

# WASHINGTON GOSSIP

## How Capital Is Fighting "High Cost of Living"

WASHINGTON.—The "farm-to-table" movement, by which the farmers and consumers are being brought into direct communication for their mutual benefit, is proving a great success here in Washington. This movement was inaugurated by the Washington postmaster some two years ago and it has grown steadily so that it now promises to become a real factor in reducing the cost of living. Other big cities have taken up the idea and are reporting much progress.

The scheme is to put the farmer in touch with the resident of the city so that he can sell direct, delivering by parcel post, thereby saving the commission of the middleman, which is held to be one of the chief causes of high prices. A bulletin has been issued by the Washington postmaster giving the names and addresses of several hundred farmers in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia, with a list of the products they have for sale. One list contains the names of 100 people in these states who have eggs for sale, another list shows those who want to sell eggs and butter, another list advertises eggs and poultry, and a much larger list gives the names of those who have miscellaneous farm products for sale. This latter list includes eggs, poultry, butter, potatoes, fresh pork, sausage, honey, turkeys, smoked meats, lard, oysters, fish, squabs, buckwheat, cornmeal, hominy, sweet potatoes, scrapple, parsnips, carrots, apples, hickory nuts, walnuts, peanuts, asparagus and other things.

Any farmer who has food products for sale which can be sent by parcel post, has only to notify the Washington postmaster to have his name put on the list, together with his address and the things he has for sale. These lists are published in the bulletins issued from time to time and circulated quite generally in the city.

## Gum and Other Matters Forgotten for a Moment

TWO girls, who looked as if they had come out of a grabbag, were promoting arm-in-arm along the state department flagging. Both wore cheap white, elaborately trimmed and badly laundered skirts, with sweaters of contrasting gaudiness, somewhat subdued by grime. One had water scallops to her eyebrows, plastered down with white combs, set with rhinestones that flashed like summer lightning. The other gave a touch of simple elegance to her side-part with a black bow that stretched from ear to ear—and beyond. And both were irresponsibly joyous and ready for flirtations on sight.

As they reached Seventeenth street corner the black-bow girl unlinked herself, and going over to the granite cornerstone that joins the railing ran a finger under a weather-beaten edge and then looked crestfallen. "Well, I'd like to know who's had the nerve to swipe my chew'n' gum!" "Lawd, Mame, you don't save your gum, do you?" The toss that went with the inquiry made the rhinestones sizzle, but black bow held her own. "Sure, I save it! I guess if you had a mother and two kids to blow your good five on, you wouldn't be so brash with your nickels, neither, Miss Smart Cake. Course I don't throw my gum away!"

"You might as well, if somebody goes and cribs it." "Oh, well, I was in a skidoo of a hurry and jabbed it under without seeing if it stuck. On somebody's shoe good an' tight by this time, I guess. I gotta dandy hidin' place down at the Peace monument."

"Say, Mame, I think it's a nawfie thing for you to have to spend your money keepin' your folks like that. Why don't you—"

"You mind your own business, Sadie Blank, and leave mine alone! I gotta good momma an' the kids are the cutest goin'. Say, look at that young sojor feller. Ain't he grand?"

The gum was forgotten. But a woman who was strolling along beside the youngsters, for a reason, caught a flash of loyalty in the eyes of the black-bow girl. It wasn't the shine of rhinestones.

It was the real thing.

## Good Work by Council of National Defense

PREPARATIONS that are being made for participation by the United States in the greatest war of all history include the strengthening on a stupendous scale of all lines of communication leading out of the capital. The vast system of telephone and telegraph wires and cables radiating out of Washington has been more than doubled during the last few months. Comprehensive plans have been drawn for placing the military departments, the treasury and the department of agriculture in close wire touch with all of the financial and agricultural centers and the military camps and posts throughout the country.

Long-distance service already has been practically doubled and in addition a vast system of private wires is being rapidly installed. Plans for the mobilization of the telephone and telegraph service for war purposes, which involve the laying of a new underground cable from Washington to New York, containing more than 80,000 miles of wire and supplying important cities en route, are virtually completed through the committee on telephones and telegraphs of the Council of National Defense.

