



The wise and daring investors who transplanted ostrich farming from Africa to the United States are congratulating themselves now. They are reaping a harvest now, such as perhaps they never dreamed of, for the plumes of the gawky bird are at the top wave of popularity that has lasted ever since the days when Gainsborough painted his world-famous beauties with huge hats covered with ostrich feathers.

Since that day, if not before it, in fact, the ostrich plume has lain very close to the feminine heart, but its vogue this year surpasses all records.

The fair votary of Dame Fashion may array herself in all that is beautiful and costly, her dress may be purest silk, her fingers blaze with diamonds, her coat be precious fur, but she is not happy unless the whole be surmounted by a picture hat, with two, three, or perhaps four superb ostrich plumes. It is almost impossible for milliners to meet the demand for high-grade feathers, and if they were dependent solely on the stock imported from Africa, it would be quite out of the question, but the American ostrich farms at Pasadena, Jacksonville and Phoenix have flourished, and the big bird has proved himself such a flourishing American that a large part of the supply is now a home product.

The modern society woman spends more money on her hats than ever before, for the reason that with shopping, calling, driving and lunching, she has her hat on most of the day, and naturally must make it the crowning glory of her costume. Fifty dollars is no uncommon cost for a hat trimmed with only modest feathers, and the particular customer, who seeks, for example, a plume, say twenty-four inches long, must not be surprised if called upon to pay \$80 for the feathers alone, without taking into account the cost of the other materials and the making.

But it is not alone the member of the four hundred who dons the feather of the ostrich. Women in more moderate circumstances can get a very luxurious effect from a feather that costs less than \$10. In fact a milliner will say that there is no form of headwear in which such good results can be obtained as from ostrich feathers.

The world's total supply of ostriches is now said to be about 380,000 birds. All but 20,000 of these are in Africa, the native country of the biggest birds. The stock is not decreasing, for it is one of the good fortunes of the ostrich that to take his feathers does not cause his death. The feathers would drop off themselves if not removed, and there is nothing painful about the latter operation, though the vanity of the bird that is being robbed of its chief ornament makes him resent the process. The ostrich is too valuable a bird to be ill used, for on the average they are worth \$300 per pair, and each one will produce some sixty dollars' worth of feathers every year. Hence it will be seen that the owner has the strongest motives of self-interest to take care of the birds. The feathers are never plucked till they are ripe.

It is only a little more than two decades ago since the first ostriches were brought into the United States with the serious purpose of attempting their culture here. Before that time

the only ones seen in Uncle Sam's realm had been adjuncts to circuses. When the experiment was first attempted there were many misgivings as to what success would attend the venture. It had been the accepted opinion that the birds would not thrive anywhere save in the Dark Continent. This doubt has passed away, for not a single one of the farms is a loser, and some are yielding a considerable profit.

Outside of the first cost of the birds, ostrich farming is not a costly venture. The food bill is not a big one, and a farm of a couple of hundred acres is big enough to take care of as many birds as any farmer would want to handle. The herds have to be kept in inclosures, for while many of them become tame, others never lose their wildness and tendency to pugnacity.

The ostrich in this country is feeling so much at home that it is more than a dream of the future that nineteenth of the plumes nodding over the American woman's hat will some day be the product of her own country.

ORIGIN OF THE KISS.

Its Earliest Form—The Caress of the Ancient Indians.

At a recent session of the American Oriental Society Prof. Hopkins of Yale read a paper on "The Sniff Kiss in Ancient India." Reduced to its foundation, the paper was a history of the kiss as we know it. The learned Orientalist traced it from its birth and proved that the earliest peoples and earliest times knew it not. That there might be no mistake he labelled the kiss of to-day "the genuine kiss" and "the perfect kiss."

Oddly enough, he finds that the genuine kiss was invented by a woman. The description is given in the epic of ancient India which treats of the science of love.

"She laid her mouth on my mouth," recites the poet, "and made a noise which gave me pleasure."

