

ROADS AND ROAD MAKING

PROTECT THE HIGHWAYS.

Thoughtless Farmers Often Guilty of Depredations on Roads.

In a Massachusetts town a farmer has been driving his harrow from one to another across a newly-built highway, with the result that the taxpayers have had to pay for a week's work in repairing the damage done by his thoughtlessness. A question is, are there any other farmers in any other sections who are undoing the work accomplished in road building and are as careless of their own and neighbors' interests as was this man?

Without wishing to be severe, it is believed that there are men in almost every farming community who are guilty of depredations on the roads as bad as this. They are usually of the class which leaves farming implements in the fence corners through the winter, drive ill-kept horses, use narrow tires on their wagons, and complain of hard times.

Men can not be legislated into morality or decency, but they can be muled if they carry things too far against the interests of society. And, as road improvement is extended, it seems that farmers' organizations and granges might do much to save the money expended in this direction by establishing a code that would at least send to Coventry the man who needlessly damages the highways.

Cities, as well as the rural districts, have trouble along this line. "How can we have good pavements?" was the despairing exclamation of the Mayor of one of our largest municipalities to a protesting delegation, "when every morning an army of 3,000 men start out to rip them up."

If the pavements in cities were left undisturbed during their natural lifetime it would insure to the reputation of the contractor and to the comfort and financial interest of the taxpayer. But permits to dig up paved streets seem to be easily obtainable under most of our city governments.

What is everybody's business is said to be nobody's business, and it seems an easy corollary to assume that public property is public plunder.

In private affairs prudence is regarded a virtue, why should it not be so regarded in community matters? Why should so many people seem to think that they themselves are not a part of general public and, therefore, that they have no personal interest in conserving public property? Such people seem, in a measure, to expatriate themselves.

Good Roads Notes.

Start with a system. Take the worst places first. Dispense with the "thank you marms" and put in culverts instead. Grade the hills and protect the ditches.

Put in permanent bridges and culverts.

Keep gravel and stone roads already built in perfect repair.

Grade up the roads in flats as much as possible.

Secure an engineer occasionally, don't guess.

Give the earth road drag a fair trial, and use it when the roads are thoroughly wet.

Put clay and sand together; they do better together than by themselves.

Forget that you have been elected by a party or will run again. Build roads, not a political machine.

What you do, do well.

The most expensive way is often the cheapest in the end.

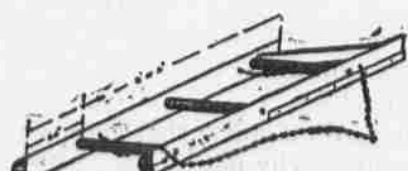
Encourage first yourself and then your neighbor to buy wide tired wagons.

Always repair a road with material of the same kind as that of the road itself.

Keep the ditches, culverts, and underdrains clean and in working conditions at all times. It is not enough to build them well. They must be kept clean to be effective.

Never put sod on the travelled way.

Do your road work as early in the season as possible.



SIMPLE LOG DRAG.

Arkansas' Banner County.

It is stated that Sebastian County, Arkansas, has more improved roads than any other county of the State, except perhaps the more wealthy county of Pulaski. In the Fort Smith district, there are now twenty-two miles of macadam road alone.

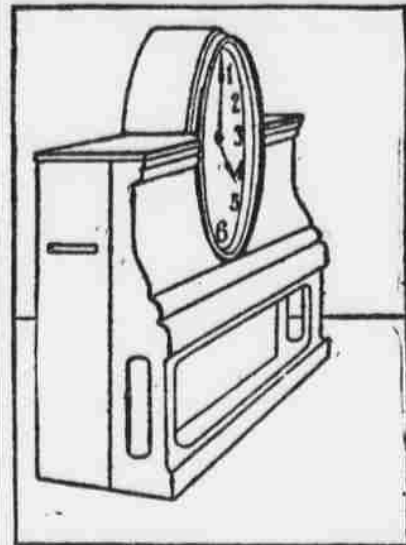
The Money System.

Out of the 900 towns in the State of New York, 600 have voted to have their roads built under the Fuller-Plank Act, or, as it is generally called, the money system. The matter is now optional with the towns, but in the opinion of persons who have given the matter considerable attention the idea of making it compulsory is favored.

NOVEL SAVINGS BANK.

Combined with Clock Which Cannot Be Wound Until Coin Is Deposited.

