TO OUST BILLBOARDS

Fight For Abolition of Town Uglifiers Spreading.

EFFECTIVE LAWS INSTITUTED

Cincinnati and St. Louis Adopt Regulations Restricting Construction of Signboards In Certain Sections of the City and Matter Exposed on Them.

It is well agreed on as a starting point in the quest after a town and city beautiful that the ever ugly billboards must by all means disappear. The colored poster that adorns the dead walls and vacant spaces of town streets is about the only created thing for which no claim of beauty is made. The signboard stands unrivaled and alone as something that is frankly ugly and justifies its existence on other ground than attractiveness to the aesthetic sense. Many towns and cities throughout the United States are waging a successful fight to abolish billboard advertising. Cincinnati is making a strong stand against the nuisance that should be duplicated in all towns and cities. The fight has been led by the municipal art committee of the Business Men's club and has culminated in the adoption of a code of regulations embraced in the city's building ordinances. These regulations are directed toward, first, the character of materials to be used, noncombustible material only being allowed; second, the limiting of their height and area; third, raising them from the ground; fourth, maintaining an open space at the end; fifth, restricting their proximity to the street and maintaining the house line, and, sixth, restricting the matter that may be exposed on them. The business men's organization also expects to maintain the right to require that no signboard shall be erected on or facing

HOW BILLBOARDS DEFACE A TOWN.

any public park, square, municipal, county or federal building. This is a grand example shown by Cincinnati, and let the public spirited of other towns and cities follow suit. St. Louis is also trying to rid itself of the boards upon which the obnoxious posters appear and tend to deface the beauty of the city. The building commissioner recently brought action for the abolition of over 200 billboards, the construction of which violates city ordinances, as a consequence of a decision handed down by the Missouri supreme court at Jefferson City recently affirming the right of St. Louis to regulate billboard advertising by ordinance.

Timely Town Improvers.

The following suggestions if followed will go far to help in improving and beautifying the home town:

Make the old home more beautiful this spring than it ever has been before.

Rake up all the bits of sticks and dead leaves of a year ago and make the yard ready for the mower when the grass grows.

Fill in all the little uneven places that may show in the lawn and scatter a little grass seed there. It will soon grow and make the front so much nicer to look at.

Two stout wires with a strip of wire poultry netting will give the clematis and other climbing vines something to cling to as they try to find the top of the porch. If they have not something to hold them upward they will trail downward and lose something of their beauty.

A few climbing shrubs will shade the porch neatly from the hot sunshine of next summer. The old fashioned honeysuckle is one of the best for this purpose. It is so clean, and it blossoms longer than almost any other shrub of the kind.

An Interesting Advertising Fable.

This fable is printed by a Kansas newspaper for the benefit of its advertisers and those who ought to be: "In a certain barnyard there were two hens, one of which when she laid an egg cackled because she knew she had a good thing and wanted others to know it. That hen believed in advertising. And many were the breakfasts her enterprise supplied. When the other hen laid eggs she disdained to cackle. 'What's the use,' she said. 'Everybody knows I lay eggs.' And she cackled not. One day the owner of the hens by accident discovered the nest of the noiseless one, and it was full of eggs, but they were too old to use, and immediately he cut off the head of the hen that refused to be 'modern' and advertise."

HUMOR OF THE DAY

Detecting the Culprit.

"There is a woman in the front of the car that hasn't paid her fare," said the conductor to the man on the rear seat, "but I can't place her."

"Perhaps I can give you a pointer," said the helpful man. "Pick out the woman that fingers her hatpins all the time. That is the latest wrinkle of the female street pirate. Reading her neighbor's newspaper and gazing into futurity are out of date. Everybody got on to those tricks. But the woman who beats her way has to do something to hide her guilt, so she fiddles with her hatpins."

"Maybe you're right," said the conductor. "Anyhow, I'll try."

After a little he reported to the helpful man.

"That worked all right," he said. "She owned up. She said you would pay for her."

"Me!" exclaimed the helpful man. "What have I got to do with it?"

"Everything apparently. She happened to look back and said she knew you and that it would be all right. There she is now, standing up and nodding at you. Know her?"

