

The Home Department

Thanksgiving Always.

When barn and byre are safe,
When folks are in the fold,
When far and near the burdened
fields
Have bowed 'neath harvest's gold,
When clusters rich have dropped
From many a blushing vine,
And genial orchards, wide and fair,
Have owned the touch divine;
Then, up from grateful hearts
Let joyful praise arise
To Him who gives the waiting earth
The blessing of the skies.
When round the mother's knee
The little children cling,
When night and morn the household
eaves
With merry voices ring,
When not a sunny head
Is missing from the throng,
When not a silver note is dropped
From out the daily song;
Then up from thankful hearts
Let fervent praise arise
To Him who fills the happy home
With blessings from the skies.
—Woman's Home Companion.

Mother's Chair

By the window in the sitting room stood the old chair. It was "mother's chair"—otherwise it would have been just a chair. With mother in it, however, it became the shrine to which flocked her devoted little worshippers. In the rocker, as we sat on mother's knee, or at her side—for the chair was generously made—the bumped head and the bruised heart were healed. Frightened, we found there a safe retreat, a refuge from every harm. At night, the bedtime story was told to the rhythm of its soothing swing. Joys, sorrows, all were brought to its encircling arms. Mother's chair rocking, rocking, rocking by the window. The old chair had seen valiant service. Old fashioned, scarred and worn, it still stood in the familiar place by the window. Why is it not refinished—the scars smoothed out, the worn places covered? What! Cover the marks which little hands have made, the worn spot where mother's tired head rested, the scars made by tiny, restless feet? Such a question came from one who did not

understand. To him, the old chair was mere wood and paint—just a piece of furniture, not a shrine.

We do not say it aloud—our greatest longings are not spoken—but sometimes when life gets tangled, we find ourselves going again to the old chair to have the knots untied. When grief comes, we sob it out there. When joy comes, we run to tell it there. When we fail, when we win, our thoughts take us to the old chair. And at night, the little lisping prayers come begging to be said, and we send them, along with our grown up petitions, up to heaven, by way of that sacred shrine.—People's Home Journal.

Careful Washing Saves Clothing

Shortage of cotton for wearing material with its consequent high price has made the housewife take an unusual interest in the conservation of garments.

Conservation in cotton cloth means saving a war material as well as the money and labor necessary to replace the garment. The original appearance of an article made of colored material may be kept if due precautions are observed.

Buy cloth which has the color dyed in the piece or dyed before weaving rather than a printed pattern.

Set the color by soaking for at least an hour in salt water made in the proportion of two tablespoons of salt to a quart of water.

Avoid high temperatures, because they make colored goods streaked. Boiling or ironing with too hot an iron is a cause of fading and streaking.

Do not use strong soaps, as they dull the color and often the alkali in them causes the color to run.

Wash each garment separately and thus avoid any possibilities of dulling or changing shade by mixing colors.

Dry in the shade to avoid fading action of direct sunlight.

Making Over

This is to be a year of made-overs. If a woman has nothing with which to clothe herself, she will buy new

clothes with a clear conscience, but no woman should buy new clothes if there is anything in the house which she can make over, says a writer in Wallace's Farmer. It isn't a question of whether or not one can afford to buy new clothes; the question is whether new clothes are so urgently needed as to justify taking workmen from war work to make them.

Fortunately, the fashions this year lend themselves to making over. Apron fronts and two-material combinations make it possible to use up almost everything. Sponging and pressing and ripping and brushing and turning and facing are all important steps in making over. Dust silk fabrics with a piece of clean flannel, and woolen goods with a brush. Run thin places before they break through. If a dress can be made over, don't cut it down for one of the children. Children's clothes take less material; better buy a remnant for them.

More care should be taken of the clothes on hand. Frequent brushing, careful removing of stains, and care in hanging up will make them look well for a much longer time.

Old hats can be renovated and re-trimmed to last over. The woman who is an artist in making over is coming into her own this year. She could do not better war work than to offer her services to her neighbors in an advisory capacity. Why not exhibitions of home millinery and made-over dresses at the farmers' institutes this year? College classes take old clothes to be remodeled as a problem, and enjoy solving them. The wardrobes of most of us are problems this year—here's hoping we will all solve them with satisfaction.

Cleaning Silverware

Patent preparations for cleaning silver can be sold at high prices to a great many housewives, chiefly, the United States government's experts believe, because the housekeepers do not know just how the preparations work. Washington authorities believe the public ought to be told how silver can be most easily and cheaply cleaned, and they are doing their best to circulate the information. The cleaning system which the department of agriculture recommends is known as the electrolytic method. Silverware, either solid or plated, is boiled in a soda and salt solution in contact with a clean piece of aluminum or zinc, preferably aluminum. The tarnish is removed instantly, and whereas spoons cleaned with the commercial paste polish lose nearly 0.01 of a grain of silver each, spoons undergoing the soda-salt process lose approximately 1-25th as much.

