

BACK YARD FARMER

Interesting Pointers on Gardening for the City Man or Suburbanite.

WHAT TO PLANT AND WHEN

Advice by an Expert on Agricultural Matters—A Back Yard Orchard—Tools for the Garden—Cold Frame for Fall.

By PROF. JOHN WILLARD BOLTE.

Why not have an orchard of your own? Why spend your leisure moments for the next few weeks, day-dreaming of pink and white blooms, and sun-kissed peaches, too ripe and luscious to ship, and just good enough for city visitors to eat and eat until their teeth are on edge.

Let us see what we can do by way of an orchard in that back lot of yours. There is hardly a back yard in this whole town that would not grow fruit of some kind if handled in the right way. The main thing is to have the desire to grow it and then to find out that highly essential thing, the right way.

Of course, what you grow is a matter of choice, as there are several kinds of fruit for every set of conditions.

If your space is very small, but is well exposed to the sun, you can certainly grow currants and most of the bush berries nicely. Besides beautifying your back yard, they will yield you a crop every year, and will furnish you with an abundance of fresh fruit and delicious jellies and preserves. One nice thing about these low shrubs is that they require very little work, they are inexpensive to plant, and they grow well in practically any soil and climate. They can be transplanted successfully at almost any time of year, although the spring or fall are preferable. They come into bearing quickly and do not have off years as do many of the tree fruits.

If you have a rather rich, yet light soil which warms up quickly in the spring, a strawberry patch will give you more keen pleasure and profit than any other patch of ground on the whole place. It should have the warmest and driest, sunny spot in the yard. April is the best month to set out a strawberry bed in the north, and care should be taken to secure plants from some bed that was set out the previous spring. This bed will not have begun to bear yet, and the plants will be strong and insure you of healthy, productive plants for your new bed.

It is an excellent scheme to have at least one row of grapes. They can well be planted along the west or south side of a fence or house, and may be trained to cover the entire fence. When this is not possible, set up a row of fence posts, string three smooth wires between them, and tie the young grape vines to the wires in order to keep them off the ground. Besides their edible virtues, grape vines possess the highest decorative qualities, and should be planted more generally, if for this reason only. The Concord is one of the best varieties for Northern states, and if part of them fall to ripen before frost, they can be made into excellent pickles, preserves or home made wine.

In the tree fruits, nothing is more popular than the sour red cherry. It is hardy, prolific, subject to few pests and it makes the best pies in America. All one has to do is to plant the young tree and let nature take her course. You will find the fruit a great treat.

Peaches, plums and apples can all be grown successfully, and the last two are almost independent of climatic conditions, but peaches are not so universally successful in the north. Pears do excellently under proper treatment, and magnificent pears can be grown by following the English fashion of training a pear tree flat against the south side of a brick wall, where it receives the reflected as well as the direct heat of the sun's rays.

"Garden Tools."

Kipling says that a soldier is no better than his feet, and it is equally true that a gardener is no better than his tools. Much muscle, time and perspiration is being wasted at this very moment because of the use of improper tools, or the misuse of the proper ones for the purpose. Most of this waste of time is due to lack of information about tools on the part of the user, and the misinformed purchaser can secure little intelligent information from the average hardware clerk, as most of them seem to have been recently promoted from the ribbon department or the soda fountain.

It is much easier to do garden work with sharp tools. Every stroke is clean and true and it goes where it is sent with half the effort a dull tool requires.

The American factory mechanic is reputed to spend three times as much of his time sharpening his tools as do the European workmen, but he produces nearly twice as much finished product thereby. The same principle applies to the use of garden tools. Keep them sharp and in good working order.

A flat, fine file is mighty handy to have about. With it you can sharpen your hoe, spade, trowel, cultivator, fork, grass shears and lawn mower. The file will make an ideal cutting edge on these tools and this edge should have a perfectly flat bevel, at

an angle of about 45 degrees. Hold the tool firmly and use a little machine oil to help the file on the steel. Of course, edged tools, like the sickle, scythe, and pruning shears, have to be ground on a grindstone or emery stone, and then resharpened from time to time with a whetstone. The bevel of the edge must be as acute as possible on this class of tools.