"Yes," said the helpful man weakly. "She is my wife."—New York Herald.

Divorce Too Handy.

Mr. Coonley (gloomily)—Mah wife done tole me today dat she's got nearly two hundred dollahs saved up in a savin's bank in huh own name, and I don't like dat at all.

Mr. Mokeby (astonished)—You don't? Why, man, ain't dat nice fo' a rainy day?

Mr. Coonley—Yaas, I s'pose so, but in case ob a stormy day look how easy she kin git to Reno!—Illustrated Sunday Magazine.

An Excuse He Couldn't Overlook.

"Where are you going, John?"

"I think I'll go to my club, and perhaps I ought to take my pajamas along."

"Why in the world should you think of doing that?"

"You said you didn't feel like yourself tonight, so it would be improper for me to stay here, wouldn't it?"—Chicago Record-Herald.

What Missionaries Do.

Two little girls saw the wide open mouth of a crocodile in a picture book.

"Crocodiles is awful," said one seriously. "They eat up little heathen babies what don't say their prayers. In my Sunday school we give pennies to buy missionaries to go and shoot them."—Harper's Weekly.

Plus Kid.

"Mamma, when I say my prayers tonight may I pray for rain?"

"Of course, dear. But don't you think we've had enough rain?"

"Not quite. Jennie Jones is going to have a picnic tomorrow, and I ain't invited."—Cleveland Leader.

Respect For His Mother.

"Enpeck's son takes after his father."

"How do you know?"

"When he and his bride were on their honeymoon he registered at the hotels as Mrs. and Mr. Enpeck."—Buffalo Express.

Unanswerable.

At the dedication of a new fire engine in a little town on the Massachusetts coast the following toast was proposed: "May she be like the dear old maids of our village—always ready, but never called for."—Success Magazine.

Waiting.

"How is the good roads propaganda progressing?"

"Not much doing now until the farmers find out whether they are going to have automobiles or aeroplanes."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

In the Way.

"You haven't much of a memory for dates," said the conversational boarder.

"Nope," replied Farmer Corntossel. "I used to have, but it interferes with business when you're sellin' spring chickens."—Washington Star.

Method In His Madness.

She—But you do write a wretched hand. Why, I don't think I can read one-half of any one of your letters.

He—I know it. I do that so they never can be used in court.—Yonkers Statesman.

Identified.

Mrs. Jawback—John, you're a perfect fool!

Mr. Jawback—I knew something like that would happen when marriage made you and me one.—Cleveland Leader.

Natural Phenomena.

"I wonder why the weather is vane."

"For the same reason, I suppose, that the dog wood or the tin roof spouts.—Baltimore American.

Did He Eat Her Up?

"The bride and bridegroom seem well matched."

"Yes; she's a grass widow and he's a vegetarian."—Lippincott's.

In South America.

General—Where is the left wing?

Aid—Around the corner. He's waiting for the vanguard to get his horse shod.—Puck.

An Exchange.

Many people who want what they haven't got ought to get rid of some things they have.—Washington Post.

FARM & GARDEN

STRAWBERRY CULTURE.

Beds Should Be Established as Soon as a Home Is.

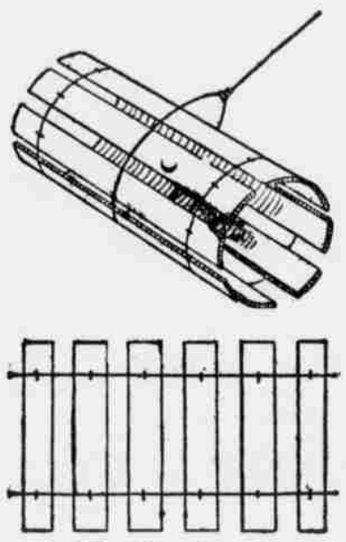
"Like asparagus, strawberry beds should be established as soon as the family has settled in a country home," says Kate V. Saint-Maur in Woman's Home Companion, "because it takes a year to get a full crop. There are a great many varieties to choose from, but I think it is best to restrict selection to the old established kinds. The Marshall for first early, the Glen Mary for mid-season and the Gandy for late gathering. And truly I don't believe there can be a better selection for the home garden near New York.

