

WAY OF THE WORLD

By VICTOR REDCLIFFE.

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"It's settled," announced John Ritchie gloomily, as he entered the humble home kitchen and threw himself into a chair with an abandon that evidenced strong emotion.

His patient-faced wife looked up anxiously, their pretty daughter, Ina, with quick eagerness. Both knew what he referred to, but silently waited for him to explain.

"The lawyer filed the will in court today," proceeded Mr. Ritchie. "It leaves everything to Blanche Morton."

Mrs. Ritchie grew a trifle white about the lips, the hopeful gleam died out of her faded eyes. Ina's face quivered. She was not avaricious, but she had to confess secretly to a severe disappointment. She left the kitchen, passed out into the garden, chose a shaded corner and sat down and cried.

"Hardly right, is it, Nancy?" submitted Mr. Ritchie to his wife.

"It's hard, John, and unjust," responded his helpmeet with a gulp, bitterly. "My own brother, too! I see it all now. My dead sister's folks have been courting favor with Uncle Ralph for over a year in the interests of Blanche. Of course, she's my niece, but we know that she is selfish and scheming. They tell me that she and her father just had Brother Ralph under their thumb for the last year. I don't doubt they poisoned his mind against us and Ina. Poor Ina! and Mrs. Ritchie wiped a tear from her eye with the corner of her apron and resumed her drudgery tasks with a hopeless sigh of desolation.

It was, indeed, hard for the Ritchies. Things had gone wrong with John Ritchie for the last year or two, and he was desperately in debt. There was an old mortgage on the little home, held by Uncle Ralph. They had hoped at the least that he would remit this. It seemed not, however. Everything had gone to Blanche, mort-



She inspected it.

gage and all. Knowing the ways and worth of that self-centered young lady, Mr. Ritchie doubted if she would show much mercy.

He came upon Ina as he strolled about the garden. She was not aware of his near presence, and he softly stole back to the house, his face more saddened than ever.

"Nancy," he said to his wife, "I want you to be more gentle with Ina than ever. She's out in the garden crying out her heart. Poor child! You know what that means."

"Disappointment about the fortune, I suppose," observed Mrs. Ritchie cheerily. "She had a right to expect something, and we certainly needed it badly."

"I'm afraid it's that young man, Albert Telford," said Ritchie, bluntly.

"Why, I didn't think it had gone that far," remarked Mrs. Ritchie, with a start. "I knew he was friendly to Ina and to Blanche, too. In fact, to half the girls in the village."

"Yes, but lately he has about equally divided his attentions between Ina and Blanche," explained her husband. "And I think he has favored Ina. Of course, that's all over and done with now."

"What do you mean?" questioned Mrs. Ritchie.

"It's the way of the world, Ina poor, Blanche rich. He's a likely chap and can take his pick. It will be Blanche and the fortune, naturally."

However, twice during the ensuing week young Telford called at the Ritchie home, as was his wont. He was courteous as usual, but Ina fancied there was a new subdug air about him. She learned that he also visited her cousin, Blanche. Telford seemed to be studying her. She could not fathom him. No word of love had passed between them. She wondered if, in his generous-hearted way, he was not making an effort to break off their close friendship gracefully.

She heard great news of her fortunate cousin, the heiress. Blanche had started out to make a great spread. She was arranging to sell all the property which she had inherited. She was talking of building a mansion home. She had entered on a career of reckless extravagance. One day she invited Ina to come down to the old home. Ina's heart saddened as she entered the place, to find it dis-

mantled. Blanche was selling off everything. She offered Ina some of the old relics of the family. Ina selected only a framed, faded picture of her dead uncle, which hung in the room where he had died.

A month went by. Blanche was urging the closing up of the estate as speedily as possible. One day Mr. Ritchie came home with a serious, worried face.

"There are some pretty heartless people in the world," he remarked, dejectedly.

