



**Good Sheep Barn a Poor One.**

A good sheep barn is a poor one. This may seem to be absurd, but the facts support such a statement. There is no question but that many flocks are rendered unhealthy and therefore less productive by reason of too close housing. In few sections do sheep need more than a windbreak and rain shed. Some of our best shepherds have kept their flocks for decades with only such sheds as would prevent the flock being exposed to direct winds, rain and snowstorms.

The cut shows the type of sheep barn found on the farm of a successful shepherd, which might be copied with success. In this instance the sheep are kept upon forage crops grown in four adjacent lots. The flock may be turned into any lot at pleasure.

It is well to have this building equipped with a large ventilating window in the end near the gable or two small windows such as shown in the sketch. These, however, should be



BOILING SHEEP FOLD.

equipped with a sash that may be closed in severe weather.

Many farms where sheep are kept are equipped with a barn cellar in which the flock has been kept with varying success. The barn cellar is an excellent place for sheep if rightly arranged. There should be plenty of openings to the south, allowing sun to reach all parts of the stable so as to keep it thoroughly dry. Thorough drainage is essential.

There must be ventilation at the rear of the stable. A bad practice is to keep the sheep in stables on stable manure, says Farm and Home. The fermenting manure destroys the color and texture of wool. A hint which has been worth many dollars to me is to use only long straw, hay or weeds for bedding sheep. If short straw or sawdust is used it gets into the fleece and is an everlasting nuisance.

**Profitable Cattle Feeding.**

The Missouri Experiment Station at Columbia has issued a very elaborate and handsomely illustrated bulletin on the most successful methods of fattening cattle, by Dean H. J. Waters.

This bulletin summarizes the experience and conclusions of about 1,000 of the most experienced and successful cattle feeders of Missouri, Illinois and Iowa, and contains also a summary of the results of a large number of tests with different kinds of feed, different ages of cattle, etc., conducted by the Experiment Station of Columbia.

It considers such practical questions as the most profitable age to fatten cattle, the proper weight, the best season of the year, the best method of preparing feed, the best of shelter, the market demands, the best sort of roughness, etc. It is illustrated with cuts of the different types of beef cattle, including excellent illustrations of the fat steer herd exhibited by the college this season at the Interstate Fair, Kansas City, the Missouri State Fair, Sedalia, the American Royal, Kansas City, and the International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago. These steers won nine championship prizes, seventeen first prizes, sixteen second prizes, seven third prizes and two fourth prizes. Every steer won at every show excepting one steer in one show.

**Cultivation of Oats.**

At Cornell University oats were sown broadcast, in the usual manner, the yield per acre being 37 bushels. On another plot the oats were drilled in, 15 inches apart, the handwheel hoe being used to work between the rows. This may appear to some as giving a large share of labor in that manner, but the yield on the drilled and worked plot was 61 bushels per acre, the method is worthy of attention. A man with a wheel hoe can go over a large piece of ground in a day, and it is possible that the method will pay.

**Roots for Farm Animals.**

If roots are stored in a pit in the field a high, dry place should be chosen. If the ground is clayey the roots should be placed on top of the ground. If it is gravelly and drainage is good a shallow pit about 5 feet wide and of necessary length may be show-

eled out. The roots should be carefully placed in a gable shaped pile about 5 feet wide and as long as convenient. A thin layer of straw should then be laid over the pile and this covered with six or eight inches of earth. Another and thicker layer of straw and a final layer of earth will complete the work. Ventilators should be placed at intervals of ten or fifteen feet, which should be closed when sweating has ceased. The pit should not be opened on warm days in winter. A ditch for drainage should be cut around the pit. Roots stored in this way do not keep as well as when stored in a good cellar; therefore, they should be fed out as early as possible.—New York Cornell Experiment Station.

**Flax in the Northwest.**

The second factor making for the new prosperity may be termed "the discovery of flax." For years there had been a few scattering flax fields, but it was only in the middle '90's that the Northwestern pioneer awoke to the discovery that linseed oil was of more truly golden hue, not only than the wheat field, but than any gold-bearing quartz California ever saw. And so the endless golden yellow of the fields in August and the tinkling bells in September or the flax field.

