

FARM AND GARDEN



MOLDS FOR CEMENT POSTS.

I noticed some inquiry in regard to molds for cement posts; we have not made any cement posts but intend making some this season as I think they are the cheapest posts that can be had. I have a plan for making them, but it is to be tried yet. We will first make a platform, the length of my posts, and as wide as the number of posts I wish to make at one time. If I make twelve posts at one time, six inches square at one end, and five inches square at the other end, I will make outside frame seven feet and nine inches at one end and five feet eleven inches at the other end. That will include eleven one-inch spaces for partitions between posts. The outside frame should be six inches high at the wide end and five inches high at the narrow end; the sides of frame should be six inches high at one end and five inches high at the other end, so the frame will be straight all the way around. On top this frame may be in four separate pieces, and held from pushing outward by means of stakes. For partitions we will use one-inch boards with pins in bottom edge, one pin at each end and one in the middle; the pins to go into holes bored in platform. Now we have our molds ready to fill with cement. Of course we will use straight-edge on top. If we want to put wires lengthwise in posts, which I think is necessary, we will bore holes in frame, four holes for each end of each post, large enough for number twelve wire; holes should be one inch from bottom and top and one inch from partition. Now we are ready to make posts with wire through them. We will fill in our cement about one inch; then put in two wires for each post. These wires may be left in one piece, draw them through so they will be as near straight as possible, and fasten ends; then fill within one inch of top, and put in other two wires, and finish filling. Use straight edge top; cover them over and let stand until cement is sufficiently set, then loosen wires, take out one end and one side of frame, and take posts out. If anyone has a better plan, or can add to this, would like to hear from him.—L. A. Dobbs in Indiana Farmer.

LIVE STOCK JOURNAL NOTES.

Draft horses should be selected for their quality rather than their size. Before buying a horse, test his walking capacity, and in order to do this hitch him in the kind of rig you intend to use him for.

Sound feet are the basis for a good horse. You cannot keep him in such a condition if you permit him to stand in a filthy stable.

If a horse stands with his feet spread apart or straddles with his hind legs, there is a weakness in his loins and the kidneys are disordered. The industrial world is more dependent upon the draft horse than ever before, and is more eager to get good ones at any price.

Many farmers have bought a single Percheron mare that has bred them into more money than all the other farm stock, and has added great prosperity to horse breeding throughout the Northwest States—a new prosperity to many farms.

The draft horse is the most popular farm horse in all Europe, and has already become the leading market and farm horse in America as the best farm horse, the best city work horse and the most profitable horse to raise.

We can only increase our draft horse production as we increase our heavy draft mares. Every good draft mare is a fortune on the farm to work and to breed to raise big draft geldings that sell higher than ever before in America.

Farmers who have learned to breed to suit the market will have some good grade draft mares and breed to the best pure bred draft stallion available regardless of price. These farmers always have fine draft teams for the best farm work and the maturing gelding attracts the horse buyers.

The horse buyers want horses with all the size and quality of the draft breeds. They want them now and cheerfully pay almost any price you have the courage to ask them if they are the top of the market. No stock on the farm pays so well to breed as draft mares are worth doubly as much for breeding.—Indiana Farmer.

PACKING AWAY.

When the farmer begins the season's work out of doors, the mistress of the house usually commences to pack away the family furs and winter wraps, often with many misgivings as to their safety from clothes moths and other pests indoors. A simple and yet entirely effective preventive of damage by moths to stored clothing is to first thoroughly air, beat and brush the garments, then pack in an ordinary pasteboard box, sealing the edge of the cover tightly with a gummed strip of paper. Garments so packed go through the season unharmed, provided, of course, that they are free from infestation when put away. This plan does away with the use of tobacco, moth balls, cedar chips, etc., which are only repellants and do not destroy the moths. Fur coats, rugs, etc., which may be

infested, should be placed in a box or barrel and fumigated by turning in a tablespoonful of bi-sulphate of carbon and covering tightly. This liquid may be applied directly to the furs; it soon changes to a gas and destroys all insect life. Carbon bi-sulphide may be obtained in one-pound cans at about twenty-five cents per can at the larger drug stores. It is about as inflammable as gasoline and should be used with the same care with reference to lamps and fire. After fumigating the goods for one hour, they should be aired and packed in a box as previously described.—A. H. Kirkland in American Cultivator.

DEHORNING A SIMPLE PROCESS.

Those who have had the pleasure of raising calves to the cow period without horns know how much more sensible it is to have a herd of cows without horns than a lot of animals whose horns endanger both man and beast. To have a herd of cows without horns is easy for the man who raises his own calves, for the work of killing the embryo horn is simple and easy.

