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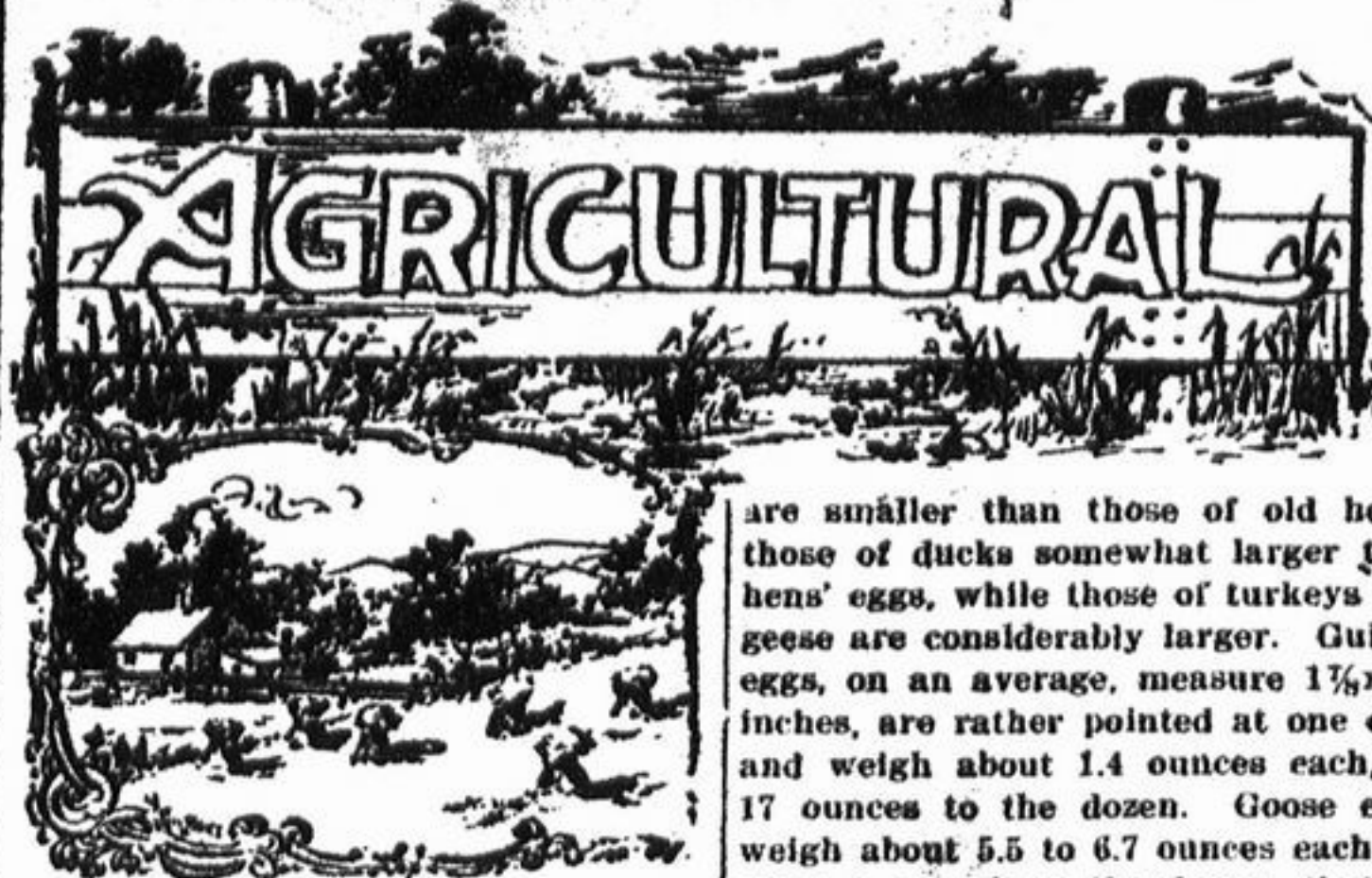
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The Apple Barrel.
It stood in the cellar low and dim,
Where the cobwebs swept and swayed,
Holding the store from lough and limb
At the feet of autumn laid.
And oft, when the days were short and drear
And the north wind shrieked and roared,
We children sought in the corner here,
And drew on the toothsome hoard.

