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DARING HOLD-UP

Load up the Gun and Unloose the Bull Dog.

For many years the citizens of Corvallis have been permitted to live in peace and quiet, feeling free to promenade the streets and alleys of the town at all hours of the night without fear of being molested, but now alas! Our eyes are open to the dawn of another day. The rapid strides in the way of public improvements and the money being made by all classes of our citizens seem to have attracted the attention of the bold, bad burglar.

Last Friday night R.M. Smith, the harness man, had spent a pleasant evening with his best girl and started home at about 11:30 o'clock, happy as a lark in the springtime, little dreaming of what was in store for him. When nearing the new houses being erected by George Henkle in the southern part of town, he noticed a man a short distance ahead, walking slowly, which excited a little suspicion and he carelessly slipped his hand in his pocket and transferred most of his change to the inside coat pocket.

As he passed the new house, the second highwayman stepped out behind him and commanded "Hands up!" Mr. Smith is always anxious to please his friends and of coure up they went. The second burglar then returned to the scene of action with revolver in hand and the cleaning up process was indulged in to a finish, after which the young man was commanded to march on.

The net proceeds to the burglars amounted to about $3 in loose change, as they did not get down into the coat pockets. The man in front of Mr. Smith had something over his face. Strange to say Smith did not turn around to notice the latest style of coat worn by the man behind him and hence cannot give a very good description of the men.

A modern Willie-boy, with narrow-striped clothes, saddle-colored shoes, a loud neck-tie, hair parted over his nose, and smoking a cigarette, addressed his best girl thus: "If you was me and I was you, what would you do?" She hesitatingly said with a smile: "I would take off that hideous tie, put that cigarette in the stove, part my hair on one side, then pray to God for brains."

He sallied out one pleasant eve
To call on the fair young miss
And when he reached her residence

this!
like
steps
the
up
Ran

Her papa met him at the door,
He did not see the miss;
He'll not go back there any more
For
he
went
down
stairs
like
this!
Wow!!

AN ASPHALT ROAD.

New Jersey to Experiment With Mixture of That Product With Dirt.

The New Jersey state department of highways is to construct in Mercer county an experimental mile of a new automobile road, the plans for which State Road Supervisor Robert A. Meeker recently obtained in Kansas City. Mr. Meeker says the new method of construction is simple and cheap, that it is self healing when broken and therefore practically indestructible, that it improves with age, that it is mudless, noiseless and almost dustless and that it is not slippery even when coated with ice.

In the building of the road the original soil is finely pulverized, and then into this there is worked a mixture of hot asphalt, the whole mass being firmly rolled in the finishing. Breaks are quickly repaired by traffic, the weight of wheels cementing them together. The base yields slightly to heavy traffic and then regains its original shape. It is equally good for horses and automobiles.

If the experiment proves a success, it is likely that the result will be a radical change in the road building methods of the state of New Jersey, with the substitution of asphalt for the macadam process now used.

THE GRANGE

Conducted by
J. W. DARROW, Chatham, N. Y.,
Press Correspondent New York State Grange

NEW HAMPSHIRE EVENTS.

Dedication of a New $5,000 Hall at Bristol Described.

[Special Correspondence.]

Bristol in Pomona week has had many notable grange events, but the dedication of the new hall of Newfound Lake grange, the installation of its officers, the sparkling postprandial exercises, a brilliant literary programme and a long social festivity will enable the exercises on the afternoon and evening of Feb. 7 to excel anything of a similar nature ever held in the lower Pemigewasset valley. The grange was opened in the usual manner in the former place of meeting, and a long procession marched to the new hall, where the dedication ceremony was performed by State Master Hadley and the officers of the local grange. W. S. H. Remick filled the master's station, the altar was placed in position by the assistant stewards, the service there was performed by the chaplain, the flowers on it were arranged by Flora, the fruit was put in position by Pomona and the grain by Ceres. The keys received from the architect and the supervising builder were delivered to the steward. The building is two stories, 52 by 60. The grange hall proper, exclusive of an extension stage, is 40 by 42. The banquet room is 36 by 38, and the kitchen, ante and other rooms are commodious and convenient. The floors are hard wood; the sheathing is of Georgia pine. It is lighted by electricity and has modern heating apparatus. The cost of the building, exclusive of the lot, $5,000, is divided into shares owned by the grange and its members. The installation was performed by National Master N. J. Bachelder, assisted by State Master and Mrs. Hadley. The postprandial exercises were conducted by Hon. Ira Arthur Chase, and the literary programme consisted of readings, recitations and a grange paper. Music was provided at each of the five sessions by Ladd's orchestra.

