



Wire Fence Reel.
For a home-made wire fence reel simply convert an empty barrel into a hand roller. Across the open end, two pieces are nailed at right angles and in the center of this, as well as the bottom, a hole is bored to admit an iron rod. The push frame can be made of light pieces of hard wood braced across and on the under side a staple or hook is inserted to carry a can or paint bucket with tools, staples, etc. This may be suspended from the rod



WIRE FENCE REEL.

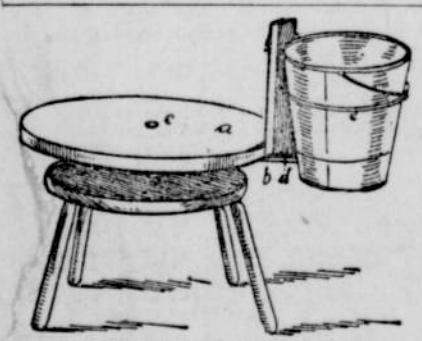
Just inside the open end of the barrel by means of an S-shaped wire, but is not quite so convenient. In removing wire, one end is stapled to the barrel and then it is a simple matter to push the contrivance before you. In this way the wire is not dragged through the dirt and so does not gather much litter. If it is a temporary fence, it is frequently necessary to move it but a short distance and then it can be pushed all the way, but if the removal is to a greater distance, the rod can be taken out and the barrel with its coil of wire lifted into a wagon.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Small Farms Pay.

Small farms can be made to pay if properly utilized. One farmer in New York State who has but twenty-five acres keeps two horses, one cow, and raises two pigs each year, growing all the food required to support his family and stock, making poultry and eggs his specialties. He devoted most of his time to poultry, claiming that it was less work than hauling milk to the railroad station in the winter, and that eggs bring good prices every year. The result was that he made a fair profit. While farmers with large farms claimed to have made nothing. When farmers decide that poultry can be made a leading object on farms, and not given up to women and children, they will have a source of income better than many others and for every month in the year.

Milking Stool.

I have used a milking stool made and illustrated on the plan described below for six years, says Lyman Parmelee, in Farm and Home. The seat board (a) is of two-inch plank, nine inches wide, 14 inches long. The stool board (b) is two inches thick, nine inches broad and long, cut round. A three-eighths inch bolt (c) is put through the middle, the head sunk, the nut left off, so the seat will revolve. The seat is 11 inches high. A hoop (e) is fastened with staples on the upright board (d) to hold the bucket so it will be 11 inches from the floor to its upper rim. I use a two-gallon tin pail. A heavy wire is used for a hoop. The



CONVENIENT MILKING STOOL.

piece d is two by four and six inches long fastened to the underside of the seat.

Variation in Ensilage.

It is too commonly supposed that ensilage made from fodder corn must be uniform in its nutritive value. This is by no means the fact. The ensilage put up the last few years is much better than that which was made at first, when a large quantity rather than quality was what was mainly sought for. All corn ensilage requires that some supplementary food be given with it, for corn is not a well-balanced ration. But some corn ensilage requires more of other food as its supplement. It is possible to ensilage corn when it has reached the earing stage, cutting up the ear with the stalk. This is worth twice or thrice as much for the same bulk as corn fodder sown or drilled too thickly to allow it to form ears, and cut as soon as it got into tassel.

Experiment Farms.

In each section of Canada Government experiment farms have been established as centers of education and object lessons to the surrounding farmers. Here tests are made under the best scientific conditions, and the result applied for the betterment of the methods of the average farmer. Thus at one

of the Government farms we find 20,000 district samples of milk tested to establish one fact—namely, that when a cow has reached her maximum percentage of solids in the milk she produces, an increase of richness in the rations she is fed on does not yield an increase in the total quantity of milk she produces.

Coal Ashes as Manure.

