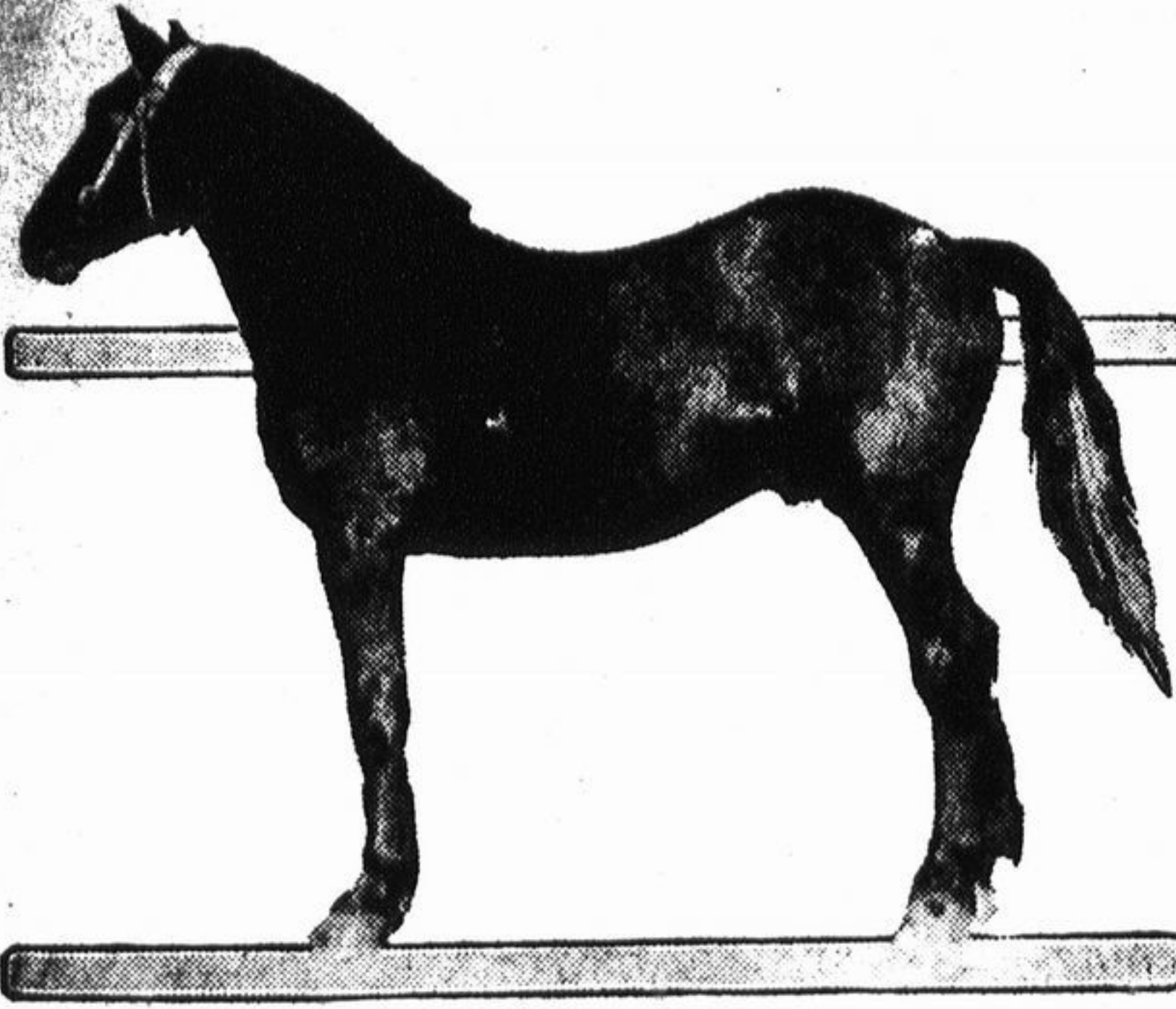


INCREASING DEMAND FOR HEAVY HORSES



Two-Year-Old Percheron Stallion.

The breeding of heavy draft horses is one of the most profitable branches of live stock farming. Few farmers realize the importance of size in a draft horse when put on the market, either in public or private sale. A horse that weighs less than 1,500 pounds is not considered a draft horse in any of the horse markets of the country, yet the mares kept on the ordinary farms are usually lighter than that. This accounts for the small, scrubby lot of horses that are constantly being put on the market at a loss to the breeder.

