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CHAPTER XVIII.-Continued.

-21-

The hardest thing was to wait till half-past seven, the hour at which-the guests were bidden. At twenty-five minutes past, the candles were lighted, a schedule which precluded the waste of war without a justifiable number of observers. It was the touch. A long-drawn "Oh-h-h !" expressed the complete gratification of all the Penfields. From that time on, fairyland was an open book. Thad's millions of money can put inside you." blue eyes were unbelievably wide, and he tiptoed about in an awed and silent ecstasy. Crink was full of important tions. errands, having gratuitously assumed | Wopple beat you stiff? He wished me responsibilities for sallent features of a Merry Christmas." the evening.

As for Lettle, she was not the same child that had straggled into Mrs. Penfield's kitchen three months before, undernourished, blindly resentful against the harshness of an unthinking world, ready to fight anything and anyone to keep her starved soul in her starved body-a creature forced by the indifference of society into reversion to elemental instincts, to primitive pugnacity. Without volition she had been shot into a scheme of things that had no place for her, that frowned upon her with heavy disapproval. She had been saved from the attitude that might have followed-the attitude of a society that later holds up its hands in a shock of horror and repudiates the menace that its own carelessness has nurtured. It will always be so until that society ceases to segregate ing. its human strays, to be housed in correct stone buildings and fed from longhandled spoons, and rouses to the inalienable right of the individual to individual care.

Tonight Lettle was radiant. She might later know joy that would be broader and deeper, but it could never kng please me better. But I got to go e fully inundate her capacity

alone memories, either! The tree was still there, and Christmas day was yet to come

"My landy goodness !" cried Lettle. "I don't never want to see anything sweller'n that party was. It sure hit the stars for class.'

had gone out of town to spend the hol-"I guess we're pretty rich," piped Thad, skinning a finger of fir to determine exactly how sticky it was. that he would get his pay the follow-

"We sure got rich feelings," agreed Mrs. Penfield. "And that's as much as | ing week.

"Yes, I s'pose so," corroborated Lettie, politely but with evident reserva-"Say, Penzie, wouldn't Mr.

Mrs. Penfield laughed. "Land, Lettie, what do you think folks arehard-and-fast little sticks of wood? They mostly ain't nothing 't all except what you think they are. Chances are, if you think a feller is mean, you're just confessing the way you acted to him first."

"My patience !" sighed Lettie. "Life is awful hard to get used to."

"Well, by George!" broke in Crink. 'I'm glad this here Christmas ain't over yet. There's still them roast ducks to be et tomorrow."

CHAPTER XIX

Twenty Minutes Late.

"My goodness, Uncle Jerry, you don't mean it !" Mrs. Penfield paused in her chopping of meat for the dress-

"Yes, "Car'line, I came in to tell you. I'm awful sorry, but-"

"But Christmas day !" she interrupted, struggling between hurt and bewilderment. "Not to take dinner with your own folks!"

"I would if I could. Wouldn't noth-

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grand like this."

the wind sent the ragged leaves of the pepper tree swirling around the drive-

way. Mrs. Penfield reflected that it was fortunate she had just lald in a

supply of coal. Cornstalks and drift-

wood might serve as kindlings, but

they made little impression on heating

the house and that generous portion of

out-of-doors which swept, in through

not be dried in the yard, so Crink cal

ried them up to the loft as in the pre

vious winter, except that the ascent

was easier because of Uncle Jerry's

sceptadder Certainly washings could

not wait for fair weather, because im

mediate revenue was required Crink

had asked for a week's pay in ad-

vance, to finish the payment on the

coal; therefore the family were de-

pendent on the current income. Mrs.

The first time that Crink returned

without the money for the laundry

which he had just delivered, she was

disappointed; the second time, she

was alarmed. In each case the family

iday week; Crink had 'encountered 'a

maid who informed him carelessly

"Now, children, we just got to plan,"

Consequently they planned. Mrs.

Penfield took no further account of

possible income during the week, and

apportioned the supplies on hand to

tide them through till the day after

New Year's. She was reasonably sure

that on that date she could depend

upon a payment from Mrs. Weather-

Mrs. Penfield was that commercial

outcast, the cash customer, who re-

ceives only the most fleeting considera-

tion from the storekeeper, whereas

the customer who keeps him waiting

for his money is the object of his

earnest solicitude and accommodation.

