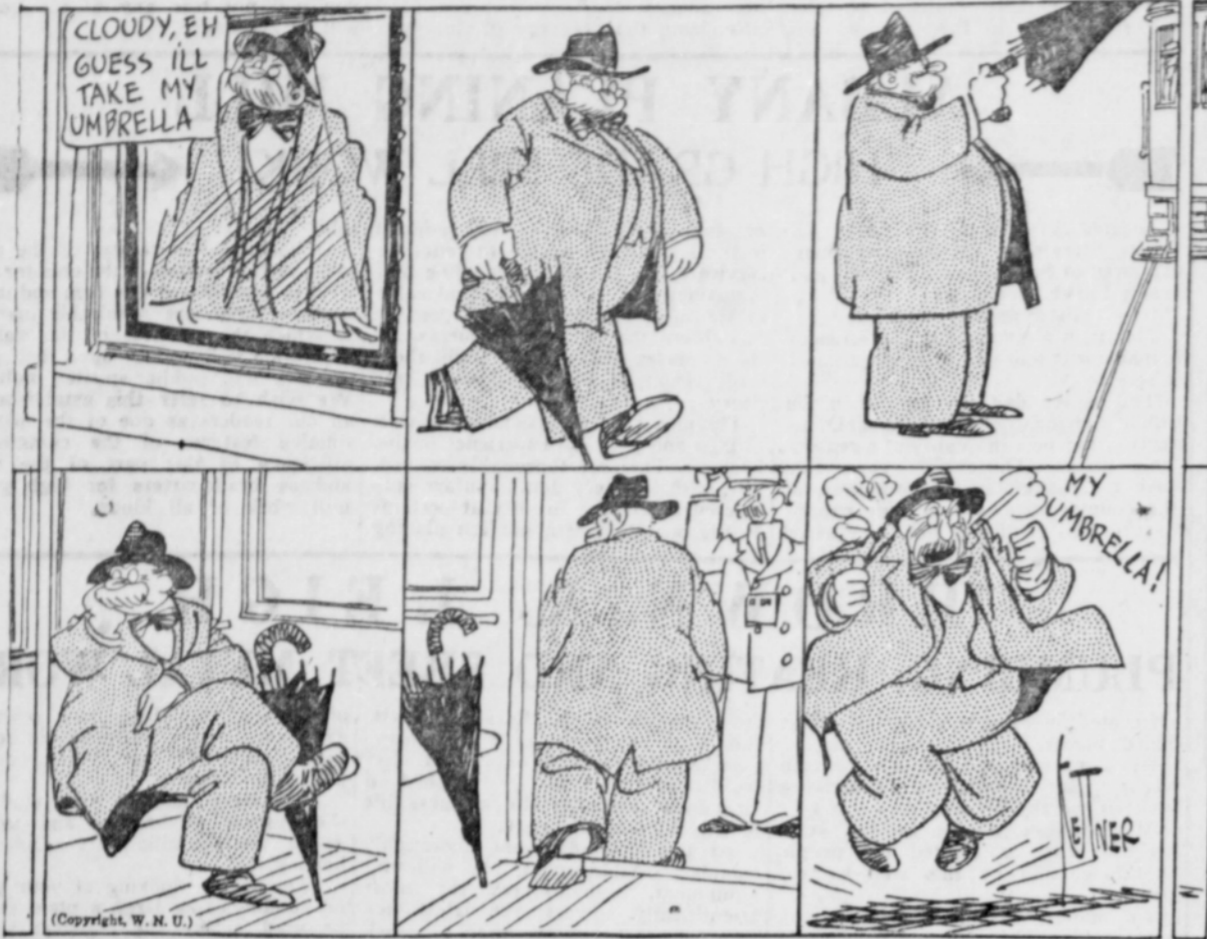


# OUR COMIC SECTION

## Our Pet Peeve



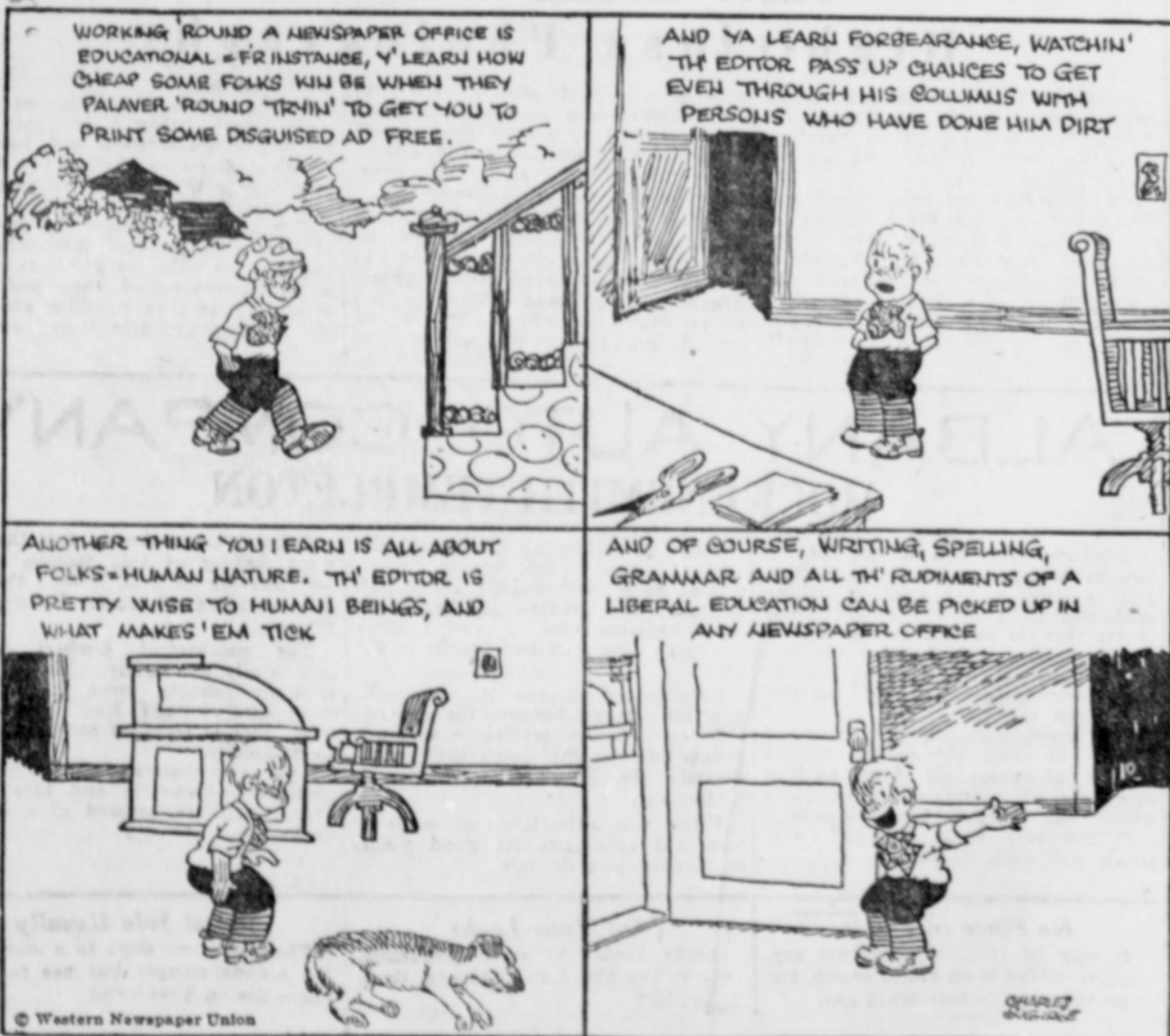
## THE FEATHERHEADS

## Had You Heard It?



## MICKIE, THE PRINTER'S DEVIL

## A Liberal Education



# ORCHARD GLEANINGS

## PRUNING BERRY BUSH IN SPRING

Folks who have only enough berry bushes for their own use will find it more satisfactory to wait until late in the spring before pruning. It will often pay to wait until the buds on the canes begin to break. One can then tell just what fruiting wood has survived from the preceding summer. The condition of the wood cannot always be told during the dormant season.

In order to get a large, stiff cane and for the purpose of having them under control the new shoots that put forth from the crowns the preceding summer are cut or pinched back. This is done when the new shoots have reached a height of 30 inches or thereabouts. Too many farmers and growers delay the time of summer pruning. In this case a large amount of wood growth is lost. Furthermore, the new laterals that put out late in summer are far from sturdy. This weak growth almost invariably suffers from winter injury. On the other hand when the pinching back is performed at the proper time, the lateral branches make a more vigorous growth and most of the tops reach the ground and produce new plants. Lateral branches that are attached to the soil almost always come through winter in good shape.

The lateral branches carry most of the buds that produce the crop of fruit later. The crop yield will be in proportion to the number of healthy laterals that the cane has produced. Usually each crown will have from three to six canes that have, on the average, four or five good, strong laterals.

In pruning these lateral branches, the amateur grower is frequently puzzled to know just how short to cut them. Ordinarily from 6 to 10 inches of each strong lateral should be left. This means that from 25 to 40 inches of wood should be left on each cane. If one could be sure that there would be plenty of moisture during the time the fruit is ripening, more wood could be left.

Those who have not practiced summer pruning will find their lateral branches farther out on the canes. In many cases they are too small and spindly to be of much value in fruit production. In pruning these canes it is well to cut away the main cane at a height of three or four feet. These canes should be supported with stakes or trellis of some kind. The canes that were summer pruned will be found heavy enough to support themselves.

