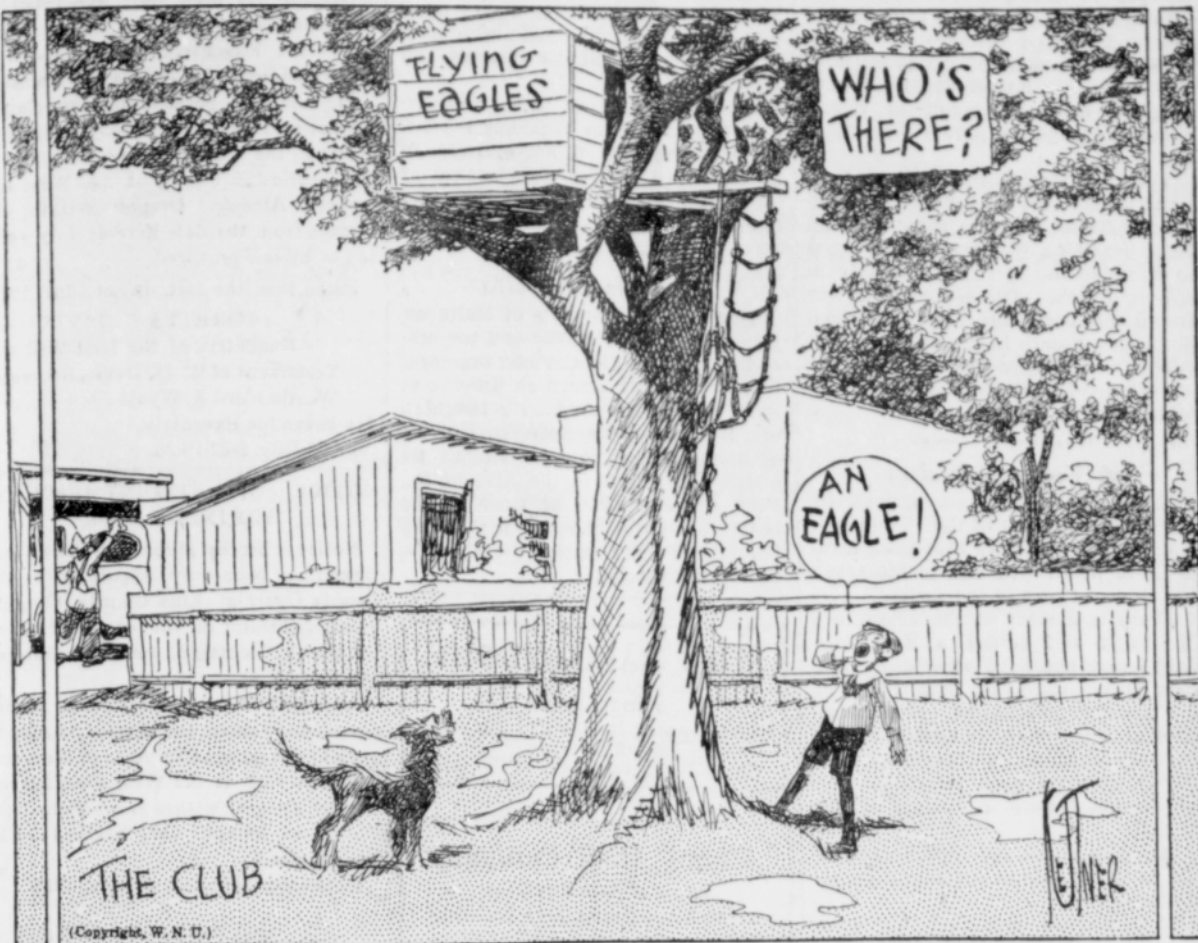


OUR COMIC SECTION

Events in the Lives of Little Men



"Honor System" Pleases Farmer

More Loyal to Marketing Bodies Than "Ironclad" Contracts.

Co-operative marketing organizations of farmers throughout the country are rapidly dropping the so-called ironclad contracts by which their members have been bound in the past and are adopting an "honor system" which will allow farmers to withdraw from membership at will.

This is the extensive movement revealed by Fred Wilmarth, marketing expert, in an article written for the Farm Journal. Mr. Wilmarth in a nation-wide survey has found that 56 co-operative associations now favor the plan which will allow members to withdraw at will, as against 20 that present objections.