Buy a stick of caustic potash at the drug store, wrap a bit of cloth around the end you are to hold in the hand, moisten the other end thoroughly and then rub it briskly on the spot where the embryo horn may be felt. Cover all the surface, but be careful and not go beyond the horn or you will burn the skin of the calf. For calves, when the horns are already through, the clipper made for the purpose is the best thing to use. Place the blades as close to the head as possible and one cut will pare the horn off smoothly. For grown cows either the clipper or a saw is used and, of course, the head of the animal must be fastened so that she can not move it.

The operation in a sensible manner is humane, and only fanatics who know nothing about the operation claim it to be cruel. Like all operations among animals, it may be done in a hurried, careless manner and so become cruelty.—Indianapolis News.

VALUE OF MOHAIR.

The value of the mohair and the amount of it that one animal will shear, depends largely upon the grade of the beast, and other things being equal, the higher the grade the better the quality, and the greater the quantity of mohair that one animal will shear. A fifteen-sixteen cross will shear from two and one-half to four pounds, according to the way it has been reared and kept. This mohair should bring from thirty to forty cents per pound, according to its quality. The lower grades, however, produce mohair that is worth no more than wool and they shear a great deal less than the high grades.

To get all the mohair it is necessary to shear not later than the 25th of March in the climate of northern Wisconsin. They begin to shed their coats about this time and soon lose the most of it running in the brush if it is not taken from them. Shorn at this time, they will not suffer from the cold if they have a dry place at night that is sheltered from the wind.—Weekly witness.

HEAVY HOGS.

The National Live Stock Report of St. Louis says that B. S. Ely & Son, of Rolla County, Missouri, sold in that market a few days ago 50 head of hogs averaging 431 pounds, and 47 head which averaged 455 pounds. It says that they were Poland Chinas, farrowed in the spring of 1903, and last year were allowed to run in the pasture with cattle, with a little corn, until last fall, when last year's crop was ripe enough to feed, and then put on a full ration of corn. Their weight and condition shows that Messrs. Ely know how to feed to get weight and condition shows that near the top of the market.

They have about a hundred head of cattle that they are just putting on feed now, and they will be followed by about the same number of last spring's pigs, but Mr. Ely tells us that there are not quite as many cattle and hogs on feed as usual in this section, as many feeders regard corn too high to feed and make a good profit.—Indiana Farmer.

More mean remarks about woman by women. Lady's Pictorial now calls her "unpunctual," and applies the allegation to all the sex from cooks to girls in counting rooms. Mrs. Craigie called her unfair the other day. Secretary of the Woman's Trade Union League accused her of lack of thrift. Mrs. Chapman Cat, Mrs. Perkins Gilman and others contributed their quota of things. If the analysis of the sex by the sex proceeds much further question why men don't marry may become too obvious to require answer.

With the present prices of wool and the unusually bright prospects for future high prices; with good, fat lambs in keen demand in New York markets at 8½ cents a pound, while the best export steers are selling in the same market at only six cents a pound, there certainly should be no talk of depression of an industry which is producing such sure and liberal profit, declares the Tribune Farmer.

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The Hawthorne is identical with the cream separator that received the Gold Medal at the St. Louis Exposition last year, in competition with the world. The expert judges acknowledged it to be the best skimmer in the world; easily cleaned; sure to be sweet; safe, and easy to operate. Our dairy manager has made tests with the Hawthorne that show it to leave less than one one-hundredth of one percent of butter fat in the skim milk in December, and even do better than this during the summer. It will skim closer than any other separator at any price, and, in reality, the same separator, only sold by us under another name, that is usually sold for \$65.00 (for No. 1), \$85.00 (for No. 2), and \$100.00 (for No. 3).

We will gladly send you a full description of the Hawthorne; or we will send you for free examination either size you desire, without advance deposit of any kind, if you follow our directions in "Paragraph 3" on page 3 of our No. 73 Catalogue. But the best plan is to send the cash with your order, get and use the separator, and then decide as to its merits. If you'll take your money back for it, after you've used it, you can have it for the asking.

Now we have made it possible for everyone to own a perfect cream separator. There is no excuse for your doing without, now, or for putting up with an inferior machine any longer. Send in your order today and have the separator to use at once.

SAVED BY SENSE OF DANGER.

Missourian's Strange Warning of Impending Calamity.

In a sermon the Rev. Mr. Rudy, pastor of the First Christian church in Sedalia, used the following anecdote to illustrate a point:

"About ten years ago I talked with a man in Henry county, Mo., who gave me this peculiar experience of his. He said: 'I was plowing corn, and about the middle of the afternoon, when I came to the end of the field, I had a peculiar sense of dread or fear. I unhooked my team and drove home. I could give little reason for what I was doing—quitting my work in the middle of the afternoon—but I was not home ten minutes until I was hurrying my wife and children into a cyclone cave. Our little house was swept away, and had I not followed what seemed a vague impulse my family might have been killed.'—Kansas City Journal.

Paper Ball Battle.