One of the recent novelties patented is a combined clock and savings bank designed by a Chicago man. Why a savings bank and a clock should be combined will not at once be apparent. The idea would seem ridiculous, as these two articles have no apparent relationship. The purpose of the inventor has merely been to increase the usefulness of the savings bank and assure that it will be constantly employed. He accomplishes this by



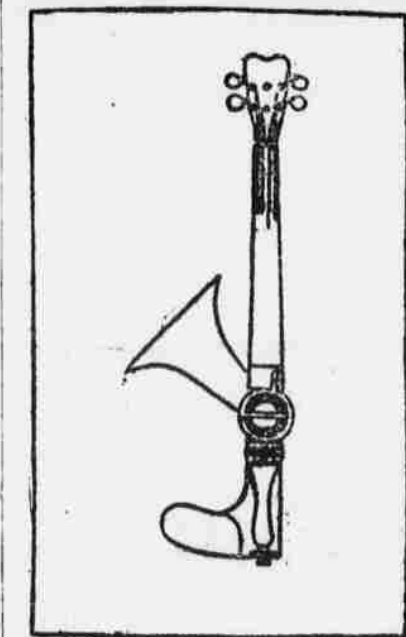
A Novel Savings Bank Clock.

requiring the deposit of a coin in the bank before the clock can be wound. Unless the coin is deposited the clock becomes useless. The amount of the coin deposited is controlled by the size of the slot in the savings bank. The number of deposits can also be increased by requiring a daily winding of the clock. In this way a certain sum must be added to the bank each day previous to each winding of the clock. After the clock has been wound and the key removed the mechanism assumes its normal position so that the clock cannot be wound again without the deposit of a coin.

UNIQUE VIOLIN.

Addition of Horn Which Greatly Increases Quality and Volume.

Improvements in musical instruments are very rare—in fact, so much so as to be at once noticeable. The latest is shown in the illustration below, invented by a Wisconsin man. This instrument is in many respects like the ordinary violin, having strings, tuning pegs, etc., and is played with a bow. The addition is made of a portion of a horn, the latter serv-

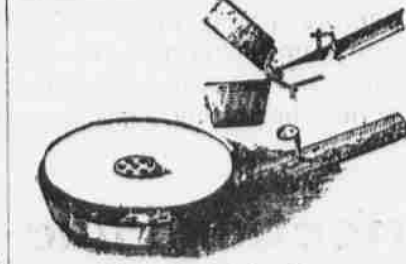


Unique Combination Violin.

ing to increase the volume of sound and also to preserve its purity. The sounds are collected by the horn before they emerge from the violin, and are emitted in an even, smooth tone—not ragged nor disconnected, as is often the case with the ordinary violin. As with a graphophone, the horn increases the volume of the notes many times. The inventor, a musician, claims that this instrument cannot be equalled for solo work and also orchestra music.

Novel Kitchen Utensil.

An inventor in Chicago has devised a frying pan with a cover which may be raised, whenever it is desired to examine the contents of the pan, without danger of burning one's fingers. The cover is formed with an extension, which passes through the handle of the pan. A thumb piece is attached to this extension, and passes



Cover For Frying Pans.

vertically through to the upper side of the handle. The cover may then be opened by depressing the thumb piece. Hinged to the handle is a catch, which may be swung over the thumb piece to hold the latter in its depressed position when it is desired to keep the cover of the pan open.

Missing Opportunities.

"I have no patience with a man who makes the same mistake twice," said Armes, rather severely, in speaking of an unfortunate friend.

"Neither have I," agreed his wife, "when there are so many other mistakes to make."

JACK, THE ACID THROWER, CAUGHT

Chas. Cooper, Arrested in Baltimore, Says He Was Driven by Irresistible Impulse

PERVERT USED A SYRINGE

Police Found Bottle of Acid in His Pockets—Accused Railroad Fireman Said to Have Admitted He Made Attacks on Fifty Women.

Baltimore, Md.—That he is controlled by an irresistible impulse to go among the women that throng Baltimore's fashionable shopping section, and that when he sees an attractive young woman he must squirt acid on her, is the confession of "Jack the Acid Thrower," captured by detectives after a hunt lasting a year.