He predicts that the "co-ops" will grow stronger both in loyalty and membership in the future with the obligatory membership clause abolished than under the plan which bound the members to abide by the organization's rules for periods of from five to seven years.

Compulsion Irritates Members.
Such outstanding organizations as the California Fruit Growers and the Dairymen's league are among those who feel that the co-operative plan is now so firmly established that compulsory membership of dissatisfied members will be more a hindrance than an aid in the future, he points out.

"It must be admitted that the binding feature presented a powerful appeal in the organization period of many co-operatives," says Mr. Wilmarth. "The idea of making the other fellow stick went over with a bang. Then, too, it gave the new organizations a certain air of permanency that was doubtless of value in the beginning. But as an instrument to actually bind members to deliver their product it hasn't worked according to specifications."

"I believe it will be borne out by most of those connected with the now-operating associations that the member who is delivering his product is doing it because he wants to and because he believes in co-operative marketing, rather than because he thinks he'll be sued if he doesn't deliver."

American Trait.
"This is peculiarly an American trait. We do what we want to do, and it riles us to be told that we have to do anything. Contracts are necessary, to be sure. But the idea of forcing members to stick to their organization by threat of court action is of little effect."

"Neither can it be argued longer that the 'ironclad' feature is necessary to establish the permanency of the co-operatives," his Farm Journal article concludes. "Those that are in successful operation are successful through plain business merit."

Best Breeding Age for Heifers Used in Dairy

The age at which the heifer should come into milk depends somewhat on the breed to which she belongs and the rapidity of development of the individual. In all herds there are some heifers which mature more slowly than others, and it is well to postpone breeding of backward animals two or three months.

Production of milk has an important influence on growth and development, and too early breeding is apt to result in undersize, and this in turn is reflected in the productive ability of the animal.

Normally developed animals should be bred at the following ages:

Holsteins	19 to 21 months
Ayrshires	18 to 21 months
Guernseys	17 to 19 months
Jerseys	15 to 17 months

These figures are based on a study of the production records of the cows in the herd of the University of Missouri, and further information on Ayrshire cattle contained in Maryland Station Bulletin 217.

Agricultural Squibs

It is more important to plant when the land is right than when the moon is right.

Sweet clover has no equal as a combined soil building, weed fighting, pasture and hay crop.

If killed at an early stage, weeds have not the opportunity to sap the ground of moisture and plant nutrients.

The secret of weed control in the vegetable garden and with other cultivated crops is to destroy these pests while they are young.

The careless manner in which barnyard manure is often handled suggests that its value as a fertilizer and the manner in which it deteriorates when exposed to leaching and fermentation are not fully appreciated.

Much of the alfalfa hay produced is of low quality due to a large percentage of the leaves being lost. Most of the leaves may be saved if the hay is raked into small windrows as soon as possible after the leaves have wilted and the curing completed in the windrows rather than in the swath.

Horticultural News

TRELLISES HELP ALL CANE FRUITS

Artificial support for some cane fruits is desirable. There are some kinds that have weak and drooping canes and others make very long growth in a single season. When they grow downward and get matted into the soil, it is hard to pick berries and difficult to handle them.

There are three main types of trellis used. These are the single wire, the two-wire horizontal, and the two-wire vertical. In all cases the posts should be set from 25 to 30 feet apart. The height of the posts above the ground is from three to five feet for the single wire trellis, and as a rule four feet is about right.

In the single wire system a No. 10 wire is stapled to the posts and the canes are then tied to it. They may be tied loosely in groups or in single canes. Use soft cord or raffia. Do not use sharp wire in tying them.

The two wire horizontal trellis costs more to make, but it cuts out tying. In this case a 15 to 18-inch cross-piece is fastened to the posts at the desired height and a wire is fastened along the ends of the crosspieces.

Use two-by-four material for crosspieces. The wires are kept from spreading too much between the posts by loosely stapling pieces of one-by-one-inch stuff to them. These can be spaced at any desired distance. Where one wants to lay down the canes for winter protection, the center posts can be replaced by a support such as shown. The wires may be held by staples driven in part way or by a nail bent down over the wire.

The two-wire vertical trellis is not used much except for tall growing red raspberries. It requires longer posts and more care in tying up the canes.