This was well illustrated at a sale of grade horses recently held in the Lamer sale barns at Salina, says the Kansas Industrialist. Here the horses of good size were readily bought at good prices, while some of the lighter ones could scarcely be sold at any price. There is an increasing demand for heavy draft horses in the cities in spite of the fact that many firms are using the motor truck in their delivery work. The motor truck can be used profitably only on long, heavy hauls where the roads are good and speed is essential. The motor requires good roads for its best operation and can be used to advantage only in the paved streets of the city or on good country roads. These remarks were made recently by the manager of a large express company at Chicago. The delivery manager of a big packing company at Kansas City, says that the motor truck cannot be used on short delivery on account of the heavy

expense of operation. The motor truck has its place on the farm. It can be used for plowing and heavy hauling, but can never replace the draft horse. If the draft horse is a permanent part of agriculture, more attention should be given to its production.

There is an increasing demand for heavier horses on the farms. Deeper and better tillage must be practiced in the future, and this requires heavier machinery and more motive power. There are two ways of increasing this power. One is by increasing the number of light horses. But the most economical way is to increase the weight of the horses. This will reduce the farm labor force; will decrease the amount of equipment necessary in requiring less stable room and less harness, and the cost of feed will be lessened.

All farmers and breeders who are breeding horses for commercial purposes should replace their small mares with heavier ones. This must be done gradually by adding a few good draft mares to the herd every year and selling the poorer ones. Sometimes good colts may be reared from inferior mares by mating them to a good stallion, but better ones always will be the result of the mating of better mares to the same stallion. There are plenty of good stallions throughout the state, but the mares are lacking, and until the farmers come to realize the value of the right kind of mares the profit in breeding will be low.

POTATOES GROWN IN STRAW STACKS

Unless Ground is Reasonably Fertile One Should Not Expect Satisfactory Results.

Years and years ago potatoes were grown in old straw stacks, and this suggested hauling out straw to cover the ground no matter where the potatoes were planted. I have heard a great many praise this plan, while others give it as a flat failure. I have tried it with success, and in some cases have failed, but in that failure learned the cause thereof.

One cannot control the season, and for this reason, early potatoes in straw have been an indifferent success, while those planted later are almost always better than when given cultivation and the straw not used. If we have a cold, wet spring, potatoes planted in a deep furrow under straw, are not likely to do well, while if they are planted a little later, when the sun is warm, they will not lack for moisture, and the potato must have sufficient moisture.

I prepare the ground and lay off rows with a single shovel just as if I were going to plant in the regular way except that the rows may be some closer together. The potatoes are then dropped in the row, and barely covered, so that in some cases one side of the piece shows. It is often as well not to cover with dirt at all, but it is safer in case of dry weather to cover a little.

Then, with a wigan haul out out of straw and cover the ground evenly to a depth of six inches or a foot. Many fear, for the potatoes, they will come through the straw, and so will nettle which are akin to the potato vine in this respect, but other weeds will be smothered, and the patch will be perfectly clean except for the rows of green potato vines. It will not be necessary to cultivate with either plow or hoe, and if a few bull nettle should be found they may be cut off with a blade. The potatoes will form right at the top of the ground, and in the lower layer of straw. There will be some elements of fertility in the rotting straw, but unless the ground is reasonably fertile one should not expect any better results from this plan than by cultivating.

At digging time begin on one side, haul the straw over and pick up the potatoes, then take the next row forking the straw from it over on the row that has just been dug or rather plowed. The potatoes will be white and clean, and you will get all of them, whereas by the old method of cultivation and digging under the weeds so high your head you get maybe not more than half.

SOME PLANTS ARE BIG LABOR SAVERS

Require No Greenhouse, Hotbed or Window Garden—They Are Hardy.

(By JOSEPHINE DE MARR.)

It is not too late in the season to urge busy housemothers who love flowers, but who have little time to give them, to grow herbaceous plants.

These plants are labor-savers; for, once established in good, deep soil, they require little care or attention; they bloom profusely, and if a good selection is made, abundant blooms may be had from early in spring when the moss-pink (phlox subulata) covers itself with flowers, to late fall, when the hardy chrysanthemums withstand the early frosts.

These plants require no greenhouse, hotbed, or window garden, for they are really hardy. However, it is well to protect the young plants their first winter.

Herbaceous plants are propagated in several ways—by seeds, division, cuttings of tops or roots. Cutting of the roots, although not usually practiced, is easy and successful, and should be better understood.

If you will carefully dig up a plant, say, a one-year-old golden glow, you will find on the main roots little shoots close together. These are future plants. All one has to do is to cut the root in small pieces, being sure to allow one shoot or eye to the piece, and plant them in the ground.

