

He Could Fill the Bill.
A day or two after George B. Cortelyou assumed the duties of Secretary of the Treasury, he was visited by an elderly man who wanted an appointment as confidential clerk to one of the assistant secretaries.

Notwithstanding the fact that he was very busy at the time, Mr. Cortelyou gave the elderly person a hearing. On account of his age, Mr. Cortelyou said, he felt that he could not comply with the request. So, gently but firmly, he intimated to the old man that it was about time for him to go. This, however, did not dampen the latter's spirit in the least.

"Now, sir," said he, "as I feel myself peculiarly competent to fill one of these confidential clerkships, I hope that you will further consider my application." Then, wagging his head most impressively, he added:

"Oh, Mr. Cortelyou, I could be so confidential!"—"Success Magazine."

Totally Different Characters.

"He must be a good fellow."

"Nonsense! Where did you get that idea? He never goes to a club and—"

"But his wife says he's a very good fellow and when a man's wife—"

"Oh! That's another thing. There's a big difference between a 'very good fellow' and a 'good fellow.'"—Philadelphia Press.

Seeking Something Easier.

"Why did that great financier want to get into political life?" asked one Wall street man.

"Well," answered the other, "conditions are becoming peculiar. It's harder for a man to stay at the head of a railway system than it is to hold a big government office."—Washington Star.

A copy of Correggio's celebrated painting, "The Repentant Magdalen," has been seized by the police of Cassel, Germany, and confiscated.

Approaching the \$1,000,000 mark in value, the estate of the late John Jacob Astor is now being appraised.

A Dublin porter picked up a purse containing £200 at a street corner a day or two ago, and on finding the owner was presented with a shilling.

The custom of burying without coffins was formerly very prevalent on the continent. A sheet was the only covering used.

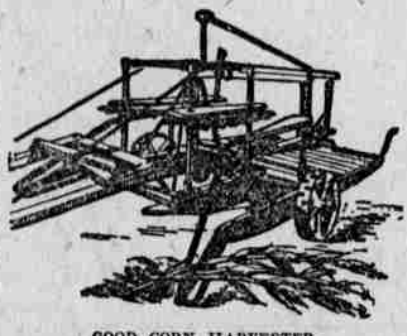
A French torpedo-boat has been sent out to engage in battle with the porpoise along the coast of Brittany. It is said they are spoiling the sardine fishing.



Practical Corn Harvester.

This machine used at the U. S. Agricultural Experiment Stations consists of two driving wheels, between which is mounted the frame for the driving mechanism and platform. It is drawn by one horse, which walks between the two rows that are cut at the same time. The dividers pick up the lodged corn, except such as lies in the row of corn away from the machine, and guide it to the cutting apparatus, which consists of two stationary side blades above which is a movable sickle, which cuts the corn and deposits it horizontally on a platform which is elevated about six inches from the cutting apparatus. On the inner side is a guide chain, which assists in directing the stalks of corn to the knife and the platform. The rear part of the machine is provided with a small wheel, above which is a tilting lever, by means of which the dividers in front can be raised or lowered to gather up the lodged corn until it comes in contact with the endless chain, which carries it backward until it is cut and deposited on the platform.

When there is enough to start a shock the horse is stopped and the two men who follow the machine gather the corn from the platform and set it up around the shock pole and tie it. They then start the horse again, and when returning across the field the horse is



GOOD CORN HARVESTER.

stopped opposite the shock, to which more corn is added, and this is continued until the shock is of the desired size. When the shock row has been started the shock pole is pushed in so as to be out of the way (see cut) while the balance of the corn is being cut.

Horse Breeding in Wisconsin.

The present condition of the horse-breeding industry in Wisconsin is discussed in a bulletin by the station as well as the effects and defects of the Wisconsin stallion law. The State law is quoted, with recommendations for new legislation. A directory is included of owners of licensed stallions, and a list of American and foreign stud books, as well as samples of the score cards used in the department of horse breeding at the Wisconsin College of Agriculture.

The State breeding-stock law, in the author's opinion, should be revised and should demand, among other things, the annual or biennial renewal of a license fee, and the adoption of a list of diseases to be considered "hereditary, transmissible, or communicable" and which would subject a stallion to rejection as unsound. Specific authority should be given for the department of horse breeding to refuse license to stallions known to be unsound and to revoke licenses granted to stallions since found to be unsound. There should also be authority to revoke the license of "scrub" stallions of "unknown breeding" and to refuse licenses to such horses in the future. The law should provide for State veterinary inspectors to inspect public-service stallions and require State veterinary inspection of all stallions already granted licenses on the affidavit of the owner.

