



Clearing the Roads.

The work is done at the right time, and the roads are kept open in the winter. Men are appointed in each district to plow out the roads after every storm, and travelers going through the township are never delayed. Common plows attached to the side of a bobbed clean out the track. The cost of this work is twenty-five cents an hour for man and team. It takes four hours for a man and team to plow out a five-mile route. Very little shoveling is necessary, as the road is never allowed to block up.—H. T. M., Wellington County, Ont., in American Cultivator.

New Plan of Improvement.

Work on the roads has been prosecuted vigorously. Under the plan of road improvement formed by the board of revenue this year, it was provided that each of the eight district road overseers should have a force of five men, and that this force might be increased whenever occasion required. When the repair work began ten days ago the force of each of the road overseers was more than trebled, and improvements started in earnest. It has been kept up ever since. Indications now are that by April 1 the county roads will be in excellent condition.

Attention was given first to the macadamized roads. These were badly in need of repair. The overseers went at their work energetically, however, ditching and filling in holes wherever it was necessary to do so. The result is that all these macadamized roads are now being gotten into shape.

Through this work in repairing the macadamized roads has been carried forward with all possible speed, other roads in the county have not been neglected. Whenever a bridge was reported to be washed away or in need of repair, and wherever washouts had taken place, the road overseers promptly rushed a force of men to the place complained of. The upshot of their work is that serious complaints have ceased coming into the board of revenue. The road overseers will not, however, relax their efforts to improve the roads in the rural districts. They will, so long as the weather permits, push the improvements everywhere.

The board of revenue is highly pleased with the results obtained by the employment of free labor in working the county roads. They say that these results could not have been had by the use of convict labor. They believe also that the elastic plan of employing as few or as many men as are needed to work the county roads will solve the road improvement problem. All the road overseers are, it is said, taking special pride in their work, and the eight separate forces of men under the overseers are giving excellent service.—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Is Coming Fast.

Martin Dodge, director of the office of Public Road Inquiries, is stopping at the Park Avenue Hotel.

"It is remarkable what a hold the idea of good roads has taken upon the minds of the people of every class in every section," he said last night. "In the extreme East as much interest is shown as in the rural sections. I am answering all sorts of inquiries from this city since the Brownlow bill providing government aid has been introduced into Congress.

"In some parts of the South this subject of good roads has actually superseded the race question in political and other conventions.

"They are begging from far off Alaska, even, for information and aid. On the Canadian side of Alaska, where good roads have received intelligent government attention, flour costs \$8; in the distant regions not far from the American line, the same flour costs \$2—because the expense of hauling over the existing American roadways.

"The demands of the people throughout the South are forcing some of the most conservative opponents of government aid in Congress from that part of the country to take an attitude of approval toward the project. It is a different matter to reply in the negative to the farmer who argues that the same government which gives about \$30,000,000 a year for river and harbor improvements should willingly give \$8,000,000 per year for three years to enable him to build better roads, particularly when under the terms of the appropriation he must expend an equal amount for the same purpose.

"The farmer, the railroads and almost every aggregation of capital are together on this subject. Good roads feed the railways, and in return reduce the cost of commodities which go to the farmers. Manufacturers are benefited in both directions. The rural free delivery and collection system in its final value hinges on the question of good roads."—New York Herald.

FACTS ABOUT ARGENTINA.

The Resources and Possibilities of the South American Republic.

Argentina's early history is that of stormy times. The little revolt of which the dispatches now give daily news is, however, the first disturbance of its kind in the far southern republic since 1890. In that year the army and navy assisted in producing a change of administration.

Argentina is the United States of South America. It is made up of fourteen States and nine Territories. The population is about 5,000,000.

The Argentine States have greater power individually than ours. They may, with the consent of Congress, make treaties for the fostering of industry, immigration, colonization, railroads and canals.

Argentina's constitution is modelled on ours. American teachers have been called to schools of the republic. The country considers itself our rival in trade, and backed its pretensions in 1900 by sending to London \$3,500,000 worth of fresh beef. It exports wheat, also.

Argentina has millions more sheep than we have and half as many grazing cattle. Its agricultural area is 250,000,000 acres—more than was taken up by our grain, cotton, tobacco and vegetable crops in 1900—but only about five per cent. of this land is under cultivation.

Immigration is Argentina's great need. The possibilities and promises of the land are tremendous. Thus far we have allowed Great Britain to dominate its trade. Germany has beaten our print-paper makers out of a business amounting now to nearly \$2,000,000 a year.

