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It is estimated that there are 30,000 pupils in the agricultural schools of the United States.

The "Yankee drummers" are capturing large slices of the iron and shoe trade in England, France, Germany and Russia. This is a sort of reciprocity that Europe does not like.

The California state board of prison directors has adopted a rule that hereafter, when a convict is found with a deadly weapon in his possession he shall be kept in solitary confinement for the rest of the term, even if it be for his natural life.

The great sources of wealth in Canada are four, viz., fisheries, mines, forests, and farms. The amount annually derived from them is, in round figures, \$20,000,000 from the fisheries, \$30,000,000 from the mines, \$80,000,000 from the forests, and \$600,000,000 from agriculture.

A little Swiss canton with socialistic tendencies has lately adopted a law of free burial, by which the state is the chief patron and employer of the undertakers. Two purveyors of coffins are elected in each district; all orders are sent to one during the first six months of the year, and to the other during the remaining six months. The coffins are delivered gratuitously. Notwithstanding the efforts of the government to be fair, the greatest complaint and dissatisfaction have arisen.

The maxim that time is money could not receive a more pertinent illustration than in the proposition to build a tunnel between England and Ireland at a cost of \$50,000,000. The tendency toward public ownership of methods of transit is also shown in the proposition that the English government shall be the constructor. Such a tunnel would materially lessen the time of carriage between New York and London and is expected to make an important port of Galway. If ever racial distrust permit the construction of a tunnel beneath the English Channel, the Continent will be brought appreciably nearer in time of travel to the United States. The advent of the twentieth century is heralded by promised wonders that may knit the hemispheres together in new and closer bonds.

Electricity has been the promoter of many new words and phrases. An electrical dictionary of the humblest proportions must contain thousands, and the number grows yearly. Some of these words grow, others are selected arbitrarily, but one can never tell which the public will seal with its approval. Marconi and other workers in telegraphy without wires are trying for the adoption of "etheric telegraphy," because the impulses are conveyed by the ether, but the prevalent expression in conversation and the newspapers is "wireless telegraphy," and it is ready to stick. An electrical journal opened its columns lately to a competition for a good word to describe electric carriages, and "electromobile" has been selected, but it is doubtful if it will "stick." Another electrical journal contains some suggestions for new electrical units, of which "septerg" and "decidiv" may be quoted as graceful examples. The public, which has not yet mastered its volts, amperes, watts, and henrys, may be excused if it looks askance at these latest efforts of the word-maker.

Disposing of Him.
"This man is too belligerent to suit me," said the German emperor thoughtfully. "He's always ridiculing the idea of peace and declaring that war is inevitable. He is stirring things up altogether too much."
"Couldn't you get him out of the country for a while?" "That's a good idea. I'll send him to the peace conference."
—Washington Star

Apothecary Humor.
Mrs. Leary—"I want to get some quinine pills." Clerk—"Those with coats on them, I suppose?" Mrs. Leary—"No; them wid thar coats off."
Clerk—"Oh, I understand. William, bring out some of those quinine pills in their shirt sleeves."

A COTTAGE TRAGEDY.

BY ELLA RODMAN CHURCH.



UR house was unique and so pretty, as we told each other every hour in the day. We had furnished it principally with packing boxes with the addition of a few such trifles as cretonne, small mattresses, Swiss muslin, pink and blue ribbons, etc., and thereby developed a gift for upholstering that, but for the circumstance of going to housekeeping with next to nothing to spend for furniture, might have kept company with that countless array of genus of pure ray serene, and flowers that are born to bluish unseen.

It was really exciting to take old kitchen chairs and paint them a bright vermilion, putting in seats of broad scarlet and white worsted braid; or to convert a fossil remain from someone's great-grandmother's parlor into an ebony affair, with a stripe of dead gold. But dabbling in vermilion is almost as dangerous as a tiger's taste of blood, and we found it difficult to refrain from giving everything a coat of melted sealing-wax.

