

HER TOOL SIMPLE, EFFECTIVE

Mrs. Dorgan Tells Husband How She Accomplished Various Reforms in the House.

Dorgan on his return home sat down to hear the family happenings during his absence, says the Philadelphia Public Ledger. The wife was laying particular stress upon the reforms she had successfully introduced.

"You know," said she, "that closet that was locked for more than a month? You said it couldn't be opened except by a locksmith. Well, I opened it."

"How on earth did you do it?"
"With a hairpin. And the furnace door has been sagging around on one hinge for ever so long, you know; but it's all right now."

"Well, I am glad you had it fixed."
"Had it fixed? I fixed it myself with a hairpin. And there was that picture of your mother that stood on the floor for six weeks because you hadn't brought me any picture hooks—"

"Well, I intended to, but—"
"Oh, it doesn't make any difference now. I made a hook myself out of a hairpin."

"No!"
"And there's Tommy. You've been coaxing and bribing him for a year to break him of the habit of biting his nails, and I broke him in a week."
"With a hairpin?" inquired Mr. Dorgan.
"No! Don't be a goose! With a hairbrush."

HUGE TREE IN NEW ZEALAND

Kauri Is Found That Is Estimated to Be at Least Two Thousand Years Old.

One of the largest trees in the world, if not the largest, has been discovered in the bush at Waihou, Hokitanga, New Zealand. It is a huge kauri tree, the vast trunk rising to a height of seventy-five feet before being broken by the first branch, and measuring twenty-two feet in diameter and sixty-six feet, or approximately a chain, in girth.

A well-known bush expert estimates the tree to contain more than 195,000 superficial feet of timber, sufficient to build three double-storied hotels of twenty rooms each from floor to ceiling.

It is to be hoped that this remarkable tree will be zealously guarded from destruction and preserved to show future generations what the lordly kauri at its best was like. From a marketable point of view it would be impossible to fell it, much less break it down, no mill possessing saws big enough to tackle it.

The age of the giant is estimated to be at least 2,000 years, and, carefully preserved, it has another thousand years of life before it.—Forestry Journal.

Century of Long Trousers.

This year marks the hundredth anniversary of the official adoption of long trousers as the male garment. Although Beau Brummel had worn them half a dozen years before, and they had become an accepted "fashion" in 1821, it was in 1823 that they received official sanction, replacing breeches and leggings in the British infantry. The Irish had worn a sort of trousers in the Seventeenth century, but they bore but little resemblance to the modern garment. Even Beau Brummel's trousers would be counted a curiosity today, for they buttoned at the ankle. Yet they undoubtedly are the garment from which the modern "long pants" has been evolved.

A New Element.

The teacher was piloting a class in general science through one of the early lessons in the textbook.

"What were the four elements," she asked, "into which the ancients divided all natural objects? William, you may answer."

"Earth," began William slowly.
"Earth—and—and—air—let's see, there was earth and air and—water—and—and—"

"Well, well," said the teacher briskly, "what causes more accidents than anything else?"

"Automobiles," cried William, grateful for the teacher's help.—Youth's Companion.

Eating for a Purpose.

The hired man was un hitching his team at noon. "Boss," said he, "do you want me to pitch or rake this afternoon?"

"Oh, rake, I guess," was the reply. After dinner while getting ready for the field again, the farmer said, "Jake, I guess you'd better pitch this afternoon, after all."

"Can't do it, boss," returned Jake.
"Why not?"
"Cause I didn't fill to pitch."

Cable of Human Hair.

In the great Buddhist temple at Kyoto, Japan, is to be seen an immense hawser of human hair. This unique rope measures 800 feet in length and three inches in diameter, and is made up of contributions from the heads of millions of Japanese women. Long ago it was used to drag the timbers to the building and to hoist them into place, and now it is carefully preserved as a sacred relic.

RECALL EVENTS OF

Documents Presented to Massachusetts Historical Society Are of the Highest Interest.

One of the important gifts to the Massachusetts Historical society with associations of the anti-slavery period of the last century is from Dr. Vincent Y. Bowditch, says the Boston Transcript. It is a large volume containing letters, posters, clippings and other pieces relating to the famous case of George Latimer, the first fugitive slave seized in Boston, October 21, 1842. With these is a complete file of the Latimer Journal and North Star, in seven numbers, published between November 11, 1842, and May 16, 1843, and edited by Bowditch's father, Dr. Henry Ingersoll Bowditch, and William Francis Channing and Frederick S. Cabot.

