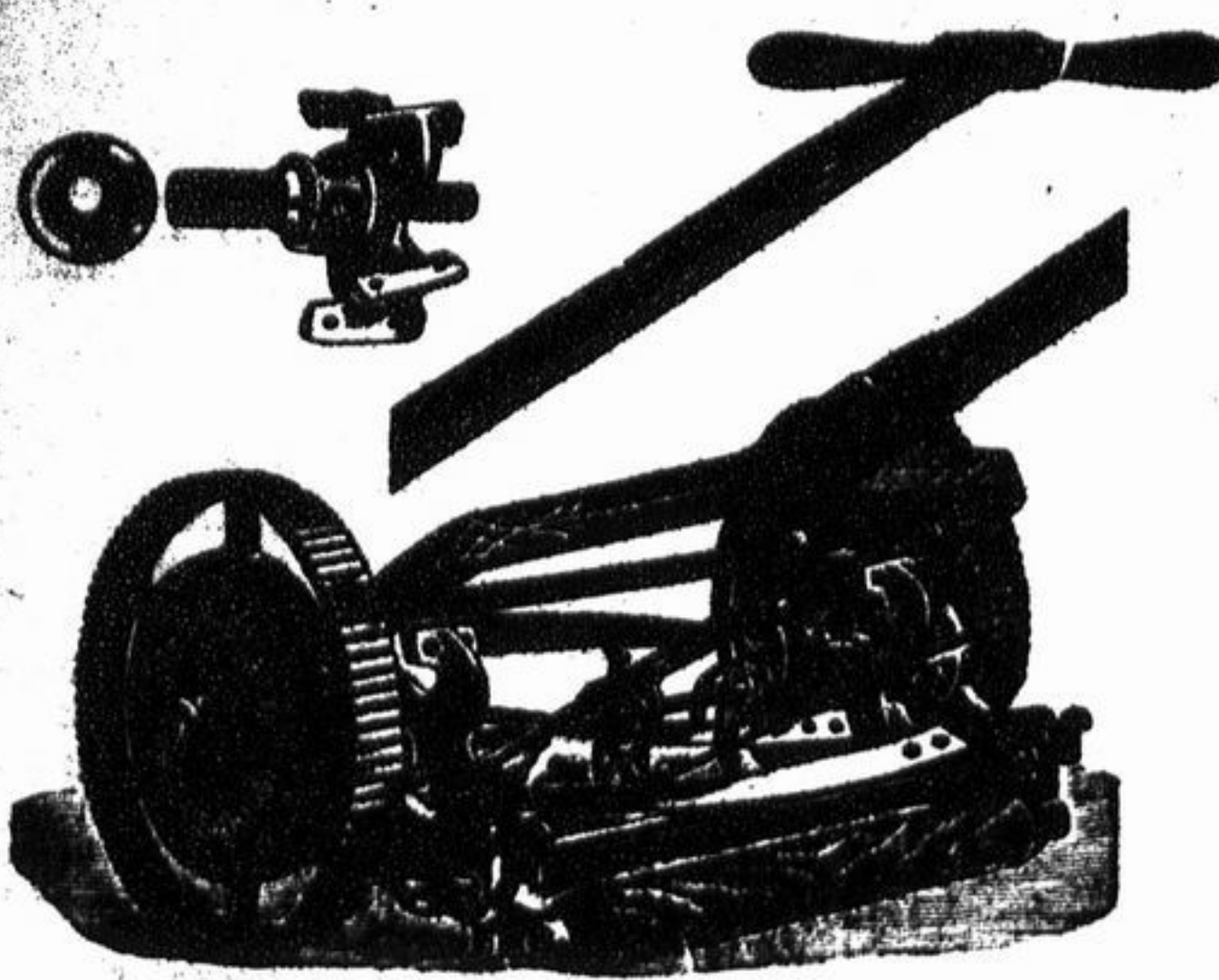


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FARM AND GARDEN

To Make Poor Farm Rich.  
"The progressive farmer rotates his crops. He tile-drains his land. He keeps dairy cows or mutton sheep or both. He breeds draft horses and does farm work with brood mares and growing colts. He improves the power of the soil by growing legumes."

James Wilson, secretary of agriculture, in the above words sums up the vital principles of good farming. He declares that the people of the United States have wasted their inheritance of land and wood, and the productivity of the soil near the great centers of population has steadily decreased. We have been a nation of soil robbers, but there is at last an awakening—slow but sure.

Farmers of all sections are wanting to know how to stop the leaks and increase the deposits of their business and the government is helping them in many ways. There are over 9,000 persons employed in the Department of Agriculture and 2,000 of these are scientists, all working intelligently toward helping the farmer solve the problems which confront him. There are sixty-five land grant colleges with 10,000 students in agriculture. These boys are learning that rotation of crops is necessary, that live stock must be raised to make manure, of which there is never enough.

