

NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS

Capital Is Threatened With a Deluge of "Nuts"

WASHINGTON.—There is danger of an invasion of the national capital by "nuts"—would-be inventors who have impossible schemes for getting rich and famous. Secretary Daniels' naval advisory board, composed of real scientists and inventors, promises to be the cause of the invasion. Washington patent attorneys admit it is entirely possible that the city will be overrun with "nuts" with alleged wonderful inventions to offer the board.



A man who invents something that turns out well is a genius; the fellow who dreams and invents the things that never get by is a "nut." That's the difference.

That the naval advisory board will encounter both species while it looks for inventions which might aid the United States in time of warfare is regarded as certain. The prospects are, however, that the visionaries, the "nuts," will outnumber by far the genuine inventors who come here for fame, money or the consciousness of rendering a public service.

Joseph A. Steinmetz, president of the Pennsylvania Aero club, first voiced apprehension that the naval board would encourage the pilgrimage to Washington of men with hopeless schemes.

J. H. Brickenstein of this city, president of the Patent Law association, says Mr. Steinmetz is right about it and Washington probably will be overrun with impractical ones whose discoveries and inventions will not stand scrutiny.

"Many men with impractical schemes come to Washington as it is," said Mr. Brickenstein. "Every patent attorney encounters well-meaning but misguided fellows who believe they have solved some problem like perpetual motion. Probably 50 per cent of the supposed inventions brought to patent attorneys here are either impractical, or the patent would be comparatively worthless if granted. These men are discouraged by reputable attorneys from wasting their time and money."

Drug Store Glide Is the Latest in Washington

THE drug-store glide is here! During these torrid evenings, with the Fahrenheit thermometers vying with Bethlehem stocks in the battle for ascendancy, the popularization of the modern dances goes upward and onward with the speed of a Teutonic advance in the eastern theater of war.

With the time of the evening ball and the dancette, either past or future, young Washington has adopted the soda-fountain cotillion, which is nothing more or less than a dance in the emporiums devoted to the disposition of confectioneries and sweet beverages.

Mount Pleasant and Columbia Heights led off, but other sections have been enveloped in the fad and now practically every residential section has one of these retreats where youthful couples may dance while awaiting the preparation of their perspiration-producing prescription. It has even traveled downtown.

All of these places have either highly polished wooden or tile floors, which make excellent gliding surfaces. The music comes from a victrola or, if adjoining a cafe or a hotel or exclusive apartment house, the music is furnished by the regular orchestra.

The formula is simply to order the drink and, while the dispenser is drawing, shaking or shoveling, according to what the order might be, the couple glides off in a two-step, hesitation, fox trot or some other gyrations. The drink served, one-half is drunk, and then comes an informal intermission. During this hiatus another dance is engaged and when the glass is drained a parting whirl is enjoyed.

The girl politely declines a second drink. But after a short walk the couple either returns to the original place or seeks out some similar establishment where the same courtesies are understood and extended.

Some particularly shy and demure maidens were rather loath to accept the invitations of the management offered through signs which simply read "Dancing." But now it has become rather conventional and there is little hesitancy in joining the others on the floors.

President Belongs to the Cane-Carrying Brigade

ALTHOUGH President Wilson does not call his fondness for walking sticks a fad, a hobby, or even a habit, the fact remains that he has a large and handsome collection, in which he takes a lively interest and constant pleasure.



Whenever he walks he selects a plain, stout stick from among the number and carries it after the manner of men who punctuate their steps as they tramp; but inasmuch as the president's chief exercise is golfing, and he always drives to and from the links, he cannot be identified as one who "wears" a stick from choice or habit. He does not even carry one of his ebony sticks to church, but takes the greater pleasure in what his collection of canes means—the variety, intrinsic value and more intimate association. Joseph P. Tumulty, secretary to the president, is never seen without his neat blackthorn, any more than Franklin Lane, secretary of the interior, can be found upon the street without his malacca.

The secretary of state doubtless has walking sticks, but no one remembers seeing him "wear" one on any occasion whatever.

Both the assistant secretary of state, Mr. Osborne, and the third assistant secretary of state, Mr. Phillips, have sticks, but not "the habit," while the second assistant secretary, Mr. Adee, is identified with no other concomitant than his bicycle, with which he has toured the highways and byways of Europe every summer for many years, until the war made it impossible.

