

RURAL TOPICS

CEMENT TAKES PLACE OF WOOD.

During the past five years the production of cement has doubled, increased from 25,000,000 to 51,000,000 barrels, due largely to the greater use made of it on farms and for rural dwellings. The relation of the increasing use of cement to the diminishing timber supply has been the subject of some interesting correspondence between the Geological Survey and the Forest Service at Washington. Director Smith of the Survey in a letter to Forester Pinchot quoted from a statement of a large Philadelphia firm to the effect that it would be difficult to estimate what the additional drain upon the lumber supply of the country would have been, had not cement of late come into such general use. Mr. Pinchot replied in part as follows: "The Forest Service is watching with a great deal of interest the increasing use of cement and other substitutes for wood. They are undoubtedly having some influence upon the price of lumber, though I do not think that up to the present time they have greatly retarded the advance in lumber prices. The fact is, that our industrial progress has been so great that our requirements for every kind of structural material has increased tremendously. We are using at the present time more lumber per capita than ever before and probably twice as much as we did fifty years ago. The conclusion cannot be escaped therefore that in the future we must depend more than in the past upon other materials than wood for certain purposes at least. As to the increase which will take place in the production of cement, you are of course better able to judge than I, but it is my impression that this increase will be very great. If the increase in the use of cement in the United States in past years is to be regarded as any index to the future, the conclusions of the Chief Forester are well grounded. The statistics of the production of mineral resources show that cement production has more than doubled in the last five years and it is a well known fact that its use is being very widely extended. This is due to two conditions, first, that excellent cement materials are common in almost all sections of the country and second, that reinforced concrete for heavy building material is coming to be brought into increasing favor with engineers, while in the country sections large amounts are being used for building blocks for smaller structures.—Guy E. Mitchell in the Farmers' Home Journal.

FARM NOTES.

Much has been written about aiding and hastening the molting of the hens. Some successfully practice the fasting process, giving no food for about ten days. If they have wide range no food is given; if confined to a pen just a little is given once a day; after this feed them well of such food as linseed meal, bone and animal meal, and a mixture of grain, keeping the materials before the hens all the time.

By this process large breeds will complete the molt in six weeks, the smaller breeds in two weeks less time on the average. Clean water and grit are kept handy all the time, and after the fasting period, a vessel of fresh milk will be found to be a great help. While the feathers are dropping out keep a dust box well filled with fine dry dust, and have a sprinkling of fresh insect powder in the dust all the time. They will come through the molt comparatively free of lice. The good advice as to having farm stock go into winter quarters in good flesh, applies with equal force to the hens; they should not be over-fat but should be in good flesh, and in vigorous health.

The hens that do not appear lively would much better be disposed of. If as dry, there will be no trouble in gathering dust for the bath, but don't put off the dust storing until too late; the dry weather will change one of these days. If there is no chance to store the barrels or boxes or dust in the dry pits a quantity of it in a corner of the hen house as soon as the cleaning up is done. While on the storing subject don't forget to gather a supply of forest leaves for scratching purposes, unless there is straw or clover shattering.

Clover shattering are the best of scratching material, because the hens will get quite a lot of excellent feed out of them. No better roughness for the forming of eggs can be obtained than clover shattering. Treat your hens with respect and they will look and feel respectable; if right care is given, they will return good profits.—From "Moulting Period Notes" in the Indiana Farmer.

Much has been written regarding the proper size and weight which the young sows that are to be retained for breeding purposes should weigh at one year of age. I know breeders who make the claim that 400 to 500 pounds is nothing startling for a gilt to weigh at one year of age. It is not my purpose to belittle

the achievements of men and breeders who are much older and more experienced than myself, yet it is a question in my mind if that kind of gilts would prove very successful in the hands of any but an experienced man, who has every convenience for caring for them to the best possible advantage and also had a large amount of experience in caring for this class of highly fitted stock.