Soapsuds for Plants.

Soaps are made mostly from soda lye, instead of potash, the soda soaps being hard and the potash soaps soft. Soapsuds, therefore, contain but little, if any, potash, but serve to prevent insect attacks to a certain extent. Some plants, like celery and asparagus, seem to thrive when drenched occasionally with soapsuds, which is probably due to the fact that soda is beneficial to such crops.

Bedding for Animals.

Do not utilize straw as bedding by drying it to be used over again. Pass all feeding material through the feed cutter, so as to render it more serviceable in the manure heap. The cost of cutting the material is an item, but absorption of the liquids in the heap will be more complete and the gain in the value of the manure will be larger. As the manure will then always be fine and easily handled, it can be forked over with but little labor, so as to more thoroughly decompose all portions.

Williamson Plan of Corn Culture.

A bulletin by the South Carolina station contains a detailed description of the Williamson method of corn culture and reports observations made on a number of farms on which the plan was followed. "Where the plan was strictly adhered to the yield was double or more than double that secured from near-by fields of equal solid characters and where the usual methods of corn culture were practiced."

Three different varieties of corn were found to have been used on these fields. One variety, called Williamson corn, was grown on all fields except two, one of which was planted to Marlboro Prolific and the other to a variety similar to the Williamson corn. It was noticed that with the Marlboro Prolific the size of ears and their number per stalk were apparently uninfluenced by the method of culture.

The peculiar or essential features of the Williamson plan are summarized as follows: Deep and thorough preparation of seed bed, deep planting, infrequent and partial cultivation in the early stages of growth, an increase of 200 per cent or more in the number of stalks per acre, postponing application of fertilizers until corn is given its second cultivation, intentional retardation of early growth of the stalk until its size is reduced one-half or one-quarter its normal development, and following this augmented development of the ear by cultivation and heavy application of fertilizers made at appropriate intervals. The corn is planted four to six inches below the soil surface and laid by four to six inches above the level, leaving the lower eight to twelve inches of the stalk below ground. It is suggested that the brace roots under these conditions are probably better able to perform their nutritive functions than when partly exposed.

The Early Garden.

After all danger of frost is over, which is usually about the time the apple trees are in blossom, tomato plants may be put out, as they are tender and will not endure the frost if sooner transplanted. Peas for a later crop, Lima beans, string beans, squash, eggplants and late cabbage, as well as sweet corn and melons, may then be planted. The garden crops that do not need much room on which to grow may be planted in rows of sufficient distance apart to permit of using a wheel hoe or hand hoe (about 18 inches), but corn, tomatoes, eggplants and Lima beans require from one yard to four feet between the rows. To have a large garden on a farm is to extend the bill of fare, and it can be arranged to permit of working with a horse hoe, but the suburban garden work must be done with a hand hoe or a wheel hoe. There is more pleasure in working a garden than may be supposed, and it will promote the health of any one who engages in such occupation. As there are many details in gardening, and several varieties of each of the different vegetables, the beginner should procure books on gardening, which can be had of any seedsman, and also permit the seedsman to select for him the varieties most suitable for his location, as an inexperienced person can easily make mistakes in his selections. The seed catalogues describe methods of planting, but some varieties of vegetables are better for stock feeding than for the table, while some are early in maturing and others are late.

Valuable Weeds.

It is not a matter of common knowledge, says the Technical World Magazine, that some of the weeds "infesting" the land will produce the crude drugs which to-day, in large part, are obtained by importation from abroad. Alice Henkel, an assistant of the government's plant industry bureau, says that the roots, leaves and flowers of several of the weed species regarded as plagues in the United States are gathered, prepared and cured in Europe, and not only for useful commodities there, but supply to a considerable extent the demands of foreign lands. There are weeds in this country against which extermination laws have been passed which hold in their leaves, stems or roots medicinal properties which have a value in the work of preserving the health of the nation. It is possible, in ridding land of weeds in order that crops may be grown, to make of the uprooted "pests" a source of income. Moreover, it is possible to maintain upon land given over as worthless for crop-growing purposes a weed plantation, which, after the harvest, will prove itself to be not less profitable than some of the tilled fields.

