

NEWS and GOSSIP OF WASHINGTON



Washington Has a Squirrel That Is a Piledriver

WASHINGTON.—There is a little fuzzy-tailed squirrel down in Judiciary park that will be a piledriver if it ever grows up. Its industry in burying nuts for winter consumption gives rise to this prognostication. There are numerous squirrels in the park that surrounds the city hall, court of appeals building, and continues north to the pension office building, but none of the fur-coated quadrupeds seem to be as thrifty as the one that William Lewis, mechanic at the court of appeals, is aid to.

This little nut-masticator frequently picks out as storage places for his winter food some hard ground immediately to the east of the appellate court. While able to excavate sufficiently with his claws to afford a shallow hole for the nut, the tender snout of the animal seems unavailing in driving the shell below frost level.

Mr. Lewis has solved the difficulty by placing a piece of a broom handle near the warehouse of Master Squirrel. The result is that the animal wilds the hickory instead of its nose, and in this fashion has it acquired the title of piledriver squirrel of Judiciary square.

Development of Flag Shown in Museum Collection

THE fact that some 60-odd sizes and shapes of American flags were found in use in the various government departments has actuated an executive order standardizing the form and size of all our national flags. The flags, and union jacks of all departments, with certain exceptions in the army and navy, must now conform to specifications.

The American flag, collection of the United States National museum shows the development of our flag in several historical periods, its many changes and gradual standardization. It is interesting to note that during the Revolution the flag had 13 stars; in the war of 1812, 15; in the Mexican war, 29; in the Civil war, 35; in the Spanish-American war, 45, and today, 48. The American flag is among the oldest of national flags, being older than the present union jack, the French tricolor and the flag of Spain, and many years older than the flags of Germany and Italy, some of which, like those of other countries, are personal flags, or those of reigning families.

There are no early colonial flags, such as were used by the individual colonies and militia regiments before the flag of the United States was established by congress on June 4, 1777, now celebrated as Flag day. This act required "That the flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be 13 stars, white in blue field, representing a new constellation," but did not define how many points the stars should have, how they should be arranged, nor make provision for additional ones.

The navy immediately adopted this flag, but the army was much slower to act. Representative of the early stars-and-stripe type, there is a 12-star flag said to have been used by John Paul Jones during the war of the Revolution. It measures 10 1/2 by 6 feet, and was presented to Lieut. James Bayard Stafford, U. S. N., on December 13, 1784, by the marine committee of the Continental congress as a reward for meritorious services during the Revolution, coming later to the Smithsonian Institution as a gift from Mrs. Harriet R. Perry Stafford.

He Found Another Irene When the First Decamped

"WILL you change these four letters on this marriage license? Where it says 'e-a-r-t' make it 'w-a-l-k.'" With that remark, Roy Gordon negro, twenty-two years old, spread out on the counter in the clerk's office at city hall, a marriage license issued to him a little while before.

"What is the matter? Did you have the girl's name spelled wrong?" asked Col. R. P. Belew, the official in charge. "No, indeed! This is a different girl. This one's name is Irene Walker and the other one was Irene Carter. If you can just change those four letters, this license will do."

He was told the law did not permit the mutilation of such papers.

"Well, then, exchange them for another set of the same kind of papers. I simply got to have them."

"That cannot be done," Colonel Belew explained. "You will have to have the first one canceled and then get a new set. That will cost a dollar more."

"Oh, that's all right. I don't care for the dollar. I was just trying to save you some paper. Go ahead."

"Did your first girl change her mind, or did you get mad at her, or what was the matter?"

"I don't know what is the matter. I have not seen her since. I hear she left Washington. I am not going to wait any longer. I waited thirty days that is enough. But this one will not get away. I brought her along and she is waiting outside now. And believe me, we are going to the preacher's house right away."

The license was issued and he paid another dollar.