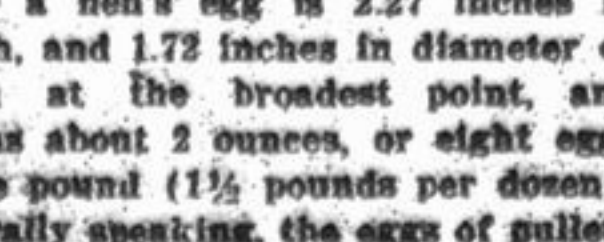
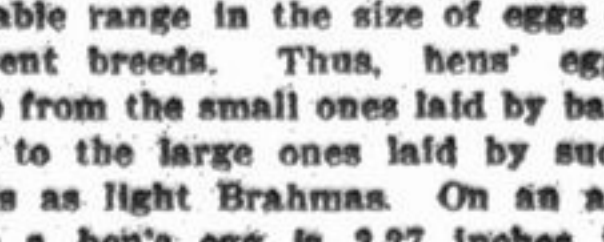
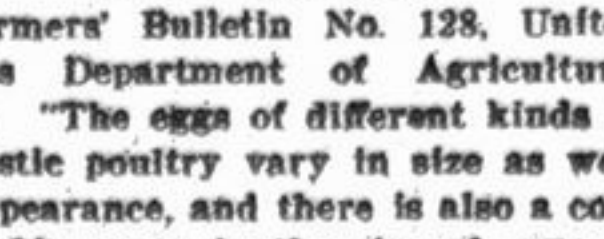
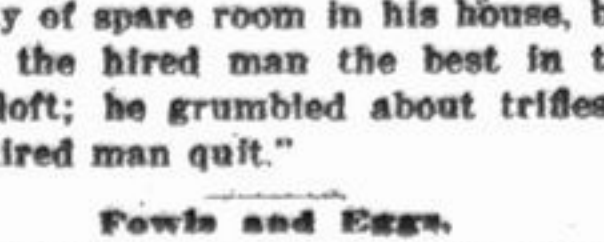
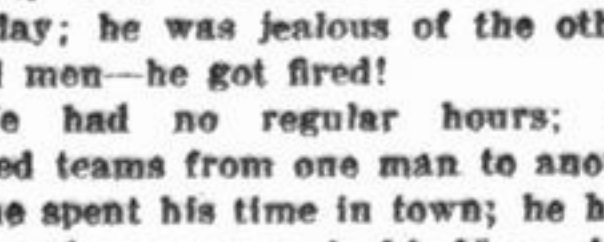
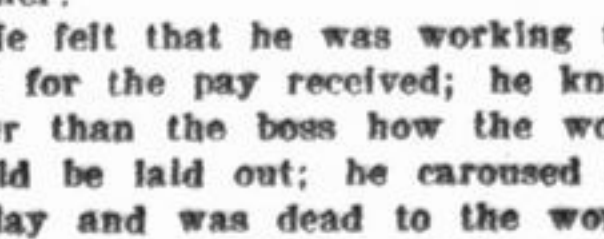
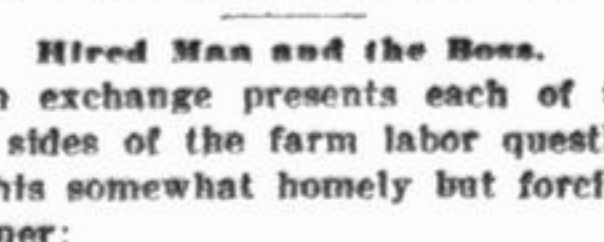
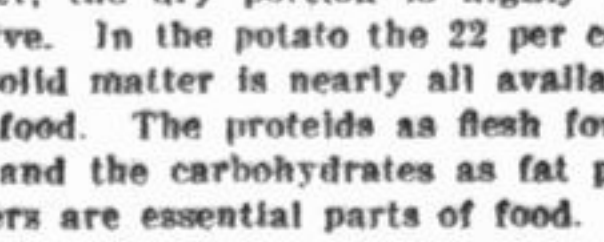
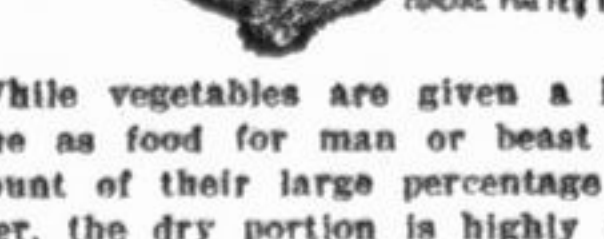
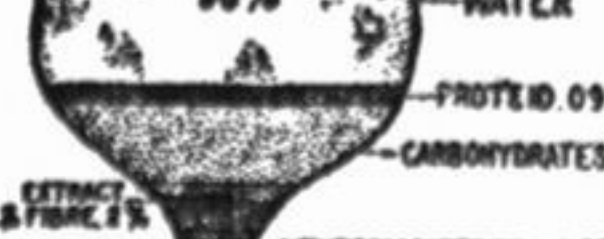
For thus through the long, long winter-time
It answered our every call
With wine of the summer's golden prime
Sealed by the hand of fall.
The best there was of the earth and air,
Of rain and sun and breeze,
Changed to a pipkin sweet and rare
By the art of the faithful trees.