They are finding out that young grasses and legumes are nature's perfect ration for domestic animals. Milk and meat and work are had more cheaply from the pasture than from other sources. Pasture land increases as farm help becomes scarce. Mutton sheep are suggested when labor is dear. Cultivated crops reduce organic matter in the soil and render it unfit for profitable growing. Pasturing replaces organic matter. When good crops of grain or roots are wanted the pasture, plowed and reduced in season, is the best place to get them. Western farmers in the corn belt get their heavy crops from pasture land.

With the help of improved machinery the progressive individual farmer is producing much more than the average farmer did a generation ago and men of this class are keeping up the productive qualities of their lands.

The neglected lands of the eastern and middle states can be brought back to their primitive fruitfulness through the aid of scientific farming. Secretary Wilson says they are the cheapest land in the country and people wanting homes who have saved a little capital from their earnings or young men of means and tastes for the independent life of the country will find rich opportunities in these lands for profit and usefulness.

Believe in Mixed Farming.  
I firmly believe in mixed farming, but even then we must specialize on some certain line of stock feeding and rotation of crops if we make a decided success of the business. Call it general farming, but let's not call it mixed farming. As grandfather used to say, "Be something. If you cannot be a long-tailed rat, be a mouse." Have some hobby, some kind of a crop or some kind of live stock and specialize on that and make your other farming subservient to that one special crop or kind of live stock feeding. We have too many common mixed farmers.—John C. Barnes, Indiana.

King Alfalfa.  
Next to corn and wheat and cotton, alfalfa has come to rank in importance in the matter of contributing to the country's prosperity. It has gradually extended over the arid plains of the great West and Southwest, filling the barns of the proud husbandman, making glad the heart of the stockman, and adding to the wealth of the country until there has come to be a well-defined belief that alfalfa and alfalfa are working together for the prosperity of the country.—Houston Post.

Feasible Cattle.  
A train load of cattle sold in Omaha recently for \$20,000, being exactly \$8 per hundred pounds for every steer on board. These cattle were fattened on a mixture of corn and alfalfa. To encourage feeders to take up the balanced ration as best for cattle, the packers are to have exhibits at the National Corn Exposition to be held in Omaha next December, and will show in the cuts of meat the superiority of that from alfalfa-corn fed steers.—Eantis (Tex.) News.

Salt Purification.  
Salt is purified by melting in the new and rapid English process. The crude rock salt is fed automatically to a table contained in a large furnace, from which it is drawn at one side of the furnace into large cauldrons. Air is forced into the molten mass and lime is added. The impurities sink to the bottom, and the upper portion is ground and screened while the lower part is used for chemical manure.

Cattle Have Rabies.  
Following the attack of a mad dog on his stock, Louis Klein, a farmer near Prairetowa, has had to kill three head of cattle and four hogs which had become infected with rabies. The members of the family noticed that the dog acted peculiarly, but did not suspect that it was mad until too late. After the dog had bitten the stock it was killed by Klein, who feared that it would attack the members of his family.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

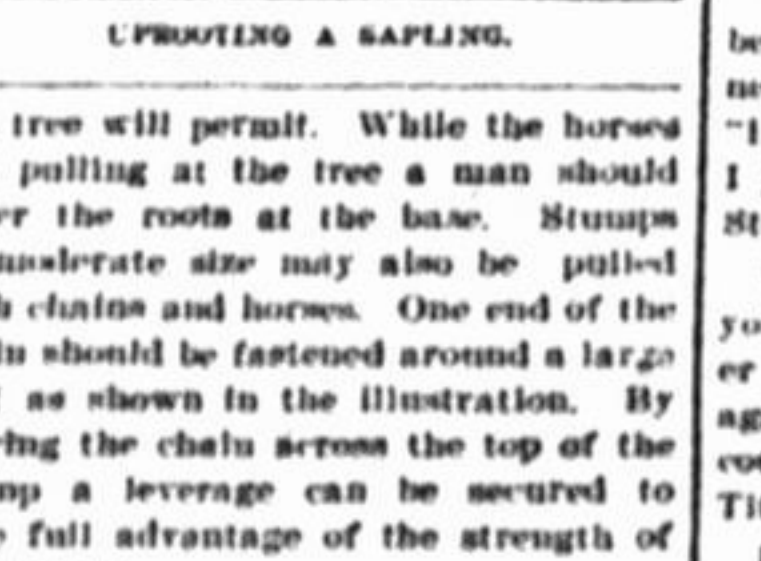
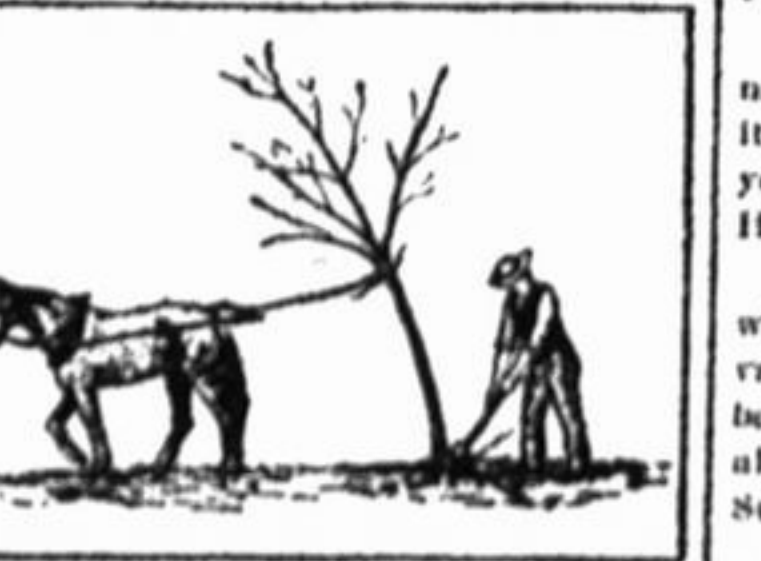
Fence Post Expense.  
An annual fence post bill of more than \$1,250,000 is one item in the expense account of the farmers of a single agricultural State. It is estimated that the farmers of Iowa use posts having a value exceeding this enormous sum each year to maintain the fences.