Uncle Sam Always Looking for Highbrow Helpers

UNCLE SAM is continually handing out desirable positions to the workers of the United States—or, to put it differently, the demand of the United States government for specialists is insatiable, judging by the announcements of the civil service commission. In a recent announcement seven positions paying a minimum of \$7,140 in annual salaries and a maximum of \$10,000 were offered to men and women desirous of entering the government service through the avenue of the civil service examination. These positions range from the lowest paid, at \$900 a year for an apprentice draftsman, to a technical place paying a maximum of \$3,000 a year.

The steady development of the great technical bureaus of the government, like the bureau of standards bureau of mines, the bureau of forestry and fisheries, the reclamation service and the geological survey, continually enlarges the field of government work and draws more and more upon the country for its experts. For example, the civil service commission announces an open competitive examination, for men only, for petroleum technologist, to go into the field and supervise or assist in the work the government is doing in the oil fields. Salaries for this position range from \$2,500 to \$3,000 a year. The government requires that the applicant must have graduated in geology from a college or university.

It looks a little odd to see the government advertising for a female lace worker whose specialty is Italian cutwork and bobbin lace, but Uncle Sam will pay from \$600 to \$720 a year to any competent woman not over forty years old who will pass his examination and is willing to teach the art of making these laces to the Indians at the Cherokee school in North Carolina.

Men are wanted by the bureau of standards as laboratory assistants in ceramics. They must understand the technology of structural clay products, refractories and pottery, and have had practical experience in the work. These places will pay from \$900 to \$1,200 a year. A knowledge of French and German appears desirable.

WINTER LOSS OF BEES

Queenless Colony Will Certainly Die in Few Months.

Among Known Causes of Damage Are Lack of Numbers, Insufficient Food, Dampness, Lack of Air and Low Temperature.

(By FRANCIS JAGER, University Farm, St. Paul.)

The winter losses of bees are great every year. Beekeepers can reduce these losses by preparing their bees for winter and giving them good winter quarters.

The chief known causes for winter losses are queenlessness, lack of numbers in colonies, insufficient food, poor food, dampness, lack of air, the breaking of clusters, and low temperatures.

A queenless colony will certainly die in a few months.

If the number of bees in a colony is small, the cluster cannot generate enough heat or keep the heat it generates and the bees freeze. In the fall small colonies should be united into one big colony.

Bees must eat in the winter in order to generate heat. They must have about 40 pounds of honey when they go into winter quarters. If they are short, they should be supplied early with finished frames or fed sugar syrup. Dark (not amber) honey is poor food for bees to winter on. All black honey should be removed and combs of white honey should be inserted.

Dampness in a cellar causes the combs and frames and the hive walls and cover to get wet and moldy, and the bees perish from wet cold. Bees need fresh air. Foul air will cause excitement, and the bees will scatter and die. Excitement among bees in winter is fatal.

The present style of Hoffman frame divides the bee cluster in winter into 11 spaces, and the bees are unable to pass from one space to the other. When the bee cluster contracts during the winter, those left on the outside frames die. Some beekeepers perforate their frames for the easy passage of bees from one compartment to another. If kept in a warm place they can pass over or around the frames. In long-continued and severe cold the bees may not be able to move along the frame and they will sometimes die of hunger within an inch of the honey supply.

Bees should be kept in a cellar at a temperature of about 45 degrees. Very strong colonies, however, will survive almost any degree of cold.

CLEAN MATERIAL FOR NESTS

Hay, Straw, Leaves, Excelsior, Etc., Should Be Changed Occasionally—Burn All Rubbish.

The nest materials, such as hay, straw, excelsior, leaves, etc., should be changed occasionally, as foul material is a good breeding place for germs of diseases. Insects are also likely to harbor in the old nests if the materials are not changed from time to time.

