a crowd. The affair was then discussed and satisfactorily disposed of, the minister and his friend making their apologies. The clergyman afterwards explained the facts to the crowd, who cheered him when he took his departure.

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