

THE DEACON'S SHEEPSKIN

By M. QUAD

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If you know anything at all about farm life you know that now and then a farmer gets a hankering for mutton and kills a sheep. In removing the pelt he is very careful. A cut in it depreciates its value. Pelts are generally purchased by tin peddlers, and they are generally looked over very carefully beforehand. If there are two or three cuts in the pelt it is only half price. Deacon Strong lived on a farm in the outskirts of the village of Itawsonville. Tin peddlers had found him a truthful man. When the deacon warranted a sheepskin free from cuts it was no use spending time to look at it. On this particular morning when a peddler called the deacon had a pelt all rolled up to trade for tin pans. While he didn't exactly warrant it, he didn't acknowledge to any damage, and it was three days later that the peddler found he had been done for.

The peddler could have gone back and talked about graft and all that and raised a row, but he didn't. He returned to the neighborhood after several weeks, but he didn't call on the deacon. Neither did he make any inquiries about him. He just sawed wood and listened to what people were talking about, and what they were talking about just then was the fact that the deacon had decided to send his old mother to the poorhouse.

Deacon Strong realized that he would be criticised, and so he went about telling what a beautiful poorhouse it was.

The tin peddler got on to the talk and the facts, and he was doing some thinking as he drove from the neighborhood. He had a brother in a town twenty miles away, and the brother was a lawyer.

The day had been set for grandma to go to the poorhouse when one of the neighbors brought in a newspaper to show the deacon an advertisement. It called for information concerning one Anna Strong, widow, and strongly hinted that it would be to her great advantage to step out into the limelight. The poorhouse trip was canceled and a journey made to see a lawyer. Anna Strong, widow, was Deacon Strong's mother. He could prove it by fifty people. The lawyer replied that it was all right so far, but did she have a cousin named Charles Bixby, a rich man living in Boston, a cousin who would be apt to remember her in his will to the extent of \$25,000?

The deacon's hair climbed up. He said that he hadn't the least doubt of the cousinship and would take the cash home to the old lady. He went too fast. The widow Strong must appear and make an affidavit. What her son knew or guessed wouldn't cover the case. The deacon didn't say she had lost her voice. He started for home to see if he couldn't find it for her. Her fingers were so cramped that she hadn't written a line for years, and all depended on the recovery of the voice. The old woman had been tucked away in the poorest room of the house. She was at once transferred to the best. The scraps from the table were thought good enough for her. She was now fed on the best. Instead of three regular meals per day she was conked to eat much oftener. The son had hardly spoken to her for weeks, but now he sat with her and even told her jokes and hoped she would live for twenty years yet. He also went among the neighbors and said that he had heard the cellar of the poorhouse was damp after every shower, and he couldn't think of taking his dear mother there.

Mrs. Strong, widow, could hear very well. She heard her son ask the name of all her male cousins, including Charles Bixby of Boston, and she heard herself addressed as "dear mother," but she could make no intelligible replies. Not when the daughter-in-law combed her hair for her and washed her face and said she was a saint if there ever was one could she talk. When she was lifted in and out of the buggy for a ride she couldn't express her gratitude in words. Once or twice she happened to overhear her dutiful son say to his wife that he'd like to build a fire under the old woman to make her talk, but she didn't lay it up against him. She went right on having the best in the house and wondering why other old women didn't lose their voices.

Once a month for two long years Deacon Strong called upon or wrote to the lawyer. He offered all sorts of terms and compromises, but it was no use. He wrote to Boston, but his letter was unanswered. He consulted other lawyers, but they said that nothing could be done until that voice came back. Raw eggs and wine, cake and puddings fattened the old woman, but the voice remained obdurate. She winked and she smiled and she nodded, but that wasn't enough to bring home the Bixby legacy. Then at last she died. She went to sleep in her chair one day and passed away without a struggle. She was buried in a very decent manner, and next day the deacon walked into the lawyer's office as next of kin and heir to the Bixby legacy.

"And you mother didn't regain her voice?" asked the lawyer.

"Never spoke a word."

"She had the best of care?"

"The very best."

"I am glad to hear it. I have just ascertained there was some mistake about it. She may have been a cousin of Charles Bixby's, but he left his money to an old man's home."



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CO-OPERATION IN ROAD WORK.

