

Topics of the Times

After being buried in the snow for eleven days, some sheep have been recovered alive in Dumfriesshire.

Because she had formerly been of service to him, a Russian nobleman left a gypsy woman a legacy of £100,000.

During last year sixty-six of the municipal bodies in the British Isles which supply electricity showed a deficit, totaling £76,201.

English newspaper correspondents are complaining of the disgustingly unclean treatment of bread on its way from the baker to the consumer.

With the withdrawal of the training ships Northampton and Cleopatra from the active list the other day, the last shred of canvas disappeared from the British navy.

The baby "Chego" just added to the London Zoo, was caught in the African Gaboon, and is regarded by naturalists as coming between a gorilla and a chimpanzee.

It is said by the Country Gentleman that a porter in Dublin walked up and down in front of a train that was to run straight through to Cork, saying: "This train doesn't stop anywhere!"

A correspondent of the London Times calls attention to the fact that William Pitt said: "America, Canada and Louisiana are the three countries on the continent of North America."

The amount of money advanced to Irish tenants for the purchase of their lands under the various acts of Parliament passed since 1836 is, according to a parliamentary paper, \$128,866,015.

An armor-plated motor car, carrying a quick-firing field gun, is being constructed at the Daimler works in Wiener-Neustadt, Austria. It will be so arranged that it can be fired in all directions, even over the head of the driver.

The British channel fleet in future will be known as the Atlantic fleet and the home fleet will become the channel fleet, with base at Portland. In consequence of England's friendly relations with France and Italy, the Mediterranean fleet will be reduced.

A Hungarian blacksmith recently sent, as a present to the Emperor of Austria, a horseshoe, a pair of pincers, a file and a knife, all ingeniously nailed to a goose's egg, without the egg being broken. The Emperor sent, in return, his photograph, a gold medal and thirty ducats.

Fair hair is so greatly disliked in Serbia that even the white hair of old age is disguised. No Serbian matron who respects herself would appear in public with white hair. Nor does she hide the fact that she dyes it periodically. The custom has come down to her from her mother and grandmother, and she regards it not as a matter of vanity, but of decency.

The city of Zurich, Switzerland, imposes a medical tax of about 87 cents a head on the whole population above the age of 16, which creates an annual revenue of \$100,000. This is divided among forty doctors, who receive \$2,500 each. In return for this salary they will be compelled to give medical attendance to all citizens of Zurich who may claim their services.

Employment of girls in banks is no new experiment. The Bank of France took women into its employment as long ago as 1852. This beginning only consisted of four girls in very minor positions. Before a year was finished the four had become twelve. Twenty years later the number was 100, and to-day 300 women work in the bank, of whom three are among the principal cashiers.

Mr. Campbell, the Irish Solicitor General, speaking the other day upon delusions, told a story of a North of Ireland Protestant who was perfectly sane save on one point. This staunch Protestant harbored the delusion that one of his legs belonged to a Roman Catholic, and therefore when he went to bed every night he used to leave the Catholic leg outside the blanket by way of punishment.

Oregon Queen is reputed to be the largest three-year-old filly in the world. She is nineteen hands high, weighs 2,260 pounds, is perfectly formed, a chestnut sorrel with silver mane and tail. She was bred and raised by Sol King, of Corvallis, and was three years old on May 20 last. She is now owned by C. W. Todd, of Albany, who will exhibit her at the Lewis and Clark fair, 1905.—Portland Oregonian.

GROWING USE OF HARDWOOD.

Demand for It in Many Manufacturing and Building Trades Increasing.

The present value of hardwood lumber, and particularly the value of hardwood stumpage, rests essentially on the same grounds on which have been established higher bases of value for Southern pine and Pacific coast timbers—namely, the waning supply of northern pine. As white pine has become high in price substitutes have been sought, and while these have been found largely in other soft woods,

hardwoods also have contributed in no small degree.

Within the last two or three years there has been a decided growth in the use of what has been called native timber. That is, retail lumbermen, builders and other lumber consumers have depended more on small local mills. In Iowa, for example, almost every stream is fringed with trees—cottonwood, some kind of basswood or poplar—which have been cut up into framing material, sheathing boards and the like.

In many ways and in many uses hardwoods are taking the place of the pines.

But there are other, even more potential reasons for the growth in the hardwood business. One is the increase in general manufacture. The industries of the country which use wood at all are using more of it than ever before. In some cases wood has been superseded by iron or steel, but probably the agricultural implement makers, car builders, etc., are using more wood than ever before despite the fact that steel is so increasingly important with them. The furniture industry is a wooden one and that is growing rapidly.

Another important cause of the greater use of hardwood is the improved taste of builders, which calls for greater variety in finish than used to be required. The growing wealth of the country has something to do with this, for a better and more catholic taste accompanies the growth of the means to gratify it.