Chemical analysis shows that there is very little value in coal ashes. Yet the fact that they are porous makes them an excellent mulch for fruit trees, and if they are spread thickly on the grass, by destroying that they save the soil beneath from loss of moisture and fertility, and have thus practically the same effect as manure. Some remarkable growths of squashes, pumpkins and tomatoes have been made on heaps of coal ashes where the seeds of those plants had been scattered. But in every case there was some wood ashes among the coal ashes, or else the coal ash pile had been for months the convenient receptacle for every kind of refuse from the house, most of which contained considerable of the elements that make fertile soil.

An Earth Scraper.

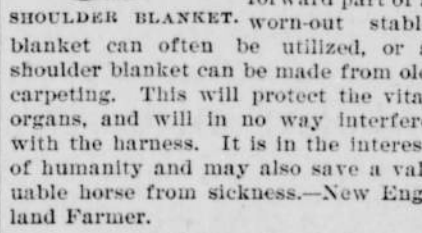
This is a valuable implement on the farm. If perfect under-drainage has not been secured, the surface channels should not be lost sight of. On every farm there are slight depressions or basins, which might be easily emptied by lowering the rim at some point by removal of the dirt to the lowest places. It will be a surprise to those not having tried it to apply a scraper in a judicious manner to such places to see the results. Water should not be permitted to stand upon the soil during any portion of the year. It is very injurious to land. In fact, an excess of saturation is more damaging than drought. Water destroys fertility as well as crops, while dryness preserves the richness of the land, if vegetation does suffer for lack of moisture.

Foot Rot in sheep.

The natural habitat of the sheep is on high and often rocky lands. By contact with rocks and stones the hoofs of sheep are naturally pruned. When they are kept on low, wet ground the hoof grows long, and being very little sensitive it is easily softened until it begins to rot. There can be no doubt that this is caused by some germ, for rubbing the hoof with blue vitriol, which is one of the best germ killers, will destroy it. But the germ seems to be indigenous to all wet lands where sheep are kept, and it is the worst affliction with which sheep can be afflicted. When it once gets into a flock it can be carried to land that is high and dry, and will propagate there.

Protection for Horses.

It is undeniable that horses at work on cold, blustering winter days suffer severely from the chilling temperature, especially where they are compelled to pause every little while after severe effort. Fit a shoulder blanket to the work horse, like that shown in the cut. The forward part of a



SHOULDER BLANKET, worn-out stable blanket can often be utilized, or a shoulder blanket can be made from old carpeting. This will protect the vital organs, and will in no way interfere with the harness. It is in the interest of humanity and may also save a valuable horse from sickness.—New England Farmer.

Cultivation of Oats.

At Cornell University oats were sown broadcast in the usual manner, the yield per acre being thirty-seven bushels. On another plot the oats were drilled in fifteen inches apart, the hand-wheel hoe being used to work between the rows. This may appear to some as giving a large share of labor in that manner, but as the yield on the drilled and worked plot was sixty-one bushels per acre the method is worthy of attention. A man with a wheel hoe can go over a large piece of ground in a day, and it is possible that the method will pay.

Horse Talk.

When loaded let the team stop often to get their breath. It pays. Better go twice than overload the team. This overloading is a fruitful cause for unsoundness.

Be especially careful in loading the colts—a little lack of judgment has ruined many a fine horse.

If you find you have too much load for the colt, throw part of it off before he is discouraged. Let his muscles become used to work by slow degrees.

Drive colts only short distances first, not far enough to tire them in the least. Increase the distance a little every day, and you will insure a prompt, free driver.

If you have a man in your employ who is timid and nervous, keep him away from the colts. It requires a level-headed, cool, courageous man to handle colts successfully.

Inspire the confidence of colts by kindness and firmness every time you go near them, and the education will be easily and successfully accomplished.

Horticultural Notes.

Make quality rather than quantity the principal aim.

Having the orchard properly trimmed keeps the trees bearing well.

Annual pruning largely avoids the necessity for removing large limbs.

Fruit trees or plants will not take care of themselves. They must be helped.