"But, as some varieties do better than others in a certain locality, it is advisable to consult old residents in the neighborhood and the nurserymen.

"Light sandy soil, sloping slightly to the south, will produce the earliest berries, but we are convinced from experience that slightly heavier soil and a more northerly exposure produces a better fruit in mid-season. Our beds all slope to the south, but the late varieties are so situated that they are slightly shaded by a row of young pear-trees, which protects them from the direct rays of the sun. The soil is—or rather was—of ordinary quality, neither very sandy nor very heavy, so for several seasons we scattered fine coal-ashes between the rows of the early plants, which materially lightened the soil, and for several years we have had berries from five to ten days earlier than our neighbors."

Saving a Broken Tree Limb.

This contrivance is made of a few lengths of boards two inches wide, fastened together with wire, as seen in the picture. This is wrapped firmly around the tree and wire attached, as



in cut. This allows for expansion in growing trees. Fasten a similar shield on the trunk higher up and run a strong wire from trunk to limb.

Protect the Fruit Trees.

If your young trees were mulched last fall and not properly protected from mice and rabbits, you will probably be surprised when you visit the orchard to find that many of them have been ruined. Mulch is a good thing for the tree, but it is also a good thing for mice, as it affords them the best protection during the winter and they gather in large numbers around the foot of the trees and eat away the bark.

Protection is easy. The best material is wire screening, although some use tarred paper and veneer from wood. Some orchardises practice tramping snow around the base of their trees, but oftentimes this is neglected and the trees are injured before the work is accomplished. The protectors should be pressed into the ground deep enough to prevent the mice from crawling under. Personally I prefer wire-screening, but in case tarred paper is used it should be promptly removed in the spring to prevent injury from scalding.

How to Grow Water-Cress.

Those fond of water-cress may have a summer's supply by sinking an old tub or bottom of a hogshead to a depth of ten inches near a pump or well or where the water can be frequently renewed from hose. Half fill receptacle with good soil, plant rooted water-cress and fill with water. A border of umbrella plants or other aquatic plants will make it a thing of beauty as well as of utility. A further improvement may be made by planting iris around outside of the tub, the overflow of water giving the necessary moisture to the flowers.

Keeping Potatoes.

Many market gardeners find it profitable to include potatoes in their list of crops, and it is important to keep the seed tubers in a perfectly dormant condition. Cellars with furnaces are unsuitable for storing seed potatoes. The room should be cool, dry, well ventilated and frostproof.

General Farm Notes.

Good bedding is of value because it saves the liquid manure.

The best crop to redeem a run down field is alfalfa.

The old fashioned winter is going to give us some old fashioned roads next spring.

Occasions often arise when it is necessary that a family observe rather rigid economy to make both ends meet. When that time comes the good wife should not be the only one expected to practice the virtue. It should eliminate the smoking tobacco as well as a new spring bonnet.

There be many supposedly respectable people who wouldn't steal their neighbor's purse or sheep who fall down when it comes to the moral involved in palming off beef suet for butter fat. This is just the same kind of cussedness, only smaller and more contemptible, for it is practiced under the guise of an activity which is lawful and decent.

Some feeding experiments which have been conducted of late by the Iowa experiment station show that sugar beets and mangels favor the formation of calculi, or "stone," in the kidneys and bladders of breeding rams, in some instances fatal results occurring. The discovery would seem to indicate that it is not advisable to feed these roots to breeding sheep, either rams or ewes, as the results would doubtless be the same with both.

The western rancher is not bothered with Canada thistles or quack grass, but he has in his grain and alfalfa fields an annual, the fireweed, that causes him much annoyance. It grows to a height of from one to two feet and bears numerous yellow blossoms on a fiddle neck blossom staik, the leaves being covered with numerous short spines, which, brittle and dry at haying and harvest time, irritate the skin as much as do fleas and chiggers. When the fireweed gets in possession of a field, about the only way to eradicate it is clean cultivation of some tilled crop.

