

## TIMELY HINTS FOR FARMERS

### Winter Quarters For Hens.

While fowls can stand a great deal more crowding in the winter than in the summer, they cannot stand too much even then. The first noticeable effect from overcrowding is diminished egg production, which can be relieved by removing part of the fowls to other quarters. Feather pulling and egg eating are vices that are soon learned when fowls are too crowded. A contagious disease soon spreads in crowded quarters and plays sad havoc among the flock. There is never enough room at the feeding trough, and the weaker ones never get enough to eat. But the worst result of overcrowding is the curtailment of the egg supply, and this counts when eggs are so high in price. If you would have plenty of eggs keep no more fowls in one pen than can be comfortable on the roosts without overcrowding and have plenty of scratching room in the house. If they are so crowded as to be in the way of one another while scratching for their food, you certainly will not get many eggs.

### Sulphur Smudge For Mites.

A good way to kill all vermin in a poultry house is to fumigate with sulphur. Place a large iron pan or kettle in the middle of the house, place a large piece of red hot iron in it and pour the powdered sulphur on the hot iron. Fumes of sulphur will begin immediately to rise and fill the room. Leave as soon as possible, as sulphur fumes are suffocating to humans, and close the door tightly. Leave the building closed for three or four hours, when the doors and windows may be opened for admission of fresh air, and all of the insects will be killed.

### The Farm Water System.

Every farm supplied with a windmill or gasoline engine for pumping water should have a water system in the house to lighten the labors of the housewife and provide conveniences for the family. A good sanitary sewage system does not cost a fortune if rightly put in, and it makes the home much more valuable from a beautiful point of view.

### System Pays on the Farm.

Any system of farming which provides regular summer and winter work for the horses will prevent the waste by their "eating their heads off" half the year or so that they may be available for the work at other seasons.

## THE STORAGE OF SEED POTATOES.

### Tubers Keep Best in a Well Ventilated Cellar.

Seed potatoes in storage have three very definite requirements. They must be kept in a cool place well ventilated and dark. That the potatoes be kept cool is most important. The best temperature is from 33 to 35 degrees. If the temperature falls below 32 degrees there is danger of freezing, although it takes a slightly lower temperature to freeze potatoes than water. Good ventilation is necessary in order to prevent the spread of rot, and it is well to keep the potatoes dark, so they will not start to sprout at any time. A cool, dark, well ventilated cellar fairly dry is the best place to store seed potatoes on the ordinary farm.

As spring comes on seed potatoes should not be allowed to send out the long, pale, spindly shoots so often seen. This may be prevented by keeping the potatoes cool and dark. Some growers, three or four weeks before planting time, spread their seed potatoes out in the light at a temperature of 60 to 70 degrees and here allow them to develop sprouts a half to an inch long. These are strong, stubby little sprouts, that are not broken off in planting. It is said this process both hastens the maturity of the crop and increases the yield.—Orange Judd Farmer.

### Keep the Henhouse Clean.

Burn the nest material in the hen house and renew the nests with clean, fresh material. A hen is a clean, sanitary fowl and does not like to make a nest in foul, filthy rubbish. Lice and mites are apt to be in hiding in old nest material, and for that reason the old lining should be burned.

### Charcoal For the Hogs.

Keep a small box of wood ashes or charcoal where the hogs can get at it. It will do wonders toward keeping them healthy and their digestions strong. A little attention to matters of this kind will result in a more thrifty growth and quicker fattening.

### Grooming Improves Animal.

Grooming the horse every day not only cleans the skin, but prevents parasitic disease as well. The modern horse is an artificial product living under artificial conditions. In order to do his best he needs the care of man.

### The Valuable Sheep.

Why not keep a few sheep on your farm? They may not be especially profitable, but they will be very convenient in furnishing mutton and wool with little cost.

## A Trifling Mistake

It Led to Turning the Careers of Two Persons into a Single Channel.

By EGBERT CROSSBY

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Letter carriers are proverbially careless in leaving mail at the wrong address, or, rather, having so many to leave, it is a wonder they don't make more mistakes than they do. Carelessness in the writer has perhaps more to do with letters being delivered to the wrong person than either of these causes.

One day a letter addressed in a feminine hand was left by the carrier for me. I opened it and read it. It was very short and to the point:

Ten p. m. Thursday at the fountain. Violets in my belt. Hold roses in your left hand.