It seems that the less money one has,

the more promptly one pays. It was

probable that Mrs. Penfield might have

opened an account at Mr. Drake's;

but it was contrary to her prudent

policy, and also distasteful to Crink's

"Land, I'm glad I've read all them

diet books," she said to herself. "I

know now that if you go without food

for a few days, you ain't starving-

you're fasting. And it's turrible styl-

ish, too. Besides, water is awful fill-

She drank two glasses before every

meal. To her astonishment, she dis-

ideas of independence.

said Mrs. Penfield, cheerfully.

stone.

lng.

before, but it had seemed safe.

It was a week of rain. Clothes could.

cracks and knot-holes.

doormat! Jiminy, it's great to live Hog Prices Were Very Low in 1922 The next morning the sky was full of clouds. It was degrees reider, and

> Pure Bred Swine Business Suffered Depression With Other Farm Branches.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.) Sale prices of pure bred hogs reached a very low level in 1922, according to recent survey made by the United States Department of Agriculture. Analysis of the reports on the sale of 30,382 pure bred hogs in 1922 indicates that the pure bred swine business has suffered depression along with other branches of agriculture. The reports received present a fairy accurate picture of the business, in the opinion of department officials, although they do not represent a large number of ani-Penfield had never planned so closely | mais.

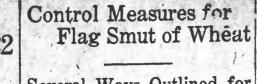
> Number and Price of Hogs. The number of hogs of the five breeds on which reports were received are: Berkshire, 1,762; Chester White, 8,922; Duroc Jersey, 8,556; Hampshire, 4,910; and Poland China, 6,232. The average price received for each breed, including all ages and both sexes at both private and auction sales was: Berkshire, \$30.57; Chester White, \$42.72; Duroc Jersey, \$45.91; Hampshire, \$44.42; and Poland China, \$41.94. Auction sale averages were from \$10 to \$25 above those sold at private treaty. This difference, it is pointed out, is due partly to the large number of pigs under eight months of age sold privately, whereas auction sales are usually confined largely to more mature animals and involve a larger number of bred gilts, service boars and bred sows.

Highest Prices by Breeds.

Sales reported at less than \$7.50 per head were omitted in calculating the averages, as sales at such low figures were not considered to be legitimate pure bred sales. The highest prices by breeds indicated by the reports were: Chester White, \$740; Poland China, \$500; Hampshire, \$500; Duroc Jersey, \$550; and Berkshire, \$250.

Of the 30,382 hogs reported upon, 421 brought \$150 or more. These were distributed by breeds as follows: Berkshire, 19; Chester White, 158; Duroc Jersey, 130; Hampshire, 47; Poland China, 67. A few bred sows and gilts sold above \$150, but the average price was about \$50.

This survey is a new feature of the new service work of the bureau of agricultural economics, of the department, and is the first of a series of covered that Lettie knew this trick as surveys to be made at intervals of six well as she did, having learned it by a months.



Several Ways Outlined for Holding Disease in Check.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.) Flag smut of wheat, a disease that has been known by its presence throughout the world for many years, was first discovered in the United States in some fields of wheat in Illinois in 1919. Although the disease has not caused much loss in the infested area, the area is gradually enlarging and indications are that it may become a serious disease unless adequate control measures are put into effect. The symptoms of flag smut and suggested control measures are discussed in Department Circular 273, just issued by the United States Department of Agriculture.

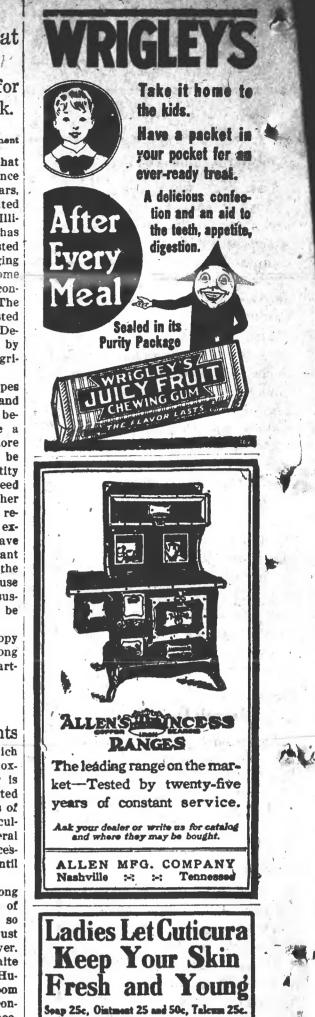
Flag smut appears as black stripes running lengthwise in the leaf and sheaths of the wheat plant which become twisted and rarely produce a head. Infected plants are usually more or less dwarfed. The disease may be held in check and reduced in quantity by judicious quarantine measures, seed treatment, crop rotation and other sanitary measures, and by growing resistant varieties of wheat through experiments a number of varieties have been found which are highly resistant to or possibly even immune from the disease. It is possible that by the use of such varieties, kept free from susceptible mixtures, the disease may be entirely eradicated.