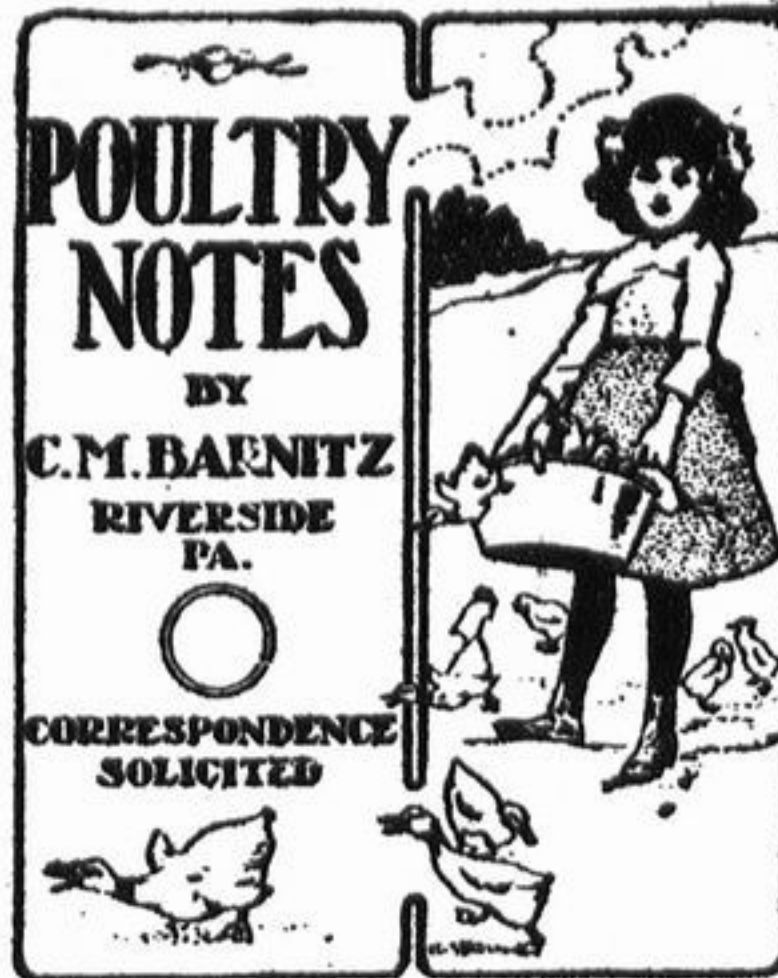
If one has too many plants, it is easy to exchange with one's neighbor, and thus acquire a new plant.

White Geranium.

A good white geranium is a jewel which, when found, should be kept. Select one or two zonales for ornamental foliage, and keep them bright by giving the plant as much sunshine as possible, and a dose of ammonia once a week—a teaspoonful in a quart of water.

Intolerable Nuisance.

Moles in a garden prove an intolerable nuisance. While they may be trapped, the only sure way is to lay out a line of carbon into their runs.



These articles and illustrations must not be reprinted without special permission.

WANTED—WATER, MUCH WATER.

Without emphasizing the cruelty of such neglect he who fails to provide sufficient water for his fowls is certainly unkind of his own interests.

Much of a fowl's food is of such a nature that it must be soaked to render it digestible. It is hard, like corn and wheat, or has much husk, like oats, buckwheat and barley. The crop is the receptacle where this food lies until water soaks it fit to grind in the gizzard, and if not softened the grinder is clogged and the crop packs and sours.

Over 65 per cent of an egg is water, and hens have laid 248 eggs per year and at twenty-six ounces per dozen what an amount of water is required



Photo by C. M. Barnitz

BARREL AND WATER TROUGH.

to make eggs alone, and if the water is filthy what a large proportion of the egg is affected.

But the hen's body contains much water and much is required for the different organs to perform their functions properly, and, of course, if the hen is forced to drink filthy water her flesh and health are affected thereby.

Water also contains certain minerals that are necessary to her health, and every poultry finisher will tell you that water has an important part in fattening fowls, and any practical duck raiser will tell you that ducks eat and drink alternately and must have much