The man is Charles Cooper, thirty-one years old, married, and a railroad locomotive fireman. When at work Cooper is as good a fireman as runs on the Western Maryland, making as high as \$90 a month, but he says he spent every hour he had off where women congregate. He says an impulse would seize him to dash sulphuric acid on women or girls and he was not content until he had done so. Then he would forget all about it. The police have reports from thirty-three victims. Cooper himself, according to the police, acknowledges the number may be fifty.

The favorite method of the man has been to edge up to a young woman in a crowd and squirt the fluid on her stockings or dress, burning holes in the skirt or going through the hosiery and burning the limb. He had two syringes and a bottle of acid on him when arrested. Three bottles of acid were found in the cellar of his home.

The police had had a description of the man from his many victims, but never were able to come up with him. He has terrorized the women of the city for a year. The mention of his name would throw school children into a panic.

For over a week Captain of Detectives Pumphrey has had Detectives Coughlin and Pohler at work in an attempt to round up the acid thrower. With only a meager description of the man the detectives were ordered to drop all other cases and to work night and day until they captured the offender. Since that time the pair have loitered in all parts of the city in which the acid throwing crimes have been committed until they caught the man. As the detectives were nearing Howard street, on Lexington, they spied a tall, slim man, who seemed to be watching carefully individual women in the crowd of shoppers.

The man sauntered up to a woman who stood in the doorway of No. 223 West Lexington street inspecting a show window. At the time the detectives were on the north side of Lexington street, and they watched from their side of the street. Carefully the man neared the woman, and as he gained her side he dropped to one knee as if to button his shoe. The alert eyes of the two watchers, however, saw the man suddenly slip his right hand into his trousers pocket and quickly withdraw it again, at the same time bringing his hand up near the skirt of the unsuspecting woman, who stood calmly gazing into the store window. Both men realized that it was their time to act, and they dashed across the street as the man rose to his full height again and walked out of the doorway toward Howard street, the woman a second later moving down the street in an easterly direction.

Detective Pohler seized the man while Detective Coughlin slipped into the crowd to call back the woman, but she had disappeared in the throng.

As Pohler seized the prisoner he let out a loud cry and attempted to throw into the street something which he held in his right hand. Pohler was too quick for him, however, and seizing the man in a grip of steel he forced the hand open and found a syringe. Detective Coughlin had joined his comrade in the meantime, and without giving the man a chance to reach his pockets again the detectives hurried him down Lexington street to Park avenue and thence to detective headquarters. A bottle partially filled with acid, a second syringe and the metal portion of a third instrument were found in his pockets.

FISHING FOR FOWLS.

With Hooks and Lines Farmer Angles for Wild Ducks.

Petersburg, Ind.—John A. Grimwood, who lives near White River, knows where the wild geese and ducks feed and has quit hunting for them with a gun. Instead he fishes for them by tying fly hooks on a trot line. He baits the hooks with corn.

A number of these trot lines are laid in shallow water in the submerged corn fields of the White River bottoms. Strings of shelled corn are then run from the lines out into the fields, and the ducks follow up this loose corn until finally they come to the baited hooks and are caught.

Grimwood has been so successful in catching ducks that nearly all the hunters from this city are preparing lines. They will quit shooting and go fishing for wild game.

HOME DRESSMAKING

By Charlotte Martin.

DRESS FOR A LITTLE GIRL.



Pattern No. 454.—This is one of the prettiest little dresses of the season. The yoke and sleeves are made of sage green cashmere braided with black soutache. The rest of the dress is navy blue flannel, trimmed with black braid. The fronts lap over and fasten with one large gilt button.

Cut in 3 sizes, 4, 6 and 8 yrs. Size 6 requires 2 3/4 yds. of 36 inch material.

AN UP-TO-DATE SHIRTWAIST.



Pattern No. 417.—This new model waist closes in the front and has wide tucks giving the appearance of box pleats at each side of front and back. The cuffs are turned back on a wide band with buttonholes through both band and cuff. Hand embroidery is used on both the collar and cuffs.

Cut in 6 sizes, 32 to 42 bust measure. Size 36 requires 3 1/4 yds. of 36 inch material.

A FITTED UNDERGARMENT.



Pattern No. 429.—This garment closes down the side front and fits quite closely in the back and at the sides. The front gore is flaring, giving extra fullness at the lower edge of the front. Finished with buttonhole stitched edges and beading the design is very pleasing.

Cut in 3 sizes, 32, 36 and 40 bust measure. Size 36 requires 3 1/4 yds. of 36 inch material.