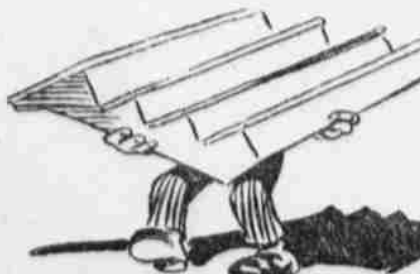
The secretary of the treasury wears a slim, snakewood stick, a gift from one of his sons at Christmas, and it is not unusual to meet Secretary McAdoo on the street with Comptroller of the Currency Williams, both of them swinging their sticks as vigorously as they walk only—with a difference. Secretary McAdoo holds his exactly at the top, in the hollow of his hand, and brings it down to the pavement, tapping each step; Mr. Williams takes his stick half way between the crook and the end, and swings it horizontally.

John R. McLean Buys Front Steps of the Capitol

JOHN R. McLEAN has bought the front steps of the United States capitol, which are being removed to make way for new ones of granite. It is understood that the historic steps on which presidents have been inaugurated for a century past and which have been the site of gatherings of notable character in the history of the country will become part of a sunken garden for Mr. McLean's country estate.

The old steps are being removed by Arthur Cowhill of this city, who will replace them with granite. The steps to be removed are 35 in number, each 16 inches wide and 60 feet long, with several landings and platforms. As a part of the cost of the work the contractor figured on the historical value of the old steps and advertised them for sale as such.

Upon the old steps President Lincoln made a famous inaugural speech; Presidents Garfield and McKinley, who were shot by assassins, took the oath of office there. Great demonstrations, such as the recent suffrage and temperance crusades, have culminated on the east steps, and the finish of "General" Coney's army occurred there. Although millions of feet have passed up and down their historic surfaces, the contractor states that for material purposes they are good for a century more.

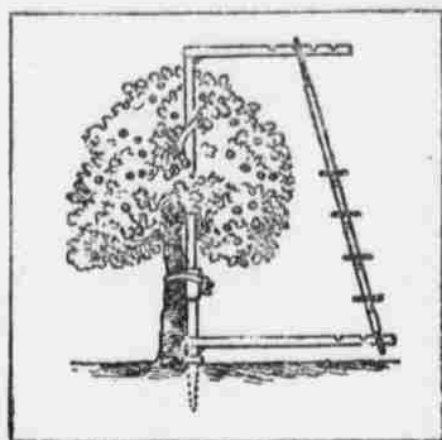


Horticultural News

REVOLVING LADDER IS HANDY

Fruit Picked Without Damaging It or the Trees Which Bore It—Applicable to All Orchards.

The scientific picking of fruit requires that the operation should be performed without damaging the tree, which often occurs when ladders of the ordinary design are thrust into the branches. The revolving ladder support shown in the accompanying cut has been invented and patented by a California orange grower. While the idea is applicable to all orchards it is particularly suited for the orange grove, where the crop is not gathered at one time as is other fruits, but is collected at a number of successive pickings. A peculiar characteristic of the orange tree is that it frequently has on its branches fruit in many different stages of development, all the way from the bud to the ripe fruit.



Permanent Ladder for Fruit Trees.

The oranges are picked at different times, the occasion being influenced by the convenience of the grower and the condition of the market. There would be, therefore, more incentive to the owner to erect permanent supports of this character among the orange trees than in an apple orchard, for instance where the entire crop is removed at one operation. Then, too, the orange trees are more fragile than other trees, and the grower must necessarily exercise more care. The apparatus consists of a shaft with one end buried in the ground near the tree trunk and extending upright through the tree. The top is fitted with an arm horizontal with means for securing the top end of the ladder thereto. This device may be swung all around the tree so that every part may be reached and the fruit picked without disturbing a leaf.

RED RASPBERRY SPUR BLIGHT

Disease Recognized by Irregular Brown Spots on New Canes—It Can Be Controlled.

(By WALTER G. SACKELL, Colorado Experiment Station.)

Red raspberry spur blight makes its appearance about the middle of July and can be recognized by the irregular brown spots on the new canes. The fungus which is responsible for the discoloration invades the tissue surrounding the buds from which the fruit spurs arise and either destroys them outright or prevents their further growth and development. The disease can be controlled satisfactorily by spraying the young canes with bordeaux mixture when they are six to eight inches high and every two weeks thereafter until the picking season. The old canes should be removed as soon as the crop has been gathered, and a final application of the spray material should be given at that time. For this work we recommend an adhesive bordeaux mixture having a formula 2-2-50 and containing two pounds of resin fish oil soap to each 50 gallons.