"The early peoples," declared Prof. Hopkins, "knew nothing of the kiss in any form. Had they known of it they would have told something of it in the mass of records that has come down to us, for surely an act which conveys such pleasure could not have been forgotten."

"Even to this day there are races that do not kiss. The Mongolians and certain of the tribes in central Asia do not osculate, and the Esquimaux, we are told, employ the kiss only as a prophylactic."

"The earliest form of the kiss is that which we know as the sniff kiss. This is a smelling, usually of the head. The father of a new-born son sniffed his head that his days might be long and that honors might come to him. Returning from a journey, he sniffed the heads of his children in the same manner."

"Gradually with this sniff kiss there came also a caress, a touching usually of the head. Gradually, also, the endearment came to be applied to others than children. The rubbing of noses, which has persisted in some tribes, was probably an intermediate process in the evolution."

"With the development of the genu-

ine kiss the sniff kiss disappeared, never to reappear. It had served its purpose and soon was forgotten."

Thus the sniff kiss proves the mother and father of all kisses. Blessed be the sniff kiss.—Philadelphia North American.

MAN'S ACTIVITIES.

Agriculture Holds the Leading Place Among Them.

At the annual banquet of the American Club of Pittsburg, in honor of the birth of U. S. Grant, Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson, Congressman Grant Mouser of Ohio and Washington Gardner of Michigan were the chief speakers. Wilson spoke on "Agriculture in Our Industries." He said in part:

"Agriculture is a creative force among our industries. The result of the farmers' work of 1900 was \$6,794,000,000, an increase of 44 per cent over the last census year. We exported in 1906 \$1,718,000,000 worth of goods of all kinds, and of this 72 per cent was grown from farms and forests. Animals and their products yielded \$323,000,000, or 19 per cent, for export after supplying the home demand. Cotton and cotton products exported were \$481,000,000, or 28 per cent; grain and products sold abroad were \$197,000,000, or 11.5 per cent; and \$113,000,000, or 6.5 per cent, was miscellaneous farm products."

"Forest products are 7.5 per cent of our exports. We use tobacco extensively and pay around \$3,000,000 for importations from Cuba and Sumatra. Porto Rico, Mediterranean countries and Brazilian ports. We raised Sumatra wrappers last year to the extent of \$7,000,000 worth. The department, after discovering principles, conducts object lessons on the farms of the people to help them toward better things."

"We found in the Connecticut valley and in Florida the same soil that grows the wrapper tobacco in Sumatra, after visiting that country and studying their methods and soils. We found in Alabama and Texas the same soil that produces the filler tobacco in Cuba, after learning what soil is suitable, and last year raised 400 acres of it in those States. We hope in time to grow all the tobacco now imported from Cuba and Sumatra into the United States."

NO LONGER GOOD FORM.

People in High Society Say Appendicitis Is Vulgar Disease.

The fashionable valetudinarian is threatened with a distinct bereavement. Appendicitis has been declared to be bad form, and those who wish to preserve a true social eminence must on no account suffer from it. There was a time when only the educated suffered from appendicitis, because only the educated knew the anatomical position of the appendix, but in these days of vulgar equality even the washerwoman knows where to put her finger when she is asked where the pain is.

As a result the supercilious must find a new disease into whose domain the great unwashed have not yet found their way.

An eastern scribe has made inquiries from prominent physicians and the worst rumors are confirmed. One great authority admits that but few operations are now necessary, and that "we are glad to send our patients from the surgical to the medical ward, where hot fomentations and a milk diet are prescribed."

A well-known nursing sister said frankly that appendicitis has become unfashionable, and she added unkindly that fashions in the medical world vary as much as in the showrooms of a stylish dressmaker. A well-known surgeon admitted that "appendicitis has followed the example of all fashionable crazes and is dying a natural death, and for no other reason than that the laundry lady has dared to imitate the duchess."

"Needless to say, I am not alluding to genuine cases of the disease, but because the fashionable illness has been pronounced unfashionable the large contingent of hysterical patients have turned their attention to the creation of some new complaint."

