

Late Inventions and Appliances

HANDY COAL BOXES.

SHOVELING coal from an ordinary box is difficult work, as everyone who has had to do it will agree. This sketch shows a better way. There are two boxes, one large and



narrow, the other nearly square, and in the corner formed by the two is a shallow box, only a few inches deep. The side of one and the end of the other are partly cut away, and the coal is easily reached by removing the loose boards, shown in the drawing. Any coal which falls out drops in the shallow box. It is a good plan to keep different sizes of coal in each large box, mixing the sizes in the shallow box as desired.

Holds Screw-Driver.

The little invention shown here was made to keep a screw-driver from slipping. It is a clip with jaws that fit over the head of the screw. The screw-driver is inserted into the spring of the clip and the screw is driven in the ordinary way. Then the clip is taken off. Anyone who has observed how a screw-driver persists in slipping in or jumping out of the slot of a screw will wonder why such an invention was not thought of before. When the driver is pushed down it is held securely in position between the springs, and the end cannot slip out of the slot.



The Strongest Cable.

All records for cable strength were surpassed when in a test at Lehigh University recently a section of a new steel rope, now in use by an iron company at its mines, withstood the pull of a giant testing machine up to 751,600 pounds. This was a part of the longest and strongest hoisting cable in the world, which is employed at the mines for lowering trains of 50-ton capacity cars down a steep incline for more than a mile in length. Tests of a similar cable used daily for 20 months showed a strength of 170 tons.

Wind Shield for Cigars.

A wind shield for lighted cigars has been patented by a New York inventor. It is the form of a thimble or tube closed at its outer end and fitted loosely over the lighted end of the cigar so as to leave passage for the air.

Notes of Inventions.

Two Oregon inventors have patented a garment for cold weather wear that includes coat, hood, mittens and slippers, all of which are filled with electric wires supplied with current from a storage battery to warm the wearer.

To guide a key to a keyhole in the dark there has been patented a V-shaped strip of metal to be fastened to a door, with the point surrounding the hole.

A new dustpan that a woman has patented has the handle on one side, and in front a guard plate over which dust is brushed into a pocket section.

A ladder consisting of a single rod, bent to form hand and foot holds, has been invented by a New York man.

For the blind there has been invented a watch with the hours marked by raised dots and dashes that can be read by the sense of touch.

The tines of a recently invented fork are diamond shaped, instead of flat. The inventor claims that this fork can be much more easily cleaned.

A phonograph is built into a new alarm clock to awaken a sleeper by playing his favorite tune instead of ringing a bell.

One shock of corn that stands up straight and is securely tied at the top is worth more than two shocks that are loose and twisted out of shape. Don't forget that we would give our noses a rather sharp upturn if moldy food was brought to the table.

STOVE BLACKING BRUSH.

THE newest kind of stove brush is a combined brush and blacking reservoir which does away with much unpleasant work. The reservoir which holds the liquid blacking is attached to the back of the brush, serving also as a convenient handle. After the desired quantity of blacking has been poured on the stove top it is smoothed around by means of a dauber which is at one end of the combination. After this the brush is put into use, and the polishing operation is performed without soiling the hands or clothes.



Aeromotor Car.

After working 13 years, William A. Sharpe, a mechanic of Denver, Colo., is completing a passenger-carrying machine which is designed to sail in the air like an aeroplane, to run on the land like an automobile, to travel the surface of water or to be used as a submarine boat.

Sharpe is confident that his "aeromotor car," as he calls it, will be a success. He says it is constructed on well-recognized principles, but just how he has done it is a secret. All that is known is that the entire vehicle is built of pressed steel and aluminum. It is designed to carry four passengers, but the inventor says it may be constructed for many more. As to the speed, he says that will be from 30 to 300 miles an hour.

Practical Business Of Poultry Raising

(Continued From Page 8.)

der such close confinement, and these should not attempt poultry keeping on any extended scale.

