

NEWS and GOSSIP of WASHINGTON



Representatives Frequently Derelict in Duty

WASHINGTON.—"Papa, the man down there said they were in committee of the whole, but that isn't all of them, is it?" "No, son. There are only forty-nine present, and there are 435 members." "Then why do they call it committee of the whole house?"

Right here papa, not being a parliamentarian, was stumped and had to admit it to the boy. Others in the house of representatives gallery wondered with the boy, who unconsciously had displayed a bit of delicious irony at the expense of the nation's lawmakers. No house session in the last month has seen more than one-fourth of the total membership present, and "committee of the whole" is rather more of a joke than anything else.

In a short time the house of representatives has passed on at least three tremendously important pieces of legislation:

- The five-billion-dollar urgent deficiencies appropriation.
- The \$170,000,000 war risk insurance bill.
- The \$11,538,000,000 bond and certificate measure.

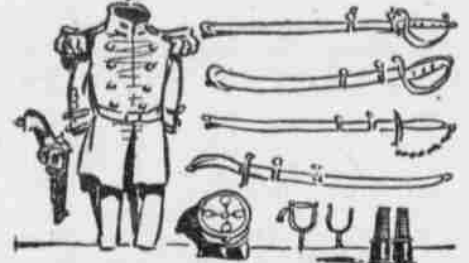
At no time during discussion of the last-named bill were there more than 75 members on the floor of the house. Rarely during the insurance discussion did more than 60 show themselves.

Washington, accustomed to anything in the way of congressional behavior, or misbehavior, has hardly raised an eyebrow at this queer, not to say naive, way of handling important national business. But the casual visitors with nothing better to do than to visit the house have frequently remarked on the situation.

A faithful handful of representatives have been fairly regular in attendance, but by far the great majority have not shown themselves at the capitol in weeks. "Illness in the family" and "necessary business" must be responsible, as alleged, for absences, because it is an off-year for elections.

Notable Gift to United States National Museum

THE United States National museum at Washington has recently received and put on exhibition a notable collection of swords, uniforms and miscellaneous relics of Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan. These mementos were a gift to the museum from George B. McClellan of Princeton university.



The swords, of which there are nine, are perhaps the most interesting feature of the collection. The most striking of these is a gold-mounted sword set with pearls presented to McClellan by a number of citizens of Boston in 1863, in recognition of his services during the Civil war. The scabbard is inscribed, "To Major General George B. McClellan, from many citizens of Boston, Feb. 5, 1863."

Pre rege saepe, pro patria semper." Two swords in the collection were carried by McClellan in the Civil war, a dress sword and a service sword.

The other swords in the collection commemorate his Mexican war service, one dress sword having been presented to him "by a number of gentlemen as a testimonial of their high admiration for his gallantry during the war with Mexico. First, at the siege of Vera Cruz; second, the battle of Cerro Gordo; third, battle of Contreras; fourth, battle of Churubusco; fifth, Chapultepec; sixth, capture of the City of Mexico."

Another of the swords carried in the Mexican war is a service saber with a small piece of the hilt broken away. The donor of the collection writes: "A piece of the hilt of this sword was carried away by a bullet which slightly wounded General McClellan in the hand."

Among the other relics of this great American general are several uniforms, spurs, field glasses, revolvers, powder flasks, and a number of more personal relics.

Many Clerks Needed to Handle President's Mail

PRESIDENT WILSON'S mail bag is the largest in the world. Thousands of letters arrive daily, and every one of any importance must have the individual attention of America's first citizen. Of course, the president is not able to read all his correspondence himself. This difficulty is overcome by a carefully developed system by which the contents of the White House mail bag of any importance are laid before Mr. Wilson each day.



The work of selection falls upon a corps of confidential clerks, who open the letters and give them a first reading. Then they are carefully sorted. Many of them are simply recommendations for office. These, after courteous acknowledgment, are referred to the proper departments and placed on file until the matter can be taken up for consideration. Hundreds of the missives are purely formal, or contain impossible requests. These are immediately answered by the staff and signed by one of the president's assistant secretaries.

