

TIMELY HINTS FOR FARMERS

Secret of Winter Eggs.
Make your henhouse warm and cheerful, just as nearly like spring as you can, and the hens will not stop laying when cold weather comes. Comfortable quarters, says W. A. Lippincott, professor of poultry husbandry at the Kansas Agricultural college, is the secret of getting winter eggs. The house should be tight on three sides and open on the south, so as to give good ventilation and plenty of sunlight and also prevent drafts.

Feed the fowls plenty of green food, such as beets, sprouted oats, cabbage and steamed alfalfa. They should also have meat food or skim milk to take the place of the insects and worms which they get in the summer and to balance the corn ration.

Provide a dust bath or wallow in a sunny spot. Keep the birds active by making them scratch for their food in straw or similar material and they will not mind the cold so much. This is important. A hen that doesn't have to work to get its food will likely get fat, and a fat hen doesn't lay eggs.

Farm Cheesemaking.
On a great many farms for various reasons butter is made instead of selling the cream. On many such farms greater profit and satisfaction would result from making the milk into cheese. Small cheese outfits are obtainable just as is equipment for making butter. At most times of the year the cheese would be more easily and more profitably sold than butter. It is entirely practical to make cheese in a small way on the farm.—Kansas Farmer.

Deep Plowing Pays.
Few farmers plow deep enough. Deep plowing increases the depth of the seed bed and consequently the feeding area of roots. Increasing the depth of plowing can be done more satisfactorily in the fall than in the spring. The subsoil that is turned up in the fall will be incorporated with the surface soil by the process of freezing and thawing, which are excellent agents in pulverizing the soil.

The Head of the Herd.
The most expensive bull or boar a man can buy is a "cheap" one that costs little. There is no herd header that is too good to use.

BURNING STRAW A SERIOUS WASTE. Valuable as Bedding, Feed and Fertilizer.

Straw is too valuable to burn, says the Kansas Industrialist. The total value of the fertilizing constituents of a ton of straw is \$2.20. When a ton of straw is burned the nitrogen lost is worth \$1.44. The phosphorus and potassium remain in the ash.

The best way to utilize straw is to use it as bedding. It will absorb the liquid, which contains most of the nitrogen excreted from the animal body. Some farmers will say that they have more straw than they can use to advantage for bedding. Never be afraid to use plenty of bedding, as domestic animals enjoy dry sleeping quarters and will thrive better if they have them. Then haul out the manure. By this method you not only get the full fertilizing value of the straw and the manure, but you also add a large amount of humus to the soil.

Some straw may be used for feed. Stock cattle will consume large amounts of bright straw, especially oat straw. Mature horses doing little or no work in the winter may be kept in good condition by feeding a ration of grain, oats, straw and a little hay.

Preparing Wheat Land.
For wheat a firm compacted seed bed, with two or three inches of loose soil on the surface, is better than extremely mellow soil. This is because our wheat is sown in a usually dry period, when moisture must be retained to the greatest extent possible. It is advisable to plow for wheat as early as possible and then give constant cultivation to fine and firm the soil as well as to destroy the weeds and insects.

Water in Butter.
Under average farm conditions the amount of overrun made by a dairy buttermaker is about 16 per cent. The farm butter maker rarely considers the moisture incorporated in the butter and when working butter in the churn or in a bowl in the presence of water may exceed the legal limit of 16 per cent, which the creamery is compelled to obey.—Professor M. C. Mills, Indiana.

Discard Poor Poultry.
If there are good reasons for reducing poultry stock the following is recommended: Reduce by discarding all inferior, unthrifty and aged specimens. Dispose of surplus male birds. These eat food and give no return. They also occupy space which should be occupied by profit making pullets. Keep one breed and specialize.

SNAPSHOTS AT CELEBRITIES

Frank T. O'Hair, Who Defeated Uncle Joe Cannon.



When last fall the Democrats of the Eighteenth Illinois district began casting about for a candidate to pit against Joseph G. Cannon they found little enthusiasm among would be legislators to cross swords with that redoubtable campaigner. Remembering Uncle Joe's record of nineteen terms at Washington, broken only in 1890, when he was defeated for the Fifty-second congress, aspirants grew faint hearted. Finally Frank T. O'Hair of Paris, Edgar county, was induced to enter the race. At first he was reluctant; but, once in the fight, he began a campaign that resulted in the downfall of Mr. Cannon. He proclaimed himself a progressive Democrat and started in with no strings tied to him. What he did to Uncle Joe is now a matter of history. Forgetting the prestige of his illustrious opponent, he went forth among the farmers of the district and told them why Uncle Joe should be retired and a new man sent to represent the district in congress. And he won.