Then there is always present the danger of loss from epidemics of disease, from incubators and brooders going wrong, from thieves and natural enemies of feathered life. Further, such matters as the weather and prices of feed, over which the individual has no control, affect results and the returns secured.

Summing up the whole matter, the advantages more than offset the drawbacks, and poultry keeping as an exclusive occupation offers the interested and competent worker a steady job, where he is his own master, a normal, healthful life, a comfortable living and an opportunity to lay by a reserve fund for use in time of need. I have no patience with those who state that poultry farming is a lazy man's business or a get-rich-quick proposition. It is neither. Very few poultrymen make really large incomes, and the same energy and ability which will compel success in this line will bring a corresponding reward in other fields. But it is a desirable occupation for those who are interested in and enjoy it, provided they are satisfied to stay on the job and are willing to live quietly and simply.

As a side-line, paying a fair profit for the time devoted to it, as a hobby, at once fascinating and healthful, as an adjunct to the home place, keeping the family table supplied with the best of food, poultry keeping possesses great merit. It may be successfully combined with other work, making the worker more efficient in his regular duties and adding somewhat to his income. It may be followed by business and professional men as an outdoor sport or recreation. It may well be taken up by and other game birds and cage birds. This definition may not be scientifically correct, but it is quite commonly used. Therefore, poultry keeping is families, who have available space, as one means of reducing living expenses. One may devote to the work his whole time, or only a portion of it, regulating the size of his establishment in accordance with the conditions surrounding his particular case.

In a broad sense, the word "poultry" includes all feathered creatures grown under domestication, as chickens, water fowl, pigeons, pheasants, a diversified industry, and the poultryman may specialize in one or more branches as his judgment and inclination dictate. So it happens that there is but little standardization in

poultry-growing establishments, but each individual poultryman is a law unto himself, playing his game as best suits him.

Fanciers and Utility Breeders.

Roughly speaking, poultrymen may be divided into two classes—fanciers, or growers of exhibition fowls, and utility poultrymen, producers of table eggs and meat. But there is no sharp line drawn between them. The fancy breeders are striving to make their beautiful birds more productive, and the utility breeders like to have uniform and attractive flocks. It will be a great day for the industry when the two lines are successfully combined and beauty-business stock found on every poultry plant.

Most people who take up poultry keeping have in mind the question of financial profit to be secured therefrom. So this very practical question is heard on all sides: "What amount of profit may I reasonably expect to secure from my birds?"

Of course, this query is not easily answered, and frequently when one tells the truth he is not believed, since so many fairy stories regarding alleged enormous profits have been widely circulated and generally accepted. It is a very simple matter to estimate huge profits in advance; it is an entirely different matter to make these dreams come true in practice.

Many inexperienced individuals have been carried away by figuring these paper profits and invested large sums in poultry plants that failed to make good. The business is reasonably profitable when rightly managed. If it were a sure thing, if every one could make a huge success of it, our markets would be flooded and poultry products would sell at ruinously low figures.

The Financial Returns.

Briefly, the returns—as in other lines of work—vary according to the extent of the operations and the ability of the man. On general farms it is not difficult to make fowls pay a net annual profit of \$1 per head. On commercial poultry plants, where market eggs are produced, a profit of \$1.50 to \$2 per head is commonly secured, and frequently this figure is exceeded. A friend of the writer clears up from \$2000 to \$3000 annually from the growing of table poultry. Many large duck farms pay from \$3000 to \$10,000 profit per year. A few fanciers, who have established good reputations as breeders of superior stock, are said to be making from \$5000 to \$15,000 each year. But it must be remembered that these larger incomes are secured only after years of work and a considerable financial investment.

Great as the poultry industry is, it is bound to grow in the future. But the individual poultryman who wishes to succeed must be prepared to meet the conditions, must study his problems and work industriously (Copyright, 1915, by Matos-Menz Adv. Co., Inc.)

Next week, Professor Stoneburn will tell exactly how to make a start in poultry keeping, the land needed and simple, practical equipment.

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