

# THE LADIES' JOURNAL

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## LOTS OF ENTERPRISE.

### Mr. Bowser Invests in Valuable Patent Gate Springs, Etc.

I don't know just exactly how many inventions are brought out weekly in this country, but I do know that Mr. Bowser would buy each and every one of them if he had an opportunity. When we first set up house-keeping he had churns, washing machines, cultivators, boot-jacks, apple parers, wagon jacks, spring locks, gate latches and so on to the extent of a wagon load, and he has added to the collection ever since, when he could do so without my knowledge. One day about a year ago an express wagon unloaded a model of a patent gate at the barn, and soon thereafter Mr. Bowser came home in an excited and enthusiastic state of mind and said to me:

"Don't scream, or faint away, or fall over anything and break an arm, but be calm and collected."

"Mr. Bowser, what do you mean?"

"Be calm—be calm. Mrs. Bowser, we are worth a million dollars."

"W—what!"

"Keep cool. Don't let the good news un-hinge your mind. Yes, we are worth a cool million, and perhaps two or three."

"Has some one left you a legacy?"

"No; I have made it with my own wit and foresight. Money can be left to a fool, but it takes a sharp man to make money for himself. Come out to the barn."

I followed him out and when he had placed the model in the alley and arranged certain parts to his satisfaction, he said:

"This is the Climax farm gate, covered by three different patents. I have bought the right to the State for \$500. You see the idea? This rope leading out on either side of the post is to be pulled by any one wishing to pass through. See? Farmer doesn't have to get down off his load of hay, just gives a yank—gate opens—drives through—gate shuts—goose hangs high."

"But—but—!"

"There's no but about it, Mrs. Bowser. Let's figure a bit. We'll say there are 50,000 farmers in the State. Each one wants five of these gates, making 250,000 gates in all. Each gate can be put in for \$8, and the profit is \$5. This gives me \$1,250,000. We'll allow \$50,000 for bad debts and we have a cool \$1,200,000 to put into our pockets. Isn't that a good margin on \$500?"

"Do you know that the farmers will buy this gate?"

"Buy it! Why, they are crying for it all over the State! I expect to be at least a thousand orders behind, the best I can do."

"Well, I hope it will be a success, but—"

"There you go! Always ready to throw cold water on any of my enterprises! If I brought you a solid chunk of gold you'd do your best to make out that it was nothing but a brick!"

An hour later a couple of sturdy old farmers came up at Mr. Bowser's invitation to see the patent, and I sneaked out to one side to hear what they might say. Mr. Bowser exhibited the gate, went over the figures and then asked what they thought of it.

"What's it for?" they asked.

"Why, to save a farmer from getting down off a load of hay or off his wagon."

"Um! Yes!"

"Isn't it a good thing!"

"Mebbe."

"But it must be. Can't you see the convenience at a glance? The farmer doesn't have to get down."

"No, I see he don't and he's a durned idiot! He'd better git down a thousand times than to pay \$8 for that gate. What's he there for but to git down? He's got lots of time to git down and climb up again."

In about ten minutes they knocked the under-pinning away and let Mr. Bowser down with a dull thud. He didn't let go altogether, however, until after he had taken the model to the hay market and secured further opinions. One of the last farmers to examine it turned to Mr. Bowser with:

"If ye want to catch the farmer invent sunthin' that will fodder the stock and feed the hogs afore daylight on a Winter's mornin'. Might make the same invention bring wheat up to \$2 a bushel, do his plowin', run the cider mill and pay off the mortgage on his farm."

It wasn't long after this before Mr. Bow-



FIG. 38.—No. 4702.—LADIES' BASQUE, PRICE 25 CENTS.

Quantity of Material (21 inches wide) for 30, 32 inches, 4 yards; 34 inches, 4½ yards; 36, 38 inches, 4¾ yards; 40, 42 inches, 4¾ yards.

Quantity of Material (42 inches wide) for 30, 32 inches, 2 yards; 34 inches, 2½ yards; 36, 38 inches, 2½ yards; 40, 42 inches, 2½ yards.

No. 4704.—LADIES' TRIMMED SKIRT. PRICE 30 CENTS.

This design cuts from 22 to 32 inches waist measure, and the quantity of material required for each size of 21-inch goods, 9½ yards; 42-inch goods, 4¾ yards. Skirt lining, 5 yards.

ser invested in a patent farm fence. The model showed three boards and two lines of wire to a section, and he bought six county rights at about \$100 each. He came home on a trot, brimful of enthusiasm, and he took me out to see the model.

"Has any farmer seen it," I asked. "Not yet, but three or four of them will be up pretty soon, and I have no doubt that every one will order a mile of it."

Three solid looking agriculturists put in an appearance after a while. They gave the model a careful looking over, and then one of them took out a pencil and said:

"It's a purty mighty fence, and it will stand, but let's figger a little on the cost."

