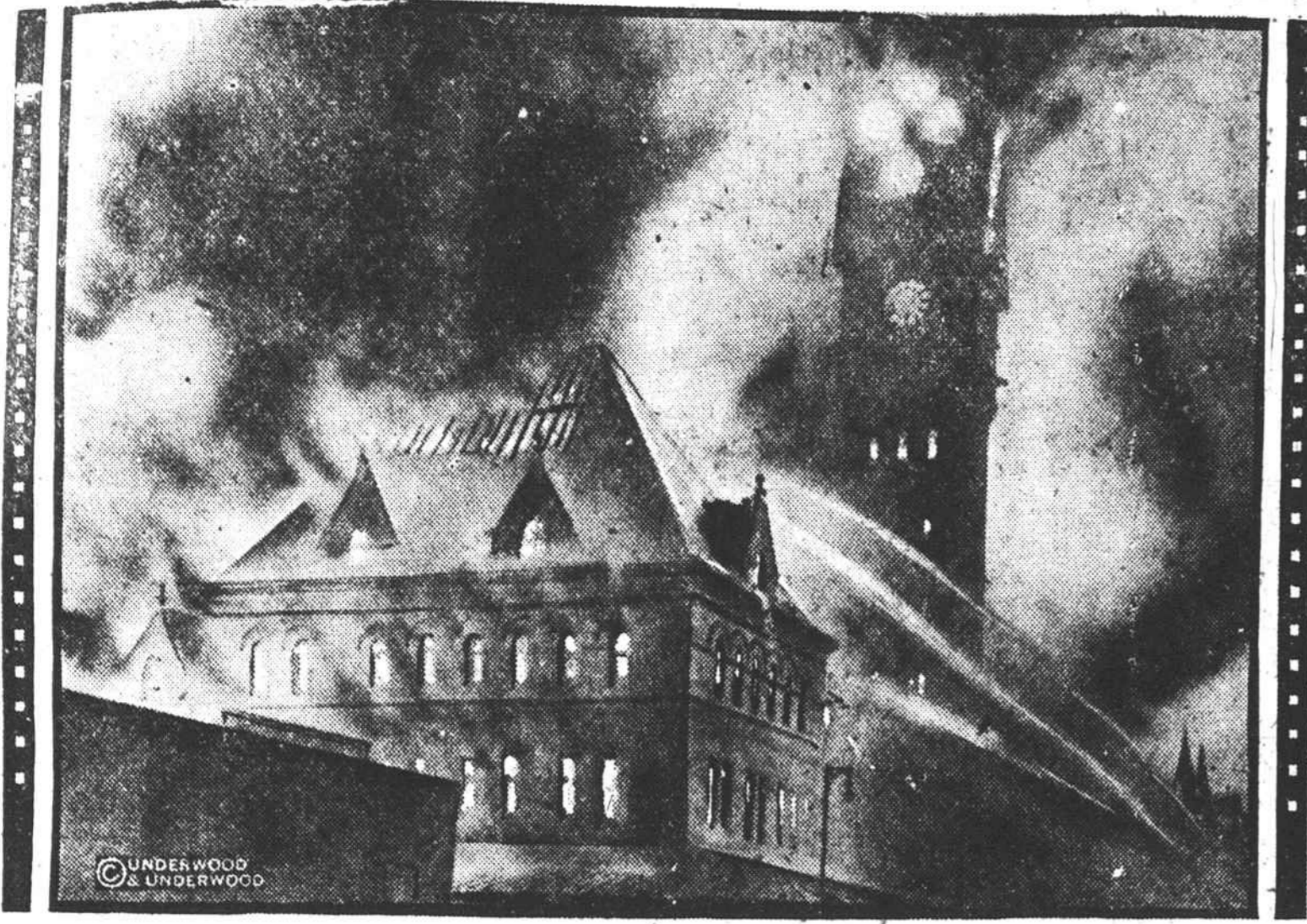


### Flames Destroy Chicago Railway Station



Dearborn station in Chicago, the terminal for the Santa Fe, Monon, Wabash and C. & E. I. roads, was destroyed by flames the other night. This photograph was taken during the height of the conflagration.