When completed the new system will connect the war, navy and other governmental departments with strategic points all over the country by a widespread network of special and private telephone and telegraph wires. Everywhere the telephone and telegraph companies have given precedence to the government service.

Long-distance facilities in and out of Washington already have been nearly doubled, the original system of 148 long-distance wires leading out of the capital having been increased to 248. In addition to the new cable to New York, under contemplation, copper wire will be strung above ground in many directions. When all this work is completed there will be approximately 500 long-distance wires radiating from Washington.

## Uncle Sam's Uniform Everywhere in the Capital

WASHINGTON—the seat of the war pulse—tells a remarkable story of the change in the status of the uniform, the increasing use of it and its popularity. It is as if America has turned to a form of militarism with a sense of relief from the gray, drab colors of peace times.

Every second man on the street is a soldier, a sailor or a marine. Any hour of the daylight span one may look to the cardinal points and witness a military spectacle.

Far out Pennsylvania avenue a troop of cavalry is jogging along to "somewhere."

Over the brow of the Fifteenth street hill a battalion of infantry is swinging along to join the cavalry "somewhere." Beyond the city, camped up and down the Conduit road, along the old Chesapeake canal, far over into Virginia, are thousands of young men, in the khaki of the service, awaiting the call to "somewhere."

And at night, the grim, gray war department building blinks 1,000 yellow eyes, way into the small hours of the morning. It keeps its secrets and winks wisely.

Yet it imparts a solid confidence to the thousands of men in khaki who are camped within sight of the capital and await the call to "somewhere."

The day of uniforms as a distinguishing mark for swashbuckling lovers has passed.

Today they mark the young man of serious purpose.

## GROWING SWEET CORN

Plant Some Variety at Short Intervals Up to August.

Loses Quality Very Rapidly After Being Picked—Does Best in Fertile Soil, But Adapts Itself to All Textures.

Sweet corn should always be found in the home garden when space allows, since it loses quality very rapidly after being picked. Its sugar changes into starch, so that to have it at its best it should be on the fire within 15 minutes after being pulled from the stalk.

Corn does best in a fertile soil, but is able to adapt itself to all textures from sand to clay. To grow it in sufficient quantities for the average family requires more space, however, than for most garden vegetables. It should not be planted until after danger of frost is past.

The rows should be spaced not closer than three feet apart, and for



Good Variety of Sweet Corn.

the larger growing late varieties the distance had best be three and one-half feet. Stalks should be thinned to stand from 15 to 18 inches in the row. In planting, the seed is covered with one or two inches of soil. Cultivation must be thorough, frequent and shallow.

It is possible to use the ground occupied by early corn for a fall planting of such crops as spinach, turnips and kale. Large, late varieties, however, will occupy the ground for practically the whole season.

For early use the yellow sweet corns have recently become quite popular. Of course the Golden Bantam is a well-known variety. Early Minnesota has long been a favorite. White Mexican is a valuable early corn. Early Malakof is a very early sort of excellent quality, which does better in the North than in the middle states, however. Early Adams is a variety frequently grown for market, and its virtues are rather those of the market than of the table. It is a flint corn, not a sweet corn, but if used during the very short period when its qualities are at their best, its flavor is good.

It is possible to have a fairly long season of usable corn if three varieties, such as Golden Bantam, Crosby, and Country Gentleman are planted simultaneously in early spring. To make the season continuous until frost, however, it will be necessary to plant some variety at intervals of two or three weeks up to the last of July. Crosby is a very good variety for this purpose.

## CARE OF HARNESS ESSENTIAL

Horses Never Look Their Full Value in Shabby, Patched-Up Affair—Prices Going Higher.

The harness has a lot to do with the appearance of a team. The animals never look their full value in a shabby, patched-up affair, while, on the other hand, the veriest plugs are vastly improved in appearance by a bright, well-kept harness.

