

FARM POULTRY

FREE RANGE FOR CHICKENS

Modern Wire Fencing, Which Has Neat Appearance, Will Keep All Fowls Out of the Gardens.

The old method of free range need not necessarily be changed. The fowls should not, however, be allowed to run at will within the garden or in and about the farm buildings. Nothing is more aggravating or disgusting than to have the nice vegetables or beautiful flowers scratched up, and the doorsteps, the porch, the barn floor and the farm machines fouled with poultry droppings. Separate the poultry also from the other live stock of the farm.

If the fowls are to be kept near the farm buildings, provide ample range enclosed by modern poultry wire fencing. The latter requires ordinarily but a few posts, is easily put up and has a very neat appearance when in position.

Another way of separating the fowls from the center of farm operations is to place the henhouses at a considerable distance from the farmstead, in a pasture where the fowls will have absolute range. The latter plan may entail some extra travel by the poultryman and there is the risk in some localities of depredations by foxes, hawks or other wild animals or by thieves. The young, strong farmer boy may find advantage in the second or so-called "colony plan," while the housewife will probably prefer the fenced inclosure near the farmhouse.

Thirdly, the farmer is too careless in the way he disposes of his poultry products. He is usually content to trade his eggs at the nearest grocery store when by a little extra effort he could gain a select private trade which would pay far better. His pure-bred stock of one breed of fowls in their well-kept house and capacious grassy yards will be a great advertisement for his egg products, and uniform clean appearance of the eggs in their attractive package will prove an additional help in making sales.

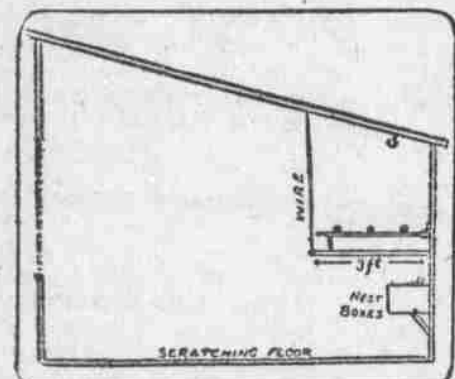
Then, too, in disposing of his fowls the farmer often sells the birds alive when by carefully dressing them on the farm and selling to his customers on orders he could secure far better prices.

PLAN FOR SCRATCHING SHED

Illustration Given of House for the Benefit of Small Poultryman Where Back Yard is Used.

To give the small poultryman (the back yard man especially) an idea of what is meant by using his small piece of ground for a coop and scratching shed, the accompanying picture is printed. The picture is taken of a laying house used by D. C. R. Hoff at Neshant, N. J.

Such a design might be used by a man whose piece of ground faced the



Plan for a Scratching Shed.

south at the short side. That is if his piece of chicken ground was 10x18, and the 10-foot sides faced north and south. If his coop proper was ten feet wide by eight feet deep he would have a 10x10 scratching pen. These figures are of course taken haphazard, and the idea would have to conform with the ground.

DOULTRY NOTES

Push the pullets along to rapid maturity.

The comb is the chicken's health indicator.

Stimulate the hens to eat more by feeding a variety of foods.

Start with Pekins—they are the handiest and mature early.

Never allow ducklings to get wet until they have a good coat of feathers.

The nearer square you build a poultry house, the less the cost of construction.

Ducks are pigs for food, and gobble down pretty nearly everything that comes in their way.

Pekins do not need water for swimming, but they must have plenty of absolutely clean drinking water.

We could not think of a more simple or efficient method of improving the egg supply of this country than the production of infertile eggs.

MYSTERY OF THE SEAL



A MALE SEAL

NATURE'S innermost secrets seldom long endure under the scrutinizing, penetrating eye of modern science, but the secret held alone by the seal family is a mystery that has balked scientists, provided material for the poet's pen and mockingly lured adventurers on thrilling quests to the middle of the Pacific ocean.

Where do the seals and sea lions go? The mystery which in the palmy days of the sealing industry in the far north cost the old Alaska Commercial company thousands of dollars—is seemingly beyond solution.

