

TOPICS OF THE TIMES

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

Comments and Criticisms Based Upon the Happenings of the Day—Historical and News Notes.
Many a man who eats pie with a knife wishes he had an ax.

The tail that tries to wag the dog is bound to be cut off sooner or later.

Again let us acknowledge that the wireless is worth much more than it has ever cost.

Sarah Bernhardt is going to make a farewell tour of this country. This is probably the beginning of a habit.

The death of King Leopold removes from the scene of action one of the most remarkable sets of whiskers in the world.

A California judge has decided that the mule is a deadly weapon. It will, therefore, be against the law to carry your mules concealed.

Taking her by and large and on the average, the girl who thinks she can sing coon songs is not very popular with anybody worth while.

A Pittsburg man who stole \$22,800 says he gave it to the poor. Perhaps it was through a mere oversight that he failed to add "chorus girls."

New Hampshire again springs into fame. One of its enthusiastic citizens is reported to possess a desire to build a sanitarium to be devoted to the cure of blues.

Another advance in the price of golf balls is announced, but we are glad to be able to assure the public that no immediate increase in the cost of croquet mallets is threatened.

William E. Gladstone used to set up the claim that he was able to preserve his vigor by swinging an ax. It has been found that operating a snow-shovel is just as invigorating as chopping wood.

Governor Hughes says he is going to retire from politics and earn some money for his family. One of the unsatisfactory things about being the kind of a politician that Governor Hughes is the lack of financial returns.

In the year 2110, according to Thomas A. Edison, even the common laborer will be able to live as well as the man who has an income of \$200,000 is able to live at present. When that comes to pass what object will anyone have in being a common laborer?

A horrible calamity is clamoring at the door of every husband in the land. If woman succeeds in securing the right to vote, she will start to bet husbands on the result of the elections. Husbands will have to pay for these "mercy widows" and "peach-baskets." It will be a blow aimed at the very vitals of our financial system.

Every year locomotives kill more than five thousand persons while they are walking along the railroad tracks, where, of course, hardly any of them have any business to be. The railroads are public highways, certainly, but they are not to be used by foot passengers, any more than those other public highways, the country roads, are to be used by fast express trains.

Perhaps there will be another steam navigation centenary at Detroit, a few years hence. On August 27, 1818, the first steamboat on the Great Lakes, Walk-in-the-Water, arrived before Detroit, having come up from Black Rock, Buffalo, where it was launched. It is amusing to read that its engines were so inadequate that it could not make head against the current of the Detroit river, and had to be helped up by a dozen yoke of oxen at the end of a tow-rope.

Envious American women will be interested in the wonderful "character" given to the "electric Mary Ann" by the British electrical engineer who invented her. "Mary Ann" is a small electric motor which meets a wide variety of wants. It occupies less room than a typewriter and weighs only seventeen pounds, so that it can be carried to any part of the house. Connection with an ordinary electric light circuit furnishes the power, whereupon "Mary Ann" works the washing machine or wringer, sweeps, dusts, irons, washes dishes, chops meat, churns, peels potatoes, stoves raisins, kneads dough, beats eggs, or runs the sewing machine. Moreover, she works at small expense, never asks a day off or an evening out, and has no "followers." If she can be made to take her orders from a phonograph and not talk back, she will come near to being the long-sought solution of the servant girl question.

An Englishwoman who came to this continent last fall to attend the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, in Winnipeg, remarked of a visit to acquaintances in this country, "Do you know, they live in a wooden house!" Among English, and indeed most continental people, the remark may appear only as the expression of a natural and legitimate surprise; but to Americans it suggests an amusing ignorance of conditions in this country. It is those conditions, nevertheless, which are largely responsible for the stupendous annual fire loss in the United States, and the great cost of protection against fire, as compared with corresponding figures in Europe. According to statistics gathered by the census bureau the average annual cost of fire protection to each citizen in one hundred and fifty-eight American cities is one dollar and fifty-five cents. In Berlin it is twenty-six cents, in London nineteen cents, in St. Petersburg twenty-two cents, in Paris twenty-one cents, in Stockholm twenty-three cents. There is no country in the world where fire departments have reached a higher state of efficiency, or where the equipment is better than in the United States. Most of the modern fire-fighting appliances, indeed, are of American invention and manufacture; and in spite of this the total fire loss

in this country in 1907 was two hundred and fifteen million dollars, or more than two and one-half dollars per capita. In Europe it was forty-eight cents per capita. The difference against this country is due chiefly to the materials and methods of construction in the United States. In short, the explanation lies largely in the Englishwoman's remark. We still live in wooden houses. She might have added that we build them without a thought that they may burn, and therefore in a way to make them the easiest possible prey for the flames.