A quarter of a century ago comparatively few houses were finished in hardwood. Now even in the country it enters into interior finish in no small degree. There will be hardwood flooring in some of the rooms, there is very likely to be hardwood trim in the parlors, while it is more extensively used in stairwork. All these things combined—the lessening supply of pine, the growth of manufactures and the improvement in taste—make it certain that the proportion of hardwoods will be a constantly growing one.

Some hardwoods have been nearly wiped out. Such are walnut and cherry. But others have only begun to be utilized, like gum. It is probable that the present drain upon the hardwood resources of the country will be met for a much longer period than will that upon the pine resources, except on the Pacific coast, where the timber is almost entirely coniferous and where, by its location, the coniferous woods lumber industry will be prolonged for generations.

Genius at Play.

Mrs. Sedgwick, in "A Girl of Sixteen at Brook Farm," gives a little sketch of Hawthorne which shows him in a pleasant and merry light, although in general, she acknowledges, the great author was silent, almost taciturn. One day she was learning verses to recite at the evening class formed by Charles A. Dana, when, seeing Hawthorne sitting immovably and solitary on the sofa, she daringly thrust the book in his hands.

"Will you hear me say my poetry, Mr. Hawthorne?" I said.

He gave me a sidelong glance from his very shy eyes, took the book and most kindly heard me. After that he was on the sofa every week to hear me recite.

One evening he was alone in the hall sitting on a chair at the farther end when my roommate and I were going up-stairs. She whispered to me: "Let's throw a sofa pillow at Mr. Hawthorne."

Reaching over the banisters, we each took a pillow and threw it. Quick as a flash he put out his hand, seized a broom that was hanging near him, warding off our cushions and threw them back with sure aim. As fast as we could throw them he returned them with effect, hitting us every time, while we could only hit the broom. He must have been very quick in his movements.

Through it all not a word was spoken. We laughed and laughed, and his eyes shone and twinkled like stars, until we went off to bed, vanquished.

First Ocean Cable's Cost.

The original 1858 cable weighed ninety-three pounds per mile and had a conductor of seven copper wires of twenty-two and a half gauge; price of deep sea wire per mile, \$200; price of spun yarn and iron wire per mile, \$265; cost of outside coating of tar and gutta percha, \$25 per mile; total cost per mile, \$485. At \$485 per mile the total cost of the 2,500 miles of deep-sea wire was \$1,212,500. To this add twenty-five miles of "shore end" wire, costing \$1,450 per mile and we find that the first ocean cable, exclusive of instruments, cost \$1,250,000.

Only Embarrassed.

Miss Teezer—Does that young man to whom you introduced me last week work in the weather bureau?

He—No, why do you ask?

Miss Teezer—He has such a habit of making observations about the weather.—Baltimore American.

He—I don't think Miss Singleton shows her age, do you?

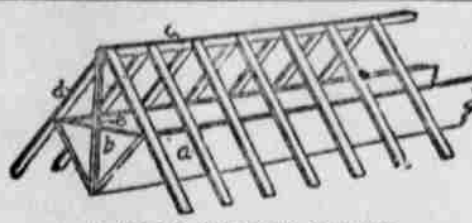
She—Of course not. She scratched it out of the family Bible page ago.



An Effective Trough Guard.

One of the greatest troubles with the hog is that he is so irrepressibly hoggish. When you feed him, he apparently feels it his inherent duty to crowd every other hog as far and forcefully away from the feed as possible. When fed grain on the open floor, he takes it upon himself to cover as much as he can, to keep nosing and pushing his fellows, often to his own loss of food, since more or less is wasted by his rude "table manners." When fed slop in the trough, the biggest hog will invariably work his way through or over the jam, and get his carcass into the trough, where he complacently stands lengthwise, and if not satisfied with that, lays himself down, gulping in his own and the smaller ones' share until too full even to grunt, when he will stretch out for a snooze if the trough is big enough.

To avoid the waste of feed, and to give all an equal chance to secure



A GOOD TROUGH GUARD.

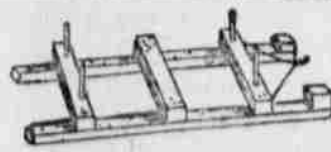
their share, I have a number of schemes and devices, but I consider the one shown in the illustration to be as good as, if not better than, any. Then, too, it is so simple that any farmer with a hammer and saw, and such loose pieces as may be found in almost any scrap pile, can build a substantial affair that will suit.