Perhaps it would help a little in getting rid of the pest if every one included in his spring medicine a little dandelion tea.

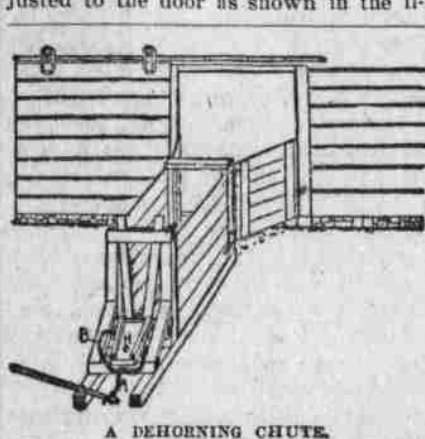
FARMS AND FARMERS



A Dehorning Chute.

While there are a great many cattle that lose their horns by dehorning fluids and preparations of this kind in calfhood, there are a great many that come to maturity with an ugly pair of horns that create a great deal of trouble in the feed yard. We have received quite a number of inquiries of late requesting a plan for a good dehorning chute. Accordingly we have here reproduced a most convenient and satisfactory chute.

One of the good points about this chute is the hinged doors on the rear end which make it possible to adjust the chute to any sized barn door. Where the width of the rear end of the chute is satisfactory and cannot be adjusted to the door as shown in the illustration, there is often a foot or two of space to be divided between the two sides. As our readers who have had experience in dehorning know, an animal will always choose to pass through this small opening rather than into the chute and thereby cause a constant aggravation. The chute proper is mounted on two heavy timbers which may be 4x4's or 4x6's, while the uprights are generally 4x4's. The stanchion is made to open and close and secured in any way that suits. The convenient part of the chute is the trough-shaped part marked H. This is made of two-inch stuff and securely fastened to bottom crosspieces. After the animal is secured in the stanchion a halter is thrown over its head and the halter rope is passed through the hole just below the letter H. The letter A shows a continuation of this rope to the pole which is used as a lever to bring the animal's head into position on the trough.



A DEHORNING CHUTE.

As soon as this is accomplished the rope B is thrown over the neck of the animal and secures the head firmly to the trough, when the dehorning operation may be performed. As soon as the operation is concluded the animal is unanchored and one of the sides of the chute is hinged so that it may be opened for the animal to escape from the chute, after which is closed and another animal is driven in.—Montreal Star.

Points in Spraying.

R. A. Emerson, of the Nebraska experiment station, in a recent bulletin, gives the following recommendations for this year's spraying based on the results secured last year.

1. Spray with Bordeaux mixture after the cluster buds open, but before the individual flower buds open.
2. Spray with Bordeaux and some poison, such as arsenate of lead, paris green, etc., as soon as possible after the blossoms fall, and at any rate before the calyx lobes of the apple close.
3. Spray with Bordeaux and poison three or four weeks after the flowers fall.
4. Spray with arsenate of lead about July 20.
5. Spray with arsenate of lead about August 10.

Use paris green at the rate of one-fourth to one-third pound per barrel of Bordeaux. Use arsenate of lead at the rate of two pounds per barrel of Bordeaux or water.

Make Bordeaux as follows: Blue-stone, four pounds; quicklime, six pounds; water, fifty gallons.

Slake the lime, dissolve the blue-stone, dilute each with half the required quantity of water, and mix thoroughly.

Use good nozzles and maintain a high pressure as uniformly as possible in order to distribute the liquid in a mist-like spray. Take care to reach all parts of the trees and to avoid drenching any part. Careless spraying should not be tolerated.

The Lima Bean.

No vegetable is more popular than the Lima bean, and it is suitable for all classes of persons, as well as for all manner of dishes. The difficulty with Lima beans is the poles, which are sometimes expensive; but if strings are used, as is done for the climbing flowers, the vines will grow and thrive equally as well. All that is necessary is to keep them off the ground, and it is not necessary to pole them if inconvenient. The late crop should be a large one, not only for the purpose of supplying the family with a sufficiency of green ones for the table, but also that they may be dried and laid aside for winter. If stored away they are very serviceable at that season, as they may then be soaked and used for the same purposes as when they are green. The dwarf varieties do not require poles.