Such communications as the president ought to see are clearly briefed—that is, a slip is pinned at the top of each letter, and on this is a typewritten synopsis of its contents, telling who the writer is and what he has to present. Frequently the president is sufficiently interested by the brief to cause him to read the whole letter. Sometimes the communication is referred to a cabinet officer, in which case the slip is retained at the White House and filed.

Washington Watches Daring Military Aviators

DARING Italian military aviators, in two battle planes of lightning speed, and a giant bombing plane carrying ten passengers, gave official Washington a marvelous example of what the American aviation corps must do to strike Germany through the air. All three airplanes flew without accident from Langley field, near Newport News, Va., to Washington in less than two hours. The distance was approximately 120 miles, and the average height maintained was 7,000 feet.

In the great Caproni bombing machine, which has a wing spread of 85 feet and 525 horse-power engines, there were several government officials, who enjoyed the trip immensely, suffering no inconvenience whatever. After arriving here two of the airplanes thrilled thousands of spectators with feats of unflinching admiration.

The exhibition ended with the flight of the great Caproni machine over the city, carrying a party of persons, and the "bombing" of the White House by one of the smaller machines with bouquets of flowers, dropped from a great height.

Officers of the army and navy who witnessed the landing of the three machines and the wonderful aerial feats which they later indulged in, did not hesitate to say that the United States has yet a long way to go before it can equal the aviation corps of Europe.

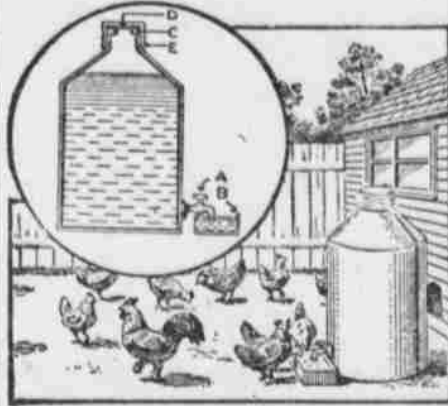
Many members of the house and senate were present, and they were visibly impressed with the efficiency of the Italian machines and the skill of their pilots.

FARM POULTRY

AUTOMATIC-TANK FOR FOWLS

Device Shown in Illustration Invented for Purpose of Furnishing Clean, Pure Water.

Many types of automatic tanks have been invented to provide fresh clear water for the fowls all during the day. Several of these must be tipped upside down in the process of filling. The accompanying sketch presents a type of tank in which the water may be poured in through the top. The tank can be made of galvanized iron.



Automatic Water Tank.

A small faucet, A, is placed near the bottom so that it will open beneath the surface of the water in the dish, B. The cover must fit tightly to make an airtight joint when it is screwed down. To do this a broad shoulder is left at C so that the gasket rubber D will have a firm foundation.

The following procedure is necessary in filling the tank: Close the faucet, A, remove the screw cap, E, and pour the water in at the top. The lid is then replaced and the stop-cock, A, opened. The water will run out until the level in the dish, B, comes just above the opening of the faucet.—Popular Science Monthly.

HEAD AND THROAT TROUBLES

Colds and Catarrh Are Most Common Among Poultry—Breed Constantly for Health and Vigor.

(Poultry Division, University Farm, Davis, Cal.)

The most common head and throat troubles of fowls are colds, and catarrh. The symptoms of colds are running, dirty and stopped up nostrils. The symptoms of catarrh are difficult and rapid breathing, with mouth open, and whistling or bubbling in throat due to phlegm. These troubles are most common in fall and early winter, and are easily overcome.

Simple colds and catarrh can be prevented by removing the above causes and breeding constantly for health and vigor. To treat, search out and isolate in separate quarters all infected fowls and give stimulating food seasoned with cayenne pepper, or the following tonic: Pulverized gentian, one pound; pulverized ginger, one-quarter pound; pulverized saltpeter, one-quarter pound; pulverized iron sulphate, one-quarter pound. Use two to three tablespoonfuls of the tonic to ten quarts of dry mash.

