



COVER FOR THE SAP BUCKET

Few Pieces of Sheet Steel So Arranged to Keep Out Snow, Rain Water, Bark and Bugs.

An excellent and inexpensive plan for making a cover for the sap bucket is given by J. F. Ward of Massachusetts in the New England Homestead and is as follows:

Buy sheet steel, 28-gauge, in bundles of ten sheets each. It costs 33 cents per sheet and makes 14 covers. One sheet measures 28x36 inches. Cut into seven pieces 28 inches long, then you have sheets 14x13 5/7 inches. Then cut a three-quarter-inch hole in the end near the middle, three-eighths of an inch from the edge of the sheet,



Homemade Sap Bucket Cover.

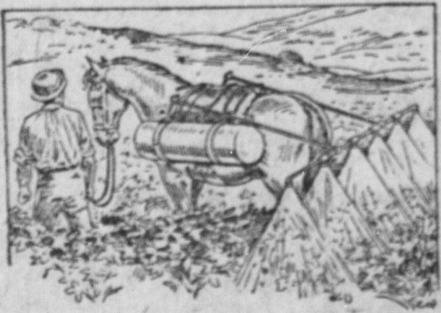
as shown in A. Then bend up 1 1/2 inches of the end you have punched.

To hang on tree, place the hook on spout and drive the spout through the hole in the cover; hang on the bucket. Cover will turn on spout when you tip the bucket in gathering. A piece of three-quarter-inch iron pipe, B, filed on the outside to an edge, will be a good tool to cut out the hole. A pair of tinner's snips and hammer are the other tools needed. Your labor and 2 1/2 cents for iron freight will furnish you with covers and will save you several days' labor cleaning out snow, emptying out rain water, bugs, bark, etc. This not to mention the sap you will save on rainy days, nor the better quality of goods you will make. The cover will not blow off, break nor hinder in gathering. Paint them and they will last years. They can be made of iron roofing. There's no better use for this kind of roofing. Now, my advice is to "get a move on you" and make these covers now.

FRENCH PLAN OF SPRAYING

Two Compressed Air Tanks Are Strapped to Horse's Back and Liquid Discharged Through Pipe.

A method of spraying vineyards much in vogue in France is here shown, says the Popular Mechanic. Two compressed air sprayer tanks



Outfit for Spraying Vineyards.

are strapped to the horse's back and the liquid is discharged through a pipe having six spray heads. The discharge pipe is supported in position back of the horse by means of the two pipes connecting it with the supply tanks.

Yellow Transparent Apples.

We had to pick five or six times last year in order to get the fruit in prime condition. We used the five-eights basket, but are going to try the box this year also. There is more money in the Williams early red, although the yellow transparent is certainly good. People demand a red apple, and we try not to give the dealer a red apple until the yellow is done, so do not ship both apples to the same dealer. All early varieties must be handled with great care, says a writer in an exchange. We expressed our early apples because we had not enough for a car on account of uneven ripening. We find summer apples more profitable than winter varieties. I do not advise planting an orchard without some early varieties. We can sell early apples anywhere. We shipped most of ours to New York, but Baltimore is all right on early fruit.

Protect Against Rabbits and Mice. These animals may be kept from injuring the trunks of trees by boxing, or by placing a piece of galvanized wire screen around the tree trunk and covering it to the height of about 20 inches. This will also prevent sunscald; and it costs much less than to replace the trees after the rabbits have injured them. The snow should be well tramped about young apple trees to prevent mice from gnawing the bark under the snow-crust.

LOW-HEADED ORCHARD TREES

Three Feet Is Common Height for Apple, While With Peach and Plum It Is Much Lower.

Commercial orchards of apples and pears are nowadays headed much lower than formerly, three feet being a very common height for starting the head of these trees, while with the peach and plum the head is started even lower, eighteen to twenty inches being a common height.

The reason for this is that in certain localities, where windstorms are frequent, the low-headed trees are less likely to be broken, lose a smaller proportion of their fruit, and are less subject to injury from sun scald as the low heads of the trees serve to a certain extent as a shade for the body.

The cost of harvesting the fruit from low-headed trees is much less than that of gathering from tall trees. With the low-headed trees a considerable portion of the crop can be gathered by the picker standing upon the ground, while with high-headed trees the major part of the work must be done from ladders, which greatly extends the time required to do the picking, and consequently, increases its cost. Pruning, spraying, trimming, as well as harvesting, will be found to be more convenient on low than high-headed trees.

TRAP FOR LITTLE SPARROWS

More Than One Thousand Caught in Device in Use at Hawkesbury Agricultural College.