The Small Garden.

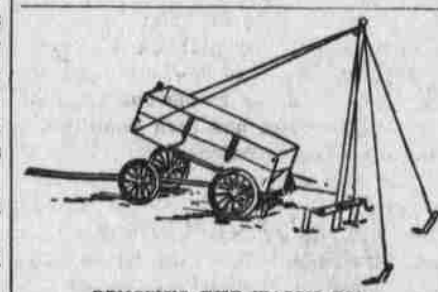
The small garden is the one that gives the owner pleasure. Probably the majority of those who cultivate small gardens make no profit, but actually suffer a loss, when the crops are compared with the prices received and the cost of seeds, fertilizers and labor. But there is considerable pleasure derived, the value of which cannot be estimated. No matter how small the plot owned or rented may be, the one who can bestow a portion of his time to the cultivation of crops the coming spring should do so. There are some things grown in a garden that cannot easily be procured in market, when the freshness and quality are considered. No one can buy tomatoes in market equal to those taken from the vines and placed in fresh condition on the table. If the plot is very fertile, and is not equal to more than half an acre, the amount of produce that may be grown thereon will supply a whole family from early spring until late in the fall. Beginning with onions and peas, beets, carrots, parsnips and early cabbage, followed with string beans, Lima beans, tomatoes, corn, turnips and late cabbage, two crops can be grown on the same location during the season. Potatoes need not be planted in a garden, as this crop demands protection from the beetle. In April or May, if desired, a small strawberry patch may be started, which will come into bearing the following spring.

Improving Dairy Stock.

A 2-year-old heifer, fresh in milk, will sell for more than a fattened steer and she will cost only half as much to produce. These grade cows are not hard to produce. Purchase a pure sire of one of the standard breeds, cross him upon the mixed stock now on the farm and the young will, in all useful characteristics, be far more than half of that pure breed. When we remember the years, even centuries, of pure breeding in these animals, and remember also that the purer the blood in any stock, the stronger will be that blood, \$100 or \$150 for a male of breeding age will not seem an extravagant price. Every neighborhood where there is any co-operative spirit should prepare to supply this demand for fairly well bred cows. Every male purchased should be of the same breed, so that new animals will not have to be purchased every two or three years. By exchanging these animals about the neighborhood, a farmer will then be paying \$100 or \$150, not for two years, but for six or ten years of service. The cows thus produced will find a more ready market, because there are a sufficient number to attract purchasers. Higher priced males may also be purchased with economy because of the much longer period of usefulness.

Wagon Box Device.

There are various ways of removing a wagon box from the trucks, and one of these is described in Iowa Homestead. The upright pole is 4 by 4 by 14 feet and is set several feet in the ground, so that it will be firm enough in its position to stand the strain which is required of it. The platform on which the rear end of the wagon box rests when it is to be raised from the wagon may be made any height so as to suit the height of the trucks. Two guy wires should be attached to the pole a foot or so from its top and be secured eight or ten feet in the rear of the platform. The rope which is used



REMOVING THE WAGON BOX.

to do the lifting is attached at one end of the upright pole near its upper end. From there it continues on to a pulley hooked in a rope which passes around the front end of the wagon box, then back over a pulley in the top of the pole and down to a windlass at the rear end of the platform. When the wagon box is in its final position on the platform, it should stand upright and should be left attached to the rope, so that it cannot be blown down in case of winds.

The Family Cow.

Families that keep only one cow should endeavor to have the best animal that can be procured. More labor is required to care for a single cow, proportionately, than for a herd. A cow for the family should give a large flow of milk for at least ten months of the year, and the milk should contain not less than 4 per cent of butter fat, as cream is one of the essentials. It is better to have a cow that gives even richer milk, but the majority of family cows are selected without regard to merits in that respect. It is difficult to rear the calves in such cases, hence in purchasing the family cow it will be profitable to pay a high price for a superior animal.