KEEP POULTRY HOUSE CLEAN

Quarters of Adult Fowls Should Be Thoroughly Renovated and Sprayed Twice Annually.

The quarters of adult birds should be thoroughly cleaned, sprayed and renovated twice annually. Many poultrymen find it advantageous to spray their houses bimonthly, thus insuring greater cleanliness. Any of the coal tar products make excellent disinfectants. They can be purchased at hardware stores in convenient packages. Give the birds clean, comfortable quarters and good results will follow.

RETAIN LATE MOLTING HENS

Contrary to Opinion of Few Years Ago, They Are Best Layers—Fatten Early Molters.

The late molting hens are often better layers than the early molting hens. Fatten the early molters and put them on the market. Keep the late molters. The hen that molts in October and November, as a rule, is a better layer than the one that molts in July and August. This is contrary to the opinion of some years ago.

TO ERADICATE SMALL MITES

Paint or Spray With Whitewash, Making Generous Addition of Some Effective Poison.

If small mites get the start of you burn every particle of loose litter, then paint or spray with whitewash with a generous addition of some such poison as creolin, crude carbolic acid or some proprietary preparation, giving especial soakings to all cracks.

Fattening Rations. Fattening rations are not complicated or need not be to bring fair results.

UTILIZE ALL WASTES

Not Advisable to Make Hog Meat Out of Raw Materials.

Grain May Be Saved for Direct Use as Food for Man and for Topping Off Beef—Dairy By-Products Are Valuable.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

It is a good plan to insist that so far as possible hog meat shall be produced mainly with food wastes as the raw materials. Grain may thus be saved for direct use as food for man and for feeding or topping off beef cattle which cannot be raised on waste.

Wastes on farms and in the towns make good hog feed; by-products from canneries, bakeries, fisheries, packing plants and the like can be utilized as hog feed and to better economic advantage than in any other way. Dairy wastes are particularly valuable as hog feed and promote rapid growth with a good money return for every gallon fed.

The farm orchard furnishes large quantities of windfallen or defective fruit, which is relished by hogs, and is beneficial if fed in small quantities frequently, and not all at one feed. Garden wastes, tops of vegetables, culls of all sorts, even weeds are readily eaten, and such as may not be eaten will be worked over, going into the bedding and adding to the manure.

Kitchen wastes are an excellent source of food for hogs, but should be kept at a minimum, because practically all food prepared for man's use should be eaten by him.

POTATOES LIKE HEN MANURE

Droppings Collected From Poultry Houses Applied to Small Patch Gave Large Returns.

Our experience with hen manure on potatoes last summer may be of interest to some, says F. W. Briggs, in Farm Poultry. We took our potato patch, just one-third of an acre, and covered it broadcast with a moderate coating of hen manure that had been collected from the dropping boards. This was all the dressing the piece had. We planted our potatoes, and the following week hoed them once with a horse hoe. This is all the time or labor that was expended on the crop, except the labor of digging and picking. The crop from this one-third acre was just 150 bushels of extra large smooth potatoes, and ten bushels of small ones. The potatoes were of such excellent quality that they brought five cents per bushel more from the Boston buyer than any other potatoes in this locality. The piece used was of easy access from the free range occupied by the pullets during the summer. These pullets assisted materially in the crop, as they kept the piece well "cultivated" by their scratching, and kept away or ate up all the potato bugs; we did not use an ounce of paris green or bordeaux mixture.

HORSE POWER TO PULL POSTS

Team and Wagon, Log Chain and Stout Plank Are Among Things Needed for the Purpose.

Digging up old fence posts is a hard job. The accompanying drawing shows the easiest and quickest way of pulling posts that have been seen. A team and wagon, a ten-foot log chain and a stout plank with a notch in the upper end or a forked stick about four feet long are the things needed. Drive the team and wagon up parallel to the fence and about a foot away from it, and five feet ahead of the post to be pulled. Loop one end of the chain around the middle of the

Queen Cells and Work Cells.