Several of our states have shown a real interest in the question of "universal" old-age pensions on the English model, and of course the special question of retiring on allowance superannuated public employees is growing more acute, as is evidenced by the vigorous advocacy of civil pensions by the Taft administration. In Massachusetts old-age pension bills have been so numerous that the Legislature has found it necessary to create a committee to make a thorough investigation of the various retiring systems in force in Europe and America, not only in public services, but in the large financial and industrial establishments. The committee has done its work conscientiously and well, and its data and conclusions should be studied by the legislators and social reformers of the other states. The committee rejects the radical principle of "universal" old age pensions paid by the public treasury. It believes that such a scheme as England has adopted—and is about to extend under political pressure and party rivalry in "promises"—is decidedly unfavorable to the development of thrift. It thinks, too, that it would be unjust to the general taxpayers and too costly to be maintained. But it strongly indorses the principle of contributory retiring pensions for public as well as private employees. It points out that of late American banks, railroads and manufacturing corporations have been spontaneously establishing old age pension systems from motives of enlightened self-interest, and it hopes that employers will increasingly follow these examples. It is doubtful whether pensions to the aged could ever be paid by state or nation in this country under our constitutional system. But to voluntary schemes, contributed to by employees and employers, and to retiring plans for public servants, there are no legal difficulties, and rapid progress in those directions may be looked for. Proper provision for old age is a condition of efficiency and a sign of national prudence and thrift.

THEIR FIRST SHOES.

Samuel Adjai Crowther, an African slave boy who became a bishop, delighted to tell his children the story of how he put on his first shoes. In "The Black Bishop" Jesse Page gives the story in the bishop's own words. Four of the pupils in the missionary's school had been promoted to the position of monitors. This was at Fourah Bay College, under Rev. Charles Haensel.

To give effect to our position, we were allowed to wear shoes. Strong, stout shoes, with very thick soles, were procured and given to us; they were called "Blucher shoes."

On a Saturday afternoon we were called, received a pair each, and were told to wear them every Sunday to church at St. George's Cathedral, a distance of about three miles.

Never having had shoes on before, we began practicing in our dormitory that evening. None of us could move a step after lacing up on our feet the unwieldy articles, and consequently we were objects of laughter to our pupils.

An idea struck me at once, which I put into execution. Crawling to a corner of the room, I first knelt down, then holding on to the wall for support, I stood up, and still being supported by the wall I stepped round the room many times, the others following my example, till we were able to leave the wall, stand alone, or move about without support.

You can well imagine what a burden this was to us, and after losing sight of the college we sat on the grass, took off the shoes, walked barefoot and put them on only at the porch of the church. We did the same on returning to college. After some months' practice we were able to move better in them, but complained how they hurt our feet, and would rather be without them. But after some months we invested in the purchase of boots ourselves, and were always careful to buy those that made noise and creaked as we walked, to our great delight and the admiration of our pupils.

To Get His Money's Worth.

In a village near Edinburgh there lived an old baker and his son. Their trade was in a flourishing condition, but unfortunately in the midst of their prosperity the old man, who had once been a great drinker, turned insane. The son, who was renowned for his love of money, was forced to put him in a lunatic asylum and, according to the terms of the establishment, to pay a fee for three months in advance, amounting to £30. The old man was scarcely in a fortnight, however, when he died. The son, thinking to raise an action against the establishment for the recovery of the fee, as he termed it, unused money, inquired of an old lawyer who was a bit of a wag whether he thought it would be prudent to try to recover the money or not. The chip of the law, putting on a grave face, replied seriously, "Dye no think it would be best to gang and put in the rest of the time yerse!"

Mars' Canals.

Bill—I see a wise astronomer is telling the people that he has noticed some disturbance on Mars.

Jill—Perhaps it's one of those canal machines kicking again.—Yonkers Statesman.

There will probably never be any monuments unveiled in memory of the man who invented the alarm clock.

Men agree pretty well on one point: They don't like the idea of some other man spending their life insurance.

Editorials

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

REFORM THE LAND LAWS.