Time of Picking Apples Important for Storage

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

September and October are the principal apple-picking months. Picking apples at the right time to catch the qualities most desired in the markets and to avoid injuries in storage is important to growers. The picking maturity varies with the different varieties and with the conditions of storage which they will undergo. Department bulletin, 1448-D, which may be obtained by application to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., includes the tests to be applied to the principal varieties. Color, firmness, and the tenacity with which the fruit adheres to the tree, are the principal points to be observed. In several varieties, otherwise similar, a few days' difference in picking may produce wide differences in keeping qualities and dessert values. The use of pressure test apparatus for determining the firmness of the fruit is advised. This apparatus measures the pressure required to force a plunger of stated size into the pared fruit for a given distance. At this distance an electric contact is made and a flashlight indicates the point at which the reading should be made. The Arkansas Black apple usually tests 25 pounds when in picking condition, while the McIntosh is ready for storage when it registers not less than 14 or 15 pounds.

Late Apples in Summer Orchard Cause of Grief

Many growers for the sake of cross-pollination or other reasons mix late apples in a summer apple orchard. This practice brings much grief. The greatest difficulty is that the summer apples are picked early. The late apples need several sprays after the summer apples are picked. Where these trees or late varieties are scattered around in the summer block most of the time the grower never gets back to spray the late trees. This leaves these late apples an ideal breeding place for insects and fungus diseases which can infect the next crop when the time comes.

Horticultural Facts

The difficulty in pruning currants is greatly increased by neglect. Systematic annual pruning from planting should be followed.

Newly set strawberry plants need proper fertilization as soon as they are firmly established in order to develop into efficient factories for the manufacture of the 1:20 short-ke supply.

The chief item in currant pruning is to remove canes which have passed their best fruiting and to replace them with new canes.

Thinning will increase the proportion of fancy and high quality tree fruits and will reduce the cost of harvesting, grading and packing.

A tree receives a very severe shock when debarked for topworking purposes. This is exemplified by the heavy watersprout and sucker growth thrown out by the tree.

Helgoland Legends
Helgoland's great staircase that mounted to the rocky heights had fairies lurking above it, according to legend. In the Eighteenth century, when a baby was born, its feet were buttered promptly so the child would slip through the fingers of a fairy who might try to exchange it for the fairy's babe.

Remarkable Flight
A homing pigeon bearing the name of Ben Bolt was announced as having established a new long-distance flight record of 2,200 miles extending from Norwalk, Ohio, to Los Angeles, Calif. The bird made the trip in five days nine hours and thirty-one minutes.

Ocean Swell
There is a long, smooth swell occurring along coasts where the ocean bed is not far below the surface for a long distance from the land. This is known as a land swell, and, though frequently noted in fair weather, it is due to deep-water disturbances from high winds.

Church Banners
Banners or flags in the Christian church date from the time of Emperor Constantine, in the beginning of the Fourth century. Constantine saw in a vision the cross upon a banner. When he awoke he had such a banner made and it was carried before his troops.

Friend of Plant Life
Fog is good for flowers, according to one horticulturist. It holds a thick envelope of potash over plant life, giving it much more food than an ordinarily clear atmosphere may do, resulting in a profusion that surprises all town dwellers.

Patriotic Day
Flag day is the anniversary of June 14, 1777, when congress resolved that the flag of the United States should have 13 stripes, alternate white and red, and that the Union be represented by 13 stars, white, in a blue field.

Stood for Toleration
On the 5th of February, in 1631, Roger Williams, founder of Rhode Island, arrived at Boston. He was the first advocate and leader among the Puritans for the principle of religious toleration.

For Protection
The habit of a bird putting its head under its wing to go to sleep had its origin most probably in the necessity of protecting its eyes from freezing. All birds, however, do not do this.

Set New Fashion
The first umbrella seen in this country was used by a man in 1772 on the streets of Baltimore. He had purchased it in a Baltimore shop that had imported it from India.

Fraud and Fake
Once upon a time there was a bore who always carefully watched the face of a listener, and, when it betrayed signs of weariness, immediately ceased talking.

When Silence Pays
Fishing is good discipline for a man in responsible public life. It compels him to be patient and to know when to keep quiet.—Washington Star.

House Never Furnished
Furnishing a house is something that shouldn't be done in an afternoon or a week of afternoons; it is a lifetime job.—Farm and Fireside.