I opened my eyes very wide and gave a low whistle. Who could it be who was making an appointment with me? Then I looked again at the address. My name is Francis B. Marshall, and the superscription appeared to be F. B. Marshall, but it might have been F. B. Winchell. I thought over every person who might possibly desire to see me clandestinely, but could fix upon no one. What should I do in the matter? Should I return the letter to the postman? Since I had opened it, that would not do at all. Besides, I was not sure the letter was not for me. Should I keep the appointment and possibly risk intruding upon the secret of others? I finally decided to meet Laura and, if I was not the person she desired to meet, hand her her letter, that she might know it had been mis sent.

Since there was but one fountain in town, and that in the center of an open square, I was not in doubt as to the place designated for the meeting. It was a public place, where strangers might meet without being especially noticed. Laura had evidently never seen me nor I Laura, else we would not have to wear some mark by which to be known to each other.

When the clock in a church tower near by the park struck 10 I entered the park carrying a rose in my hand, and, approaching the fountain, stood leaning upon the basin looking at the tiny wavelets made by the water sprinkling down upon it. I had waited perhaps five minutes when I saw a lady advancing with some violets tucked in her belt. It occurred to me that she was purposely a trifle late that she might inspect her and did not doubt that she had got a view of me while I was standing under the lighted fountain. As she approached I advanced to meet her, lifting my hat at the same time. As we walked away together she said:

"Let me explain to you why I have arranged this meeting instead of calling at your office or asking you to come and see me. As you are aware, Mr. Lathrop's death without a will has put the estate in a tangle. I am not so sure that he did not leave a will in my favor. I am the only daughter of his favorite brother and took care of him during his last illness. He said to me on several occasions: 'Marion, I have made a will leaving everything to you. You will find it in the tin box in which I keep all my papers in the closet of my bedroom.' When I opened the box after the funeral it was not there."

This revealed to me that the letter sent me had not been intended for me. But though I am not a professional detective I think I have a detective's instinct, for in this case so far as the girl had imparted it to me I thought I smelled rascality, and its uncovering interested me. I permitted her to go on.

"I saw your personal stating that you had a knowledge of such a will and would like to see me regarding the matter. My cousin, Edgar Bangs, who will inherit with me under the law concerning estates where there is no will, is a very bad man. Mr. Lathrop lent him money till Edgar showed that he was dishonest; then his uncle turned him off. Edgar may have stolen the will in order that I shall have to divide the estate with him and others. It would not give him very much, but a little will be better than nothing, and Edgar is in desperate straits."

"It is your duty," I said, "as well as your interest, to do all you can to prevent your uncle's estate from going where it was not intended, especially to such a person as you describe."

"Edgar has a suspicion that I am on the track of the lost will and is watching me like a cat; therefore I didn't dare communicate with you except clandestinely. Now I have explained everything to you I am ready to hear what you have to say, Mr. Winchell."

The last word—the name—enabled me to get more of the story in case I chose to do so without giving away the fact that I was an outsider. I concluded to do so.

"Have you any means," I asked, "at your disposal to pay for information that will lead to the recovery of the lost, probably stolen, will?"

"Not a cent."

The lady had by this time removed her veil, and I had caught a glimpse of her face as we passed under street lamps. She appeared to be about twenty years old and was decidedly

comely. Under an impulse I decided to take up the case for her, and out it she were about to fall in the hands of swindlers and, if she were, protect her.

"Permit me to assure you," I said, "that in me you have a friend."

"I do not doubt it."

"Why not?"

"I can tell a dishonest man the moment I see him. You are trustworthy."

"Thank you. Now give me an address to which I can write you."

I gave her a bit of paper torn from a letter I had in my pocket and a pencil. She wrote "Laura G. Ostrander, 127 D street." It was the house of a friend to whom she had confided her case.

I left her at the door of her own house and went to my room. Before going to bed I wrote a note disguised for a feminine hand, addressed to F. B. Winchell. The letter that had come to me had no street and number on it, so none was needed on the note I wrote. I informed Mr. Winchell that at a certain hour on a certain night he would find a carriage standing at a certain place. He was to get into the carriage, where he would find "Laura," who would hear what he had to say. Having sealed my note, I went out and posted it. Then I went to bed rather to think of my adventure than to sleep.