The best tool for spading up soil is not the spade, but the spading fork. It penetrates the soil much easier and pulverizes it more in turning over. If the spade is preferred, it should have as flat a blade as possible, to prevent clogging.

The hoe is the most useful tool in the small garden and it should have a large and heavy blade. The additional width will do more work with the same number of strokes and the heavy head does more effective work because of its added momentum.

A rake is of rather small importance after the seed is once planted, but it is an excellent and practically indispensable implement for leveling and pulverizing the seed bed. Use a cast iron rake of the narrow type. The wide ones are too hard to handle.

For the larger garden, a hand cultivator or wheel hoe is fine and a great time and muscle saver. With it the entire garden can be hoed easily in the same length of time one takes to hoe a tenth of it by hand. We prefer the single, high wheeled type, which runs between the rows, as it will work close enough and pushes easier. Work it with the cultivator teeth early in the season to loosen the soil and force the roots to grow deeply, changing to the weed cutting, horizontal blades later on. It is a real pleasure to cultivate the garden with one of these machines and they cost only a couple of dollars.

A Cold Frame for Fall.

It is really remarkable what results can be had in the garden long after the frost comes, by the use of a properly built cold frame. The most satisfactory frame we have used is made in sections, three by six feet—the number of sections to be used depending on how much space you want to devote to late plants. The cold frame is nothing more than four boards nailed together to make the sides, and it should slope slightly toward the south. This is then covered with sash, made of light wood, covered with cloth. Water proof material may be gotten for this latter from most of the large seed stores, and is preferable on account of its durability.

Success with cold frames in the fall depends on getting your plant well started before the frosts come. A good plan is to build your frame work, and a good size would be six by twelve feet. This would require four cloth frames to cover it, and the total expense should not exceed five dollars for materials. Inside this inclosure can be planted any late summer vegetables that you want to raise. If the sun is particularly hot, put the cover frames on during the middle of the day, but otherwise just give the plants the same attention you would if planted in the spring.

When danger of frost is at hand, put the cover frames on every night, taking them off in the morning, but when the weather gets still colder, leave these cover frames on all the time. You will be surprised at the excellent crop of late vegetables you will have when all your neighbors' gardens are desolate.

If you want to have vegetables all through the winter, you must replace the cloth frames with glass about November 1, and by this means some of the hardier plants, like radishes, beets, string beans and onions, can be had practically all winter, though it will probably be well for winter use to bank your frame all around with fresh horse manure, which would turn your cold frame into a hot frame.

Among the flowers, violets, pansies, English daisies and primroses all will grow well during the winter in a cold frame covered with glass.

Good Horse Sense.

If old corn fodder is used for bedding the shredded article is better than the stalks; it is more comfortable for the horse and is worked more easily through the manure spreader.

A pregnant mare should always be kept in a box stall. It is afraid to lie down in the ordinary stall for fear of not being able to rise again and this constant standing up is very harmful. In mild weather mares must be kept in the open sheds outside, both day and night. Each mare should have a special place where it is tied to receive its grain feed. If fed from an ordinary trough, the more vicious mares may kick the others and gobble most of the feed. Roughage may safely be fed from racks in the yard.

Killing Fowls.