Those interested may secure a copy of this circular free of charge, as long as the supply lasts, from the Department of Agriculture, Washington.

Sweet Clover Is Best of

Different Honey Plants Score another for sweet clover which not so long ago was regarded as a noxious roadside weed. Sweet clover is the greatest honey plant in the United States, according to G. C. Matthews of Illinois university's division of bee culture, who points out that the several varieties of the plant furnish successive bee pasture from spring until frosts in the fall.

"The yellow biennial comes along about the time dandelions go out of bloom," says Mr. Matthews, "and so tides bees over the critical period just before the blooming of white clover. The white biennial blooms after white clover and lasts well into August. Hubam, the white annual, begins to bloom soon after the first of August and continues until killed by frost. The beekeeper can keep a constant honey flow n his community if he can but per



FOX HORNS

Her thin cheeks were beginning to take on the curve of health; her black curls were neat and glossy; and she was wearing the new serge dress presented by Mrs. Sanders. As she flew busily through the rooms, she stopped now and then for a look of indifferent disdain at the temper gong. Could it be possible that she had needed that-or ever would again? In her present state of beatitude, certainly not. The hours of happiness are not the hours of trial.

"We'll have to play sit-down games," decided Crink, surveying the tight rows of chairs which he had borrowed for the occasion.

"Yes, Crink," laughed Mrs. Penfield, "but you can see how lucky 'tis that this was a barn. If it hadn't been huilt big 'nough for horses, we couldn't never have this grand party."

Even so, the only thing that made the space sufficient was previous engagements on the part of several tenants. In consequence, there were only thirty-five who gathered and squeezed happily into the borrowed chairs; but they all brought their most flattering exclamations and used them freely. Even Mr. Wopple smiled, by which token the jollity of the others may be imagined.

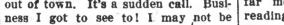
Game followed game, and the merriment increased as by its own momentum. Crink Penfield was noted in conference with Lorene Chase, and shortly thereafter it was made known that she had a new Christmas song. Enthusiasm grew. She gave them more songs. Her clear voice filled The Custard Cup with melody.

All this time the tree stood waiting, but its turn came at last. Impressively Dick Chase read off the names: with prodigal flourish the little Penfields made distribution. Surprise was unparalleled. Exclamations were doubled, trebled.

And even this was not the end. Rather it was the prelude. Because immediately thereafter, refreshments were served. They were Crink's contribution, and his pride in this acme of hospitality was well-nigh suffocating. A few days before Mr. Drake had given him a large tin box of cakes which a wholesale delivery boy had dropped on the floor. The cakes, assorted to begin with, had been further and pasaleably assorted by the fall: but there were a few whole ones, and these had been skilfully arranged as top layers on the plates which were now passed. Mr. Drake's Christmas to Crink had been a small package each of sugar and raisins and a dozen oranges. Crink, in an embarrassment which had all but choked him, had asked if he might have lemons instead of the oranges. The exchange had been made, and the one dozen had become two, e marvelous piece of fortune, because everybody knows that one lemon is equal to two oranges any day when I got. I had some moldy bread and a

plates and cups had been gathered up be thankful enough that Crink found store the party dispersed and left you." the Penfields to happy memories. Not i "Neither'll I be, you bet your front ed word, never.

water.





Never Before Had They Had So Wonderful a Feast.

back for several days. Don't expect me till I come. I've got to hurry for my train. Good-by. Merry Christmas !"

Gloomily Mrs. Penfield stared after him. She still had no idea what sort of business he was trying out, as he expressed it; certainly she could not understand why any business whatever should call him out of town on the chief holiday of the whole year.