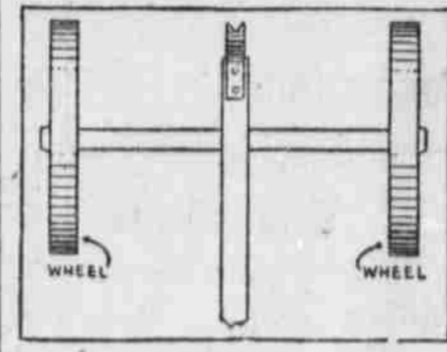
At this season of the year attention should be given to cleanliness. All rubbish such as old nest materials should be burned or carefully fumigated and thrown in the manure heap.

The nest should be renewed with clean, sanitary materials. Those who do not think it makes much difference to hens are badly mistaken. Hens are not likely to lay in foul, unsanitary nests and often "steal their nest" off where it is, hard to find.

EXCELLENT AS POST PULLER

Device Constructed of Two Wheels Taken From Old Machinery—Axle Made of Heavy Bar.

Here is a good post puller, should you have any posts to pull this winter, says a writer in The Farmer. The wheels are about 20 inches high and were taken from a piece of old machinery. The axle is a heavy bar, to



which is bolted a ten-foot post for a tongue and lever. A narrow iron plate, turned up at end and notched as shown, is bolted to upper side of the short end of tongue. Twist a wire, or loop a chain around post to be pulled, get a bolt, hold under it with the prong on the end of tongue, and bear down on other end.

EXERCISE REQUIRED BY COW

Considerations of Good Health Forbid That Animal Be Kept Closely Confined to Barn.

While it is doubtless true that a cow kept at perfect ease will, other things being equal, give the greatest quantity of milk, yet considerations of health forbid forcing and require that the cow be given moderate exercise in the open air.

FEED STOCK IN THE WINTER

Never Safe to Trust to Open Grazing—Unexpected Storms Often Cause Loss of Animals.

The essentials for a successful campaign in feeding are an abundance of feed to draw from as needed and the stable and shed protection in times of storm and inclement weather. It is never safe to trust to open grazing in the winter, since the most disastrous losses have followed a season of mild weather that encouraged the turning of stock out to graze, and the unexpected storm cut them off from the winter protection and prepared feeds.

When the stock are located in their winter quarters it does not pay to change them in an effort to suit the spring weather that often makes its appearance in the months of January, February and March. The hay-fed stock reach the early grass season in the best condition for profit.

BIG COST OF CARELESSNESS

Loss of \$45,000,000 Every Year to Farmers and Poultrymen on Account Poor Handling.

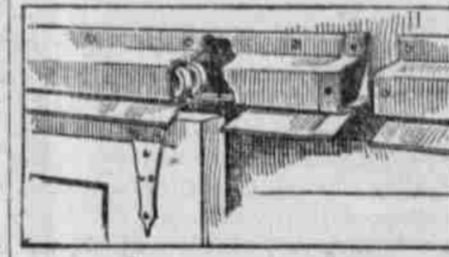
Farmers and poultrymen of the United States lose \$45,000,000 every year through bad eggs, and nearly every bit of this loss is due to carelessness. Eggs are left on the nest too long before being gathered, are kept in the house too long before being sent to market, and kept in a warm or in a mold cellar, are carelessly packed and inadequately protected.

Worst of all, because most easily prevented, fertile eggs are produced when every egg ought to be infertile. If the egg contains a germ, it is bound to develop when exposed to heat, and the result is a blood ring. Doctor Rommel of the bureau of animal industry states that at least one-third of the annual loss in the egg industry is due to blood rings.

TRACK PROTECTS BARN DOOR

Two Steel Stampings So Formed and Riveted Together That Sturdy Track is Produced.

A new track, designed to protect as well as support a sliding door on barn or garage, is being marketed. It consists of two sheet-steel stampings so formed and riveted together that a track of sturdy construction is produced.



Track for Sliding Doors.

Between the stampings, or ridges made in the metal, the trolleys supporting the door ride. Since the various sections of the track are fitted together with lap joints, the entire runway where the trolleys travel is protected from the weather at all times. This is in contrast to the way ice and sleet sometimes make a door inoperative in winter weather, when ordinary track is used. No brackets or joint splices are necessary in erecting this runway, since the stampings are nailed or screwed directly to the surface of the building. The outer part of the track is especially shaped to keep water from running down onto the upper edge of the door and rotting the wood.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

FRESH WATER IS IMPORTANT

Add Enough Permanganate of Potash to Make It Wine Red, Says Lippincott of Kansas.

