

**STAIN FELL**



**S. COLLINS**

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**FARM NOTES**

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Rockford, Ia.

Correspondence Solicited.

If you want a good pumpkin pie the pumpkin needs to be boiled down.

A crop of corn seems to be always the best crop with which to follow a crop of flax.

The value of any sort of new bug may be determined by finding out what other sort of bug he wants for food.

The year 1901 shows up with a very short crop of apples the country over, only 23,000,000 barrels against 48,000,000 barrels a year ago.

Wanted.—Some new bug to kill off the box elder bug which has become an unmitigated nuisance wherever box elder trees are grown.

The corn crop of the state of Iowa foots up, according to the crop reporting officials, about 225,570,000 bushels—an immense lot of corn after all.

The grosbeak is the only bird which we have ever noted as eating potato bugs, and he will eat one for sauce while feasting on the early green peas.

If you want a handsome cherry tree, plant it on rich ground, but if you want cherries put it on the poorest ground you have. We have found this out by experience.

When the house cat takes up the business of catching chickens, the sooner she is killed the better, for you can never break her of the habit when once acquired.

The government can far better afford to appropriate money for irrigation of the fertile arid lands than to spend it pulling snags out of unnavigable streams.

California wines, like Chicago dressed beef, are winning their way in the markets of Europe, where alone it was not long since thought good wines could only be produced.

Onions are selling at 50 cents a peck all through a country where it is entirely possible to raise 300 bushels of them on one acre of land. There is a cog loose here somewhere.

Do not forget that if you want the cats to catch the rats around the barns, and granaries they must have a daily ration of raw milk. The rats and the milk make a balanced ration.

The new president, from his thorough knowledge of the conditions of the semiarid west, may reasonably be expected to cordially favor any move to reclaim these unproductive lands by a system of irrigation.

There is a recognized difference in the quality of the meat of a well bred and well fattened steer of the standard beef breeds and that of an equally well fattened scrub steer which the eaters of beef are willing to pay for.

Frost as a pulverizer of tough and refractory soils can do better work than any machine which man ever made. For this reason all such soils should be plowed in the fall of the year, and the earlier the better.

Persons who wish to stock lakes, ponds or streams with food fish should let the cary tribe alone, for we have never heard of or known a case where these fish have been introduced that they did not end in disappointment.

In a general way we have just two tests to apply to farm lands north and south. For the south, Will alfalfa grow? For the north, will clover grow? If not, such lands would have to be offered very cheap to get us to invest in them.

The draining removes any excess of moisture in a wet time from the land and conserves the moisture in the soil in a dry time. This seems like a paradoxical statement, yet it is nevertheless true, as any one may note on a field so drained.

The butchering of a pig in a Missouri community on a Sunday, because of the blundering manner in which the job was done and the great noise made by the pig, set in operation the provisions of a Sunday law and resulted in the pig killer's arrest.

In operating a stock ranch in Texas from fifteen to twenty-five acres of pasture are required for each head of stock. An acre of Wisconsin or Minnesota clover or the same amount of Iowa or Missouri blue grass will keep the same animal in better condition.

There is an authenticated record of a chestnut tree cut down in the state of Ohio in the year 1847 from which were made 11,000 fence rails, 17,000 shingles and 27 cords of wood. There ought to be pretty good collaterals back of a story of this size, especially as it was a chestnut tree.

We never knew any craze to subside more quietly and completely than the late Belgian hare craze. The enthusiasts who put \$250 into a pedigreed rufus brown Belgian buck hare a year

or so ago are keeping very quiet the way, was there ever any demand for hare meat at 25 cents a pound?

There seems to be a chance of saving a portion of the forests of California annually and are here to be supplied with fuel oil in wood.

The weather prophets are not heard from as to the sort of weather in store. Just pay attention to their predictions, for the one who knows anything about the weather ten days ahead. Just fix up everything snug and warm and get in shipshape for a hard winter. Then, if we should have a mild one, no harm done. North of latitude 42 it is safe to expect a snug winter as a general thing.