At the Hawkesbury Agricultural college in Australia the trap illustrated herewith has been found very effective in catching sparrows. During one year more than 1,000 birds were caught, sometimes at the rate of 20 or 30 a day. The birds enter at three small holes about two inches in diameter at the bottom of the V in the center and just three inches above the wire netting floor. This floor is thin and covered under the holes with soil on which a little food, such as bread crumbs or wheat is sprinkled. The mesh of the net is one inch. When once a few birds are inside sparrows are soon attracted and easily caught, says the Orange Judd Farmer. The frame is about three feet square and eight feet long, with doors



Satisfactory Sparrow Trap.

at each end as shown. Originally the trap was fitted with a funnel-shaped exit ending in a bag and tied with a string, but this is not necessary. The birds can be driven out of the doors into a smaller cage and then disposed of.

DO NOT MULCH WITH MANURE

Common, But Wasteful Practice With Strawberry Beds—Study Will Dissipate Erroneous Idea.

A common but very wasteful practice is that of winter mulching strawberry beds with manure, says the Fruit Belt. None of the large growers ever practice it, yet many general farmers who depend upon their strawberry bed for spring income cover the bed in late fall with horse manure, thinking to increase the crop the following year.

A study of the strawberry plant would dissipate any such idea. During the growing season, spring and summer, the plant stores in its crown the plant food from which the following year's crop of berries is produced.

Of the plant food contained in the manure spread on the bed after the growth has stopped for the year, not one atom enters the following spring's crop. In fact, the most valuable element, nitrogen, is dissipated into the air in the form of ammonia, while the potash and phosphoric acid, to be utilized must be plowed or cultivated into the soil.

HORTICULTURAL NOTES

Prepare land for a small fruit plantation next spring. Thorough and constant spraying is the price of good fruit.

In Michigan the apple barrel is still the most popular package for this fruit.

Do you know that sifted coal ashes are good soil lighteners? Save them for this purpose and apply to heavy soil.

Are there any old apple trees in your orchard bearing desirable fruit? Easy to graft good varieties upon them.

Give plenty of sunshine these days. Curtains do not belong to windows where plants are kept. Roll up the shades; wash the glass.

Get ready to do some grafting. Top work that old seedling apple tree. The cherry comes first, then plum, apple, quince and pear.

Fruit trees should be planted in regular rows in the orchard, or fruit garden, so thorough culture can be given both ways of the orchard.

General farming, planting a variety of crops and keeping a variety of animals, is the safe way and withal the most successful for insuring a steady income.

BOSTON DISPOSES OF BILLY PURTELL.



Billy Purtell.

Six Boston players figure in a deal with the Jersey City team of the international league, is announced. Harold Janvin, a Boston schoolboy, who was expected to be another "Stuffy" McInnis; Martin McHale, Walter Lomergan, a recruit named Myers, Jack Thoney and Billy Purtell, the former Chicago White Sox infielder, will all go to the New Jersey team.

News that Purtell would go to Jersey City in this deal came as a surprise. The former White Sox player was released to the Toronto club in the old Eastern league last summer, but refused to depart. Purtell hung on at Boston. He decided to test the validity of the move sending him to the minor leagues, as his contract had not expired. It was his intention of appearing at the clubhouse every day and reporting for play. So long as he reported for play he could draw his salary, Purtell thought. When the White Sox visited Boston near the close of the season Purtell was still in Boston and appeared in uniform ready to play. His appearance there when he was supposed to have been sold was explained by Purtell that he thought it was an injustice to send him away and that he could hold the club to his contract.

The national commission recently passed on Purtell's case and disallowed his claim for back pay following his release.

EARNINGS OF THOROUGHBREDS FOR 1911

Table listing earnings of thoroughbreds for 1911, including names, owners, and amounts.

Continuation of the thoroughbred earnings table.

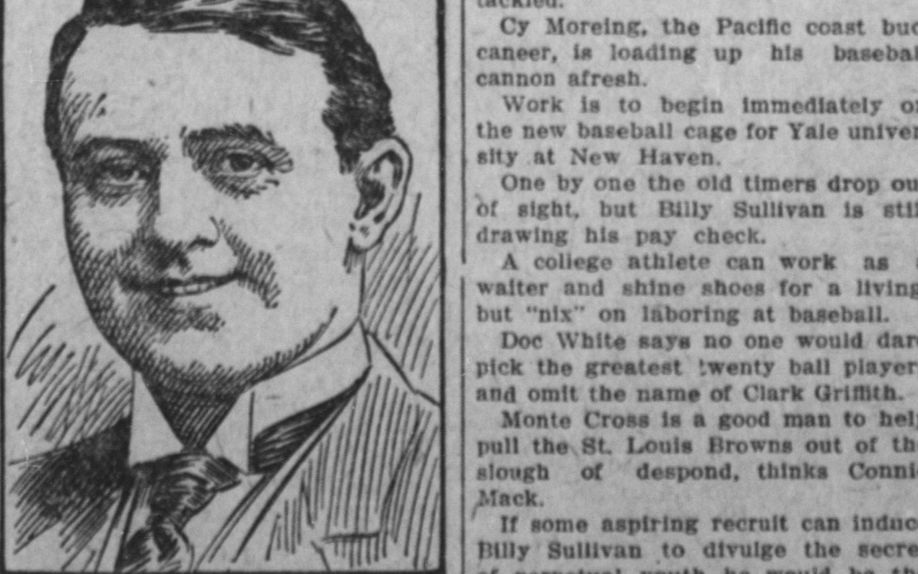
(d)—Dead.