The zest of the dinner was gone for her, but she exerted herself, that the children might not notice. And they did not. Never before had they had so wonderful a feast. They would live on the memory of it for many daysrather more literally than anyone supposed at the time, too. Roast ducks and potato, gravy, squash, rice pudding with raisins! And all the time the tree waited for them to come back, beckoning to them with its soft, tinselhung boughs and gay festoons of popcorn and shells.

Lettie, slightly numb from repletion. hunched down on her table-box and fixed her black eyes solemnly on Mrs. Penfield's face.

"What're you thinking of, dear? Aren't you full?"

"Full !" Lettle left it at that, with entire adequacy. "What I was thinking of was last year and the swell feed it comes to flavoring a given amount of piece of bologny that I fished outa-" "Oh. Lettle, Lettle!" broke in Mrs. It was a long time after the paper Penfield compassionately. "I'll never

iar more narrowing means -not by reading, but by necessitous experi- Rye Is Most Excellent ence.

It looked as if she would be able to steer her household craft safely through the shallow waters, without 'for fall, winter and spring pasture for appealing in any direction; but there hogs. By putting in successive plantwas one thing which she had not ings from two to four weeks apart it counted on, and that was the curaula- is possible to have fresh pasture all this acreage he received a share of the tive power of hunger. Ravenous the time. Seeding for pasture should seed crop and many tons of honey. stomachs accept the limited ration for be much heavier than for a grain crop Some of his colonies yielded nearly a time; then rise in gathered rebellion and demand their full meed, totally uplike their apathy under fasting.

that this happened. Lunch consisted of a small allowance of combread. "Can't I have some more, Penzie?" one stone" by plowing under barn lots wheedled Thad.

Mrs. Penfield's eyes filled with the the first place, hogs need good succutears that had been close to the sur-lent pasture as much of the time as face every time she had looked at her possible, and in the second place they brave brood.

Lettle sprang to her feet. "You lit- sites, such as roundworms, the eggs of ter. I'll get you some."

water. He drank a few swallows addition to providing cheap protein obediently. He always did what Lettie feed, pasture crops aid as laxative and told him to.

face, "it's got somep'n in it. Tastes to breeding animals and growing pigs. like salty."

"You bet it's got somep'n in it," reioined Lottle. "It'll make you want some more water—and then some more. You're going to get full 'fore I'm through with you. And after you got a full feeling, you can't tell what gave it to you."

quickly, "tonight we'll have a gr-gran -" Her voice broke. With a swift movement she got up from the table and went back to the stove, rattling the dampers vigorously.

to see to," he explained hurriedly. With the air of starting on a distant errand, he went out through the blg front der.

Instantly, as if she had been waiting for some such circumstance, Lettle it a wife color, which for every gallon dashed cut at the back door. She ran, of water will take about as much of to the coop in which Bonnie Geraldine clucked away the days, and crumbled a reasonable lunch of cornbread through the stats. Reaching in her pocket for more, she turned to feed FE Caesar.

into his pockets and spreading cornbread for the hungry little dog. "I thought mebbe-mebbe Fil'd like

ome," he said softly. Lettle nodded. "We can't tell him-

bout-'bout drinking water," she whis pered. Her lips were unsteady, but she broke the cornbread with resolute fingers till Filibuster had eaten every crumb.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The Plighted Word. The heaviest fetter that ever weighed down the limbs of a captive is as the web of the gossamer com pared with the pledge of people of honor. The wall of stone and the bay of iron may be broken, but the plight

Crop to Pasture Swine

Rye probably is the best crop to use -from three to four bushels an acre 500 pounds. on good soil. Pasturing probably can It was not until New Tear's day continue, if the rye is not covered with

snow, until the following April. Hog raisers can "kill two birds with and putting in such crops as rye. In need protection against internal para-

le dummy," she said affectionately, which remain in the soil. Turning 'taln't cornbread you want; it's wa- over the soil in the lots helps to get rid of the pests, and the crop of for-She brought him another tumbler of age makes it a profitable operation. In require the hogs to take a certain "Oh," he objected, making a wry amount of exercise which is necessary

Cure for Blackhead Has

Never Been Discovered

The United States Department of Agriculture has this to say concerning blackhead: "No positive cure for blackhead has been found. As in the "Oh. children," began Mrs. Penfield, case of all other infectious diseases, the sick bird should immediately be removed from the flock to prevent a further spread of the disease, and if very sick it is best to kill it and burn the body. Clean out the roosting place Crink also rose. "I got something and spread lime in the places most frequented by the turkeys. Keep a disinfectant in the drinking water; potassium permanganate is most often used, a sufficient quantity of the crystals being added to the water to give the chemical as can be placed on a dime. If the turkeys are being fed heavily, their ration should be reduced, as overfeeding predisposes to the disease. The feeding of sour milk

has been found to be of advantage in Crink was there before her, digging keeping turkeys in good health and in reducing the activities of the organisms causing blackhead."

