

FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN
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REGISTER, LOCKFORD, ILL.
CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED



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PAPER FROM CORNSTALKS.

Following closely on the publication of many articles of late pointing out the rapid disappearance of timber supplies suitable for the manufacture of paper comes an announcement from the chemists of the United States department of agriculture at Washington that a process has been discovered whereby the cornstalks which are at present wasted at the rate of millions of tons annually may be converted into an excellent quality of paper. The first practicable samples of the new cornstalk paper have been manufactured by Dr. Bristol, chief chemist of the department, and his assistants. The experiments have been carried to the point of making five shades of paper. One grade is dark gray, thick and heavy, like parchment, and almost as tough as sheepskin. The white is made from the hard outside shell of the stalk and the yellow shades from the pith. The latter have a much longer fiber and resemble the paper made from linen rags or cotton, being soft and pliable. The process of manufacturing the new kind of paper is said to be much simpler than that involved in reducing wood pulp to paper, the stalks needing but two or three hours' cooking, while wood pulp needs cooking four or five times as long. The experimenters predict that when the manufacture of the new kind of paper is started on a large scale it will be at least 50 per cent cheaper than the paper at present made from wood pulp.

A PRACTICAL CAMPAIGN.

The Audubon Society of America, whose members are intensely interested in the protection of bird life, has decided on a plan of campaign for the future differing radically from that followed in the past. Heretofore the appeals of the society for assistance in the good work which they are trying to do have been largely on the basis of sentiment—humanitarian and aesthetic reasons—rather than on that expressed in terms of dollars and cents. The campaign which the society has laid out has in view setting before the farmer, orchardist, railroad and business man the enormous annual financial loss sustained through insect damage, rendered yearly more threatening as a result of the ruthless destruction of bird life. Last year, according to figures compiled by the society, the money loss to the various interests of the country as a result of insect damage aggregated \$800,000,000. In connection with these figures they cite the fact that the federal government does not the pitifully paltry sum of \$62,000 to investigate and educate the people on this all important topic. The Audubon society has struck the right path in getting on to the basis of the cash loss to business interests as a compelling motive in bird protection, and it goes without saying that it will produce results.

AN IMPROVED VARIETY OF OATS.

A number of farmers in the oats belt report exceptionally good results in both yield and weight per bushel with a new variety of oats, the Regenerated Swedish Select, introduced two or three years ago by a firm of English seedsmen and exhibited at a number of state fairs during the past summer. The variety of oats in question is short bermed, remarkably plump and full as to berry and has been known to yield as high as 100 bushels to the acre and to weigh as heavy as fifty pounds to the bushel. Excellent characteristics of the new variety are that it is early maturing, stiff and strong in straw and virtually rust proof. The seed comes high, from \$2 to \$3 a bushel, but the increased yield and quality which it guarantees would seem to justify the purchase of enough seed for a good sized breeding plot. In a great majority of cases where the new variety has been raised there has been an increase in yield of 25 per cent or better.

A WORD ABOUT OLEOMARGARINE

Federal laws lately passed wisely place restriction on the sale of oleomargarine as a counterfeit of dairy butter. This is just common decency and honesty. It should not be palmed off on the public as a dairy product. On the other hand, it is only fair to say in behalf of the manufacturers and retailers of oleomargarine that when it sells under its own colors and is sold honestly for what it is—largely beef fat—no serious objection can be urged against it, as it is a clean and whole-

some farm product. For a large class of people who this year find themselves in straitened financial circumstances oleomargarine will doubtless be extensively used as a substitute for the genuine dairy product, which is thus early in the season retailing for better than 30 cents per pound and considering the high price of feed may be close to 40 cents before spring.

The stock raiser has a job on his hands to figure out a profit in feeding sixty cent corn to five dollar hogs or cattle. In fact, he may as well save his pencil, for the job can't be done.

Two thousand five hundred dollars was recently refused for a Kellerstrass Crystal White Orpington hen named Pegg. Her owner evidently believes in raising thoroughbred fowls as well as in keeping the best for himself.

A decided point in favor of the manure spreader is that besides being a distinctly labor saving piece of machinery the fertilizer it spreads goes twice as far and does more good than that scattered by the old pitchfork method.

There is probably no flower of the unpretentious order that will give a larger measure of satisfaction than the fragrant English violet. A pot of violets will furnish sweet fragrance and blossoms well through the winter if placed in a sunny window in a room just above freezing. They are hardy and do not seem to mind the cold.

Experiments which have been conducted show that when cheese is sold from the farm or milk from which cheese is made a much larger amount of fertility is taken from the soil than in the case of butter or cream. This is to quite an extent responsible for the fertility and productivity of those farms on which buttermaking is the chief occupation.

A fact quite generally known, yet sometimes overlooked, is that red clover is a biennial—that is, its length of life is but two seasons long—which means that if the second growth is not allowed to mature seed in the autumn of the second season the crop will die out. This variety of clover as it grows along the roadside seems to have a perennial habit, but this is due to the fact that it produces seed often enough to perpetuate itself.