There is no sort of public work in which folks are interested generally where the principle of co-operation could be followed to better advantage than in the care of the public highways. In some sections this fact seems to be recognized, in some others not. Especially in those sections where earth roads are the rule and where the character of the soil is such that there is need of working it at a critical time following heavy rains or wet seasons. Particularly is this true of stiff clay or adobe soils, which can be advantageously worked and leveled only when they possess the proper amount of moisture and the right consistency. Under such conditions it is impossible for one road superintendent and his helpers to give all the road of their territory treatment at the proper time. As a result many such highways dry up rough and hard and remain in this condition for months. Could a system have been followed which would have enlisted the aid of property owners or renters along the highways and the roads have been dragged at the proper time a good highway would have been secured. The benefit of this co-operative system is recognized in some states, the road tax being remitted in case property owners give a stipulated amount of aid in keeping in condition the roads abutting their own premises. This plan gives excellent results and should be adopted in other places where the roads at certain seasons of the year are little short of unspeakable, yet for the attempt to keep which in repair large sums are expended annually, but to little purpose.

HOW HE BESTED QUACK GRASS.

A Minnesota farmer who has had an intimate acquaintance with quack grass covering a period of about twenty years rid his land—six acres—of the pest in the following manner. Beginning in 1908 he allowed the grass to grow until it blossomed, but before any seed formed he cut the patch and made hay of it. He then plowed the stubble under smoothly, using the disk harrow to work up a seed bed and aiming to disturb the sod as little as possible. On this he sowed German millet the 15th of July. The seed came up well, but owing to dry weather following the millet did not do well. He turned steers in to pasture the patch in October and plowed the ground the latter part of November. In the spring of 1909 the quack grass looked sick, but soon began to take on life. He disked the patch about once a week until the middle of June, when he again plowed it, harrowed it fine and drilled in a peck and a half of fodder corn to the acre. Last fall he harvested three and a half tons of dry fodder per acre, one-third of which had produced good sound corn. The field is at present completely controlled, and he says that any kind of a tilled crop can be raised this year without any trouble from the quack. Corn with thorough cultivation, in this farmer's opinion, must enter largely into any rotation whose purpose is to kill out quack grass, while disk tools should be used so far as possible in the tilling of the soil.

VARIEGATED ALFALFAS.

The ordinary alfalfa, whose original home was probably Persia, has come to be considered a standard and valuable forage crop in the western half of the United States. This variety has blue flowers and a coiled pod. Within a few years there has been introduced in the country a variety of yellow flowered alfalfa, which grows wild in Siberia and several countries of Europe, that does not have the upright habit or produce as much seed, but that in point of resistance to extremes of drought and cold is decidedly superior to its blue flowered relative. In some cases these fields have grown side by side, and hybrid or variegated alfalfas have resulted, combining some of the best qualities of both varieties. The best of these variegated strains, which bear both blue and yellow flowers, are said to be Grim's alfalfa and Canadian alfalfa. Of this list the second strain has been very successfully grown in Minnesota and North Dakota, where it has withstood cold winters remarkably well and has produced a larger yield of hay than the blue flowered variety.

ABOUT DURUM WHEAT.

Durum wheat, quite commonly known under the name of macaroni wheat, seems especially adapted to soil and climatic conditions existing in the great plain west of the Mississippi river, where the rainfall ranges from ten to twenty inches per year. It is not only quite drought resistant, but seems largely free from rust. In humid sections it does not do so well as other standard varieties of wheat. In price it ranges a few cents per bushel lower than other wheat of like grade.

While not ranking with California or Florida in the production of oranges, Louisiana produced 141,700 boxes in 1909.

There were imported into the United States in 1909 1,479,631 bushels of flax seed as compared with 44,731 bushels in 1908.

Russia is one of the leading sugar beet producing countries, her output for 1909 being 7,502,854 tons as compared with 9,257,854 tons for the preceding year.

The flock of hens appreciate shade in hot weather just as do folks and other animals. If there are no trees in the yard a few sunflowers protected while young from the hens will answer the purpose well.

The slugs that pester the rosebushes may be easily put out of business by sprinkling the vines with white hellebore when the dew is on or with just plain fine road dust, which is cheaper and will insure the same results.

There is hardly any article in common use that is more easily or more often adulterated than paint. In case a make of paint cannot be secured which one knows to be reliable or which a reputable dealer will guarantee as such one has the recourse of buying white lead and oil and doing his own mixing. This will require some care, but it will give a paint which will afford the most possible satisfaction.

Exhaustive investigations which have been made into the matter of tuberculosis among food producing animals by the bureau of animal industry place the annual loss from this one disease to the stock raising interests of the country at \$24,000,000. These same investigations prove conclusively that bovine tuberculosis is easily communicated to human beings and that cows which are sleek and apparently healthy may be far advanced in the disease and a positive menace to the health of all who consume their milk.

Carrying out its purpose of protecting the fauna of the country and of making special studies of those birds and animals which may be of economic value to man, the United States department of agriculture has recently issued as farmers' bulletin No. 390 the results of its recent investigations into pheasant raising. The bulletin contains a concise account of the methods used by many pheasant raisers, including propagation, care of the young birds, protection from enemies, housing, feeding and marketing, as well as other interesting and practical phases of the industry. The treatise may be obtained through one's senator or representative or by making request of the department of agriculture at Washington.