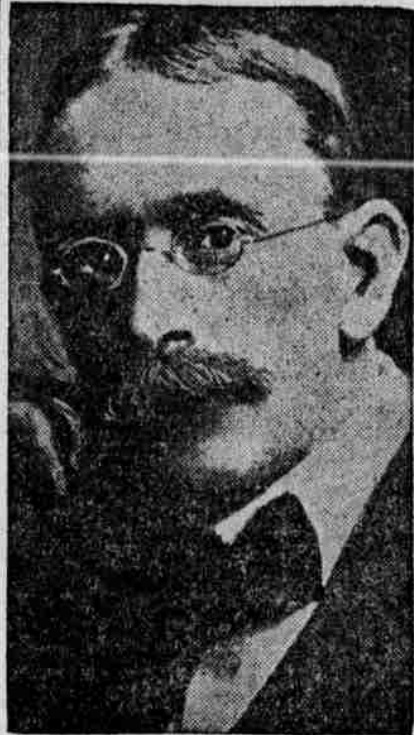
If a garden is made on sandy soil, especially in a section where nearly all the soil is sandy, the use of air-slaked lime will be found very beneficial, as such soils are deficient in lime. Gas lime will not serve as a substitute for stone lime, but shell lime is excellent, however, though the use of stone lime should be preferred. The cost is small compared with the benefits derived.

The Indians of the Choctaw tribe, in Indian Territory, have formed a good roads association.

OLD AND NEW UNCROWNED KINGS OF EGYPT



LORD CROMER.



SIR ELDON GORST.

Lord Cromer, British Agent and Consul General in Egypt, in other words ruler, has resigned his office after more than twenty years of service, which has resulted in no less good to the country than fame to himself. Sir Eldon Gorst is his successor. Lady Cromer, Lord Cromer's second wife, whom he married in 1901, is the daughter of the Marquis of Bath. They have three sons. The wife of Sir Eldon Gorst is of Scotch parentage, and was married in 1903. The new agent is 46 years old, and has spent most of his life in the Egyptian service.

Got Six Geese Out of Eight.

Fred Soxman and Mr. Gannon, a traveling man, went out to Will Green's place, near Lawrence, to look for ducks. They were joined at the farm by W. R. Atte, who proceeded to the pond. On the way over a bunch of eight geese got up from the wheat field, and left the country before the hunters could get a shot at them.

The decoys were put out, and while the men were lying in the blind waiting for the ducks the eight geese swooped down overhead and into the water. The three men had nothing but No. 5 shot, but they let go into the bunch and when the smoke of battle cleared away there were six dead geese on the water, each of the men getting two, and permitting two to get away. They claim another goose fell over into a field where they could not get it.—Topeka Capital.

The Model Dad.

Lives there a dad with soul so dead Who never to his son hath said: "When I was your age I would run To do the things I had to do; I never till my work was done Found any pleasure to pursue; My parents never had to scold, And every rule they ever made For me was honestly obeyed; I never frowned and never told A falsehood when I was a boy; I gave my parents daily joy By doing well and being kind, By being truthful and polite; My speech was proper and refined, My heart contained no room for spite!" If such there be, go mark him well, For he's a bird! But none such dwell Upon this earth—unknown, unseen, Such wonders all die very young. —Chicago Record-Herald.

Tossing Back a Hint.

Smartley—Brown's wife makes all of her own hats.
Mrs. Smartley—Well, I don't care as long as I don't have to wear them.—Detroit Free Press.

Finding the Difference.

Some people are going to be mighty surprised when they find out that there is a difference between real goodness and a receipt for pew rent.—Florida Times-Union.

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Siberia, so far from being a country of desolation, is in some districts as green and fertile a land as Australia. Probably the Russians themselves have no very definite ideas about the marvelous fertility of this territory, which occupies so large a space on the map of Asia. The soil is of great richness, and the crops, wherever the country is cultivated, are of almost phenomenal abundance. For the most part it has lain idle so long that its productive power is almost illimitable. The forest tracts are luxuriant, and the natural irrigation system magnificent. There is room in Siberia for millions of colonists, and an abundant living for them all.

Living Up to His Name.

A teacher in a mission school in Boston had among her pupils a colored boy named Ralph Waldo Emerson Longfellow. As he was absent one Sunday, she asked the class if any one knew the reason for his absence.

"I reckon I do," said one small, serious-looking boy.

"What is the reason, Johnnie?"

"I guess he's home writing poetry," responded the boy, with a delighted chuckle.

A Distinction.

Mistress—Have you had any experience with children? Bridget—Nope, but they have had some wild me.

In a Pittsburg office building a system of washing the air and removing all dust has been introduced.

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