HOW backward we are still is shown by the fact that no urgency of public opinion and no pressure of common honesty has yet succeeded in making the preliminary step—a reasonable reform of the land laws. The agencies of justice are employed in discovering and punishing land thieves whose crimes were invited by legislation apparently framed for their especial profit. The repeal of the desert land act, the timber and stone act, and the stringent enforcement of the provisions of the homestead act are necessary to honest dealing with the land question. Speculators and land grabbers prevent this, while occasional Congressmen and Senators are smirched and disgraced by participating in land frauds. We have enlarged the unit of public land for Alaska, in order to tempt dishonesty there. We have made it 160 acres for land reclaimed at great expense, although a large family could not possibly cultivate twenty acres of this land as it should be. Perhaps economy must be substituted for the extravagance now too prevalent in every department of government before we can hope to see it supreme in land reclamation and distribution. But this plain business conception must be restored before the country can hope either to realize upon or retain its most valuable resources.—*World's Work.*

DON'T PUNISH THE FAMILIES.

NEARLY everybody nowadays fancies he perceives wherein the social organization can be improved. Once in a while somebody does suggest a concrete change that looks good. A judge in Chicago recommends that a portion of the fines or the labor of prisoners in bridewells, houses of correction, jails and the like, be diverted from the coffers of the State and paid to the destitute wife or family, whose livelihood is suspended during the sentence of the culprit.

A wife beater or a child beater is properly convicted and punished. But the punishment falls also upon his family, dependent on the wages he cannot earn while serving his sentence. Women and children, too, are deterred from complaining against the bully and ruffian, because they prefer his blows and abuse to near starvation. Many an ill-used wife has begged the judge to let her husband off because while he is in prison her babes will suffer.

Money derived from fines or from labor of prisoners, the State can dispense with, provided it is used to supply families with necessities until the brute is returned to society to make a living for his own. Money thus

expended would be a real saving to the State, since it would prevent the breaking up and demoralization of families and would keep some from lapsing into charges upon the State. Also there would be less wife beating and general brutality, or else more punishment for the same.—*Minneapolis Journal.*

AN EXAMPLE OF PROGRESS.

IN 1850 Texas sold to the United States a strip of territory approximating 100,000,000 acres for \$10,000,000. Texas was larger then than she is now and was in debt. The land was considered valuable and Texas needed the money. At an average valuation of \$10 an acre the land to-day would be worth a billion dollars. As a matter of fact, some of it is worth several times \$10 an acre and is all the time becoming more valuable.

There was opposition to the sale at the time, but it was ineffective. Those who favored the sale contended that the land was worthless and that the United States Government was buying an elephant. The Legislature thought it wise to sell, and the deal was put through. The territory sold now covers the eastern half of New Mexico, a corner of Oklahoma and Kansas and a strip of Colorado.

If Texas had retained that land she would to-day be about one-third larger and a billion dollars wealthier than at present. The outcome is a striking illustration of the growth and progress of this country.—*Louisville Courier-Journal.*

LIFE-SAVING STATIONS FOR MINERS.

CONGRESS is earnestly taking up the question of making the life of a miner more secure. The Federal Government has already taken some steps in this direction, looking to the establishment of stations from which experts may go out to mines where there has been a disaster. One Senator—name, Bailey, of Texas—has raised the question of State rights. To the credit of all the other Senators, the question is not raised. This Government provides life-saving stations along the coast, both on salt water and on the Great Lakes, and places there trained men, ready on a moment's notice to rush to the rescue of sailors and others imperiled by the waters. Why not also have these life-saving stations distributed properly over the country, where they can go quickly to save the lives of men in danger in mines? The work is a good one and the country will be gratified if steps are taken by our Congress to further promote this work.—*Danville Commercial News.*

DO YOU BELIEVE IN SIGNS?

Omens That Foretell Weather and Dreams That Signify Fate.

In all times superstitions have had a powerful hold on men and women, high and low. The great Napoleon himself was a believer in omens, it is chronicled.

As times and knowledge have progressed most superstitions have been relegated to their proper sphere, the Boston Herald says, yet even to-day almost every living being is prone to superstitious influence, whether seriously or more out of habit. For instance, how many men choose thirteen as a designating number? Those who do believe the reverse of the old version.

Below is a list of the commoner superstitions, leaving out such as are in daily prominence. You may find your "hobby" in the list: Six weeks after you hear the first katydid look out for the frost. Blow out the candle, and if the wick continues long to smolder look for bad weather. If it goes out quickly the weather will be fair. When you hear the first frogs in the spring you may know the frost is out of the ground.