If we were a young man just starting in the stock business, either of beef production, we would have \$100 invested in one thoroughbred cow than three scrubs each. It would take a little longer to get started, perhaps, but when started it would be on the right road to success.

A recent invention which makes possible the utilization of the straw produced on the treeless plains of the northwest as a fuel for domestic use is attracting some attention. The process involves the boiling and maceration of the straw and the pressing of the product into a suitable shape for use, this straw fuel having, it is claimed, an equal value with wood when so treated.

We have mentioned it before and will do it again—if a sure stand of clover or alfalfa is wanted it must be sown without a nurse crop. If a wet nurse did for the infant, trusted to her care what the so-called nurse crop usually does for the clover crop, she would have nothing to show when fall comes but a little, skinny piece of humanity, which should be a nice, fat baby.

Apple orchards in Nebraska sown with alfalfa show a remarkable vigor and productivity compared with apple trees on the same soil and under the same conditions simply cultivated and fertilized. The alfalfa fertilizers, shades and cools the earth, and clover comes the nearest to doing the same good work.

When an average of the kernels of corn is dropped in each bushing time comes? Well, an investigator counted the bushing in such a field and found 100 per cent. sterile, which would seem to indicate that an average of three stalks in a hill is too many by one. We have long believed that corn planted too thick to obtain results and propose to carry out a full test the coming season. If two in a hill are not near three.

A very sensible and economical method of fish distribution is being used by the state fish commission and also by the United States fish commissioner in supplying the river of Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The bayous of the Mississippi river form ideal grounds for bass, pike and and as the waters recede in these young fish are left exposed from their natural haunts. In the fall they are seized and the young fish are transported in specially constructed to any point on the lines. The supply from this source is practically inexhaustible.

We noted a pretty level farm in a general way, and his farm to place at the head of brood sows a pound boar pig, when not certain about the probable cholera than this thing from immature parents. This is not a pleasant animal to raise on a farm, but he is also a sensible if healthy and are expected. The Poland standard type of the Poland under no circumstances be reproduce its kind until the dam, are at least one year old. If all the young stock was

By of parents three years old and over, the provoking cause of hog cholera epidemics would be largely removed.

There is a territory embraced in the central parts of the states of Kansas and Nebraska as large in area as one good state for which alfalfa is to become the modern redeemer, converting lands of uncertain productiveness into the garden spot of the continent. For that region and for the people who live there, are but one text and one sermon which needs preaching, and that is that alfalfa—the one plant which defies the drought and hot winds—does its own irrigating by making every root a subterranean pump, which always gives to the soil more than it takes. We do not often feel like advising as to locatable and land investments, but will say that if we were in search of a location today we would look up these semiarid cheap lands in the states mentioned, where alfalfa will grow, for the cheapest milk, beef and pork in America can be there produced.

Eighty Acres Make \$800.

The average gross return from an eighty acre farm in the central west will not vary very far from \$10 per acre, take one year with another, outside of what may be consumed in the living of the family of the farm products. Of course there should be a much greater return than this; but, as a matter of fact, there is not. Now it is entirely possible to make this \$800 off forty acres instead of eighty, and as farm land creeps up toward a value of \$100 per acre, the how to do this becomes a subject of prime importance. In a general way we may say that a radical change in existing methods will be involved—better cultivation of crops, better seed, better grades of all farm stock, intelligent rotation of crops, more clover, more poultry and better care for it, while the silo will have a place, and fertilizers will be used instead of being wasted, as is now so often done. The bane of agriculture all through the west is that a man rates his success as a farmer more by the number of acres which he can skin over rather than by the quality of crops which he can produce from an acre of land.

What Two Plug Hire Men Did.

Here is the record made by two brothers—hired men and foreigners—during the past six years: They dropped down in America ignorant of the English language and without money. They were healthy, husky and industrious and at once found places as hired men on western farms. They worked three years and saved every cent of their wages possible. And at the end of three years they had a cash capital between them of \$1,000. They then went up into central and western Minnesota and bought 320 acres of land on easy terms and at a low price compared with its value today. They have been favored with good health and good crops and today are well fixed, discounting the future payments due on their land and with a well improved farm and a lot of valuable stock as visible assets. These men were not highly educated—just common plug hands at the start. This is not an exceptional case at all. Its counterpart may be found in almost any western community.