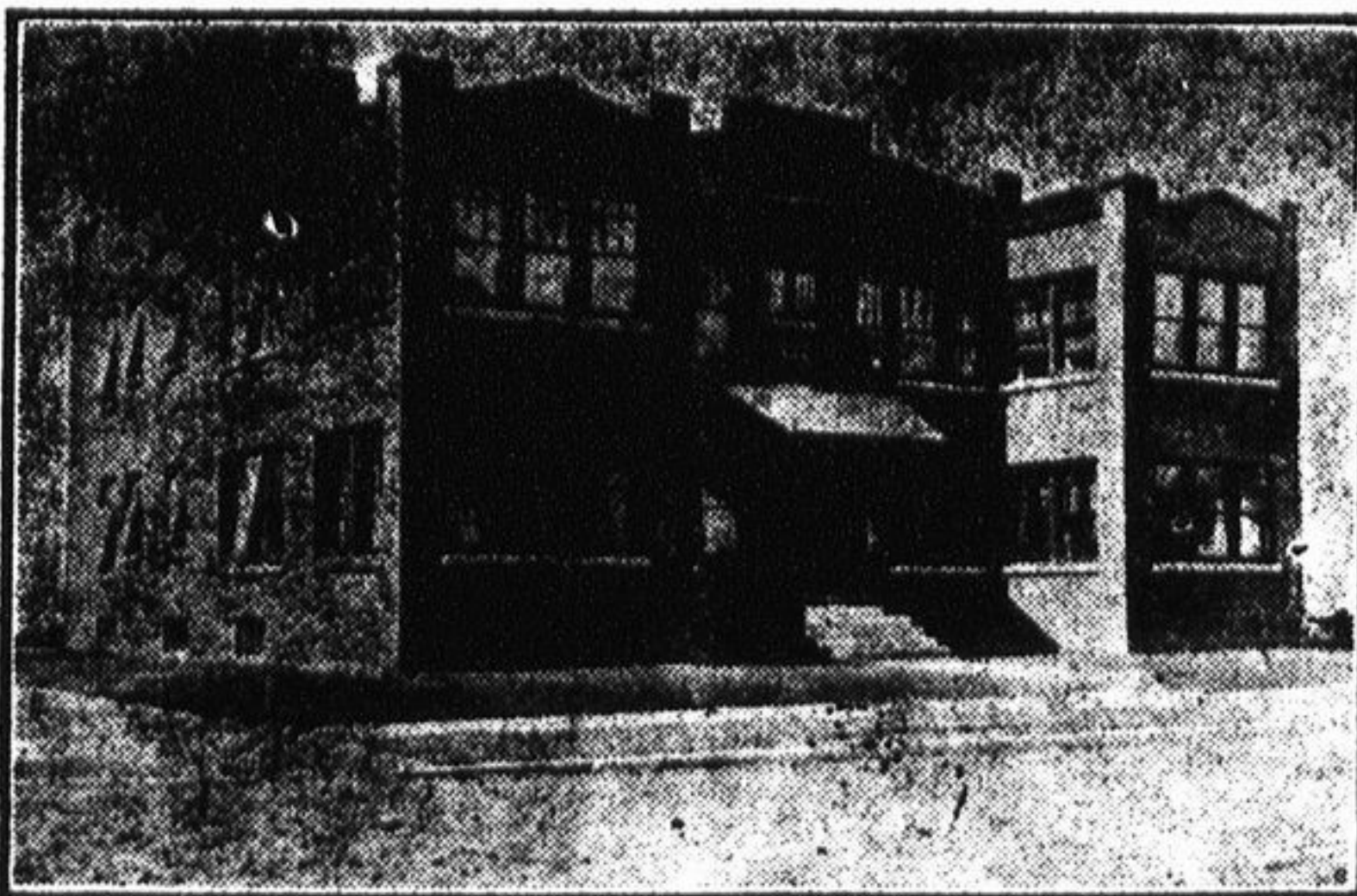
The French poultterer kills his fowls by dislocating the neck with a swift back chuck given close to the head. At once the dressing begins so that it may be completed before the body cools. The legs and wings are tucked close to the body which is placed breast downward against a board. A moist cloth is spread on the back which imparts a fine grain appearance to the flesh. A weight is applied to secure the required market fitness and when thoroughly cold the birds removed, packed carefully and closely in crates or cases according to their destination.

Care of the Breeding Herd.