BEES IN THE FRUIT ORCHARD

Buzzing Little Honey Gatherers Are True Partners of Orchardist—Results of Work Plain.

H. W. Collinwood of the Rural New Yorker, says: "We can easily forgive the bee his short working days when we consider the good he does. There is no question about the debt fruit growers owe him. People talk about the wind and other insects fertilizing our flowers, but I am confident that any man who will really take the time and pains to investigate for himself will see that the bee is nearly the whole story. I have seen the certain results of his good work in a neighbor's orchard. Those bees broke the trees down just as truly as though they had climbed on the trees by the million and pulled at them. The appearance of those trees after a few years of bee keeping would have convinced any fair-minded man that our little buzzing friends are true partners of the fruit grower."

The Orchard Location.

The north side of a hill is the best location for an orchard, because changes in temperature are not so great as elsewhere. On south slopes the buds start too early in the spring, cold air descends in hollows and closed valleys and is likely to kill the young buds. An orchard near a lake or large pond is not likely to be injured by frosts, because the water tends to make the temperatures more even.

GOOD ROADS

TO MAKE SMOOTH ROAD BEDS

Put Soil on in Layers, Not in Piles—Best Tool for Road Improvement is Splitting Drag.

The making of a smooth roadbed requires that when the soil is put on, it be laid in layers, and not in piles. When dumped in piles some places will be more packed than others and there will likely be a difference in the density, while if laid on in layers this will be avoided. Each layer should be harrowed, or better yet, disked and packed before the next one is laid down.

In this way a good roadbed is secured from the first, while if the soil is just dumped on the road to be leveled and packed by the traffic over the road a good roadbed will never be secured.

The best tool for keeping the road well crowned and the surface smooth is the splitting drag. This tool should be used soon after a rain. The soil is then loose and easily moved. The drag moves but small amounts of soil and smears it on the roadbed in thin layers, which is just what is wanted. It cuts off any projections and fills any low places.

SUPERIORITY OF WIDE TIRES

It Has Been Found by Actual Test That Broad-Tired Wagon Pulls 6.2 Per Cent Easier.

Wide tires build up roads and save horse labor, according to the department of agricultural engineering at the University of Nebraska. They have the same effect upon a country road as a roller on a plowed field. On the other hand, the narrow tire cuts up a road like a disk.

It has been found by actual test in this department that the wide-tired wagon pulls easier in nearly all cases than the narrow-tired wagon. In deep mud on a country road the wide-tired wagon pulls 6.2 per cent easier.

On a country road with a thin surface of mud or deep dust, however, the narrow tires pull 4.9 per cent easier. In a corn field the wide tires pull 30.5 per cent easier, in a dry alfalfa field 17.7 per cent easier, and on a dry country road 10.2 per cent easier.

BETTER ROADS IN MISSOURI

Movement Has Passed Boom Stage and Become Fixed Policy—Good Advertisement for State.

When the public roads bureau of the department of agriculture made its study of roads covering a period which ended in 1913, Missouri did not figure among the leading states either in its mileage of improved roads or in progress made in road building, while some of the southern states with smaller resources in a financial way showed striking evidences of progress, says Farm Progress. They had been building cheap roads of such materials as were immediately at hand, and that is what Missouri is doing today with such energy and enthusiasm that the next survey of the road situation is sure to tell a different story. This will be a good thing for state pride and as a state advertisement, but vastly more significant is the direct benefit derivable from roads that can be traversed at all seasons with full loads. Every good road that is built today and tomorrow and every road that is improved will go to make Missouri a better state in



Good Roads Day in Missouri.

which the people may live their normal social life, a better state for the school child, a better state in which to spend a working life and live out a contented old age. The good roads movement in Missouri has passed the boom stage and become a settled policy, finding its strongest reason for being in the silent argument of good roads already built. Its goal is a state in which every market shall be accessible to the farmer's wagon the year around and a public sentiment in favor of good roads so strong that no other condition will be tolerated.

A Good Roads Advocate.

"Aren't you in favor of good roads?" "Of course I am," answered the toll-gate keeper.

