

## PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE.

The Greatest Thoroughfare in the Capital of the Nation.

The New City Post Office the First Building Really Worthy of a Place on the Imposing Street.

[Special Washington Letter.]

You have all read of Pennsylvania avenue, the great thoroughfare of the national capital. It is the grandest parade ground in the world, and will some day be the greatest avenue on earth for beauty, comfort and pleasure.

To-day Pennsylvania avenue is nothing like the splendid public highway that the people generally imagine it to be. You shall see it through the eyes of one who knows every inch of the ground, by riding over it, driving over it and walking its entire length for many years. You will be disillusionized.

It need scarcely be said that Maj. L'Enfant, the civil engineer who planned the city more than a hundred years ago, performed a piece of work which daily demonstrates his wisdom and sagacity. The capital city of the new republic of the new world was without form and void. The site was selected by Washington, but the civil engineer saw before him nothing but unbroken forests in which aboriginal men and women roamed. There were morasses, ponds, a sluggish creek named the Tiber, a lot of high lands, and a lot of lowlands, all of them in a state of rugged nature.

With only this prospect before him, Maj. L'Enfant planned the city, laid out its streets and avenues, located the public buildings, many of which were erected from 50 to 100 years after his death. He was a wonderful man.

With pencil, pen and paper he first located the great capitol building, in which the congresses should sit and deliberate for the general welfare. With that as a center, he drew his lines and marked out streets and avenues which should be developed as the city might grow. Even at the beginning of our civil war the trees of virgin forests were growing in profusion, with a wil-

to the west and northwest and built up the city in that section. Consequently the population on Capitol hill is comparatively small, and along the line of Pennsylvania avenue, east, there are no public buildings of consequence excepting the congressional library, and there are no residences there to make the avenue attractive.

West of the capitol, where all political business is done and where all hotels of prominence are located, Pennsylvania avenue is really a national disgrace. True, it is the broadest avenue in the world. Its surface is splendidly concreted and its sidewalks are broad. But the buildings are old, neglected, dirty, and a majority of them squat.

On the north side of Pennsylvania avenue, west, which you will remember is the principal part of the avenue, for four blocks from the capitol the houses are inhabited by Chinese, wicked men and women of the white and black race; and the ground floors are generally occupied by saloons and low dives. There is more vice within a stone's throw of the capitol on this end of Pennsylvania avenue than can be found in a similar distance on any public street in any other capital city of the civilized world.

Fifteen years ago Congressman Springer, of Illinois, introduced a bill providing for the purchase of the entire north front of the avenue, and he made strenuous efforts to induce the congress to buy that property and devote it to public buildings which would be a credit to the nation. But all of his efforts were wasted, because very few men in congress had the artistic sense to appreciate the necessity for such action. Since then, although the land is still possessed by the wicked, the property has more than doubled in value; and it would cost an almost fabulous sum to buy it for the government to-day.

On the south side of this historic thoroughfare, extending three blocks west of the capitol, the botanical gardens are located. It would be well for the government to always maintain them there. But from Third street to Fifteenth street west, where the avenue reaches the treasury, the south side belongs to vice, crime and degradation.

But there is an innovation at last. The south side of Pennsylvania avenue has one adornment. At the corner of Eleventh street, where for many years

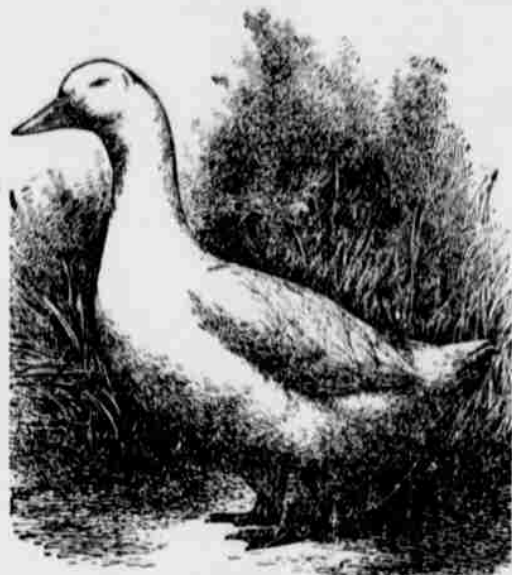
## AGRICULTURAL HINTS

### WHITE PEKING DUCKS.

The Standard Breed for Farm and Practical Purposes.

Of all ducks for farm and practical purposes none stands higher in popular esteem than the White Peking. It is valuable for raising on a large scale, and is the most easily raised of any. It is a very timid bird and must be handled quite carefully.

The Peking duck has a distinct type of its own, and differs from all others in the shape and carriage of its body. By some it is credited with having a shape much like an Indian canoe, owing to the full growth of feathers under the rump and the singular turned-up carriage of the tail. The legs are set far back, which causes the bird to walk in an upright position. In size these ducks are very large, some reaching as high as 20 pounds to the pair. Their flesh is very delicate and free from grossness, and they are considered among the best of table fowls.



WHITE PEKING DUCK.

They are excellent layers, averaging from 100 to 130 eggs each in a season. They are nonsetters, hardy, easily raised, and the earliest in maturing of any ducks. Other ducks are judged for practical qualities by the Peking.