To speak from the standpoint of the average farmer, who finds it part of his farm economy to grow his gilts on pasture and a less concentrated grain ration, I would say that a weight of 300 pounds at one year of age is about all that could be made without feeding an excess of fat-producing foods that would be apt to injure the future usefulness of the young sows.

Another matter for us to take into consideration when we are admiring these sensational gilts at the expositions is the fact that every one of these highly fitted individuals is an exception, and in many cases ten or twelve less hardy and vigorous ones may have been ruined in order that their breeder might have the honor of showing one prize winner.—W. M. K. in the Epitomist.

HOW TO TREAT THE GARDENER.

Country gentlemen are always complaining that they cannot get and keep good gardeners and other employees that are necessary on a great estate. The chief trouble is that employers are not willing to pay enough to get really first-class men, and the cottages and other facilities which they supply for their men are not comfortable and attractive.

Mrs. F. F. Thompson at Canandaigua, N. Y., who employs about twenty men the year round, never has any trouble in keeping good men. The secret of it is explained by her having built a clubhouse for the men. It stands in the midst of a protogere (a combination cut flower and vegetable garden) of perhaps ten or fifteen acres. The lavatory facilities are excellent, and in addition to other conveniences, each man has a locker for his clothes which in well ventilated. The men also have a small cook-stove on which they can make coffee for their luncheon, and have tables where they can read the country life and gardening magazines.

This may seem like a considerable expense, but I have no doubt that it is warranted, because it makes such a great difference in the health and good nature of the men and consequently in their efficiency.—Thomas McAdam, in Country Life.

ASHES FOR SWINE.

Wood ashes is a good correction to keep at a disposal of the swine. Depend upon it they will not eat more of it than their system demands. Salt is another article that should be freely supplied. Corn and water for hog feed is cheap in price but a dear feed after all when gains are counted.

When you see a hog literally standing on his head rooting in the dirt in his pen you can depend on it that his system demands something that you have not supplied him with. When hogs get the rooting habit their ledger balance is sure to be found on the wrong side of the page.—Farmers' Home Journal.

CHEAP FEEDING.

Grit is cheap, water is cheap, so is cheat, but hens often suffer for these three things that cost nothing but a little labor to prepare. Now that coal is the main fuel, the hens will get quite a lot of valuable "teeth," if allowed access to where the coal ashes are emptied. Wake up and make your gold mine pay.—Indiana Farmer.

TOO FAT FOR PROFIT.

There is much said about over-fat hens, and the heavy breeds, carelessly handled, will get too fat to be profitable; but it seems there are as many too poor hens as too fat ones, at least, that is the complaint of the buyers when dressing time comes.—Indiana Farmer.

GARMENTS OF SKIN.

Great Quantities of Leather Now Tanned for the Trade of Tailors.

The tanning of fur skins for garments is now extensively carried on in Lynn, Peabody and Salem and in other leather centres. Peabody firms are making considerable quantities of leather for garments.

One sheepskin tanner of Peabody says that the purchase of leather by tailors is now surprisingly large. Sheep and goat are the skins chiefly tanned in the North Shore district.

According to the Shoe and Leather Paper, the sheepskins are made into fine silky white or colored fur skins for baby robes and rugs, and also for muffs, collar pieces, and even whole coats for children. Another grade is tanned with the wool on for coats for motormen, expressmen, milkmen and others who are out of doors in cold weather.

Much chamois leather is sold for vests and for linings of garments. Chamois skins by the way, are also made in Peabody for gloves. Goat skins are tanned with the hair on in imitation of bear skins.

NEWS OF PENNSYLVANIA

RESCUES AGED COUPLE.

Ten-Year-Old Boy Drags Grandparents From Bed Of Fire.

Sellingrove.—Possessed of abnormal strength for his years, 10-year-old Joseph Hoch, seeing his aged grandparents slowly roasting to death, dragged Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hoch from the ashes of a smouldering wood fire.