"What now?" questioned his wife. "Blanche. What do you think? Her lawyer notified me today that we must pay up the mortgage on the place here, now owned by her."

A dull blow fell upon all the hearts within the room. It had meant poverty before. It was sheer destitution now. The selfish avarice of Blanche was apparent. The family decided to move to another town. Then came a vast surprise. There came by mail one day a week later a package. It contained the mortgage, the notes and a release deed. The dear old home, instead of being free of debt!

"Blanche has relented!" cried Mrs. Ritchie joyfully.

"No," dissented her husband. "I have learned positively that Blanche had no hand in this blessed deed. It is some benefactor friend who does not wish his name known," but the next day he found out who it was—Albert Telford.

What did it mean? Should Ina feel humiliated, or glad? She could not analyze the situation, yet she felt it needed an explanation. She went to the Telford home. It was to learn that Albert had gone to the city to fill a new and better position.

"Oh, my dear," said his mother, "don't you understand? It was love that prompted him to give all he had for your sake."

Then it was not the rich Blanche, but the poor Ina whom he loved! What could Ina do but feel happy!

And then a second wonderful thing came to light—unheard of, extraordinary. In cleaning the old picture of her uncle, Ina noticed a sheet of paper folded in its back. She inspected it.

There was the latest will of Uncle Ralph. Practically a prisoner of Blanche and her friends, he had seized a favored moment to make this latter will, just before he died. It had been witnessed secretly by two old servants, whom Blanche had later discharged.

There was a great commotion in the town when the news came out. In shame and chagrin Blanche Morton disappeared, meanly taking with her what money she had been able already to secure from the estate.

"Come home," ran a telegram to Albert in the city, and it was signed by Ina.

"I have sent for you to return the money you so nobly gave to us," she told him. "Your mother misses you, and—and—"

"You, too, want me to stay?" inquired Albert softly.

And her blushes, her quivering lips, her ardent grateful eyes answered him lovingly.

BOON FOR THE SHIPWRECKED

Life Preserver Invented by a German Enables Person to Remain Afloat For Days.

Hundreds of inventions for the preservation of life in case of shipwreck have recently been tested, but what seems to be the safest is a suit which takes the form of a combination of life-belt and suit made of watertight canvas, which envelops the whole person. The suit has sleeves ending in gloves, and there is a port-hole in the head, which can be closed when the weather is rough. When this port-hole is closed, air enters through a tube above the head, this tube being so constructed that no water can enter.

Furnished with this device, it is claimed that a passenger might be thrown into mid-Atlantic and live in comfort for many days, while waiting to be picked up, for the suit can be equipped with sufficient food and drink to keep a shipwrecked passenger alive for a week or more.

A man or woman using this device stands with feet in a sort of bucket, which forms the base. This bucket takes in a certain quantity of water, which acts as ballast and keeps the life-saver and its occupant upright.

Furthermore, the apparatus is provided with a revolver and signal lights with which the shipwrecked passenger can signal for help by day or night. Attached to the apparatus are ropes by which two or three people can keep themselves afloat if they have not the good fortune to have one of these life-saving suits.

The suit is the invention of a German named Gustave Herrlich, and he declares that it will deprive shipwreck of all its terrors in all circumstances.

Canine Sagacity.

A remarkable instance of canine sagacity is related at Nunaton. The owner of the dog some little time since arrived at Nunaton from Taunton, in Somerset. He came by rail through Birmingham and had his dog (a Pom) with him. The day after he arrived he missed the dog, and diligent inquiries failed to discover anything about the animal's whereabouts. About a fortnight or so afterward he received a letter from Taunton, telling him the dog had "landed there all on its own." Seeing that Taunton is something like 150 miles away, it is a wonderful instance of canine instinct.—London Mail.