Chickens need a constant supply of fresh water, according to W. A. Lippincott, professor of poultry husbandry in the Kansas State Agricultural college.

"Running water is best," says Professor Lippincott, "but if this is not available keep the water fresh. Add enough permanganate of potash to make it a wine red. This amount will act as an antiseptic in preventing the transmission of disease through the water and will aid also in keeping down intestinal parasites."

NARRAGANSETT IS LARGE BIRD

Second Only to Mammoth Bronze in Some Parts of Country—Weight for Tom is 35 Pounds.

The Narragansett is a breed of turkeys second only to the Mammoth Bronze in some parts of the country.

The Narragansett is also a large bird. The standard weight for the tom is 30 pounds, for the hen 18 pounds.

The breed took its name from the Narragansett Bay, where it originated. It is a very popular domestic bird in that locality. The color is gray mixed with black.

SYSTEM OF TILE-DRAINAGE

Good Plan to Make Little Map of Fields Drained—Stakes Driven Down Are Good Thing.

After putting down a system of tile drains on a farm, it is a good plan to make a little map of the fields drained, showing just where each line is.

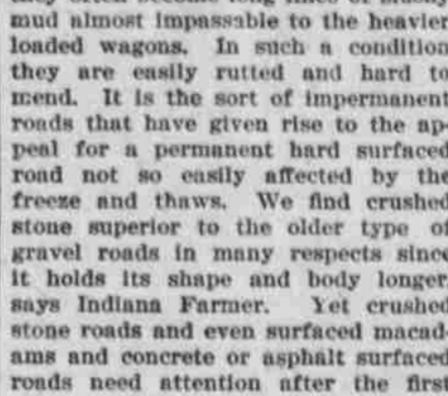
Then, too, stakes driven down are a good thing. You may want to extend some lines by and by.



ROAD BUILDING

EFFICIENT FORCE IS NEEDED Roads Should Be Looked After at All Seasons of Year and Kept in Constant Repair.

Under our present system of county pike maintenance, roads have been receiving a quantity of crushed stone on their most-traveled and worn-out sections. This is usually applied after a grading and scraping of the surface to fill the ruts. This grading is a semiannual affair. The first grading is done in the early spring just as the roads are thoroughly thawed and beginning to dry after the heaviest of the winter freezes are safely over. Previous to this grading they often become long lines of slushy mud almost impassable to the heavier loaded wagons. In such a condition they are easily rutted and hard to mend. It is the sort of impermanent roads that have given rise to the appeal for a permanent hard surfaced road not so easily affected by the freeze and thaws. We find crushed stone superior to the older type of gravel roads in many respects since it holds its shape and body longer, says Indiana Farmer. Yet crushed stone roads and even surfaced macadam and concrete or asphalt surfaced roads need attention after the first



Sheep Cleaning Up Weeds.



Sheep Cleaning Up Weeds.

few years under the wear of present-day traffic. What we need is an efficient force to look after the roads at all seasons of the year and keep them in constant repair. There is no road material but what becomes worn in spots in time and if these spots were kept mended constantly the cost of the upkeep would not be nearly so great. After the spring grading and shaping up the roads are allowed to run as best they can till fall. "A stitch in time" can have no better application than on our county roads and their mending.

MEASUREMENT OF ROAD WEAR

Ingenious Machine Perfected to Show Effects of Different Loads at Various Speeds.

A complex and highly ingenious machine has been perfected which runs over a sample of road surface at the National Physical laboratory, shows the wear caused by different loads at different speeds and in various climatic conditions. In other words, given a specimen of a new surface, the machine will tell pretty accurately what, say the Manchester-to-Wilmslow road, would be like in a year if that surface were laid on it. It seems a pity that so valuable a wear-and-tear recording device cannot be applied to more than roads.—Manchester (England) Guardian.