DRAINAGE SUGGESTIONS

1. Have your dead furrow extend in the line of greatest slope on the flatter lands.
2. Plow in narrow lands not over four rods wide so that there will be a dead furrow or a back furrow every two rods.
3. Plow twice in the dead furrow where it crosses a ridge. In long level furrows, plow twice near the outlet to create a fall toward the surface-run.

NEW CROP OF SWEET CLOVER

No Fear of Difficulty in Eradicating as Farmers Have Trouble in Cutting Second Crop.

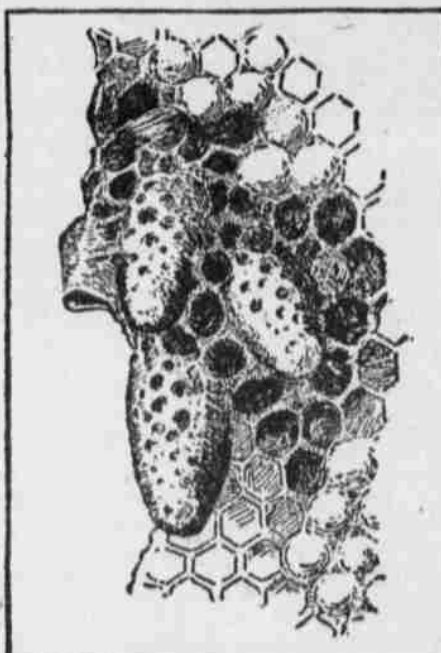
Some farmers hesitate to plant sweet clover on their farms for fear they will have difficulty in eradicating it when the fields are planted to other crops. The results obtained annually by hundreds of farmers are sufficient proof that there is no foundation for such fear; in fact, farmers are experiencing much difficulty in cutting the first crop the second season so high that the plants will not be killed. The new crop of sweet clover, unlike that of red clover and alfalfa, must come from the buds left on the stubble, so when the plants are cut below these buds they will be killed. As sweet clover is a biennial, the plants die as soon as the seed crop is produced.

When the first year's growth of sweet clover is to be turned under for green manure it is recommended that the field be plowed after the plants have made some growth the following spring rather than in the fall of the year of seeding. When the first year's growth is plowed under the same fall many of the plants will not be entirely covered, and these will make a vigorous growth the following spring. When the plowing is delayed until the plants have made some growth the following spring no trouble will be experienced in eradicating them.

IMPORTANCE OF QUEEN BEE

Her Duty is Simply to Lay Eggs to Keep Up Supply of Honey Gatherers in Colony.

The queen is the only perfect female in the hive and usually there is only one to a colony. Her duty is simply to lay eggs to keep up the supply of bees in the hive. It is possible for a queen to lay several thousand eggs in a day, depositing them singly in the bottom of brood cells. If these egg-



Queen Cells and Work Cells.

are not fertilized they develop into drones; when fertilized they develop into worker bees or queens according to the treatment they receive. Nearly all of the fertilized eggs are left in the ordinary-sized cells known as worker cells and produce worker bees. For a few of these larger cells, as shown in the illustration, are built a series of protecting walls. Together with this, a special food is given to the larva when it hatches, and in the course of 21 days a queen bee comes forth.

PROFIT FROM SOME FEATURE

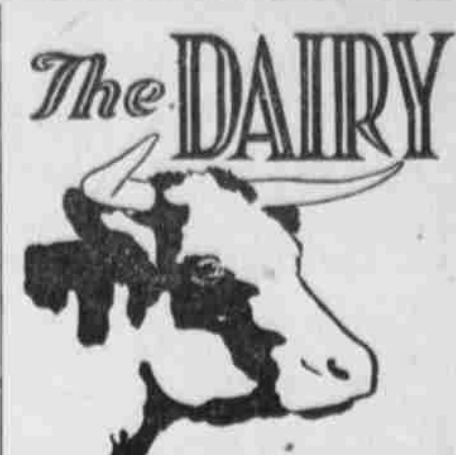
Money Can Be Made in Various Side Lines, Such as Bush Fruits or Special Garden Crop.