Every subordinate grange in the state has been supplied by P. W. Ayres, state forester, with desirable pamphlets for the use of the essayist who is to prepare the competitive essay that is to be presented in April on "Practical Forestry For Farmers."

Many people recognize the vast accomplishments of the grange, but few realize that the official returns to the state grange in 1907 show that the aggregate amount of time consumed in a single year in the state of New Hampshire in actual attendance at the meetings, exclusive of travel and preparation, amounts to 12,535 continuous years, or more than six and one-half times the period that has elapsed since the beginning of the Christian era.

Women rarely attended and less frequently participated in the early meetings of the grange in the Granite State. Later they occupied all of the offices in many granges. At the present time very few granges have all permissible officers of either sex, but almost invariably the office is filled by the Patron most competent to perform the duties. There are thirty-one lady masters, 228 lecturers are women, and 193 matrons fill the office of secretary.

GEORGE R. DRAKE.

What Is a Postal Savings Bank?

The grange is on record as favoring the postal savings banks. Do all Patrons understand what these banks are? Persons desiring to deposit their savings in these banks have simply to go to the postoffice, if a money order office and designated to receive deposits, fill out a deposit slip and have the amount entered on their passbooks, the same as if it were a bank. An account is also kept of these deposits at Washington, and the postmaster general causes an acknowledgment to be sent direct to the depositor to supplement the record in the passbook. The government would pay a low rate of interest, about 2 or 2½ per cent per annum.

In a Dairy County.

Orange county Pomona grange met at Chester in March. Among the speakers were Dr. E. M. Santee, who spoke on "Tuberculosis In Cattle," and Mr. Burton of the New York city board of health. He highly praised the Orange county dairymen for the sanitary condition of their barns and stables and the preparation of their milk for the market. Other questions discussed were "Should the grange ask for the establishment of agricultural schools?" and "Should the grange favor savings banks?"

Death of Professor W. G. Johnson

Professor Willis G. Johnson, associate editor of the American Agriculturist, died March 11 at his home in New York city of meningitis. He was an active and aggressive member of the grange and was well known in many states outside of New York. He was a good speaker and often addressed state grange meetings. He leaves a wife and two sons.

Center county (Pa.) Pomona conducts a fire insurance company carrying over $6,000,000 in risks. The average insurance rate is considerably lower than the average of other mutual companies in that state.

Hartford grange, Susquehanna county, Pa., has 265 members and did a cooperative business last year of $13,000.

Briar Creek Grange Fire Insurance company of Columbia county, Pa., carries $9,181,941 in policies.

THE BEAN CROP.

Good Soil and Economy of Space Will Make It Pay.

The raising of white beans is a great industry in many sections, and it is profitable because the output is as much a staple as wheat or corn. Like these crops, it is a foodstuff which has keeping quality.

The bean growing industry has gravitated to the poorer lands, so that but little of it is found in the corn belt. And yet there are places in the corn belt, and many of them, where beans might be grown to advantage. Sandy knolls or wornout fields which will only make twenty bushels of corn per acre will return a greater cash product if planted to beans.

Bean culture was once considered very laborious, but it is not necessarily so now. By the use of modern machinery it is made easy. They may be planted with a two horse corn planter, cultivated with riding plows and weeders, pulled when ripe, thrashed and even sorted by machinery.

