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## NO USE FOR LADDERS.

THE RETIRED BURGLAR TELLS OF TWO UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCES.

He Got Into and Out of the Homes With Ease, but That Wasn't All—How a Detective Got a Clue and Worked It—Escaped Once With a Broken Arm.

"Ladders, when you find them handy," said the retired burglar, "may seem like a very convenient way of getting into open second story windows, but after two experiences that I had with them I gave them up and stuck to the old fashioned way of doors and cellar windows."

"In a suburban town that I visited once I found 'em painting a Queen Anne house in the rainbow style that they used to paint houses in, and that, I suppose, they paint 'em in still to some extent. The men had ladders up, no stage, and I noticed that at the close of the day one of them was painting near a window, and I wondered if he'd leave his ladder there when he stopped work at night. I scanted around that way after dark, and there it was, and it was summer, and the window was wide open. Most folks in the country, when their houses are being painted, are apt to be a little skittish about the ladders, and if one should be left like this one they'd be pretty sure to close the window near it and lock it, but these folks didn't appear to be disturbed, and as far as my getting into the house was concerned it was just about as easy for me to walk up that ladder and step off through the window as it would have been to walk in at the front door with it unlocked."

"Later, about 2 o'clock the next morning, I went up that ladder and in at the window without the slightest trouble, and there was nobody sleeping in that room. It was all just as easy as it could be. I poked around the house and gathered up what stuff there was worth carrying off and went back to that room and the open window and down the ladder and off."

"A month after that, as I was walking across the platform of a station on the same road that the other town was on to take a train, there was a man laid his hand on my arm and says, 'Now, don't make a fuss about it, and it'll be a good deal easier all around.' And I recognized in him the detective of the road, a man that I know meant business, and I went along with him."

"Being a man of brains, he had gone up to the house where the robbery was as soon as he had heard of it, which was the day after. There he had put himself in the burglar's place and followed in his footsteps as near as he could. He had had the ladder placed in just the same position, and he had gone up that and stepped off into the window and followed over his track inside the house as close as he could guess at it, and then he'd come back to the window and got out on to the ladder, and so down to the ground."

"The ladder went up on the right hand side of this window, and while it was easy enough to reach it, still it was quite a little step from the sill to the ladder, and he noticed that when he had got his foot on the ladder he swung back a little toward the house, so that his elbow just touched it in the angle between the window frame and the clapboards. He gave a little push on that elbow naturally and threw himself out again on to the ladder. Then he stepped and looked at the spot where his elbow had touched. The paint was dry and there was no mark, but he called up the painters and learned that on the morning before—that was the morning after the house had been robbed—the paint at that place, on the cupboard by the window frame, and on the frame itself had been smudged a little, and the detective was over. That was all the detective wanted to know. From that time on he had been looking for a man with two paint spots of different colors on the left elbow of his coat, and I was the man."

"It may seem amazing to you that I hadn't rubbed the paint off. I had rubbed some of it off, and I was going to rub the rest off the next day, and then I kept getting that next day ahead, as we are apt to do, and I finally wound up by letting it go altogether, the rest of it. There wasn't one chance in a thousand of its leading to anything, and even as it was I might have talked myself out of the paint, but I had a watch that I'd got in the house in my pocket, and that settled it."

"That was one ladder. This was the other: "Looking around the outside of a house in the country one night, I found a ladder lying on the ground against the rear of the house. They had some fruit trees in the garden, and I suppose they'd been working over them, or on the grape arbor maybe, and were going on with the work next day and had left the ladder out instead of taking it down cellar for the night. It was summer, and on the side of the house there were two windows open in one room. I thought I'd set the ladder up then and go in one of those windows. I set the ladder up and found it a little short, but by reaching up and getting a hold of the window sill and stepping up on the ends of the side pieces of the ladder I was able to get in tolerable easy. I went through the hole and gathered up what there was to get and was turning back from the last room when I knocked a picture over on a bureau and woke up the man that was sleeping in the room. I went back to the room I'd come in at and backed out the window and hung down for the ladder, and, by cracks, it wasn't there! But I'd got to go all the same, and I let go and dropped. I saw the ladder as I was going down at the next window. I turned half over going down, struck on my left side and broke my arm."