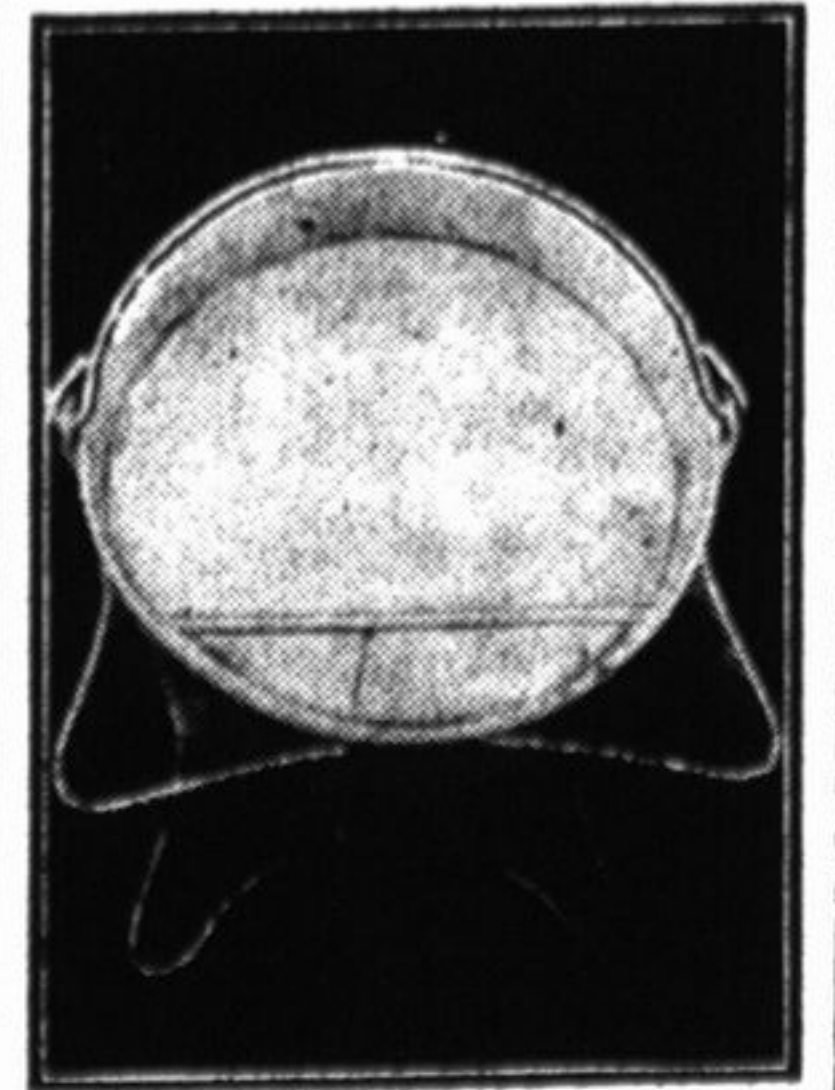


Photo by C. M. Barnitz

THE WATER BUCKET VESSEL.

water for drink and of sufficient depth to dip their heads over the eyes. Hens are sure on the water wagon.

They can't pass the water vessel without taking a drink, and when the water is withheld for a time they drink to excess and intestinal troubles result.

Fresh, clean water should be before old and young stock at all times and in such vessels they cannot waste it.

Note the barrel. Set in the shade, kept fresh and trickling into trough, such an arrangement is fine.

The bucket style vessel is good also. Water vessels should be scalded often to keep them free from slime, mold and microbes.

DON'TS.

Don't leave a good job and jump into the poultry business with the idea that poultrymen have nothing to do but cut coupons. That's a hot air castle that crumbles quick when a dreamer butts into the bit.

Don't let eggs accumulate in the nest. They are bound to break and the egg eating starts.

Don't have more roosts and nests than necessary. They take up room and make hiding places for mites and lice.

Don't be cocksure that you will clean up the show. Whether you win or lose, be a true sport.

Don't forget that an eggshell is porous. An egg can't be healthful food if its surroundings are not good.

THE OLD SPRINGHOUSE.

How well I remember the old springhouse. Down 'neath the weeping willow tree, Where the sparkling spring bubbled out of the rock And flowed so merrily!

Ah me, I can see it sparkle now As it danced through the ferns and the rocks And rippled through the mossy trough Among the big milk crocks!

There the trout played hide and seek with me As they swam quickly in and out, And the red squirrels chattered from the tree As I drank from the wooden spout.

And the milk was sweeter than new wine, And the cream was so rich and cold, And the butter patted by Mary's hand Was yellower than gold.

But the white roses bloom on my Mary's grave, And the willow has turned to mold, And the old springhouse in ruin lies, But the big spring is as of old.

And as I sit by its purling stream It sings the song to me Of the old springhouse and the happy hours Beneath the willow tree

C. M. BARNITZ.

KNOW YOUR LIMIT. STOP THERE.

The incubator has put hatching so much under the control of the poultryman that there is always a tempter whispering, "Just get out one more hatch," and as a result many overdo it and bite off more chicklet than they can chew. After a few attacks of jinxams a human discovers he has a stomach and not the digestive capacity of a razorback hog, and an over-indulgence in chick incubation has dire results also.

It not only means sick ground, but that means sick chicks. It means crowding.

