

WORK OF AMERICA'S HEN

HER VALUE IS NOT LESS THAN \$290,000,000 A YEAR.

Worth More than the Entire Wheat Crop of the Country—Not So Far Behind the Earnings of the Railroads—Could Easily Buy Several States of the Union.

H. W. Collingwood, of the Rural New Yorker, says in the New York World:

Mrs. American Business Hen is one of our most useful citizens. She is a shrinking, unassuming creature, too modest at times even to cackle over the birth of her own egg, leaving that celebration to her husband; and yet Mrs. American Hen has been quietly paying off mortgages, driving wolves from the door and hatching out nest eggs for thousands of featherless bipeds.

In 1890 there were in this country

\$90,626,296.84. We can pick out 50,000,000 of our best hens that will cover every dollar of this outlay in one year.

The net earnings of the railroads in 1895 were \$323,196,454. The railroad dividends paid amounted to \$81,375,774. The American Hen paid nearly twice the profits earned by American railroads.

The total earnings from passenger traffic amounted to \$261,640,598, or less than that of the hens. It cost in 1895 slightly over two cents to carry one passenger one mile, .0184 of a cent to carry one ton of freight one mile, and ninety-one cents to run the average train one mile. One single hen, laying 150 eggs per year, could have 215 days of vacation, and would still be able to pay for carrying one passenger 100 miles, or for hauling ten tons of freight 10,000 miles, or for running an ordinary train two miles. One hundred and forty such hens would pay

REMARKABLE PEAR TREE.

Trained to Grow at the Side of a House in a Wonderful Way.

One of the most remarkable of old trained pear trees that we are acquainted with is the splendid specimen of Uvedale's St. Germain at Weston House, Shipston-on-Strour, the residence of the Countess of Camperdown. The accompanying illustration is published in the Gardener's Magazine. Mr. Masterson, the gardener at Weston House, writes that "the tree is admired at all times of the year, but more especially when covered with large handsome clusters of flowers. In autumn, when laden with quantities of big fruits, it also presents an attractive appearance, and there are many who also admire the tree when the stems are bare, and certainly at this season it is interesting, as the training is very remarkable. The tree seldom fails to ripen a heavy crop of fruits, cropping right down to the

WAIST FOR EARLY FALL.

A NEW AND ATTRACTIVE DESIGN FOR HOME WEAR.

The material is of Foulard Silk, Showing Leaf Pattern, and the Decorations are of Lace and Narrow Passementerie—A Waist in French Blue Taffeta.

With the established popularity of the stylish little Etons, blazers and top coats, writes May Manton, there is a constant demand for new designs



WAIST OF FRENCH-BLUE TAFFETA.

in separate waists that can be made of silk or wash fabrics. A stylish example is here given, developed in French blue taffeta. It is made over a g-e-fit-

On the edge of the left-front is a full raver that falls in jabot effect from the shoulders to the waist. The neck is completed by a smooth band over which is a stock of ribbon. A soft frill of lace rises above the collar, affording a stylish finish.

The sleeves are mousquetaire, following the arm closely from the wrist to well above the elbow, where they are finished by a puff of moderate dimensions. The waist is encircled by a wide ribbon girdle that finishes with a bow and ends. All varieties of silk, including taffeta, foulard, India, etc., are adapted to the style, while soft wool textures, or silk and wool, will develop equally well, lace, ribbon, passementerie or insertion forming suitable decoration.

To make this waist for a woman of medium size will require two and a quarter yards of 44-inch material.

Jaunty Suit For a Little Boy.

The jaunty suit here represented is made of dark blue serge, with a wide sailor collar of white. It is neatly finished with machine stitching and decorated with narrow braid. The coat, of becoming length, is simply shaped by shoulder and under-arm seams; the back is wide and seamless, and has a slight fullness at the waist. The closing is effected in the centre-front, with button and buttonholes. Above the closing the fronts open upon a shield-shaped portion, the neck finishing with a narrow braid. On the left front a useful pocket is inserted. An attractive feature is the wide sailor collar, falling deeply across the back and shoulders. The sleeves are provided with inside seams only, and are arranged at the wrists in small box-pleats stitched to position, while the fullness at the top is collected in gathers. The short trousers, extend-

COLONEL TOM OCHILTREE.

The National Character Who Jested His Bills Through Congress.