BARNEY OLDFIELD IS BARRED

Management of Indianapolis Motor Speedway Will Not Allow Famous Driver on That Track.

Although Barney Oldfield, formerly known as the world's speed king, may be reinstated in the good graces of the American Automobile association, and again register as a motor racing driver, he never will be allowed to drive upon the Indianapolis motor speedway.

This is the announcement of the management of the famous brick track following the publication of a report that Oldfield and Bob Burman,



Barney Oldfield.

the present holder of the world's free-for-all straightaway mile track and speedway records, would meet some time during the 1912 season in a match race at the motor speedway. Oldfield has incurred the displeasure of the owners of the track.

"VETS" PASSING OUT

Kid Elberfeld Is Latest of Old Timers to Go.

Few Players in Sixteen Clubs of Major Leagues Who Competed in Games There Five Years Ago — Athletics New Bunch.

One by one the veterans of the baseball world are dropping back either into the minors or out of the game altogether. This fact has been brought home again by the retirement of Kid Elberfeld by the Washington club. Yet Elberfeld, with the rest of those who are slipping, can say that he went the route and had his measure of success with the majors. The Kid always was a fighter, always after a victory. He never quit, and will long be remembered as a player of the Jennings type.

When you look back over the roll call of the sixteen major league clubs you find comparatively few players there who competed five years ago. The only club which looks about the same is the Cubs. With the exception of third base and catcher this squad is the same as that which played and lost the world series to the White Sox.

Of the Sox, however, most of the veterans have gone. In the regular line-up, exclusive of the pitchers, Sullivan and Tannehill are the only ones left—and Tanny was not a regular player toward the end of that famous season. Pat Dougherty still is with the team, but his playing days are about over, and he has no berth on the team these days.

The last five years have seen great changes in the Athletics. The world champs are practically a new bunch, having been built up by Connie Mack



Kid Elberfeld.

In the short space of four years. The Giants are different, vastly different. Gone are McGann, Strang, Dahien, Mertes, Seymour and Bowerman of that noted bunch.

Detroit has had fewer changes than the majority of the teams, but it is claimed that some of the present bunch will not last much longer. Cleveland is a gang of youngsters as far as years and experience go. Boston fans scarcely recognize their two teams any more, and the same is true of St. Louis. The Phils have added many comparatively young players the last five years, and so have the Senators and Brooklyn.

Baseball fans are constantly clamoring for new blood, want the snap and action young stars bring into the game. Baseball is getting to be less of a game for veterans as the years go by. A man is a "has-been" in the majority of cases when he reaches the thirty mark. Just when men in other lines of activity are achieving success the ball player is getting ready to be retired.

GOOD JOKE ON CHAS. EBBETS

Hap Hogan, Manager of Vernon Team, Springs Hair-Trigger "Come Back" on Brooklynite.

Hap Hogan, the Vernon manager, was one grand card at the San Antonio meeting of the minors, and his compatriots from the Coast league, realizing this, played him to the limit. Hogan, needless to remark, was always there with the hair-trigger "come-back."

These induced Charles H. Ebbets to offer Hogan the management of the Brooklyn club. Did Hogan fall for the plot? Yes, in his own way.

"Sure, I will accept the management, but it must be under my own terms," replied Hogan in all seriousness.

"And what are they?" asked Ebbets.

"Well, I figure that one of the first things that you need is a real ball team," explained Hogan. "For that reason, I would have to ask the privilege of transferring the Vernon club bodily to Brooklyn. In that way I think that we might be able to place your big suburb on the baseball map."

The laugh that followed was long and loud, and Ebbets attempted to drown it by investing in sundry potatoes for the crowd.

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES

They Are Closely Observing Public Health Conditions.

An examining physician for one of the prominent Life Insurance Companies, in an interview on the subject, made the astonishing statement that the reason why so many applicants for insurance are rejected is because kidney trouble is so common to the American people, and the large majority of applicants do not even suspect that they have the disease.

