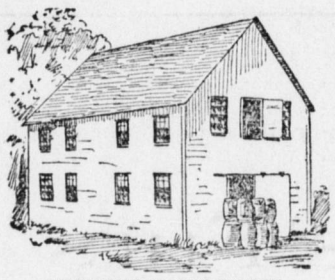
THE FARMING WORLD

FRUIT STORAGE HOUSE.

Description of One Used by H. H. Hill, One of Vermont's Successful Horticulturists.

My house for storing fruit is one that was on the premises and not built for the purpose. But I find it quite convenient. It is a stone building 26x34 feet, with good walls two feet thick, well laid in mortar, as shown in the illustration. To make it so I could hold fruit through the winter, I lined it inside with matched lumber, making an air space of about ten inches between the wall and lining. It is a two-story house. I protect from cold by putting straw on upper floor about four feet thick when settled. It kept the fruit well. I make a fire in it only three or four times through the winter, on account of extreme cold.



VERMONT FRUIT HOUSE.

I could, with but little expense, make it good for cold storage by putting eight or ten 12-inch galvanized iron pipes through the upper floor, letting them down three or four feet, and filling from above with crushed ice and cheap fertilizer salt. I have used it as it is, opening the doors nights to cool off and keeping it closed during the day, except when putting in more fruit. I pick and put in barrels in the orchard and store them open. In rainy weather I can sort and pack for market. I usually sell to buyers, so they are off my hands and in market or cold storage, near market, by November 15. I have seldom kept a crop over.—Orange Judd Farmer.

PLUMS FOR MARKET.

There Are Hundreds of Varieties, But Only a Few Are Adapted for General Cultivation.

The number of known species of plums runs up into the hundreds, but among those hundreds there are only a few that it will pay to do much with. But it requires a great deal of experimentation to find out the best that is in each species. Each species in turn is made to produce innumerable varieties, which may be in turn crossed with the seedlings of other species. If all the new varieties were named we would soon have chaos in the nomenclature. In addition the number of varieties would become so great that the longest life would not suffice to become acquainted with them. It is, therefore, fortunate that cutting out of varieties is continually going on. Recently in walking through a block of 500 seedling plum trees with Prof. Goff, of the Wisconsin experiment station, he made the remark that of those 500 trees, all fruiting and bearing fairly good plums, not more than a dozen trees would be saved. The rest were to go onto the brush heap. He says we have too many varieties now, and that most of the varieties men are attempting to grow should be discarded. This phase of the subject is of interest to the plum student and is an encouragement, for it justifies the course of passing lightly over most of the varieties or forgetting them altogether and fixing the attention on the few varieties that have been proven to be good. For all practical purposes, therefore, it is possible for a man to become a plum expert without devoting an entire life to the study.—Farmers' Review.

Horse Meat in Vienna.

The price of horse meat ranges, per pound of fore quarter, from 5 to 8 cents; hind quarter, 6 to 9 cents; choice cuts for steak and roast, from 5 to 11 cents; the same cuts in beef averaging from 20 to 24 cents a pound. The horse meat is also worked up into sausages, and as such sells at correspondingly low prices. The horse-meat butcher shops, of which there are now no less than 185 in this city, present a clean and attractive appearance, and are in no way distinguishable from the shops where the usual kinds of meat are sold, save by the sign announcing their specialty. Restaurant keepers who serve horse meat must designate this fact in a special column on the bill of fare offered to patrons.—Vienna Letter.

Keeping the Milk Sweet.

If the milk is to be delivered in good condition to the consumer during the summer months, it must be thoroughly cooled and aerated and kept cool, says Hoard's Dairyman. These steps are absolutely necessary with all milks during the hot weather. A great improvement can also be made by looking carefully after the cleanliness of cows, stables and milk utensils, as there is a great difference in the keeping quality of clean and dirty milks. The whole question of keeping milk sweet is in providing a clean article, kept cooled and well aerated. Preservatives should not be used under any condition.

WINTER VEGETABLES.

Suggestions for Constructing Cold Frames Which Will Answer All Ordinary Purposes.

