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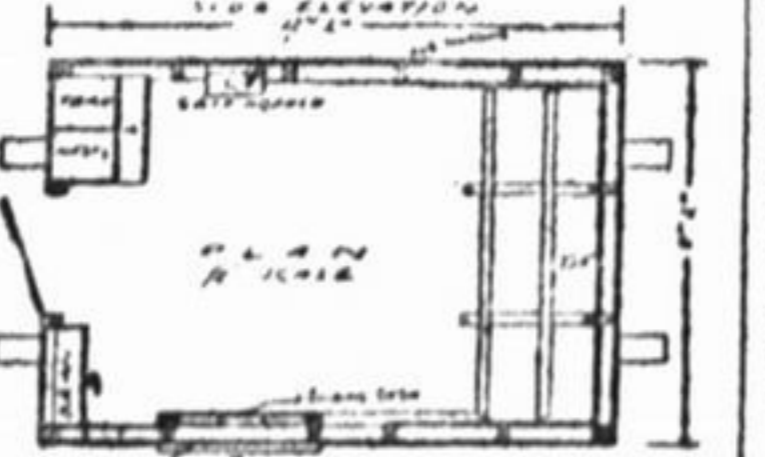
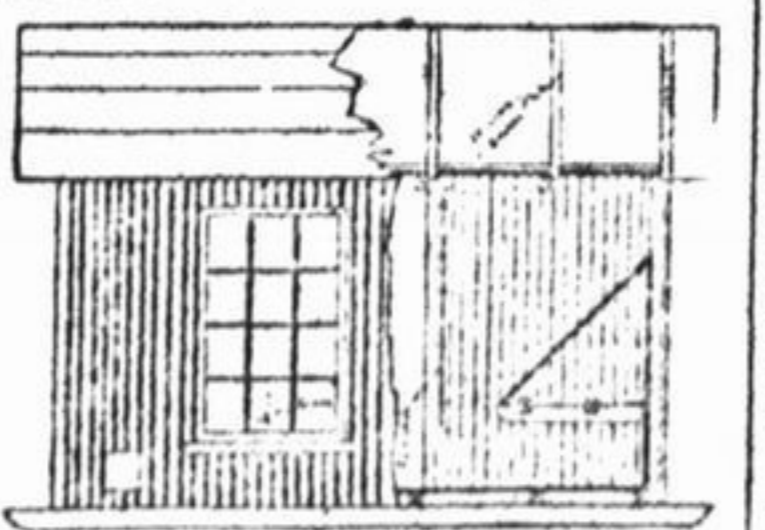
Farm Poultry House.

For a farmer's poultry house I know of nothing that will give better satisfaction than a moveable colony house, such as is used at Macdonald College, Que., a photo and plan of which accompanies.



FRONT VIEW.

This house is 8x12 feet, floor built on two skids and accommodates 25 hens and 3 males in the winter and half as many more during the summer. A team of horses can draw it to any part of the farm that may be desired. This gives fresh ground to the hens, and feed that might otherwise go to waste, can be made use of. For farm use the studding need not be so high, and the house can be built of available material. A loose board ceiling over which is placed straw provides for the absorption of moisture and even in the



PLAN OF INTERIOR.

coldest days, hens are quite comfortable. A farmer can add to his equipment one house at a time, and gradually work up to the desired number.—F. C. Elford.

Cocklebur.

A good many farmers are still struggling with the cocklebur nuisance. It is possible to rid the ranch of this pest in one year and realize a profit on the operation. Any time before the weeds have attained much height take a plow and harrow to the field and before the day is done sow one and one-half bushels of good kafir corn to each acre plowed. Harrow well and the next day repeat the operation until the cocklebur territory has been thoroughly covered. When the kafir seed is in the dough mow or bind with a harrower and you will have one of the very best crops of roughage to be had. Remove the crop from the field as soon as convenient. Two years or so of this kind of tillage will clean out the burrs and the operation is certainly worth while.—Denver Field and Farm.

Pump for the Garden.

A good pump should be part of the equipment of every garden. For the small garden a good bucket, compressed air or knapsack pump will be most satisfactory, while for larger gardens a barrel pump, with an attachment for spraying several rows when occasion demands, or an automatic pump geared to the wheels of the truck, will be found more economical of time and labor. The small compressed air sprayer is handy, as it leaves both hands free for use, and is, therefore, useful if it is desired to spray two or three small trees, possibly with the use of a stepladder to reach their tops.

Fertilizers.

Fertilizers may be divided into two general classes—direct and indirect, or nutritive and stimulant. A direct or nutritive fertilizer is one which furnishes nourishment to the growing crop. Nourishment means simply nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. These are the three ingredients which must be conveyed through the medium of manures and fertilizers. A stimulant or indirect fertilizer is one which does not furnish an actual plant food to the soil, but by its stimulating action renders available some plant food which previously existed in the soil in an insoluble or unavailable condition.

The Real Value of Sheep.