But that isn't all. With the high and rising cost of leather care of the harness is wise economy. Harness that is never cleaned and oiled soon stiffens up and goes to pieces. The sewing breaks, the buckles rust and the leather loses its life.

An occasional cleaning and scrubbing with warm water and good soap, followed by a thorough oiling with neatfoot oil, when the leather has pretty well dried, will add years to the life of a harness.

## FOOD AS ESSENTIAL AS GUNS

Every Boy or Girl Who Grows Garden Will Be Doing Their Share in Winning Great War.

Food is just as important as guns or shells in winning the war. Every garden will help. Every boy or girl who grows a garden will be doing their share in winning the war just as truly as the man who goes to the front. The way for the boys and girls to enlist is to find a piece of suitable ground that is available, plow it up and plant it to vegetables.

## "VELVET" FROM SHEEP FLOCK

Animals Will Mow Orchard and Keep Down Weeds About Windbreaks, Fences and Buildings.

A small flock will mow the orchard and keep down the weeds about windbreaks, fences and buildings. All of this is simply incidental "velvet" as the wool clip pays for the flock's keep. The mutton return is the main source of profit.

## BEEES INCREASE FRUIT CROP

Little Honey Gatherers Carry Pollen From One Blossom to Another—Weather Counts.

Bees will pay well for their keep in honey, but that is not all the good they do. They increase the fruit crop by fertilizing the blossoms. If there were no bees nor similar insects there would be little fruit. The wind cannot be depended on to do the necessary work of carrying the pollen (that yellow powder) from the male blossoms to the female blossoms. Most of this work is done by the bees in their trips from blossom to blossom.

Weather at the time the orchard blooms has much to do with the size of the crop. If it is wet, cloudy and cold, the bees cannot work as they will when it is clear and warm. Consequently fewer blossoms are fertilized and there is less fruit.

You may have noticed that some times one side of an apple tree will be set heavily with fruit, while there will be little or none on the other side. This is often caused by strong, cold winds that prevent the bees from working on the exposed side of the tree.

## SAVE ALL BREEDING ANIMALS

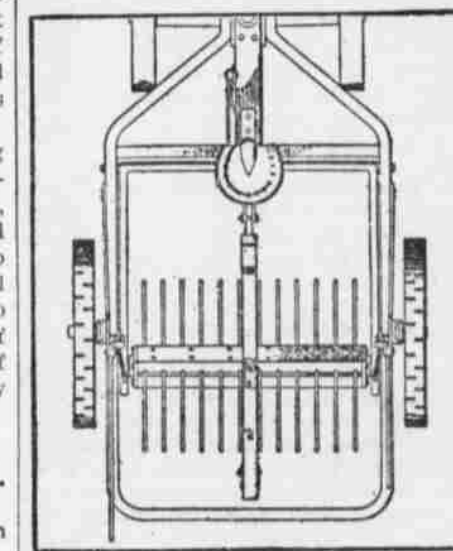
Department of Agriculture Urges Farmers Not to Be Tempted With Present High Prices.

"Don't sell your breeding animals unless you can replace them immediately with better ones," is the message the United States department of agriculture is sending to farmers and stockmen everywhere. Don't let the temptation of high prices now being offered for live stock or undue fear of the prices asked for many popular feeds mislead you into selling a cow or sow that will drop the golden calf or litter. Such near-sighted profit taking or lack of courage, if wide spread, would strike at the foundation of the country's live stock industry and cripple it for years to come. As there is a shortage of meat animals throughout the world, we cannot hope to import new breeding stock to replace those we foolishly have killed off. Our own breeding animals, therefore, must be regarded as the seed essential to the domestic meat supply of the nation.

## RAKE FOR GATHERING BRUSH

Implement Invented for Purpose of Collecting Undergrowth Is Idea of a Nevada Man.