He states that judging from his own experience and reports from druggists who are constantly in direct touch with the public, there is one preparation that has probably been more successful in relieving and curing these diseases than any remedy known. The mild and healing influence of Dr. Kilmor's Swamp-Root is soon realized. It stands the highest for its remarkable record of cures.

We find that Swamp-Root is strictly an herbal compound and we would advise our readers who feel in need of such a remedy to give it a trial. It is on sale at all drug stores in bottles of two sizes—fifty cents and one-dollar.

However, if you wish first to test its wonderful merits, send to Dr. Kilmor & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample bottle, absolutely free. When writing be sure and mention this paper.

Pax Mundi.

Adam bit into the apple. "The first peace dinner," he cried.

ONLY ONE "BROMO QUININE." That is LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE. Look for the signature of Dr. Wm. W. Chatham and the World's Greatest Cough Cure in One Day. 25c.

Any man ought to get three square meals a day if he is able to work and able to keep from being worked.

Constipation causes and seriously aggravates many diseases. It is thoroughly cured by Dr. Pierce's Peppermint. Tiny sugar-coated granules.

The Curse.

"May you haf tree sons, and may dey all marry for love!"—London Opinion.

For HEADACHE—MICK'S CAPEDINE. Whether from Colds, Heat, Stomach or Nervous Troubles, Capedine will relieve you. It's liquid-pleasant to take—acts immediately. Try it. 10c. 25c. and 50 cents at drug stores.

Labor Question.

Lady of House—You say you work? At what? Hobo—At intervals.

Chorus Girl Repartee. Trinkle—O, you're not such a much! Zaza—No? I don't see any Pittsburgh millionaire's picture on your bureau, either!—Christmas Puck.

Asking a Good Deal of Her. Mrs. Back-Bay—I shall want you to be dressed by three o'clock, Ellen, to receive any friends who may call. Ellen—Oh, lor, mum! Ain't you goin' to be in?

Her Logic. It was the week before Christmas. Emory and his younger sister, Mildred, were debating very seriously the reality of Santa Claus.

"There isn't any Santa Claus," said Emory, with finality.

"Why, there must be," insisted his sister. "How could they make pictures that look just like him?"

"Those Youthful Prodigies," said Jones to his wife. "Here is an account of a six-year-old boy who can work the most difficult problems in algebra."

"Remarkable!" admitted Mrs. Jones, "but I know a four-year-old girl that knows Greek. Where does your little wonder live?"

"In Boston. Where does your linguistic marvel live?"

Mrs. Jones gazed out of the window with a far-away look in her eye as she answered: "In Greece."—National Food Magazine.

SURPRISED DOCTOR. Illustrating the Effect of Food.

The remarkable adaptability of Grape-Nuts food to stomachs so disordered that they will reject everything else, is illustrated by the case of a woman in Racine, Wis.

"Two years ago," she says, "I was attacked by a stomach trouble so serious that for a long time I could not take much of any sort of food. Even the various kinds prescribed by the doctor produced most acute pain."

"We then got some Grape-Nuts food, and you can imagine my surprise and delight when I found that I could eat it with a relish and without the slightest distress."

"When the doctor heard of it he told me to take several small portions each day, because he feared I would grow tired of it as I had of all other food."

"But to his surprise, (and that of everybody else), I did not tire of Grape-Nuts, and became better day by day, till, after some weeks, my stomach entirely recovered and I was able to eat anything my appetite craved."

"My nerves, which had become so weakened that I feared I would become insane, were also restored by the Grape-Nuts food in connection with Postum which has become our table beverage. I appreciate most gratefully and thankfully the good that your food preparations have done me, and shall be glad to answer any letters inquiring as to my experience." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

Read the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs. "There's a reason."

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.

Notes of Sportdom logo

Abe Attell has taken a great liking to New York of late.

The like of Baby Bliss in athletics may never be seen again.

Redmond says Nelson is the liveliest corpse of a fighter he ever tackled.

Cy Moreing, the Pacific coast buccaneer, is loading up his baseball cannon afresh.

Work is to begin immediately on the new baseball cage for Yale university at New Haven.

One by one the old timers drop out of sight, but Billy Sullivan is still drawing his pay check.

A college athlete can work as a waiter and shine shoes for a living, but "nix" on laboring at baseball.

Doc White says no one would dare pick the greatest twenty ball players and omit the name of Clark Griffith.

Monte Cross is a good man to help pull the St. Louis Browns out of the slough of despond, thinks Connie Mack.

If some aspiring recruit can induce Billy Sullivan to divulge the secret of perpetual youth he would be the backstopping "find" of the season.

When Jimmy McAleer became president of the Boston Red Sox, John I. Taylor, his predecessor, stepped down into the chair of vice-president. The main question is "Does this eliminate John I. from the press stand, where he formerly did all his rooting?"