VALUE OF THE PRACTICE TOLD BY JAMES W. ABBOTT.

Tractive Capacity of Animals at Once Greatly Increased - Dust No Longer In Evidence-How to Prepare Roads Before Applying Straw.

If a perfect road is beyond the means of a community or a district it is no reason why an effort should be neglected for something better than existing conditions. Professor King, with his crude slit log device to scrape mud roads, has started a campaign for better things in the prairie states, which will produce beneficial results that cannot yet be measured, says James W. Abbott, special agent Mountain and Pacific Coast division, office of public road inquiries, in the Good Roads Magazine.

In this class comes the strawed road practice of eastern Washington, It was introduced by Charles L. Whitney of Wallawalla, who had himself Sacramento valley of California, where the ear. he had formerly lived. The soil in the wheatfields of that section has been produced by the disintegration of lava. rate of shelled corn to the acre. Its structure is such that under the wheels of loaded wagons it grinds up to an impainable powder. As the the summer and the traffic produced after the harvest of crops has acted upon the roads this dust becomes an unbearable nuisance. The problem of constructing the very best road in eastern Washington is not an easy one at best, but it is certainly true that to build and maintain a perfect road under such conditions would be exceptionally expensive.

The practice of putting straw on the roads is a device to ameliorate these conditions very materially at trifling expense. The stubble left in the fields by the headers makes the very best material available for this purpose, and it can be readily mowed and used, but the straw stacks have



A STRAWED ROAD IN WASHINGTON. also been available and have been largely utilized. The proper practice is to take a road grader and shape up the road before putting on the straw. Straw to a depth of six or eight inches is then scattered over the center of the roadbed to a sufficient width to certainly cover the wheel tracks. About eight feet is a sufficient width for this. If put on in this way from sixteen to twenty rack loads will be sufficient to straw a mile. It would be better if the straw could be put on in two different applications, the first in June and the second in August. This would tend to prevent the cutting of the road up into dust in the first instance, and it would give a much more effective result, but where this is not practicable the single application in August works wonders.

The first thing which happens is that a little dust works up in with the straw and tends to hold it down and to prevent a fire spreading in it should one be started anywhere. The second wonderful thing which happens is that in some way the dust underneath this is hard and firm.

credit any statements made as to the simply marvelous. The tractive capac- the end of my days." ity of the animals is at once increased, sometimes as much as 100 per cent. The dust is no longer in evidence, filling the eyes and hair and destroying the clothes, as well as impeding the efforts of the animals.

A brief account of the beginning of this practice in Washington should be interesting in this connection. After part of Mr. Whitney to get the matter properly before the people, he received permission to go ahead and do some strawing, but it was only permission, and it did not carry with it either the money or the straw. However, those who know Mr. Whitney can understand that he was not stumped at this juncture. Before the sun went down that night he had \$20 in cash subscribed and over 100 loads of straw promised. He then appointed 100 men in different localities to act as captains and had designated Aug. 20, 1901, as a day to be observed in Wallawalla county as "straw day." The orders to his captains were to get out all the people they could on "straw day" and straw the roads wherever most needed.

From 300 to 400 loads of straw were sarewn over the highways that first "straw day," and more than thirty miles of road, all told, were thus im-

proved. A good strawed road renewed annually will give better satisfaction to those who travel it than would a macadam road not kept in suitable repair, while the disparity in cost would be enormous. A good macadam road properly maintained could have strawed road feeders.

STRAWING OF ROADS FOR GREAT CORN CONTEST. Writer In Kansas City Star Proposes One For Coming Winter.

In view of the magnificent corn crop in the states west of the Mississippi river I feel inclined to suggest, says Thomas D. Hubbard in the Kansas City Star, that we undertake to interest the intelligent corn raisers in the matter of having a transmississippi an almost certain cure, which she wishcorn contest some time during the com- ed the doctors would try. When asked ing winter at the Convention hall or Grain Exchange in Kansas City. It will be necessary to interest certain public spirited persons and municipal and commercial bodies in giving cash for premiums. In order to make this tient, a teaspoonful every fifteen mincontest a great success the premiums should be cash entirely and should be