The seizure caused great excitement in Boston, and steps were immediately taken to defend Latimer. The editors say at the outset that its great object will be "to give utterance to the alarm and indignation of Massachusetts at the encroachment of slavery on her soil."

The letter which Latimer, on October 22, 1842, sent to the Boston ministers asking that prayers for his release might be offered on the following Sunday, was recently given to the society by Grenville H. Norcross, and is now with this collection. It is in the handwriting of Samuel E. Sewall, and the signature of Latimer (by his mark) is witnessed by him.

PRANKS OF THE LODESTONE

Jems Glued to the Ground and Nails Drawn Out of Boots Are Among Stories Told.

Swedish sailors tell queer tales about the country near the Arctic circle where lodestones are found. Hunters, they say, have laid their guns down and found them glued to the ground when they came to pick them up again. Men have had to take off their boots to get home again, when the nails in them have stuck closely to the ground, says the Detroit News.

There is the tale of the Lodestone mountain in the Arabian Nights, where a vessel was drawn toward it and toward it until, when it approached the fatal shore, all the nails were drawn out and flew toward the mountains and the ship sank to the bottom of the sea.

The Viking sailors used a raft as their compass. They put a lodestone on a little raft and it floated always with the one end towards the Lode star. By this fashion they could tell in the daytime as well as at night in what direction they were sailing, provided the water was still enough to let them float their little raft.

Tennis Ball Scales.

Few tennis players know how tennis balls for the tournaments held under the sanction of the National Lawn Tennis association are tested. It appears that the machine that one expert uses to weigh tennis balls is similar in appearance to an instrument used to find the specific gravity of a liquid. It consists of a long glass tube in which water is placed at 75 degrees Fahrenheit. A second tube, on which fractions of ounces are marked, with a certain weight of buckshot in the base and a holder for the ball on top, floats in the water.

A ball must weigh no less than two ounces or more than two and one-sixteenth ounces to be accepted, and when it is placed in the holder the tube reveals the slightest irregularity in its weight.

Great in Many Ways.

Both Washington and Lincoln were of large build. The former, according to the letter which he wrote when ordering a suit of clothes from a London tailor, was "six feet high and proportionately made—if anything rather slender than thick for a person of that height." The "best weight of his best days" was 220 pounds. Lincoln was four inches taller and weighed 180 pounds, was of narrower chest and less erect. Both lived in youth much the same out-of-door life—Lincoln having the ruder existence. Both were very muscular, being the champions of sport in their respective days and localities. Both were robust in mental qualities as in physical strength and endurance. Both Washington and Lincoln were temperate in all things.

No Question About That.

"Why should I boost your salary any more? I'm paying you a thousand a week now."

The danseuse executed a pirouette.
"See that step?"
"I see that step," returned the manager.

"I invented that step," insisted the dancer.

"I know you did, cutie," snorted the manager, shifting his cigar from left to right. "You invented that step and a lot more. But lemme tell you somepin you need to know."

"What is that?" she asked.
"You didn't invent dancing."

Chose His Mother's Portrait.

When the collection of paintings and other art gems that adorned the St. Paul home of the late James J. Hill came to be divided among the heirs, following the death of the widow of "the empire builder," lots were drawn to determine who should have the first choice. One of the sons, Walter J. Hill, proved the lucky one, and from the collection of masterpieces of almost fabulous value he promptly chose the portrait of his mother.

1923

—Never hoe beans or cultivate them when the vines are wet, unless you want "rusty" plants.

—Celery may be bleached by means of boards, paper or drain-tile. Earth is likely to cause decay if applied when the soil or foliage is wet.

—The "fore-milk"—the first few streams drawn from the cow at milking time—should be thrown away, and not be allowed in the pail. It is claimed this fore-milk is full of bacteria.

—The total area of land in farms in Pennsylvania has decreased by more than a million acres during the last ten years and the number of farms in the State has fallen from about 220,000 to 200,000 according to the last census report. These facts might indicate that agriculture in Pennsylvania is on the down grade but agriculture economists at State College think differently.

"Many of the farms that have been abandoned because they were unprofitable should never have been cleared," say the economists. "Forest land is all they are good for. The reduction of acreage and number of farms will give to the good land and efficient farmer the returns they deserve."

As proof of this statement they cite the fact that in spite of the smaller acreage farmed, the total production and yield per acre of the ten principal crops of Pennsylvania has greatly increased during the last decade. This, they point out, is due to better live stock, more efficient machinery, and better methods of farming.