The Maine experiment station publishes the following recipe for the dry mash which it has tested and found excellent as a poultry feed: Two hundred pounds good wheat bran, 100 pounds cornmeal, 100 pounds middlings (or Red Dog flour), 100 pounds gluten meal or brewer's grains, 100 pounds linseed meal and 100 pounds beef scraps. This should be thoroughly mixed on a clean floor before being put in the feed hoppers. The scratching ration recommended by the same station consists of four quarts of screened cracked corn, two quarts of wheat and two quarts of oats for each hundred hens (Plymouth Rock) daily.

Wild morning glory is one of the common weeds difficult to kill out because of the habit of multiplying by a system of underground rootstalks, usual cultural methods only serving to spread the pest. One old fellow we heard of the other day got rid of a good sized patch by hoeing off all of the vines which showed above ground every Monday morning. Tuesday morning would probably have done just as well, but he thought Monday morning was the appointed time. The important fact in connection with the instance is that this weekly attack worried the life out of the morning glories, sapping the vitality of the root systems to such an extent that there was not enough plant food left to carry the plants through the winter.

While euphoniously named brands of wheat flour often come from the same bin in the mill, were the truth only known there are distinctions with differences in at least three of the grades of flour usually milled which the consumer might well be acquainted with. The highest priced "patent" flours are made from the inner portion of the wheat, running from 60 to 65 per cent of the berry. "Clear" flour consists of the edible portion of the wheat less the patent which has been taken from it and contains from 15 to 30 per cent of the wheat berry. Straight flour contains all of the berry which is fit for human food and, though considered inferior to the patent flour in grade and lower in price, contains more of the nutritive elements of the wheat berry and therefore makes a more nutritious bread.

Only within the past few years has an adequate value been placed upon skimmilk, yet it is a well known fact of chemistry that it contains virtually all of the casein (protein) of the whole milk, the butter fat removed in the cream being carbon and water. Practically all of the food value of skimmilk may be removed in the shape of cottage cheese, also known as "schmierkase." The following recipe for making this appetizing food is recommended by the Nebraska experiment station: Allow the skimmilk to become sour and curdled, then heat to 90 or 100 degrees F. in about thirty minutes. After it has reached the desired temperature remove the vessel from the stove and allow curd to remain in hot whey for about fifteen minutes. Then remove whey by pouring the clabber into a cheesecloth bag or through a fine wire screen with cheesecloth spread over it and allow to drain until no more whey appears. The texture—hardness or softness of the curd—depends upon the temperature to which the milk is heated and the time the curd is allowed to remain in the hot whey. The greater the heat and the longer its duration the harder the cheese will be. Adding to the curd about one-tenth its volume of rich cream greatly improves the flavor of the cheese, together with sufficient salt to season.

J. C. Trigg

Got Another Copy.

A well dressed man was standing outside a bookseller's shop in Charing Cross road closely examining one of Balzac's works illustrated by Gustave Dore. "How much is this Balzac?" he asked an assistant outside.

"Twenty-five shillings," was the reply.

"Oh, that's far too much. I must see the manager about a reduction," continued the prospective customer, and, suiting the action to the word, he took up the book and went into the shop.

Approaching the bookseller, he took the book from under his arm and asked what he would give for it. "Seven shillings highest offer," he was told.

The offer was accepted, the man took his money and left.

"Well," queried the assistant later, after the man had gone, "were you able to hit it off with the gentleman, sir?"

"Oh, yes. I managed to get another copy of that edition of Balzac for 7 shillings."

Then the bookseller went out to lodge a complaint with the police.—London Telegraph.

A Victim of Leprosy.

"On my travels in Venezuela," said a New York man, "I stayed in a hotel with a young man in whose family there was the taint of leprosy, though he apparently did not have it. One night sitting at dinner he became angry at a waiter and brought his hand down on the table with full force. He instantly realized that he did not feel the blow and sat looking at his hand, his face whitening with horror. 'Give me your knife, Bob,' he said to his chum. He grabbed the pocketknife in a frenzy and stabbed the side of his hand with vicious cuts from finger tip to wrist. You may not know that leprosy appears in the side of the hand, numbness being a sign. The man did not feel the cuts. He arose from the table, knocking over his chair, rushed out into the courtyard of the hotel, and we heard the quick tang of a revolver shot, telling us how he had conquered the leper's curse by ending his life."—New York Times.