Mr. Hoch was making soap on his farm just beyond the borough limits of Sellingrove. As the aged man was anxious to discount his work he drew from under the kettle the large pieces of wood. Then as he was leaning over the wind shield, he lost his balance and fell into the embers.

Realizing his plight Hoch called frantically for help, and his screams were answered by his aged wife. She struggled across the lawn, and reaching over the fence to grab her husband, lost her balance. Caught in this heated death-trap, they remained for an hour, as a strong breeze drove upon them the heat of the fire.

Appalled by the sight he beheld, the youth threw down his school books, and pulling desperately at "Grandma's" waist, extricated her, and then lifted up his grandfather, too.

JUMPS FROM EXPRESS.

Woman Turns Somersault But Lands Feet Down Twice.

Chester.—"Sure, Mister Conductor, I must get off here and if you don't stop, I'll jump off," declared Mary Harris, a domestic, who is employed in a Prospect Park family, when she learned that the train upon which she was riding from Chester to that borough did not stop at Moore Station.

The conductor smiled and told the girl she would have to go on to Philadelphia; that she was on an express, and he could not stop for her. "But I'll pass you back," he said.

"Pass me nothing," exclaimed Mary, as she made a break for the rear platform, and before the conductor or brakeman could stop her the girl jumped from the train upon the station platform. She landed upon her feet, turned a complete somersault, but was on her feet again in an instant. The train was stopped and backed to the station, the conductor thinking the girl had been injured.

"You might just have well have stopped for me in the first place," angrily cried Mary when one of the trainmen inquired if she was hurt.

REPEAL 61-YEAR-OLD LAW.

Lebanon Will Have Real Old-Fashion Fourth Of July.

Lebanon.—City Councils paved the way for a return of the old-time Fourth of July celebration by passing an ordinance repealing the old borough ordinance of 1848, which prohibits the sale and discharge of fireworks within the city limits. It was under this law Mayor Marquardt last year compelled a "safe and sane" celebration and aroused the ire of merchants by prohibiting them from selling explosives. The Mayor said that if the people did not want their laws enforced they should repeal them. The merchants have been agitating the repealer ever since and it has now passed Councils.

ENTOMBED MINERS ESCAPE.

But Two Dead And Fourteen Seriously Burned In Colliery.

Wilkes-Barre.—A terrific explosion followed by a fire in the colliery of the Pennsylvania Coal Company at Port Blanchard, near here, caused the death of two men, severely burning fourteen others and shut in fifty workers who, for five hours, it was believed had little chance for escaping. That they finally made their way out through a maze of old workings heavy with smoke and the deadly fire damp, is considered almost miraculous, and their escape caused rejoicing among the anxious hundreds gathered at the mouth of the shaft and who expected each moment to be informed that all were dead.

ADMITS KILLING HIS FATHER.

Man Makes Startling Confession, Escapes, And Is Caught.

Clearfield.—After admitting his name was Alexander Rosenbloom, and having stated that he had killed his father at Windber in 1907, and taking the body to New Jersey, where he buried it, a man who answered the description of the fugitive, made his escape from George Ellinger, a farmer.

The man later was captured by the police after a desperate struggle. He is being held to await the arrival of the Windber authorities.

ICE FAMINE FEARED.

Stroudsburg.—The mild and wet weather has brought the ice business in Monroe County to an end and an ice famine is feared. The houses here had little more than half filled. As the season is growing late, the chances are that no more ice can be cut.

GIVE BRIDEGROOM WILD RIDE.

Chester.—Harry Clendenning, who was quietly married several evenings ago to Miss Mae E. Marshall, in Wilmington, was taken in hand by friends, placed in a wild animal cage belonging to the Hargreaves Circus, and headed by a number of his fellow employees of the American Steel Laundry, was hauled through the city. He took the treatment good naturedly and did not get angry until he returned home and found his wife in tears.

MINISTER'S SON A SUICIDE.

Despondent Over Ill Health Wilmer Beyer Shoots Himself.