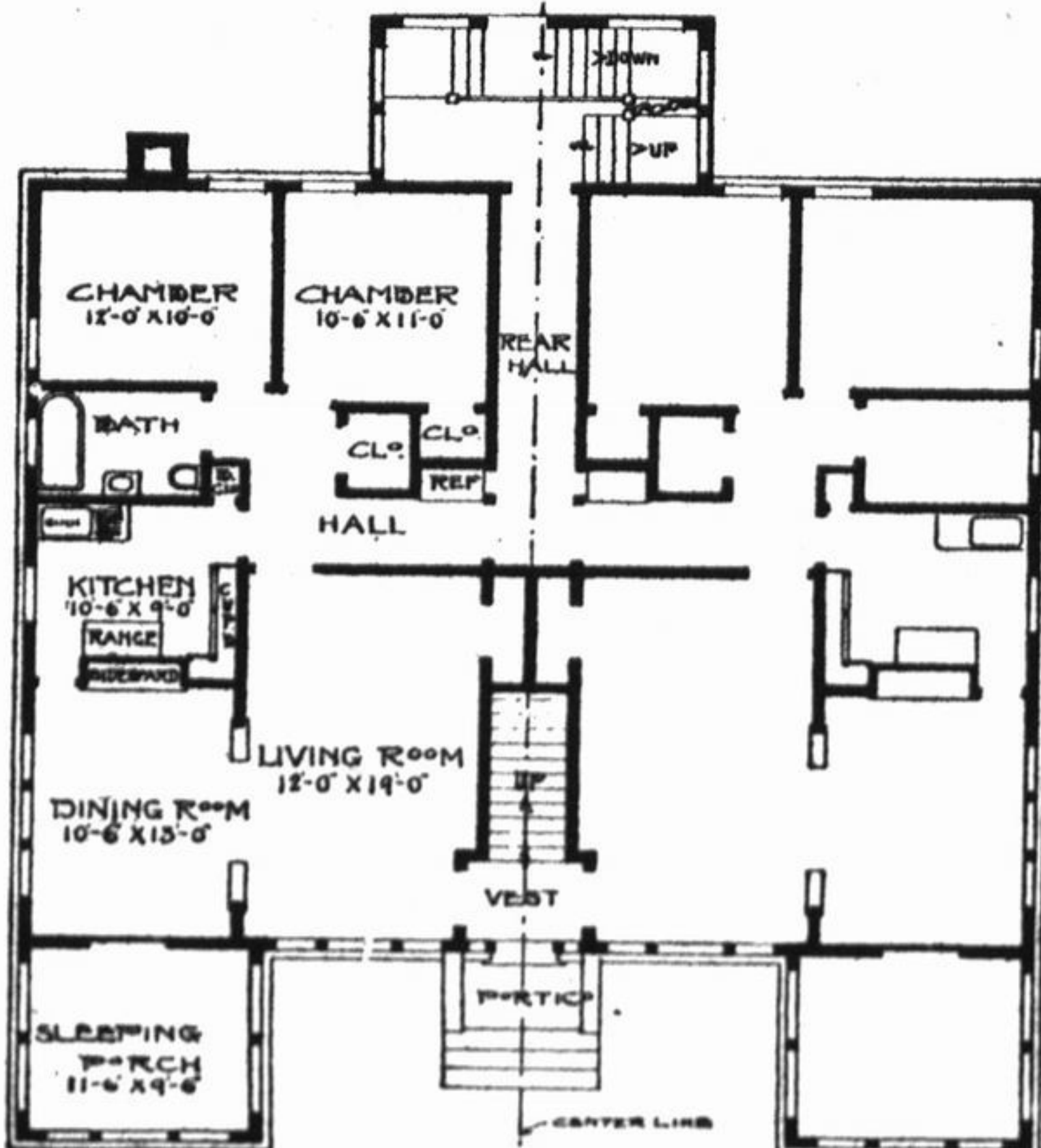
By getting the breeding herd well conditioned when every kind of farm grown food is available, it is possible to get them through the winter in good breeding and growing condition.

HOMES FOR FOUR FAMILIES.

Design 750, by Glenn L. Saxton, Architect, Minneapolis, Minn.



PERSPECTIVE VIEW—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.



FLOOR PLAN.

The arrangement of the plans for this four family bungalow is very complete. Each flat has a private sleeping porch and sun room combined. There is a full basement. First and second story, each 9 feet in the clear. Size of building, 52 feet wide and 40 feet deep over the main part. Birch or red oak finish. Maple floors throughout. Cost to build, exclusive of heating and plumbing, \$8,300.

Upon receipt of \$1 the publisher of this paper will supply a copy of Saxton's book of plans, "American Dwellings." It contains 254 up to date designs of cottages, bungalows and residences costing from \$1,000 to \$4,000.

The KITCHEN GUPBOARD

CRYSTALLIZED FLOWERS.