He Could Wield an Ax.

The skill of the old Maine shipbuilders in the use of the adz and broadax was wonderful. One old time yarn is of a carpenter who applied very drunk at a shipyard for employment. In order to have a little fun with him the foreman set him to give a proof of his skill by hewing out a wooden bolt with no chopping block but a stone. The carpenter accomplished his difficult task without marring the keen edge of the broadax and showed the foreman a neatly made bolt. Then he brought the ax down with a terrific blow that shattered its edge upon the stone. "I can hew fust rate on your chopping block," he hiccoughed, "but I'll be blamed if I can make the ax stick in it when I git through." The story runs that the foreman lost no time in employing such a workman.

WE ARE DYING YOUNGER.

Only the Babies Have a Better Chance to Survive Now.

In view of all that has been said about the fall in the death rate it seems strange to realize, says Health Culture, that we are not living so long as our grandfathers and grandmother's did. More babies live to grow up nowadays than formerly, but people in later life die younger. Once arrived to adult age the average man or woman has fewer years of survival to expect. This seems on the face of it so surprising a statement that in order to be accepted it should be backed up by data authentic and indisputable. Such data are furnished by the figures of the insurance companies (which all agree on the point), but it is easier to refer to the Government census reports, which tell the tale in simple and convincing fashion. Even in the last fifteen years the death rate among all persons over 55 years of age of both sexes has risen very considerably.

Lions, Tigers and Leopards.

Mr. R. Lydekker, the English naturalist, calls attention to the observations of Mr. R. I. Pocock on the significance of the spots on lion cubs as indicating the close relationship of lions, tigers and leopards. On lion cubs the pattern of the markings is intermediate in character between the stripes of the tiger and the rosettes of the leopard, but inclines more toward the former. East African lions retain more or less distinct traces of these early markings even when they reach maturity. A distinct tiger-like feature of the lion cub is a white patch over the eye, which disappears in the adult. Puma cubs show a pattern quite unlike that of the lion, tiger, leopard and jaguar.—Youth's Companion.

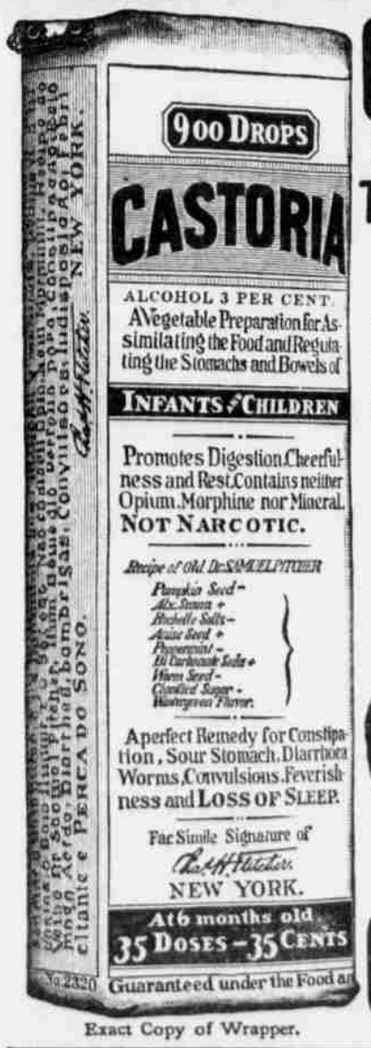
Not All Hawks Chicken Thieves.

The hawks have as bad a reputation as the crows, and all hawks are called "hen-hawks" by those who are ignorant of what they do live on, but the majority of the hawks do not live on poultry by any means. A great many live on insects and mice form a a large item in their bill of fare.

The sparrow hawk is the one that is to blame for the hard name given to his brethren, and it is he who kills the chickens and hens. When hard pressed for food other hawks rarely may carry away a hen or chicken, but this is the extreme rather than the average case.—Maine Woods.

Value of Salt.

Wissen Feur Alle had a symposium to discuss the value of salt in digestion. One of the physicians wrote that, while salt in moderation is good for the stomach, and often absolutely necessary, it ought to be taken apart from the meals in much the same way as medicine.



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