To make the most of the space the hills may be only six inches apart, but the rows should be wide enough to permit horse culture. When planted in this way and carefully cultivated, if the ground is free from weeds, the crop may be carried through by horsepower. But if the soil is foul one hand hoeing will be needed. The crop is loaded from the puller into hayracks and hauled to the barn. Spread upon the barn floor or loft, it will be ready for thrashing after two weeks of dry weather. Before marketing sorting is absolutely necessary.

The old plan was to get the family together in the evening about the kitchen table and each by handfuls picked out the bad specimens. But the modern bean sorter is a small machine and cheap, which you may take into any room. The motion is controlled by a treadle, and a slowly moving canvas carrier brings the beans to your hand as fast as you can look them over, one spry man doing the work of five by the old system.

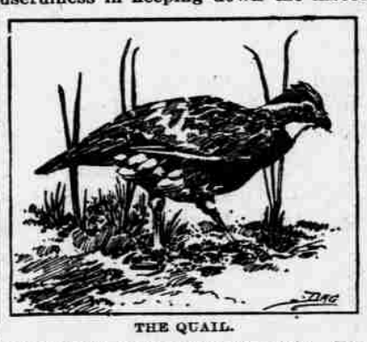
THE WHITE GRUB.

A Dangerous Insect Enemy of the Fruit Tree.

The peach borer or white grub, which bores holes through and under the bark of the roots of peach trees, weakens and often kills trees and may be considered one of the greatest enemies the peach has to contend with. This insect changes from a worm to a fly in August or September. At that time the worm comes to the surface of the ground, constructing a cocoon an inch in length, which is attached to the base of the tree or perched on the ground, end upward. In a few weeks it appears as a moth and begins to deposit its small eggs on the body of the tree near the ground. Each body lays 300 or more eggs and dies within two weeks. In October or November the eggs hatch, and the little borers, scarcely large enough to be seen, make their way down to the ground at the base of the tree. When warm weather comes in spring they begin active work and increase rapidly in size, working first in the bark of the roots nearest the base of the tree and then extending down four or six inches into the lower roots, eating their way as they go. The worst work is done in May, June and July, and these are the months when the peach trees should have most careful attention. Young peach trees require more attention than older trees. The roots of older trees are often so large, coarse and tough as not to be susceptible to serious injury, but the young trees may be destroyed by one grub.

The Farmer's Friend.

One of the interesting features of the new school of agriculture is the recognition of the helpfulness of many feathered wild tenants of our farms. Thanks to the investigation of the department of agriculture, many birds which were once ruthlessly destroyed by the ignorant pot hunter are now carefully protected because of their usefulness in keeping down the insect



THE QUAIL.

hordes that prey upon plant life. The quail or bobwhite is one of the farmers' feathered friends.

This interesting bird is helpful to the farmer in destroying weeds, bugs, grasshoppers, cotton boll weevil and many other insects. If not hunted, it is a tame bird, often appearing in the farmers' gardens or barnyards. The cheerful whistle of bobwhite on the fences, in the pastures and meadows is attractive to the farmer as he plows, plants and reaps. Let every farmer start out today to be a friend of birds and to protect them. The farmer will thus benefit himself as well as the birds.

The Sweet Potato Belt.

The northern limit for sweet potato culture is roughly indicated by a line drawn from the border line of Massachusetts and Connecticut on the east coast westward to the northeast corner of Colorado, but the area where it is profitable commercially would be considerably south of this, except in the Mississippi valley, where it extends well into Iowa, Illinois and Indiana.

THE WHEAT.

Binding and Shocking It So as to Get Best Results.

From the time the wheat stands waving yellow in the field until it is in the hands of the miller is an important period. The cutting of the wheat may not be a difficult task, but much depends on how well the grain is gathered and bound and shocked. If the machine does not gather the grain well, a good deal of it will be lost falling down before the sickle or stringing out from beneath the aprons.