It means packed sleeping quarters, and that means bad air, colds from overhead and difficulty in keeping quarters clean.

It means lack of room for growth, for chicks grow at night as well as in the daytime, and this crowding means crooked backs, crooked breastbones, wry tails, stunted stock.

With natural hatched chicks it also means difficulty in keeping lice under control. We have seen fanciers get out a fine lot of early chicks and have them growing toward a fine maturity when an overdose of later chicks has crowded the life out of them, only in the end to turn out a failure themselves.

We have seen fanciers run their hatches into July and have chicks swarming everywhere, and we have seen others, with an equal hatching and housing capacity, quit incubation May 1 with half the number of chicks, and in the fall No. 2 had more and better chicks. Overproduction here is waste and means failure; so, friend, know your capacity; quit at your limit.

FEATHERS AND EGGSHELLS.

It is claimed much of the false hair worn by milady comes from China, India, Turkey and other plague stricken districts and that millions of pounds of feathers imported to this country come from such sources. Really our ladies ought to be sufficiently patriotic and hygienic to grow their own hair, and our housewives should be patriotic, economical and health loving enough to produce and save feathers for the use of their own households.

It is always wise to strain two or three hundred points before you shoot the neighbor's cat for killing chicks. If you are a bachelor and your neighbor is an old maid call in Cupid to conduct the negotiations and all will end well and you'll both be happy ever after.

If your henhouse is very hot in summer rig up an outside roosting shelter. Instead of sweltering and losing their sleep your hens will be bright and snappy in the morning and their healthfulness and increased returns will well repay you for your trouble.

Contagious diseases among poultry are often caused and spread widely among the flock through neglect to remove droppings promptly. This is why tuberculosis goes from fowl to fowl so quickly. The bacilli swarm in the victim's excrement.

If the farmer would eliminate old fowls systematically and thus keep his flock at an age to lay a paying quantity of eggs he must have a method of marking his chickens. Leg bands are too expensive and too inconvenient to fit, as they must be changed as the fowl's shank enlarges. The only way is to use a foot punch on the chicks and keep a record.

A Jerseyman who purchased 180 ducklings refused to pay for them because eighty-five died. When he told on the stand that he learned to feed ducks by mail and his correspondence school had told him to feed an abundance of salt, sand and grit mixed with meal, judgment was at once given against him for the full amount.

We have seen many a poultry advertisement that didn't pay because it was illustrated by a very badly posed photograph. We take hundreds of poultry photographs and know what patience and what handling and what a quick eye it takes to get them just right. Don't use a poor picture in any ad. Get a skilled photographer to do such work and pay him well, and it will pay you.

It is seldom that you hear of thieves stealing ducks. There is always some old quack awake ready to start the whole bunch to quack, quack, quack. They get this from their ancestors, the wild mallards. The wild mallards, whether on water or land, sleep with the head under the wings, but always appoint one or more of their number to watch.

C. M. Barnitz.

Accommodation

means much in the selection of a bank. THIS bank extends every possible courtesy, in line with good sound Banking. You are invited to use its service.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

OF DOWNERS GROVE
Hours—From 8 A. M. to 3 P. M.
Saturday evenings from 6 to 8 o'clock.

Mertz & Mochel

HARDWARE
HARD and SOFT
COAL
GRAIN and HAY
RED COMB POULTRY FEED
Also
Washburne-Crosby Co's.
GOLD MEDAL FLOUR

36 South Main Street
TELEPHONE 29

Ice Cream Come and Enjoy a delicious Dish of Ice Cream

Soft Drinks, Soda Pop, Ginger Ale and Root Beer—Orders taken for Ice Cream to be delivered for Special Occasions, Picnics, Parties.

Mrs. Emma Gress 109 So. Main Street Telephone 36-J

Your Shelf or Ours

It doesn't make any difference, if the goods come out of our store. We guarantee them. That's the reason it pays to trade with us. Reliable groceries bought right here at home are bought right if they come from us.



...Special Bargains...

Men's Kakai Pants, in all weights,\$1.25
Men's Elk Skin Shoes, splendid values, per pair, \$2 and...\$2.50
Ladies' and Gents' White Canvas Hats, each,25c

B. E. KEHLER

GENERAL DRY GOODS and GROCERIES
Telephone 175 55 So. Main Street

PAINTS, OILS, VARNISHES, WALL PAPER

We have opened a store for the sale of Paints, Wall Paper, Varnishes and Oils. We aim to keep a complete line of goods for interior and exterior decorating. Let us give you the benefit of our years of experience in the business

F. C. MOBERG & SON
PAINTERS AND DECORATORS
55 SOUTH MAIN STREET