Frank T. O'Hair is a native of Edgar county, where he was born forty-two years ago in a log cabin. He is of Irish parentage, and his boyhood days were spent on a farm in a remote country district. After a course in the public schools he entered Purdue university, where he took the law course, and on admittance to the bar began practice in Paris. Force of character and ability have won him a place among the best lawyers of eastern Illinois and western Indiana.

Once before he ran for office, and on that occasion he was defeated. In 1892 he was a candidate for mayor of Paris against his prospective father-in-law, D. D. Huston, father of the girl he hoped to wed, was his Republican opponent, and the battle was bitterly waged. Young O'Hair was forbidden by Papa Huston to enter his home, but when the tide of victory turned the old man's way he was magnanimous, and eventually Miss Huston became Mrs. O'Hair.

Colorado's New Executive.
Like John M. Shafroth, whom he will succeed next January, Elias M. Ammons, governor elect of Colorado, is a Democrat. From 1892 up to and in-



cluding the last election the state has been Democratic in national elections except in 1904, when the Republican party was victorious. Mr. Ammons has always been active in politics and is considered one of the best stump speakers in the state.

The governor elect is a wealthy stock grower and ranchman and is fifty-four years old. He has a big ranch in Larimer county and is identified with other business interests. He has represented his district in both branches of the state legislature for the past ten years, the last two terms as state senator. The legislature of Colorado meets biennially.

FOR THE CHILDREN

Playing Santa Claus.

Once Peter and Patty and Polly went out for a ride on the trolley. A quarter and dime. Each had at the time To spend on some sweet Christmas toy.

Polly and Patty said, "Candy," While Peter, a bit of a dandy, Decided to buy A dainty necktie To make himself look spick and spanky.

And then—on the corner stood Molly, Thin, raged and quite melancholy, And sobbing aloud In the hurrying crowd, For she'd fallen and broken her doll.

Such a poor little midget they thought her That right up between them they caught her.

To a toy shop they went, Every penny they spent, And a lovely new doll they bought her.

What a Christmas thing! and so jolly, That Peter and Patty and Polly, All out for good times, With their quarters and dimes, Should have chosen to spend them on Molly!

—St. Nicholas.

Game of Occupations.

Each chooses some kind of work to do, calling it out so all can hear. Then the leader begins a story—for example, "I went out today, but just as I came through the kitchen I saw our cook"—Here the player who has chosen to be a cook steps forward and goes through some cooking motions, saying, "What was she doing?" If the leader finds out in three guesses the cook goes back to her place. If not she becomes leader and goes on with the story. That will, of course, be made to suit the occupations and may proceed something like this: "I went down the steps and walked to the corner, where there was a carpenter busy at—, and on a roof across the street a plumber was—." And so on. The breaks are filled, as previous described. Most occupations are such that to perform their duties requires many motions. The cook can be kneading bread or grinding coffee. For this reason three guesses are necessary.

The Yule Log.

The Yule log is a great log of wood, sometimes the root of a tree, brought into the house with great ceremony on Christmas eve, laid in the fireplace and lighted with the brand of last year's log. While it lasts there are great singing, drinking and telling of tales. Sometimes it is accompanied with Christmas candles, but in the cottages the only light is from the glow of the log. The Yule log is burned all the night, and if it dies out it is considered a sign of great ill luck. The Yule log is very burned in many farmhouses of England, particularly in the north, and there are many superstitions connected with it. If a supinating person comes into the house while it is burning or a person barefooted it is considered a bad omen. The brand remaining from the Yule log is carefully put away for next year's Christmas fire.

Meanings of Flowers.

Here are some of the flowers with their meanings:
Rose, love and joy; rosebud, youthfulness; poppy, consolation in sickness; sage, esteem; scarlet fuchsia, taste; scarlet nasturtium, splendor; snapdragon, presumption; snowdrop, consolation; sunflower, false riches; strawberry, perfection; sweetbrier, poetry; sweet pea, delicate pleasure; sweet william, craftiness; syringa, memory; this-tle, snarliness; tiger lily, pretension; tulip, declaration of love; violet, modesty; water lily, purity; wood anemone, sickness; wormwood, absence; white jasmine, amiableness; weeping willow, mourning; wheat, riches; quince, temper; pine tree, boldness.