Colonel Tom Ochiltree became a national character a few years ago when he came to Congress as a Represent-



TOM OCHILTREE.

sentative from Texas. He was conspicuous to look upon, and he rarely said anything that was not conspicuous. He made friends and he was so good-natured to his enemies and so quick with his wit that the men who were opposed to him were anxious to get over their tilts. He was pointed out on the floor of the House as the first native Congressman from his State. It was also related that his district was wider and longer than many of the States of Europe, reaching over a territory of twenty-seven counties, and running from the gulf to Eagle Pass, on the Rio Grande. This area comprised 37,600 square miles. Ochiltree was practically the king of it. He was the only man in the district when power was in consideration.

Ochiltree went to the top of capital favoritism at a single bound. He was a prince of story-tellers. The beauty of his humor was that it hit no one so hard as it hit himself. He was a joke to himself. He rarely appeared upon the floor of the Forty-eighth Congress that he did not put the House into a furor of laughter. The country members used to declare that he was more fun than the minstrels. His bills and appropriations were jested through—the jest always bearing a strong argument why Texas and Texas harbors should be the especial care of the country. He called himself the "Red-headed Ranger from Texas," and the title was enough to get him a hearing before the business committee. It was his custom to send in word to an important session of a close-mouthed and dignified committee that the "Red-headed Ranger from Texas" had a few remarks he would like to make covering a few points in a measure the august body had in its pigeon-holes. The admission of Ochiltree meant a good laugh—a long series of good laughs—and it is a part of Legislative tradition that the Colonel's stories have done for him what plain, unvarnished and prosaic logic failed to do for others. —Chicago Times-Herald.

The Mystery of Heredity.

Out of 322 pupils in the grammar schools of Chicago who attained a certain percentage of efficiency only twenty-five were boys. This would indicate that girls are about four times as bright as boys. It is hard to understand these things and to straighten up the rules of heredity. It is, we believe, an accepted rule that boys "take after" their mothers and the girls after their fathers. If, then, the women are the smartest, the boys, "taking after" the mother, should also be the smartest. If the men are the smartest, then the "girls," "taking after" the father, should be smartest. It is a difficult riddle to-unriddle.—Baltimore Sun.

WORLD'S BIGGEST JUG.

Nearly as Tall as a Man and Will Hold 175 Gallons.

As a curiosity there may be some interest in "the largest jug in the world," but there is little use for such receptacles. An Illinois pottery firm has constructed an immense jug of the shape and appearance of the familiar little brown jug of history. It is so heavy that several men would be required to lift it high enough for one man to drink out of it.

It is almost as tall as a man, being sixty-one inches high.

It is thirty-six inches in diameter and holds 175 gallons. The jug is perfect in every respect, and expert potters have declared it the finest piece of workmanship ever seen.

The owners have been offered handsome sums for the jug by firms desiring to use it for advertising purposes. It is no small task to finish a



BIGGEST JUG EVER MADE.

vessel of this size, and the greatest care must be taken, for if a single flaw creeps into the clay it is liable to burst when being turned and create great havoc in the workshop.



SUPREMACY OF THE AMERICAN HEN OVER COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE PICTORALLY SHOWN.

258,871,125 chickens and 26,738,315 other fowls. In that year the American hens laid 9,836,674,992 eggs. There are now 350,000,000 chickens, which will lay this year 13,750,000,000 eggs. These eggs are worth \$165,000,000, and the poultry meat sold during the year will bring \$125,000,000, which gives \$290,000,000 as a very low estimate of the earnings of Mrs. American Hen for one year of the great depression.

The 350,000,000 hens are worth \$105,000,000 of any man's money, but we will not consider that, but take simply the earnings of the hen. The average length of an egg is two and one-half inches. The 13,750,000,000 eggs will, therefore, make a chain 542,218 miles long, while the total weight of this production of hen fruit is at least 853,125 tons.

Does any reader of the World realize what this immense production of eggs and meat means to the country? Here are a few figures for comparison:

Value of silver production.....	\$72,510,000
Value of wool clip.....	38,146,459
Value of all sheep.....	85,167,725
Value of all swine.....	186,529,743
Value of mules.....	103,294,457
Value of horses.....	600,140,186
Value of petroleum products.....	62,383,403
Value of potato crop.....	76,394,301
Value of tobacco crop.....	35,574,220
Value of cotton crop.....	259,164,640
Value of oat crop.....	163,655,068
Value of wheat crop.....	337,998,998
Imports of coffee one year.....	84,739,124
Imports of tea one year.....	12,704,440
Total of pensions.....	139,280,078
Total of school expenditures.....	178,215,526
Total interest on mortgages.....	76,728,077
Cost of Postoffice Department.....	90,626,297
Net earnings of railroads.....	323,196,454
Dividends on railroad stocks.....	81,375,774

The value of all gold produced in American mines in 1895 was \$46,610,000, and all silver \$72,051,000. The value of all minerals, including iron, gold and silver, taken out of American mines in 1894 was \$208,168,768. Americans are given to bragging about our immense mineral resources, and yet you will notice that the hens paid for it all one year and had enough left to just about pay the interest on all mortgages!