On the evening in question, covered with a woman's raincoat reaching to my heels and a woman's hat shaped like an inverted pot that would conceal my features, I entered a carriage and drove to the place I had designated. I had been there five minutes when a man approached the door and said:

"Laura!"

"Yes," I replied in a woman's contralto voice.

He entered the carriage, thinking he was with a woman and ignorant of the fact that he was with a man whose hand, in the pocket of the raincoat, grasped a cocked revolver. I had previously told the driver where to take us, and as soon as the man was seated beside me we were driven away.

"I am ready to hear what you have to say," I said.

"I can restore the will provided that you will obligate yourself to pay me \$50,000 as soon as you receive the estate which will all be yours under the will."

"For whom are you acting?" I asked.

"That I do not care to state."

"Supposing your proposition to be accepted, when and where do you intend the papers shall be passed?"

"Whenever and wherever you like."

"Have you the will with you?"

"Yes."

"We might close the transaction now."

"Not here in the carriage."

"No. Thinking we might need a private place for such a purpose, I obtained of a friend of mine in the real estate business the key to a vacant cottage on the Centerville turnpike. There are writing materials there—indeed, everything we need."

"For a woman you have a good head for business. Are you sure this cottage is vacant?"

"Yes."

"Very well. Tell the driver to take us there."

"He has been told that already."

When we stopped at the door of the house the man asked me for the key and told me to remain where I was till he had explored the premises. I complied. He went into the house, lighted the gas and after some ten minutes' absence returned and politely handed me out of the carriage. I went into the house with him and, conducting him into a room in the center of which was a table with writing materials on it, shut the door. He sat down at the table and filled out a note for \$50,000, payable thirty days after the maker should come into her estate, then gave it to me to sign. I read it and while doing so said: "Where is the will? Let me see it."

He took the will from his pocket and held it so that I could see that it was genuine. This was all I wished for. Putting my hand in the pocket of my raincoat, quick as a flash I leveled a revolver at him, holding it within a few feet of his face.

"Drop that!" I said in my natural voice.

He stood glaring at me, but powerless. I repeated the order, shoving my revolver close under his nose. Looking down the muzzle of a pistol, especially with an opponent's finger on the trigger, is not pleasant. The weapon might go off even accidentally. The man dropped the will on the table. I feared to remove my gaze from him to examine it lest he take advantage of my looking away to spring upon me. I was obliged to take the risk of its being the genuine document.

"Go out before me," I said, picking up the will, still keeping my eyes on him. He turned and left the house, I following him. When we reached the sidewalk I ordered him to walk away, and when he had reached what I thought a safe distance I jumped into the carriage, telling the driver to take me to my home. Before I slept I dropped a note in the mail for Miss Ostrander, asking her to meet me the next night at the fountain. She did so, and I handed her the recovered will.

My story is but an illustration of what trivial incidents shape our lives. Had my name and the name of the villain of this little drama not been so nearly alike the drama would never have been played. And, far more important than that, I should not have married the woman who is now my wife nor have been the father of the half dozen children who, with their mother, contribute to the whole charm of my existence.

## TIMELY BREVITIES

The Carnegie hero list now numbers 239.

Russia has the fewest doctors of any civilized country.

Whistles have taken the place of gongs on New York fire apparatus.

In Greece male domestic servants get \$10 to \$15 a month, women servants \$8 to \$8.

In consequence of a boom in the hair trade in China pigtales have become a popular article of theft.

There are three kinds of seedless grapefruit in Siam, one of which has red meat. Two are sweet, one sour.

The Chinese government estimated the total population of the country at the beginning of this year as 438,425,060.

The American Art Manual for 1910-11 enumerates 944 art museums, art societies and art schools as against 403 in 1907.

To a Massachusetts man has been granted a patent for an electric lamp and reflector for inspecting the inside of shoes.

An electrically driven machine which divides dough into 10,000 rolls an hour has been installed in a New York bakery.

Two monkeys and a bear, accompanied by an Italian, have succeeded in climbing one of the lofty summits of the Swiss Alps.

The Brazilian government has commenced an active destruction campaign against the locusts, particularly in the state of Sao Paulo.

Figures in the recent census of Denmark show that the population of that kingdom has risen from 2,605,298 in 1906 to 2,757,076 in 1911.