FRENCH FORESTS IN THE WAR ZONE

WHEN the history of the present European war comes to be written, it will probably be found that the forests of the regions involved have played a much more important part than is suspected by the ordinary reader, says Samuel T. Dana in American Forestry. A hint of this is contained in a German news dispatch which read, "Heavy fighting continues in the Argennes. Our troops are moving through dense underwood in very difficult ground with siege trains for use against the fortifications. The French troops offer obstinate resistance, firing from trees where machine guns are posted."

It is stated that this same forest of Argonne, which has been the scene of such vigorous and continued fighting during the present war, enabled the French to repulse the Prussian attack of 1870, and nearly eighty years later, in 1870, at the time of the Franco-Prussian war, concealed the maneuvers of the Germans before their crushing defeat of the French in the battle of Sedan. To the westward the forest of Orleans is said to have given the French the opportunity of rallying for their final stand in 1871; while to the eastward the forest of Soignes, by the shelter which it offered to Wellington's forces, contributed to the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo.

That the French government itself recognizes the forests as a means of defense is shown by a provision in the Code Forestier, adopted in 1827, and still the forest law of the land, that private owners can be prevented by the government from clearing away forests at the frontier wherever these are deemed necessary for defensive purposes. There can be no question but that they are in fact a decided advantage to the army having possession of them.

Forest Cover in War Zone. In the war zone of northeastern France conditions as regard forest



IN THE FOREST OF COMPIEGNE

cover vary widely. In the roughly rectangular area to the northeast of the Seine and northwest of the Oise, the country is for the most part very flat, and is almost wholly given up to agriculture. To the south of the Oise and the Aisne, it becomes more undulating, with low hills, and here the farming land is interspersed with patches of forest and woodland. Still farther to the south and east along the Meuse river and in the Vosges mountains, the country becomes still more rugged and the forests more abundant.

The topography and the distribution of the forests throughout this region probably account largely for the decision of the Germans to hurl their main attack against France through Belgium rather than through the more difficult route to the south. To these factors can also be attributed in large measure the rapid advance of the right wing of the German army in the early stages of the war, while the left made little or no progress. In the north the comparative level, unwooded country interposed practically no obstacle to the free movement of the armies, and as a result the early advance of the Germans here was almost incredibly swift. During the same period, farther to the south in the region of Verdun and Nancy, the rugged, heavily wooded country, in conjunction with fortifications and strongly entrenched troops, held both armies practically stationary.

Serious Damage is Certain. To what extent the forests in the war zone will be injured during the progress of the war is problematical. That they will suffer more or less, however, cannot be doubted. Much wood will be cut for fuel and construction work; trees will be felled to block roads; whole stands may be leveled to clear the way for artillery fire; and the rain

of shot and shell will do much damage to standing trees, much more than the damage done similar forests in the Franco-Prussian war.

Equally serious will be the havoc wrought by forest fires. These will be set not only by accident, but also purposely in order to harass the enemy. This was the case in the Forest of Compiègne, which is said to have been fired by the British in order to drive out the Germans. While the fires may have been effective from this point of view, it also doubtless destroyed very largely the natural beauty of the famous forest and seriously disarranged the carefully laid plans for its management.

Near Compiègne, the scene of Joan of Arc's capture in 1430, lies the state forest of Compiègne where there has been severe fighting. This forest which is situated at the junction of the Aisne and Oise rivers, only 51 miles northwest of Paris, comprises 36,072 acres and is the fourth largest state forest in France. As in most of the other forests in this part of the country, the principal trees are oak, beech and hornbeam, with a few other broadleaf trees and a small representation of conifers.

Previous to the war the forest of Compiègne, with its wealth of old oaks and its network of roads, was regarded as one of the finest in France, rivaling even the famous forest of Fontainebleau. One section of the forest, known as the Beaux Monts and comprising some 1,753 acres, has in fact been set aside for special treatment to preserve its natural beauty.

Where Fighting Has Been Fierce.

