

WHAT DOES IT COST TO KEEP A HEN FOR A YEAR?

Government Experts and Washington Poultry Fanciers are Trying to Solve Novel Problem—Nearly Everybody is Interested in Problem.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 20.—All Washington is greatly interested in the question: "What does it cost to keep a hen a year?"

Secretary James Wilson of the United States Department of Agriculture, has experts at work on the problem, chicken fanciers are trying to figure it out, in fact nearly everyone is trying to aid in the solution or following it closely. It all started from a speech by representative Olmsted, to whom the question was originally submitted, in the House a few days ago in which he said:

"A short time ago a constituent desired to know of me the exact value of the gold in a gold dollar. I knew there was some alloy in it, and by the assistance of the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the Mint I was able to answer with exactness.

"Another constituent desired to know whether it was true, as had been asserted, that since the Spanish War we could truly say with the King of England that the sun never sets on our possessions. With the aid of a globe and all the data at the command of the Committee on Insular Affairs, of which I have the honor to be a member, I wrestled with the problem, but finally turned it over to the Government Observatory, and after two weeks they were able to inform me that there is a short period within twenty-four hours when the sun, hanking out over some point in the Pacific ocean, does not shine upon any people or possessions within the jurisdiction of the United States.

"The latest conundrum propounded to me by a constituent, in this

case an intelligent lady, I am about to bring to the attention of the House and the country. She desired me to answer this question: "What does it cost to keep a hen a year?"

"Mr. Chairman, the nightingale, the lark and the linnet have all had their story told, but the hen, more valuable to the human race than all other birds, is compelled to sing her own lay.

"I do not wish to consume unnecessarily the time of the House, but I wish to submit to the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture 'What does it cost to keep a hen a year?'"

Appreciated the Beautiful.

That it is not always well to put on one's dowdiest garments when one goes to visit the poor is the moral of a story told in an English magazine recently. There were two philanthropists, according to the tale, one a professional and the other an amateur. The professional had arranged to take the amateur to a gathering of slum dwellers in the east end of London. At the appointed hour the amateur, who happens to be a duchess and a great beauty, appeared at the house of her friend, a dazzling apparition in court dress, tiara and jewels. "Oh, my dear," gasped the professional, falling helplessly into the nearest chair, "don't you know that we are going to one of the lowest and most squalid slums? I can't promise that you will bring any of that back with you." But the beauty only laughed. "That's all right," she said. "I quite understand you. But poor people love beautiful things. Their children especially are captivated with fine dresses and feathers. Just wait and you will see." And the professional did see. Those poor, half starved, half naked slum dwellers had eyes for no one but the dazzling young beauty who had done them the infinite honor of coming to see them in her most beautiful frock and jewels.

The Scrap Book

Still Ahead.

A congressman says he was riding in a smoking car on a little one track road and in the seat in front of him sat a jewelry drummer. He was one of those wide awake, never-let-any-one-get-the-better-of-him style of men. Presently the train stopped to take on water, and the conductor neglected to send back a flagman. A limited express, running at a rate of ten miles an hour, came along and bumped the rear end of the first train. The drummer was lifted from his seat and pitched head first against the seat ahead. His silk hat was jammed clear down over his ears. He picked himself up and settled back in his seat. No bones had been broken. Then he pulled off his hat, drew a long breath and, straightening up, said: "Hully gee! Well, they didn't get by us anyway!"

Got His Wish.

At the height of their nightly quarrel the other day Mrs. Blank choked back a sob and said reproachfully: "I was reading one of your old letters today, James, and you said in it that you would rather live in endless torment with me than in bliss by yourself."

"Well, I got my wish," Blank growled.

The Dolphin Violin.

The Dolphin violin was so named on account of the beauty of the wood, the back of the instrument resembling the color of a dolphin. It was made by Stradivarius in 1714, and it is considered the most beautiful violin in the world. It is owned by an Englishman and is valued at £5,000.—Musical Home Journal.

Well Occupied in Either Case.

It is beautiful to see a young girl start out with the avowed intention of devoting her life to teaching school, and yet few people blame her seriously when she quits to get married.—Tombstone Epitaph.

A Hypocrite.

Teacher (after explaining the character of the Pharisee)—And now what do we mean by a "hypocrite?" Pupil—Please, miss, a man wot says he is wot he isn't, but he ain't.—Punch.