The first requisite is a good-sized, well-constructed trough, built preferably in V-shape, as shown by "a." The width of the side boards will depend upon the size of the hogs to be fed. A small trough, with six-inch side boards, may be used for the wee pigs, and twelve or sixteen-inch stuff for the large sows and breeding sows. The size of pieces "c" and "d" should depend upon the weight of the animals and the strain likely to come on the frame. For hogs of ordinary weight a piece two by four inches should be used for the ridge-pole, "c," and pieces one by three or two by two inches for the guard bars, "d." These should be securely nailed to the side of the trough, and if a permanent trough in the hog house, spiked to the floor to prevent breaking off. The upright, "e," firmly spiked to "b," should be amply stout to secure endwise rigidity.

For delivering slop to the trough, a spout or small trough should be arranged to enter at the end of the feed trough. With this arrangement, when the distance between the bars has been properly adjusted to the size of the animal, only one can get to the trough between each space, and all sidewise crowding is effectually prevented.—Exchange.

A Cheap Wood Sled.

My wood sled gave out early in the winter and I made a good substitute of some 2-inch plank. The runners are 8 feet long and 2x6 inches square. They are held with four braces of the same material, 4 feet long and fastened with spikes and bolts. Stakes are set in the front and rear cross pieces and a draw chain hitched to the front cross piece. The runners go flat side down and the ends are rounded to prevent catching on the ice. The sled can be used with the body or box of a wagon. It is a good sled for heavy



WOOD SLED.

work and short hauls. For long hauls, the runners should be shod.—I. A. Fiske, in Farm and Home.

Notes About Farm Work.

Tennessee farmers want the State to appropriate \$5,000 to develop the live stock investigations now in progress, and to extend experiments in breeding and feeding.

There are 644,000 farmers in Texas, the largest number of all the States in the Union. Georgia comes next with 522,000.

Give house plants as much light as possible during the day, and darkness with a low temperature at night.

Some Western men claim to have obtained good results from feeding the common desert cactus to cattle. They say when chopped up and boiled, or soaked in water, the sharp and dangerous points become soft. The department of agriculture is investigating the matter.

An Illinois woman sold 52 capons recently at \$1.52 each. It cost but very little more to raise them than ordinary chickens.

The animal heat must be provided by feeding the stock liberally, but the greater the exposure, the greater the loss of animal heat.

In the new farm mechanics department of the Iowa college, 125 young men are learning how to build, manage and take care of farm machinery.

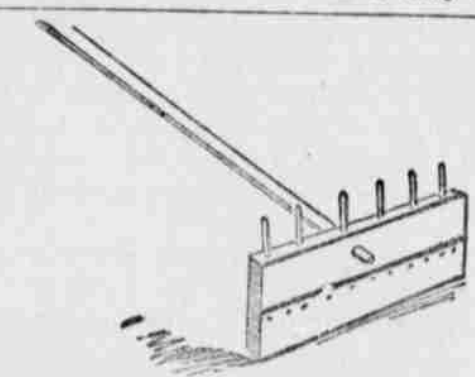
Deep or Light Plowing.

The whole matter resolves itself into a question of soil and climate. If a soil is thin, then it is manifest that it would be very foolish to dip the plow into the raw subsoil and bring it to the top, though perhaps subsolling would improve matters by helping the draining and allowing the roots to penetrate downward more easily. Again, in the matter of climate; in a dry district shallow plowing nearly always gives the best results—with a grain crop, at least. Often the best wheat has been grown where the surface was disked to clean off the rubbish, and the seed drilled in down to the hard, unmoved soil. The reason of this is that in a dry district the plant has to depend largely on the ground moisture, which rises by capillary action much better through firm soil than through loose plowed land. Where bare fallowing is practiced on stiff clays, then the shallow system is the best, for it means ever so much less soil to move per acre where there are repeated plowings, cultivations, etc., to be done. On the whole, probably shallow plowing, combined with an occasional stirring of the subsoil with a subsoiler attached to the plow, is the best.

Stable Scraper and Fork.

Most of the labor-saving tools about farm buildings could be readily fashioned at home if one is handy with tools and has the inclination to put ideas into effect. One of the best of the simple tools for the barn is the combination fork and scraper made in the following manner: Select an inch board five inches wide and seven or eight inches longer than the width of the fork used in the stable.

Bevel the lower edge of the board for the scraper, then bore holes near the lower edge, one for each tine of the fork, so that after using the fork to handle the coarse stuff it may be



COMBINED SCRAPER AND FORK.

inserted into the holes in the board and the combination used as a scraper. The artist has added another to the combination, a rake, which is made by driving wire spikes into the top edge of the board and filing off the heads. This can be done or not as one wishes, but combined fork and scraper is certainly a most useful tool.—Indianapolis News.

Barley as Feed for Horses.