Care should be taken to avoid this.

The binder should also gather the straw evenly, so that the bundles may not look ragged or part be lost in the shocking. The binder should be shifted just right, so that the bundles may be bound near the middle. Binding too close to the butts or heads will make them inconvenient to handle, as well as cause the dropping out of a part of the bundles.

The shocking of the wheat is very important, especially in those sections where rains and winds are frequent. The bundles cannot be thrown together any old way and be expected to stand the storms of wind and rain.

My experience has proved that the best and strongest shock is made in the following manner: Place three pairs of bundles in a row, then set one bundle at each end and three on each side. The caps should be placed on lengthwise of the shock and spread so they will cover the top of the shock and hang down on the sides, protecting the heads of the wheat and turning the water like the roof of a house. For twenty years we built our shocks in this manner and seldom ever lost any wheat from winds or rain. It was often necessary to go over the field after a severe windstorm and replace some of the caps, but seldom did we have to rebuild a shock.

After the wheat is all cut and shocked it is the best plan to have it thrashed as soon as it will do. It can then be stored away in a rat proof granary or hauled direct to market. We believe it is wise to sell immediately after thrashing. The higher price for which one may hold will not more than offset the shrinkage and loss in handling, and sometimes the higher price is never realized. A person had better take a few cents less than run the risk.

BEES AND HONEY.

The Way They Gather Their Harvest From the Flowers.

Bees gather honey from the nectar vessels of flowers and plants. The sugar, starch, albumen, etc., are carried up by the sap to the seed bearing pods. To a marked extent nature is assisted by the natural law of heat and cold to produce a sweating or condensation of moisture, which we call dew. This takes place in the corolla of the flower, making it more easy for the plant to deposit its overflow of sugar, starch, albumen, etc., in the dew already in the flower.

This sweet nectar is carried up by the sap and discharged in the dew through the pores of the plant. When the sun rises evaporation takes place, and the result is a tiny drop of nectar in the cup of the flower. The bee goes to the flower and with its long silken tongue sips up this drop of nectar and deposits it into its honey sack back of the throat.

The bee is provided with a stomach for its physical well being back of this storage stomach, and all the honey that goes to this stomach is used for the life or physical demands of the bee. When the bee has its storage tank full of nectar it straightway flies to the hive and exudes it into the cell. The bee is endowed with the power of exuding as naturally as in taking, so there is nothing wonderful about it except the natural curiousness of the matter.

Care of Apple Trees.

Apple trees do best in a fertile clayey loam or "white oak" soil and on a southeastern slope. Varieties should be chosen which are known to be hardy in the locality. Information may be obtained from the state experiment stations in nearly every state.

The trees should not be planted closer than twenty-four feet each way. Dirt should be well packed about their roots and cultivation practiced for several years.

Between the trees crops of potatoes or small fruits may be grown. Clean culture is essential to prevent infection by insects and fungous diseases. The trees should be watched carefully for borers, which eat in the trunk. These can be dug out with a knife or killed by poking a wire into the aperture.

The trees give best satisfaction when headed low, so careful pruning is essential. It is well to see that the trunk is shaded on the southwest by a healthy limb, which will prevent sun scald.

When the tree is coming into bearing spraying with paris green or bordeaux mixture is recommended. This should be done after the blossoms fall and again three weeks later. This treatment kills broods of the codling moth and keeps fungi in check.

Killing Sumac.

For killing out sumac a correspondent recommends a flock of sheep. First mow the sumac, then turn in the sheep. Sumac may be destroyed by persistent cutting after flowering season and before it sets berries, but sheep will do the work at less trouble and expense.

A Forcing Effect.

Fresh manure has a forcing effect and tends to produce stems and leaves at the expense of fruit and grain. It is therefore better for early garden truck, grasses and forage plants than for cereals or fruit.

FARM BEEF MAKING.