It's a Tough Job
Be honest, be polite, be studious, be industrious, be cheerful. Then you'll get along about as well as anybody gets along.—Arlington Globe.

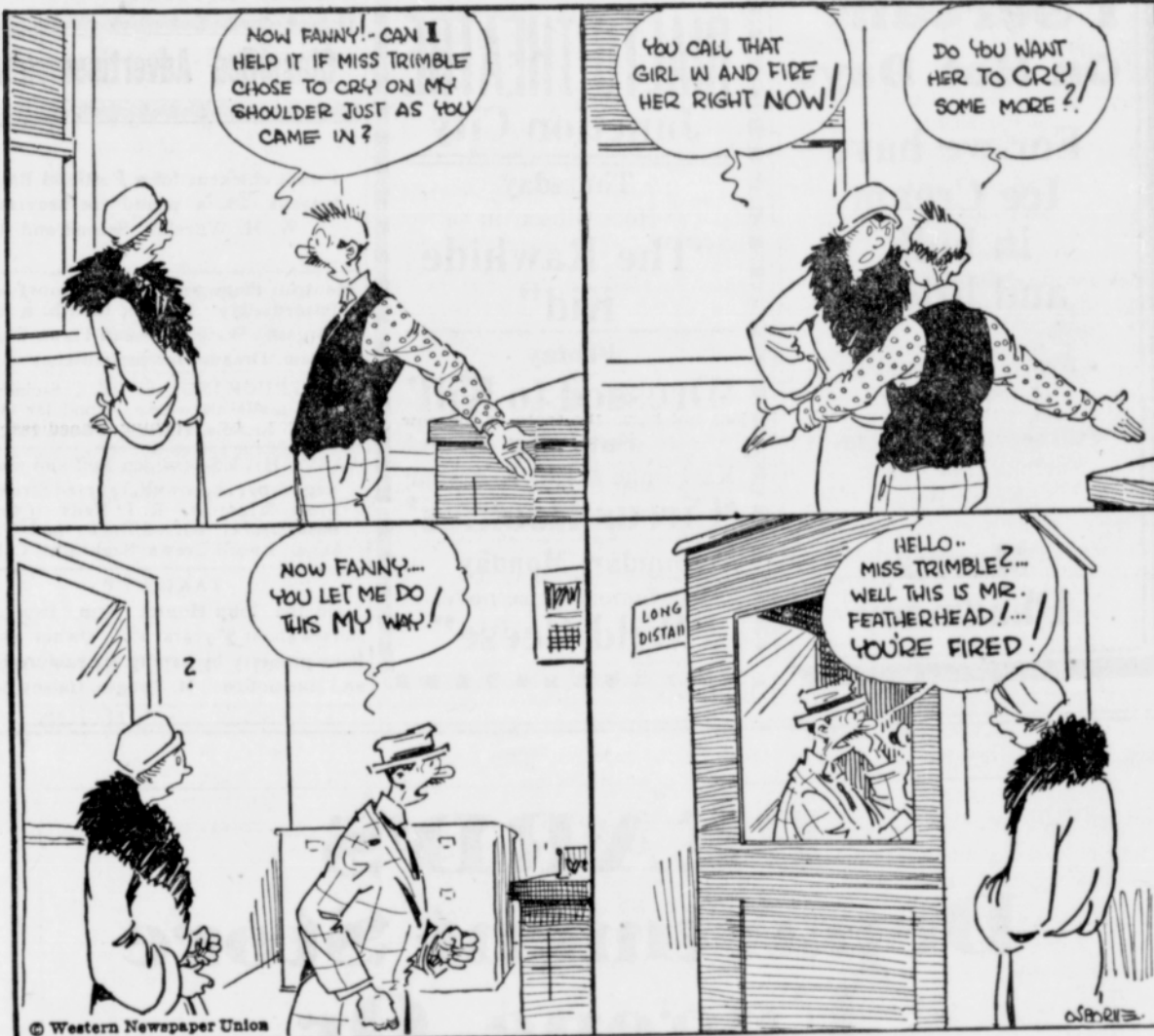
By Trial and Error
A Danish electrical experimenter has discovered that there is a definite electrical charge in a kiss.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"To Pan Out"
The expression "to pan out" arises from the practice of washing gold-bearing gravel in a pan, to separate the gold.