Norristown.—Wilmer Beyer, 23 years old, a son of the Rev. George John Beyer, the well-known evangelist; committed suicide here by shooting himself in the head with a 32-caliber revolver at his father's residence on Barbadoes Street.

The young man had been despondent over his poor health. His mother heard the report of the revolver and when she reached the bedroom, found her son a corpse. He had placed the muzzle of the revolver in his mouth and pulled the trigger.

HUGGER GUILTY OF ASSAULT.

Youth Embraced Young Girl Who Had Been "Skirt Dancing."

Media.—Michael Curry was found guilty of assault for having placed his arm around the waist of Rebecca Schutt, the 13-year-old daughter of Frank Schutt, of Lepperville. Judge Johnson sentenced Curry to pay a fine and did not inflict a jail sentence.

The defendant and Mrs. Beebe, in whose house the assault occurred, both testified that the young girl had taunted Curry by a "skirt dance." Curry admitted that he had hugged the girl after she had gone through the performance, but he denied intent to commit a crime.

KILLED IN FOLDING BED.

Pittsburg Loses His Life And Wife Is Seriously Injured.

Pittsburg.—Charles Murray, 39 years old, was killed and his wife was seriously injured, when they were caught in a folding bed that accidentally closed while they were asleep.

The couple moved and went to sleep in a folding bed that is said to have been set up hurriedly. A daughter entering the room found her mother and father enclosed in their folding bed.

Increase Wages Of Silk Weavers.

York.—When the weavers of the York Silk Mill threatened to strike unless their wages were increased, the company conceded in part to their demands and the young men and women returned to work. When the financial depression was at its height the weavers were cut 12 1/2 per cent. A strike was averted when Superintendent John Guyer promised that an additional 4 1/2 per cent. had been taken off the cut in wages.

"Salome" Outdone In Saloon.

Allentown.—In License Court here Philadelphia detectives, who were employed by the State Anti-Saloon League to gather evidence against nine local hotel and saloonkeepers against whom remonstrances were filed, testified that in one of the places that they visited a young woman did the "Salome" dance that beat Oscar Hammerstein's star's dance "to a frazzle." Other orgies equally as shocking were testified to.

Crushed Robbing Coal Pillars.

Pottsville.—Engaged in the dangerous occupation of robbing pillars, which consist in removing coal from the solid anthracite columns left to support the roof of a mine chamber, Michael B'sintan, aged 34 years, of Minersville, was caught by a heavy fall of coal at Pine Hill colliery and his life instantly crushed out.

How For Scranton Saloon Keepers.

Scranton.—In the Tripp Park section of the Twenty-first Ward it has been discovered that a reservation in the deed forbids the sale of liquor on the premises. As there are seven saloons or hotels located there and ten others desiring to enter, gloom settled upon the countenances of the applicants in License Court.

STATE ITEMS.

Trying to board a Philadelphia & Reading train near Pottsville, Harry Mertz, aged 13, fell beneath the wheels and was crushed to death.

Captain James Boyd Robson, former Columbia County Solicitor, and a war veteran, was found dead in bed at his home at Espy, of paralysis of the heart. He was 71 years old and is survived by a wife and seven children.

Thomas Corcoran, the oldest man in Chester County, died at his home in Elk Township, near Oxford. He was 102 years old and had lived sixty years in this locality.

THIS AND THAT.

Cuba's population is 60.7 per cent. white.

London's newest fireboat can pump 900 tons of water an hour.

Gasoline can be used as a soldering flux for very neat work on tin. A German life preserver consists of a hollow rubber belt, to which is attached a small metallic cylinder filled with carbon dioxide liquid. This may be turned by a tap into the belt where it volatilizes, inflating the belt.

Lace dressing, the process between weaving and finishing, long was considered an unhealthy occupation because carried on in a hot, humid atmosphere, until the British government investigated and found that the workers enjoyed better health than those employed in other branches of the lace industry.

