

PRACTICAL FARMING

Betsy and Joe.

BEING THE LAMENT OF FARMER TOMPKINS. I'm sort of upset in my mind, sir; I'm kind of wrought up in my soul. I'm filled up with trouble, I am, sir; my heart is the picture of dole. I've got a weak boy for a son, sir. He's weak as a feller can be. But then I've a daughter who's stronger, I think, nor her mother nor me. And that's the thing that upsets me—it fills me with dread of woe: My Joe had oughter been Betsy, and Betsy she'd oughter been Joe.

Why, Joe, he ain't good for his salt, sir. He allers gives up to his dreads. He thinks he's born Mr. Shakespeare, and spoils good white paper by roams. But Betsy's as sane as the keeper who looks arter folks what is mad; she's got solid sense, has Betsy, the solidest ever was had. I haven't the slightest idee, sir, just how the thing he's a-born Mr. Shakespeare, and Betsy she'd oughter been Joe.

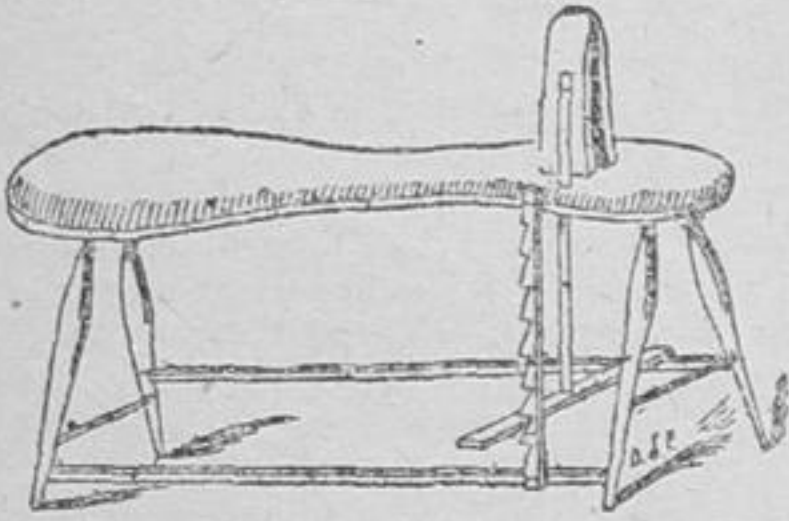
That gal she will go to the melder, an' toss up the hay like a man; she'll work in the sun an' the shadder as hard, sir, as ever she can; But Joe he'll go out there and dawdle. At dawdlin' he's really A one! But that ain't the thing for a daughter, nor that ain't the thing for a son. An' that's why I set here a-sighin', and that's why my eyes overflow: My Joe he had oughter been Betsy, and Betsy she'd oughter been Joe.

I don't mind a-havin' my home, sir, the home of a poet at all. I must say that I like for to listen to verses of spring and of fall. But what I don't like for to see, sir, an' what sets my being awhirl, is the poetry writ by a boy, sir, an' all the hay tossed by a girl. It seems to me sort of outrageous, a sort of a terrible blow. That Joe he should oughter been Betsy, and Betsy should oughter been Joe.

Because I have always told Mandy—my wife, sir, a splendid one, too—that that work was fittin' for women ain't fittin' for men to do. I've sort of a-twitted the lady on weakness o' women and that. And havin' the thing turned around, sir, the thing that's a-knockin' me flat. An' if there's a way in creation for changin' 'em I'd like to know. So's Joe could be made into Betsy, and Betsy be made into Joe.

A Harness Horse.

Our illustration is of a device very useful in mending harness. The bench or main part is made from a 3-inch board four feet long and one foot wide. Put in legs, round off the edges and ends so as to form a comfortable seat. If the top is padded, so much the better. For the clamps use two pieces of 2x4 white oak lumber, about 15 inches long. Shape as represented in the illustration and fasten the one on the



A HARNESS HORSE.

right firmly to the bench. Secure the other with two hinges so that it can be moved back and forth. Pass a strong leather strap from this through a hole near the top of the opposite part of the clamp, down through another in the bench and attach to the foot lever. The piece of harness to be mended is put between the clamps and securely fastened by means of the lever and strap. Such a horse is very easily made and will enable one, during idle times this winter, to easily repair harness which otherwise would have to be taken to the shop.

Poultry Pointers.

It is not wise to sell off the old hens, as they will lay well the second year or even longer, if they are leghorns, and these mature birds are just what are needed to place in the breeding pen if we wish strong, vigorous chicks. Nothing causes deterioration sooner than the breeding from immature parents.