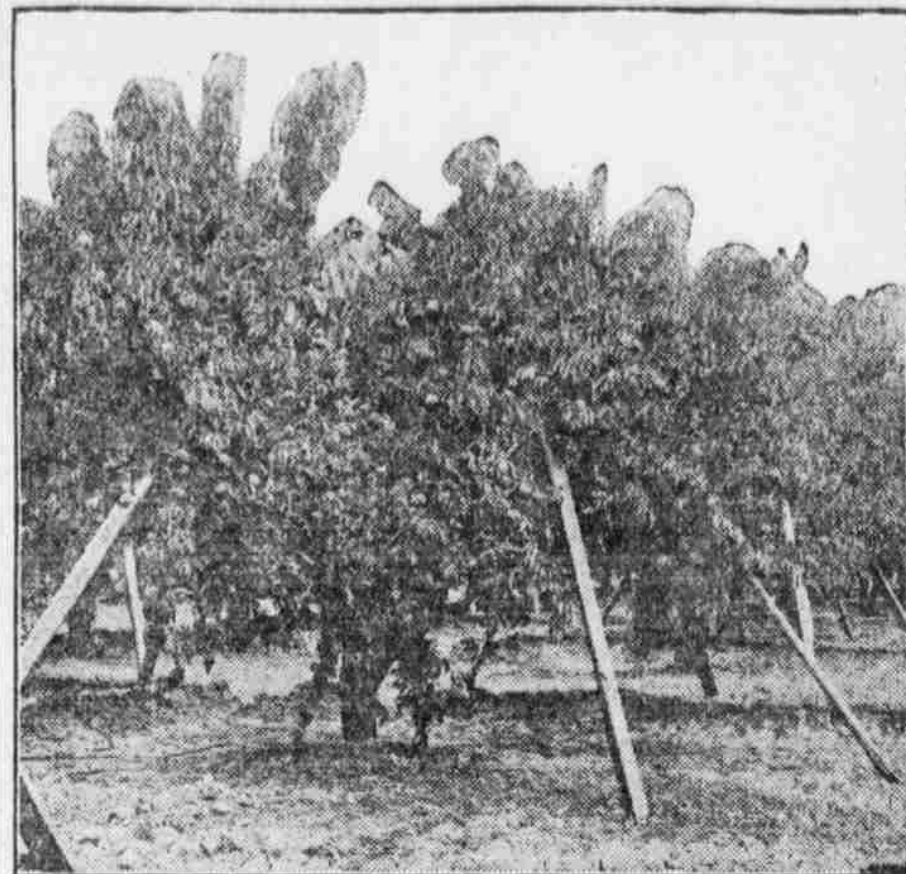
"But this road of yours is miserable."

"Maybe. But I'm in favor of good roads. If the road hadn't been pretty good this far you mightn't have got here to pay your toll."

Road Drag an Aid.

The great farm builders are live stock, alfalfa and silage, aided by the manure spreader and the road drag.

TO RESTORE DEPLETED ORCHARD SOILS



Peach Trees Systematically Headed Back, Developing Strong Stocky Limbs—Must Be Propped Up, However, When Loaded With Fruit.

(By C. I. LEWIS, Horticulturist, Oregon Experiment Station.)

The best way to restore depleted orchard soils and put them in the best condition to nourish old trees is by sowing them to cover crops. Although young orchards flourish best under clean cultivation, this is because the plant food in the soils is made available more rapidly. Thus it is seen that cultivation, while it hastens the growth of young trees in new soils, burns out the humus and nitrogen content, making the soils poor in plant food and lumpy in texture. As the age of the orchard increases the trees show lack of nourishment by the size and quality of their fruit, and it is with difficulty that average crops of fully matured fruit can be grown. It is at this stage of the orchard's progress that cover crops are needed to give new life to the soil.

By cover crops we mean crops which are sown in the summer or fall and allowed to grow during the winter to be plowed under in the spring. They are designed to overcome the defects caused by tillage. The cover crops will add organic matter which, in decaying, forms the humus and nitrogen.