A Christmas Game.

All the players except one, who is blindfolded, sit in a circle on the ground or on chairs. The blindfolded one walks around outside the circle, singing:

Who can tell what I'm looking for,
Something I want to find?
Is it north or south or east or west?
Please help me, for I'm blind.

Then the singer stops, and the one behind whom he stands must answer in a concealed voice the name of some article. The blindfolded player must guess who the speaker is or try again if he guesses aright that player must take his place.

Mistletoe.

The mistletoe is intimately connected with many of the superstitions of the Germans and the British. In the northern mythology Balder is said to have been slain by a spear made from a branch of mistletoe. The mistletoe is still hung up in farm houses and kitchens at Christmas and the young men have the privilege of kissing the girl under it, plucking each time a berry from the bush. When the berries are all plucked the privilege ceases.

Flower Basket.

Let each player choose the name of a flower, no two being alike. Then the hostess stands in the center of the circle of chairs on which the players are seated and calls some flower name three times quickly. The one who has the name must say it once before the leader has said it three times. If she fails then she becomes leader. When the leader says "Flower basket" then all the players quickly change places.

Conundrums.

Why is it dangerous to sleep in a steam car? Because the train runs over sleepers.
What should you do if you spit your shoes with laughter? Run until you get a stitch in them.

A MOONSHINE LEGISLATOR

By M. QUAD

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"Zeb fell or twelve years ago when our member of the legislature turned again moonshine whisky.

"That meant that somebody else must be elected in his place, and what did the pesky people around here do but cum to me and want me to stand. They cum to my cabin a dozen at a time, and they shook hands and called me an honest man and all that, and the mo' I hung back the mo' they wanted me to run. When they got me into a tight corner I says:

"I can't skassly read, and I can't skassly write, and yo' all know that I can't get up before that legislature and speak ten words, and what good could I do down to Nashville?"

"They pertended to give in at that, but what did the critters do but put me up to be voted for when the time cum, and the fust thing I knowed I was 'lected by 400 majority. When I heard the news I told it to the old woman and said:

"Waal, what am I gwine to do about it? I've either got to hunt fer a cave and hole myself up or go to Nashville."

"Yo'll go to Nashville," she says. "And what'll yo' do?"

"I'll go with yo'."

"Waal, we started off one day and got aboard of the railroad kyars. I was a little nervous, and the old woman braced her feet and hung on with her hands, but we got along without any calamity. In about an hour, when she dared to open her eyes and draw her breath, she says to me:

"Zeb, how many houses have yo' seen since we left home?"

"More'n a hundred," says I.

"And how many people?"

"More'n a thousand."

"Shoo! Then we must hev got clear around the world and back home ag'in!"

"When we got down to Nashville thar was so many people and so many houses and such a movin' around that I got the old woman behind me and prepared to fight to the death, but not a critter laid hands on us. Some of 'em laughed at my cowhide boots, and some of 'em grinned at the old woman's poke bonnet, but everything was good natured. We went to a tavern to get board, and when the old woman sees the carpets on the floors, the stuff 'eers standin' around and the lookin' glasses as big as a tablecloth she turns pale and puts her arms around me and says:

"Zeb, I kin see now why thar ar' so many sinners in this world, if a critter kin hev all these things, he don't keer a pesky drat about gwine to heaven. I'm afear'd we'll be had 'bout to steal hawks in a week."

"At the end of three days the legislature opened, and I had to go up to the statehouse. Lordy, stranger, but I'd rather tackled three old b'ars at once! I had goose flesh as I struck that crowd, and the old woman wasn't around to encourage me. I went into the statehouse with the crowd, and I'd jst found a seat when a feller comes around and says:

"Excuse me, but ain't that a rifle yo've got thar?"

"She be," says I. "It's a rifle which has killed mo' b'ars and wildcats than yo' could count in an hour, and she's still ready for the next varmint."

"But yo' can't bring no deadly weepin' yere, he goes on. 'This ain't no jumpin' match nor hoss race, but the legislature of Tennessee."