In Cooling Milk Entire

Mass Must Be Stirred In cooling milk it isn't sufficient to just set the can of milk in a tub of cold water. The milk must be stirred thoroughly until the entire mass of milk is about the temperature of the water. When the milk is not stirred, the milk in the center of the can is not affected by the cold water until the bacteria have had an opportunity to increase greatly in numbers and as a result the whole mass of milk sours. of grain fed and then allow the cows The milk in contact with the container free access to salt where they can eat will be cooled, but that isn't sufficient, all they want.

suade the farmers around to grow all three varieties of sweet clover."

Mr. Matthews tells of an Illinois beekeeper who furnished sweet clover seed to farmers when it was \$2 a pound until there were more than 400 acres within reach of his bees. From

"Grow sweet clover," is Mr. Matbegin six weeks after seeding, and may thews' advice to beekeepers. "Furnish seed to your neighbors, study methods of getting it started and persuade road supervisors to leave it standing along the roadside."

Sweet Clover Excellent

Pasture for Dairy Cows Sweet clover makes an excellent pasture for dairy cows. Much more feed can be grown on an acre of sweet clover pasture than on an acre of bluegrass pasture. After the plants get well started, drought has very little effect on its growth. However, sweet clover will not grow on sour soil and it will be a waste of time and money to make the attempt unless your land is ago an Irish laborer halled him on the sweet. Better have your farm bureau test your soil and if it is sour apply Mr. Prisidint. How are ye the marnseveral tons of ground limestone per in'?"

It is best to sow it in the spring with barley or oats. Usually by about September the sweet clover will be about a foot high and can then be pas- workin' fer the state, as hard as iver ture for about six weeks. The next we ought to, considerin'. Ol hope ye'll summer it can be pastured the entire have a good administhration. An' let season. Sweet clover is a biannual me make yez one iv these here siggisand will last only two years. The seed tions. San Francisco bay is a foine should be inoculated before it is sown. body o' wather. Whin thin's don't-go

Saving Can Be Made on

for their herds next winter should buy come an' it'll be here a long time them now and thus save on costs, says afther ye're gone." E. A. Hanson, dairy extension specialist, University of Minnesota. "The

practice of purchasing a few sacks of bran or oilmeal whenever needed, is poor economy," says Mr. Hanson. throw the switch, "The cost of feed is a large factor influencing the profits; and a good saving can be made on ton purchases of olimeal or cotton-seed meal at this time rather than waiting until the winter months are here."

Proper Amount of Salt

1___

to Give Producing Cow The cow producing an average amount of milk, requires at least an ounce of salt a day. A safe rule to follow is to allow three-fourths of an ounce daily for each 1,000 pounds of liveweight and an additional three-fourths of an ounce for each ten pounds of milk produced. Missouri College of Agriculture dairymen follow this rule. Many feeders mix three-fourths of an ounce of salt with each 100 pounds

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BASIS OF SOUND PHILOSOPHY

Irish Laborer's Advice Concerning Commissioner's Worries Worth Taking to Heart.

Charles H. Spear, head of the harbor commission of San Francisco, says that on first taking that office years Embarcadero with a "Good-marnin'.

"Never better," said Spear, "and how about you?"

"Oi'm feelin' jist the same way. We're all iv us workin' for ye, an' roight along the froont an' yer soul gits all full o' throuble about it, don't let it wrinkle yer face nor kape yez Feeds Bought in Autumn awake nolghts. Remimber that that Dairymen who must have mill feeds bay was here a long time before you

Switchmen Needed.

Many a golden opportunity has been wrecked for want of a genins to

Every table should have its **Daily Portion** of Grape:Nuts "There's a Reuson"

Contraction of A service of the serv