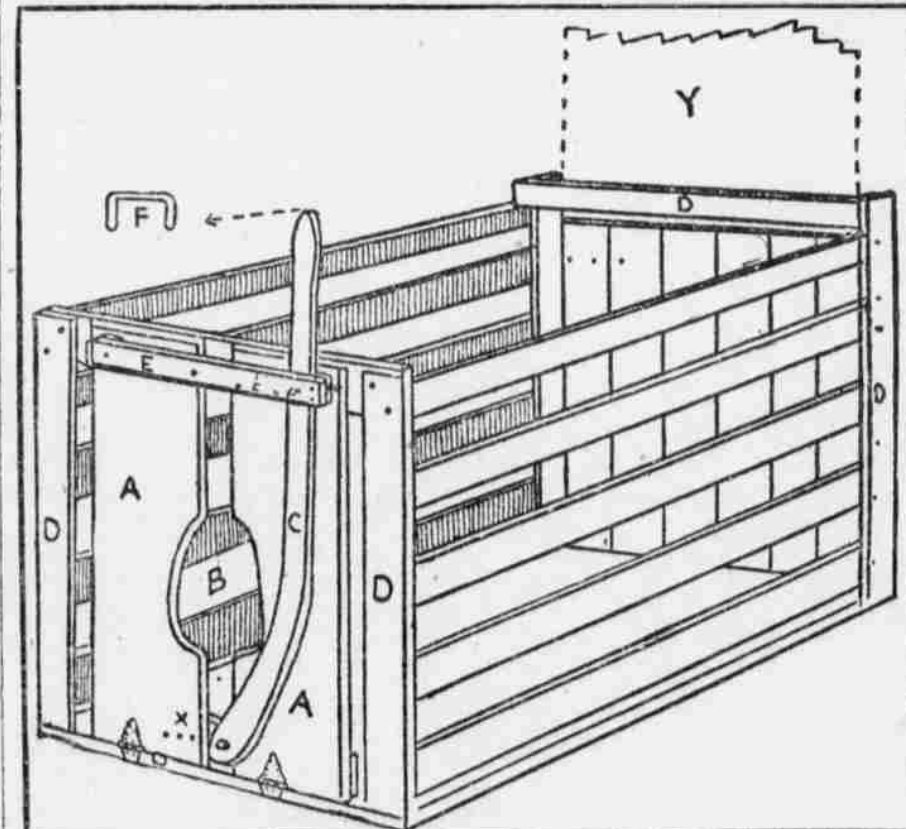
They improve the physical condition of the soil and restore it to its former state of tilth, heat and moisture.

In growing cover crops it is important that they be planted not later than the last week in August or the first week in September. It is equally important that the seed be drilled in, as it comes up more uniformly than when broadcasted. It is surprising to see how well the seed germinates when drilled in, even though the ground is very dry.

There are three classes of cover crops, those which furnish nitrogen, those which work up soil material into plant foods, and those which furnish fiber and organic matter. Of the first class vetches and clover are most frequently used as cover crops. Mustard, rape and cowhorn turnips are types of the second class, while oats, rye, etc., are quite commonly used to put fiber into the soils.

It is a mistake to postpone the sowing of cover crops until the fruit has been gathered. Any ordinary method of harvesting the fruit will not seriously damage the cover crop, though some care is necessary.

CONVENIENT DEVICE FOR RINGING HOGS



Ring Trap for Swine.

A ring trap for hogs is a convenience which a group of farmers may construct and use in common. The frame is of two-inch by four-inch pieces, D. D. lapped and bolted at corners as shown. When the lever C is pulled forward it partially closes the opening B, and firmly holds the hog with head through the opening. By having holes in the upper piece C the lever can be held in place with a spike nail.

SMALL FRUITS IN GROWING ORCHARD

Soil Should Be Rich in Nitrogen and Mineral Elements—Harvesting Is Hard Task.

Small fruits are an ideal intercrop for the growing orchard and are very profitable as well.

Soil requirements are similar to that of apple trees, and with the constant cultivation which is necessary for success no extra work of this kind need be done in the orchard. The minimum instance of intercrop from the young trees is four feet.

The soil should be rich in nitrogen and the mineral elements, and should contain plenty of humus. The humus in the soil is one of the greatest aids in maintaining abundance of moisture. Stable manure, with the addition of a small amount of some phosphate fertilizer, is the best. It should be applied at the rate of 5,000 to 10,000 pounds per acre. With the exception of a pure sandy or heavy clay soil, small fruits will thrive on any soil.

Harvesting the small-fruit crops is usually a difficult proposition. In sections where there is plenty of cheap labor, especially foreign women, this problem is minimized.

An acre of strawberries will bring 3,000 quarts if taken care of, and considerably higher yields have been known. Because of susceptibility to frosts, strawberries are not a sure crop in some localities, but if well mulched in the fall, as they always should be, the blossoms can be held back as much as three weeks. The pedigreed plants. A little observation will show that there is a great deal of difference in the bearing qualities of individual plants, and this apparently plays a large part in determining the bearing qualities of strawberry plants.

Economical Food Producer.

The dairy cow is an economical producer of human food. No other animal can produce the same quantity of digestible food as economically as can the cow.

Two Kinds of Hogs.

The brood sow and the fat hog require different kinds of feed. The same lot will not have the best success.