The frames should be in the warmest possible situation, facing south, or in that general direction. I construct my hotbeds on a different plan from most others. I build a more permanent frame. First I set cedar posts the width of the bed, then nail on boards with an elevation of about eight inches on the back. The soil is dug out to a depth of 18 to 30 inches from the glass, to suit the crop to be grown. The earth is banked around the frame for protection.

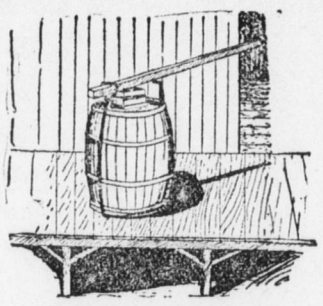
I construct frames as near air-tight as possible. It requires less protection during the severe freezing weather. The sash are thoroughly glazed and every crack is puttied. The crack across the glass is run with mastica. My sash are mostly 4x6 foot, with four rows of ten-inch glass. A bar 2x4 inches is placed between each sash. It is put down a little below the edge of the top board, but even with the top of the lower edge of frame. I use a strip one inch thick the depth of the sash; it is nailed on top of the 2x4-inch bar, overjets the bottom of frame and is even with the top edge. I put on a cap board eight inches wide along the top. It is nailed to the back board of frame and the bars between the sash. This forms a perfect shelter for the sash to slide under, the frame being built about four inches wider than the length of the sash. I find this a great protection, as much heat escapes and much cold enters the crack between the back board and the sash if constructed in the ordinary way. I find there is very little necessity for mats or straw for a bed so constructed.

Frames built after this plan will cost about five dollars per sash. With care they will last for years. I think every farmer ought to have a frame, if only a few sash. He can have lettuce, green parsley, celery, etc., all winter. If any surplus he can always dispose of it at a good price. I do not think a farmer is half living who does not have a few fresh vegetables on his table from his own frame at all times. We do not use as much manure in our beds as some other growers. I use leaves, as they retain the heat much longer than the pure straw manure. My mixture is one load of manure and two loads of new oak leaves.—R. Vincent, Jr., in American Agriculturist.

FOR BARRELING APPLES.

Homemade Apparatus That Will Do the Work Just as Well as One More Intricate.

Many manufactured barreling presses are on the market, and yet the home-made apparatus presented in the accompanying illustration will do the work just as well and in some respects much more conveniently than the commercial ones. A few minutes' work by any good blacksmith will bend the stout iron rod into the shape shown, which must pass down one side of the barrel, across under it, and up the other side, with the bent ends above the chine of the barrel, as indicated. A long lever of wood slipped into the loop and just the right thicknesses of blocks laid beneath it to spring the cover down into place, enables the operator then to draw the lever under the lip of the rod on the other side, whereupon the whole will remain stationary until the head is nailed in.—Fred O. Sibley, in Ohio Farmer.



SIMPLE BARREL PRESS.

SPRAYING A SCIENCE.

All of Our Agricultural Colleges Are Now Teaching How to Do the Work Right.

The time has gone by when spraying of fruit trees is considered a task that can be successfully performed by any novice. When fruit growers first realized that their trees must be sprayed it was currently supposed that any hired man could take a spray pump of any make and cover the trees with a spray solution destructive to the insects and fungi, but harmless to the tree itself. This belief was the cause of the many failures that were early recorded against the operators. Spraying is now recognized as a science, and all of our agricultural colleges are teaching how to do the work correctly. The advice is now given: "Do not trust an inexperienced man behind the nozzle of a sprayer." Most of the men that spray are mere bunglers at the business, having no complete conception of the great principles underlying the operation. Spraying is rapidly becoming a profession, and we predict that it will not be long before men skillful in spraying trees will be in demand both in the city and country. It is becoming evident that the owner of a small orchard can better pay an expert owning his own apparatus to do the work than to himself invest in an outfit and trust his own experience.—Farmers' Review.

Repartee.

Aristocrat—I understand that your grandfather made horseshoes.

Plebian—Yes, he made some for your grandfather once and the bill isn't receipted yet.—Somerville Journal.

