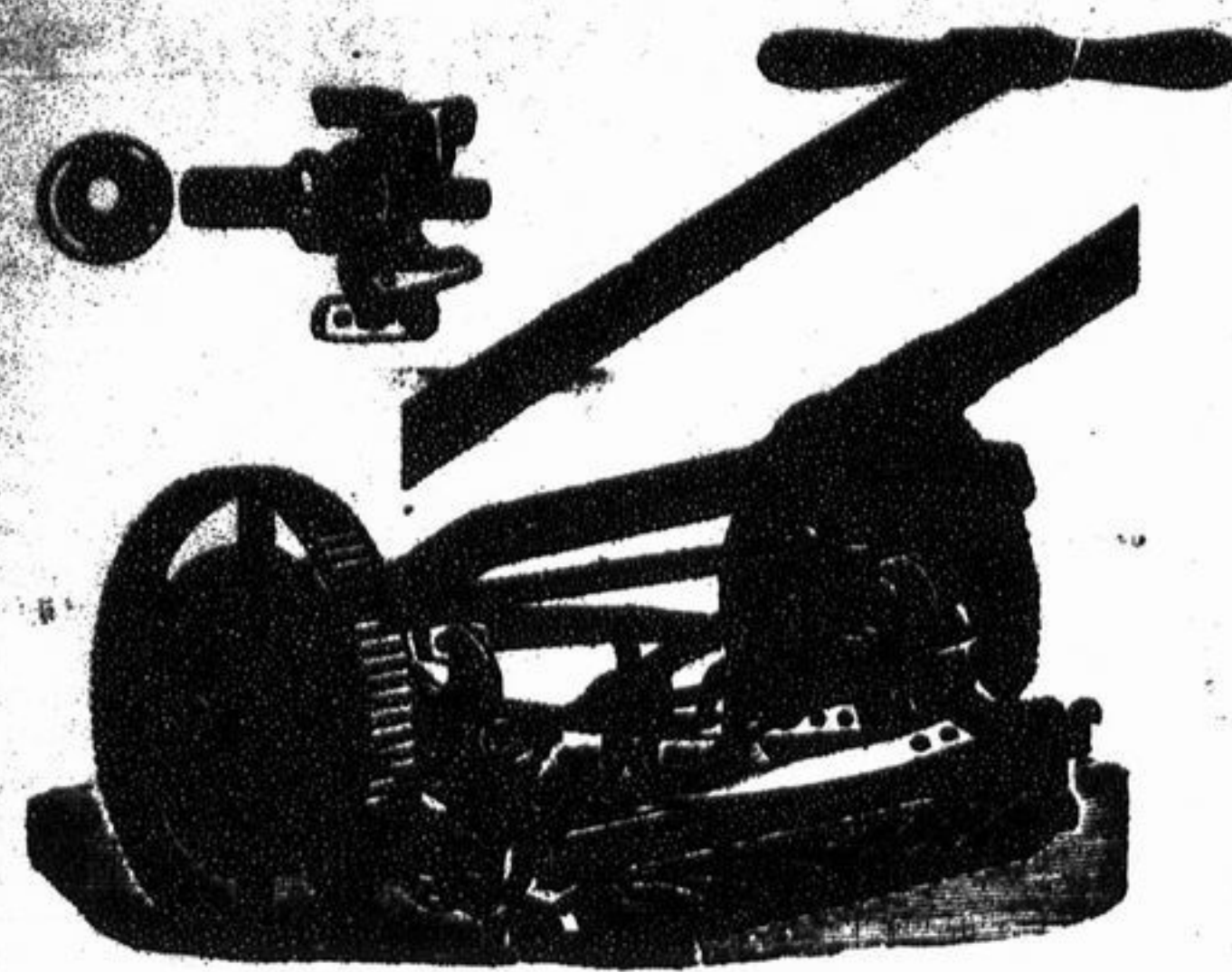


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FARM AND GARDEN

THE POULTRY RAISER.

There is less profit in half-starved hens than in those too fat.

The qualifications for a successful poultryman, are patience, perseverance, pluck, enterprise and capital.

If there is any tendency to looseness of the bowels among poultry, give them 'coal' ash.

A good way to clean ducks, after picking, is to rub them well with a cloth that has been dampened and dipped in cornmeal.

It is not too late to get in a few bushels of fine gravel for the hens to work at. They will show their appreciation of your kindness by laying a good many extra eggs.

A contented hen is always a good egg producer, and anything that worries or frightens the inhabitants of the poultry yard robs the egg basket.

Those who are tired of the old method of whitewashing the inside of the chicken coops to exterminate vermin, can find a cheap paint and insecticide in crude petroleum, colored with Venetian red. It also has a preservative value for the wood.

The lice are still about; get rid of them. If you have an old iron pot handy try burning a lot of cedar shavings in the bonhouse. After having chased out the chickens, close up the building tightly and fill it with smoke.

The crocodile, the chicken and the ostrich take pebbles with their food to aid in grinding it.

If you do not love your poultry well enough to give them the proper care, you had better go out of business.