The result of the figuring proved that it would take about the value of an average farm to fence it with that sort of fence, and the model is up stairs in the barn to-day.

Among Mr. Bowser's more recent investments was a patent gate spring. He brought the sample home under his arm,

Plain or striped materials and velvet, or silk and woolen goods may be arranged after this costume, which consists of basque Pattern No. 4702, price 25 cents, and skirt Pattern No. 4704, price 30 cents. In the illustration the basque has a rounded collar, yoke in front, and part of the sleeves of velvet. The back is cut with a coat-tail, and the front opens invisibly, with shirrings at the waist-line, and the upper part gathered to the yoke to form an erect ruffle. The full sleeve has the under part of the woolen fabric, edged with silk passementerie. The skirt has a panel of fan-pleats on the left side beneath the buttoned lap, and hangs plainly to the full, gathered back, with a trimming of velvet and passementerie on the edge of the front and sides.

having bought the State right to manufacture and sell, and he was hardly in the house before he said:

"Mrs. Bowser, will you have the kindness to make some figures for me? Put down 1,428,200. Now multiply that by 60. The total is cents, and you will divide by 100 to get it into dollars."

"It's over \$850,000," I replied.

"Exactly, but call it an even \$800,000."

"What for?"

"To represent the sum I shall make within the next year on this patent gate spring. I figure that there are 1,428,200 gates in this State which need springs. This spring can be sold for \$1, and the profit is sixty cents. Just like rolling off a log. Mrs. Bowser, we've struck it!"

"I—I hope so."

"I know it! I feel it in my bones! In a year from now we'll be able to walk on diamonds!"

Three days later Mr. Bowser had discov-

ered that out of the 1,428,200 gates in the State, only the owners of about 100,000 thought it necessary to put on springs, and that a twenty-five cent spring worked just as well as a dollar one. He came home sick and laid abed all the afternoon, and towards night, when I asked him for \$2 to get some notions, he roared out:

"Two dollars! Two dollars! You want two dollars?"

"Yes."

"I never saw such a woman to want money nor to spend it so extravagantly! Mrs. Bowser, you let 'em rob you right and left! You don't seem to have any idea of values. You have got to make a change or I'll do all the buying myself. They know better than to try any trickery on me, an don't you forget it!"

## Home Remedies.

Here is an old auntie's prescription for fever and ague which, for forty years, has proved a cure when taken according to direction: Blow out the dust from whole mustard seed, either black or white, and take a tablespoonful before breakfast every morning for three successive days; then omit it three mornings, and again take it three successive mornings. Before the patient has taken the ninth dose he will wonder what has become of his chills. The seed should be swallowed whole, and are easily taken with water.

Mustard seed taken the same way as described above, but in teaspoon doses, is an excellent remedy for dyspepsia.

An old-fashioned and very good cough syrup is made of sunflower seeds as follows: Put half a pound of the seeds in a bag and pound them until they are broken, then add a quart of water and cook them well, after which strain them and add a pound of loaf sugar and a teaspoonful of New Orleans molasses to the juice. Boil it down until quite thick and add half a pint of the best gin, then bottle for use. Take a teaspoonful of this several times a day, according to the severity of the cough.

A syrup much used by our grandmothers for colds and whooping-cough is made of equal quantities of flax seed, licorice root, boneset and slippery elm bark. To these add cold water to cover well, and let the mixture boil slowly for an hour, then strain it and add half a pound of loaf sugar and a pint of molasses.

A remedy for coughs recommended by many of the best doctors is made by steeping flax seed and straining it through a tin strainer before it gets too thick. Add an equal quantity of lemon juice, and enough loaf sugar to make a syrup. This should be taken freely.

For a chronic cough get a bottle of strained honey, one of olive oil, and one of home-made wine. Two or three times a day take a mixture composed of one teaspoonful of the honey and two each of the oil and wine.

When children are threatened with croup, cut raw onions in slices, put them in a saucer and sprinkle them freely with brown sugar, then give the juice that forms in teaspoon doses.

A raw onion sliced and placed in a sick-room is a good disinfectant, as it absorbs poison rapidly. For that reason it should be burned twice a day and replaced by a fresh one.

We have been asked frequently what are the symptoms of worms in children. The following have been compiled from the best authorities:—The countenance pale; eyes dull and pupil dilated; picking of the nose; occasional headache, with throbbing of the ears; slimy or furred tongue; foul breath generally in the morning; appetite changeable; belly swollen and hard; a gnawing or twisting pain in the stomach, or about the navel; the bowels costive or purged, not unfrequently tinged with blood; stools slimy; urine turbid; uneasy and disturbed sleep, with grinding of the teeth; starting up out of sleep; breathing occasionally difficult, generally with hicough; temper changeable, but generally irritable. Whenever the above symptoms are found to exist, Dawson's Chocolate Cream Worm Drops may be depended upon to effect a certain cure. Sold everywhere at 25c per box. Dawson Medicine Co., Montreal.