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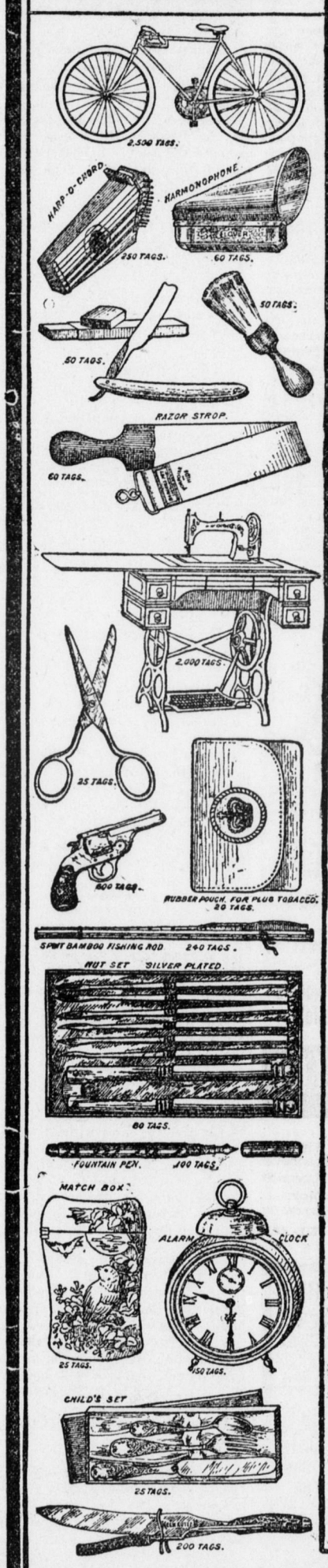

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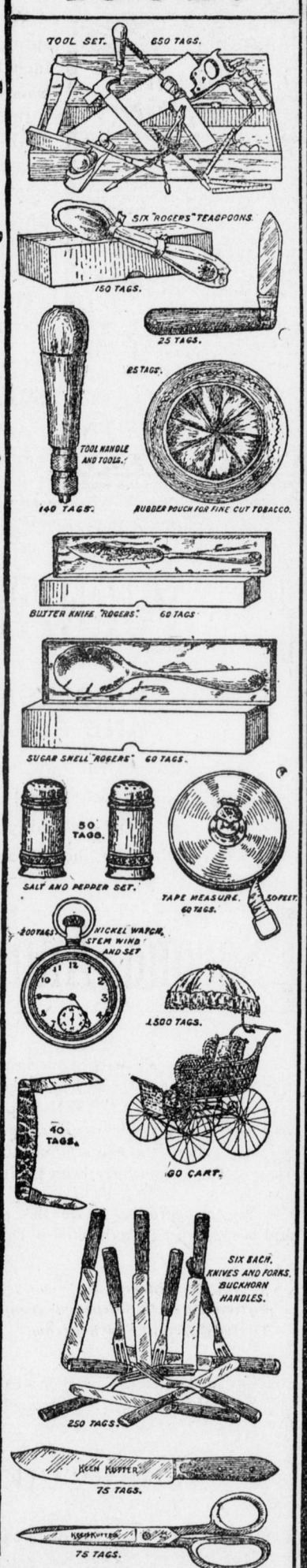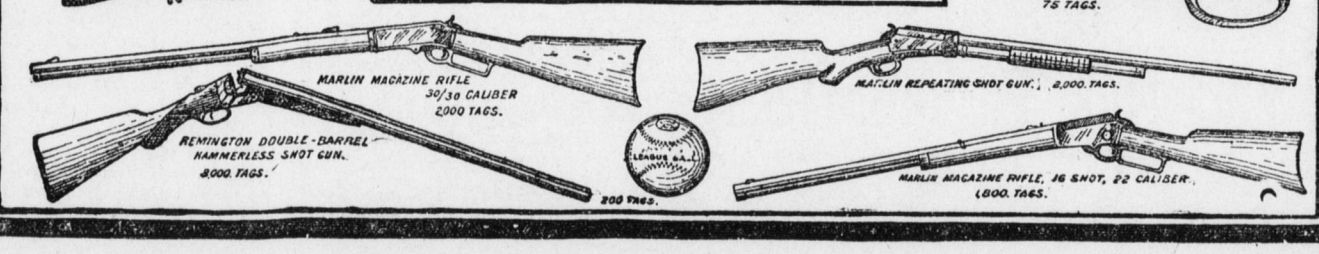
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