Mrs. Hen will earn enough this year to pay the entire State and county tax (which in 1890 was \$143,186,007), and have enough left for every cent of pensions that are paid to old soldiers.

The average cow weighs 130 times as much as the average hen, and yet all the milk cows in the country have a total value of but \$263,955,545. Mrs. Hen in one year will earn enough to buy every cow, and put the entire tobacco crop in her pocket as well. She could pay out of her year's earnings for all the tea and coffee imported in one year and all the petroleum products, and have enough left to buy all the tobacco grown in 1896. The total assessed valuation of the following States fall below the hen's yearly earnings:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| New Hampshire, | Nebraska, |
| Vermont, | Alabama, |
| Delaware, | Mississippi, |
| Arizona, | Idaho, |
| West Virginia, | Louisiana, |
| North Carolina, | Arkansas, |
| South Carolina, | Montana, |
| Utah, | Oregon, |
| Florida, | Wyoming, |
| North Dakota, | Colorado, |
| South Dakota, | New Mexico, |
| Nevada, | |

In other words, Mrs. American Hen could buy any of these States from one year's egg and chicken money. She could buy in this way New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, North Dakota, Idaho and Montana all put together.

The total cost of conducting the Postoffice Department last year was

the salary of the average teacher employed in the public schools, while seventy-five hens would pay the average pension to old soldiers.

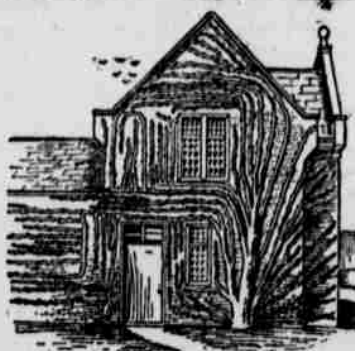
OMAHA'S IMMENSE UMBRELLA.

When Raised It Will Be 250 Feet Above the Earth.

The last Paris exposition had its Eiffel tower, Chicago had its Ferris wheel, Nashville has its giant see-saw. The department of concessions of the Omaha trans-Mississippi exposition of 1898 has also received an application for space for the erection of a novel mechanical device. It resembles the framework of a gigantic umbrella more than anything else which might be mentioned. The part corresponding to the stick of the umbrella is an immense cylinder, thirty feet in diameter, constructed of steel plates firmly riveted, making a standpipe which rears its head 250 feet above the level of the ground. At the extreme top of this cylinder are fastened twelve long arms, resembling the ribs of an umbrella. These are steel trusses, reaching almost to the ground. At the lower end of each of these ribs is suspended a car for carrying passengers, each car having a capacity for twenty persons.

These monster ribs are raised by hydraulic power, acting by means of steel cables operating through the cylinder, aided by a mechanism greatly resembling that portion of an umbrella which comes into action when the umbrella is opened. By means of this mechanism the gigantic arms are raised until they are horizontal, the cars in the meantime being carried outward and upward until they reach a point 250

ground. It has never been fed or root pruned, and its roots are in the bed of the carriage drive, gravel also encircling the stem at the base, where it measures six feet in circumference. It is, however, very probable that the roots have penetrated a considerable distance and come into contact with the stable drains, thus deriving the nourishment required by so large a tree. The fruits are seldom thinned,