"Work the good land and do it well," is the advice of the experienced farmer. "The loss of low grade land and poor farmers from the agricultural industry is a hopeful sign that those who remain will make more profit and be able to live better."

—Land that is in a poor condition and unproductive is, as a rule, sour. Soils become sour when the lime is constantly leached out. In leaching, organic matter produces acids, and some fertilizers leave acids in the soil. Unless lime is applied to such conditions, only a few crops will thrive or give full returns for the manure and fertilizer expended. The New Jersey State College of Agriculture says manure, organic matter and animal fertilizers, such as tankage, must be acted on by soil bacteria before their plant food becomes available. These bacteria, as well as those which supply legumes with the atmospheric nitrogen, are unable to work efficiently in a soil that is sour. Most clover failures are due to soil acidity and without clover soda or legume cover crops the nitrogen supply of the soil cannot be economically held under average conditions. When there is sufficient lime in the soil potash and phosphoric acid are more available. Lime lightens a stiff, clayey soil, especially when applied in a caustic form, and makes light land more retentive of plant food.

Professor Dickey says when a ton of pure limestone or shells (calcium and magnesium carbonate) is burned, about 1100 pounds of actual lime, calcium and magnesium oxide is left. When this is slaked or "hydrated," it takes up water until it weighs about 1350 pounds. When it becomes air-slaked it goes back to the original carbonate form. All lime quickly reverts to carbonate in the soil so that the kind applied is important chiefly as regards physical condition and concentration.

It makes little difference in which form the lime is applied, but ground limestones or shells have only about three-fifths the strength of burned lime and two-thirds the strength of hydrated lime. Fineness in lime is desirable, but it is not necessary that it be very fine. Limestone that will not pass a 50-mesh screen requires some time to become entirely available.

The value of any form of lime depends on the total percentage of calcium and magnesium oxide (total oxide) contained. In buying lime it is as important to have the analysis with each shipment as in fertilizer. Ground limestone or oyster shell contains about 50 per cent. total oxide. Hydrated lime should contain 70 to 80 per cent., and lump lime or ground burned lime about 90 per cent., of un-

adulterated with core, ashes or slaked material.

By-product limes, so-called "agricultural limes," and lime fertilizers, such as wood ashes, should be purchased strictly on an analysis basis. The amount of actual lime is often very small, and the price asked is seldom economical. It is generally cheaper and better to buy and use lime and fertilizer separately and in standard forms.

Potatoes, tomatoes, corn, buckwheat, berries, red-top grass, carrots and watermelons are usually less dependent on lime than are other crops, and will grow on moderately sour soil. Almost all other crops are benefited by lime, but those most responsive are alfalfa, clover, soy beans, oats, wheat, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, beets, cucumbers, lettuce, onions, peppers, spinach and sweet potatoes. Apply lime for the crops which will give the greatest response. In general farming the best place to put it is on land prepared for grain, in which clover is to be sown.

Where plants make their tender, early growth lime should be kept in the surface soil, and never plowed under, as lime will be washed down, but never up. Spread it evenly, and mix thoroughly with the surface soil by harrowing. This will increase its efficiency by direct contact with more soil particles, and prevents caustic or hydrated lime from crusts and cementing together on the surface. Avoid waste of nitrogen and organic matter by keeping lime and manure apart.

Plow down manure or harrow it in well before applying lime. Lime will materially help the clovers and desirable grasses to crowd out the sorrel and weeds which are apt to take possession of sour meadows and pastures.

Lime promotes the development of potato scab if the disease is present, but moderate applications of hydrated lime to the vines during the season seem safe, help keep off the flea beetle and sweeten the soil for the clover, grain or clover crop to follow.

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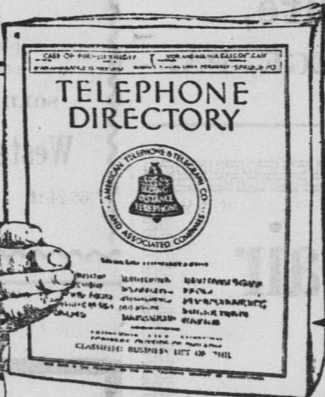
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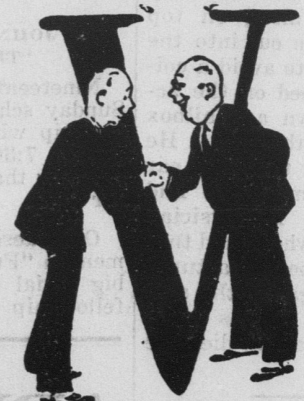
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