In 1899 Argentina had 4291 primary schools, with 427,311 pupils. There are two national and three provincial universities.

Argentina reaches into the equatorial hot belt on the north and through the temperate zone on the south, having thus wide ranges of temperature. Two-thirds of its people nearly are native. Italians to the number of almost half a million lead the foreigners.

In one of the Argentine States a graded tax on bachelors is provided to drive men to matrimony. If, however, a man can prove that he has been three times rejected, he is exempt.

Journalism in Japan.

Japanese journalism is developing on Western lines, and with surprising rapidity. The events of the present war are responsible for extras which are sold on the street in the American fashion. The newsmen run bareheaded, with a sort of napkin round the head and a small bell at the belt, which rings as they go. When the war news is lively the extras come out in a correspondingly lively manner, one after the other, and are liberally patronized. The sensational reporter has appeared there, as well as the female journalist, and things are whooped up more than they used to be. One consequence of this is that journalism here and there begins to pay, where formerly it had to be subsidized as a matter of patriotism and public spirit. There is an English column in all the papers, and English is studied in all the schools. The country has 600 newspapers in all, and a number of them have respectively a circulation exceeding 100,000 copies. As guides and directors of public opinion they are, perhaps, not inferior to our own. Altogether Japanese journalism, though in its infancy, has a bright future before it, and will likely keep pace with the progress of the country it serves.

His "Big Sequit."

Little Harry's affection for his old grandmother is all that the affection of a child could be for a grand-parent. One morning when he was "snuggling" in her bed he put his plump little arms around her neck and said:

"Gramma, I'll tell you a big sequit if you won't ever tell anybody in all the world."

Having bound herself to secrecy and even "crossed her heart," the old lady was made the recipient of the following confidence:

"Well, gramma, some day I'm going to get married to—you can't guess who."

"No, I'm afraid I cannot."

"To—you, gramma."—Lippincott's.

A Shell Phenomenon.

In a recent interview with Gen. Stoessel, obtained in Port Said, the correspondent of The London Standard reports that the defenders of Port Arthur made use of Japanese shells which, falling on soft ground, did not explode. These shells the Russians were careful to collect, and to fire back whence they came. The explanation is somewhat curious. The mortars used by the Japanese were supplied by Messrs. Armstrong, and, like all mortars from those works, were rifled from right to left. The Russian mortars were rifled from left to right, and consequently it was possible to use the Japanese shell twice, which would have been out of the question had the rifling been identical.

In his book on the Congo, Edmund Morel estimates that in four years the Belgian soldiers and officials have plundered the natives to the extent of \$30,000,000.

Agricultural.

Raising Pigs.

Pig raising is, no doubt, a very profitable business where cheap food can be had from city garbage, else so many of the extensive farmers near the cities would not persist in swine breeding year after year; so well, in fact, does the business pay that the nearby farmers sometimes express wonder that more is not done in the pig raising line on the back farms, where the food can be raised very cheaply and the swine pastured a good part of the time, and all without the annoyance to neighbors sometimes caused in thickly settled districts. A good market can be found almost anywhere for young pigs of common stock, while pure-breds can be sold at correspondingly better values by those who have the knack of working up a trade in such lines.

Salt in the Poultry House.

Salt is very cleansing and purifying, as well as sure death to some forms of insect life, and used judiciously in the poultry house it will be found very beneficial.

For cleansing houses where there has been chicken cholera, it is one of the best things known. After cleaning out the house, and removing perches and nests, make a very strong brine and spray it thoroughly in every part of the house. Scrub perches and nest boxes with it, and see that every crack and crevice is filled with it. If it can be applied hot it will give still better results.

If all infected birds are removed from the house before this work is done, there will be no more cases.

The same treatment is a valuable remedy for red mites which are so troublesome to the fowls. After two weeks repeat the treatment, as by that time all the eggs of the mites will be hatched. After that a light application two or three times during the season will keep them from causing trouble.—Marion Meade, in the Massachusetts Ploughman.

Eggs in Waterglass.

It is believed that in waterglass we have a preservative which will, when used for preserving eggs, give better satisfaction than any other method available for those who desire to keep eggs for any great length of time. Eggs put down by this method have kept for three to nine months, and the eggs have some out in better condition than by any other method tested.

When strictly fresh eggs only have been put down, at the end of six months they have invariably come out in better shape than the average market eggs supposed to be fresh.

Use pure water that has been thoroughly boiled and then cooled. To each quart of water add one quart or slightly less of waterglass. When the heavy jelly-like solution is used, three-fourths of waterglass will be ample.