The last Friday of each month is the almanac index for the next month. If the weather be fair the month will be likewise; if foul so will the month be.

If it storms the first Sunday in the month it will storm every Sunday in the month.

When a person kills a snake he does well to consider what kind of weather he would like. If he hangs the snake up it will rain; if he buries it the weather will be fair.

Rub a cat's back the wrong way, and if you see the sparks it is a sign of cold weather.

The bones of rheumatic persons ache when a storm is brewing.

When you find tea grounds floating in your cup you know that you are going to have company. If the grounds are soft, it is a woman who is coming; if hard, a man. If the grounds are long the person coming is tall, if short the visitor will be short.

If you dream of falling and are awakened by the fancied jar of landing, it is a sign that you are going to be ill. If, however, you awake while still in midair you may be assured you will continue in good health.

To dream of a funeral is a sign of a wedding. To dream of a wedding is a sign of a funeral.

If you dream of snakes it is a sign you have an enemy.

Let a young woman pin a four-leaf clover under the door and the first unmarried man who comes in the door will be the one she is to marry.

Sleep with a piece of wedding cake under your pillow for three nights in succession and whatever you dream on the third night will come to pass.

Have you white marks on your nails? Put your hands together and repeat this rhyme while in succession you touch finger tips, beginning with thumbs:

A friend, a foe, a gift, a beau, a journey you go. Notice on which finger nails the marks are and you will thus gain some inkling of your future.

Born on Monday, fair of face.
Born on Tuesday, full of God's grace.
Born on Wednesday, merry and glad.
Born on Thursday, sour and sad.
Born on Friday, godly given.

Born on Saturday, work for a living.
Born on Sunday, never shall want.
So there's the week and the end of it.

To cut the finger nails on Sunday morning is a sign you will do something you are ashamed of before the week is out.

Pass me salt, pass me sorrow.

It used to be a pretty sure sign that a man was conceited if he went about with his hat brim turned up in front. If the bottom of your foot itches you may know that you are to step on strange lands.

Put the wrong foot out of bed first when you get up in the morning and you will cross all day. Always get up with right foot foremost.

Don't make a friend of a knife, for, according to every authority versed in sign lore, if you do, it will cut your friendship.

When you have the rheumatism carry a potato in your pocket. The potato will become hard after a time and believers in its virtue affirm that this is because of the rheumatism it has absorbed.

To find a horseshoe in the road is a sign of good luck.

Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.

When you see a shooting star, if you can say "Money before the week's out" three times before it is lost sight of you will have some money before the week is out.

It is a sign you are going to be rich if you tumble upstairs.

Sneeze twice when you first get up and you will hear of a death before the night.

In all lands ravens and crows have been considered birds of ill omen.

The natives of India believe that elephants have a religion and form of worship.

A great many country people believe that the screeching of an owl indicates impending calamity.

In Dalmatia it is an exceedingly auspicious omen for a cat to sneeze when a bride enters the house.

In Wales it is believed that if one kills a wren he will fall down and break a bone before the end of the year.

In almost every country the howling of a dog is regarded as a bad omen, generally predicting death to some person of the household.

In France it is believed that the setting of a white pigeon upon a chimney is a sign of speedy death for some one in the house.

There is a superstition among the negroes of the south that to meet a frog is a lucky incident, indicating that the one thus favored is about to receive money from some unexpected quarter.

It is a favorite superstition in England that the bacon of swine killed in the waning of the moon will waste away in the process of curing or cooking much more than bacon of hogs killed while the moon is growing.

SAFES IN BIG HOTELS.

Valuable Kept in Them by Guests for Years at a Time.

A woman walked up to the counter of a fashionable hotel and asked for a package of valuables which was in the safe.

"If I had not wanted one particular thing I suppose I should have left the package where it was for another three years," she said to the clerk.

"Yes," said the clerk in answer to a

question after the woman left, "that packet had really been in our safe for three years. Why, we have all sorts of valuable papers, jewelry and even money that are entrusted to our keeping for years at a time. People seem to prefer a hotel safe to a safety deposit vault. One reason perhaps is that it costs nothing. Another is that the standard of hotel clerks has improved."

"It is astonishing the amount of jewelry that people keep in hotel safes. Of course the owners have originally stopped in the hotel, but they go away, leaving their valuables, and I have known such persons to be gone as much as two years and never make an inquiry about their property in that time."