The tarnish which occurs on silver is caused by the action of sulphur. The sulphur comes from contact with rubber, wool, foods like eggs, and the sulphur which is present in the air when illuminating gas and coal are burning. The electrolytic cleaning method was developed on the chemical principle that silver sulphid is slightly soluble in a hot solution of salt and soda, and on the further fact that silver sulphid is broken down chemically and the silver is redeposited on the silverware when the proper electrical conditions prevail. The proper electrical conditions are provided when silver comes in

contact with aluminum or zinc in the hot salt and soda solution. Under this method, therefore, practically all the silver in the tarnish is given back to the object which is being cleaned. When silver polishes are used, on the other hand, all the silver in combination with the tarnish is removed.

In the cleaning methods recommended the necessary materials are: A graniteware cooking utensil deep enough to allow the silverware to be covered by the solution; a clean piece of aluminum or zinc, preferably the former, baking or washing soda, and salt. The solution, which consists of a teaspoon of soda and a teaspoon of salt for each quart of water, is brought to a boil in a graniteware utensil. A strip of aluminum or clean zinc is dropped in. The tarnished silverware is immersed in the solution so that it touches the aluminum or zinc. The tarnish will disappear in a few seconds, depending, naturally, on the amount collected. When the silverware object is taken from the solution it merely has to be rinsed in clean water and dried with a soft cloth. Aluminum is more satisfactory than zinc for this process for the reason that it does not become coated with a layer of carbonates which interferes with the chemical reaction. Zinc, on the other hand, forms carbonates which must be cleaned off frequently with weak hydro-chloric acid.

An old aluminum utensil which is well cleaned may be used, instead of the piece of aluminum or zinc in the graniteware utensil, but utensils used in cooking should not be employed in this process. The electrolytic method gives the cleaned silver a satiny finish after several cleanings. If a burnished surface is desired, the silver must from time to time be polished lightly with some abrasive polishing material such as powdered whiting.

Contributed Recipes

Meat en Casserole — One pound of hamburger steak, one and one-half

SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION

to the
Highest Bidder, of the Coal and Asphalt Deposits, Leased and Unleased in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, Oklahoma, by the United States Government.

There will be offered at public auction to the highest bidder at McAlester, Oklahoma, on December 11, 12, 13 and 14, 1918, the coal and asphalt deposits, leased and unleased, underlying the surface of 441,107 acres of the segregated mineral land in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, Oklahoma. 39 unleased tracts aggregating 328,276 acres will first be offered for sale and next 128 leased tracts containing 112,831 acres. The coal is bituminous and semi-bituminous, mainly of low volatile bunker coal for steamship use, high grade domestic coal, railroad steam coal, high grade blacksmith coal and coking coal, seams averaging 4 feet thick, with an average dip of from 10 to 15 degrees outcropping at the surface and extending to a vertical depth below the surface estimated to be 2,300 feet at the deepest part of the basin. Practically all of the tracts offered are located near cities, towns and railroads, many being crossed by railroads, making them easily accessible and attractive for mining purposes. The surface is already sold, only the coal and asphalt minerals will be offered for sale. Leased land will be sold subject to any existing valid leases thereon. No preference right given except to lessees of leased tracts and the State of Oklahoma as to the coal and asphalt underlying State Penitentiary grounds. Government retains supervision over all leases and mining operations until full payment of such purchase price is made and deed issued when supervision terminates. No person can acquire more than four tracts of 960 acres each, except where such person, firm or corporation has such tracts under existing valid leases. Bids must conform to tracts advertised. No bids for fractional parts considered, nor for less than advertised minimum price. Bids may be made in person, by mail or by authorized agents. 20 per cent of each separate bid must be accompanied by bank draft or certified check payable to D. Baddrus, Cashier. Terms 20 per cent in cash at time of sale, balance four equal installments, payable in one, two, three and four years from date of sale 5 per cent interest per annum on deferred payments. Full payment purchase price may be made at any time when deed will issue. Local office at McAlester, Oklahoma; main office, Muskogee, Oklahoma. For descriptive lists, literature, free of charge, address Mr. Gabe E. Parker, Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes, McAlester, Oklahoma. The United States Government sends out no advertising or exhibit cars to advance or exploit the sale of Indian lands. All such concerns are private enterprises in no wise connected with the Government. CATO SELLS, Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

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