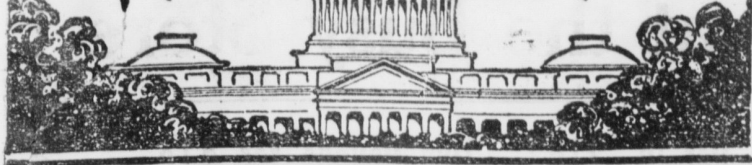


WASHINGTON CITY SIDELIGHTS



Chicken Thief Had Consideration for His Captor

WASHINGTON.—Cliff Lanham, chairman of local exemption board No. 5, had an exciting experience the other night, and the thoughts of the participants therein are herewith presented for future examination by psychoanalysts. Lanham was slumbering peacefully that morning. Awakened he listened with that intentness one usually manifests on such occasions. His keen ear detected sounds out in the shed in his back yard.



Jumping out of bed, Cliff grabbed his trusty 32 howitzer and made downstairs for the kitchen door.

It was one of the cold nights, but Cliff plunged forth, regardless. Pajamas and bare feet make for speed. He was into the shed before the thief was aware.

"Hands up!" cried Lanham, addressing his remarks to the dusky figure seen in the dusky shed.

But the dusky figure started to flee instead. So Lanham let go his revolver and grappled with the intruder.

Lanham soon had the fellow at his mercy and haled him out into the light of the moon.

"Now you come along with me," said Lanham. And he marched the chicken thief out of the back yard and down the alley to the corner of Thirteenth and G streets southeast, where he put in a call for a patrol wagon.

While standing there on the corner, Lanham says, he kept thinking all the time just one big thought.

Finally he gave that thought voice. "Are you registered in the draft?" he asked the negro.

The captive shifted nervously. "No, boss, I is too young," he replied. There was another long silence.

Now we investigate the train of thought of the colored man. "Say, boss," that individual said, turning to Lanham.

"Well?" answered Lanham. "What do you want?" The colored man looked down at the pavement. And then: "Boss, ain't yo' feet cold?"

After All, What Was There for the "Jedge" to Do?

A BIG real estate man—"big" stands for business—called on an old tenant who was behind in her rent. He was welcomed with affable apologies and given an exceedingly rich promise of payment. "I has the rent, jedge, all but the las' dollah, an' as soon as I c'n riz it I'm a-comin' righter 'roun—I cert'n' is."

"Look here, aunty. I don't want to see you turned out in weather like this. I know how good you used to be to that old man of yours after he got crippled up—and what a lot of honest hard work you have done in your time—I wish I had as clean a record. Suppose I give you that dollar. Will you come to the office and pay up?"

Aunty was beamingly sure. So the "jedge" gave her the money—Lord love—and went his way. The next morning the old lady failed to show up. She was among those absent the day after. And the day after that. And on the morning after that a righteously wrathful "jedge" repeated his visit.

"Thought you were coming to pay that rent?" "Why, good maw'nin', jedge! It cert'n' is curus for you to come heah jes' as I was a steddin' t' come rou'n t' yo' office wif my rent money—I got it all 'tuther cepn' the las' dollah—"

"Didn't I give you that dollah?" "Deed you did, jedge, honey. You cert'n' did gimme that dollah—an' it come in mounty handy, too—iffin I hadn't had it when that ooman comer stawmpin' in on me to pay her the las' dollah I owed her for my rec-gale-er I couldn't a-turned aut yesty with the Sisters of the Galilean Fishmen an' rid in a hack. You c'n go to pablor socials, any way you wants to, but when you rides to bury'n's you got to wench a pupple silk ap'n 'roun' wif white an' a collah to match. The s'lety I b'longs to pays sick bene-fits an' 'sesses you ev'ry time you dies, so you c'n have a chu'ch servise wif fo' hacks free an' a wreat of any kind of flowers yo' mo'ners calls for. But I got mah wush money comin' to me t'n'ight, an' iffin the madam pays me I cert'n' am gwine take that dollah an' pay mah rent—"

It isn't in the story what the "jedge" did, but as the old tenant kept her chip of a house up in Blank alley one might guess.

Peculiar Thrill Went With Shopping Expedition

A WOMAN in a raincoat was buying gloves. The customer next wore finery which implied a chauffeur at the curb. Both had umbrellas that fraternized, side by side, regardless of the abysmal canyon that divides mercerized rubber from seal—and both were buying gloves.