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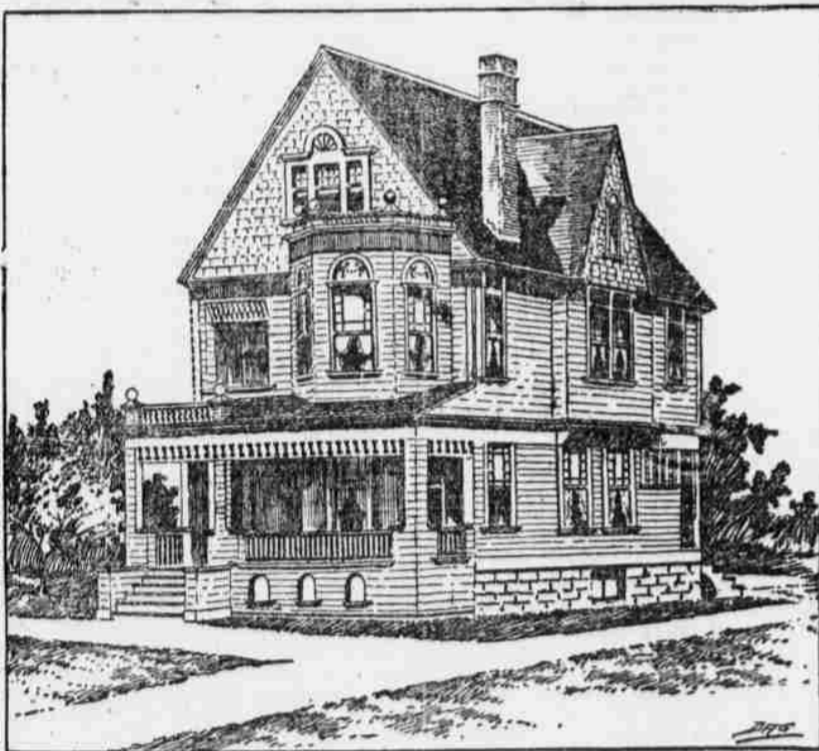
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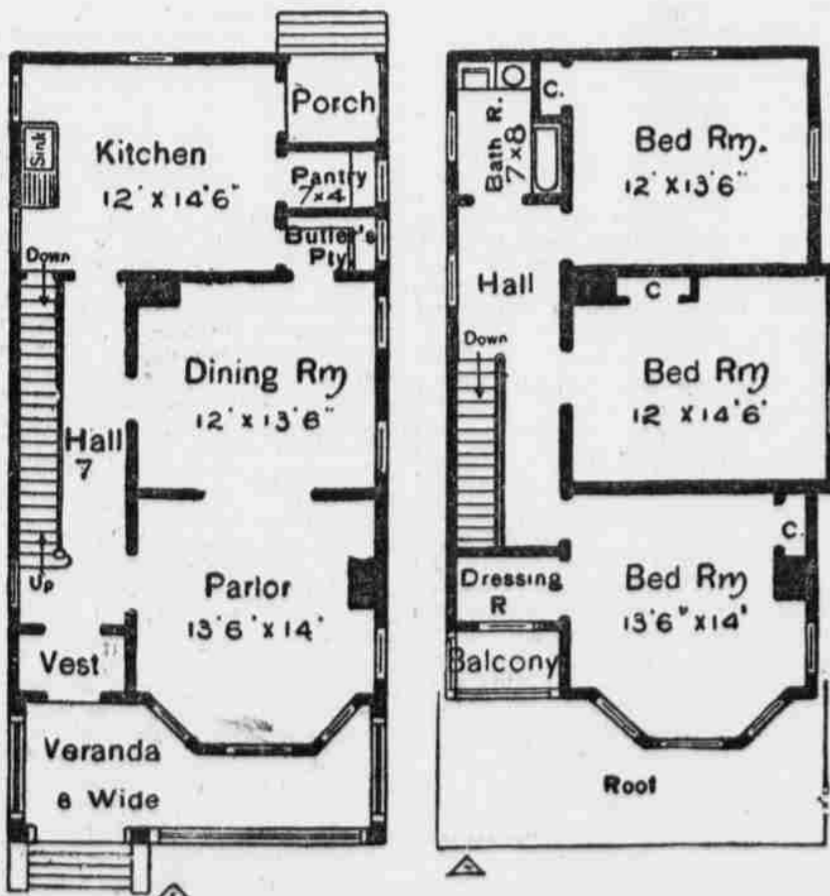
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PERSPECTIVE VIEW.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN.

SECOND FLOOR PLAN.

This two story and attic frame dwelling is designed especially for a narrow lot, but it has room in abundance. The size of the house is 20½ by 44 feet over all. It has a stoned up basement seven feet deep. All the first floor rooms open into the hall, providing a good circulation of air. Although the design does not show fireplaces, they could easily be added in dining room and parlor. The first floor is finished in native hard woods, the second in pine. The estimated cost, not including heating and plumbing, is \$2,200.
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