Milk may soil the old hen's feathers, but there is nothing better for her in the way of food and drink at this season.

When bumblefoot appears lance the bottom of the foot and poultice it with bread crumbs, soaked in milk, or a scraped, raw potato.

To cure feather pulling, wash the feathers of the victim birds with a mixture made by dissolving powdered soles in alcohol.

To save the annoyance of foul-smelling chicken boxes, in which you have five poultry, slip two or three sheets of thick paper in the bottom; when empty throw these away.

The roosts in the poultry-house should be low, so that the fowls need not jump from any great height, which often causes bumblefoot—a swelling of the bottom and side of the foot.

Neat eggs are useful to guide pullets or strange hens to locate the nest boxes, but that is about the extent of it. The old theory that the presence of neat eggs induces egg production, has long since been exploded.

One of the worst things the neat poultry keeper can do with the eggs is to wash them. The warm water opens the pores of the protecting shell, and the egg decays in a very short time. Better dirty eggs than spoiled ones.

WINTER PROTECTION OF STRAW-BERRIES.

Mulching consists in the covering of the soil with leaves, straw, sawdust, or in fact anything that serves as a cover and protection to it. Mulching is practised for two purposes: to prevent a too excessive evaporation of the moisture of the soil during the summer and also to avoid the effects of freezing and thawing in winter.

There will be an uncommonly large amount of oats cut this season to be fed out in the sheaf. The object is twofold—getting both grain and roughage from the one crop. If oats are cut at the proper stage it makes first rate feed. It should be cut just after the berry reaches the dough stage and before the straw colors up very much.

FEEDING OATS IN SHEAF.

September is a good month for captionizing. Prepare the hens now for fall and winter laying.

A hen house without a south window is a mistake. Scrape up a good lot of road dust for the stock this winter.

Do not reuse the gander. There is no more dangerous fowl in the poultry world than an old gander, especially during breeding season.

If the fowl's legs are scaly, try the remedy of coating them with gas-tar. Allow it to remain until worn off, when the scales as a rule will follow.

Now is a good time to whitewash the interior of the houses, and there is no better season than now to repair the roofs and fix up things in general in anticipation of a long and hard winter.

Even the air of the hen house must be kept clean—clean by the entrance of the pure fresh air and the searching sunshine. Have the house so arranged that it can be made an open front during the day time.

The molting season is here. Hens that are molting now will be through about December, and can be relied upon to furnish a good supply of eggs during the following three months when prices are at the top notch.

KEEPING EGGS IN SUMMER.

Even if eggs are held only for a comparatively short time before being used or disposed of it will be found advantageous to keep them in the best manner possible.

Where they may be on hand some little time this is much more important. Egg racks are good things to have for this purpose.

A simple one can be made from a large box fitted with shelves in which are holes to place the eggs in, end down.

Eggs do not keep so well when put in baskets, etc., where they come in contact with one another. The next best thing for an egg rack is shallow boxes filled with sawdust, cork or bran, in which the eggs can be stood on end until wanted.

Sawdust and cork are best for this purpose, for if bran is used it will have to be watched, for there is a chance of its becoming musty, if kept in this manner and the boxes or shelves marked with the dates it is easy to tell when the eggs were gathered, and so they can be used or disposed of to better advantage.

Eggs kept on end and free from contact with one another in a cool cellar can be held some time. If it is desired to do this care should be taken to see that all the eggs are clean before being placed in the racks or boxes.—H. E. Haydock, in the Tribune Farmer.

CLEAN THE GRAIN FIELDS.

With all our pains in selecting seed grain many weeds and other obnoxious plants persist in showing up along about harvest time. The only way to get rid of these pests is to go through the fields now and pluck out the individual plants. The plan is perfectly practicable if one has been careful in cleaning his seed grain.

Watch out for mustard and wild oats. The mustard plant, if allowed to mature, will make no end of trouble; but if the fields are gone over just as the mustard blossoms show it will not be a very big job to clean them out.

With wild oats the situation is different. It resembles the cultivated oat in some respects, but it has large, drooping spikelets. Some claim they do not fear wild oats in the Central Western states, as a short rotation of crops will rid the fields of it.

But it is a big mistake to allow it to get a foothold anywhere. Keep it out. The very first question I would ask were I buying seed oats would be whether it contained wild oats.—L. C. Brown.

WOMANLY WISDOM.

Life is a succession of choices; one can not often have this and that, but this or that.

Good intentions are too much of a burden for some men to carry. Never box a child on the ear. There is danger of injuring its hearing for life by breaking the delicate drum-membrane.

An old wooden stocking is nice for rubbing up shoes after you have put the polish on. Makes 'em shine like glass bottles.

To make watermelon preserves: Pare and cut the white in discs and boil it a few minutes until tender, then measure as much sugar as rind, and boil the same as any other preserves.

M. A. P. A cheap but durable substitute for linoleum is heavy roofing paper, tacked firmly in place and then stained and varnished. As it begins to wear, the paint or stain and varnish can be renewed.