From California to Behring sea, in a few weeks the seal family will again quietly slip into the sea, and leaving only a few stragglers, will disappear into the depths of the ocean, probably to migrate to some far away place.

They will disappear as completely as though swallowed up by the sea, only to reappear again late in February or early in March, when the annual breeding season begins. Where the seals go during the winter can only be theorized. According to scientists who have followed the course of sea lions migrating from California points, there is little question of their first destination. It is said that they join the great herds in Behring sea.

Whether the same animals which leave the Cliff Seal Rocks at San Francisco in the fall come back again in the spring, or whether their places are taken by others is very uncertain.

Sea lions have always inhabited the Seal Rocks, it is said. On account of the peculiar climate surrounding the Golden Gate, it is seldom that there are not sea lions there. However, it is only the "bachelor" sea lion which will be seen by sightseers who go to the cliff two months hence.

Followed by investigators. In 1886, before the period of pelagic hunting or shooting of seals at sea was practiced, the Alaska Commercial company, which was the first lessee of the Pribylov islands in Behring sea, attempted to trace the seals on the migratory course. Expeditions were outfitted and when the migration from the islands began about November 1, 1886, the investigators attempted to follow and learn definitely where the seals spent their winter. For several hundred miles the animals in great herds from the rookeries were followed. But one day, as though by magic, the larger portion of the herd suddenly disappeared. In another few days there was not an animal to be seen. All were gone—where? Nobody knows.

It was apparent that the seals had taken to the bottom of the ocean, that they, evidently, went far below some warm current. Some say the seals immediately began to proceed back northward under water. Seals ordinarily swim for distances of two or three miles before showing their noses above water for air. The theory that the animals swam several hundred miles under water has been contradicted, inasmuch as no mammal is known to be capable of staying under water so long without a supply of fresh air.

Kipling is only one of various writers who wrote of the periodical disappearance of the seal family. The sureness with which the animals divine their course of travel has often been a favorite theme. Seals and sea lions make long journeys of many thousand miles and never go astray. During the spring and summer months these strange animals live on land, making the rocky slopes of islands their abodes. Then when November comes they slip into the sea and disappear, feeding upon fish. Fur seals are more strange in their migrations than are the "hair" seals, but they too leave their summer abodes and take to the waters of a temperate or tropical ocean.

Consume Millions of Fish. While the seal family is away from its habitat many millions of fish are

consumed, in fact, fish and squids are the sole diet of the animals. There has in past years been an effort on the part of San Francisco and bay city fishermen to have exterminated the sea lions which inhabit the Seal Rocks at the cliff. These animals eat great quantities of fish, and, it is said, deplete to an extent the supply of fish for the local market. Every effort of the fishermen to make war upon the animals, however, has been balked by the government.

Will the fur seal finally disappear, is a problem which is now urging the United States government to take every precaution against the extinction. Under the treaty entered into by the United States, Japan and Russia, the fur seals in the far north have a temporary respite, at least.

No hunter is allowed to kill the animals on the Pribylov islands, and consequently there is a general belief that with the protection afforded them by the nations, the seals in the next few years will again increase in number.

From 4,500,000 the great seal herds in their natural habitat in Behring sea diminished in number since the acquisition of the Pribylov islands by the United States to less than 100,000.

The reduction of the seal herd from millions to a few thousands was not by what might be called "legitimate" killing of the animals, but by the practice of pelagic sealing, in which the seals were pursued in the open sea, males and females being shot indiscriminately. Of those shot a comparatively small number were recovered, the wounded getting away to die. The abominable practice resulted in the death by starvation of the young left on the islands by the females which were shot at sea.

Statistics show that there is no more inhuman and villainous practice than the pursuit of seals in the open sea. Japanese were largely responsible for the slaying of thousands of seal by the pelagic method.

It is said that some fishermen now occasionally shoot seals when not under observation, but the practice has generally been stopped and the government is able to regulate the number of seals killed on the northern islands yearly.