By B. E. PORTER, Maryland.

For beef production there are the Shorthorn, Hereford and Aberdeen Angus cattle, which are most generally known. These breeds have been developed especially for beef, and whenever a herd has much of the blood of either of these breeds in it the type of a good feeder is generally found.

Shorthorns are good lot and stall feeders. They make rapid gains and show fairly good dressing percentage. They are a little inclined to be leggy and upstanding; which is against them, but they are quick to adapt themselves to any changes and environments.

The Herefords as meat producers have high rank. These cattle have made marked improvement within the last twenty-five years. The breed is criticised for having an excess of throatiness, dewlap and lack of development of rump and hind quarter. The Hereford steer is noted as an excellent grazing animal and in this respect has no equal. Herefords mature much more rapidly than Shorthorns and are much in favor for the production of the so called "baby beef."

In the show ring the Aberdeen Angus steer has made a remarkable record. No other breed has made so fine a record in winning the high honors at the Chicago international live stock show. The breed has won many honors not only in champion fat steer classes, but also in carload lots. The steers are excellent feeders, but must not be too

TYPICAL HEREFORD STEER.

closely confined. They are more or less wild by nature, so that strangers and dogs must keep away. This breed appears to stand shipping by rail somewhat better than the other breeds of cattle. They are not so well adapted to the range as the Herefords, but mature early and are highly prized by many growers of "baby beef."

What Beef Men Think of Silage.

The success attending the use of silage in the dairy business has created much interest among beef cattle men. Silage furnishes a succulent food, which is quite essential to the dairy cow in keeping her digestive system in good condition. The same will be found true for the beef animal. Twenty pounds of silage per day will supply all the bulk and water needed in a fattening ration. The other roughage may consist of either long fodder or mixed hay. The economy of using silage for fattening purposes is well brought out by Professor A. M. Soule of the Virginia station, who has stated the following conclusions:

"There was a difference of from .3 to .5 of a pound of grain per head per day in favor of the silage fed cattle. They also finished out better and in any discriminating market would certainly bring a better price than the dry fed cattle.

"Of the three forms of roughage fed, the silage was eaten with the greatest relish, and there was absolutely no loss, whereas with the stover the loss amounted to 13.5 per cent and with hay 4.16 per cent. Where a large number of animals are fed this would make a considerable difference in the cost of ration, except that the shredded stover can be utilized to advantage for bedding."

Silage as it is put up today is better than when the practice was first started. Good silage of corn is made when the grain has passed the mik stage and has commenced to glaze a little. Silage is made also from sorghum, corn and cowpeas and pea vines.

Corn Stover.

Corn stover is used both shredded and unshredded. Ordinarily the cattle will waste a considerable quantity whichever way it is fed. The shredded fodder is prepared because the cattle eat a greater percentage of it and the manure is handled more easily. Fodder is often fed on the ground in the open pasture field to save the hauling of manure.

There is a saving, however, in having the fodder shredded. Usually the feed is taken care of earlier and there is less exposure to leaching rains and weathering processes. Again, more feed can be put in a smaller space, thus requiring less storage space.

Jersey Lambs.

It would be better if the farmers, instead of using poor stock from the west, would select their stock from their own lambs, and in doing this as much care and judgment should be used as in selecting a dairy cow. In regard to profits, one farmer has sold forty lambs at $7.85 per head, while another breeder has obtained thirty-two lambs from twenty-four ewes, and they have netted him an average of $10.06 apiece.—Professor Minckler, New Jersey State College.

Early Clipping.

Sheep or lambs that are to be fed for spring market should, if convenient to get them under shelter, be shorn no later than April 1. Thirty days' feed after clipping will bring better returns in gain than forty days with the wool on.

DO TRY AGAIN.

When the hens refuse to lay
And there's nothing seems to pay
And you're sad and mad and blue,
Don't forget the old refrain
Just to try and try again,
For you'll get there if you do.