Farm poultry probably suffer in many cases from in-breeding. As often as every second year a cock should be bought that is full of vigor and fresh blood and employed to build up the strength and stamina of the flock. It costs little money for a grand pure bred cockerel at this season when breeders have a surplus of males for which they neither have room nor inclination to keep over winter. If eggs are the chief desideratum, one cannot go astray in procuring a lively White Leghorn cockerel.

Avoid high roosts. There is no virtue in them under any circumstances, and often they are the cause of much harm and injury. "Bumble foot" is the direct result of lofty perches, for the fowl descending from a great height fails to overcome the momentum and strikes the ground with great force. This, if repeatedly occurring, causes inflammation and hard swelling upon the center of the feet. The treatment of affected individuals consists in opening the swelled portion to give free vent to the pus, and the application of poultices and healing salve.

There is no better mixture of grain for general poultry feeding than one-half oats and one-half wheat. As long as wheat is as cheap as it has been for the last year or more, there is no excuse for not feeding it liberally, especially when alone it comes as near forming a perfect feed as any grain in existence. Then oats contain in the kernel much nitrogenous matter for the foundation of bone, tissue and muscle. The only objection to oats is the large proportion of husk to meat. Wheat, therefore is excellent to go with oats.

It will be time shortly to mate the ducks for breeding. One drake to five ducks is the proportion. As the drakes do, not trouble one another much, several sets of birds can be kept in one pen—say twenty-five ducks in all. Some breeders, to be sure, allow as many as fifty to run together, but many small flocks are much to be preferred to few large ones, as the ducks are easily frightened and, when in large numbers, they crowd and push one another, oftentimes to the extent of severe injury. Good, vigorous Pekin ducks warmly housed and liberally fed, should commence to lay in January—not later than early February in any event. Give ducks a good deal of bulky food. Let turnips well boiled, and steamed clover rowen form the basis of the

daily morning mash. Use a peck of turnips to every four quarts of bran, two quarts of cornmeal and pint of linseed. The cry of the duck has ever been for something "very filling."

Whatever the farmer and poultry breeder neglects, let him, under no consideration whatever, fail to keep draughts of air out of the hen coop. Draughts are just about sure to result in colds, and colds are most liable to run into "roup," and when a bird has much roup, for one, would give but precious little for her. Birds in general are so warm-blooded, and their respiratory system so permeates the entire body that diseases affecting mucous tissues and membranes—as roup does—run a particularly rapid course and terminate very fatally.

A Celebrated Commercial and Shorthand College.

For nearly thirty years in commercial circles the name of the British American Business College of Toronto has been associated with high-class training and thoroughness in the men and women they turn out as assistants and principals in the different branches of commercial life; and to-day among the successful men of the Dominion, in the various branches of our commercial industries their graduates can be counted by the thousands. When in Toronto recently, we had the pleasure of visiting their magnificent premises in the Confederation Life Building, which occupies the whole of the fourth floor in the western section of the building, comprising the most magnificent suite of rooms ever devoted to the purposes of business and shorthand education in Canada.

The portion occupied by the College fronts on Yonge and Richmond Sts., and comprises an area of about 6500 square feet, which has been divided into six magnificent rooms opening from spacious and imposing corridors. These are beautifully lighted, and ventilated by air exhaust taps driven by electricity, supplying hot air in winter and cold air in summer, besides constantly drawing off the vitiated air. The building is heated with steam and lit by both electric light and gas, whilst the lavatories are perfectly arranged rooms floored and fitted up in white marble.

There are four large electric elevators of the most recent and improved make, one of which is for the special use of the pupils and patrons of the college. Everything to insure the health, comfort and convenience of the students has been carefully planned and arranged and every room has been fitted up in a style superior to anything of its kind in Canada.

In the front part of the building facing Young St., a room in itself as large as that occupied by the average college, is situated the commercial department. In here is taught what formerly constituted the entire curriculum of a commercial school. Leading from this department is a special drill room for commercial and cash book work, where classes of about twenty at a time are put through a special drill on their work. Out of this room we go into the typewriting department; this is the room where scholars do legal and commercial typewriting from their own notes, which is revised by the head teacher in this branch of study.

Opposite this room across the corridor is the stenography department; this is a very important branch of a commercial education and is presided over by a very efficient and painstaking teacher. This is also a very large and well arranged room with all the aids in it which a truly modern school could obtain.

Mr. Connor O'Dea has been connected with this college for over thirty years, and is well known throughout Canada and the United States as one of the greatest experts in penmanship on the continent, and thousands of young men attribute much of their success in business to the proficiency they attained in this respect while at the British American College. Mr. David Hoskins has been on the staff of the British American College since 1882 during which time he has had charge of the junior commercial department and has superintended the work of the shorthand and typewriting departments. The Toronto Mail, which in its issue of April 22nd of this year published his portrait, speaks of him as follows: "Mr. Hoskins is a thoroughly trained accountant, a first class penman, a skillful shorthand writer, and is conceded to be one of the ablest all round commercial teachers in the profession."