When her package was tucked under from the weather, Raincoat went outside, raised her gloria, and—

Down showered gloves, silk stockings, a nifty neckpiece and a silver-meshed bag.

You might suppose a showdown like that would have raised a mob, but there wasn't an Argus-eye in sight—thanks to the storm and to the fact that this is a true happening instead of dramatic fiction. So Raincoat fished up her sloppy loot, waded back to the store with the stuff held at arm-length to avoid the circumstantial-evidence appearance of what a soulless law calls being caught in the act, and went into executive session with a floor walker.

But the loot-lady who had planted her swag in the wrong cache had gone into the unknown and carried her freedom along. And that was all there was to it, except that Raincoat went home excitedly elated because for the first time in all her decades she had come in touch with crime.

Remarkable Appetite Is That of Washington Rabbit

A NEW use for coal has been discovered by the janitor of a Washington apartment house. Whether notice of the discovery should be sent to Secretary McAdoo or to Herbert Hoover I leave to the reader to decide. This colored man feeds soft coal to his rabbit.



He became the possessor of a fat rabbit, and, having no other place to keep the little cousin to the kangaroo, decided to house the animal in the furnace room. Of course he gave it plenty to eat, and a tin cup of water to drink, but that rabbit developed a taste for coal that was amazing, the janitor tells me.

Sounds like a nature fake, I'll admit, but I saw that rabbit, and it sure did look as if it were eating the coal, and enjoying it. It is the dirtiest rabbit in the world, too. But, irrespective of the coal in its little inside, it is literally playing with fire, and is liable to meet its fate any day.

You see, the furnace is warm, and the rabbit wanders in through the draft door, every now and then, to investigate things.

Little does it know that any moment a cruel coal may drop upon its back. I told the janitor about it; but he said: "Deed, boss, dat rabbit eats fire, he do."

Afternoon Frocks of Taffeta and Crepe



Truly the way of the seeker after pretty frocks that will make themselves generally useful, is easier than it used to be. What with combinations of materials and a vogue for simplicity together with much wartime latitude in the matter of dress, any clever woman can achieve afternoon and evening dresses—interchangeable—of course. Very formal dress may be left out of the reckoning, for that is a privilege of these times. But afternoon frocks are a necessity and seem to have benefited by the concentration of attention on them.

In the picture of two models designed for dressy wear, the needs of the slender figure have been considered in the frock at the left, and a fine style for plump figures is portrayed at the right. The gown at the left is of taffeta in a light russet or deep tan shade. It has a very new tunic effect arranged across the back where it is plaited and extended above the giraffe in a fan. The giraffe is merely a wide bias strip of the silk, crushed about the waist and fastened at the left side. Crepe georgette with crosswise tucks and bordered with a fold makes the deep cape collar.

The always smart black and white combination has been worked out in new ways since the appearance of novel patterns in figured black and white crepe. In the frock at the right of the picture figured crepe is used for the underdress and sash, with bodice, sleeves and tunic made of plain black georgette. There is chemisette of fine tulle crepe in white. The open sleeves are noteworthy with three wide tucks as a finish. The wide giraffe is draped very loosely about the figure below the waistline, with ends falling straight at the left side. There is nothing to break the straight lines of the silhouette. This, with the narrow undershirt and the undraped tunic and sash, all made in the softest and sheerest of fabrics, commend the frock to those who are ambitious to achieve slenderness.

Types in Millinery Styles



Whatever your mood this summer you may find a hat that expresses it, but modistes must be counting upon a cheerful, if not a gay frame of mind in their patrons; for hats are laden with bright flowers and kindly fruits. Plain satin and belting ribbons lend their lovely tones to the millinery spring song and when black and dark colors are introduced they miss being somber by being brilliant. Everything gleams. If millinery means anything it surely emphasizes a joy in life, or at the very least a refusal to be downhearted this summer.

Three lovely hats in the group shown above are as different, each from the others, as can be, but are all types of the season's styles. The wide-brimmed hat at the center is pretty and picturesque enough to make a dent in a heart of stone. As a bridesmaid's hat it would tempt the bride to move forward her wedding day. It is of orchid pink crepe georgette and tulle lace braid, with brim lines that flow about the face in the loveliest of graceful curves. Small grapes clamber over the brim, matching their beauty with pink roses that deepen to red at the heart. The ruthless milliner has added a final touch of beauty in a long tie of satin ribbon that falls from under the brim at the back.