In setting out a tree, save some of the top soil, especially to put around the roots.—Rural World.

Anecdote and Incident

James Gordon Bennett, the proprietor of the New York Herald, is an enthusiastic whip, and when in Paris or in the south of France a seat in his four-in-hand is free to anybody paying a regulation fare. The proceeds of his coaching tours are devoted to charitable purposes.

The Grand Duke George Michaelowitch of Russia is engaged to Princess Marie, only surviving daughter of the king of the Greeks. A marriage between these two august families is not entirely free of ill omen, as the princess' elder sister married the Grand Duke Paul and died very shortly afterward.

Although Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton is in her eighty-second year, her voice rang out strong and clear in the address she recently made in the open air to about two thousand farmers and their wives at the Seneca County annual "Home and Harvest Festival." Mrs. Stanton spoke on such national questions as the recognition of Cuba, prison reform, silver, and the suffrage.

L. J. Rickard is a gentleman who has been building corduroy roads on the way to Klondike and packing provisions on his back to the land of cold. He got tired and turned back. He confided to a reporter these striking facts: "As to climate, it is an atrocious place. I said to an Indian: 'Charlie, does it rain here all the time?' 'No, not rain all time,' said Charlie; 'sometimes he snows.'"

Dumas the elder was not in the habit of counting his money, but did once, leaving it on the mantel while he left the room for a few minutes. When he returned and was giving some instructions to a servant he mechanically counted the pieces over again and found a louis missing. "Well," he said, with a sigh, "considering that I never counted my money before, I can't say it pays."

During a recent session of parliament Sir William Harcourt found himself unexpectedly in view of an important speech and, having no notes, went into the stenographer's room to prepare some. He procured a lady typist and dictated to her for some time. As he wound up a glowing peroration the lady typist suddenly gasped and burst into tears. "Would you mind saying all that again?" she said, plaintively; "I've forgotten to put any paper in the machine."

The late Gov. Henry A. Wise of Virginia received from admirers more than two dozen dragon pistols and Colt's revolvers, said to have been taken from John Brown in the engine house, while there are few homes in West Virginia that do not contain a rifle, pistol and dagger taken from the man whose "body lies mouldering in the ground, while his soul goes marching on." There is a dealer in Washington who has built a block of houses with money made by selling pistols and pikes taken from Brown and his supply is still ample for the demand.

A young doctor had among his first patients an uncommonly dirty infant brought to his office in the arms of a mother whose face showed the same abhorrence of soap. Looking down upon the child for a moment, he solemnly said: "It seems to be suffering from 'hydropathic hydrophobia.'" "Oh, doctor, is it as bad as that?" cried the mother; "that's a big sickness for such a mite. Whatever shall I do for the child?" "Wash its face, madam," replied the doctor; "the disease will go off with the dirt." "Wash its face—wash its face, indeed!" exclaimed his mother, losing her temper; "what next, I'd like to know?" "Wash your own, madam—wash your own," was the rejoinder.

Many years ago, Mr. Gladstone, speaking of Mr. Parnell, made use of the oft-quoted phrase, "Marching through rapine to the dismemberment of the empire." On the same day there was a horse race, in which the winners were respectively Veracity, Tyrone and Lobster. These facts were cabled to New Zealand together in the usual shorthand style of the cable. The result was that next day the New Zealand papers contained the following extraordinary paragraph: "Mr. Gladstone denounced Mr. Parnell as marching through rapine to the dismemberment of the empire, and said that the Irish leader had the veracity of a Tyrone lobster."

A Swede came into a lawyer's office one day (says the Cincinnati Enquirer) and asked: "Is here been a lawyer's place?" "Yes; I'm a lawyer." "Well, Maister Lawyer, I tank I shall have a paper made." "What kind of a paper do you want?" "Well, I tank I shall have a mortgage. You see, I buy me a piece of land from Nels Petersen, and I want a mortgage on it." "Oh, no. You don't want a mortgage; what you want is a deed." "No, maister; I tank I want mortgage. You see, I buy me two pieces of land before, and I got deed for dem, and 'nother faller come along with mortgage and take the land; so I tank I better get mortgage this time."