In the extreme north of France, only 65 miles from the North sea and almost touching the Belgian frontier, lies the state forest of Amand and the private forest of Raismes, in which desperate fighting has been reported. Near them is situated the town of Valenciennes, formerly best-known as

WINTER STORAGE OF ONIONS

Efficient Way is to Select Dry, Somewhat Elevated Place and Store in Suitable Box Frame.

(By E. P. SANDSTEN, Colorado Experiment Station.)

Where regular storage for onions is not obtainable or possible, a cheap and efficient way is as follows:

Select a dry, somewhat elevated place, not necessarily on a ridge or a hill. On this place set a box or frame of desired dimensions for the amount of onions to be stored. The depth of the box should not be over sixteen or eighteen inches. Pieces of 2 by 4 should be placed under the box so that the box will not come in direct contact with the moist soil. The floor of the box should be reasonably tight. After the onions have been thoroughly cured and topped, they should be placed in the box and the board placed on top. The cover should be water tight. Before cold weather sets in keep the cover raised to permit ventilation.

No other protection is given to the onion, but they are permitted to freeze solidly and when in this state the box should be covered with dry straw or corn stalks or any material that would prevent the onions from thawing out, or alternate freezing and thawing. In the spring of the year, or when ready to be sold, the covering should be removed gradually and the onions permitted to thaw out without coming into contact with the sunlight. During the winter or while in the frozen state, they may be taken out and gradually thawed out in a cool room.

In the frozen state the onions will keep perfectly and when thawed out will remain solid for a considerable length of time.

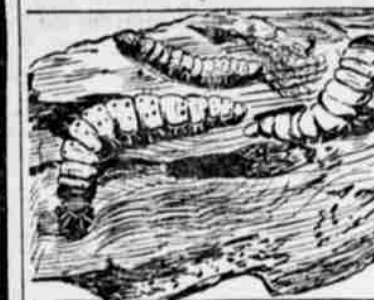
Care must be taken that the onions are dry when placed in the storage and that they are kept frozen throughout the winter. The quality of the onions is not impaired by one freezing.

INJURY BY CARPENTER WORM

Insect is Especially Pleased to Locate in Ragged Scars Where Careless Pruner Has Worked.

(By S. B. DOTEN.)

The egg of the carpenter moth is a smooth little greenish body, oblong and slightly larger than the head of a pin. These eggs are laid by the moth in cracks and crevices of the bark of trees where they are moist and out of sight of ants, spiders, and hungry birds. The moth likes to lay its eggs in the angle between a large limb and the trunk. It is especially pleased with ragged scars where a careless pruner has hacked away a branch. It



Carpenter Worms in Wood of an Injured Poplar.

very commonly lays them around the ugly holes already made by the carpenter worms. Nearly two hundred and fifty eggs have been removed from the body of a single moth.

When the eggs hatch, the young worms burrow for a time in the tender sapwood just beneath the bark, causing much sap to flow from the wounded tissues. As they grow larger and stronger, they bore deeper into the sapwood in all directions. Their burrows cross and interlace, producing results so destructive that the death of the tree often follows.

KING IS SUPERIOR VARIETY

Apples Are of Good Size and Color and Fruit From Mature Trees Will Keep Fairly Well.

One of the grand old apples is the King. It has size and color. On young trees it is inferior in flavor, but this defect decreases with age. The fruit from mature trees keeps fairly well, too. Some trees bear well, while others are quite inclined to sterility. The worst objection urged against the King is the liability of the tree to collar-rot. This has led to top-working the variety on some hardy stock, by which means the evil is avoided and good trees secured. By cutting scions from trees having a good record for bearing, the fault of sterility may be in part corrected. As the fruit is in good demand, the King is an apple for the consideration of the commercial grower, though to plant largely of it would hardly be advisable.

Repair the Chicken Fence.

See to it that the posts of the chicken fence are not rotted off so that they will fall over in the winter storms and twist the poultry fence all out of shape.

An Abbreviated Blessing.