Pets for Children.

A writer for a prominent agricultural paper advises that all the younger children of the farm family be given lambs as pets. We think that this is bad advice. Children should never be given as pets any animal which in the natural course of things must sooner or later be taken away, sold and killed. This applies to sheep, to chickens and other poultry, pigs and quite often to cats. A heifer calf may be kept as a pet, or colt, but not the others named. Then, if the pet sheep is of the male sex, it will inside of six months develop into the biggest nuisance about the farm, for all the boys and every hired man will put in their spare time teaching it how to bunt, and some fine morning in early winter the godly head of the house will have the underpinning knocked out from under him as he goes to the barn, and there are things said which would not look well in print. The pet lamb is a nuisance.

*J. S. Trigg*

**UNCLE BILL**

AND  
The Editor



"A COORDIN' ter what has bin goin' the rounds in the papers, all a feller has ter do ter keep away the blues an' be good natured all the time, is ter draw the corners uv his mouth up so fashioned," said Uncle Bill as he puckered up his mouth as though an eyelet hole had been cut in each corner and a string run up over each ear.

"What has curling up the corners of one's mouth got to do about it," asked the editor; wishing to draw a few ideas from him.

"Why, when a new fad starts a feller has ter git in line, or else expect ter hear the big base drum a poundin' uv him inter the earth, 'cause he'll be a dead one fer sure. Why, even the harness makers have got bits made fer horses, what'll make 'em turn up the corners uv their mouths, an' when they do that they fergit ter balk, or kick, or ter do anything else. Now, I used ter be purty durn grumpy myself until I read in the papers 'bout what an influence the corners uv a feller's mouth have on him an' so I got ter tryin' uv it, an' I want ter tell yer, we've got a purty happy farm home out at our place 'cause we've all got the fad out there, even the horses, cows, chickens, an' the dog, he's bin a tryin' uv it, an' it's a spillin' him 'cause sense he's bin



"We've All Got It."

drawn' up the corners uv his mouth it has made him so durn good natured that he can't growl, even at a tramp," said Uncle Bill.

"Do you really think that by curling up the corners of one's mouth will keep one from having the blues," again asked the editor.

"Of course it does," replied Uncle Bill. "Jest ter show yer, the other day a tramp cum inter our yard an' the dog had the corners uv his mouth turned up an' couldn't even growl. Well, uv course, that made the tramp feel so good, that he smiled an' up went the corners uv his mouth, an' when he asked Helen fer a bite ter eat with a smile on his face, she couldn't refuse him 'cause she had the corner uv her mouth up too, an' when he cum down an' tackled me, I give him a quarter. Now, yer kin see if the dog had bin cross, in all probability we all uv us would uv bin, but as it was, we was all uv us happy."

"Yes," suggested the editor. "But it cost you a quarter besides what your wife fed the tramp."

"Wall, what if it did cost a leetle money, that's what the people uv this world is lookin' after, is happiness, an' all it cost was a quarter an' sum scraps uv sumthin' ter eat; now if the dog hadn't uv had the corners uv his mouth turned up, that 'ere tramp might uv asked fer pie, but as it was he was satisfied, an' so was every one else. Oh, the argument is all in favor uv turnin' up the corners uv yer mouth. Now, there's Helen, it's a doin' her a power uv good. Why, when I wanted sumthin' done, she would most always oppose me in it an' sort uv argy with me, but since she's got ter draw in' up the corners uv her mouth, it's different; if I want a button or patch sewed on, she never opposes me; she jest lets me keep on wantin' it. I'm sound now all done up with clothespins an' ten-penny nails, but I feel all right 'bout it as long as I keep the corners uv my mouth curled up," remarked Uncle Bill.

"It certainly must be a boon to humanity," said the editor, who was becoming half convinced that the scheme for driving away the blues was worth trying.

"Course 't is," replied Uncle Bill. "But I near lost faith in it last week when I was in the city."