"I got away that time, but I was laid up for six weeks, and after that I didn't feel any more with ladders."—New York Sun.

## FORCE OF TRACTION.

Interesting Experiments Conducted by the Bureau of Road Inquiry.

Experiments to determine the force of traction on different surfaces have been made from time to time during the last 60 years, the latest being those conducted by the road inquiry office of the department of agriculture.

In order to secure a continuous record as well as a measure of the tractive force an apparatus called a tractograph, arranged to make a graphic record, was attached to a loaded wagon which was driven over different surfaces and gradients. These tests gave the following results: The force of traction is not constant, but varies with the character of the road at any given instant, being most uniform on the smoothest surfaces and constantly increasing the variations as the roughness of the road increases until it becomes merely a quick succession of violent pulls. A team is thus subjected to a continuous jerking motion, which greatly increases the fatigue caused by the simple pull necessary to move a load. On asphalt the variation of traction is very small, on smooth macadam it is somewhat more, and on an ordinary dirt road it is seven or eight times as great as on macadam. If the dirt road



EASY HAULING. (From Good Roads.)

be actually bad, the result is practically a series of heavy blows transmitted to the team through the collars, and these blows are estimated to be doubly as fatiguing as a steady pull even at the maximum traction of the road. On a smooth road the traction itself is less and is comparatively constant, so that the pounding effect on the team disappears, thus enabling them to use their whole strength in hauling much heavier loads with less expenditure of power.

During the tests a team of small mules easily drew over 9,000 pounds up a 10 per cent grade of smooth macadam, but were unable to pull the same load down a 6 per cent grade of sand, though the indicator showed that nearly double power was applied, and three-quarters of the load was removed before it could be started. A loaded wagon, with 3 inch tires, drawn over a dirt road cut into deep ruts, while the same load with 4 inch tires only smoothed the surface, and it was found that the traction on the road where the narrow tires had been used was double what it was on the section where the wide tires were used.

## SOME ROAD STATISTICS.

Things That the People Interested Rarely Think About.

A prominent man interested in statistics recently made the following statement: More money is lost in one year by bad roads than is invested on all the dutiable articles imported and more than all the money that is collected from all the internal taxes levied by the general government. The bad roads of this country cost the public \$900,000,000 a year. The yearly freightage of all the ships, canalboats and railways in the country is far less than the freightage that passes along the country roads.

There is hardly a pound of freight hauled upon the railways of this country which does not have to first pass over some highway designed for the use of vehicles and horses. American railway freight rates, though they are the lowest in the world, are frequently grumbled at, but does the complainant ever think, queries the statistician, that it has cost him more to haul 40 bushels of corn or wheat over 10 miles of bad roads than to ship it 100 miles over a railway?

These are things that the people who are most interested in good roads seldom think of, because, as they do not have to pay in cash upon the spot, the loss that results from carting their products over roads deep with mud or dust or full of loose rocks and deep ruts, they imagine that they have lost nothing. In reality they have lost labor, horseflesh, wagons and, worst of all, great quantities of time, which to every man who makes the most of his business is the most valuable commodity of all.

## No Room For Toll Roads.

When the country was poor and sparsely settled and there was little travel, it was perhaps necessary to transfer to private enterprise a function of the state and allow tolls to be levied in return for the construction of highways. That day is long since past. The state should take its own—of course on just and equitable terms, but it should recover it without delay.

## Their Value Apparent.

The same sections are found in widely separated parts of the country. In Charleston and Sapinaw, Mich., they are beginning to realize that improved highways converging in their cities would increase their trade and make them greater distributing centers, to their material advantage.

## Road Briefs.

Prosperity travels on good roads. Bad roads mean dreary isolation for months every year. Keep the roads clean, and the attention thrashed to them will soon result in their being still further improved. The vehicle that uses wide tires is contributing its share toward better highways. Poor highways are incompatible with the public welfare.

## ABOUT UNDERDRAINING.

How Drains Are Constructed In Connecticut—Tilo Versus Stone Drains.