Down in the rural district it happened (according to the Atlanta Constitution), when the Mean Man invited the preacher to dinner. The Mean Man had plenty of money, but he did not spend it on his table, which on that occasion showed but scant fare. "Parson," said the Mean Man, "times air hard an' groceries high; but, s'ch as it is, you're welcome. Will you ax a blessing?" "I will," replied the parson; "lord your hands." And then he said: "Lord, make us thankful for what we are about to receive—for these greens without bacon, this bread without salt, this coffee without sugar, and, after we

have received it, give thy servant strength to get home in time for dinner."

Sir Isaac Holden, the inventor of the lucifer match, died recently in England at the age of 91. Though he did not profit by that invention, others, especially in wooden machinery, gave him a large fortune. He set out comparatively early in life to live as long as possible. In the matter of exercise his rule was to spend at least two hours a day in the open air, and it is told of him that on first going to work in his youth he agreed with his employer that instead of having a yearly vacation he should have an hour every afternoon in which to take a walk. In the use of alcohol he was abstemious, yet not a total abstainer, and he smoked tobacco moderately. In diet his chief peculiarity was that he avoided bread. His chief foods in his later years were meats, soups and fruits. Yet he was not a man who lived by invariable rules, for he was long a member of the house of commons, and when over 80 years old he saw the session out at 2, 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning and smoked long cigars in the smoking room.

TEN DOLLARS A WEEK.

Feeding a Family at a Cost of Eighteen Cents a Day for Each Person.

In the Ladies' Home Journal, Mrs. S. T. Rorer tells how a family of eight persons can be fed—and well fed—at the aggregate cost of \$10 a week. She presents a bill of fare for each meal, with suggestions for changing and varying them, and details how to prepare the main dishes that enter into her economical plan of supplying the family table. "To carry out the scheme," she says, "articles must be purchased economically, and no waste permitted. A table which is supplied for a family of eight for \$10 a week must, of necessity, be plain, but it may, at the same time, not lack for variety or wholesomeness. Sweets and rich desserts must be counted only as occasional luxuries, and 'company' dishes must be omitted altogether. Meat, the most expensive food item, may be purchased in a much larger quantity than is needed for a single meal, and utilized French fashion. The poor and middle classes of this country must learn more about the food value of the legumens, more about the proper preparation of food, and last, but not least, more about the proper combinations of food. Avoid the buying of steaks, roasts and chops each week. It is an expensive household indeed which has no repertoire of cheaper dishes. A beef's heart or a braised calf's liver makes an excellent and economical change. Broiled sheep's kidneys, with a little bacon, give a good breakfast at a cost of ten cents. Smothered beef, which may be made from the tough end of the rump steak, is appetizing, and only costs half the price of an equal food value of tenderloin steak.

"The housekeeper should go to market early and buy only the best materials. They keep longer and go farther than the inferior ones. Perishable food should be bought in small quantities two or three times a week. Groceries enough to last a month should be laid in. Canned goods and preserved sweets should be bought sparingly. Meat is always a most expensive article, and not a particle of it should be allowed to go to waste."

Has Already Cost Millions.

In 1869 Mr. Trouvelot, who had gone to Massachusetts from Paris, had taken with him some eggs of the gypsy moth. These lay, one day, on a tray near an open window and a breeze blew them out of doors. He recognized the mischief he had wrought, but his announcement of it created little excitement at the time, as the people of Medford, where he lived, knew nothing of this insect. And, indeed, little more was heard of it for about ten years, while not until 1879, or twenty years after the escape, were the ravages of the moth such as to call for action by the State. At that time the worms had spread through thirty townships, ruining shade trees everywhere, and attacking also farm and garden crops. Accordingly, in 1880, Gov. Brackett called on the Legislature for help, and that body authorized a commission for the purpose and appropriated \$25,000 for its work, which sum was doubled a few months later. The next Legislature had also to spend \$50,000, and others followed with still larger sums annually.