The Mexican Herald announces that a movement is on foot for the erection of a grain elevator at Mexico City. At present the only one in that republic is the small elevator on the Coatzacoalcos River, near Santa Lucrotia, in Vera Cruz.

The HOME

AN ART OF SMILING. What charm there is in a smile, yet what a rarity those days! Many of us, especially women, have lost the art. We have smiled so much and so often to order, from a sense of duty, that now the charming spontaneity of the act has entirely disappeared.

A smile to be worth anything must not be a continuous performance. The habitual smile of society is totally devoid of charm from its unchanging and unbroken quality. It has no more meaning than a mask, like which it may be removed at will.

What do society maids know, those who are called bright, animated, sparkling, of the genuine, the unstrained smile? When the sun breaks out of a cloudy sky, then the heavens brighten. So the sudden light irradiating a grave and tender face is the glow that counts, the flash that is irresistible.

Many a demure little mouse of a woman receives love where the brilliant society favorite must be satisfied with admiration, all because some man has been caught by the thrill of the soul-smile. It is a gift of the gods, just as beauty is or pleasing voice.

There are features which do not lend themselves readily to smiles, yet a plain face at a momentary lighting up may become irresistible. Expression can change the countenance almost beyond recognition. Nothing is more difficult to paint than a smile. A grin may be photographed, but rarely a smile; for instead there appears a smug expression which irritates while it amuses.

The rainbow smile belongs to poetry. "With a smile on her lip and a tear in her eye," says Scott. This brings to mind the sort of heroine he loved—brave, tender, sympathetic and exquisite. Sweeter than all is the smile of sympathy; a word is said, a meaning grasped, a shade of feeling understood, and instantly comes the answering glow. It may flash from the face of a stranger, yet is always welcome and fascinating. Often it sows the seeds of love.

How exquisite is the look that passes between mother and child, or between man and woman who live only for each other! The genuine smile is a sure passport. Coming from the heart, it fascinates man and woman alike.

It coaxes the most unrelenting, it softens ill-temper and goes twice as far as servile tip or lordly command.

This is the heaven-sent smile. It cannot be achieved by art; it is the outcome of a sweet, sunny nature.—New York Sun.

NEW YORK WOMEN'S DRESS REVOLUTION.

There is no charge that a New Yorker—or any other American for that matter—dislikes quite so much as that of provincialism. Attack our ethics and our morals; call us cold, heartless, pleasure loving, vain—and we will smile complacently, but even whisper that we are the country cousins of the Londoner or the Parisienne—and you wound us at our most vulnerable point. There is no sneer that hits home quite so unerringly as the "We-do-these-things-so-much-better-on-the-other-side, don't-you-know" with which foreign visitors sometimes meet our most strenuous efforts toward cosmopolitanism.

A single visit to one of our restaurants or theaters will convince you that the conventions of evening dress are either shockingly misunderstood or deliberately defied by the average woman of means and position. She wears a hat and a high-necked dinner gown—a costume as inappropriate for an evening affair as a bright red frock at a funeral.

Of course, I am speaking primarily of city life and of women who frequent restaurants and theaters, and on them I cannot urge too strongly the value and importance of the demitologie for semi-formal wear.

I was very much interested, a short time ago, in hearing a discussion on the subject of evening dress among women of moderate means. The chief reason that was advanced for its general disregard—economy—did not seem convincing. An evening gown need not cost any more than any other kind of a dress, and if a woman grumbles at its limited usefulness there are all sorts of clever makeshifts of collars and chemises that will let an evening gown see the daylight.

No; the true reason is that the American woman is not accustomed to seeing the décolleté gown in public places; she has not been brought up to it. She feels self-conscious and ill at ease in evening dress at any but certain recognized functions. She ought to feel ill at ease and provincial in anything else. I hope the time will soon come that she will feel so. Not until she does will we outgrow the last of our gaudier—the high-necked evening frock.—Delineator.

FULL TRAINS IN PARIS.