The solution may be prepared, placed in the jar and fresh eggs added from time to time until the jar is filled, but be sure that there are fully two inches of waterglass solution to cover the eggs. Keep the eggs in a cool, dark place, well covered to prevent evaporation.

A cool cellar is a good place in which to keep the eggs. If the eggs are kept in too warm a place, the silicate is deposited and the eggs are not properly protected.

Do not wash the eggs before packing, for by so doing you injure their keeping quality, probably by dissolving the mucilaginous coating on the outside of the egg. For packing use only perfect eggs, for stale eggs will not be saved and may prove harmful to the others.

All packed eggs contain a little gas, and in boiling such eggs they will crack. This may be prevented by making a pinhole in the blunt end of the eggs.

To do this hold the egg in the hand, place the point of a pin against the shell of the egg, and give a quick, sharp blow, just enough to drive the pin through the shell without injury to the egg.—North Dakota Station.

Silage vs. Grain.

The object of this experiment was to determine whether silage might not be substituted for a considerable portion of the grain usually fed to dairy cows. Two rations were fed carrying practically the same amount of dry matter. In one ration over fifty per cent. of this dry matter was derived from silage and less than eighteen per cent. was derived from grain.

In the other ration over fifty-seven per cent. of the dry matter was derived from grain, no silage being fed. Ten cows, representing five different breeds, were fed these rations from two to four months, five cows taking the test the full four months.

The cows fed the silage ration produced 96.7 pounds of milk and 5.08 pounds of butter fat per hundred pounds of dry matter.

The cows fed the grain ration pro-

duced 81.3 pounds of milk and 3.9 pounds butter fat per hundred pounds of dry matter.

The cost of feed per hundred pounds of milk was \$0.687 with the silage ration and \$1.055 with the grain ration. The cost of feed per pound of butter fat was 13.1 cents with the silage ration and 22.1 cents with the grain ration.

The average net profit per cow per month (over cost of feed) was \$5.864 with the silage ration and \$2.465 with the grain ration.

Comparing the average daily product of each cow for the entire test with her average daily product for the month previous to the change in ration (or the first month of their test in the case of two cows), the cows fed the silage ration shrank 2.84 per cent. in milk and gained 1.89 per cent. in butter fat production. The cows fed the grain ration shrank 3.11 per cent. in milk and 14.18 in butter fat production.

Upon the conclusion of the experiment each lot of cows was found to have gained in live weight: The silage fed cows an average of 47 pounds per head, the grain fed cows an average of 57 pounds per head.

The facts herein reported seem to justify the conclusion that silage can be made to take the place of a considerable portion of the grain ration. It is believed that by growing more of the feeds rich in protein—clover, alfalfa, soy beans, cowpeas, field peas, vetches and ensiling them, or feeding them as hay, it will be possible to further reduce the amount of grain feed.

It is the expectation of the station to continue the experiment the following winter.—Ohio Exp. Station Bulletin 155.

DOG BARBERS OF PARIS.

Four-Footed Customers Made to Resemble Lions and Zebras.

It is astonishing with what zeal every means of earning an honest penny is plied in Paris. No city in the world has so many queer little trades by which those practicing them scrape together enough sous to make a living.

One of the most characteristic of these strange tradesmen is the dog barber. The favorite dog of the Parisian is the French poodle, or "mouton," as he is popularly called. It is chiefly for his benefit that the dog barber exists. His headquarters are the banks of the Seine. Here the main body can be found at all times, though in the summer some go about the city carrying on their occupation from house to house. In the hot days one continually hears the long drawn out cry: "To-n-deur de chiens!" and meets the familiar figure of the dog barber, with his box of instruments slung over his shoulder. Many of them have their regular customers, whose houses they visit at stated intervals to make the toilet of those privileged poodles—for the Paris mouton is the "spoiled child" among dogs. He is clipped, brushed, combed, perfumed and generally has his "top-knot" fastened with a pink or blue ribbon. Some even wear gold or silver bracelets around one paw.

The result has been the development of the dog barber as an artist. He clips and shaves his customers' dogs in most elaborate fashion. Some are left with shaggy manes, with a tuft at the end of their tails, to imitate a lion. Others, again, are clipped in stripes, making them look like black zebras, and others have their faces clipped and nothing left but a pair of fierce mustaches, with fluffy bracelets of hair around each foot.—Golden Penny.

A Cadet at Seventy.