## Says Lubricating Oils Are Cheapest for Mites

Some fruit growers are making a saving of around \$3 on a 200-gallon tank of spray mixture through using stabilized lubricating oil emulsion instead of miscible oils, points out A. L. Pierstorff, fruit specialist, in the New Jersey Agriculture, the official publication of the state college of agriculture and experiment station.

In view of the low prices received for fruit during the past season this saving is an appreciable item to those growers who must use large quantities of oil sprays in combating the European red mite on apple, peach, and cherry trees, points out Mr. Pierstorff.

The stabilized lubricating oil emulsions, as prepared by the manufacturers, he explains, are made with the aid of comparatively inexpensive substances such as casein, glue, or powdered skim milk, and are diluted so that the spray contains 3 per cent actual oil, or 1½ gallons of oil emulsion to 33 gallons of water.

The miscible oil sprays contain such emulsifying agents as carbolic acid, cresylic acid, and vegetable oils. Such mixtures practically dissolve in water. The drawback to them is their expensiveness.

## Horticulture Squibs

Pruning plays a big part in profitable, small-fruit growing.

Be sure you want to go into the fruit business. Fruit growing is a business, not an avocation.

To assist in controlling aphids in the apple orchard it is best to spray just as the buds are beginning to open.

Old apple trees may be pruned heavier than young ones, for the stimulating effect of heavy pruning is not so objectionable with them, but large or scaffold limbs should be removed only where necessary.

Peaches set fruit buds more freely upon well-drained sandy and gravelly soils than upon dense soils.

Problem in orchard mathematics: If three cents worth of spraying per tree will protect an orchard from San Jose scale, how many trees should be unprotected?

Cutting the firewood with a carpenter's saw is just as sensible as using one to prune the fruit trees. Buy and use a good pruning saw. Efficient tools make it easier to do efficient work.

# DADDY THE DAIRY

## USE OF FEDERAL GRADES IS URGED

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Complaints of many dairymen in Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Minnesota, that their orders for alfalfa are improperly filled by shippers in Michigan, Nebraska, Kansas, eastern South Dakota, eastern Colorado and Wyoming, indicate that in most cases the dairymen are using indefinite descriptive terms in placing their orders, the bureau of agricultural economics, United States Department of Agriculture, has announced.

General specifications in orders such as "good feeding alfalfa," "choice," or "pea green leafy alfalfa," either may be interpreted differently by shippers and buyers, or make possible deliberate misrepresentation, the department says. In either case controversies and rejections often arise that are costly to both shippers and buyers. Use of federal grades and inspection are advocated to correct the situation.

Dairymen require leafy well-cured alfalfa with high protein content and high palatability. Being unable to obtain the quality of alfalfa wanted, they frequently buy protein in the form of mill feeds which are relatively high in price and which department experts declare are not a complete substitute in feeding for a protein forage such as alfalfa.

The federal hay standards are based upon definite color and foreign material specifications, and, in case of alfalfa, for leafiness also. The grade U. S. No. 1 Alfalfa means a type of hay that is 60 per cent or more natural green, 40 per cent leafy, and which does not contain over 5 per cent of foreign material and 5 per cent of grasses. The specifications are definite and can be definitely interpreted and applied by federal inspectors to determine controversies and disputed contracts. The grades portray definite type of hay commonly produced, and provide a common language for all people to use who produce, buy, sell and feed hay.

Inspection of hay moving in interstate commerce is not compulsory under such laws as prevail for grain, although 18 states have adopted the federal standards as official state standards. A federal hay inspection service is conducted by co-operation with many states, commercial exchanges, shippers' organizations, and farm bureaus, on a voluntary basis, the Department of Agriculture maintaining supervisory offices at Washington, D. C., Atlanta, Chicago, Kansas City, Salt Lake City, and San Francisco.

Direct shipments of alfalfa to dairymen in Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Minnesota have been made possible under United States standards and federal inspection from Kansas City; Chicago; Powell, Wyo.; Garden City, Kan.; and Lexington and Kearney, Neb., where federal hay inspectors are located and where hay dealers and co-operating marketing associations will take orders on the basis of federal grades.

The grades of alfalfa best suited to dairy feeding are U. S. No. 1 Alfalfa and U. S. No. 2 Alfalfa (Leafiness good enough for U. S. No. 1). Orders based on these definite grades with request that a federal hay certificate shall be attached to the invoice by the shipper will assure the delivery of good hay. Should a dispute arise a federal inspector may be called in to determine the facts.

Information about federal hay inspection and hay supplies may be obtained from Federal Supervisors, E. O. Pollock, 1513 Genesee street, Kansas City, Mo.; H. H. Whiteside, room 1209, 139 North Clark street, Chicago, Ill., and also from County Agricultural Agents, A. R. Hecht of Lexington, Neb.; J. L. Worell, Kearney, Neb., and F. A. Chisholm, Cody, Wyo.