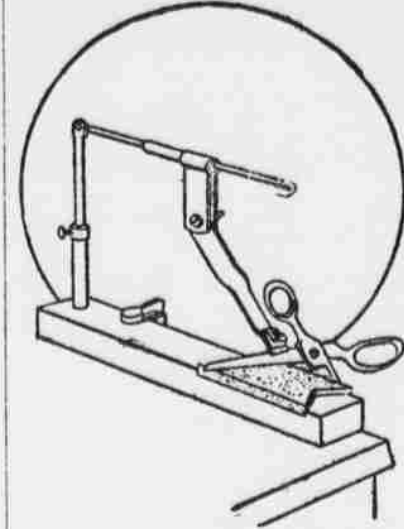
HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Send ten cents for each pattern desired to Charlotte Martin, 402 W. 23d Street, New York. Give No. of pattern and size wanted.

SCISSORS SHARPENER.

Simple Device Does the Work Without Skilled Labor.

Sharpening a pair of scissors has always been considered to properly belong to an expert. An Indiana inventor decided that a device could be readily made by which the sharpening could be readily accomplished by any one. He, accordingly, designed the device shown here, by which scissors

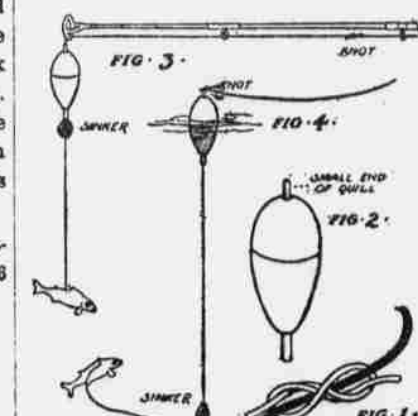


Indiana Inventor's Scissors Sharpener.

can be sharpened without entailing the employment of skilled labor. It comprises a base, which is clamped to a table or other support. On the base is a sharpening stone or other suitable abrasive material, while at the opposite end is an upright arm from which depends a movable clamp. The scissors are held in correct position over the stone by means of the clamp. The latter is then moved back and forth along the arm, thus moving the blade of the scissors across the sharpening stone. Where scissors are employed to a great extent this simple means of sharpening the dull blades should prove both valuable and economical.

Sliding Float for Bait-Casting.

Sliding floats for use with a bait-casting rod are not in the tackle stores, but any angler can make one. Take two bottle corks, one and a quarter inch size; make a hole through each and slip them on a quill, using shoemakers' wax hot for cement. Cut quill off even with cork and push a bead down into small end of it until the bead is on a level with outside. Work the cork down to pear shape, the bead in the small end; smooth with sandpaper and paint. Make a figure 8 loop in a cotton string by forming loop and putting ends through twice, and slip this loop on the reel line. Draw it tight enough to stay in position firmly, but loose enough to slide on line by pressure of the fingers. To rig the tackle, set the knot on reel line at the depth you want to fish, slip the float on line, bead end first, then adjust sinker and leader as usual. When the line is reeled up for the cast the float runs up on the line and stops at the sinker. When the cast is made the float returns to the knot on the line. Use



A Good Sliding Float With Casting Rod.

as much lead as the float will carry. Have the rod equipped with large, smooth guides.—Charles Carroll, National Military Home, Ohio.

The Difficulty.

Mrs. Watson, a woman whose pretensions to beauty nature flatly refused to assist in any way, saw in a shop-window a bonnet, the sort of thing that a modiste in town calls a "creation," just a knotting of velvet, a fold of lace and pink roses, but a snare for feminine vanity because it looked so simple and easy to wear. She hurried in, examined it closely, inquired the price, and at last tried it on. Then, after a few moments of disappointed staring, she took it off again.

"I don't think I'll have it, after all, Miss Demmon," she said. "What do you suppose is the matter with the thing? I'm sure it looked ever so much prettier in the window."

"But, my dear madam," answered the milliner, with quick conviction, "You must remember that you have your face to contend with now!"

Growth of Boys and Girls.

At five years of age boys are mainly taller than girls, but the girls appear to equal them at the seventh year, and continue thus up to and including the ninth year, after which the boys rise again above the girls for two years. At about twelve years the girls suddenly become taller than the boys, continuing until the fifteenth year, when the boys finally regain their superiority in stature. After the age of seventeen there seems to be very little, if any, increase in the stature of girls, while boys are still growing vigorously at eighteen. Boys have a larger lung capacity than girls at all ages. The difference is not so large from six to thirteen, but subsequently the difference between the sexes increases very rapidly.