on the 25,000,000 acres of improved land in the State.  
In making these estimates, H. F. Baker, professor of forestry in Iowa State Agricultural College, figured that the farms of Iowa required 78,000,000 posts for fences, or 2,000 to the square mile. Placing the value of the posts at 15 cents each, the cost of renewals every eight or nine years, which is the life of the post, is \$11,718,000, making an annual bill for renewals of \$1,465,000.

Like many other farming States, Iowa has a lack of fence post material, but there is little excuse for this condition, according to the foresters who have made studies in the State. A properly managed forest plantation will produce, when the trees have reached post size, 3,500 posts three to five inches in diameter per acre; thus, it would take 22,350 acres about every ten years to grow the necessary posts to supply the State. Iowa is said to have 200,000 acres of planted timber, and yet the fence post supply is insufficient. If properly cared for, many of these plantations can be made to produce more timber, and thus insure the future post supply.

These 200,000 acres are not at present furnishing the posts which it is estimated can actually be grown on 22,350 acres of properly handled forest land.

Removing Saplings and Stumps.  
In uprooting young trees a team of horses or even a single horse with a chain can do effective work. Best results can be obtained where the growth consists of saplings two to four inches in diameter and where the root system is lateral. The plan is to fasten one end of the chain to the trunk as high above the ground as the flexibility of



the tree will permit. While the horses are pulling at the tree a man should sever the roots at the base. Stumps of moderate size may also be pulled with chains and horses. One end of the chain should be fastened around a large root as shown in the illustration. By placing the chain across the top of the stump a leverage can be secured to take full advantage of the strength of the horses.

Effects of Rural Delivery.  
There is a veritable network of rural routes out of nearly all of the towns in this section of the State, and seldom does one find a farmer who is not placed in a position to take advantage of one. With present conditions existing, the man on the farm has the opportunity to take his daily paper as the one in town, and gets his mail sometimes earlier than many of the residents of the cities. There are rural mail carriers and rural mail carriers—each one has his striking characteristics. The majority are favorites in their particular field, and as a rule the patrons of his route would not trade him for any other man on another. The carrier and the farmer learn to know each other, and the country visitor on hearing them greet each other would say they were both "good fellows." The man that carries the mail should have a whole lot of credit. He is obliged to make the trip in all kinds of weather and the best of protections will not make the job an enjoyable one. Some time when he is not busy, let the reader talk a few minutes to a rural mail carrier and he will find that he is in touch with everyone on the route.—Bloomington (Ill.) Pantagraph.

How Animals See.  
Dr. Alexander Schaefer, a noted scientist, says cattle have the sharpest sight, the second place being occupied by man and the horse, which have nearly equal visual power. Sheep do not see as well as cattle or horses. Owls and buzzards possess great acuteness of vision. Dogs have such poor sight that as a rule they are not able to recognize their masters by sight alone.

A Separator for Eight Cows.  
A correspondent asked if it would pay to buy a separator for a herd of eight cows.  
Yes, by all means. It will not only pay for itself every year in the amount of cream saved, but the milk is better when fed warm from the separator to the young animals. The man who does not use a cream separator is suffering a large loss every month.

Feed the Corn for the Horses.  
Corn and oats should be ground together for horses. Many good horses never feed whole corn. Some horses cannot digest it properly, but when it is ground with oats the mixture makes one of the best rations for a work team, especially when doing heavy work. Nearly all the large transportation companies in the cities never feed whole corn.