Looking After the Sheep.

The large and constantly growing sheep shipments of the northwest are giving the railroad officials some concern to provide means for taking care of the business. One means of relief has been made in the suggestion of triple-decked cars for the accommodation of the animals in transit.

THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



1153—Death of David I., King of the Scots, at Carlisle.

1402—Scots defeated at Nesbit.

1502—Columbus sailed on his fourth voyage to the New World.

1534—Hessians defeated Austrians at Lauffen.

1568—Mary Queen of Scots defeated at battle of Langside.

1607—English colonists began to build at Jamestown.

1645—Montrose defeated the Covenanters at battle of Aulden.

1763—The Indian chief Pontiac began his blockade of Detroit.

1670—Hudson Bay Company founded.

1671—Col. Thomas Blood made a daring attempt to steal the Crown jewels from the Tower of London.

1781—The Spaniards captured Pensacola, Florida, from the British.

1783—Society of the Cincinnati organized.

1797—Walter Colton, who made the first public announcement of the discovery of gold in California, born in Rutland, Vt. Died Jan. 22, 1851.

1800—John Marshall of Virginia became Secretary of State.

1810—First agricultural exhibition in the United States opened at Georgetown, D. C.

1812—Mr. Perceval, British premier, assassinated by Bellingham.

1843—Hugh S. Legare of South Carolina became Secretary of State.

1849—Battle of Palo Alto, first engagement in the war with Mexico.

1848—Daniel Webster resigned as Secretary of State.

1849—Astor Place riots made by friends of Edwin Forrest to break up Macready's acting at Astor Place Opera House.

1853—Jacob Burnet, one of the early Whig leaders in the Senate, died. Born 1770. First transatlantic steamer arrived at Quebec.

1857—Outbreak of the Indian mutiny at Meerut. Delhi captured by the Sepoys.

1861—Baltimore occupied by federal troops.

1864—Battle of Rrurys Bluff, Va. Sheridan's famous raid commenced.

1865—Capture of Jefferson Davis at Irwinville, Ga.

1871—Treaty of Washington signed, providing for the settlement of the Alabama claims.

1876—Opening of the Centennial exhibition at Philadelphia.

1880—Sir Alexander Tilloch Galt appointed first High Commissioner for Canada in London.

1882—Dominion government created the four provisional districts now comprising the western provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

1889—Father Damien died at the leper settlement in the Sandwich Islands.

1891—Cardinal Martinielli invested with the red berretta at Baltimore. The Chilean steamer Itata escaped from the harbor of San Diego, Cal.

1893—Earl of Aberdeen became governor general of Canada. Carlyle W. Harris, the murderer of Helen Potts, executed at Sing Sing.

1894—Several villages destroyed and 11,000 lives lost by earthquake in Venezuela.

1895—Treaty of peace between Japan and China ratified at Chefoo.

1896—H. H. Holmes, the multi-murderer, executed at Philadelphia.

1897—French steamship Ville de St. Nazaire foundered off Cape Hatteras, with loss of many lives. The powers intervened in the war between Turkey and Greece. Turkish army occupied Volo. United States Supreme Court decided the Berliner patent case in favor of the Bell Telephone Company.

1898—China paid the last of the war indemnity to Japan.

1899—Fatal collision on the Reading railroad; 25 killed and many injured.

1902—Eruption of Mont La Soufriere, St. Vincent's; 2,000 lives lost. Thirty thousand lives lost by the eruption of Mont Pelee, Martinique.

1903—Tornado at Snyder, Okla., killed 100 people, and injured many others.

1906—Anthracite miners in Pennsylvania accepted terms offered by the operators.

Short Personalities.