The census report cannot give the real value of sheep. Outside of the value of sheep as producers of meat and wool, there is a benefit conferred by them to land. Pastures occupied by sheep become richer every year, and bushes, weeds and briars, which so readily grow where they are not desired, are kept down by sheep and their places occupied by grass. The poorest kind of land, if given up to sheep, even if it is necessary to allow feed to them, will be made productive in a few years.

Horses and Corn Growing.

In growing corn one of the factors that is seldom rated at its true worth is first-class motive power. Anyone who has plowed, harrowed, planted and cultivated with an ill-matched, short-weighted, high-strung team knows how difficult it is to do good work. No farm hand thus handicapped can render a service that is satisfac-

tory to a good farmer. Farm teams should be evenly matched as to age, size and temperament. Weight is essential. Teams should be big enough to keep a reserve power constantly on tap; they should draw any implement with ease and at a steady, lively pace. If they are of standard draft type and are shifted occasionally from one class of service to another they will go through the season without breakdowns. This depends, however, to a large extent on how they are fed and managed. Much depends also on the ease and comfort which they enjoy in the collar; sore necks and galled shoulders, due to poorly fitted collars, prove serious obstacles to good, continuous work. Corn-belt farms should be equipped with heavy draft teams; the highest type of diversified agriculture in that territory depends on this reliable, efficient motive power. Big horses bear a close relationship to a big corn crop.—Chicago Live Stock World.

Dipping Stock for Lice.

There are various kinds of stock dips, and most of them are good. Their use is becoming more common because their value is better known than formerly. Almost every stockman has animals that are not thrifty, and he doesn't know the reason why. It very often happens that such animals are troubled with parasites of some kind perhaps several kinds. They are too small to be seen with the naked eye and the farmer tries different kinds of medicines, when an outside application of some disinfectant is the only remedy needed. When stockmen once learn the value of dipping they need no further encouragement. They keep on dipping twice a year, because they know it pays both in dollars and in satisfaction.

We have found crude oil one of the best and most effective house killers and disinfectants. It makes an excellent dip for swine. It will remove all of the old scales and scurf and improve the general appearance of the herd.

When mixed with crude carbolic acid at the rate of one gallon of crude oil to twenty-five gallons of crude oil it makes a cheap and effective disinfectant for use in the hog houses, hen houses and water holes in the hog lot where hogs are accustomed to wallow.

It will, when used alone, prove a very cheap oil to use on farm machinery when it is stored away for winter.

It can be used with safety as a fly repellent on all farm animals by the use of sprayers, and will prove as well adapted to that purpose as many of the more expensive dips and mixtures. For cuts and bruises on farm animals it is excellent and can be used with safety. Use on cows' teats when sore.—Agricultural Experiment.

Testing Milk.

In some sections many of the best dairymen are adapting the Holland plan of combining and hiring men to visit each herd one day in the month and test the milk of each cow, thus giving the owners an idea of which cows are the ones that are paying for their keep. This plan is a very sensible one and should be encouraged. The cost is comparatively small, as the tester boards with the family while he is doing his work and is carried to the next place the day he has completed his work. This insures regularity in the work. In Michigan this plan has greatly increased the average production per cow. Wisconsin, too, has taken up this matter. It is good business and it may become popular, but some of our dairymen are hard to turn from the beaten paths of their fathers.—Farmers and Drovers' Journal.

Sheep and Dogs.

In some counties of England, it is said, a law exists compelling a lamb to be produced for each acre on the farm. The value of sheep on the farm is thoroughly understood and appreciated by the English people. In some of the States in this country the rule seems to be to produce a dog for nearly each acre. Sheep are constant farm improvers, while dogs are exactly the opposite. But for the prevalence of worthless curs there are many sections where sheep would be raised and their keeping would turn the tide that would soon lead to profitable farming.

Why Pity the Farmer?

Mr. Mann of Gauda Springs, says a Kansas newspaper, loaded a large fat hog into his automobile and took it to market in Arkansas City, where he got a good price for the porker. It took him a mighty short time to get the hog to town and get the cash for it. A few minutes' scrubbing fixed the auto so that it did not smell like a barnyard, and the hog probably enjoyed the ride. What's the use holding meetings trying to improve conditions of farm life?

Feeding Sheep.

There are several points in feeding sheep that must not be overlooked. The feed lot must be dry, with plenty of clean, dry bedding; the animals must have plenty of clean, pure water, and the feed troughs should be kept clean. These should be arranged so that the sheep cannot foul them with their feet. Another point is to keep them from becoming excited or frightened. To this end it is better that one person feed them all the time.

Sowing Orchard Grass.

If orchard grass is not sown thickly it will not be a success. Three bushels to the acre should be used. Orchard grass is more vigorous than timothy, with a stronger root system; but if a permanent meadow is expected it must be top-dressed freely.

The Sorrel Horse.