This old and reliable institution numbers among its former pupils such men as W. D. Mathews, ex-president of Toronto Board of Trade; R. T. Coady, Toronto City Treasurer; Emerson Coatsworth, Chester and E. H. Massey, G. W. Kiely, Hugh Blain, S. B. Beak, manager London Street Railway; and hundreds of prominent and successful business men throughout the Dominion.

We were informed by Mr. O'Dea that they were completing a very successful fall term, having an exceptionally large attendance of both young men and women, "but," continued he, "our system of instruction is such that pupils may enter at any date." When we took our leave of the principals of this excellent school we were thoroughly convinced that no better existed in any country.

A Wedding Present

Of practical importance would be a bottle of the only sure-pop corn cure—Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor—which can be had at any drug store. A continuation of the honeymoon and the removal of corns both assured by its use. Beware of imitations.

A.P.691

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A lady correspondent has this to say: "I want to give a piece of my mind to a certain class who object to advertising, when it costs them anything—this won't cost them a cent."

"I suffered a living death for nearly two years with headaches, backache, in pain standing or walking, being literally dragged out of existence, my misery increased by drugging."

"At last, in despair I committed the sin of trying an advertised medicine, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, and it restored me to the blessedness of sound health. I honor the physician who when he knows he can cure, has the moral courage to advertise the fact."

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"CAUTION"—Beware of substitutes. Genuine prepared by Scott & Bowne, Belleville. Sold by all druggists. 50c. and \$1.00.

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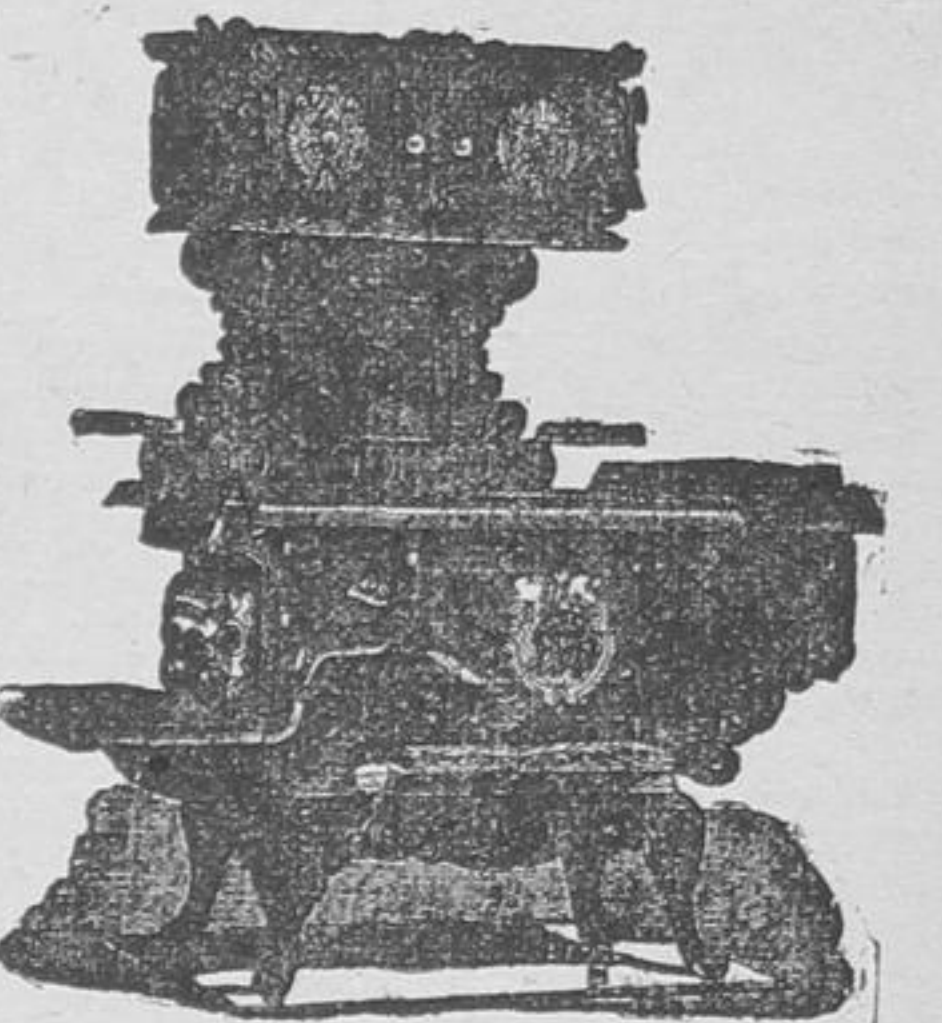
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