Those who have never heard the ringing of the flax bells have missed a truly wonderful sensation. The round seed pods, smaller than peas, which contain the seed, give a faint metallic sound which as one drives or walks through a field, setting thousands in motion, seems like myriads of infinitesimal bells tinkling so faintly as to be all but inaudible. Nor is the mere sight of a flax field in the mellow August soon to be forgotten. Imagine a 100-acre field, filled with flowers of a blue more delicate than violets. And of its profitable character one illustration will suffice. In June, 1900, Ole Janssen bought 160 acres in the heart of the great flax belt for \$10 an acre on the crop payment plan. Ole "broke up" that fall and the next spring 135 acres and planted it in flax. In round numbers, he thrashed in the fall eighteen and one-half bushels to the acre; sold it for \$1.39 1/2 a bushel, total, \$3,500; a little more than twice enough to pay for his land out of his first crop. Not only was the flax immensely profitable itself, but it removed from the country the stigma, "one-crop country."

—World Today.

**Buried Seed.**

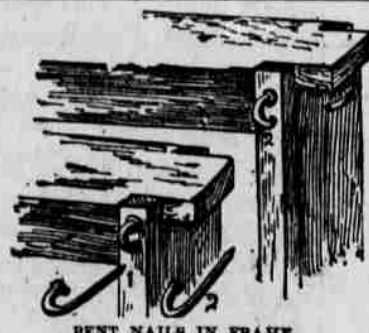
The Department of Agriculture has undertaken a series of experiments intended to answer, if possible, the old question, "How long can seeds remain buried in the soil and still retain their power of germination?"

Many extraordinary stories have been told of the prolongation of the vitality of seeds during many years, and even centuries, but very few actual experiments have hitherto been made.

Dr. Beal has reported that he has found seeds that responded to germination tests after having been buried twenty years. The seeds buried by the experts of the Agricultural Department at the Arlington farm last year were packed with dry clay in porous clay pots, covered with saucers and placed at various depths from 6 inches to 3 1/4 feet. There are 32 complete sets, in 3,584 pots, representing 100 species, 84 genera and 34 families. Tests are to be made at the end of one, two, three, five, seven, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, thirty, forty and fifty years.

**Hive Frame Spacers.**

The arrangement here shown, if properly adjusted, is excellent; but, says the Gleanings in Bee Culture, in the first place it is difficult to bend the nails, and, in the second place, it



BENT NAILS IN FRAME.

would be more difficult still to bend them all with exactly the same curve, for it would be important to have the bee spaces alike. In the third place, one would have to bore a hole in order to drive them into the frame for the reason that the hammer head would strike one side of the line of penetration of the wood, bending the nail over. Taking it all in all, the ordinary staple is much easier to insert and far cheaper.

**Location of Beehives.**

Beehives should never be faced toward the north. In a northern latitude a northern exposure in winter is almost sure to cause the loss of the colony, by the rigorous north winds blowing in at the entrance, and the confinement of the bees, caused by the entrances being shaded on mild, sunny days when the bees in the hives are flying southward fly freely.

**TO RE-ENTER PULPIT.**



The first woman to be ordained a clergyman in the United States, Rev. Antoinette L. Brown Blackwell, now 83 years old, is about to resume active work in the Unitarian church. She gave the site, and with the aid of 30 adherents is having built the first Unitarian church in Union county, New Jersey, near her home, in Elizabeth. Every fourth Sunday she will occupy the pulpit.

**THE ART OF BEGGING.**

There are tricks in every trade, but the professional beggar is about the trickiest individual at large. His success depends entirely upon his ability



ARMED ONE-ARMED BEGGARS.

to awaken sympathy. Years of misfortune alone are not always sufficient, so he resorts to deception in make-up, usually running toward deformity of some sort. Playing cripple is a favorite ruse.

In the larger cities, where begging still flourishes under the guise of peddling, this deception is resorted to daily. It is an old dodge to pose as a one-armed man. A false stump is attached to the shoulder and the real arm is tied to the side of the body. A loose-fitting coat or a full blouse does the rest.

**A Little Retouching.**

The wonders of photography are ever on the increase. Nevertheless, there are still some limitations to the power and skill of even the most expert photographer.

Mr. Hall is an amateur of no mean attainments, and when his old Aunt Hannah from Bushby came down to the city he secured a picture of her in her most characteristic pose—arms akimbo and mouth slightly open.

When Aunt Hannah saw the first print, she looked at it, held it off, drew it close again, and then sat down to write her nephew.

"Dear James," wrote the old lady, "yours with photograph taken during my late visit just received. In reply I would say, I'm well enough pleased with it for myself and your folks. But in the one you send out to California to Emma, I'd rather you'd straighten out my elbows and let my arms hang. Affectionately, Aunt Hannah. "P. S. Perhaps you'd better close my mouth a mite more, as Emma's husband is a stranger to me."

**No Recourse.**

"John, I think I hear a thief in the dark closet beneath the stairs." "I don't doubt it; I have known it was there for some time." "Telephone for the police!" "What's the use? You can't arrest a gas meter."—Houston Post.

