

# DER GERMAN COBBLER

New Day Policeman on the Beat Informs Hans What is Expected of Him

(Copyright, 1923, by C. B. Lewis.)

**D**ER odder day der new policeman on our beat comes in my place to introduce himself. I had six shoes to mend und vvas slinging und happy. Der policeman stands in der door und swells out his stomach und coughs like some great mans und says:

"Dutchy, I vvas der new day patrolman on dis beat, und I like to speak a few words to you."

"My name vvas Hans," I says.

"Don't you talk back to me, old mans. I say your name vvas Dutchy, und what I say goes. I haf heard of you. You vvas a mans who should be taken down a peg or two now und den, und I vvas here to do it. You



"DUTCHY, I VVAS DER NEW DAY PATROLMAN ON DIS BEAT."

must understand somethings right avhuy. I vvas a bigger man dan der mayor of New York."

"How can dot be?"

"Vhat! Vhat! Don't you belief I vvas? Look out, old mans. I vvas also a bigger man dan der governor."

"Vvas dot possible?"

"I'll show you before a week vvas safer. I vvas also a bigger mans dan der president of der United States, und when I pass your door, you shall put your hand on your heart und bow down to me. Haf you got dose things fixed in your mind?"

"Maybe I haf," I says.

"Dere vvas no maybe about her. You shust remember who I vvas, or it vwill be bad for you. Der odder mans on dis beat vvas changed off because he don't feel bigger ash an aldermans und let millionaires be too familiar mit him. Don't you get it in your head I vvas dot kind of a man. Der mans who tries to get familiar mit me vwill haf some broken heads, right avhuy. Don't you safer speak mit me unless I gif you feer to do so. Haf you got dot fixed in der top of your head?"

"I won't speak to you at all," I says.

"Vhat! Vhat!" he yells out ash he grows red in der face. "By golly, but if you don't speak to me all der time I shall send you oop to Sing Sing for five years! Tell me you vwill speak to me—tell me, gweck!"

"Vwell, den, I shall speak mit you."

"Look out, old mans—look out! You vvas monkeying mit a mighty big buzz-saw. Let me tell you some more. If you like to keep friends mit me, you vwill haf a growler of beer here so dot I can drink ash I pass by. Being a great mans und walking oop und down makes me thirsty, und it vvas for common peoples to buy me beer. You shust fix dat in your mind or dere vvas some troubles. Haf you some growler now?"

"I don't belief I haf, but I haf some water in dot pitcher on der safer, und you can help yourself."

"Water! Water! By dot big born spoon, but if you talk dot vway to me you vvas a cripple for life in five minutes! Do you belief I vvas some three-year-old child to cry for water? You haf dot growler ready in one hour or your heart shall ache. Dere vvas some things else to speak of, und you listen to me und don't draw your breath while I talk. I shall expect you to keep my shoes in repair intout cost to me und be glad to do it, und you can begin tomorrow. You shall fix 'em oop ash good ash new und of der werry best leather. I shall also bring some shoes for my wife und children und maybe for some friends of mine. You shall make good jobs of it or you shall hear from me. Do you understand, Dutchy, or must I go at it und sandpaper dot old head of yours? Der work I bring in shall keep you busy all der time."

"I don't work for nobody for nothings," I tells him. "If I works for nothings und how does my family live?"

"Vhat! Vhat!" he yells ash he almost stumps oop und down. "So I haf found a man who dares me to my face, haf I? By my soul, but do you know you vvas on der edge of der grave und dot in ten seconds more you vvas a corpse! Listen to me, old mans, und listen like you suffer dis before. Maybe you vvas deaf und don't hear what I said, but you shall fix oop my shoes or I'll make it so hot for you dot you vvas roasted in old weather! Dere vvas some more, den, und you best listen on interesting mit all dose big words of yours. I won't speak vvas no more, und der talk avhuy by der shufler, und when I pass und I see you in my way, I'll be back."

asks, "Don't it do I put him on der safer or in my pocketbook?"

"No, you oldt idiot! You paste him in your hat to make you remember. It vvas three cigars a day, und each one vvas 10 cents. Haf you got dot fixed in your mind, or must I take you by der neck to make you remember?"

"I don't belief I haf. If you like to drop in some time und visit me und smoke my pipe dot vvas all right, but maybe you had better bring some tobacco along mit you."

"I speak dot vway to dot polleemans, und he vvas so madt he can't talk for five minutes. He shust stands und looks at me mit eyes like a mad dog. Then he can speak at last he calls me more ash one hounded Dutchmans und idiot saytums und den takes me by der half und knocks my head against der wall. When I recovers my brains und feels I vvas alive again he says:

"Now, do you belief I vvas a bigger man dan der president of der United States? If you don't belief so you shall haf some more of dot same kind. It vvas three cigars a day, I tell you, und each one vvas 10 cents. If you ring in a poor one on me at any time, I vwill make you eat it oop. Listen to me some more, oldt mans. About 3 o'clock in der afternoon I like a bite to eat, der same ash all great mans. It shall be cheese und crackers und beer. See dot you get der best und put him on a clean plate. You shall haf him ready for me tomorrow. Do you hear me, or must I str you oop some more?"

"I don't belief I do," I says.

"Oh, you don't, eh? You still think I vvas only a common-polleemans instead of der biggest man in der world. Well, let us see a leetle about dot."

Den he grabs me und chokes me und bangs my head again, und when he lets oop I belief I vvas dead for two hours. I can't hardly hear him no more, und my ears vvas buzzing like some bumblebees ash he says:

"If you vvas deaf I shall make your ears all right before I vvas done. Then a Dutch cobbler sets out to defy der biggest man in America it vvas high time somethings vvas done. Keep it in your mind, oldt mans. It vvas a growler of beer four or five times a day; it vvas three good cigars safer twenty-four hours; it vvas a neat little lunch-oon, mit plenty more beer, about 3 o'clock in der afternoon; it vvas to cobble my shoes und der shoes of my family free of charge. Let's see if der vvas some more? Oh, yes! Sometimes a big man like me don't haf some change in his pocket. When he don't he comes in here to borrow a dollar of you, und you vwill hand it oafar P. D. Q. Do you know what dot means?"

"He means dot I don't lend somebody a dollar," I says.

"Oh, he does, eh?" shouted der policeman ash he hauls me all oafar der shop und pulls my hair und punches my ribs und bangs me mit his knee.

"Stand oop dere und look at me while I say somethings to you. I shall be out of change tomorrow und drop in here und crook my finger like so. You haf der dollar ready, und you hand it oafar like some lightning. If you don't!"

Und he shakes me till I belief dot all my teeth vwill drop out on der floor. I don't say nothings, und he stands me oop und looks at me und smiles und says:

"How vvas it now, Dutchy? Vvas you der biggest man in der world or vvas I? It takes me a leetle while to make you see somethings, but I guess you haf your eyes und your ears open after avhuy. One ting more, und I go out on my beat und let der boobie see how big a man I vvas. I see you haf some theater bills in your shop window und so you get some deadhead passes. You shall save 'em all und gif 'em to me for my friends und family. If I catch you going to der theater I shall break both your knees mit my club. Maybe you vvas a leetle deaf, und so I shall make sure dot you hear me."

Mit dot he bangs me all around once more und gif me a punch dot hurts me dead on der floor, und when I wake oop he vvas outdoors und my wife vvas bending oafar me und saying I vvas six weeks in der hospital. It looks to me from a cobbler's bench as if I shall haf some troubles mit dot policemen before I get through. M. QUAD.

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