Except on the Pacific coast barley is not extensively used as a feed in the United States, doubtless owing to the fact that it is in such demand for brewing purposes that it is high in price. Wherever it is grown, however, it is frequently possible to secure at a low cost grain which is off color owing to rain or fog during harvest and which for this or some other reason is unfit for brewing, but valuable as feed. The barley grown on the Pacific coast is extensively used in the feeding of horses. Its use for this purpose is old in other countries. The Arabs fed their horses unground barley, and it is used successfully by the Berbers of north Africa. In Europe its value is generally recognized. Barley may be fed whole to horses having good teeth and not required to do severe work. Since ground barley, like wheat, forms a pasty mass when mixed with saliva, it is regarded as more satisfactory to crush than to grind it if for any reason it is considered undesirable to feed the grain whole.

About the Horse.

Draft horses are in demand far exceeding the supply.

Onion juice is recommended as a cure for warts on horses.

When horses are to be fattened something depends upon the breed. A changed bill of fare will help to hasten the matter.

It is wonderful what fancy prices rich men are willing to pay for horses that please their fancy. The highest prices are paid for race stock, with the hope that it will be won back either by the horse itself or by its offspring.—Texas Farmer.



Scalloped Salmon.

About one-half pound of cold cooked salmon, one-half pint white sauce, one teaspoonful of anchovy essence, browned crumbs. Remove all skin and bone from the salmon and break into flakes. Butter some china fish shells or scallop shells, and put in a tablespoonful of the sauce which has been flavored with the anchovy essence. Then put in some flaked fish and cover again with the sauce. Shake browned bread crumbs over all. Put a for eight minutes in a moderate oven. Serve hot. For the sauce, if none is at hand, take one ounce of butter, three-quarters of an ounce of flour, one-half pint of milk. Melt the butter, stir in the flour smoothly, add the milk and stir until it boils. Season and use. If preferred, the salmon may be served in one fireproof dish or pie dish instead of shells.

Pepper Pot.

Boil two pounds of tripe slowly for six hours, take from the liquor and cut small. Make good veal stock; cut the meat from the veal bone and cut small. Put the two soups together and let them stand overnight to get very cold, then skim off every particle of fat. Return the liquid to the fire and add as many soup greens as you wish, with a bay leaf, a minced onion and two potatoes cut into dice. Add the tripe and veal, season all to taste and cook gently until the potatoes are tender. Thicken with a white roux and add a large quantity of small dumplings. Cook for ten minutes and serve.

Cream of Tomato Soup.

Four large tomatoes cut up, or one can with half a cupful of water added, two slices of onion, two sprigs of parsley, one teaspoonful of sugar, half a teaspoonful of salt, quarter of a teaspoonful of soda, one quart of milk, one tablespoonful of butter, one tablespoonful of flour. Cook the tomatoes with the onion, parsley, sugar and salt for twenty minutes. Mix in the soda, and stir well—this is to keep it from curdling the milk. Mix the milk, flour and butter as usual; strain the tomato, mix with the thickened milk and strain again.—Good Housekeeping.

A Good Preserving Hint.

When making jam, if a clean half-dollar is placed in the bottom of the preserving pan the fruit will not require stirring, and it will keep beautifully whole. The coin keeps it stirred by continually moving while the water is boiling.

When hanging meat in the larder it is well not to put the metal hook through the meat itself, but through a loop of string tied on the joint.

POLITE TO THE LAST.

The "Ellen" in Samuel Laman Blanchard's excellent but now forgotten book, "Sketches from Life," had probably never heard of Emerson's saying, "There is always time enough for courtesy," but she embodied the great sage's principle in her daily intercourse with her fellow beings. Politeness was a ruling passion with her. To the fisherman's boy she would answer, "Yes, sir; soles, sir; if it is quite convenient." Mr. Blanchard lodged with Ellen's mistress, and one day the man servant of a friend brought a parcel of books.

The man delivered the books into Ellen's hands; then, remembering he was entrusted with a letter also, he searched his pockets in vain for the missive. Ellen, waiting in the hall, was greatly distressed.

"Oh, pray, sir, do not trouble yourself!"

"Trouble myself!" exclaimed the servant. "If I have a letter to deliver I've got to deliver it," and he continued his search.

"I'm sorry to keep you waiting," broke out the apologetic Ellen.

"Why, it is I who am keeping you waiting," returned the puzzled servant. "What are you talking about? Well, I can't find the letter."

"O sir," entreated the maid, "never mind! I dare say it doesn't signify. Another time will do quite as well."

Mr. Blanchard's landlady was taken sick, and every day the lodger's inquiries were answered by the faithful Ellen in somewhat this wise:

"My missis's compliments, sir, and she had a very indifferent night," or, "My missis's compliments, sir, and she feels very weak to-day."

One sad day, when Ellen appeared with the breakfast, her eyes were red and her lips quivered. In response to the usual question she sobbed out:

"My missis's compliments, sir, and she died this morning about 8 o'clock."