**After the Prom.**

Ethel—Was he satisfied with one kiss? Gladys—Humph, I think he was satisfied with all of them.—Yale Record.

**An Alphabetical Proposal.**

She—Do you like tea? He—Yes, but I like the next letter better.—Wisconsin Sphinx

**Spring Humors**

Impure or effete matters accumulated in the blood during the winter cause in the spring such disfiguring and painful troubles as boils, pimples, and other eruptions, also weakness, loss of appetite, that tired feeling.

The best medicine to take is Hood's Sarsaparilla, which thoroughly cleanses the blood, and effects permanent cures by giving healthy functional activity to the stomach, liver, kidneys, bowels and skin.



Mrs. L. Blackford, Gossville, N. H., says: "Every spring I was completely prostrated, run down, from dyspepsia and that tired feeling. But I have found Hood's Sarsaparilla helps me from the first dose, completely restores good health and strength."

Sarsaparilla is Hood's Sarsaparilla in chocolate tablet form. They have identically the same curative properties as the liquid form, besides accuracy of dose, convenience, economy, no loss by evaporation, breakage, or leakage. It is of drugists or promptly of us by mail. O. L. Hood Co., Lowell, Mass.

**Preparing to Face It Alone.**

"Children," hastily exclaimed Mrs. Skimmerhorn, "your father is coming! Run out and play awhile!" "What do you want us to run away from papa for?" asked the children. "I don't want you to hear what he will say when he finds that his safety razor case has fallen on the floor, spilled the blades out and mixed them all up."

**His View of Them.**

First Visitor—Most interesting country round about here. Have you seen the ruins? Second Visitor (who has just paid his bill)—Yes; I suppose you mean the guests leaving this hotel.—Detroit News-Tribune.

**Echoes of the Past.**

Aristides was lamenting the ingratitude of the people of Athens, to whose service he had devoted the best years of his life. "Still," he said, "I want it distinctly understood that I am not going to make a noise like an unappreciated philanthropist."

Picking up one of the current magazines he looked it over to see whether or not Tom Lawson was still throwing fits.

**Naturally.**

Rivers was walking the floor with the baby.

"I wish," he muttered sleepily, "this youngster wasn't so—so blamed egotistical." "I guess you'd be egotistical, too," said the indignant Mrs. Rivers, "if you were cutting your I teeth!"

**Making Excuses.**

"Republicans," said the disappointed statesman, "are ungrateful." "Well," answered Farmer Cornstossel, "it's so hard to tell a patriot from an office-seeker that I don't blame a republic for gettin' kind o' suspicious."—Washington Star.

**Horror of the Sanctum.**

Rivers was writing a caustic review of the political field. "Brooks," he said, "give me a new name for these chaps that go around the country presaging all sorts of financial disasters." "Calamity's presagents," suggested Brooks.

**An Awful Risk.**

Gyer—I hear your friend Matchem is married again. Myer—Yes. This is his fifth wife. Gyer—Well, as a friend, you should advise him to be careful. Myer—Careful? Gyer—Yes. Some day he'll marry a woman who will live to become a widow.

**The Modern Way.**

"Fifth grade next year, Johnny?" "Yes, sir." "Ah, you'll be in fractions or decimals then, no doubt?" "No, sir; I'll be in beadwork and perforated squares."—Pittsburg Post.

**Necessarily.**

Byers—Seems to me furs are priced excessively high. Shopleigh—Yes, the fur trade is admittedly a good deal of a skin game.—Kansas City Times.

Mother will find Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.

**The Modern Way.**

Scribbles—How would you go about getting a play on the stage? Dribbles—I'd first write a novel.

**Shake into Your Shoes.**

Allen's Foot-Ease. It cures painful, swollen, smarting, sweating feet. Makes new shoes easy, sold by all Druggists and Shoe Stores. Don't accept any substitute. Sample FREE. Address A. S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

**Always Talking.**

"My wife tells me everything she does," said the benedict, proudly. "She is like an open book." "I wish mine was like an open book," sighed the meek little man with the chin whiskers. "You do?" "Yes; if she was like an open book perhaps I would be able to shut her up."

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven catarrh to be a constitutional disease and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally in doses from 10 drops to a teaspoonful. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials. Address: F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio. Sold by Druggists, 75c. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

**On the Tea Party Line.**

Suddenly the alarm clock went off. The sleeper, half awake, listened. "It's only one ring," he said. "Ours is four rings." Whereupon he went to sleep again and missed his train.

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