SOME OUT OF DATE THEORIES.

To Keep Up with Science not at All Easy for the Lay Mind.

To the lay mind it is very disconcerting to see the kaleidoscopic changes that are continually taking place in all branches of science. We have no sooner accepted the nebular hypothesis as one of the ultimate laws of nature than the geologist on the one hand and the mathematician on the other tell us that it will have to be abandoned.

One generation of naturalists delights us by teaching us to believe that every coral island is built from the bottom of the ocean by the accumulated remains of millions of generations of polyps and the next would have us believe that they are merely the caps of oceanic mountains.

For a century the very foundation on which chemistry was built was the doctrine that the mass, the total amount of things in the universe, was unchangeable, but now more chemists doubt it than believe it.

Sixty years ago Adam Smith was thought to have said all but the last word on economics, and his principle of laissez-faire was the holy of holies, but now laissez-faire has been abandoned and only a single one of his laws remains unchallenged.

So it is in all lines, theories of inheritance, of chemical affinity, of disease, of health, of life, of death—all come and go so rapidly that we can scarcely keep pace with the procession. When we look into any specialized phase of a subject the host of ever changing theories simply bewilders any but the extreme specialist.

The interesting part of it is that the man of science is the very one who is not worried by these shifting sands. He is too busy using the various theories to accomplish things. He seems to think no more of discarding one theory for another than he does of taking up a larger test tube or beaker or of adjusting his microscope to a different power.

Gum-Pickers at Work.

Picking spruce gum and selling it to chewing gum manufacturers is a source of income for a great many men in the Adirondacks and other northern forests—guides and small farmers—while others make it a business the year through. The gum appears on the tree trunks like drops of wax. The gatherer, armed with a long pole, on the end of which is fastened a can and a sharp chisel, cuts loose the chunks of gum, which fall into the can, and are transferred to a basket or bag. The gatherers in winter will travel on snow-shoes ten or fifteen miles through the forest, sleeping at night in some old hunter's deserted shack. There are three kinds of spruce in the Adirondacks—red, black and white. The best gum is gathered from the white spruce.

The rarest of the gums is the "blister," which is translucent and turns blue after being chewed. After being scraped, washed and brightened, it sells for one dollar and fifty cents a pound. There is a coarser grade, composed of blister scrapings, mixed with particles of bark. Placed on trays of cotton cloth in a steam tank, the gum is drawn out, and yields the producer fifty cents a pound, forming the ordinary chewing gum of commerce. Some manufacturers adulterate the gum with paraffin resin and chicle. Some years ago, an old gum-gatherer of Cranberry Lake lost twenty-three bags of gum by the splitting of his boat. It was never recovered.

Real Cold.

An American and a Scotsman were discussing the cold experienced in winter in the north of Scotland.

"Why, it's nothing at all compared to the cold weather we have in the States," said the American. "I can recollect one winter when a sheep, jumping from a hillock into a field, became suddenly frozen on the way and stuck in the air like a mass of ice."

"But, man," exclaimed the Scotsman, "the law of gravity wouldn't allow that!"

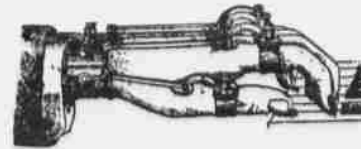
"I know that," replied the tale pitcher. "But the law of gravity was frozen, too!"

A Use for the Dish Mop.

The best thing to clean a gas or gasoline stove is a string dish-mop. It is effective and saves your fingers and finger nails.

Finger-Developing Device.

A recent invention provides a device which may be applied to the hands of a piano player to develop the muscles of the fingers individually, so that the fingers may be able to strike the notes with a uniform blow. The device consists of a wrist band which supports a series of rods, provided at their opposite ends with pads adapted to rest on the knuckles. Hinged to each one of these rods is a short arm connected at its outer end to a stem projecting from a ring slipped



Finger-Developing Device.

over the finger. A series of weights in the form of washers are adapted to be slipped over the stem, thereby permitting the operator to adjust the weight on each particular finger. Thus if one of his fingers is weaker than the rest, it is fitted with a heavier weight, so that in time the muscles will be developed to such an extent as to make it as strong as the rest of the fingers.