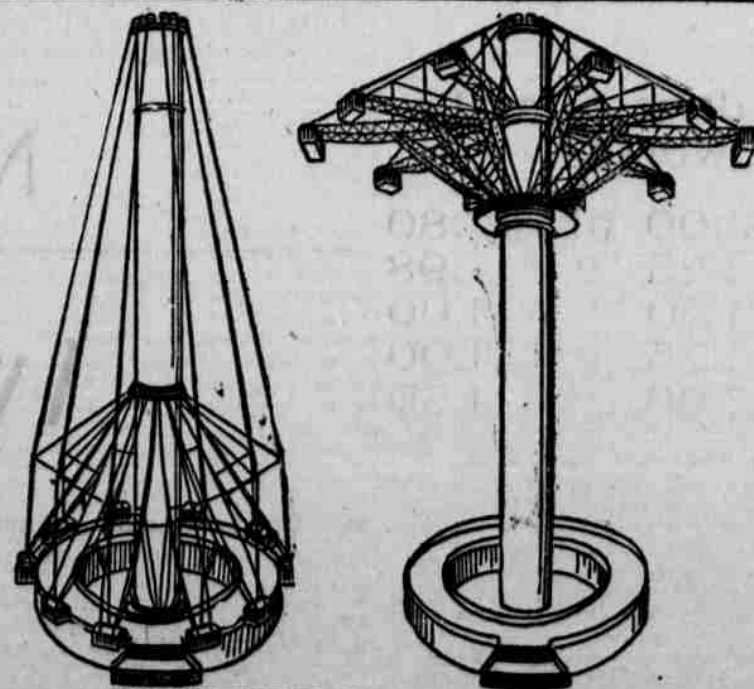


WINTER VIEW OF THE PEAR TREE.

as the tree is so vigorous as to be capable of carrying very large crops, and yet the fruits weigh from half a pound to one and a half pounds each. The total weight of the crop last year was two hundredweight. Many first prizes have been won from this tree, including firsts at the Crystal Palace in 1894 and 1895.

The First Prepaid Post.

According to M. Piron the idea of a postpaid envelope originated early in



GIGANTIC UMBRELLA FOR THE OMAHA EXPOSITION.

feet above the ground, the diameter of the huge circle formed by the suspended cars being also 250 feet. When the highest point has been reached another mechanism comes into play and the suspended cars are swung slowly around in a circle, after which they are lowered to the ground. The sides of the cars are of glass, so that the passengers may secure an extensive view of the surrounding country.

the reign of Louis XIV. M. De Velaye in 1663 established a private post, placing boxes at the corners of the streets for the reception of letters wrapped in envelopes, which were to be bought at offices established for the purpose. And it is said that a Swedish artillery officer, in 1823, petitioned the Chamber of Nobles to propose to the Government to issue stamped envelopes for prepaid letters.

An octogenarian vagrant was lodged at a St. Joseph (Mo.) police station one night.

In most parts of Asia where coffee is used, the "grounds" are drunk with the infusion.



ATTRACTIVE WAIST FOR EARLY MORNING WEAR.

ting lining that is trimly adjusted to the figure by means of the usual seams and darts, and closes as does the waist, invisibly at the centre-front. The full fronts have clusters of tucks that are laid at yoke depth, separated by bands of insertion that have mitred points. The back fits smoothly across the shoulders with a slight fullness at the waist line. The two-seamed sleeves fit comfortably close with a fullness at the top, caught through the centre by bands of insertion that can be omitted in favor of a small puff, as shown in back view of engraving. The neck band is concealed by a stock of satin relieved by the inevitable touch of white lace or chiffon above. The belt that encircles the waist is of silk with handsome metal buckle.

Light inexpensive silks can be purchased at a trifling cost, so that every woman can number among her outfit several dainty waists. The ready-made garments are invariably high-priced, but with these reliable patterns, a few yards of material and a little ingenuity, satisfactory results may be obtained.

To make this waist for a lady in the medium size will require five yards of twenty-two-inch material.

A Waist for Early Autumn Wear.

The attractive model shown in the large illustration is well adapted, according to May Manton, for early autumn wear. As illustrated, the material is of foulard silk, showing a leaf pattern. The decorations consist of lace and narrow passementerie that defines the edges of the rever and the wrists of the sleeves.

The waist is supported by a glove-fitted lining having the customary seams, double bust-darts and smooth under-arm gores, and closing invisibly at the centre-front. The back is wide and seamless, fitting smoothly across the shoulders, with a slight fullness at the waist line. The right-front shows fullness at the shoulder edge, with forward-turning pleats at the neck edge, while at the waist line the material is drawn well to the centre-front by overlapping pleats. The left-front lies smoothly at the shoulder and neck, with the additional material at the waist laid in forward-turning pleats.

ing to the knee, have inside and outside leg seams, and close at the side, where pockets are inserted in the outside seam. Inside bands are provided at the top, having buttonholes to attach to buttons on the shirt waist. The trousers display a fullness at the knee in knickerbocker style, which is regulated by an elastic run through a casing.

Useful and becoming suits for small boys can be fashioned in this style in tweed, cheviot, serge or light-weight



BOY'S RUSSIAN SUIT.

cloth in shades of blue, tan, gray or cardinal.

To make this suit for a boy of four years will require one and five-eighths yards of fifty-four-inch material or three yards of twenty-seven-inch material, with five-eighths of a yard of contrasting material for collar.