## Find 630 Uses for Basswood

Tree That Pioneers Thought Worthless Is Utilized by Many Manufacturers.

SCIENTISTS COME TO RESCUE

Took Years of Investigation and Experiment—Difficult to Overcome Inherited Natural Prejudice That Wood Was Worthless.

Washington.—At least 80 per cent of the American-born grandfathers and grandmothers in the United States are familiar with the slang meaning of the word "basswood." That is because such a percentage of these venerable persons came from the section of the country in which the basswood tree is indigenous. The reason for the use of such a slang term was that its colloquial meaning reflected the opinion of the value of the tree. When our grandparents wanted to describe an utterly worthless object or even a person deemed to be worthless, such a person or object was said to be "basswood," because of all the vast natural wealth which the pioneers found in this country the basswood tree was considered of least value.

In the early days when the American pioneer went into the wilderness he had to depend on the things he found in that environment to fill his everyday needs. He must build his houses of the native woods, he must weave his clothes of native fibers and must raise his own food. Such a civilization caused these people to put definite values upon all the products of nature. Everything had a value. Hickory was good for ax handles and ash for wagon spokes. Pine and all kinds of oak were excellent firewood, but basswood was discovered to be good for nothing.

Its fibers were too spongy and stringy to work into anything useful. It was not strong to withstand pressure. It did not last long, and it would not burn well. Almost any other kind of waste wood at least would make a good fire, but basswood when set alight would sputter for a while and go out, and what little burning it would do gave very little heat in comparison with other fuels.

So it was not surprising that men and women who must put definite values on materials and on people surrounding them should coin a new word for their language and agree that "basswood" should describe a useless object or a worthless drone. In the states from the Atlantic coast to the prairies and from Georgia and Mississippi to the Canadian line the basswood tree grows in nearly every county and in this section the slang term basswood can be heard among old people to this day.

**Science to the Rescue.**  
If this were a play, at this point the words "Enter science in the form of the Department of Agriculture" should be written. To pursue the fantasy, science would be a Prince Charming come to alter the life of Basswood, the Cinderella of the forest. It took some years of investigation and experimentation and the overcoming of the inherited natural prejudice and belief that basswood was worthless, but science persisted and the other day the Department of Agriculture issued from its press a booklet devoted entirely to this useless wood.

The booklet lists 630 practical uses of basswood!

The despised Cinderella of the forest, once the scorn of the pioneers, now is prized for many uses and chiefly through the investigative work and experimentation of this scientific workshop of Uncle Sam.

The scientists of the department

consider all the characteristics of a commodity and select the good points. Then they find the uses to which such good points can be put. Basswood is a wood of peculiarly clean appearance. Because of its spongy texture it does not split and therefore can be used in small pieces. Such characteristics, on consideration, were found to be very desirable in the manufacture of containers for food. People want to have food packed in clean containers which will not readily fall apart.

**Used in Pail Trades.**  
So the humble basswood came into wide use in the manufacture of such containers as lard pails, candy pails and pails for a variety of other foods. Its clean, white appearance was appreciated by housewives and manufacturers are quick to discover what the housewife, one of the best customers in the world, wants. Woodware was the next development. Chopping bowls and all sorts of wooden dishes were made from the discarded basswood which would not burn and was no good for construction. Soon another household use was developed and basswood appeared in the form of children's toys. Here again its clean appearance and its nonsplitting qualities were valuable. Also, it is light in weight, and a basswood lion can be thrown much farther across the nursery than one made of a material as heavy as oak.

Pursuing the household uses, ironing boards, wringers and other things used in the laundry, where clean, white woodwork is at a premium, were made from it. Nearly every one has seen the clean, white little wooden boxes in which comb honey is sold, and, at least subconsciously, thought how much more appetizing the delicacy appeared because of the appearance of the container. These boxes, as well as many other supplies of aparies, are made of basswood.