I suggest that there should be a large premium for the fifty ears of corn which will excel in the amount of shelled corn they will turn out. I think that it would be easy this year to find fifty ears of corn that will shell off fifty-six pounds of shelled corn. In fact, I planted some corn this last spring seen it applied in a limited way in the which shelled off eighteen ounces to

> There should be another premium for the corn which produced the largest

It was very plainly a fact at the world's fair at St. Louis last year that the largest corn exhibited was from ground gets drier and drier during Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas. Yet Illinois and Iowa had a very much larger display of very handsome ears, but did not show such large ears as we did. I think we could make an exhibit this winter that would open the eyes of the folks east of the Mississippi river, and it might open their eyes all the more if we permit them to compete with us and show their handsome little ears, weighing about three-fourths of a pound to the ear, alongside of our late in getting to bed, she looks on it ears which weigh from a pound and a as quite proper and natural that she quarter to a pound and a half to the should be in bed late the next morn-

a majority of them, must be corn grow- mother is up half the night with an ers west of the Mississippi. We might ailing baby, neither her lazy daughter suggest F. D. Coburn, secretary of the nor any other member of the family Professor P. G. Holden of the Iowa should stay in bed and make up her practical farmers. And we should value of time they would not waste have this committee act under a few it. Our lives are such tiny drops in simple rules relating to the facts to be considered in judging for awards.

BOSTON GIRLS OUT OF IT.

An Aesthetic Baron Finds Them Short Either In Soul or Body.

Baron Andreas, the rich Austrian who ing, they would be called loafers, so established an office here, where he why not you as well as they? Loafing could interview prospective wives, is a habit that grows on one with says a Boston dispatch to the New fatal rapidity, and unless you want to York Press. He added: "In Boston the be held irrevocably in its clutches you ideal woman does not live. Though must break away from it at once,she may cherish the culture of the new Detroit News-Tribune world and have the blood of pilgrim or puritan flowing through her veins; ugh she often pos advantages that wealth and beauty A Pretty One Adds a Dainty Touch to can give to make her a vision of femininity far more splendid than her sisters of other cities and other climes, has any regard for the dainty spotshe is still lacking in quality of soul, that great essential which would make her the perfection of all womanhood. Fortune and circumstances have fa- the table-as it is to have a plain one. vored me more in this city than in any other place in which I have searched in her table to be laid without the proall this world, yet I have been pains- tective cloth beneath the dish of meat. taking, thorough and successful in my quest for the woman who is to bring me all happiness.

"I have met girls and women, all of them gloriovs specimens of womanhood, but every one lacking some of the characteristics of my ideal. It is not beauty alone that will distinguish my ideal from all the rest of the women in this world; it is the inner soul that possibly holds the foremost position. Alas, of all the ladies I met some possessed the beauty, while others had the soul, and not one have I straw also begins to consolidate, and seen who had the goalike combination after awhile, if the straw is raked off. in her possession! It almost breaks my it will be found that the road surface | heart that I have to leave such giorious array of purity and sweetness as Those who have never seen the re- the women of New England possess, sults of strawing would positively dis- but my duty to my ideal prompts me onward, and, though it makes my life actual benefits which result. They are restless and weary, I shall go on until

Club to Cultivate Cats.

A chorus of grateful me-ows sweeps from Michigan to where the Atlantic rolls. New York women who have cats and other women living in various parts of the country have incorporated the Lockhaven Cat club. Its purpose is to cultivate thoroughbred cats and considerable missionary effort on the an interest in them, to provide comfortable homes for wandering cats, outcasts of the back fences and streets, and to have exhibitions of educated and reformed cats. The club's headquarters are in Rochester, which is a center of the cat cult, but the cats of New York city, Chicago, North Chatham, N. Y.; Dorchester, Mass.; Romeo, Mich : Pittsburg and Ithaca are to en-

joy equality with the Rochester cats, for directors of the club live in all these cities.

Stewed Cockronches Cure Lockjaw. Mrs. Mary B. Portwood, widow of Dr. Robert L. Portwood, an army surgeon, telephoned to the Bellevue hospital of New York that she had read that "Mary Hall" was a patient there, suffering from tetanus, and that she had to describe her cure she said: "Put twelve large cockroaches in a teacup, hands when washing, diluted with add a pinch of salt and cover with boiling water. In a few minutes there will appear a milky substance, which is to be forced down the throat of the pautes, until the jaws become relaxed. I assure you this remedy has been tried many times with success."