Just below there is a small hat with a soft crown that is posed over a wreath of roses set like a crown about the head. The hat is covered with crepe georgette and faced with chrys-

anthemum braid. The roses are set on a band covered with black velvet ribbon that is tied in a small bow at the back. This is a new departure in hats, as lovely as it is unusual.

Speaking of the unusual in millinery, the smart black hat at the left of the picture may certainly lay claim to the distinction which belongs to the entirely new things in styles. This small black satin turban looks as if it were thatched, and it is, with a mass of shiny fibers that resemble grass. They may be silk braid and they may be Japanese aigrettes of glycerine ostrich. Whatever they are they are gleaming and rich looking. A flat wired ornament of grosgrain ribbon is as odd as the hat.

Julie Bottemdy

Alluring New Voiles.

Voiles shown this year are alluring. Little flowered frocks, ruffled on the sides with vest and collar of sheer white organdie. Plaids in two colors are tucked in a plain color, have plain vest and organdie collar daintily embroidered in garlands of delicate coloring.

Uses for Old Waists.

Shirt waists which are out of date and have passed their usefulness as waists can be utilized as gumpies, chemisettes and corset covers.

FIGHT CORN PESTS

Animal and Insect Enemies Can Be Checked by Poisons.

RIGHT BAIT FOR CUTWORMS

Measures Described That May Be Effectively Employed to Combat Attacks of Worms, Birds and Burrowing Animals.

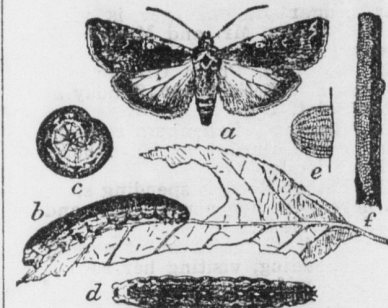
(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Animal and insect pests of corn—prairie dogs, ground squirrels, gophers, blackbirds, crows, cutworms, earworms, wireworms, chinch bugs, grasshoppers—soon will open their spring campaigns of destruction. Many of these pests can be effectively combated.

Use Poisoned Bait.

For cutworms, lumps of poisoned bait, made by mixing about fifty finely chopped oranges or lemons, and enough cheap molasses to make a stiff dough, should be scattered along the corn rows at planting time or as soon as injury from cutworms is noticed. Information as to these poison baits will be furnished on application to the bureau of entomology.

Treating the seed with coal tar will usually repel attacks of birds and, in some cases, those of burrowing rodents. A teaspoonful of tar is enough for a peck of corn. Mix the tar with a quart of boiling water. After the



The Variegated Cutworm, *Peridroma saucia*. (a) Adult moth, natural size. (b) Normal larva, natural size. (c) Same in curved position. (d) Dark colored larva, dorsal view. (e) Egg, greatly enlarged. (f) Egg mass on twig, natural size. (From Howard, U. S. Dept. Agric.)

mixture has cooled somewhat but is still hot, stir in the corn until every grain is coated, and then spread it out to dry before planting. Corn may be immersed several minutes in moderately hot water without affecting germination. The tar treatment does not repel mice or ground squirrels.

Poison for Rodents.

Destruction of corn by ground squirrels, prairie dogs, pocket gophers, or mice is best prevented by poisoning the animals a few days before the corn is planted. Strychnine is the best poison in all cases, but to obtain satisfactory results a special formula is needed for preparing the poison for each kind of animal. Such formulas have been worked out by the bureau of biological survey and special instructions will be furnished upon application. Paris green and strychnine are poisons and should not be placed where children or domestic animals can get them. Year Book Separate No. 708, "Destroying Rodent Pests On The Farm" contains many formulas and may be had free until the limited edition is exhausted.

SWINE SEX CHARACTERISTICS

Strong Factors in Production of Desirable Market Hogs—Qualities of Brood Sow.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

In our breeding stock we should consider sex characteristics, as they are strong factors in the production of desirable market hogs. The brood sow should be a good breeder, a good feeder, and of good type in order that she may transmit these characteristics to her offspring. She should be short-faced and wide between the eyes. She should be long, deep and roomy in body, wide through the hips, large and full in the heart girth. She should have good quality, good bone, fine hair, and be refined about the head and ears. Her back should have a strong arch, her rump should be level and full, carrying its width to the tail head. Her neck should be light on top behind the ears but blending smoothly into the shoulders. Twelve well-developed teats on a neat, nearly straight belly line should be found. The male should be similar save the refinement; that is, he should be heavier in shoulder and possess a rugged masculine appearance. In neither male nor female should the jaw be flabby, coarse, or wrinkled; it should be full, firm, and compact.