ANY flowers which are not poisonous and which taste good may be crystallized. These crystallized flowers make dainty accessories to a summer luncheon. Roses and violets have the most agreeable flavors. The scent of the sweet smelling flowers seems to become crystallized into taste.

Preparing the Fluid. The flowers must be fresh and quickly dried. A good way is to spread them on trays in a warm room or place them upon a shelf where the sun may dry them. They must not become limp or they will not crystallize.

While the flowers are drying the materials for crystallizing them should be prepared. For this dissolve one-half teaspoonful of isinglass in a teaspoonful of hot water; boil one-quarter of a pound of lump sugar in a half pint of water until it forms a thread from a cold spoon. Allow both solutions to become cool, but not thick.

Dipping the Flowers. Take some powdered sugar. If an entire spray of flowers, as a spray of roses, are to be crystallized the liquid should be poured into convenient sized dishes, and these should be nearly filled.

The flowers should be dipped into the isinglass water one by one, and then held head downward for a short time so it may run off them again. They should then be dipped into the spun sugar and drained thoroughly. With a sugar sifter the whole of the stalk and petals is then covered with the powdered sugar.

Treating the Petals. The petals require very careful treatment. Grasp the flowers just below the head with the fingers of the left hand and with the right hand separate any of the petals which may have been caught together with the strap. For this you can use a pair of tweezers or a small camel's hair brush.

The flowers may now be laid on oiled or slightly buttered white paper to dry. For this part of the process a very even heat is necessary.

The flowers must not be put in the oven, near a hot fire or anywhere that there is likely to be steam. They take overnight to dry. If they are damp on the under side when the rest is dry they may be turned over and powdered again with sugar.

Anna Thompson

Practical Fashions

FOR A LITTLE MAID.



6175

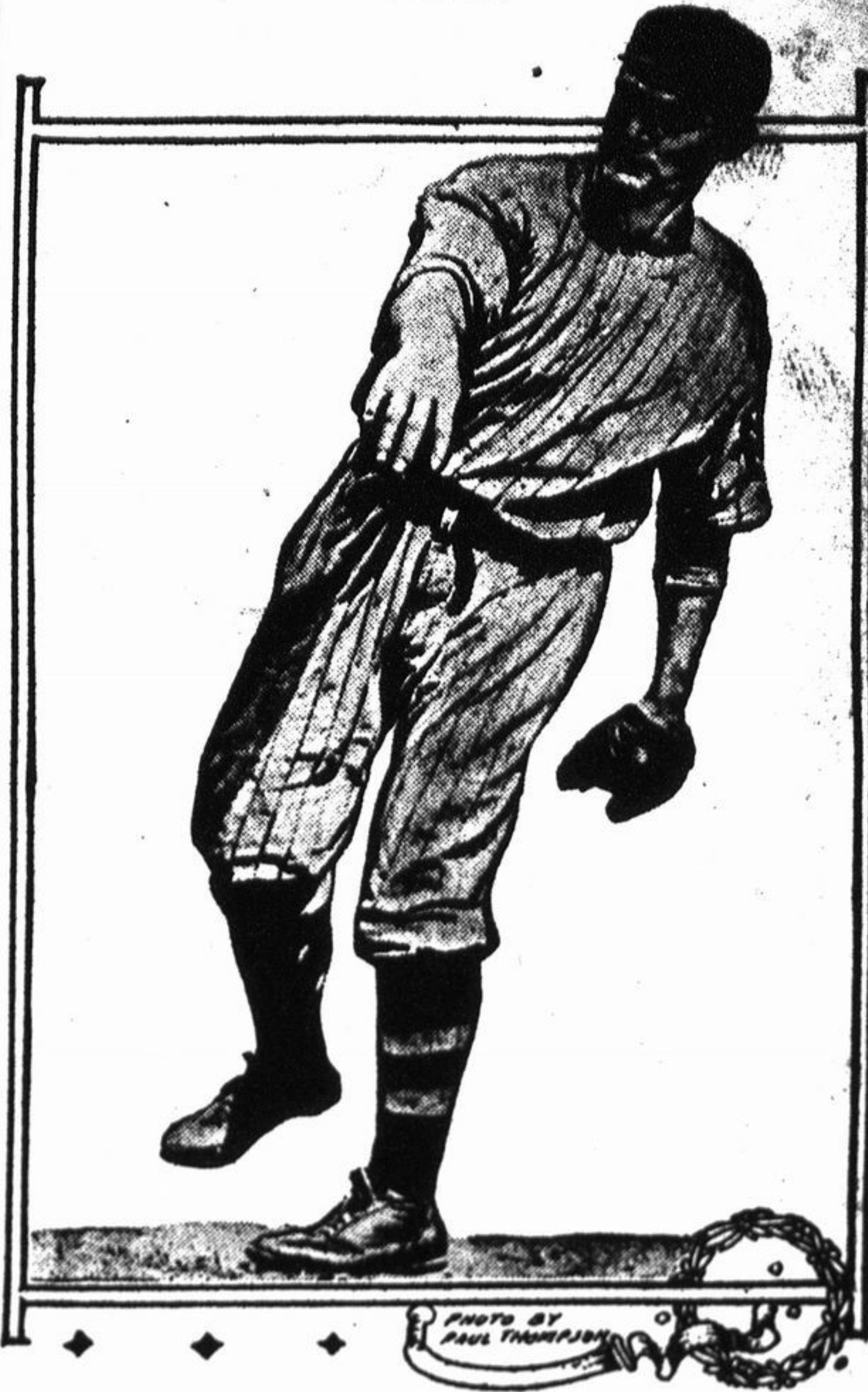
This dainty little frock will be just the thing for a warm weather garment for a little maid of six or less. It has a novel feature in a bodice which has sleeves and shoulder all in one without any dividing seam. Fullness is provided by clusters of tiny tucks, which outline the neck opening and run down only an inch or two. The lower edge of the very short bodice is gathered and finished with a belt to which the gathered skirt is also attached. The lower edge of the skirt is finished with a ruffle. White is, of course, the daintiest material for the dresses of little people, but it entails a great deal of laundering, and the pale tinted gingham, of soft finish, and the cotton crepe fabrics and the like will all be found very pretty and almost as dainty.