**Used in Fine Manufactures.**  
Once the prejudice was removed it was discovered that lots of things could be done with this wood if it were properly sawed and dried. Parts of it were used for furniture. It became a favorite material for dowels, the little cylindrical pieces of wood used to fit

### Flat Tire and Wooden Leg Win Victory for Accused

New York.—A flat tire and a wooden leg won a victory in Criminal court for C. G. Davis, a carpenter, appealing a police court sentence of five days in the county jail and a \$50 fine.

Patrolman Michael Carriato testified that Davis was driving his automobile in a zig-zag manner and that he staggered when he left the car.

Davis said the staggering was due to his wooden leg, and the zig-zagging of the car was due to the flat tire.

pieces of wood together, such as appear in the leaves of the dining-room table. Nothing, it was found, would add to the clean appearance of a traveling trunk any more than basswood, and so it was used for the sides of trays and partitions.

Picture frames and moldings, where a nonsplitting material was necessary, were found to be practical uses, and finally the outcast basswood was put into such fine manufactures as musical instruments.

One of its uses puts this material in every one's hands. Millions of matches which are struck every day all around the world have basswood sticks. Here was where the nonburning qualities of the wood, which once made it despised, were capitalized. Fires are set by matches thrown away because they hold fire too long. But the poor burning qualities of a basswood stick would minimize the dangerous afterglow and the fire would not last after it was needed.

So the progress continued. Kitchen cabinets, tobacco boxes, shoe lasts, Pullman-car finishing, handles of all sorts, thread spools, shade and map rollers, pulleys, and, finally, even caskets and coffins were made in part at least of basswood. In all 630 practical uses, and every year new uses are being found. Even the stringy, ribbon excelsior which comes packed around dishes and other fragile articles is made from the once rejected basswood.

**Production Runs High.**  
The total annual production is 250,000,000 board feet. The existing supply standing in the shape of basswood trees in the United States is estimated at 9,000,000,000 board feet.

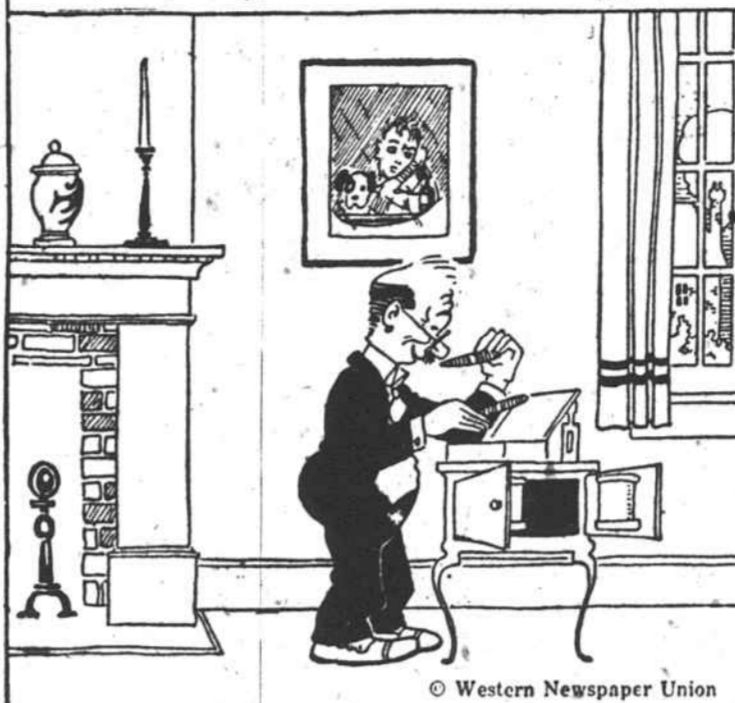
From the lowly position it occupied in the estimation of our grandfathers it has risen to such a value that the Department of Agriculture now is advising farmers who have unused land to plant basswood as a profitable forest crop. It grows rapidly and is indigenous over a wide area of the country.