QUICK RETURNS FROM STOCK

Few Good Animals With Proper Attention Will Soon Develop Into Meat Producers.

Live stock produce very rapidly if given a fair chance. A few sheep properly taken care of will soon mean a large flock; a bred gilt will soon produce enough meat for the family; a few heifers with a good bull will raise a dairy herd. If those who feel like they are unable to buy live stock would get a few good animals, take the proper care of them, and wait for the increase, they would soon have a start.

MARKET CROP GRADES

Bureau of Markets Studies Grading of Fruit and Vegetables.

Tentative Plans Worked Out for Apples, Peaches and Strawberries—Uniform Results Obtained by Use of Machinery.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Extensive studies in the grading and handling of fruits and vegetables were made by the bureau of markets of the United States department of agriculture last season, and tentative practical grades have been worked out for apples, peaches, and strawberries, according to a recent report of progress from the bureau. The work has covered the principal producing sections of the East, South and middle West and also the more important markets. It has included grading, packing, packages, packing house construction and equipment, and the effect of different methods of handling upon the physical condition of the fruit. The operation of sizing machines and other labor-saving devices also were studied to determine their efficiency and practicability.

As a result of this work the department is now prepared to make definite recommendations as to grading and packing these crops, fruit packing house plans and equipment, and general handling methods. Special attention has been given to apples, peaches, potatoes, Texas Bermuda onions, cantaloupes, and tomatoes, and a study of the various operations of harvesting, grading, packing, inspecting, and shipping has been started on other truck crops.

As a result of these investigations the bureau of markets was able to recommend immediately, in conjunction with the United States food administration, on the request of the federal reserve board, potato grades for use by members of banks when, in August, the banks were authorized to make loans against warehouse receipts for potatoes properly graded, packed, stored, and insured. These grades are described in a publication of the department, Markets Document 7.

The tentative grades worked out in 1916 were put to a practical test by being used as a basis for the actual field grading of car lots of onions and potatoes to compare the movement and selling price of graded stock with that which had not been graded.

In this work experiments have been made to determine the efficiency and practicability of machinery for sizing these crops. It was demonstrated that the work may be done economically, and with more uniform results by the use of machines than by hand methods.

EARLY HATCHING OF CHICKS

Cockerels Are Ready for Market When Prices Are Highest and Pullets Lay More Eggs.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Early hatching reduces the risks due to the vicissitudes of hatching. When eggs do not hatch well early in the season there is time to find the reason for poor hatching and correct it before the season is too far advanced to get reasonably early chicks in the numbers desired. In that case poultry production may not be reduced at all, and egg production is retarded only a few weeks. When late hatching is not satisfactory the crop of poultry is cut short and egg production falls.

Early-hatched cockerels are ready for the market when prices are highest. Early-hatched pullets lay when prices of eggs are highest.

CHEAPER ENERGY FEED THAN GRAIN AND MORE WILL BE CONSUMED IF FED FREQUENTLY.

Grain should be fed in proportion to the amount of milk produced. One pound of a properly balanced grain mixture for every four pounds of milk produced will be sufficient, if the cow is supplied with all the roughage she will eat clean during the day. Roughage should be supplied three or four times daily as it is a cheaper energy feed than grain this winter, and more of it will be consumed if fed frequently and in smaller amounts at a time.

IMPORTANCE OF GOOD ROADS

Farmers Depend Upon Short Haul to Get Produce to Market and Supplies for Operation.

Because of the inability of the railroads to handle the traffic of this country, good roads properly maintained are absolutely necessary for further development and future prosperity. The farmers, more than any other class, depend upon the short haul for putting their products on the market, and getting supplies for the operation of their places.

BAD TIME FOR AVERAGE COW

Milk Production Must Be Maintained, but No One Wants to Do It Without Profit.

There was never a poorer time to keep the average cow. Milk production must be maintained, but no one will care to maintain it as a losing proposition. The cow that pays is the cow to keep.