The remarkable wet summer of 1897 was a forcible admonition to the farmers of many sections to drain their lands, and they have heeded it. A Connecticut correspondent, writing to Country Gentleman from Hartford county, says:

I do not remember a time when so many drains were being laid as at present. Farmers who had fields of potatoes not worth digging and tobacco only fit to be plowed under are determined not to have another experience so costly and disagreeable. If the next season were to prove as dry as half a dozen preceding the present one, they might secure fair crops, but what the farmers want is insurance against loss from the effects of surplus water in another wet season. They are acting wisely, for it is probable that the increased yield of their crops during the first ensuing summer of excessive rain will offset the cost of drain age.

The drains that are being constructed in the valley lands are almost exclusively of tile. On the rocky lands away from the Connecticut river some stone drains are being built. When it is an object to rid the land of surface stones, it may be advisable to build stone drains, but the additional labor required makes a stone drain more expensive than one of tile under almost any circumstances.

There is some little variation in the method of making a stone drain, but the ordinary plan is to lay a row of stones on each side at the bottom of the ditch, cover across with flat stones, place a layer of cobblestones on these to a depth of several inches, cover the small stones with straw or brush to prevent the loose earth from filling the crevices and fill up the ditch with soil.

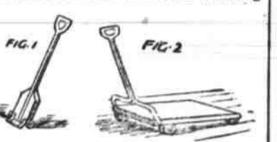
One objection to a drain of this kind is the liability, provided the soil at the bottom of the ditch is not of equal hardness for its entire length, that some of the foundation stones will sink below the line of the rest. In this case the drain is likely to be choked up. Another objection is that burrowing animals may enter the drain and obstruct it. However, a stone drain well laid on a hardpan bottom will often remain in position and perform good service for many years. I do not intend to say anything to discourage any farmer with an overabundance of loose stones upon his lands from building a stone drain. Indeed there are many situations where an open drain, with sloping sides grassed over, is very much better than none.

## Ben Davis Apple In Vermont.

The Rural New Yorker says: "In our opinion it is a mistake to plant the Ben Davis apple in Vermont. Vermont cannot grow such large and highly colored Ben Davis as they raise in Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Arkansas, and that's the goods they have to compete with. But Vermont can grow Northern Spy and Greenings, Fameuse and Arclets as fine as anything in the world, and that is what Vermont growers ought to stick to. With the competition which now exists in the apple business, and which is bound to grow sharper and sharper every year, no one should dare go to the market with any fruit which is not the best of its kind. The best Ben Davis always brings a good price—more's the pity—but we can't understand what use could be made of a second class Ben Davis. Of course Vermonters pack first class Ben Davis, but they are second class compared with the Ozark pack."

## Handy Contrivances.

One often sees about railway freight stations an affair similar to the one shown at Fig. 1 in the cut, but not having the convenient shovel handle. The lip of iron at the bottom is placed under the whole balanced over the small wheels and the whole easily wheeled away. The shovel handle makes the wheeling



TWO USEFUL CONTRIVANCES.

away much easier. Such a device will be found very useful on the farm. Make it of hard wood with wide iron tracks. At Fig. 2 is shown an improved form of device for moving heavy bodies in the house or barn, stores being handled with special ease by the use of this little platform on very low, broad casters. The rear end is so low as almost to touch the floor. Farm Journal, which originally illustrated both these articles, says: "By tilting up the object to be moved and backing the platform in under it it can then be wheeled anywhere."

## Here and There.

A Massachusetts contributor to The New England Homestead claims that there is at least \$2.50 per ton difference between home grown and baled hay.

Striking figures showing the decline of farming in Connecticut are given by a Litchfield county statistician.

An advancing cranberry market is apparent, particularly in the east.

The outlook for the sheep industry is quite inviting at present, and the shepherd feels encouraged.

Mr. Charles Parry expressed the opinion at a farmers' institute that when farmers realize the immense profits in chestnut culture they will be tumbing over each other to set out the groves.

Can't capture Crimson Clover, eh? Why not try bribing him? He loves potash. Set Sir Muriate after him, advises Rural New Yorker.