Shelae, too, is a delusion and a snare; and one of us was found walking in her sleep, with the varnish bottle and brush in hand, just about to try its virtues on the countenance of her unsuspecting relative.

Aside from our creative faculties our cottage may be said to have been furnished from other people's garrets; and while collecting together our household goods, we found ourselves casting covetous eyes on every piece of furniture that looked at all out of the common way. The possessive pronoun, applied to a local habitation, was particularly fascinating to Bohemians like ourselves, who had hitherto haunted city boarding-houses, until the obliging demise of a distant relative somewhere in the western wilds put us in possession of an elegant insufficiency, on the strength of which we became landed proprietors; for the cottage was offered to us for "a mere song," and we had strong hankers after a roof of our own.

So, after singing the song, which meant making quite a hole in our bank-book, we set about transforming our purchase with such womanly energy that we were soon regarded as the special torment of all the shiftless men in the neighborhood, who professed to do odd jobs. They did not like being interrupted in the amusing occupation of twirling their thumbs to do things right off, or not at all. "Just like women!" they grumbled; and with an injured expression of countenance, they crawled about their tasks, and accomplished about as much in a day as we could have done in two hours, had we been gifted with the physical strength.

But things got done somehow; and having worked like bees inside of the house, and provided ourselves with the traditional "respectable woman," who seems to be the indispensable appendage to such households, we were ready to stop existing and begin to live. So delicious was that first meal under our own roof, though it consisted of bread and butter and round hearts, eaten of a packing-box; and we felt very much like children playing "baby-house."

By and by visitors came; visitors from palatial mansions, who assured us that our little nest was charming; "so like things one sees abroad." But one lady, an envious sort of person, after glancing rather superciliously at our rockery and ferns, and other rural belongings, asked, carelessly:
"And you don't feel afraid here, with all these dark woods so near?"
"Afraid!" We laughed at the idea. Everyone told us that it was a particularly safe place.
"Every place is safe," replied the visitor, sententiously, "until something happens."

Now, wasn't it hateful of her? We had very little peace after that; and although one side of the cottage was close upon the road, we could not forget that the other was in the shadow of the woods. It was a one-storied affair, too. Our sleeping-room was downstairs, and upstairs was only an attic, where the respectable woman enjoyed the sound slumbers of the unimaginative.
On the night of the very day when we had been aroused to a sense of our unprotected state, our fears culminated. Dot pooh-poohed them, to be sure, and pretended not to be disturbed in the least. But the conviction that we were destined to have our throats cut in the silence of the night was gaining upon me. I glared about, uneasily, in the moonlight; but the trees only cast quiet shadows over the road, and the vines trembled a little in the night air.
I was roused, finally, from a half sleep by a subdued sound of voices under the window, and an ague-fittingly took possession of me. I shook and shook; the very bed was shaken under me, and I wondered that it didn't waken Dot.
The wretches outside were probably discussing the easiest means of effecting an entrance, of course, with the object of plunder, and I immediately ran over in my mind an inventory of our available possessions. "Your silver, or your life!" would, doubtless, be the war-cry; and I thought, with a groan, of our great-grandmother's tea-pot, that had been an object of worship in the family ever since I could remember; and a hide-

with us in the most motherly fashion on the fright we must have suffered. But all this was to Dot, of course. I only came in as make-weight; for my hair didn't "ripple to my waist" on that eventful night, nor did I have presence of mind enough to put on a picturesque shawl. Such a picture, Mrs. Irving said, had been drawn for her; but I didn't sit for the portrait.

Our fascinating visitor went into quite an ecstasy over the cottage, but said that she did not think it right for us to live there. Her son proved to be of the same opinion; but a great many shadows were cast by the event which resulted in the breaking up of our cosy nest.
Having a fatal gift for overhearing things not intended for the public, I one afternoon caught the words:
"You told me at our first meeting, Dot, that there was nothing in the house worth taking but the silver tea-pot. I quite disagreed with you, but I did not dare to say so then. Will you give me what I think the greatest valuable of them all?"
Of course he carried off Dot and that ended the tragedy.