Economy in Words
There is strength in short, apt words that say things economically.—Farm and Fireside.

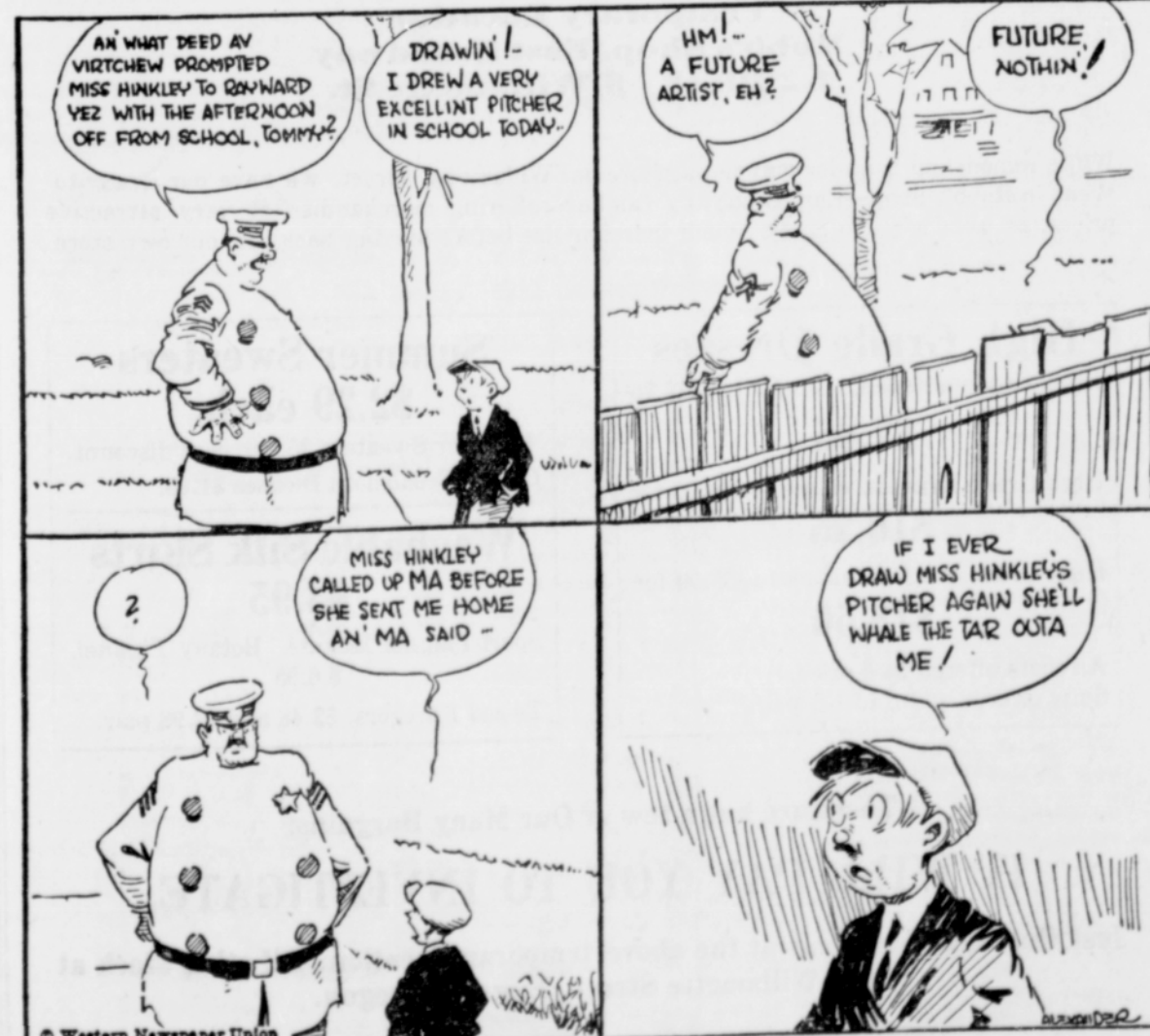
Hugo's First Tragedy
Victor Hugo composed his first tragedy, "Irtamene," when he was twelve years old.

THE FEATHERHEADS



At a Safe Distance

FINNEY OF THE FORCE



A Thing of the Past