"To show you how much confidence people have in hotels and their employees I might mention that the other day a man came in here and put four \$1,000 bills in an envelope, wrote his name on the latter and asked me to put it in the safe. Not long ago another man actually did the same thing with seven \$10,000 bills."

The clerks of several other hotels talked in a similar strain without any outside suggestion.

"I'll bet I have handled more than a million dollars' worth of jewelry to-day," said one. "Look here," and he opened the safe and piled six or eight big jewelry cases on the counter, but hurriedly put them back. "In one of those I know there is over \$200,000 worth, and what I showed you was only a few of what the safe contains."

—New York Sun.

"ADAM" BEDE'S NEW IDEA.

Society for the Suppression of Cruelty to Soil Is Needed.

A Society for the Suppression of Cruelty to Soil is advocated by J. Adam Bede, former congressman from Minnesota and humorist of national reputation, the St. Paul Dispatch says. Not only does he believe in such a society, but he says he expects to live long enough to see one organized under government supervision.

"Stuff! This thing of increased cost of living," Mr. Bede said yesterday. "It doesn't cost more unless you make it. If we'd live like our grandmothers it'd wouldn't cost any more. The trouble is, we're living too fast and too luxuriously. I worked my way through school. I'm paying the way of my children. Grandma did her own housework. We're hiring ours. It's just that kind of thing which causes us to spend money. And luxuries! Why, the farmers are getting so wealthy they want to ride in automobiles. Cows upstate are getting so they won't give down their milk unless you turn on the electric lights and have a Caruso to sing. It's the rust, not the trusts, which is hurting us. Traveling down through Kansas a short time ago, I saw all kinds of farm machinery, wagons, buggies and implements standing out in the weather—rusting. We're too lazy to take care of the things we have. We're not making the ground produce as it should. We're neglecting it. We have not learned to rotate the crops. We plant wheat and more wheat until we have 'wheated' the ground to death. That's why I want to see a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Soil."

The first thing a man's second wife does after she takes possession of his home is to change all the pictures: No woman will stand for the way another woman hangs pictures.

FARM NOTES

Farmers and High Prices.

The farmer is not guilty. He is a very small factor in the high prices now being paid for products. A study of prices paid in Chicago for beefs, sheep and hogs and for produce will show that the farmer is not getting more than his share. Recently the writer purchased a hind quarter of beef, dressed and delivered on his farm, for 9 cents a pound. This same piece of meat would retail in Chicago for twice that amount. Any one can buy dressed meat from the farmers for that price—7 cents a pound for fore quarter and 9 cents for hind quarter.

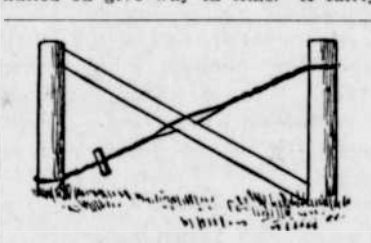
Our hogs sell for nearly 8 cents a pound on the hoof and can be purchased from farmers, killed and dressed, at 12 cents. There is no waste in either dressed pork or beef purchased from farmers—the same kind as that you get from your local butcher. The farmer is paying high prices for everything he uses and his land must earn an income on an investment of from \$100 to \$200 an acre. His farm machinery and horses have doubled in price.

Don't blame the farmer; he is working hard for very ordinary wages. I am farming 160 acres. I will be highly pleased if I get \$20 an acre for my crop, or \$3,200 for the year. The landlord gets one-half the crop for rent, leaving me \$1,600 for a year's work for myself, wife and son, and \$2,500 worth of horses and machinery. To earn this \$1,600 we work from 4 a. m. until 8 p. m., eight months of the year, and during the other four months put in more than eight hours a day at hard manual labor. It is not all milk and honey on the farm, and the writer believes that the farmer, as a consumer as well as a producer, is buying too many automobiles for middlemen, paying dividends on too much watered stock and being the "fall guy" as well as the cliff dwellers of the city.—*A Farmer.*

Brace for Fence Post.

In about four cases out of every ten sagging of wire fences is due to poor, improper bracing. It is not enough to staple the separate strands secured to each post—that is splendid as far as it goes. To have a well-stretched fence and keep it taut, it is absolutely necessary that a good brace or anchor post be used and that the fence be stretched from these anchors. A good brace is illustrated. The construction is very simple and the cost is as moderate as any.