Clad in the neat Dixie gray of a cadet in the Agricultural College at Starkville, Miss., William Standifer, a Confederate veteran of many wounds and of seventy years, is learning along with 400 boys all about stock, field implements, Babcock separators and truck farming methods.

Mr. Standifer was too busy to go to school when he was a boy. Then the war came on and he got shot pretty completely in that. Then he raised a family of ten children. Now the last one has grown up and left him.

"On December 12, 1903, my barn was burned," Mr. Standifer tells the Chicago Tribune, "and was a total loss. My neighbors were wonderfully kind and gave me corn and money to help me out. Thinking my life too far spent—me being seventy years old—to starve and live there alone, cut off from the best society, was more than I could stand.

"I applied to be one of a Northern emigration colony to locate in Southeast Georgia, and I thought if I must start life over again I would go to the Agricultural and Mechanical College.

"I never thought Mississippi could produce such studious, industrious, courteous and kind young fellows as the younger cadets," says Mr. Standifer.

Shattering an Illusion.

The elderly passenger in the street car, who was not so well preserved as he thought he was, arose and offered his seat to the young woman who was standing in the aisle.

"Oh, no; thank you," she said, "I couldn't think of depriving an old gentleman of his seat."

"You mean it kindly, miss," rejoined the elderly passenger, sitting down again, "but I'd rather you had chloroformed me."—Chicago Tribune.

WOMAN'S WORLD.

The Woman Who Nags.

There is the woman who nags, and many do without being conscious of it. She is often perfectly well-bred in all other respects, but she loves her husband so that she can't help but ply him with questions. The whys and wheres and whens and "I told you so," become a daily routine which exhausts the patience of the best of men. A wise wife should remember that when a thing has once been talked over and thrashed out it is good reform at least to let it alone. If it is a fault that must be cured or a habit endured she should remember that men folk are often like Bo Peep's lost sheep—"if you let 'em alone they will come home," etc. Constant reference to a fault or a mannerism is the cause of more marital infelicity than the average wife dreams of.

Good manners are happy ways of doing things and good sense, cheerfulness and tact should guide every woman who bears the honor and dignity of wifehood toward the channel of these happy ways.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

A Girl's Garden Her Character.

Will you cultivate your garden or neglect it? There is no spot of ground however bare that cannot be tamed into a state of beauty. It cannot be done easily. We must be willing to take trouble, to be industrious, vigilant in our gardens, and to dig, weed and plant intelligently. In our gardens there must be plants worth growing, cheerfulness, willingness; and the good old-fashioned plants—simplicity, patience, courtesy, modesty, sympathy. I call these the dear old-fashioned virtues worth cultivating because in our modern days there is danger that opposite characteristics are being planted in your lives.

Enemies find their way in our gardens. Weeds must be pulled out without delay. They are troublesome faults in character, thrusting themselves where they have no business to be. Weeds are idleness, vanity, envy, carelessness and many other traits which destroy beauty. Indolence is a great defect in character. Its real name is sloth, and it has its root in self-indulgence, lack of thoroughness, putting ease before effort and pleasure before duty. I think our gardens should not be shut-in, narrow, enclosed places, but from them we should have a broad view where we can look out beyond and learn largeness of heart, generosity and that there are many other gardens in the world than our own.—Priscilla Wakefield, in The Delineator.

Silk Coats For Little Folk.

As a general thing the long coat is most desirable for children, not only because of its warmth, but because it is more childish in outline; but the spring introduces a jaunty little reefer for chilly days which has found undeniable favor both with the youthful wearers and their mothers. A dark shade of serge or chevrot or even a broadcloth is a suitable fabric of which to build the reefer. The coat is made perfectly plain, with a broad, double-breasted front adorned simply with big buttons in two rows. A wine red is pretty on most children and when worn with a big hat and gloves or mittens to match, it gives the little miss a decidedly smart appearance. Straps may be applied to one arm, after the fashion which still prevails for that trimming. Navy and army blue reefers with brass buttons appeal to childish fancy and are at the same time fashionable and becoming.

Another silk coat for very dressy wear is cut sacque-shape, with a decided spring in the under-arm seam to give fullness to the skirt. The sleeves are evenly full and are finished with a flaring cuff. The shawl collar epaulettes which mark the shoulders and the cuffs are trimmed with a sheer linen embroidery in medallion pattern. A wide hat of plisse silk mill, with trimmings of rose taffeta ribbon and a hair knot of the same shade, add to the picturesqueness of the little lady who wears this coat.