WHAT MADE HIS HEART GLAD

Lonely Man Was Glad to See Some Evidence of Possible Congenial Companionship.

The hotel dining room was 80 feet long. A tall man sat eating a lonely breakfast at one end. A stout man was performing the same rite at the other. They passed out together. "Marooned," murmured one.

"Are we the only inhabitants?" "With the exception of the help, we are alone."

"These late vacations are awful!" "Yes; I'll never take another."

Days passed—dull days, lonely days. Sometimes they hobnobbed. At other times they abhorred each other and kept apart.

One morning the tall man sat dreaming on the veranda. He was dreaming of waiters and of moonlight strolls. The stout man was on the bench. Suddenly he bent over something, and then began to beckon wildly. The tall man sauntered down.

"What have you found?" he languidly inquired.

"Look at that, Robinson Crusoe," yelled the stout man.

"What is it?" "Look!"

The tall man looked, then smiled feebly.

It was the print of a girl's shoe in the sand—Judge.

Good Business. Why is an undertaker the most successful business man? He never fails to carry out what he undertakes.

WASHINGTON GOSSIP

Nothing Beyond the Milky Way but Empty Space



WASHINGTON.—The boundaries of the universe have been discovered, according to a report received at the National Observatory from Prof. R. T. A. Innes, director of the Union Observatory at Johannesburg, South Africa. The announcement is regarded with interest by astronomers all over the world.

The universe, Prof. Innes asserts, is contained within the space girdled by the Milky Way, and he figures that the most distant star in that wonderful girde is 540 light years distant from the earth. Inasmuch as the planetary system, of which the earth is a member, is commonly supposed by astronomers to be close to the centers of the arena embraced within the Milky Way, and inasmuch as light travels 186,000 miles a second, or over five and three-quarters quadrillion miles a year, the diameter of the universe, by Prof. Innes's calculation is 6,334,551,680,000 miles. This is the distance light would travel in 1,080 years. A ray of light takes sixteen minutes and thirty-six seconds to traverse the diameter of the earth's orbit.

The so-called "hellum stars," the Johannesburg astronomer avers, are the most distant of all stars from the earth. The hellum stars are peculiar to the Milky Way.

Is there anything outside the universe? On this point Prof. Innes does not venture a positive opinion, but he says that the most powerful telescopes penetrate far into space, beyond the boundaries of the universe—revealing nothing. In particular, he says, there is absolutely no sign of other universe of similarly constituted systems.

He looked out beyond the universe—the air in South Africa is very clear—but his telescope discovered in those far-away clouds called "nebulae," which some astronomers suppose to be star-systems in process of formation. Many of these nebulae are spiral-looking, and the conjecture is that they are whirling around and around, condensing themselves into solid globes, on which life may later appear.

The number of stars, according to Prof. Innes, is limited, falling far short of the number of people on the earth. He estimates the mass of the universe as equal to 441,000 times the mass of the sun. That is to say, the combined mass of all the globes, big and little, in the universe is as heavy as 441,000 suns. Of stars 100 times as massive as the sun there are 300; of stars ten times as massive as the sun there are 5,000; of stars equal in mass to the sun there are 200,000; and of stars smaller than the sun there are 16,000,000.

Popcorn Can Be Profitably Raised on the Farm

THIRTY dollars' worth of popped corn in the form of 5-cent packages for the market represents an outlay of only about \$1 or \$1.50 for raw material, according to a farmers' bulletin (No. 553) just issued by the department of agriculture, entitled "Popcorn for the Home." Sufficient popcorn to make \$30 worth of 5-cent packages can be grown on a piece of land 40 feet long and 20 feet wide.

The specialists in corn investigations who write this bulletin say that popcorn has considerable value as a food and when properly prepared for the table it is superior to many of the breakfast foods now on the market.

If it is desired to grow popcorn as a field crop, the surplus stock not wanted for home use can usually be sold to local merchants at a fair price, or it can be profitably sold directly to consumers.