A German engineer has invented an electrically operated apparatus by which he claims to measure time to the ten millionth part of a second.

The mutton of the world is reckoned at 450,000,000 head, of which Australia is credited with 95,000,000. England ranks next with one-third that number.

A French physician has discovered the means of planting artificial eyelashes and eyebrows. The former operation is very painful, but the latter less so.

Girls now operate the elevators in Milwaukee, being duly licensed to do the work by the city inspector and even certified to make ordinary repairs on the machinery.

About 130 pounds of free baggage are allowed on each first class ticket in Japan, and baggage will be delivered by station porters within a radius of four miles at 2½ cents a piece.

A Welsh shipping firm which has been criticised for seeking orientals for seamen says that the standard of British seamen is very low, contrary to the prevailing opinion in that country.

Shells, the only genuine part of which are the shells, are now being sold in Paris, and it is said that the imitation of the real article is so close that many epicures have a high opinion of the sham product.

The government has established at Paris a national touring office. It is to aid travelers who visit France. All possible information about places of interest and routes is here furnished the stranger free of charge.

An accident insurance company has placed in the elevators of several office buildings the following notice: "This elevator is limited to fourteen persons. All over that number riding on this car do so at their own risk."

The clock in the tower of Trinity church, New York, is 100 years old. Rust and age have played havoc with it. It is to be replaced by one of modern make, having four dials, each six feet in diameter, with numerals inscribed in stone.

The two houses of the Icelandic parliament have unanimously given the vote to every man and woman over twenty-five years of age. They have also given women full equality before the law and the right of holding any office in the state.

Emigrants leaving Germany for other parts of the world are fewer than formerly. In 1882 their number was above 200,000, while that of last year was but 25,000 in round numbers. Of this 25,000 the emigrants coming to the United States were 23,000.

In the treasury department at Washington two women are designated as wastebasket examiners. The contents of all wastebaskets pass through their hands. Every scrap of paper is examined and sorted. Last year the department realized from the sales of its waste paper \$19,000.

The Woman's club of Constantinople is said to be the most cosmopolitan in the world. Its membership comprises American, English, French, German, Bulgarian, Russian, Armenian, Greek and Turkish women. Meetings are held monthly, and talks are given on literature, travel, music and art.

Though all the bridges which span the East river in New York city contain about the same amount of steel, Brooklyn bridge is the only one that causes the compasses on vessels passing under it to waver. The needle turns in all directions when this bridge is reached, and its peculiar behavior is a puzzle to the seamen.

New York's wage earners number 1,400,000, of whom the workers in factories lead all the rest with a total of 600,000. The store clerks are next in line with 200,000. There are 220,000 laborers and mechanics, 58,000 men in the liquor business, 45,000 office workers, 40,000 in the printing trades, 24,000 educators, 8,000 church workers, 6,000 lawyers and 5,000 physicians.

## HOUSE TO KEEP HOUSE IN.

University Students to Learn Home Economy by Visual Example.

In order that women students in the department of home economics at the University of Wisconsin may learn to keep house in a scientific manner the university is equipping a six room cottage to serve as an example of how the average American home should be furnished and managed to promote the highest welfare of the family.

Not only will the cottage furnish an example of what is correct in household decoration, including the use of floor coverings and wall decorations, pictures, etc., but it will also furnish an opportunity for the students to learn how to arrange a house so as to secure proper light, ventilation and water supply, to allow the heating to be done in the most economical manner and to permit the household duties to be performed with the greatest possible ease.

### A Natural Historian.

"How many animals of each kind did Noah have on the ark?" asks the Sunday school teacher.

"He started with two of each kind," answers Johnny, "but he must have landed with about sixty-five rabbits. I started with two of them a month ago myself."—Judge.

### Pastoral Ode.

Maud Muller on a summer's day Raked the meadows sweet with hay. The judge proposed, "Ah, no," said she: "This old rake's good enough for me!"—Harper's Weekly.

### Popular Publicity.

"That tall waiter seems to be very much in demand."

"Yes; he never opens a bottle of champagne without attracting the attention of everybody in the room."—Pittsburg Post.

### Up and Down.

This life shows movements up and down, especially the down; We have to get up in the morn to make our way downtown. —Dallas News.

## Piles! Piles! Piles!

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