"The Economic Use of Meats in the Home" is the caption of a bulletin lately put out by the agricultural department at Washington. The treatise has been prepared for the especial benefit of the housewife, who, with prices for the best cuts of meat which have prevailed, has had a problem on her hands to provide the family with an economic and satisfactory meat ration. It takes up general methods of preparing meats, the utilizing of cheaper cuts in palatable dishes, as well as other matters of interest. At the close of the bulletin are given fifty recipes for savory meat dishes collected from a wide range and suited to the needs of the average home. The bulletin will be forwarded free to any who may make request of the agricultural department at Washington.

That the feeding of silage to dairy cows in large quantities does not seriously affect the quality of milk was demonstrated by a test made by the Illinois experiment station not long ago. Samples of silage and non-silage milk were tasted by some 300 members of the faculty and student body, including eighty-one ladies. In all 60 per cent preferred the silage milk, 20 per cent preferred the non-silage milk, while the remainder had no preference. Samples of the silage and non-silage milk were submitted to five dairy experts in several large cities, and of these one had no choice, one preferred the non-silage milk, while three preferred the silage milk. The cows which produced the silage milk used in this test were given forty pounds of silage a day, which is considerably in excess of the ration usually fed.

While melons will do well on a great variety of soils, they seem to flourish best on a mellow, friable loam which has been well enriched with barnyard manure. About a dozen seeds should be planted to the hill, the planting being delayed until danger of frost is past. When the young vines have got past the striped beetle stage the plants should be thinned to three or four in a hill. Like all other growing things, melons will do best if given frequent cultivation with both wheel cultivator and with hoe, which will insure a moist and mellow condition of the soil. If the mellow patch is so large that it is not feasible to protect the hills from the striped beetle by means of shallow frames covered with mosquito netting the bug may be put out of business by spraying the vines with arsenate of lead at the rate of about half a pound to twelve gallons of water. This may be applied with fair pressure by a hand sprayer, the nozzle of which should be so adjusted that some of the poison will be lodged on the underside of the leaves where the beetle often works. The size of the melons may be increased by restricting those on a single vine to two or three.

If the piece of willow grub land continues to send up shoots from the old roots they should be hoed off or mowed down as fast as they appear, preferably the former. If the roots are kept from developing leaf systems during one season they will give no further trouble.

Rundown trees, like rundown folks, now and then need a tonic, and their condition (the trees) can often be materially improved by spading the ground about the roots and applying a good mulch of manure, while during the dry weather an occasional watering will help materially.

Scrub dairy sires have no place on farms where sufficient progress in the dairy business has been made to install the cream separator and the Babcock tester, yet now and then a fellow gets an economical streak and cuts up this very shindy. The scrub sire has no place in any section where brains and prudence are the agricultural guides.

Many of the owners of the big poultry ranches at Petaluma, Cal., where more poultry is raised and more eggs are produced than in any corresponding section of the country, make a business, among other things, of hatching chicks by the thousand and selling them when a few days old. These little fellows are put in a comfortable and safe receptacle and are shipped to their designation by express, fetching about 10 cents apiece.

The painting of the trunks of the orchard trees with a good lime wash in which several pounds of salt and a few ounces of carbolic acid have been mixed will not only improve the condition of the bark and kill insect pests, but by reflecting the rays of the sun will tend to prevent sunscald. Carefully slacked stone lime should be used for the purpose, this being diluted to the consistency of paint after the slacking process is completed.

Size in fruit or vegetable is usually the result of limiting considerably the quantity or number produced. Prize winning tomatoes are secured by growing a thrifty vine and then restricting the fruit it is allowed to produce to two or three. In the same way big melons and squashes are the result of snipping off all but one or two blossoms, fertilizing the vines heavily and covering the joints which touch the earth with soil, when new root systems are developed which aid in the feeding of the plants. As soon as the desired fruit or vegetable is set the vines should be so pruned as to throw the whole strength of the plant into them.

With the price of concentrates—bran, oilmeal and the like—soaring to between \$28 and \$40 a ton, especial interest attaches to the raising on the home lands of feeds which can take the place of these high priced stuffs. The best substitutes are the legumes—alfalfa for the drier sections west and southwest, the clovers for the northern and eastern states (alfalfa where it will do well) and cowpeas and soy beans for those sections of the south where the rainfall is so heavy as to seriously interfere with the proper curing of alfalfa. The problem of providing a cheaper ration can be simplified if the silo is installed, which will mean the carrying of a maximum amount of stock on a minimum acreage.