Dealers who put up popcorn in 10-cent packages for the retail trade usually have a number of good recipes printed on the outside of the package. Some recipes for popcorn confections that have given good results are the following:

Chocolate Popcorn—Two teacupfuls of white sugar, two ounces of chocolate, one-half cup of corn sirup, one cup of water.

Put these ingredients into a kettle and cook them until the sirup hard-

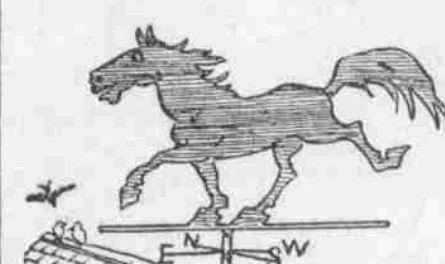


ens, when put in cold water. Pour over four quarts of crisp, freshly popped corn and stir well to insure the uniform coating of the kernels.

Sugared Popcorn—Make a sirup by boiling together two teacupfuls of granulated sugar and one teacup of water. Boil until the sirup strings from the spoon or hardens when dropped into cold water. Pour over six quarts of freshly popped corn and stir well.

Popcorn Balls—One pint of sirup, one pint of sugar, two tablespoonfuls of butter, one teaspoonful of vinegar. Cook till the sirup hardens when dropped into cold water. Remove to back of stove and add one-half teaspoonful of soda dissolved in a table-spoonful of hot water and then pour the hot sirup over four quarts of freshly popped corn, stirring till each kernel is well coated, when it can be molded into balls or into any desired form.

Gilded Horse on Weather Vane Not Yet Extinct



THE gilded horse that once trotted, galloped, pranced and dazzled on the weather vane above many of the stables of Washington has become rare, but he is not extinct. He may be tarnished, but he still holds up his head and tail. He is not so forlorn looking as most of his brother and sister horses in the streets. The writer early in the spring wrote an honorable mention of a gilt horse on a weather vane on a stable converted into a garage on Columbia road near 18th street. That horse is still there and he still seems unconscious that his neighing, nickering and champing

mates below have gone and that a machine creaks and snorts where they lived.

If you are walking along G street between 6th and 7th and will look toward the northern sky you may see high up, always heading into the wind, another gilded horse with flowing mane and uplifted tail, and probably distended nostrils, though his position is too far up in the air to determine that point without field glasses.

He is trotting on a gilt horizontal bar and seems to be striking at least a 2.20 gait. He is well extended. He seems to be about to win. No other horse is near him. He wears no harness. No sulky or driver is behind him.

He is a bold, proud-looking horse and it is refreshing for horsemen to look up and see one of their four-footed friends who has not the dejected mien which so many horses in the streets wear. It is a pleasure to them to contemplate this horse, even if he is a gilt horse.

Labor Department Clerks Have to Do Real Work

CLERKS of the department of labor are nursing blisters and calloused spots on hands and knees, and the new quarters of the latest executive department of the government smells of ammonia and healing ointments. Moving day for the department came around, and, as the appropriation for moving covered only the transfer of the furniture from the old quarters to the new, the clerks were pressed into service to rearrange the desks and filing cabinets and other paraphernalia.

"Oh, it was fun," said Chief Clerk Watson, displaying difficulty in making his stiffened fingers grasp a pen and wincing when he attempted to get out of his swivel chair. "The work had to be done, anyway, and the clerks were the only available persons to do it. It's all in a lifetime, and don't let us belong to the department of labor."



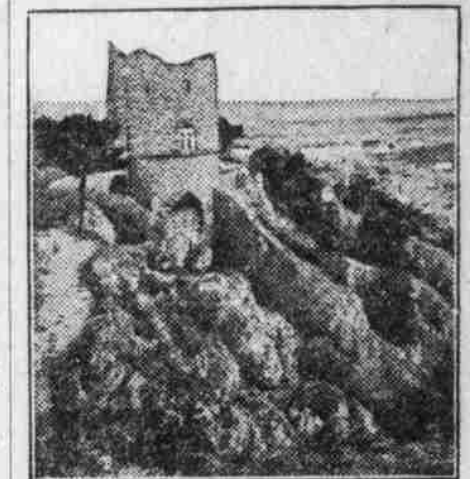
"And I believe we made good." The ordeal continued several days and although the department of commerce had loaned all of its available laborers, charwomen and messengers to the fitting laborites, the muscle-weary clerks had to lend their assistance.