When the clucks mash all the eggs
And sit upright on their legs
And you're mad enough to swear,
Now's the time to hear the strain—
Brother, try, oh, try again;
Just try and you'll not despair.

C. M. B.

"CHICKLETS."

If the mother hen has been properly dusted, she and the chicks will come off the nest without lice. As nits hatch in two weeks, dust her again on time, but remove her from the chicks for thirty minutes, for the lice not killed would be chased off on to the peeps. When the chicks creep under the hen the bugs will creep off the chicks. You make a mistake in feeding chicks before forty-eight hours have passed. They have not digested the yolk which they absorbed before breaking the shell. Thus you gorge them, and they die with white diarrhea. Remember they ship day old chicks 1,000 miles without feeding. They ride clear from

"WHERE'S MY BROODER?"

London to Berlin without a crumb and never mind it. Give them water and grit at once and keep them on dry floors for two weeks if you do not want gapes.

The brooder chick should start without lice, but some poultrymen never fumigate the brooder or set it in an infested place. The greedy English sparrows often carry lice to the peeps and in return carry off the feed. These lousy pests steal half the feed on some plants, and back yard fanciers lose more. Thanks to our big tiger cat, who snoozes with one eye open out among the brooders and on the wire pens, we lose no feed to the pirates. Before Tom came we set up a stuffed owl among the pens. The sparrows, robins, catbirds, chippies, wrens and cherry birds gathered in the plum and ox heart trees and did some tall cussin' and threatened that long eared owl with dire calamity; but, more faithful than the majority of policemen, he stood to his duty, and not even the cackle of a juicy hen tempted him away. And the birds fled.

FEATHERS AND EGGSHELLS.

Don't be surprised that the poultryman asks for cash in advance. He does not know you any better than you know him, but it is to be hoped that you will not know him worse after he knows you better.

"Does thunder kill chicks in the shell?" Answer: Does it kill chicks in the shell to fire off a shotgun right beside a nest? We've done the latter, and the eggs hatched. "Is thunder a million miles away worse?" Thunderation! No!

The Audubon society is after the cats for killing the birds and wants a bounty put on them. Don't care if they do kill off the cat chicken killers. Say, are all the members of that society married? Must be. They certainly do beat the cats.

Many of our poultry friends are keeping fox terriers. They are holy terrors to rats, minks, weasels and skunks. An Indiana crank declares his two bobtailed pups can lick an elephant. Rats! Males are selling at $10; females, $5.

The clamor of the claimants for the credit of originating the dry feeding method is greater than that of sacred writ where seven women laid hold of one man. But Aristotle (384 B. C.) discarded it because his ancient hens got fat and lazy.

"Mother, may I go out to swim?" asked little Willie Drake of his hen ma. "No, my darling drakie. You will get the curls in your pretty tail spoiled, the life guards are not on duty, and this Philadelphia water is neither boiled nor filtered." Tadpoles!

The rascal who kept nonlaying culls to sell rank eggs for spring hatching when any old feather bed lays got it where the hatchet caught the rooster. He formerly had a bonanza, but high priced grain and nonlaying culls knocked him out. May his tribe greatly increase—down there.

The farmers are sprucing upon turkey stock. Buy the best, and they'll do the rest. Prices for birds descended from fifty pound gobblers and thirty pound hens: Old toms, $10, $15, $25; young toms, $8, $10, $15; hens, old or young, $5, $8, $10; breeding flocks, four and five hens, $35, $45, $60. Seems high; but, oh, my, what bronze beauts!

Will some of our farm and town friends tell us why they keep mongrels instead of thoroughbreds? Read this: In November, December, January and February fifty White Leghorns laid 1,030 eggs and fifty mongrels laid 365 eggs, a difference of 665 eggs. They were housed and fed alike. A Leghorn ate 85 cents' worth of feed for the year and a mongrel 93 cents' worth. Which pays? Better wake up.

L. M. Barnitz.