

Old Saws

"Here comes Dave Bogert, one of our neighbor boys," said Sike to Van.

A little round-faced, freckle-nosed boy of about ten years marched up to them, but he hesitated and looked abashed before he spoke. He handed a note book to Sike. "I have here a list of Echoes, old Saws, and Col-lo-qui-al-isms." The last word was slowly and carefully pronounced. "Our teacher has a book that five of the boys in our class wants. He has only one copy, so he made a bargain with us. It's sort of a game. The one who can get the largest number of old Saws can have the book to keep."

Will you please add one or two good ones. My father and grandfather and Uncle Jim gave me most of the same in this list."

Van and Sike sat down on the cabin steps and motioned for the boy to sit down.

Here's one you haven't got," said Sike

"Penny wise - Pound foolish."

"Oh yes," said Dave brightly, as he scribbled. "We have a neighbor who paid two hundred dollars for a team of horses, and killed them doing a hundred dollars worth of work."

"Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise," said Van.

"That's what Pop says when I

don't want to go to bed."

"He bit off more than he could chew," said Sike.

"I did that once," giggled Hlave. "I bit off such a big chunk of molasses taffy that I had to take it out of my mouth and break it in two."

"You can't have your cake and eat it too."

"I know it," said Hlave. "Once when Mom made a chocolate layer cake I cut myself a big wedge of it. At the supper table when Mom passed the cake she passed me by and I didn't ask for a piece."

"His eyes are bigger than his stomach," said Van.

"I found that out the last time Mom made apple dumplings."

"He's tight as the bark on a tree."
Have nodded. "That's when a man is stingy."

"Two miles as the crow flies."
Have nodded - "Greenwood Lake is only
three miles from here as the crow flies,
and nine miles by road."

"An apple a day keeps the doctor away."
Have shook his head. "I ate seven green ones
once and the doctor gave me castor oil."

"Between the devil and the deep blue sea."
Have grinned. "I played hooky once
and Pop and the teacher found it out."

"His word is as good as his bond."
Have nodded. "Pop's is."

"A watched pot never boils," said Sike
"Yes, I've heard Mom say that."

"Give the devil his due."

"I've heard Pop say that."

"His bark is worse than his bite."

Have looked roguishly at Sike -

"Farmer Bennett," he said.

"Right you are m'lad," said Sike.

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," said Van.

"I'll read that one to Pop."

"He's a clarf off the old block."

"Grandprof says that. He says I'm just like he was when he was a boy."

Have looked over his list, then thanked Van and Sike with a broad grin on his face and went whistling down the road.