The work of the department of labor is dropping behind as a result of the exodus.

PORTUGAL NOT LIKE SPAIN

Wonderful Country With Most Salubrious Climate in Europe—Cold at Lisbon Unknown.

New York—It is more than probable that he will need to disabuse his mind in the first instance of the idea that Portugal is merely Spain in miniature, Charles L. Freeston writes in Scribner's. As a matter of fact, there is little kinship between the two. On paper the languages of the two countries bear considerable similarity, but the pronunciation of Portuguese differs so materially from the Spanish that no advantage of convenience accrues from a knowledge of the latter tongue. In all other aspects, moreover, everything about Portugal and the Portuguese is distinctive to an absolute degree; the most faded traveler, indeed, will find there a fresh-



In the Portuguese Hills.

ness of aspect, in one direction or another, for which he will assuredly be wholly unprepared. Need it be said that this of itself is paramount as an attraction?

Almost unlimited is the list of characteristic features for any one of which the country is worth visiting; and each in its way is so important that priority of mention must be entirely fortuitous. Before descending from the general to the particular one may attempt a summary of these as follows, but with the premise that they might be given in any other order:

The climate is the most wonderful in Europe. A polyglot crowd of scores of thousands flies annually to the Riviera from every part in Europe in order to enjoy the supposed maximum of sunshine, but often to be undeceived by weeping skies, and with the cruel mistral as a certainty. At Lisbon, on the other hand, cold weather as understood elsewhere is literally unknown; the temperature is not only higher than that of the Riviera, but is equable to a degree that almost defies itself. What this means in practical effect is illustrated by the fact that, in March last, I met an English lady on board ship who had stayed six weeks at Mont-Estori, near Lisbon, and had bathed in the sea every day in February! Nor was the season exceptionally warm.

YOUNG BOY OF TEN A SLEUTH

Son of Police Chief Has Caused Arrest of Many Thieves in Birmingham, Ala.

Birmingham, Ala.—Only ten years of age, Daniel Allen Badeker, son of Chief of Police Badeker of Birmingham, is a clever amateur detective. He has caused the arrest of all sorts of offenders, mostly thieves of various sorts, leading to the recovery of not less than \$10,000 worth of stolen goods. Car robbers, bicycle thieves and shoplifters have come to grief through him. He is also the terror of blind tigers.

Ever since he was five years old, when his father was chief of the Birmingham secret service department, he has been much around police headquarters, and before he was seven years old he manifested analytical powers, and on occasions gave the detectives useful "tips." Sometimes his father or others carried him along in working up cases.

He became known among the men as "assistant chief" after his father was elected chief of police. Two years ago he donned the full uniform, including cap and gold band, gloves and leggings, and was given special officer's badge 53. Joining the mounted police squadron, he appears regularly on his Shetland pony at the head of police escorts at all public parades. He is a skillful horseman.

"I want dad's job," Dan says. "To wear his badge is my ambition."

TEACHES GIRLS TO HAMMER

Married Women Admitted to Carpentering Class in Toledo Public Schools.

Toledo, O.—A young woman's class in carpentering, with 18 enrolled the first day, has been organized in connection with the manual training department of the public schools. Several married women have been admitted with the girls. Members of the class are to be first taught the use of hammer and saw and later instructed in making artistic furniture. The class is believed to be the first of the kind in the United States.

Hadley Won't Live in Chicago.

Chicago.—Ex-Governor Hadley of Missouri told the representatives of the railroad systems in the Mississippi valley that he would not accept the \$25,000 a year job offered him for five years if the acceptance of it meant his real living in Chicago. He desires to remain in Missouri to oppose Senator Stone for re-election.