There is no color of horse so insensible to heat as the sorrel. There is seldom any coat so silky or responds so quickly to good care as the sorrel, and many horsemen claim there is seldom any horse with such sound feet and limbs or possessing the endurance of the sorrel.

American Wheat.

The United States annually exports more wheat flour than all the other countries of the world combined—15,000,000 out of 25,000,000 barrels.

NATURE'S WONDERLAND.

Hot Springs Do Away with the Feet Problem in New Zealand.

Imagine a tract of country 1,000 square miles in extent, consisting entirely of volcanoes, both great and small, active and extinct. Boiling geysers, too, throwing hissing jets hundreds of feet into the air; tremendous cliffs, uncannily alive with steam jets and blow-holes, and "porridge-pots" or mud volcanoes innumerable. Think of all these in a wild medley, and you will have some faint notion of New Zealand's Wonderland, in the North Island of Great Britain's model colony.

Dig anywhere, with a spade round about the town of Rotorua and you will produce as many hot springs as you make holes. There are whiffs of sulphur in the air, and the ground quivers with mysterious activity. And when the wind lifts the eternal steam clouds you will see the extraordinary curved huts of the Maori—that wonderfully intelligent people so recently cannibals, but now given over to the arts and crafts of civilization. The women are robust creatures; and truth to tell nature has wholly spoiled them even for the little housework native women are called upon to do.

A fire is utterly unknown in a Maori hut, for when its mistress wants to cook her dinner she simply puts pudding or joint in a string bag to which a rope is attached, and then drops the raw material in any hole in the ground filled with boiling water. It is the strangest sight imaginable to see three or four Maori women wandering with sure feet amid the bubbling porridge pots, and at the same time swinging and dangling the family's daily dinner, which is just about to be swung casually into some favorite cooking pot in the earth, thoughtfully provided by nature!

Naturally enough the family's washing and the Maori's are an exceedingly clean race is equally facilitated. For every back yard has its bathing pools and laundry reservoirs, whose hot waters bubble up mysteriously from the quivering earth. Sometimes you will see a mother and her girls doing white folks' washing in the snow-white foam of a boiling geyser. The woman is perhaps gay in the ornaments, greens and purples affected by her countrywomen, and is sure to be putting stolidly at a pipe, with a quaint baby slung across her back.

The boys of the family, and most likely the men also, spend their days, especially in winter, literally basking in the pools of hot water, waist deep. Or should there be British or American tourists about, the urubins will dive into the warm pools for small coins, while tiny maidens are shrilly clamorous to dance a fierce haka for their white visitors, or to sing to them songs of love or war in rhythmic measure of the pot dance.

It is no wonder the New Zealand government has set aside this wonderful volcanic and thermal region as a vast health resort, to which pilgrims come from all parts of the world. At Rotorua are enormous swimming baths of hot, hissing mineral water, fed direct from the spouting geysers. The "cure" lasts about six weeks, but visitors usually stay much longer, for at every turn there are sights and scenes such as are witnessed nowhere else on earth.

Watermelon an African.

The humorists always associate the African with the watermelon, assuming that the taste of the colored man for his favorite dainty arises from his life in the Southern States, where the melon vine grows like a weed. As a fact, however, the African taste for the watermelon is hereditary. The vine is a native of Africa, where it is found wild in the great central plains of the continent, and also has been cultivated for many ages.

In Egypt the melons grown along the Nile rival those of southeastern Missouri. The melons mentioned by The Israelites as being among the good things they had in Egypt were undoubtedly watermelons, for in the wall paintings about the time of the exodus the melon vine is represented, and in one case a long procession of slaves is depicted, each bearing on his shoulder a huge dark green watermelon.

We Use Millions of Cigar Boxes.

There are something like 15,000,000 cigar boxes used in the United States annually, and about nine-tenths of that number are made in New York, where the trade rivals the clothing industry in point of capital invested and the number of people employed. The material out of which the best boxes are made comes principally from Cuba and is known as Spanish cedar. The latter wood retains the flavor of a good cigar, owing, it is claimed, to the fact that it is grown in the same localities as the best Havana tobacco.

Plenty of Time.

The pretty nurse had taken the best of care of the steel millionaire. "I want you to marry me," said he, simply. "But, Mr. Glitledge, this is rather sudden." "I know, child, I know. But you have plenty of time to get used to the idea. I'll have a fierce job getting rid of my wife."

Good Nature.

Good nature is worth more than knowledge, more than money, more than honor, to the persons who possess it, and certainly to everybody who dwells with them, in so far as mere happiness is concerned.—H. W. Beecher.

His Inference.

"Evidently a Turkish bath is a scheme to keep one perpetually dirty." "I judge from what you say that you've never taken one." "No, but I've seen a Turk."—Exchange.

Very Likely.

Mr. Hogg—Here is some fool says in the paper that women have forgotten how to laugh. Mrs. Hogg—I guess he means married women.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

About the most inquisitive thing on earth, town folks say, is a country girl who has come to town to board.

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