The frock pattern, (6175) is out in sizes 2, 4 and 6 years. Medium size requires 2 yards of 26 inch material with 4 1/2 yards of insertion and 4 1/2 yards of edging to trim as shown.

To procure this pattern send 10 cents to the Pattern Department of this paper. Write name and address plainly, and be sure to give size and number of pattern.

NO. 6175. _____
 NAME _____
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STARS WHO DEMONSTRATED SPIT BALL



"Jeff" Tesreau of New York Giants.

Scattering Notes of the Diamond

Walter Johnson beat every team in the league before he lost his eleventh game.

Billy Gilbert is a Giant again, but only nominally. McGraw has made him a scout.

Clark Griffith thinks Mullin will be the deciding factor for him in winning the pennant.

Shortstop Ireland turned back to the Phillies by Sacramento, has been sold to Rochester.

Manager Chance has put a damper on the Bermuda talk by saying the climate there is too damp.

According to Umpire Silk O'Loughlin, Red Russell of the White Sox is going to be a great pitcher.

Supreme Test. The supreme test of physical fortitude: To kiss a lady doctor.—Smart Set.

Harry Hooper, never considered a great hitter has been whaling the ball at a remarkable clip lately.

Toledo heads the American baseball association at the wrong end. The worms do not care for baseball.

Infielder Ona Dodd, who refused to go to San Francisco, has been satisfied with a berth in the class B league with Columbus.

Bob Harmon's two-hit game against the Giants was a great stunt, but it must be remembered that Hub Perdue did the same.

Williams went and broke Yale's long winning baseball streak. Williams' alumni bet have no dealings with the Yale men for a few days.

As recompense for dropping the whole series in Chicago the Yankees were paid for an attendance close to 75,000 for the four day stay.

Jack Herbert begins his third year as manager of the Pekin team of the Illinois-Missouri league, which is some record in a class D circuit.

Hugh McKinnon, who had a three-day fling as manager of the Lynchburg team of the alleged United States league, announces that he will go to Paris and put baseball in France on a real sure enough basis.

Intuition. Intuition has been defined as a quick method of arriving at a totally incorrect conclusion.—Puck.



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