An exchange says that in the south-west turnips are planted in different parts of the orchards and allowed to remain. Rabbits and mice feed on this bait and do less damage to trees.

## POULTRY THAT PAYS.

MONEY IN RAISING DUCKS AND GEES FOR MARKET.

Duck Raising Has Been Developed Within the Last Ten Years Into a Flourishing Industry—Ten Standard Breeds—Advice and Suggestions.

A recent bulletin of the department of agriculture states that there are ten standard breeds of ducks raised in this country. These are the White Peking, White, Aylesbury, Colored Rouen, White Cayuga, Colored Muscovy, Gray Call, White Call, Black East Indian and Crested White. The first six named are considered most profitable to raise. The two breeds of Calls and the Black East Indian are bantams, which are bred more for the showroom. The Crested White is almost wholly ornamental.

Duck raising has been developed within the last ten years into a flourishing industry. Prior to that time the duck was not considered a profitable fowl to raise. Its flesh was never prized very highly by the masses. Ducks were raised without constraint in waterways, feeding mostly on fish and water insects. This food gave the flesh a strong fishy flavor; hence it was not particularly sought after save by a few who were partial to that class of diet. The duck centers of Long Island and New England were then producing a limited number each season, and it was with difficulty that these were sold with any profit.

In fact, one of the most prominent duck raisers may be quoted as saying that he was obliged to visit the city market personally and tease the dealers to purchase his birds in order to secure anything like satisfactory prices. Artificial incubation and brooding, combined with judicious feeding, have been instrumental in the development of the industry. Machinery has enabled the duck raiser to accomplish his ambition of having his stock in the markets when prices are the best, and also of raising large numbers of birds in a limited space of time. The season for raising ducks is about six months—from February to July.

Duck raising is to be recommended to farmers as a profitable source of revenue, and by careful attention to the work, as knowledge increases, the scope of the industry may be extended. There are numbers of farms in this country today that are devoted exclusively to raising ducks, averaging from 5,000 to 20,000 ducks as an annual output. An idea of the proportions of the business may be had from the fact that as high as three tons of feed are used daily by a single raiser during the busy season.

The profits are the very best, and good incomes may be made when once the business is thoroughly mastered. But the reader should not jump imprudently to the conclusion that these results can be easily obtained. Duck raising is an arduous task, one that requires an apprenticeship and absolute knowledge of the business before success is reached. Those who have been successful in raising ducks have learned the business much as one does any other vocation. The beginner should start modestly and increase his plant as his knowledge of the work increases. The average farmer has all the facilities for raising a goodly number of ducks and may with a little outlay add considerably to his income.

It is not at all necessary that ducks should have access to water to be raised successfully. They grow and thrive as readily without. There are successful plants where thousands of ducks are raised that have no water save that which is given them as drink.

Geese raising is not so extensively engaged in as duck raising. The conditions under which they are successfully reared are almost entirely different than those necessary for the ducks. Being smaller, the duck can be raised in a more limited space than can the goose. The latter needs free range and water. The duck has been proved to do equally as well without water. There are many places on a farm that are worthless for cultivation that could be utilized with excellent results in raising geese. Many farmers profit by this and add to their incomes annually. There are but little care and attention necessary for raising geese, and the cost of food is also proportionally small.

## The Supply of Eggs.

Not many American eggs are exported, and not many eggs are imported, none except in seasons when eggs here run very high. The imported eggs come from Sweden, Germany and Austria. They come in boxes containing hundreds of dozens each, packed in chopped straw. A few eggs in this country are still packed in straw in barrels, but the new well light commonly used American egg packages is a box containing 30 or 36 dozen. The eggs are packed in the new familiar strawboard racks, which are called fillers. The eggs are stood on end, each in a pigeonhole by itself, six dozen eggs in a layer. There are sheets of strawboard between the layers, and eggs are packed some five and some six layers to the box. Eggs are most costly in winter, but cold storage has done much to equalize the price of eggs the year round.—New York Sun.