A Hint For the Seamstress.

There is a seamstress in New York City who knows how to make butterflies out of ribbon. She can also fashion ribbon violets and other ribbon trimmings. She goes out by the day making them, and when she has finished she trims them with lace.

Speaking of her art, she says: "There are dozens of seamstresses that are starving to death. I make my living and am busy every day in the year. Yet I do nothing but make trimmings of ribbon and lace. I take your old lace bits and make them up in charming ways, and I transform your ribbons into ornaments which are priceless when it comes to matters of decoration.

"I would," she said, "if I were a seamstress, learn to make ribbon bows. I would learn the Josephine rosettes, the sash ribbon bows, the Louis Quinze knots and the butterflies. I would also learn how to trim these ribbon ornaments with lace.

"Of course I would learn how to color laces. Recently I took some stained old lace and dipped it until it was a

golden yellow. Then I bought a yard of real gold lace and mixed it in with the other. This I made up into ribbon ornaments for the waist, which looked as though they were all made of gold lace.

"I know of no better occupation for the moment than the making of the numerous ribbon ornaments with which the woman of fashion is trimming her gowns."—Brooklyn Eagle.



Young women in mourning do not wear bonnets.

There has been a decided revival of crepe lately. For a time this depressing garb of mourning was put aside by the majority of women, except for trimming.

Mourning gowns are made very simply indeed. Anything more incongruous than an elaborate toilette worn by an afflicted person can hardly be imagined.

A cloth gown for the street had a box-plated skirt trimmed with two groups of narrow crepe folds above the hem.

The ostrich feather in its latest guise is manipulated into the flat shape of a quill and used in quill fashion to trim the smartest walking hats.

The redingote falls quite to the ankles, leaving only a few inches of the underskirt showing. This length is much more graceful than the three-quarters-length coats so much worn.

Crepe combines well with soft materials, such as cashmere, henrietta, crepe de chine, colienne and others which are especially adapted to mourning.

Whimsically upturned brims characterize the hats of the moment, some of which are unusually attractive. Hats of the colonial order remain favorites because of their general becomingness.

Coquelin's Wit Won.

One of the most famous of the Quarter Latin clubs in Paris is the one which is called the Sub Rosa, and the most famous of its members is the great actor Coquelin, pere, but the story of his election has not yet been told in print.

He was present one night at the club's late supper, a weekly feast, and having heard that there was a vacancy in the roll, applied for membership. Now the only rules of the Sub Rosa men are: "Think much. Write little. Be as silent as you can." The presiding officer, with this last rule in mind, answered the applicant by placing before him a tumbler filled so full of water that another drop would have caused it to run over. Coquelin understood. He had evidently been misinformed about a vacancy; the club membership was obviously full.

Over the table was suspended a rose, the club emblem. While the glass still stood before him Coquelin broke a petal from the flower and laid it so gently on the water that not a drop escaped. A silent man could join and make no trouble. Around the table ran a ripple of smiles and little handclaps and nods of approval, and then, as if of one accord, all began making bread balls. Then the cup was passed from hand to hand, and each deposited his "ballot" in it—and all were found to be round; not one had been pressed flat in sign of disapproval. So Coquelin joined the Sub Rosa Club.—Success.

Beautiful Man!

Mrs. Gilman, an American authoress, told a select gathering of ladies at the Women's Institute, at Victoria, that woman was not nearly as beautiful as man. She encouraged them to try to become as beautiful as man. She poured scorn on some of the deficiencies of woman. "When a woman runs," she said, "it is an agitated waddle; climb, she cannot, and people take hold of her elbows and help her up and down things. I call it an insulating practice unless a woman has a wooden leg. There is no reason why a woman should balk at a fence like she does. You can vault it easily in a skirt, and it is the easiest and most ladylike way of getting over."—London Mail.

The Archbishop's Joke.

Archbishop Ireland doesn't mind telling a joke on himself. The Archbishop always dresses so unostentatiously that no one could guess his Episcopal rank from his street garb.

Traveling one day in a rural district he met a good-natured woman in the car, who, after some general conversation, asked him: "You're a priest, father, aren't you?"

In a bantering mood, the Archbishop thought he'd try a quibble to put her at her ease, so he answered: "No, my good woman, I'm no longer a priest."

The woman gave him a pitying glance. Then she said, soothingly: "Oh, the Lord help us, father! It wasn't the drink, I hope?"

Seventy-five years ago the first regular news boat to intercept packet ships for foreign intelligence was put in commission in New York.