## Farmers' Most Efficient Food-Producing Machine

"The dairy cow," according to E. M. Bailey, president of the American Dairy federation, "is the farmers' most efficient food producing machine. The principal product, butterfat, is regarded by such men as Herbert Hoover and others as having proven indispensable to the development of the human race. Day in and day out the dairy cow continues to provide weekly or monthly pay checks for the farmer to maintain his family and his regular agriculture operations. Where grain crops must be financed through the year and held for a ready market, there is such a demand for dairy products that the farmer can ship her product day by day and be assured of a steady income."

## Supplementing Corn

Most home-grown feeds for dairy cows are high in carbohydrates but low in protein. For best results a balanced ration is necessary and while alfalfa hay furnishes some protein it does not furnish enough for the heavier milking cows. Fortunately, cottonseed meal, which is very high in protein, has been selling very cheap, so is very economical to use in the grain ration. Use one part cottonseed meal to four or five parts of corn chop.

# FARM POULTRY

## SANITATION NOT GIVEN THOUGHT

Along with a marked development in the poultry industry during the past year or so has come a mounting wave of poultry troubles, and chief of these troubles is the problem of disease, says H. H. Alp, poultry extension specialist of the college of agriculture, University of Illinois. People interested in poultry have studied improved methods of breeding and feeding and have overlooked the question of sanitation, he said.

On the basis of records which a representative number of chicken raisers kept in co-operation with the college there is an annual loss of about three million birds from the flocks of the state, according to Alp. A large percentage of the loss could be traced directly to undesirable conditions in and around the henhouse, he said.

"The marked progress that has been made in the poultry industry during the past year or so is due to several reasons, but chief of these has been the changing of the farmer's viewpoint toward poultry. A few years ago the farmer looked upon his flock of hens only as a means of supplying his wife with spending money and beyond that they did not interest him. The recent partial failure of the corn crop and other means of revenue from the farm has caused extreme want in many cases. Farmers who have kept a decent-sized flock of hens have warded off this condition and many farmers testify that their hens have saved them.

"In 1925 records on 234 farm flocks in Illinois showed there was a profit on the best one-third of the farms of \$2.45 a hen, and on the poorest third a profit of less than 1 cent. These same records also show a mortality rate of 12 per cent. The comparisons of the two profits made will indicate four factors responsible for such a difference between them: Sanitation, personal, breeding and feeding.

"The greatest factor lacking in the management of these farms is the one of cleanliness. The mortality rate for the two groups varied but very little, showing that the progress made by the farmers in the \$2.45 class was due chiefly to better feeding and breeding methods. Now take this class and have them practice a sanitation program and the profit a hen will increase practically 50 per cent.

"Feeding is invariably the first problem to be considered by a beginner, and, in a way, rightly so, but it can only be successfully carried on in conjunction with clean and sanitary surroundings. Why throw feed which costs around 3 cents a pound in wet, damp, dirty and filthy litter? If a person would only stop and think of the number of times a hen has to eat on the same area of floor space or ground space, it would be quite obvious even to the person of lowest intellect, that unless that area was kept clean, the bird would soon suffer."

## Early Pullets Are Most Profitable Egg Layers

Early pullets are the most profitable pullets, because they begin to produce eggs in the fall and lay through the winter season. As everybody knows, the fall and early winter eggs always bring profitable prices.

Then, too, the early chicks appear to inherit more vitality with the ability to grow off rapidly. The cause of this better growth in the early chick is possibly due to the extra vitality inherited from the hen before she becomes run down through a season's heavy egg production.

One disadvantage of the early chick is the cold weather, making extra heat necessary for chicks. With modern brooder stoves and other brooding methods that produce strong heat, this handicap of winter weather is easily overcome.

Another disadvantage urged against early chicks is the fact that, if the weather is cloudy and chicks cannot get sunshine, they are likely to take leg weakness. It is now known that sunshine is the best chick grower.

## Keeping Pullets and Hens

Winter egg production is largely obtained from the pullets that are well grown, properly fed, and carry a surplus of flesh. Old hens that have produced eggs for one laying year normally rest during the winter and start laying in February and March. It is advisable to keep a flock consisting of two-thirds pullets and one-third hens. The pullets should be forced for winter egg production through the liberal mash feed. The old hens should be allowed to rest.

## Time to Watch Rodents

It is often a large amount of trouble to shut up the little chicks at this season of the year but if the job is neglected there is apt to be a heavy loss. Rats, skunks, coons, weasels, mink and other animals are having their young to feed at this time of the year and chicken makes a favorite dish for them. This is also a good time of year to try and kill off rodents of all kinds. In many cases the young will be found in the nests and they can be easily killed.