CINCINNATI'S CHEAP GAS.

Interested Persons Say That It Costs Nothing to Manufacture It.
It costs nothing to make and sell gas. The Cincinnati Gas Company can sell it at seventy-five cents a thousand feet or five cents a thousand feet, and the price it charges will be its profit. The by-products, chief of which is coke, more than pay the cost of producing the gas.

These startling facts have been revealed in the gas agitation in Cincinnati, and they come from the books of the Cincinnati Gas Company. They have been unintentionally set forth by Attorney Warrington, the chief counsel for the company, and M. M. White, President of the Fourth National Bank, and generally reported to be the heaviest individual holder of gas stocks in Cincinnati.

The statements which prove that gas costs nothing were made by Warrington in his speech before the Board of City Affairs, and by White in an interview in a Cincinnati newspaper, in which he said the city should adopt General Hickenlooper's seventy-five-cent gas proposition. White said: "At the prices offered by the gas company the stock would probably pay eight per cent. on \$9,000,000, which, on a 200 basis, would make the stock a four per cent. non-taxable security, which in these days is about as good as anyone can get. It would be a very happy solution of the entire question if the city accepts the offer of the Cincinnati Gas Company."

Attorney Warrington, in an argument before the Board of City Affairs, held that the consumption of gas is increasing 8.7 per cent. each year, and that the consumption next year would be 961,050,869 cubic feet. A third of this, he estimated, would be at the fuel rate of fifty cents, the rest at the rate of seventy-five cents, making the average cost to the consumer sixty-six and two-third cents, and the income to the company \$641,300.58.

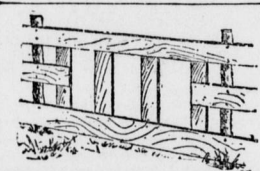
The explanation is that the valuable coke, tar, ammonia and other by-products more than pay for making and distributing the gas.
"An expert in municipal affairs said: 'This accidental contribution by White and Warrington to the truth about gas manufacture will surely travel all over the country, and everywhere it goes it will be a tremendous argument for gas at fifty cents or even a lower figure.'"
An Australian Hiding Outfit.
The Australian outfit is an adaptation of the Briton's. The colonial saddle grows a peaky pommel and a high protecting cantle; the mild English knee-roll becomes in Australia a firm, deep, six-inch pad, and even the back of the thigh is held in place by a solid flange sewed upon the saddle flap. As with his saddle, so with the rest of the stock-rider's equipment—it is as the Englishman's, but moulded and strengthened to sterner usage. The mild—and mostly ornamental—hunting-crop becomes a ten-foot—and terribly effective—stock-whip. The chain, the curb, the double rein, and all the more or less fancy attachments are stripped from the bridle in favor of the simple snaffle and a head-piece and single rein of leather, so substantial as to defy the roguery or terror of any ordinary horse to break them. Crupper, breastplate, martingale—these are used or left aside, according to the build, tricks and temper of the mount, with a single eye to usefulness, and no thought of the ornamental.

I speak of a workaday attire and saddle, not of the fleeting glories of a holiday rig-out; and speaking thus, it must be said that the Australian's outfit is planned with a single eye to utility.—Harper's Magazine.
Sir Henry Irving's Joke.
Sir Henry Irving is always Sir Henry Irving, whether on or off the stage. So marked is his individuality that during his latest visit to this country a New York practical joker addressed a letter to him, the envelope of which contained merely a pen-and-ink portrait of the actor and his hotel address. The letter was promptly delivered by the hotel clerk, and a reporter to whom the wag confided his joke followed to learn the effect.
"A-a-a-h!" mused the actor, "this deserves an answer."
Thereupon he seated himself at his desk and indited an ironical letter of thanks and inclosed it in an envelope.
"You don't know the address?"
"It does not matter," returned Sir Henry. "I think this will reach him without difficulty."
On the envelope he had drawn the face of a donkey with a pair of enormous ears, the ends of which covered the paper from corner to corner.—Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post

* AGRICULTURAL *

Set Milk Quickly.
In order to get the best cream from the milk, and the most of it, the milk should be set as quickly as possible after milking, and the temperature reduced at once to prevent the formation of what is known as fibrin. It is with this object in view that nearly all improved methods are put in use.