The end post should be of good size and perfectly sound. The brace post need not be large, but must be in good condition if it is to wear. Other posts may be easily reset without interfering greatly with the fence, but this is not the case with either of the braces. The 4x4 running from the top of one post to the base of the other should be well selected, as considerable stress is placed upon it. It is best to mortise the ends of the cross bar or brace into the posts, as blocks nailed on give way in time. A fairly



FENCE POST BRACE.

soft wire is better for the binding strand than one more liable to break with winding.

Tungsten Lamps for Farms.

The introduction of tungsten lamps is doing much to advance the use of electricity on farms. It is possible for the farmer with a small plant driven either by a gasoline engine or by damming a small stream, to obtain sufficient current to light his house and barn with this economical type of incandescent lamp. The use of electricity on the farm, by the way, is growing, and, as pointed out by the Electrical World, farmers will in time come to consider electricity a necessity. Then it will be found profitable to establish central generating stations for farming districts to take the place of the small individual plants now being installed.

Live Stock Builds Up Land.

It is very well known that in the old agricultural districts of Europe where land has been under cultivation for 2,000 years there is an increasing tendency to expand live stock industry. It is now recognized that animal husbandry is a wonderful help in not only maintaining the fertility of the soil, but also live stock industry builds up the land. Germany now has 10,967,000 milk cows, an increase of 500,000 in the past seven years. The total number of cattle in the empire aggregates 20,631,000, a gain of nearly 5,000,000 since 1883. Pigs total 22,147,000, as against 9,206,000 in 1883. The only class of live stock which shows a decrease is sheep, which declined 2,000,000 in the past seven years.

Care of Turkeys.

Freedom is one of the requisites for the best results in fattening turkeys. Ordinarily a turkey in confinement will fret and pine so that the full fattening benefit of the food is offset. However, young turkeys should not be allowed to roam in the fields of pastures where they will get wet. The roosts should be in a well ventilated house, as the heavy plumage will become moist from perspiration and drafts may cause sickness and even death.

Different Methods.

It is generally conceded by the best stockmen and farmers, as well as by authorities of some of the experiment stations, that meat animals of the future will have to be fed and finished in a different manner from what they have been. Less corn and more nitrogenous feeds in the form of clover, cowpeas and alfalfa, supplemented with better pastures, must be used in order to make the production profitable and at the same time make more and better manure for maintaining the fertility of the land.

Corn fodder and stover have in the past been used to a considerable extent in steer feeding, thus utilizing silage to beef steers is gradually gaining in favor, and by the use of silos and silage in beef production all of the corn plant can be used to good advantage.

The legumes, including clover and alfalfa of the north and cowpeas of the south, have been found very profitable and economical in feeding both steers and hogs. Careful experiments have shown that a steer will make more economical gains on about half the corn usually fed with about an equal weight of alfalfa hay than on a diet of corn, with the dressed meat of a higher grade. Alfalfa on the farm before it is baled and marketed is worth only about half as much as corn, pound for pound, hence the gain to the grower in using the hay as a part of the finishing ration.

Growing and finishing hogs has already been radically changed over wide sections. More of forage crops such as alfalfa and cowpeas are being used, with less corn.

To Clean the Well.

It is well to make one of these devices against time of need. The dry season is the best and only time to fix



SIEVE TO CLEAN THE WELL.

and clean the farm well, writes J. L. Risley. Any floating matter may be removed by using an ordinary hand sieve. After marking off the rim into three parts attach a wire to any of these parts or points, and for a handle use an attached rope. Fasten the end of the rope to the third point in the rim and a weight to the sieve, so it will sink after lowering. In using sink the sieve edgewise in the water, pull the rope with a single attachment, lifting out of well all the floating sticks and other debris from the surface of the water.

Keeping Accounts.

It has only been in recent years that farmers have been awakening to the fact that by taking an inventory once a year and by keeping an accurate book account that many valuable lessons could be learned and that by so doing they could place their farms on a more profitable basis. With business men, competition is so keen and profits necessarily so small that without keeping an accurate book account they would soon be forced out of business, but with farmers more slack methods do not necessarily result in bankruptcy, due, no doubt, to the fact that the farmer gets most of his living from the farm without any cash outlay, whereas the merchant must pay cash for everything he eats and wears. Notwithstanding this fact, however, the farmer who keeps a book account will find it just as profitable, if not more so, as the merchant.

Fattening Poultry.

A fowl should always be fattened as quickly as possible. Ten days is long enough, but it should be confined either in a coop or a number in a small yard. They must have a continual supply of fresh water, and should be fed four times a day, the first meal being given early and the last one late. A recommended mixture is three parts corn meal