The several blights that attack potato vines during the muggy midsummer weather are of fungous origin and may be prevented or checked by spraying the field with bordeaux mixture, which is easily made by taking a small amount of quicklime, slaking it to a fine paste and diluting it in half the volume of water needed for the spraying. With this should be mixed a solution made by dissolving an equal number of pounds of copper sulphate in a like amount of water. For instance, if one wished twenty gallons of the spray mixture two pounds of stone lime should be slaked and diluted to ten gallons of water and two pounds of limestone in ten gallons and these two mixed. If potato beetles are on the vines they may be disposed of in the same spraying operation by adding about two ounces of paris green to twenty gallons of the bordeaux or a little less than a pound of commercial arsenate of lead.

A Kentucky farmer who has reported his experience recently speaks favorably of the wild sweet clover as a farm crop, the variety so often seen growing in unlikely places along roadsides, railroad cuts or in abandoned stone quarries or gravel pits. He finds it an excellent renovator for wornout soils and for subduing rough places on his farm which have been pre-empted by weeds and briars. He harrows the land in the spring so as to give a good seed bed and sows from fifteen to twenty pounds of seed per acre with half a bushel of oats. To produce seed he sows fifteen pounds per acre on fertile land. For fall seeding he prepares the land and sows in October. To be used for hay he finds that sweet clover should be cut when the first blossoms appear, before the stalks become woody. He also reports that the sweet clover is an excellent crop with which to precede alfalfa, as it keeps the land free from weeds and inoculates the soil with the bacterial life necessary for the best development of the alfalfa plant.

J. E. Trigg

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Advertisement for Sidewalk Construction

Notice is hereby given, that the Common Council of the City of Bandon, Coos county Oregon, will upon Monday, the 15th day of August, 1910, at the hour of 7:30 p. m. o'clock of said day, receive sealed bids for the construction of three hundred (300) feet, more or less, of sidewalk upon the East side of Spruce street in Bandon, Oregon, extending from the plank and piling bridge up the hill to the end of and to connect with the walk in front of Trowbridge property, ground for sidewalk right of way to be prepared for the bidder, specifications to be obtained from the undersigned.

Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Dated at Bandon, Oregon, this 5th day of August, 1910. E. B. KAUSRUD, City Recorder of the City of Bandon, Oregon.

Advertisement for Bids for Street Improvement

Notice is hereby given, that the Common Council of the City of Bandon, Coos County, will upon Monday the 15th day of August, 1910, at the hour of 7:30 p. m. o'clock of said day receive sealed bids for the construction of a piling and plank bridge upon Main street from the north line of its intersection with Atwater street, running northward to the terminus thereof at deep water of the Coquille river; said bridge to be built for full 75 feet width; specifications to be obtained from the undersigned.

Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Dated at Bandon, Oregon, this 5th day of August, 1910. E. B. KAUSRUD, City Recorder of the City of Bandon, Oregon.

Summons

IN THE JUSTICE COURT, SIXTH DISTRICT, COOS COUNTY, OREGON.

A. E. White, Plaintiff, vs. T. W. Meeks, Defendant.

TO T. W. Meeks, defendant above named: In the Name of the State of Oregon, you are hereby required to appear before the undersigned Justice of the Peace, for said District, County, and State, to answer Plaintiff's Complaint filed herein within six weeks from the date of the first publication hereof, to-wit, on or before the 23rd day of September, 1910.

You will take notice that if you fail so to appear and answer, Plaintiff will take judgment against you for the sum of \$54.00, plus costs and disbursements.

Plaintiff has made affidavit for publication of this summons, and through his attorney, C. E. Wade, moved for order of court directing same. Said motion granted.

Dated, Bandon, Oregon, Aug. 1st, 1910. Geo. P. Toppiag, Justice of the Peace.

Ordinance No. 158

This is an ordinance entitled "An Ordinance amending Sec. 1 of Ordinance proposed as No. 142" entitled "An Ordinance providing for regulating and requiring cement sidewalks on certain parts of First street in the City of Bandon, getting specifications thereof and regulating the Same."

THE CITY OF BANDON DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Sec. 1.—That Section one of Ordinance No. 142 is hereby amended to read as follows: "All sidewalks shall be 6 feet in width and shall be at the established grade at the inside edge and shall have a slant of two inches toward the outer edge. The facing next to the curb shall be six inches thick and shall extend one foot below the surface of the sidewalk. The foundation shall be well tamped earth upon which shall be laid a course of grouting 5 1/4 inches in thickness, consisting of four parts gravel, three parts sharp sand one part cement; upon the grouting shall be laid a course of cement paste three quarters of an inch thick, consisting of one part cement and one part sharp sand; all cement used in said work to be Portland cement thoroughly mixed and applied while in a liquid state. The top coating or dressing to be applied before grouting has set."

Passed the Common Council this 3rd day of August, 1910.

E. B. Kausrud, City Recorder.
Approved this 11th day of August, 1910.
J. W. Mast, Mayor.