A wonderful barrel was this, had we
Its message but rightly heard,
Filled with the tales of wind and bee,
Of cricket and moth and bird,
Rife with the lilas of the fragrant June
When skies were soft and blue;
Thronged with the dreams of a harvest moon
O'er fields drenched deep with dew.

Oh, homely barrel, I'd fain essay
Your marvelous skill again;
Take me back to the past, I pray,
As willfully now as then—
Back to the tender morns and eves,
The noontides warm and still,
The fleecy clouds and the spangled leaves
Of the orchard over the hill.
—Edwin L. Sabin, in Lippincott's.

"First" Mortgages.
By reason of the insistence of many investors that their bonds be of "first" mortgage, it may be said that the importance of the word "first" is dependent upon the circumstances, says Moody's Magazine. A bond may be first in fact; it may be so only in a relative sense in that it indicates the order in which the bond was put out by the issuing company; or the use of the term "first" in the name of the bond, undesirable and loose though it be in such instances, may be upon the slight ground that the mortgage is indeed first on some part of the property, while on other parts it may have but a third or fourth claim. It is therefore obvious that the mere presence of this term in a title does not necessarily make the bond an absolutely prior lien. It has been estimated that 95 per cent in number and 95 per cent in value of steam railroad "firsts" are first liens in name only.

Composition of Vegetables.



are smaller than those of old hens; those of ducks somewhat larger than hens' eggs, while those of turkeys and geese are considerably larger. Guinea eggs, on an average, measure 1 1/2 x 1 1/2 inches, are rather pointed at one end, and weigh about 1.4 ounces each, or 17 ounces to the dozen. Goose eggs weigh about 5.5 to 6.7 ounces each, or about 5 pounds to the dozen—that is, more than three times as much as hens' eggs. The eggs of wild birds are said to be smaller than those of the same species when domesticated. Wild ducks' eggs are said to be, on an average, 1.97 to 2.17 inches in diameter; domestic ducks' eggs, 2.36 to 2.56 inches.



Reports come from Ontario that the perennial sow thistle has gained a firm foothold, making it the greatest weed enemy with which the farmer has to contend. It has been spread from one farm to another by the threshing machines, the numerous seeds being easily carried. One method being advocated for its eradication is to sow winter rye in September and pasture it the following spring. This can be followed in June by rye, turnips or buckwheat. In this way crops are secured and the sow thistle fought at the same time.

Woman in Chicken Yard.
September is a good month to look about for stock, and if one has not already settled upon a particular variety, a hint in that direction may be of some use. Unless a woman can afford to keep plenty of help she should not keep over fifty fowls. I feel that I am writing for the woman who takes care of her chickens herself, and to her would say that if she has the room it is a good plan to keep a small flock of two varieties—one for broilers or fricassees and one for laying eggs, and when it comes to the genuine business, then give me the Black Minorcas. The eggs are large and pure white. The hens are almost perpetual layers and do not make good mothers. The eggs will command the highest fancy prices, and if your stock is pure you can sell the eggs for sittings at prices according to the stock you keep.

The Plymouth Rocks or the Wyandottes are suitable breeds for broilers or for home use. I think there is more money in the selling of eggs to private customers, or even in the markets, than in broilers. There is less work and less worry. The latter fowl is a good layer if she does not get too fat, but when this occurs make a pot-pie of her.

Hints on Hog Raising.
Salt buried a few inches in the ground in certain spots will attract the hogs and confine them pretty closely to such places.
It is natural for a hog to root, but if you want to prevent him from doing so a simple ring in the snout will answer the purpose.
It is a great mistake to mark a hog by mutilating his ears. Better use a metal tag.
Successful hog raisers will always have clover or alfalfa pastures for their animals.
Every hog pasture ought to have an open shed on a high point of ground for shelter from the hot sun. Leave all sides open so the air can pass over them.
Keep the pigs growing from the day they are born until they go to the slaughtering pen.
The man who imagines that he can produce fat and lean bacon in streaks by feeding one week and starving the next will be disappointed.
Keep the Road Drag Going.
Bad roads are an extravagance that no farming community can afford. Just what they cost in unnecessary expenses it takes but a moment to determine.
A team and driver are reasonably worth \$3 a day, and by the use of these it is possible to deliver to market from your home 100 bushels of corn. Hauling over good roads, the cost of delivery is 3 cents per bushel. But if, in consequence of bad roads, but fifty bushels can be delivered, the cost is doubled and the difference is what the impassible roads cost you. Continue this calculation, applying it to the hauling of all your crops, and it quickly becomes apparent that it amounts to a very burdensome tax.
Good roads help in every way; they promote sociability by making friends and relatives accessible, and by means of them it is easier to reach the schools and churches and to generally do and enjoy the things which make life really worth living.