Feeding Stock at Pasture.
It is often desired to feed grain or some soiling crop to animals at pasture. A convenient way to accomplish this without crowding on the part of the stock, or waste of feed by the animals setting their feet upon it, is shown in the cut. The middle



board in the pasture fence is taken off and upright boards nailed to the top and bottom boards, as shown, nailing these upright boards upon the side occupied by the animals, so they cannot press them off. The feed can then be put in boxes, or on the ground, outside the fence, when each animal will take an opening and eat without quarreling with its neighbor.—New York Tribune.

To Prevent Swarming.
When the apiary is located out of the sight of a residence there is always more or less danger of the bees swarming and going away unseen by the owner, and for this reason the apiary should be located in as plain sight of a dwelling as possible, so that when the bees swarm they may be readily seen. This has always been a troublesome matter with the bee-keeper, and different methods have been used to prevent this loss. The method now adopted by extensive apiarists is clipping the wings of the queens. This always prevents swarms from flying away, as the swarm will not leave unless the queen accompany it, but this does not relieve all the trouble in connection with swarming by any means, for it will not prevent the swarms from issuing from the hive. The swarm simply comes out of the hive in its natural way, but as the queen does not take wing with them they will, on missing her, return to the hive. The trouble with this method is that the queen thus issuing from the hive frequently becomes lost, or if she is fortunate enough to get back to the hive, everything being in the same condition as before, they will repeat the swarming, and may keep it up daily, and the result is the queen generally becomes lost. In this case the bees will not again attempt to hatch out in the hive, when they will again swarm, and as the young queens are not clipped they, of course, fly with the swarm, and the colony is in the same condition as it would be if the first queen had not been clipped. It certainly is not in good condition, for the old queen was an important factor.

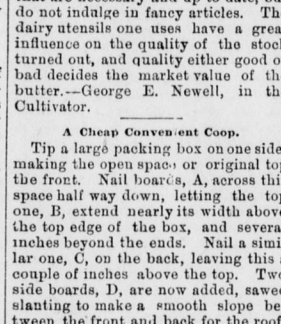
I much prefer to prevent swarming by keeping the queen cells out of the hive. If this is done regularly the colony will not swarm or at least the exception to this rule is so small that it is not worth considering. Once a week will answer to examine for queen cells, although they may be looked after more frequently, and all queen cells hunted up and removed. It is also very important when colonies become very strong that they be accommodated with plenty of surplus store room. This of itself will go a long way in the prevention of swarming. If we have but one colony, and wish to increase the number of colonies, and at the same time do not want them to swarm, we can divide the colony, and this will prevent swarming.—A. H. Duff, in Farm, Field and Fireside.

Home Butter Making.
Those home butter makers who wish to realize a neat profit from their labor for the ensuing season should interrogate themselves somewhat as follows:
"Why will it pay me to buy the best brand of dairy salt obtainable when it costs me more than a medium grade?"
Because of its perfect solubility and freedom from foreign earthy matters. When a perfect dairy salt has been worked into butter it dissolves wholly and evenly, permeates the whole product after being properly distributed by the ladle. As a result a uniformly saline flavor is imparted to every atom and the preservative qualities of the salt fully established throughout the mass.
This adds both keeping qualities and an improved flavor to the butter so treated, results that enhance its market value many more times over the increased cost of the salt. A second-class grade of salt is not wholly soluble, and also contains foreign earthy matter lacking in preservative force. In eating butter where such salt is used it is not uncommon to feel the gritty particles under the tongue, and they are even perceptible to the eye in the grain of the butter.
"Why will it pay to use a cool dairy room exclusively dedicated to milk and butter, and in which nothing foreign to the dairy shall ever find a resting place?"
Because a low temperature is necessary to preserve milk and aid in

extracting the cream from it as a high temperature is necessary to boil water. Unfortunately, a great deal of dairy butter is produced under conditions where no particular attention is paid to temperature, but the result benefits nobody, as it is bought, sold and eaten under protest, and then only by those who are looking for "cheap butter."
A temperature in the dairy room above sixty degrees to sixty-five degrees is antagonistic to good milk, cream or butter quality.
Above all things remember that low temperature is to butter quality in summer what a rudder is to a ship. Thus, you see that it is very profitable to maintain a cool dairy room.