Another abbreviated blessing adopted by farmers, along with the horseless wagon and plow, is the barbed wire fence.

Avoid Baked Soil.

The ground should never be allowed to become baked, as in this condition a great deal of moisture is lost unnecessarily.

DEVICE GRADES FRUIT

Number of Machines Are Now on the Market.

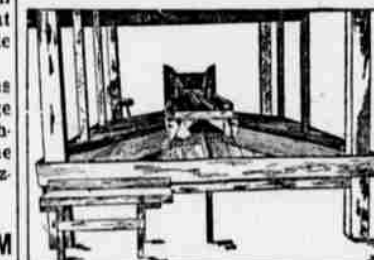
To Command Good Prices Apples Must Be Packed Neatly in Attractive Packages—Little Extra Time and Skill is Required.

(By W. G. BRIERLY.)

More careful grading and packing of apples demands that only apples of one size be put in a package. Some packers become so expert that they can grade an apple with their eye, but a lot of growers used apple grading machines this year to size the fruit. A number of machines are now on the market. They have been developed by practical men, so that it is reasonable to suppose that some of them will in every way be satisfactory.

The requirements are first that the fruit be graded without any bruising, second that the apples be graded accurately and third that the speed be great enough to permit a large quantity of fruit to be handled in a limited time.

One of the simplest machines for grading and sorting fruit is made in the shape of a hopper with a chute running from it. The chute gradually increases in size, so that the fruit, as it rolls down drops into the secondary chute. Another satisfactory machine is run by a treadle. The fruit is



Machine for Sorting Fruit.

poured into a broad chute at the back and is allowed to run into two grooves. On the sides of these grooves, or runways, are long thin cylinders provided with spirals. The runways as they pass away from the hopper widen, which permits the fruit to fall through when the proper size is reached. The cylinders provided with spirals revolve so as to carry the fruit forward. On each side and in front are compartments for running fruit of each size. Immediately in front of the machine is a bench for holding a crate into which the fruit is packed by hand.

Only a little extra time and skill are required to market apples properly. If they reach the market poorly graded, and bruised, or in dirty, broken packages, they cannot command good prices. Every farm paper advises the clean, neat packages necessary to show fruits advantageously.

Pick with care. Apples should be well colored and large, but still firm. Fall apples may be picked when full size is reached without regard to color, or the color may be allowed to develop if desired, but the fruit must not be allowed to soften or drop if it is to be handled profitably.

Discard all bruised, stung, or misshapen apples and grade as No. 1 those of good color, and as No. 2 those inferior in coloring. Sort according to size so that every package is uniform throughout in size of fruit which it contains. Uniformity in color and size of fruit and size of package, combined with neatness and cleanliness of package, will add greatly to the market price of the fruit.

FALL PLANTING OF ORCHARDS

Experience Shows Many Advantages and Practice is Becoming General—Roots Heal Quickly.

There are many good reasons for the fall planting of orchards. Those who wish to have an orchard or to enlarge the one they already have should get busy.

An orchard pays five times as much as grain per acre and fall planting is becoming more popular each season as experience shows its advantages and the practice is becoming general. As soon as a tree or shrub becomes dormant it can be moved from one place to another and the change of location will affect it but little.

When set out in the fall the bruised roots begin immediately to heal and callus is formed, the trees recover quickly from the moving, soon become firmly established and with the first touch of spring are ready to go into business for themselves in a vigorous way.

Again, the ground is generally in better condition for planting in the fall than in the spring for much spring planting is done when the ground is too wet for results.

Must Keep Good Sires.

If we ever get this stock raising business on a firm basis where we can tell to which particular strain our animals belong, every farmer must keep good sires for his own herds and not depend on the services of his neighbor's males at breeding time.

Trap for Beetles.

Cucumbers and squash have the same enemies, but the beetle will leave the cucumber for the squash, which induces some growers to plant a few squash vines near cucumbers in order to trap the beetles.