When stewing tomatoes throw in a little piece of red pepper-pod. It gives a better flavor than black pepper, is more wholesome, looks better and can be taken out when the tomatoes are seasoned enough.

This is my true and tried method of canning corn: Thirteen plants of corn, one of salt and enough water to cover it nicely; cook until done. Freshen before using. By this method it will keep for years and is delicious. M. A. P.

In the shed or outkitchen of every farmhouse there ought to be a closet or box in which to keep dry, clean shoes for the farmer and his men or boys to slip on when they come from the stable, or from spreading fertilizers, before they come to the sitting room, or especially to the table, where unpleasant odors are not appetizing. When not at work the footwear, if not polished, should at least be clean and neat.

From September Farm Journal.

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Before trying to match the sample of silk the clerk asked: "Is this a piece of something you want or don't want?"

"Something I want, of course," replied the customer. "You don't suppose, do you, that I would go to all this trouble for a thing I can't use?"

"Some folks do," said the clerk. "I have met a number of them. The first woman I ever saw with that kind of a bee in her bonnet had a square inch of blue silk that she wanted me to match. The scrap of silk was so small that it was hard to make comparisons, but after hauling down half the blue bolts on the shelves and running to the door several times to test the color in broad daylight I found the exact shade.

"How many yards do you want, madam?" I asked.

"Oh," said the woman, "I don't want any. Almost any other shade will do. That particular shade is very unbecoming. I just wanted to make sure that I don't get it, that's all."

The customer laughed. "What did you say?" she asked.

"I'd rather not tell," said the clerk. Philadelphia Ledger.

The following is furnished by the Farm Journal, Philadelphia, Pa.:

ORCHARD AND GARDEN.

Continue to hoe and cultivate the strawberry bed, but do not let the runners set too thickly. Treat all surplus plants just as if they were weeds.

Currants and gooseberry bushes may be set in the fall, if desired, and well mulched.

Save the best shaped and colored tomatoes for seed every year, and the strain will be much improved.

If the cabbage heads show signs of bursting, pull each head a little so as to break a few of the roots and thus check the rapid growth.

Look out for weak and broken rounds in the ladder. Bad accidents have happened by going through such ladders. Put in new rounds before anything occurs.

Last month we told you to "tip" the blackcap raspberries, and to cut out the old wood that has fruited. Not too late to do this now. Blackberries, too, should have the old wood cut out.

Look out for frost late this month. Tomato vines, etc., may be protected cold nights by a covering of straw, newspapers, cloths, etc. On large fields, smudge fires will often save a crop from frost damage.

Winter onion sets should go into the ground early this month. They are quite hardy, but a light mulch of leaves, straw or litter won't hurt them in the North; they'll be ready for use early in the spring.

Pears are best when ripened indoors instead of on the trees. The time to pick pears is determined, first, by their known season of ripening; and, second, by the ease with which the stem parts from the branch when the fruit is slightly lifted.

Does your neighbor know that the strawberry plants are now forming dormant fruit buds for next year's crop, and that the crop then depends largely upon the care now? Perhaps you'll be doing him a favor if you show him this paper and ask him to subscribe.

It is important to pick vegetables at the right time. If picked while the sun is at its height, they are more or less wilted and do not keep so well. This does not apply to beans—they should never be handled while wet or they will rust. Nearly all vegetables are juicier and sweeter if picked before they are quite full-sized.

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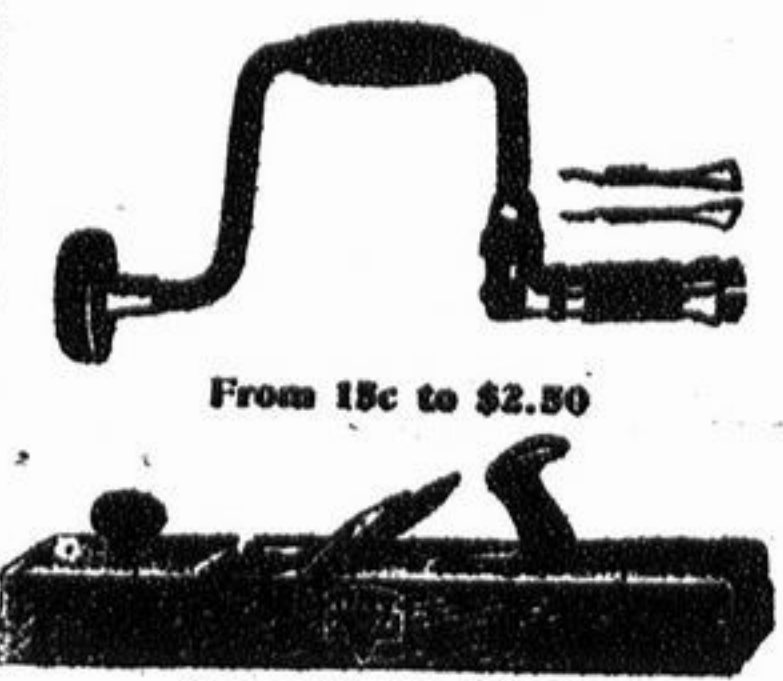
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