It is not a bad plan to consider very seriously whether it is not possible to add some feature as a small side line to the farm activities for increased profit. It may be small bush fruits or a special garden crop, some class of live stock or field crop. The returns might be small, but being clear may mean enough to purchase that new convenience you have been wanting. A small side line with the boys' help may even be enough to educate the children.

SAVING SEED FROM GARDENS

Cut Slice From Tomato Blossom and Save Seeds From Each Section—Vegetables Deceiving.

Tomato seed should be saved from the largest and smoothest. Cut a slice from the blossom end and save the seeds from each section. Pumpkins and squash should be selected from the ones containing the fewest seed. These will be found plumper and larger than those containing a greater amount of seed. As these vegetables are deceiving in appearance it is best to wait until after cooking before saving their seeds.



INGREDIENTS OF DRY RATION

Should Not Be Different From Those Fed to Cow at Other Times—Give Some Roughage.

The ingredients of the ration for the dry cow should not be so very different from that fed at other times. In order to cut down on the fat-producing elements, hominy is frequently used in place of corn. Bran and oats are both rich in mineral matter which goes to give bone to the unborn calf.



Traveling Feed Box in Use.

If she has been fed with high protein a change of ration will rest and cool the digestive system.

As calving time draws near, a laxative feed, such as oilseed in small quantities, loosens the bowels and lessens the danger of caked udder or milk fever at time of calving. Along with these concentrates eight to ten pounds of clean hay or corn stover will give sufficient roughage to keep the grain from massing in the stomach, and make digestion easy.

SEPARATING CALF FROM COW

Allow Young Animal to Remain With Dam for Day or So That It May Receive the First Milk.

It is well to allow the calf to remain with the dam for a day or two in order that it may receive the colostrum, or first milk. Colostrum milk has a purgative effect which aids in clearing out the calf's digestive system. If the mother's milk is very rich, it may be necessary to feed milk with a lower percentage of butterfat. It is somewhat easier to teach young calves to drink than it is to teach older ones, but in either case it is necessary for the calf to become hungry by the omission of one or more feeds before it will drink milk from a pail. One method of teaching the calf to drink is to get it to suck the attendant's finger as its mouth comes in contact with the milk in the pail. The finger can be withdrawn gradually, and the calf will usually continue to take in the milk. Patience, rather than force, is a prerequisite on the part of the feeder.

SPRAY MIXTURES FOR COWS

Ohio Experiment Station Recommends Fish Oil, Oil of Tar and Crude Carbolic Acid.

Spray mixtures may add to the comfort of a cow by keeping off numerous flies. Several of these compounds may be mixed at home.

A mixture recommended for this purpose is given in Bulletin 267 of the Ohio experiment station as 100 parts of fish oil, 50 parts of oil of tar, and one part of crude carbolic acid. Another formula is one-half gallon of oil of tar, one-half gallon of cottonseed oil, and one-half pint of crude carbolic acid. Such mixtures sprayed on cattle keep off flies for a time.

COWS NOT MILKED PROPERLY

Not Much Gained by Feeding Unless Farmer Gets All the Milk and Butterfat Feed Makes.

There is not much to be gained by feeding a cow unless you are determined to get all the milk and butterfat the feed makes. You cannot get all the milk and butterfat the feed makes unless you milk the cow right. A large percentage of cows are not milked right, so a large loss of milk and a larger loss of butterfat result. It is as important that cows be well milked as it is that they be well fed.

BUILDING UP A DAIRY HERD

Use of Purebred Bull is Cheapest Way—Too Much Stress Cannot Be Laid to Ancestry.

The use of a purebred bull is the cheapest way of building up a herd. In selecting a bull too much stress cannot be laid to his ancestry. The greater the number of good producers in his pedigree, the better the chances for stamping desirable dairy characteristics upon his offspring.