A new and pretty game is "Drawing Room Billiard." To enjoy it best go into the hall, or longest room in the house. Sometimes the door between two small rooms may be opened, and thus give plenty of space.

Divide the players. Send half to one end, half to the other.

Fasten two extra wide tapes near each end for goals. For a ball make a large one of paper, something like those used for shaving papers. Place this ball in the middle of the room, and at a given signal let each player, previously armed with a small fan, try to blow the ball over the opposite goal. The number of goals to a game must be planned beforehand, and each success is scored to the winning side.

This game makes a wonderful lot of fun, and soon every old, gray-haired man and woman will be as earnestly blowing away to get the ball over the other goal as the children are.

Tree's Strange Crop.

There is a curious sight in the fork of an umbrella tree on Washington street, between Fourth and Fifth avenues. It is a fine growth of wheat almost ready to come out into head. The stalks are nearly two feet long and the blades broad and healthy looking. It was at first thought that this growth consisted of shoots from the tree, but on closer examination it was found to be wheat. It has no foundation of earth, or if there is any it is so hidden by the growth as to be invisible. The wheat grains in some way found lodgment in the crevices of the bark and have probably had no other earthy bed than that formed by dust which during the dust storms of the summer was blown there.—Arizona Republican.

The Fighting Pellets.

Lay two cork pellets on water in a glass or small basin, and they will approach each other more and more until at last they dart together with a rush. Now take away one of the cork pellets and put a tiny pellet of wax in its place. Immediately the two pellets will fight—that is, the cork pellet will push the wax pellet violently away from it.

Why is this? Owing to adhesion, the water under each of the cork pellets is a little higher than it is on the rest of the surface. In its efforts to equalize this the water draws the two pellets together.

The wax pellet, however, exerts no such influence on water. It sits lower on the water, therefore, than the cork pellet, and actually slides away from the latter whenever it approaches its little hill of water.

Worship the "Long Juju."

In habitants of southern Nigeria worship the "Long Juju." This is a jealously guarded circular pool of water to which sacrifices of human beings and animals are made. Each house has also its own private "Juju." The boys of this tribe, on reaching a certain age, are put through various tests of physical endurance, one of which is to run twice round the town, about four miles, without stopping.

Old "Copperhead" in Trouble.

Moses Stannard of Madison, Conn., who is about 85 years old, was a defendant in a civil suit in the court of common pleas at New Haven the other day. During the civil war he was a "copperhead" and raised a confederate flag on his house in the northern part of the town. The action led to his arrest and his imprisonment for a time in Fort Lafayette.

MADE PETS OF RATTLERS.

Tennessee Farmer's Odd Liking for Venomous Snakes.

Joshua Fleener, aged 80 years, keeps a den of rattlesnakes at his home near Richards postoffice, this county. He has made pets of snakes ever since he was a boy.

He has eleven rattlesnakes in his den, and experienced some difficulty in caring for the serpents during the cold weather. Fleener lives in an old-fashioned house with the back wall of the fireplace on the outside of the building. The den, built of stones, was made with the chimney place as one of the walls. The reptiles were placed in this den during the cold weather, and only one died this winter as a result of the cold.

Sometimes, when the chimney made the den too warm, the serpents would become angry and fight one another. The snakes were all captured by Fleener in the woods near his home, and they are all timber rattlers, a species which is becoming rare in this state.—Nashville Correspondence Indianapolis News.

Game of Initials.

A good game for you to play is this: Distribute paper and pencils among the boys and girls, one for each, and tell them to write down at the head of their sheets of paper their own initials, each one to write down his own initials only.

Then read aloud the following questions for them to write down in the order that you give them.

These questions they must answer with words beginning with the initials. After the questions have all been answered, or after "time is up," gather all the papers and read the answers aloud. Here is an example: One boy's initials were B. O. P.:

What do you like best to eat? Beans, Otherwise Peas.

What is your worst fault? Boasting Of Performances.

What is your greatest virtue? Being Occasionally Pious.

Many other questions may be given, such as "What did you dislike most as a child?" "What do you most dread in the future?" "What do you most hope for in the future?" etc.—North American.

Odd Nicknames for Vessels.

British sailors have odd nicknames for their vessels. Some of them are: Majestic, Jew's Stick; Magnificent, Maggie; Prince George, P. G.; Sans Parel, Sampan; Amphitrite, Ham an; Tripe; Hermione, My Own; Prince of Wales, Itching Dean; Narcissus, Little Ciss; Jupiter, Jupp; Queen, Alex; Hermes, Wallflower; Bacchante, Back Shant; Sutej, Subtle J; Niobe, Nobbler; Hogue, Hog; Waraspit, Warbash; Royal Oak, Acorn; Undaunted, Unpainted; Empress of India, Heaven's Light; Pomone, Pom One; Nile, The Jew; Vigorous, V. C.; Bellerophon, Billy Ruffian; Foudroyant, Food and Drink.

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