Last year the actual expenditure was about \$120,000; and Mr. Fernald, the entomologist of the State Board of Agriculture, in his last report, estimated that to exterminate the moth would require \$200,000 a year for the next five years, or \$1,000,000; then \$100,000 a year for five years more; finally, \$15,000 a year for a period of five years, making \$1,575,000 in all. Supposing that the moth should then disappear, this cost, added to what has already been laid out, would exceed \$2,000,000, apart, of course, from all losses of woodlands and crops caused by the insect.—San Francisco Argonaut.

Never with Gloves.

Detectives detailed to look after professional shoplifters always look to see if their suspects are wearing gloves. A "professional," it is declared, never works with gloves on.

Varying Lengths.

Tacks are from a quarter to a half inch, though, when accidentally stepped on, this length seems to be multiplied by 100. A pound of the smallest sized contains 16,000 tacks.

Bob-Tail Cars.

The old-time bob-tailed mule cars, now disused in most cities, were about ten feet in length; the electric cars of the latest build are from forty to forty-six feet.

GEE-WHIZ.

At every motion of his body or limbs he said "Gee-whiz." If he raised his arm or crooked his elbow, or when he got up or sat down or bent over; if he bent his knee or turned his head, he said "Gee-whiz." Gee-whiz was his way of expressing vexation and trouble, and he had his peck of it. Thousands do as he had done and have bushels of it. He simply did a very foolish thing. He took off his coat at the wrong time and in the wrong place. The time was when he was overheated and the place just where a cold draft struck him. He woke in the morning with soreness and stiffness from head to foot. If he had thought him of the right thing to do, as most men do, he would have gotten a bottle of St. Jacobs Oil and rubbed it over his body. Use it on going to bed and you'll wake up, open your eyes and say, "Gee-whiz!" The soreness and stiffness are gone.

Representatives of the Methodist church are in session at Washington for the purpose of effecting a union of the M. E. church North and South.

HAWAII AND JAPAN.

Dispatches from Washington state that there are about to be important developments in the Japanese imbroglio with the government of the Hawaiian Islands. However this may be, certain it is that the disturbance of the stomach caused by simple indigestion will give rise to chronic dyspepsia unless checked at the start. The finest stomachic is Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which promptly rectifies gastric troubles and does away with irregularity of the bowels and liver.

Germany's proportion of suicides is larger than that of any other European country.

After being swindled by all others, send no stamp for particulars of King Solomon's Treasure, the ONLY renewer of manly strength. MASON CHEMICAL CO., P. O. Box 717, Philadelphia, Pa.

A captive bee striving to escape has been made to record as many as 15,500 wing strokes per minute.

AN OPEN LETTER TO MOTHERS.

We are asserting in the courts our right to the exclusive use of the word "CASTORIA," and "FITCHER'S CASTORIA," as our Trade Mark. I, Dr. Samuel Fitcher, of Hyannis, Massachusetts, was the originator of "FITCHER'S CASTORIA," the same that has borne and does now bear the fac-simile signature of CHAS. H. FLETCHER on every wrapper. This is the original "FITCHER'S CASTORIA" which has been used in the homes of the mothers of America for over thirty years. Look carefully at the wrapper and see that it is the kind you have always bought, and has the signature of CHAS. H. FLETCHER on the wrapper. No one has authority from me to use my name except The Centaur Company of which Chas. H. Fitcher is President. March 5, 1897. SAMUEL FITCHER, M.D.

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STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, ss.

FRANK J. CHENEY makes oath that he is the senior partner of the firm of F. J. CHENEY & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that the said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of CATARRH that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE. FRANK J. CHENEY.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886. A. W. GLEASON, Notary Public.

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