Murder Over a Line Fence.  
In a quarrel over a line fence near Broken Egg, Neb., Stewart Lanterman killed H. F. Hoffman and his son George, by cracking their skulls with a neckyoke. It is possible that more murders have been committed over line fence disputes than over any other theme that arises between farmers.

FLASHES OF FUN

Lone Widow—Poor, dear man! He lived only three months after our marriage. Old Jenkins—Amen! As long as that, mum?—Judge.

The Husband (during the quarrel)—You're always making bargains. Was there ever a time when you didn't? The Wife—Yes, sir; on my wedding day.

She—Why are artists always so careful to sign their paintings? He—To indicate which is the top and which is the bottom of the picture.—The Sphinx.

"I suppose you know why you are here?" asked the judge severely. "Yes, sir," answered the prisoner. "I was drug here."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

"Is this section prosperous?" "You bet it is," answered the Kansas farmer. "I kin spread a net any time and snake a grand piano out of a cyclone."—Pittsburg Post.

"Poor Tom, it cost him a terrible lot to give up his sweetheart." "Then why did he?" "Because it would have cost him a great deal more if he hadn't."—The Tattler.

Lecturing Philanthropist (home from China)—You know, my dear people the prisons there are not the sort of places to which you and I are accustomed.—Puck.

Railway Conductor—Is there room in there for this man? Young Men in Compartment—Impossible. Just about room enough for the two ladies.—Elle-gende Blaetter.

"Do you consider your nerve is sufficiently steady to fit you for an airship navigator?" "Well, I've been out in a canoe with a nervous fat girl."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Every man is the architect of his own fortune," quoted the Wise Guy. "Yes, but he wants to keep solid with the building inspectors," added the Simple Mug.—Philadelphia Record.

Supleigh—A buck fell from a building two years ago and knocked me senseless. Miss Cantigue—Indeed! And does your physician think you will ever get over it?—Chicago Daily News.

Her Husband—If a man steals, no matter what it is, he will live to regret it. His Wife—During our courtship you used to steal kisses from me. Her Husband—Well, you heard what I said.

Wife—What luck? Husband—None whatever. Wife—Were there no servants at the intelligence office? Husband—Yes, lots of them, but they had all worked for us before.—Saturday Sun.

"Have you ever been cross-examined before?" inquired a barrister of a witness who was occupying his attention. "Have I?" exclaimed the man. "Didn't I just tell you I am married?"—Stray Stories.

Magistrate (sternly)—Didn't I tell you the last time you were here I never wanted you to come before me again? Prisoner—Yes, sir; but I couldn't make the police believe it.—Tit-Bits.

Hotel Proprietor—Sir, you cannot leave this hotel until you pay your bill. Mr. O. A. Lott—Ah, at last I have found a man generous enough to grant me the one thing I have always desired—a permanent home.

"Should a man go to college after fifty?" "Well, he might pass muster at tennis," answered the expert. "But a man can't expect to do much in baseball or football at that age."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"I fell out of the window of my flat yesterday." "And you are on the fourth floor. That was terrible." "Yes; I don't know how to face the janitor. I'm sure I've violated some clause in my lease."—Washington Herald.

"Your husband says he works like a dog," said one woman. "Yes, it's very similar," answered the other. "He comes in with muddy feet, makes himself comfortable by the fire, and waits to be fed."—Washington Star.

"I always hate to pass an ice cream saloon when I'm walking with my girl." "I've never happened to pass one when I was out with my girl." "That's strange. How do you manage it?" "I don't manage it; she does. She always insists on going in."

The little daughter of a homeopathic physician revealed a ring with a pearl in it on the Christmas tree. Two days later she poked her head tearfully in at the door of her father's office. "Papa," she sobbed, "papa, I've lost the little pill out of my ring."

"I guess you must have passed a lot of time at the dentist's when he was in New York," said Johnny Green. "Why do you think so?" queried his ma. "Cause I heard him tell a man to-day that it cost him nearly \$300 to get his eye-tooth cut," replied Johnny.—Chicago News.

Vagaries of the Plumb Line.  
One of the curious things that men of science have discovered in their innumerable efforts to measure and map the earth with the least possible error is the fact that there are places where the direction of a plumb line is not vertical. Irregularities of density in the crust of the globe may produce this phenomenon.

A remarkable instance has been found in the island of Porto Rico where the deviation from the vertical is so great that in mapping the island the northern and southern coast lines, as shown on the older maps, had each to be moved inward half a mile.—New York Tribune.

To the Post.  
"Well," said Nuritch, showing Kandor through his new house, "what do you think of the furnishings?" "They show a great deal of taste," replied Kandor.

"Ah think so?" "Yes, but it's all bad."—Philadelphia Press.

Very few old people commit suicide. After a man reaches old age, he wants to live as long as possible.

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