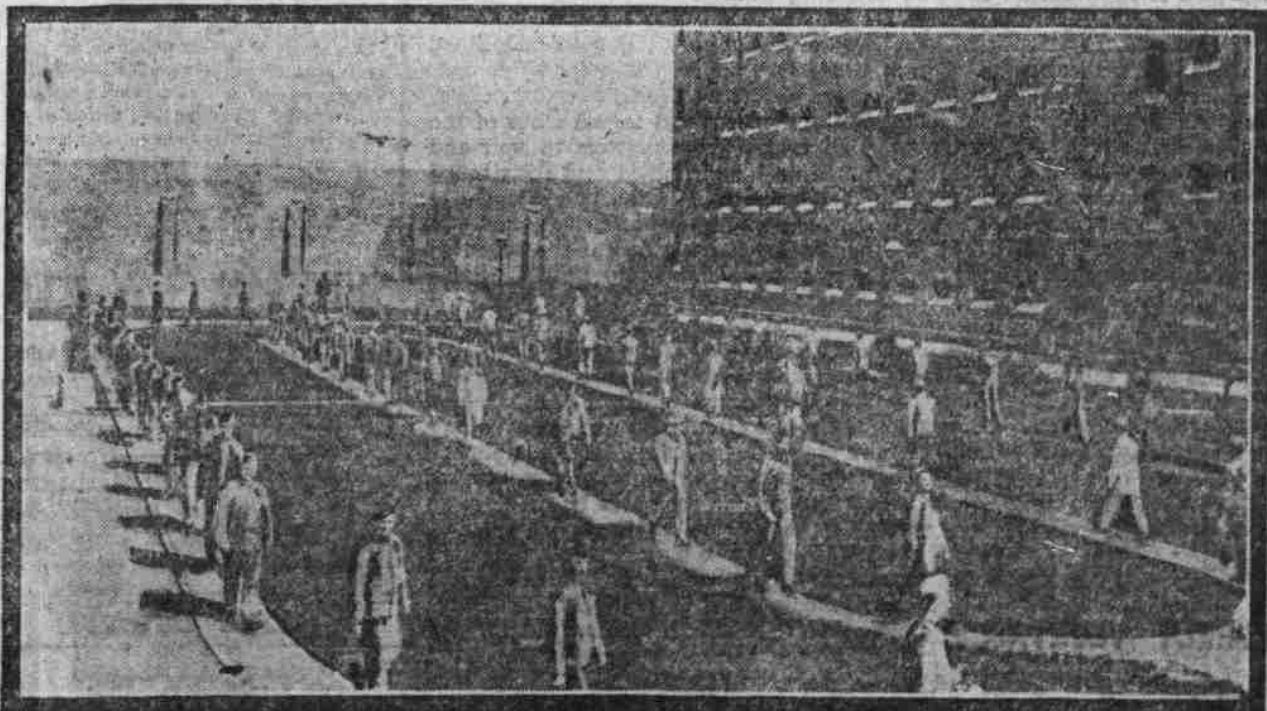
Justice W. H. Moody is the blond bachelor of the United States Supreme Court. Charles Law Watts, a 16-year-old boy of Kent, England, weighs 373 pounds and is still eating.

J. P. Nannetti, M. P., for the college division of Dublin and mayor of that city, is a working printer, and is foreman of the Freeman's Journal.

George Trollope, an English actor of considerable note, has forsaken the stage and will enter the Catholic priesthood. He first appeared in "The Sign of the Cross."

Chief Appah of the Utes holds commissioner Leupp responsible for everything. Being told that Congress makes the laws, "If you let them make such a law you are no account in your job," exclaimed the old chief.

CONVICTS TAKING DAILY EXERCISE IN AN ENGLISH PRISON.



This interesting photograph shows the scene in the prison yard at Wormwood Scrubs, England, when the convicts are taking their daily exercise. The men are taken out in squads. It will be noted that the walks in the yard are so laid out in serpentine manner that they never cross. Every convict has to start in at one end and follow the windings of the walk until he reaches

the other end. These fellows get coffee and bread for breakfast and supper and the same for dinner, with potatoes and a bit of meat added. It does not seem likely that the men can hanker for much exercise on such fare, but it is compulsory. Wormwood Scrubs is called the greatest penal institution in England.