Fowls and Eggs.
Farmers' Bulletin No. 128, United States Department of Agriculture, says: "The eggs of different kinds of domestic poultry vary in size as well as appearance, and there is also a considerable range in the size of eggs of different breeds. Thus, hens' eggs range from the small ones laid by bantams to the large ones laid by such breeds as light Brahmas. On an average a hen's egg is 2.27 inches in length, and 1.73 inches in diameter or width at the broadest point, and weighs about 2 ounces, or eight eggs to the pound (1 1/2 pounds per dozen). Generally speaking, the eggs of guillets



THE LAY OF THE LISTENER.

"Money talks," the sages say;
But when I hear the dulcet tone
It always seems so far away
I have to use the telephone;
And as I wait its voice to hear,
And care brings furrows to my brow,
Fate answers in a tone sovereign,
"Ring off; the line is busy now!"
—Washington Star.

A MUCH-MARRIED MAN.
She—That's Mr. Osborn over there. He married a million.
He—You don't say. Well that beats Solomon to a frazzle.—Boston Transcript.

OUR CARELESS SPEECH.
Wife—The Hiltons invited us to dine with them over the telephone.
Hub—I never dined over the telephone before. What do we eat—currents.—Boston Transcript.

A GOOD BELLE TO RING.
Jack—Why do you call Miss Protzyne a silent belle?
Tom—I kissed her the other night and she never tolled.—Boston Transcript.

THE LAUGH IS ON MA.
"Willie, I'm surprised to hear you say 'udder for 'other.'
"When did I say that, ma?"
"Just now. I heard you through the window. You said, 'No, I prefer the udder kind.'
"Well, ain't that all right? Tommy asked me if I liked condensed milk."
—Boston Transcript.

KNEW ONE WHO DID.
Cynicus—It is impossible for a woman to keep a secret.
Henpecke—I don't know about that; my wife and I were engaged for several weeks before she said anything to me about it.—Philadelphia Record.

HE DESERVED HER.
Her Father—When you marry my daughter you marry a big-hearted, noble girl.
Her Suitor (a wise guy)—I know that, sir, and I'm sure she inherits those qualities from you.—New York Observer.

JUSTIFIABLE INDIGNATION.
Old Rooster—What do you think you are going to hatch out of that doorknob and that piece of brick?
Old Hen (forcefully)—I'll hatch a sky scraper if I want to. You go and attend to your own affairs. I'm running this branch of the business.—Chicago News.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
Mr. Popp—Hurray! For once in my life I know where my cuff links are.
Mrs. Popp—Where are they now?
Mr. Popp—The baby's swallowed 'em!—Cleveland Leader.

AN APPROACH SHOT.
The Golfer (to the clemency man he has just beaten at golf)—Never mind, old chap; you will get even with me when you read my burial service.
The Clergman—That will still be your hole, sir.—The Sketch.

NOT RISKING A QUARREL.
Helena—Tell me truly, Arthur, is it your love or your reason prompts you to marry me?
Arthur—Just as you like, dearest.—Meggendorfer Blatter.

PICKING THE FUNNY BONE.
The Briton—As the old proverb says, 'I know, He laughs best who laughs last.
The Yankee—If that's so, what good laughs you English must be!—Cleveland Leader.

MUTUAL FORBEARANCE.
"You and your wife get along nicely."
"Fairly well. We had an understanding from the start. I wasn't to expect a dollar to buy more than a dollar's worth of goods; and she wasn't to tell me about the fine men she might have married."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

RUBBING CELEBRITIES.
"That young man looks very fit in telford."
"Yes; he's a member of our magazine staff."
"What are his duties?"
"He hitches well-known anecdotes to unknown celebrities."

CLIMBING BIRD.
Herr Schuler—I am trying to make your parrot talk, but he won't. Newly knighted parvenu—Ah, he won't talk to ordinary people now.—Meggendorfer Blatter.

IMPOSSIBLE.
"Porter, this berth has been slept in."
"No, sah; I assure you, sah. Merely occupied. It's the one over the wheels, sah."—Puck.

THE CENTRE OF THE STAGE.
Old Sol—Jealous?
The Man in the Moon—Yes; folks only pay attention to the man in the Half Moon.—New York Times.

HIS STATE OF MIND.
Knicker—My wife always thinks there are burglars in the house.
Bocker—John Bull thinks they are on the roof.—New York Times.

HIS PREFERENCE.
Knicker—Wouldn't you like to wake up to find yourself famous?
Newspop—No; I'd rather have the baby go to sleep to find itself obscure.—New York Times.

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