BENEFIT OF CONCRETE ROAD

Make Travel in Community Quick, Safe, Clean, Easy and Comfortable—Other Advantages.

Concrete roads way country boulevards. They benefit a community in making travel quick, safe, easy, clean and comfortable. They extend neighborhood limits, bring more people into personal touch with each other, increase social opportunities and thereby remove the monotony of isolation; bring greater content to the youth on the farm, make city and country near neighbors and increase school attendance, thus cultivating a desire for a broader knowledge and higher standard of living.

High-Producing Cows.

Cows producing over half a ton of butter per year are so common that they are no longer a subject for special comment, but there still remain several millions of the other kind.

Weeds Injure Roads. Good roads will never be good roads while they are bordered with weeds.

Time to Drag Roads. When "time drags" is a good time to drag the roads.

PERUNA Household Helper

Peruna eases the burden of the housekeeper by keeping away the danger of illness resulting from colds, coughs, and indigestion due to catarrhal condition. It speedily relieves and overcomes these.

Its tonic properties build up the strength of the physically weak and run down, and its use in convalescence, especially after grip, is remarkably beneficial.

KEEP IT ON HAND

The wise housekeeper has Peruna on hand for instant use even if catarrhal troubles do not call for its regular administration. A dose or two in time often prevents a long illness.

Liquid or tablet form. Manilla Tablets are a splendid laxative for home use. Ask the druggist THE PERUNA COMPANY, Columbus, Ohio.

The Wretchedness of Constipation

Can quickly be overcome by CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS.

Purely vegetable—act surely and gently on the liver. Cure Bilelessness, Headache, Dizziness, and Indigestion. They do their duty. SMALL PILL, SMALL DOSE, SMALL PRICE. Genuine must bear Signature

Wheatwood

Get Rid of Them

before they start to build their homes in your newly gathered crops. It costs you about \$2.00 yearly to feed one rat

RID-OF-RATS.

kills them for less than 1 cent per rat.

No mixing. No messing. Always ready to use. Perfectly harmless to domestic animals. GUARANTEED TO KILL RATS AND MICE. We refund money for any goods returned as unsatisfactory. Ask your dealer for the RID-OF-RAT. If he can't supply you, order direct, giving his name.

Sample Prices: Box 10c; 1 Doz. Boxes, \$1.00; 5 Doz. Boxes, \$5.00. Prepaid all over U. S. BERG & BEARD MANUFACTURING CO. 12-14 Steuben St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

JUST MATTER OF PERCENTAGE

Legislator Had Figured Out Method by Which He Voted Right in Majority of Cases.

During the last session of a western legislature one member, a tall, angular man with a white mustache of the walrus pattern and the faculty of being able to throw both his thumbs out of joint at will, made himself conspicuous by voting "No" on every bill, resolution, or other form of business that came up. However innocent a measure might be, this man voted against it stentoriously.

Finally a legislator weakened under the strain and approached the gentleman with the walrus whiskers.

"Why is it?" asked the man, "that you vote 'No' on everything?"

"I'll tell you," said he of the walrus mustache, with a confidential air. "Seventy-five of those bills and resolutions are bad and ought never to be passed. And I figure that any man who votes right 75 per cent of the time is a pretty darned good legislator."

The Main Object.

"Pa, what's meant by party affiliation?"

"That's a term used by diplomatic persons to conceal the real motive which prompts men to hang together in the hope of sharing the spoils of office."

He who sings drives away sorrow.

The cheerful feeling you possess after a drink of something hot and flavory should be only the beginning of your satisfaction.

For this very reason more and more people are turning from coffee to

Instant Postum

A lessened tendency to such annoyances as nervousness and sleeplessness repays them

A ten-day trial of this delightful, flavory hot drink has assisted so many to health and comfort that your friend, the Postum-drinker, will tell you its well worth while.

"There's a Reason"