## Flocking Ducks and Geese.

The best method of picking ducks and geese is to steam them. If this is impracticable, they may be dipped into very hot water the same as chickens and turkeys, but must be kept in a trifle longer, as the feathers are more difficult to loosen. It does not pay to pick them alive for the sake of saving the feathers, as the small profit derived from them is more than lost on the sale of the birds, the result being so to inflame the skin as to greatly injure the sale. Leave the head and upper portion of the neck unpicked and the legs and feet intact. Never singe ducks and geese, as it leaves the skin dirty and uninviting.

## BALLADE OF A CITY BOWER.

If hunky dells with brown and silver brooks Pipes numberless perennially shrill, For publication betimes in eighty books Songs breathing righteous praise of bough and rill, These are fair spots, but here God's gracious will.

A stone's throw from the city's heart and din Gives me as fate—let me deserve it still—My upper window where the elm looks in.

They love dark things who celebrate the rocks That build in woody places mirk and chill. My neighbor, too, misled, on sturdy books A painted cage hangs from his window sill And hears not in its captive's every trill Pleas for the liberty he may not win.

Those are free, lusty throats with tune that fill My upper windows where the elm looks in. A glit'ring, turquoise bay it overlooks. My pleasant bower, and a gentle hill Gilt with wild mustard blossoms. There are nooks

Beyond them doubtless which a little skill In lalied making must misprise. To thrill The world with perfect lays let them begin Who can. This theme befits an humble quill— My upper window where the elm looks in.

When day is over at the rumbling mill And slipped the gyves of office disciplines, Here is an exerciser for every ill— My upper window where the elm looks in. —Edward W. Bernard in Lotus.

## THEATRICAL RECEIPTS.

Charles Reade Wondered Why They Were So Large In America.

"Edwin Booth In London" is the title of an article in The Century by E. H. House. Mr. House tells of an interesting meeting between Booth and Charles Reade and reports the following conversation relating to the appearance of Booth and Irving together: "Is it true that the prices will be changed?"

"Doubled, I believe. Irving says they must be. That is one of the risks I speak of, but he is full of confidence. He does it more for my sake than anything else."

"Then I hope it will turn out well. What are the indications?"

"Very good, I hear. I cannot judge myself. The conditions are all different from what I am used to."

"I understand. We are too slow—and thrifty, I suspect—to run the swift American pace. Yet I can't see why there should be such an amazing difference in your theatrical business and ours. The stories we hear of New York profits sound fabulous. I should say they were fabulous if I had not seen the returns of Wallack's when one of my plays was produced there. A hundred pounds a night is nothing to you, is it not?"

"Two or three hundred would not stagger us," said Booth, smiling, "nor four or five for a very great and special attraction. For several years the proprietors houses in New York considered \$1,000 a fair average the year round. 'Stars' traveling through the country, for whom the regular prices were raised, could sometimes draw much more."

"Were you at all prepared for the lower receipts here?"

"Not really prepared. I was told what to expect, but paid no attention. Clarke said I should get nothing at the Princess, but I did not take his 'nothing' literally. I thought I might count upon \$1,000 a month at the very worst. He was right, however."

"I can't make it out," said Reade. "Your theaters are not larger than ours, and the prices of tickets are about the same, yet I see the Adelphi or the St. James' packed, without about one-half the result that Wallack's shows. It beats my arithmetic. You can't get more people into a place than it will hold."

"We do that, too, sometimes," laughed Booth, "but, as I say, you must come and find out all about it for yourself. Mr. Reade. Your audiences will be larger than the halls can hold, so you can study the problem under the best conditions."

"No, no. You tempt me to my destruction." But the compliment greatly pleased the author, who liked to hear such things said, though he affected a lofty indifference to praise.

## Soldier Under Difficulties.

At a church gathering some time ago a number of deaf mutes were present. Refreshments were served during the evening, and in handing a cup of coffee to one of the guests a deaf mute gentleman happened to spill a few drops on his wife's skirt. The wife is also a deaf mute, and it was evident that she took the mishap in a rather irritable way. She wrinkled up her forehead and at once made a series of remarkably swift movements with her nimble fingers.

The husband, looking exceedingly apologetic, made a few motions in return.

One of the guests who had noticed this little play slyly slipped out a bit of paper and penciling something on it handed it to a friend.