THE GIRL LOAFER.

She Who Spends Her Time In Doing Absolutely Nothing.

A girl loafer-that does not sound very pretty, does it? And yet there are a good many girls whom the title fits. In other words, there are girls who spend their time doing absolutely nothing. Circumstances do not render it necessary for them to earn their living, and so they stay at home and fritter the precious moments away in useless pursuit or idleness. Don't a good many of them lie in bed in the morning and let their mothers get up and get breakfast? And don't you think they also dress up in their best clothes and spend the afternoon enjoying themselves while their mothers stay home and prepare the evening meal? And when they are home they spend their time reading trashy novels or trimming equally trashy hats.

When a girl goes to a party and is ing, and all of the family accepts the The judges in this contest, or at least fact as a matter of course. But if the Kansas department of agriculture, and seems to think it necessary that she Agricultural college as two of the broken sleep. Perhaps if some of these judges, to be associated with three girls could appreciate the enormous the ocean of time, and we can never, never call back one precious lost

minute. Dear girls, don't allow yourselves to be called by that ugly word "loafer," and yet you will be if you deserve it. If your brothers lie around the house "Boston girls are no use," said all day, half dressed and doing noth-

THE CARVING CLOTH.

the Dinner Table.

A carving cloth is a necessity if one lessness of the tablecloth, and it is as easy to have a pretty carving clothone that will add to the appearance of No really careful housekeeper allows



EMBEGIDERED CARVING CLOTH.

The one shown in the illustration is durable as well as ornamental and involves only a moderate amount of la-The material is Belgian linen. flowers are embroidered with white, shaded with palest gray, and the leaves with delicate greens. The edge is hemmed and hemstitched, and on the hem the scrolls and disks are embroidered with white.

Soft Castile Sonp.

Many persons who cannot use castile soap for the face and hands will find it agrees perfectly with the body and in that case is better for the bath than any other soap. One of the most convenient things to have on every washstand is a jar of soft castile soap. This is made by scraping a cake of pure soap and adding about a pint and a half of water. Put them together into saucepan and stand over a brisk heat, but not one that will boil the liquid. When the soap is dissolved pour into a wide mouthed jar. When the mixture cools it will be jelly. This is excellent to have by to rub on the

ucas Paints Painters used to think no paint as good as hand-mixed. Lucas Paints have changed their opinions. They spread easily and cover thoroughly, look better, wear longer, and save a lot The work is more satisfactory all around. Ask your dealer. John Lucas & Co Philadelphia

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more water to which a couple of pinches of soda are added. It is a harmless and cleansing shampoo to be rubbed into the head, which is then rinsed thoroughly.

Tact In Dress.

Tact in dress is necessary to every woman who hopes to become representative of that refinement which is the chief ornament of womanhood or girlhood. It is rare that one sees French people dressed out of keeping with their surroundings or position. In the latter half of the nineteenth century a noted woman of France, Mme. de Girardin, said: "Style ought inevitably to vary according to position and age. It should fit itself to the fortune, to the habits, to the form, to the circumstances and, indeed, to every detail in the life of those who wish to appear its leaders." This truism is as real today as at the time it was written, but unfortunately outside of la belle France this fitting of self to one's sphere is honored more in the breach than in the observance.

A fine idea for pantry shelves is to use two coats of white paint and then a finishing coat of white enamel. Wash the shelves with cold water as soon as the enamel dries, and then it will harden quickly. Over this place no ollcloth or papers, but leave the shelves bare, and notice the improvement. Since there are no covers under which crumbs can collect, there is no encouragement for mice, the enamel is easily wiped off with a damp cloth, and with such a finish it is never necessary to clean the entire pantry at once. It keeps clean all the time.

The Sugar Valley Journal is again in the hands of its tormer editor, D. S. Currin. It appears there is a string to this plant, it always comes back to the original proprietor.

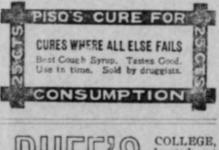
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Philadelphia 4:23 a. m.

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