"Will it pay me to use parchment paper in wrapping my butter in pound bricks, or employ any other means to make the packages look neat?"
Yes, most assuredly it will pay, as this is one of those cases where you can kill two birds with one stone. Packages of butter thus made neat in appearance not only please the eye of the fastidious customer, but protect the flavor and general quality of the product from outside contamination. So this process returns compound interest on the money invested.
"As a butter maker, if I expend dollars and cents now in keeping my dairy apparatus at a high degree of efficiency, will I have as pay for it at the end of the season a greater number of dollars than I would otherwise have possessed?"
Most certainly you would. I know of no greater extravagance for a domestic butter maker to indulge in than to retain in commission a rusty milk pail, an old worn-out churn, or a broken butter worker. Buy utensils that are necessary and up to date, but do not indulge in fancy articles. The dairy utensils one uses have a great influence on the quality of the stock turned out, and quality either good or bad decides the market value of the butter.—George E. Newell, in the Cultivator.

A Cheap Convent Cool.
Tip a large packing box on one side, making the open space or original top space half way down, letting the top one, B, extend nearly its width above the top edge of the box, and several inches beyond the ends. Nail a similar one, C, on the back, leaving this a couple of inches above the top. Two side boards, D, are now added, sawed slanting to make a smooth slope between the front and back for the roof.



A PACKING-BOX COOP.

As they are six inches beyond the ends of the box, it makes a protection from the weather, besides leaving space for circulation, while to make this of value to the interior a square must be sawed from the top of the box before the roof is put on, as this top floor has been left whole. This makes the ventilation good without danger of leaks, and the roof is now added.
Returning to the unboarded space in front we nail a strip four inches wide down the center and tack fine wire netting, F, over one side. A second strip is put over the first to cover the edge of the netting, and to leave room for a groove for the sliding door, G, on the other side. This may be either of wood or a skeleton frame made and covered with netting. A groove must be made in the box for the other side of the slide. Nearly all the boxes come with well-stayed corners, so this is not difficult.
Paint the outside, roof and all, to prevent the cracks from spreading. Or the roof may be covered with roofing paper or cheaper still with tarred paper, which will last a season or two. These boxes vary somewhat in size, but they will hold from fifteen to twenty-five chickens till they are pretty well grown, and as they are strong and well built they will last many years.—American Agriculturist.

Farm and Garden Notes.
Corn is good for hens, but should be used with judgment.
Clover hay is one of the best things for balancing the rations.
In some German experiments to test the desirability of large, small and medium tubers for seed, it was shown that large tubers gave decidedly the best yield.
Good butter can only be made from good milk, and good milk can only be had from healthy cows kept in well-ventilated, clean stables and given wholesome food.
It has been pretty clearly shown that stockmen can prevent loss from cornstalk disease by feeding a grain ration and not allowing animals to live on cornstalks alone.
Sheep are inveterate lickers of salt, and it is conducive to their general health. Next to grass, there is hardly anything more essential. It is cheap; put it where they can have it at will.
Separate the layers from the others. You cannot keep old hens, pullets, fat hens and lean hens together any more than you can keep dry cows, heifers not yet in milk, and fresh cows together, for they do not require the same food.
Raspberry roots grown by Professor E. S. Goff, of Wisconsin experiment station, extended horizontally a distance of four feet from the main stem and vertically frequently more than five feet. The main roots, however, are quite near the surface, which points to the desirability of giving this crop shallow cultivation.