According to reports issued by the department of agriculture at Washington on Nov. 10, the average yield of corn in the country for the present year is 26.2 bushels per acre, while the estimated total production is 2,642,687,000 bushels. This is a better showing both in yield per acre and total production than last year, when the average was 25.9 bushels and the total yield was 2,592,320,000 bushels. The quality of this year's crop is 86.9 per cent, while in 1907 it was 82.8.

Any upward movement in grain prices which makes stock raising and dairying unprofitable and tempts the farmer to sell his cereal products in the raw state rather than in the finished form of beef, pork, mutton, butter and cheese can only be viewed as a misfortune from the standpoint of a permanent agricultural prosperity, which from the very necessity of the case depends upon an intelligent maintenance of the fertility of the soil. It is likely that many will disagree with this view, but a careful consideration of the points involved would seem to verify it.

So long as the average yield of corn per acre for the whole country remains in the neighborhood of twenty-six or twenty-seven bushels, and numerous instances are on record where enterprising farmers have secured a yield of from 50 to 120 bushels per acre, it will be entirely in place to continue talking and writing about the possibilities of agriculture in the United States. Had the average yield per acre been twice what it is (26.2 bushels), or 52.4 bushels—a moderate yield—the total corn production would have been 5,285,374,000 bushels, while it 50 cents a bushel \$1,321,343,500 would have been added to the value of the crop.

The average housewife would much prefer to burn hard maple, oak or hickory, as she may have done years ago or as her mother did, but a great many in sections where the hardwood supply is gone have to use soft coal in its stead. With this the soot and dirt are the chief drawbacks. The former nuisance may be reduced to a minimum by breaking the coal into small pieces before putting it into the stove and putting on the fire only small quantities at a time. If the fire is fed in this way it will burn brightly and consume the soot and a good share of the black smoke, which is simply an aggregation of sooty particles, as soon as it is formed. More than this, there is a decided saving in fuel in this method of stoking which should not be overlooked.

Professor John Merriam, associate professor of geology in the University of California, has created quite a sensation in scientific circles and among students of paleontology throughout the world by the discovery of a number of prehistoric animal species in a tar pool or asphalt bed located not far

from Sawtelle, Cal. From this once sticky death trap, which became the grave of numberless animals hundreds of thousands of years ago, have been taken the remains of rare prehistoric animals, including the enormous ground sloth, larger than a common ox; the huge prehistoric mammoth, a great extinct camel, a strange and unknown species of deer, besides the saber toothed tiger and huge antediluvian wolf, which were evidently lured to the death pool by the struggles of the herbivorous animals already entrapped and which they intended to devour. In addition to the larger animals, there have been discovered many remarkable and extinct species of hawks, eagles and ducks which went to the pool in search of food, only to be caught and held fast and finally imbedded.



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"Archie is fairly going crazy over his new motor."
"That's strange. Every time I've seen him he has been going crazy under it."

The trouble with many a man's integrity is that it needs constant vindication.—Chicago News.

GOOD COUGH MEDICINE FOR CHILDREN

The season for coughs and colds is now at hand and too much care cannot be taken to protect the children. A child is much more likely to contract diphtheria or scarlet fever when it has a cold. The quicker you cure his cold the less the risk. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is the sole reliance of many mothers, and few of those who have tried it are willing to use any other. Mrs. F. F. Sturber, of Ripley, W. Va., says, "I have never used anything other than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for my children and it has always given good satisfaction." This remedy contains no opium or other narcotic and may be given as confidently to a child as to an adult. For sale by C. Y. Lowe.

Getting an "Old Man."

"Speaking of new men," said the boss of the skyscraper builders, with a twinkle, "comical things happen even up here, the same as in a theater. Sometimes in rush seasons there ain't enough hands to go round, and we have to take 'em green as the hills. I had one once, a kid from Vermont, a whale of a kid, with bones like a horse and eyes awful anxious to please—eyes that made you like him. He's one of the best men I've got now, but then he was green as God made him." The foreman stopped to chuckle.
"Go up to the eighteenth floor," I told him one day, "and bring down an old man." I was busy at the time, and when I saw the kid stare I said kind of sharp that if that old man wasn't here in five minutes the whole blamed building would probably go to smash. This was just my way of making him hustle, but he thought I meant it word for word. He went up on the run, and in a few minutes he came down with a sputtering, clawing old feller held like a vise in his arms.
"He was the only old man on the floor," said the kid, "and he wanted to stop and argue about it, but from what you said I knew what it meant, so I just grabbed him and came."
"You see," the foreman added kindly, noting my puzzled expression, "an old man happens to be the name of a tool we use."—Everybody's Magazine.

THIS IS WORTH READING

Leo. F. Zelinski, of 68 Gibson St. Buffalo, New York, says: "I cured the most annoying cold sore I ever had with Bucklen's Arnica Salve. I applied this salve once a day for two days, when every trace of the sore was gone." Heals all sores. Sold under guarantee at Lowe's drug store. 25c.

The Soft Answer.

He—Artists say that five feet four is the divine height for women. His Darling (crossly)—You know, I am five feet nine. He (quickly)—You are more than divine, my dear.

Laws catch flies and let hornets go free.—Anacharsis.

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