In illustrating and describing a revolving rake, the invention of A. R. Clayton of North Fork, Nev., the Scientific American says: "This invention provides a rake for gathering sagebrush and similar undergrowth, said rake embodying a wheel"



Revolving Rake.

supported frame, a second frame movable with relation to the first and carrying teeth, means to adjust and maintain the teeth in spaced relation with the ground and means for elevating the second frame."

## WAYS OF MAKING WHITEWASH

Formulas Given for Making Solution for Outside and Inside Use—Mix Both Thoroughly.

Whitewash for outside use—Slake one bushel of quicklime in 12 gallons of hot water, dissolve two pounds of common salt and one pound of sulphate of zinc in two gallons of boiling water and mix this with the slaked lime, then add two gallons of skim milk, and mix thoroughly. Spread lightly over the surface with a broad brush.

Whitewash for interior painting—Slake a peck of quicklime with boiling water and cover as soon as the water is added. Strain after shaking and put in a gallon of salt dissolved in hot water, a quarter of a pound of Spanish whiting, two pounds of rice paste and a half pound of glue, dissolved in warm water. Mix these thoroughly, cover and set aside for a few days to ripen.

## LIMESTONE TO KILL SORREL

Quicklime Can Be Used to Advantage by Slaking With Water and Applying to Plants.

The usual advice for the control of sheep sorrel is to apply ground limestone, 2 tons per acre, hydrated lime 1½ tons per acre, or quicklime 1 ton per acre. The quicklime can be used to advantage by slaking with water and sprinkling the mixture freely over the sorrel. The liquid will injure the leaves of the sorrel as well as help correct the soil acidity.



## ROAD BUILDING HINTS GIVEN

Military Attaches With Former Premier Balfour of England, Impart Information.

Some interesting information regarding military road building was given to the United States when the English mission headed by former Premier Balfour arrived in New York. Military attaches told how the armies of France and Great Britain rebuilt roads in France and Belgium.

English military engineers recently have made experiments demonstrating that it is possible and desirable to build the highest types of road surfaces for the temporary or emergency movement of artillery and supplies. Roads built with asphalt sent from England have been constructed in the rear of the Franco-Belgian front. Roads so improved gave better service than any type attempted under the swift and heavy movement necessitated by the artillery action which precedes infantry attacks. It was observed that motortrucks and gun carriages suffered no injury in movement over these hastily constructed pavements, while frequent breakdowns were experienced when road building was not attempted.

Following these experiments a mission, including officers of the British and French engineer corps, looked over the pavements in the environs of Paris built in the last three or four years. Among other roads inspected was the asphalt pavement laid on the road to Versailles, which has been carrying heavy military traffic ever since the war started. As a result of these experiments and investigations it has been decided, wherever possible, to construct similar surfaces for the movement of military traffic in regions where roads have been destroyed or where they may be made necessary by battle plans.

## PLAN OF MAIN TRUNK LINES

California Is Spending \$18,000,000 on Two Chief Highways From Oregon to Mexico.

John A. Wilson, president of the American Automobile association, says of the federal good roads law recently passed.

"Thirty-four states have now outlined in some form a system of main trunk lines, which is now an augury for the success of the federal-aid plan just inaugurated. In this connection it is worthy to note that California was the first state to apply for its apportionment of the money, and California is expending \$18,000,000 on two



Good Road in California.

main highways extending from the Oregon to the Mexican line. It should be kept in mind that an application for federal aid in the improvement of any road must be made by the highway department of the state. Consequently if anybody in the state desires to have a road improved at the aid of federal funds it is necessary that the matter be taken up with the state highway department and not with the federal government."

## BUILDING GOOD EARTH ROADS

Can Be Constructed at Low Cost, but They Require Constant and Costly Attention.

Good earth roads can be constructed at a very low cost; however, they require constant maintenance, which may be expensive where the travel is heavy. A well-built and properly maintained earth road will serve some sections as well as the most expensive types of hard-surfaced roads will serve other sections. Where this fact is realized more attention will be paid to earth roads, and the money spent on them will not be regarded as lost.