How industry, aided by investigative science, has developed this commodity is repeated in scores of instances in connection with many other commodities and every such step forward adds millions to the total wealth of the American people.

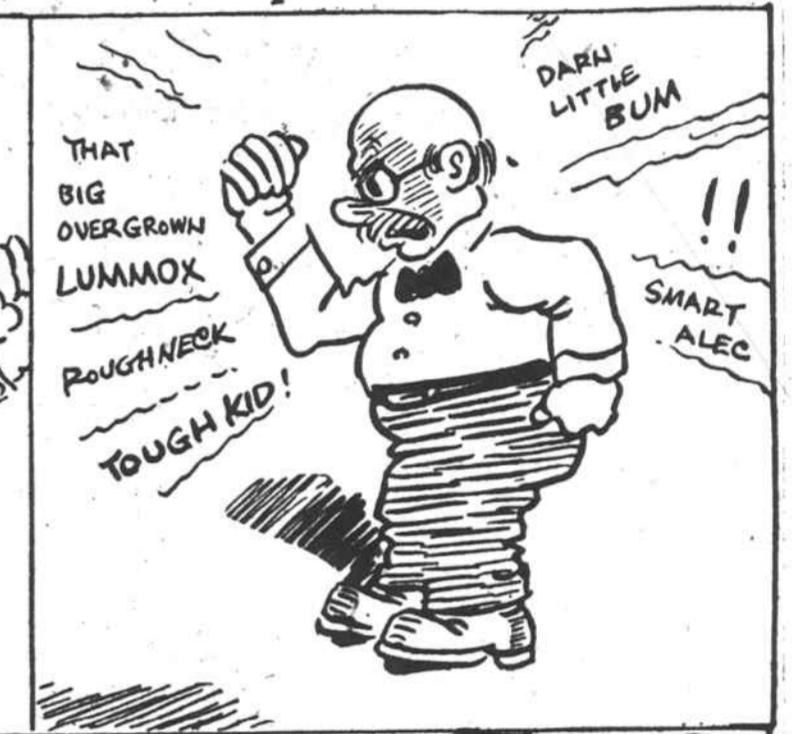
**Hogs Fatten on Nuts.**  
Whitesburg, Ky.—One of the best nut crops, consisting of acorns, beech-nuts and hickory nuts, is now on in the eastern Kentucky and southwestern Virginia mountains, and hogs are fattening right along. Farmers of the mountains who have a surplus of swine are lucky and will reap bountiful harvests. It is said the crop is the largest in the history of the oldest inhabitants.

**Big Hawk Does Stunts.**  
Junction City, Kan.—A huge chicken hawk shared honors with the military aviators at the Fort Riley flying circus recently. The hawk made his appearance while the stunt flying was in progress and singling out one of the most daring of the flyers, proceeded to follow him through all his evolutions. Finally the flyer turned the nose of his machine upward, ascending to a great height, and the hawk, still following him, was lost to sight.

### That for You, Fanny



### He Packs a Wicked Wallop



### INFORMATION LACKING



ALL ANSWERED AT ONCE  
Frank—I want to get married. Do you think I will?  
Maude—Don't ask me.



NATURAL QUESTION  
"What kind of coal do you use?"  
"Egg."  
"Where can I get a dozen?"

### A STEADY WORKER AT MEALS



Jasper—Doan yo' say Ah doan wuk. I'se swingin' de pick all de day.  
Wife—Yas, so yo' is, so yo' is—wot time yo' ain't swingin' yo' jaw.

### SEATTLE'S FAIREST



To Miss Maude Dakin goes the 1922 title of queen of Seattle, and the honor of being adjudged the fairest daughter of the northwestern metropolis. She was chosen as queen of that city's annual Dahlia exposition. Miss Dakin is eighteen, blonde and blue-eyed.