"I told him I knowed what I was, but that I should keep tight hold of that rifle till I knowed I was out of the woods, and he goes away growlin' to himself. Mebbe it was half an hour arter that when a feller stands up on a platform and looks at me and says:

"Does the honorable member from Beaver Cove expect to find any b'ars on the floor of this house?"

"I ain't sayin' as I do," I answers, "but if thar is a riot over moonshine whisky I might want suthin' better than a cimb!"

"Bimeby that same feller stood up ag'in and says, as slick as yo' please:

"Mebbe the honorable member from Beaver Cove would like to be excused for half an hour while he takes his gun home."

"Do any critter yere want to pick a fuss with Zeb White?" says I as I stands up.

"Everybody laughs and claps his hands, but no one comes nigh me, and I puts on my cap, shoulders my rifle and says as I walks out:

"It's an onery crowd, and thar ain't a man among yo' who kin pull a rabbit out of a boiler yo'!"

"I went straight to the tavern, and thar I found the old woman shiverin' and shakin' fer her life.

"What's the matter?" says I.

"They've put piller cases trimmed with lace on our bed," says she, "and the gorgeousness of it will bring on heart disease! Zeb, fer the Lawd's sake, let's go back home!"

"But I'm here to watch moonshine," says I.

"Never mind moonshine nor nothin' else on the face of this arth, but let's be agittin'. This world ain't fur us. Zeb, we is like two lost children wanderin' through the woods and expectin' to be out any munit, and I'm so skeart and frustrated that I shan't live two days longer! Zeb, if yo' love me, come home!"

"I'll do it," says I. And she got on her poke, packed our carpetbag, and we was out of the town of Nashville befo' sundown, never to go back."

IN THE REALM OF FASHION

Russian Blouse Suit.

Illustrated here is a suit of olive green velvet with a Russian blouse coat fastened with three diamond shaped



VELVET COSTUME.

buttons. The collar and cuffs are of white velours de laine bordered with velvet.

The large hat is of velvet, trimmed with white plumes.

FASHIONABLE HATS FROM PARIS SHOPS.

Odd Crowns Almost Hidden or Lavishly Trimméd Headgear.

Some French milliners are emphasizing the seal brown color in millinery. It bids fair to supplant the black and white and blue and white alliance that was so strong.

The tam-o'-shanter crown on a flat brim is another type of hat favorably launched. This suggests a change from the beret cap, yet has all the becomingness of the cap worn by the peasants in Spain.

Just one extreme hat that takes us back to Empress Eugenie, or, still further, to the Watteau period, has a flat top. There is just a little gutter to suggest a crown, in which is laid a wreath of flowers. The hat is raised from the hair by a rose covered bandeau, and velvet ribbons tie it securely on the head.

The velvet facing is prominent, frequently combined with moire and fabrics that are excellent imitations of fur.

Trimming has moved toward the front, the stiff cockades, brushes and cord ornaments being particularly favored for hats to be worn with directoire and revolutionary suits.

The brim flares away from the face in many types, and huge buckles are noticeable, holding scarfs on practical hats for fall and winter.

Ribbon loops and bows are still good and inexpensive, while plumes have been highly favored for afternoon and evening.

Velours hats are in great demand, and the leading milliners in Paris are showing them with smart ornaments of pleated edged faille ribbon.

Mushroom shapes with tam-o'-shanter crowns are the important word in the millinery story.

Sailors in many varieties of velvet and plush are favored for walking suits, if the showing of a well known house be an indication.

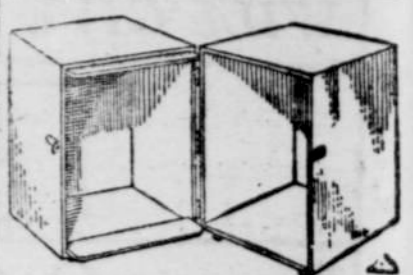
Ostrich fantasies are used for afternoon hats. Wings rank next in importance, the white vulture, gourd and magpie furnishing the greater part of the immense supply demanded by milliners.

House and Street Fabrics. There is a marked contrast this season between the weight of the fabrics for the street and those for the house. Of course there always has been this difference when one considered that cloth serves for the former and mousseline for the latter, but the difference of today is between satin frock and coat suits for strictly afternoon wear at formal functions and thick, shaggy, silky woollens for out of doors.