"How was that?" inquired the editor.

"Wall, yer see I lost my wallet an' I couldn't quite git the corners uv my mouth up right, on account uv it, so I went up ter a policeman an' said, 'Mr. Officer, I've lost sumthin', an' he looked at me fer a minit an' then spit through his teeth an' said, 'Ah gwan, what-cher givin' us? Yer on de wrong 'car, pull de hell an' let yerself off, see. Wall, gee whizz, what do yer think uv that? I went out ter the middle uv the street ter look fer my wallet, when a trolley car cum along an' give me a boost up in the world, an' when I cum down I landed hard enough ter make me 'polterize ter myself fer bein' so gosh durn careless. My mouth got sort

uv squee gee'd then tryin' ter git the corners up, but finally when I did, everybody on the street was good natured, 'cause they had the corners uv their mouths turned up too."  
"They were probably laughing at



"Give Me a Boost."

your misfortune," ventured the editor. "If I'd a thought that, I might uv passed a few 'cuffs' round among 'em. If there's any one thing that would make the corners uv my mouth drop it would be ter see sum durn galoats a laughing at my misfortune."

And he went down the street with a terrible twist of his face, tryin' to get the 'corners' turned up.

*Edgar Baker*

**TALKERS OF ENGLISH.**

Irishmen Speak It Better Than the English Themselves.

London Academy: It is no new suggestion that Irishmen talk better English than the English. Dean Swift wrote to Pope expressing his regret at some slighting remark of the latter's concerning the Irish: "The English colonies, who are three parts in four, are much more civilized than many countries in England, and speak better English, and are much better bred." It will be remembered that the Dean was an Englishman, and would thank everyone to remember it. It is possible here to give only a few illustrations of the survival of old words and pronunciations in Ireland. The many-headed multitude who are "agin the government" use the old proposition which they learned before it was modernized into "against." The words survives of England where there is little reading of books. Ireland keeps to the old fashions because the peasants are illiterate beyond English comprehension. The peculiarity of the tourist is the broad sound strikes to such words as "dryden, sea, beast, complete." Waller, Dryden, and Pope habitually pronounced them as "plaze say, baste, complete," as all students of 17th and 18th century poetry have noticed. Dryden, for example, wrote:

"Neptune, yet doubtful whom he should obey,  
Held to them both the trident of the sea."

Pope pronounced "tea" in the same manner as a Tipperary peasant does. One example, referring to "great Anna," is well known; here is another:

"Soft yielding minds to water glide away,  
And sip with nymphs, the elemental tea."

So in Munster the country folk talk of the "lay," meaning "lea"—that pretty word which Englishmen have abandoned to the poets. It was the influence of French that made our ancestors pronounce "complete" and "thame," and the influence still holds good over here. Listen to Pope again:

"Here swells the shelf with Oigilby the great;  
There, stamped with arms, Newcastle shines complete."  
English with characteristic inconsistency has kept the broad sound in "great."

**LEGAL OATHS BY WOMEN.**

A Magistrate's Opinion as to What They Are Ready to Swear to.

New York Press: "There's this difference between a woman and a man: When a woman thinks or believes a thing to be so she is ready to swear to it, while a man doesn't swear to a thing unless he sees it and knows it to be true."

Thus did Magistrate Mott draw the dividing line of the sexes in the West Side court yesterday. Miss Marie Ellerbrook of No. 320 East Eighty-Seventh street, a school teacher, had asked him for a warrant for a bad boy who had struck one of her pupils on the head with a stone. She admitted that she hadn't seen the boy throw the stone, but was so sure he had done so that she was ready to swear to it, "because people had told her."

"But you didn't see it," exclaimed Mr. Mott. "You don't know that this boy did it."

"Oh, but I'm sure of it," she said. "Then he gave his opinion concerning woman's alacrity to swear, and advised the school teacher to bring her paper to court and have him swear out the warrant. Miss Ellerbrook left the court room with a look on her face that said plainly that she didn't agree with Mr. Mott as to woman's credibility.

**PUZZLE PICTURE.**

Can you read the proverb?