GOOD ROADS NOTES.

Views of an Expert.
Martin Dodge, expert in the Department of Agriculture has a report in the department year-book upon steel-track roads. Mr. Dodge says in part:
"It was not until the fall of 1897 that public authority was given to test the value of the steel-track wagon road. At that time the Commissioners of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, authorized the writer to lay 500 feet of steel track near Cleveland.
"The Secretary of Agriculture determined to undertake through this office a test as to the utility of the steel track, made and laid so that vehicles without flanged wheels might have the advantage of a smooth track.
"The writer began preparations to build a sample steel-track wagon road. For this purpose he secured a suitable space on the grounds of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition at Omaha.
"These steel plates are not supported by cross-ties or stringers, but are provided with flanges projecting downward and outward.
"The road, when properly finished, contains no perishable material, but forms a smooth, firm and compact mass, harder and more durable than a road can be made by any other known material.
"These great advantages are found in this new roadway, demonstrating:
"1. That the steel-track wagon road can be built without greater cost in most cases, and probably with less cost in many cases, than any other hard and durable road.
"2. That it will last many times as long as any known material for road purposes and with much less repair.
"3. That the power required to move a vehicle over the steel-track road is only a fraction of the power required to move the same vehicle over any other kind of road.
"The cost of constructing the short section of steel track road already built was about \$1 per foot, but this is much in excess of the cost when built in longer sections.
"With a smooth track and a light vehicle, placed upon roller bearings, it is possible to substitute inanimate power for animal power on all distances of five miles and upward, with a saving equal to four-fifths of the present cost of animal power and at the same time give a great increase in the speed of the vehicle."

National Prosperity and Roads.
Chairman Otto Dornier, of the Highway Improvement Committee of the League of American Wheelmen, makes the following interesting remarks on the good roads movement:
"The country road is the neglected step-child of the Legislatures. Railroads, canals, rivers and harbors and steamship lines have been encouraged and lavishly subsidized with bonuses, but practically nothing is done to help the farmer in building his country roads. Yet those are equally important with railroads.
"We are pre-eminently an exporting agricultural nation, and whatever benefits the farmer benefits the whole country. Our grain products must compete in European markets, with the crops of Russia, South America and India, raised on cheap lands, with cheap labor. We can meet this competition only with invention and enterprise, the liberal use of machinery and the reduction of the cost of transportation to a minimum.
"The cost of shipping grain from Chicago to New York has dropped to one-fifth of what it was at the close of the Civil War; we can ship it from there to Liverpool for four cents, where we formerly paid ten and one-half cents. But the cost, in time and effort, of man and beast, in hauling wheat from the farm to the railroad can still be reduced by two-thirds through good roads. That this should be done is as essential to the continued success of American agriculture as the reduction in railroad rates.
"Some of the older Eastern States, recognizing the logic of the situation, are encouraging country road building by paying part of the cost out of the State Treasury, provided the improvements are substantial.
"The great grain-growing States of the West, whose roads have hardly passed beyond the pioneer stage, should adopt the State-aid system as the only plan by which the great cities can be made to share in the cost of road building."

New Jersey Has the Best Roads.
According to bulletin No. 95, issued by the Department of Agriculture, New Jersey is building more roads and better roads for the money than any other State in the Union. The roads being built there will last and can be kept up to a high standard at a minimum expense.
Bulletin 95 is devoted exclusively to good roads. In it the opinion is expressed that all the important roads in the United States will be macadamized or otherwise improved within a few years. The bulletin advises the building of stone roads where ever it is possible and condemns dirt roads as much more expensive in the end.

The Anti-Rut Agitation.
Mud is highway robbery.
O, but those motor-carriage folks will be "hollerin'" for good roads pretty soon.
Horses like to be well stalled, but not in a muddy highway.
Now is about the time of year when mud-holes are converted into job-lots of dust. Any in front of your house?
The horse wanted good roads, the bicycle has tried to get good roads, the automobile must have good roads.