In trains, the rat-tail variety is no longer being made in Paris, save by special order. It is quite the style here.

The new models shown in Paris have trains gracefully full, and, indeed, the skirts of nearly every one of the evening gowns now shown

there are gracefully full and show none of the skimpiness of the pure Directoire model.

It must also be admitted that the majority of the evening gown models show a marked division, or apparent division, between bodice and skirt.

The robe may be in a one-piece garment, or a skirt and corsage joined by hooks, but in many instances the corsage shows a swathed effect around the figure to the point where the skirt is attached, while the latter hangs in lengthwise folds.

Often, however, the corsage is without the swathing folds, but is built like any other corsage, and where the skirt is joined to it there are plaits of the gown material, or a sash pure and simple.

Other robes, on the contrary, are in one-piece tunics, showing not a vestige of a girle or drapery at the waistline, whether high or natural, but being shaped to widen at the bust, narrow in at the waistline, but without touching, and widening again at the hips.

There is, indeed, no end of modes and variations of modes from which to select, and it is the fault of the woman herself, or of the one to whom she intrusts the choice, if her evening gowns do not set off whatever beauty of figure she has, or disguise, partially at least, its glaring defects.—New York Ledger.

HANDBAGS KEEP GROWING.

Handbags are growing until they threaten to become as ridiculously large as the hats which have prevailed this winter. Women seem never to know exactly what they want. A few years ago they were going without even purses. Then they devised a pocketbook with a strap attachment, which they praised as a safeguard against the sneak thief. Now they carry their big handbags and invite robbery. They have their pocketbooks, too, placed in a slit in the bags, thus offering a double invitation to the thief to snatch and run. The real temptation in the handbag, however, is that the average woman burdened with a package, or even an umbrella, hangs it on her wrist. As a result, there is little danger in cutting the soft leather handle and walking off undetected with the plunder. Reports of scores of such thefts have been made to the police within the last few weeks, almost all of them by women shoppers. These losses, however, will not mean a lesson. Women cannot change their natures, and they will go on buying these big handbags for thieves to carry off until fashion runs to some other absurdity in the handbag or pocketbook line.—New York Press.

ALL AUSTRALIAN WOMEN VOTE.

The women of Victoria, Australia, are receiving congratulations from all parts of the world over their victory in the fight for the ballot. Victoria is the last of the Australian states to extend the franchise to women, and the bill before the State Parliament was put through only after a desperate and protracted struggle. Fourteen times the bill was thrown out by the legislative council after it had been passed in the lower house. But each time the hostile majority diminished, and the women pushing the measure thereby found renewed hope. The bill finally went through by a majority of four to one, the opposition at the last moment scattering in dismay. The Suffragettes in England are planning to make the best of the victory. The details of the fight also are to be sent to the Suffragette leaders in this country, together with facts of the part women play in the government of Australian states. Since women received the ballot in Australia it is asserted the Government has gained in purity, and this was the ruling factor in the final submission of the unfriendly element in the Victoria Parliament. Whether for better or worse it seems that equal suffrage is on the way for all the civilized world.—New York Press.

FASHION NOTES.

Skirts still grow narrower. Shot materials are popular.

A variation of the manner of wearing the fur stole is to twist it serpentine fashion around the figure from throat to waist.

A beautiful new hair ornament is the laurel leaf in enamel and frosty jewels.

Latest turbans are not so engulfing; they allow part of the front hair to be seen.

The latest French fancy in shoes is patent leather with tan color tops and pearl buttons.

The deep cream color called cafe au lait and a pure chalk white are colors of the moment.

The separate waist has been making a desperate fight for life against the growing popularity of the three-piece suit.

For morning wear about the house nothing is more attractive than the freshly laundered shirtdress of linen or lawn.

Fashionable women are seen at the theatres and restaurants wearing a scarf of black tulle wound around the throat and left to float about the shoulders. It may be quite unornamented or embroidered with gold thread or precious stones.