This is what the latter read: "No matter how badly afflicted, woman can still scold."

The friend scribbled this in return: "Yes, but in the present case the husband is luckier than the average. He doesn't have to look."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

## Married Women Teachers.

Of all the causes now tending to keep women out of matrimony one that is very effective is the discrimination against married women teachers in the public schools. Malden, Mass., is the latest to declare that the marriage of a public school teacher shall be regarded as a resignation of her office. Mark the pronoun "her." No such discrimination is made against man.—Woman's Tribune.

The region between the first and second cataracts of the Nile is the hottest on the globe. It never rains there, and the natives do not believe foreigners who tell them that water can descend from the sky.

The Roman houses and palaces were so imperfectly lighted that in many living rooms the inmates were forced to depend on lamps by day as well as by night.

## Royal makes the food pure, wholesome and delicious.



ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

A horrible occurrence is reported from Goldsboro. On Monday night a week while two children of Prof. A. L. Sumner, the principal of the colored school at Burgaw, were asleep in a feather bed in a room up stairs, the house caught fire in some inexplicable manner. The oldest one managed to get out but a child about 4 years old was burned to death. A colored man ran up stairs to rescue it and when he seized hold of it, the arms of the child came off and he was so badly burned that he threw the child out of the second story window. It was dead, however, before he threw it out.

## Relief in Six Hours.

Distressing Kidney and Bladder diseases relieved in six hours by the "NEW GREAT SOUTH AMERICAN KIDNEY CURE." This new remedy is a great surprise on account of its exceeding promptness in relieving pain in the bladder, kidneys, back and every part of the urinary passages in male and female. It relieves retention of water and pain in passing it almost immediately. If you want quick relief and cure this is your remedy. Sold by T. A. Albright, druggist, Graham, N. C.

The Newbern people are having some fun over the antics of Dick Williams, who owns the electric lights of that town, and A. R. Denison, Newbern's new mayor, a Republican. The mayor employed a Philadelphia expert to test the arc lights, on the supposition that Williams was not giving lights of 1,200 candle power, as per contract. The test was attempted in whole or in part secretly and Williams got after them with a shot gun as they were monkeying with his property. There are numerous law cases resulting therefrom.

## Tetter, Salt-Rheum and Eczema.

The intense itching and smarting, incident to these diseases, is instantly allayed by applying Chamberlain's Eye and Skin Ointment. Many very bad cases have been permanently cured by it. It is equally efficient for itching piles and a favorite remedy for sore nipples, chapped hands, chilblains, frost bites and chronic sore eyes. 25 cts. per box.

Dr. Cad's Condition Powders, are just what a horse needs when in bad condition. Tonic, blood purifier and vermifuge. They are not food, but medicine and the best in use to put a horse in prime condition. Price 25 cents per package.

For sale by T. A. Albright & Co.

North Wilkesboro suffered a \$14,000 fire Sunday night a week. It started in the furniture department of Stafford Bros. store, the entire building being destroyed. It spread to the store of Mr. McGee and the residence of Policeman Vicker, both of which were burned. The wholesale store of L. A. Jarvis and the bank building caught several times, but were saved. The losses of Stafford Bros. and McGee the heaviest, the first being \$6,000 with \$4,800 insurance; the second, \$4,000 with \$1,500 insurance. The office of The Hustler, weekly newspaper, was destroyed. The paper will resume publication as soon as material can be bought. Three citizens in their efforts to save property were painfully burned and narrowly escaped with their lives.

When in need of a remedy to relieve pain you want the surest, quickest and best, such a one is Rice's Gooose Grease Liniment, it relieves all pain at once, it cures croup, cough and colds as soon as used. For sale and guaranteed by all druggists and general stores. It relieves whooping cough.

The large store of the Parmelee Commissary was destroyed Monday night by fire and the body of Mr. Whitley, father of Mr. T. P. Whitley, Coast Line agent at Hobbard, was found in the waste. It is thought that the store was robbed early in the night, and Whitley was murdered and the store fired to cover up all evidences. This report is current in Parmelee, says an exchange.</