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WILLIAM McMURRAY, General Passenger Agent

HINTS, HELPS AND SUGGESTIONS

ICE GETTING THIN. Individuals or companies that have apples in storage would do well to keep close track of the markets and not be led to hold their stocks too long for a high price. Prices which have prevailed on retail markets for some weeks past have been so high as to greatly reduce consumption of this fruit. The result of this situation is that the total supply of apples available is fast approaching the point where they will be adequate to meet consumptive demands. It follows from this inevitably that price tendencies will be downward and not upward whenever the point mentioned is reached. Should present supplies be kept in storage for several months longer the law of supply and demand would in all probability tend to operate more vigorously and prices would tend to slump more violently. In view of the above it would be far better to market apples in the very near future at good prices than to hold them several months and encounter a serious slump in prices at a time when stock on hand exceeded the demand.

A BEFOGGED MORAL SENSE.

A prolific source of many millions of bad eggs that get through to the consumer and upset his stomach at breakfast is indicated in a case which was brought to the writer's attention not long ago. The individual in question lives on a farm, and the merchants in the town near which she lives have noticed that her big flock of hens seem to quit laying from May until October, but from that time on during the winter shell eggs out at a great rate when the prevailing prices are twice or more what they were during the summer months. These eggs are marketed in lots of six or seven dozen at a time every other day, but never two baskets to the same grocer in succession. It is the consensus of opinion on the part of the grocers who get these eggs that she is by all odds the worst offender against the pure food law which prohibits the marketing of stale eggs that there is in the territory tributary to the town.

HOME SUPPLY OF ICE.

In putting up the home supply of ice there is no need of an elaborate structure. However, two or three general principles should be observed. In the first place, the building intended for storage purposes should be so situated that there will be good drainage. Another point to keep in mind in packing is to allow about fifteen inches' space between the ice, as it is piled, and the walls. Other things being equal, the ice will keep better the larger the pieces are. For commercial use it is rarely cut until it has attained a thickness of twelve to fourteen inches. while for refrigerator cars it is often twenty inches. Of material for use in the packing sawdust gives best results, but where this is not available chaff. hav cut short or even shredded corn fodder will answer the purpose. The space above the ice should be kept well

PLANT IMPORTATION.

So inadequate are the federal laws governing the importation of horticultural products in this country that practically every country in the world that has diseased plants, shrubs or trees which cannot be marketed at home can send them here. Here would seem to be an opening for some ambitious statesman who wants to promote his own political welfare and really serve his country to make a mark for himself. The existing situation is an insult and outrage on American horticultural interests, and there is urgent need that it should be righted at the earliest possible mo-

PHEASANT PROPAGATION.

Much success has attended the efforts to introduce the Chinese or Mongolian pheasant in southern and western states, in particular on the Pacific slope, where the climate is greatly modified by nearness to the ocean. Within the new year several hundred pairs of the common quail or Bob White are to be shipped from Oklahoma to western Oregon, where an attempt will be made to propagate them. Climatic conditions will be favorable, the birds are naturally hardy, and there would seem to be no good reason why they ought not to multiply rap-

FEED THE BIRDS.

During these days of deep snows in northern latitudes those who appreciate the service rendered by the birds that have the hardihood to spend the winter, or a part of it, in the north can do them a kindly turn by putting out food for them. The birds will eat portions of scraps from the table and in some cases wheat or cracked corn, but there seems to be nothing that they relish more than a piece of beef suet. This can be placed on a shelf or hung securely in a tree out of the snow, and the birds can have access to it whenever they like.

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