## HELLEBORE.

To kill insects on fruits or flowers that are to be picked within a few days, such as roses, currants, etc.:

Use as a dust, 1 ounce of white hellebore mixed with 5 ounces of flour. If desired in liquid form, use 1 ounce white hellebore to 1 gallon of water.

## ENGINE SOMETIMES BALKS.

A gasoline engine sometimes balks but so does a horse. You can find out what's the matter with the engine, but no one has ever yet discovered the workings of the mind of a balky horse.



## KEEP MILK COOL AND CLEAN

Warm Weather Is Trying on Dairymen, but More Especially on Women—Keep Vessels Clean.

The season is rapidly approaching when greater care must be taken of milk. Warm weather is trying on the dairymen, but more especially on the farmer's wife, who must care for the milk from a few cows. Preparations should therefore be made to keep the milk cool and clean.

The facilities for keeping milk on the average farm are very inadequate. Not enough cool space is available for the average farm woman, hence she has difficulties in saving the milk and ripening the cream evenly.

In the first place, the milk vessels are important. They should be of the right kind, with no seams in the pans, pails, etc., to harbor germs. There should be plenty of vessels and they should be kept scrupulously clean, aired, steamed and sunned occasionally.

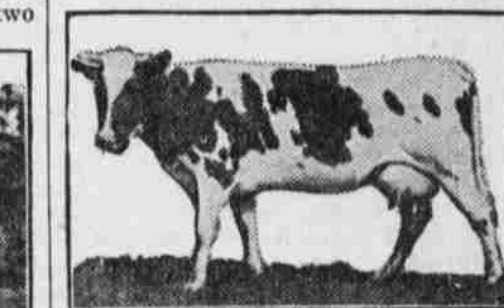
A refrigerator is almost a necessity on the farm these days. There are many perishable foods as well as milk to be kept. The cost of a refrigerator is not great when the utility and economy of keeping foods are considered.

## DAIRY COWS RELISH SILAGE

Result Given of an Experiment Conducted by Pennsylvania Station—Decrease in Yield.

In an experiment conducted by the Pennsylvania station, according to a report received by the department of agriculture, two lots of five cows each were fed for three periods of four weeks. Lot 1 received silage alone for roughage during period 1 and 3 and mixed hay and silage during period 2, and lot 2 received hay and silage during periods 1 and 3 and silage during period 2.

The milk yield decreased with both systems of roughage, but the decrease was less with silage and hay. When silage and hay for roughage followed silage alone there was a slight increase in milk yield over the initial production. Except in one instance there was a decrease each period. When



High Producing Type.

the cows received hay they consumed practically the same amount of silage as when no hay was included in the ration. Both lots consumed an excess of protein and net energy above that necessary for maintenance and milk production when based on Eckles' standard. There were no apparent undesirable physical effects from the feeding of silage alone for roughage with the grains used. There was very little difference in the cost of the two rations or in the feed cost of milk and milk fat. No perceptible difference was observed in the health of the two lots.

## MILK FEVER IS BOTHERSOME

Danger Among Cows Appears Greatest in Late Summer—Keep Animal in Barn and Feed Hay.

Milk fever is a rather serious trouble with good cows, as it is said that none but well-bred, heavy-producing cows have it. It seems to be more prevalent among grass-fed cows.

The danger of milk fever among cows seems to be greatest in late summer or early fall, notably June, July, August and September. The recommendation is to put the cow in the barn and feed dry hay about a week before she comes fresh. Three or four days before calving the cow is given a dose of salts with a little ginger. Another dose is also given five or six hours after the calf is born. A bucket of warm water should be given the cow two or three times a day. She should not be allowed to have cold water for some time.

## FEED ROUGHAGE TO DRY COWS

Profitable, However, to Feed Sufficient Grain to Have Them in Good Physical Condition.

Dry cows can be maintained on hay and silage or roots. It is profitable however, to feed cows a sufficient amount of grain during the dry period to have them in good physical condition at calving time.

Cows should be dry for six to eight weeks prior to calving. It does not pay to have them dry for a longer period.