Charming Negligees. Negligees appear in many charming designs. Embroidered net draperies are used over pastel linings—yellow over pale lavender, pink over blue or gray. Shadow lace is another effective drapery used.

HINTS FOR THE BUSY HOUSEWIFE

Folding Bookcase or Closet Made of Packing Boxes.



Two packing boxes hinged as shown and fitted with casters make a very convenient portable closet, says Popular Mechanics. It can be folded flat against a wall or fitted into a corner. If furnished with shelves it can be used as a bookcase or tool closet, and when fully opened it makes a handy workbench.

Two projecting strips are fitted on the inside of one box so as to fit tightly against the inner top and bottom surfaces of the other box to increase the rigidity of the box when closed. The addition of casters makes the opening, closing and pushing about very easy. An ornamental hasp or lock can be fitted if desired.

Rich Mince-meat.

This recipe makes a rich mince-meat and one that will keep all winter: To two cupsful of chopped meat put six cupsful of chopped apple measured after chopping, one-fourth pound each of stewed and chopped dried peaches, apricots and prunes, one-fourth pound of chopped citron, one-eighth pound of chopped candied lemon peel, one pound raisins, one pound currants, one tumblerful cranberry jelly, one teaspoonful cloves, two teaspoonfuls each of allspice and mace (or nutmeg), four teaspoonfuls cinnamon, one-half teaspoonful ginger, one teaspoonful black pepper, five tablespoonfuls salt, one quince chopped, five cupsful sweet cider, one cupful vinegar, three cupsful molasses, four cupsful brown sugar, the juice and grated rind of one lemon and one orange. Mix in a large pan and let it simmer slowly for a day.

New England Boiled Dinner.

Take two and one-half pounds beef and two pounds lean and fat pork. Put meat on to boil at 3:30 o'clock and prepare the following vegetables: One medium head of cabbage cut in four pieces, eight medium size potatoes pared, four turnips pared, cut in quarters, four parsnips cut lengthwise, four carrots cut the same way. Put in the cabbage at 4:15, turnips at 5:00, carrots at 5:20, potatoes at 5:30, parsnips at 5:40 and keep steadily boiling. Following this schedule all the vegetables will be done at the same time for a 6 o'clock dinner. Garnish the meat and cabbage with parsley and slices of carrots. Add pickled beets and steamed brown bread.

Christmas Surprise Leaves.

Take ordinary light bread dough and carefully mold into tiny loaves and bake in individual tins that each loaf may be entirely surrounded by crust. When the loaves have become cold and firm cut off an end of each and scoop out the soft part, leaving only the crust shells. Fill the cavities thus made with divinity fudge, etc., then place the ends back on the loaves and secure with ribbons wrapped endwise around them and tied with a big bow on top. These boxes look too cute for any thing and keep the candies so moist and fresh that they may be made weeks before the Christmas rush.

Christmas Cherry Salad.

Pit the cherries by cutting a little slit in one side of the fruit. Slip the meat of a filbert into each cherry. Make a dressing as follows: Put one-half cup vinegar on the stove. When it boils remove and stir in two beaten eggs. When cold add one pint whipped cream. One tablespoonful sugar and some salt may be added to the dressing if so desired.

Sugared Popcorn.

One tablespoonful of butter, three tablespoonfuls of water, one large cupful of granulated sugar. Boil five minutes without stirring, then put in three quarts nicely popped corn and stir for a moment. Fill the kettle from the fire and stir until each kernel is separate, which it will be in a very few moments.

Chili Sauce.

One quart tomatoes (ripe) peeled, one pepper chopped or one-half teaspoonful cayenne, one-half teaspoonful of cloves, one-half teaspoonful of allspice, one heaping teaspoonful salt, one-half cupful brown sugar, one cupful vinegar. Cook three hours slowly.

Cranberry Jelly.

One quart of cranberries, one pound of sugar and one-half pint of water. Wash the berries and boil in the water ten minutes, then wash and strain. Return to kettle, add sugar and boil rapidly fifteen minutes until it jellies, and turn out to cool.

Mock Sausages.

Into a cupful of thick white sauce stir the beaten yolk of an egg, one spoonful of lemon juice and two cupsful of chopped cold cooked fish. Shape to simulate sausages, dip each one in egg and breadcrumbs and fry in deep fat.