The standard-bred Peking has a long, finely-formed head, a bill of medium size, of a deep yellow color, that is perfectly free from any mark or color other than yellow. The color of the bill is very important for exhibition birds, and it is not infrequent that one of the best ducks in a show is disqualified for having a faint tracing of black in the bill. The eyes are of deep leaden-blue color. The neck of a Peking should be neatly curved; in the drake it should be large and rather long, while that of the duck is of medium length. The back is long and broad; breast is round, full, and very prominent. The body is long and deep, and the standard gives for adult birds a body approaching the outlines of a parallelogram. The wings are short, carried closely and smoothly against the body. The birds cannot sustain flight, a two-foot fencing being ample to restrain them in an inclosure. The tail is erect, more so than in any other specimen. The curled feathers in the tail of the drake are hard and stiff. The thighs are short and large; shanks short and strong, and in color are a reddish orange; toes straight, connected by a web, and reddish orange in color. The plumage is downy, and of a faint creamy white throughout. Recently it has been noticed that preference in the showroom is being given to birds of whiter plumage. The breeders are selecting as their show birds those that have the snow-white plumage instead of the creamy white, as given in the standard.

The standard weight of the adult drake is 8 pounds; adult duck, 7 pounds; young drake, 7 pounds, and young duck, 6 pounds.—Bulletin United States Department of Agriculture.

### AMONG THE POULTRY.

Whatever else you do, don't overcrowd. Dirty eggs should never be sent to market.

Salted eggs are not fresh eggs and cannot be.

The Plymouth Rock holds its own in popular favor.

White turkeys are gentler and more docile than the bronze.

In charring corn for poultry the older and dryer the corn the better.

The hen and her product amounts to \$200,000,000 a year in this country.

The guinea, in consequence of its roving habits, is a great bug destroyer. It is claimed that a flock of 20 will keep in pretty good control the insects on a 100-acre farm.

Soak scabby legs in warm water for five minutes, then break the scales with a stiff brush and apply an ointment made of lard, ten parts; sulphur, three parts, and crystallized carbolic acid, one part.—Western Plowman.

### Ducks on the Farm.

Ducks may be kept in larger numbers without danger of loss by disease than any other kind of poultry, perhaps, but they are not the most desirable to have around unless a business is made of duck raising, as it is now carried on by a few in this country. There are two or three duck farms in the east conducted on a large scale, where thousands are kept and disposed of yearly. Carried on to this extent, the business is said to be very profitable.

### FATTENING SHEEP.

Dry, Comfortable Quarters Certainly Is the First Requisite.

To make sheep most profitable on the ordinary farm none should be kept but what can be sheltered comfortably and fed so as to keep them in thrifty condition. All above this number should be fattened and marketed in good season. The flock kept for profit should consist largely of young, thrifty ewes that can be depended upon to bring a good lamb, as well as to grow a good fleece of wool. In preparing for market it will pay to take considerable pains to fatten well, as the increase in price with the heavier weight will return a good profit for the feed and labor.

The time required to fatten sheep depends considerably upon their age and condition at the time of commencing to feed. Old ewes that have passed their prime require a longer period of feeding than young, vigorous sheep that are in thrifty condition.

In fattening old sheep it is nearly always best to feed ground grain, as usually they have poor teeth.

Clover hay that has been cut in good season, properly cured and stored away is the best forage. Next to this is millet, but good cornfodder and unthreshed oats can be used to good advantage in making up a variety.

Three parts corn, or cornmeal, and one part wheat bran, to which a little oil meal has been added, makes one of the best rations that can be given to fattening sheep. Corn or cornmeal should be made the principal ration, yet something of a variety should be given in order to maintain a good appetite.

Gradually increase the ration until they are given all that they will eat up clean, taking care at all times not to overfeed.

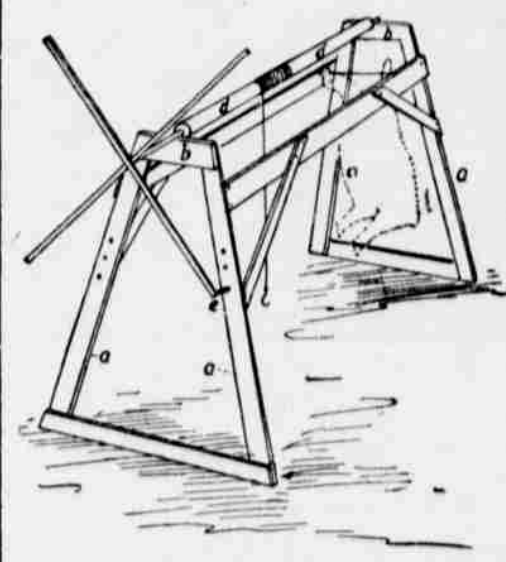
Of all stock usually kept on the farm, sheep are most easily and most seriously injured by overfeeding; often they will require four or five days to overcome the effect of one overfeed. With care in feeding, keeping them on full feed, with a good fattening ration, sheep can be fatted in six weeks.

But to fatten most rapidly they must have dry, comfortable quarters and be kept quiet. They should be fed regularly, have all the water they can drink and have access to salt. Have flat-bottomed, shallow troughs in which to feed grain; these are better than the V-shaped, for the reason that the grain cannot be bunched so easily, and each sheep has a better opportunity of securing a share. Racks or mangers should also be provided in order to avoid waste. With sheep, as with all other stock, it is quite an item to lessen the cost as much as possible. Market as soon as fully ready. It is no advantage to feed after the sheep are ready.—St. Louis Republic.

### HOISTER FOR HOGS.

A Very Easy Method of Hanging Any Sort of Carcass.

In the cut below, the hoister represents a homemade apparatus that has been in use many years and it has been a grand success. The frames a, a, a, are of two by four scantling eight feet in length; b b are two by six inches and two feet long with a round notch in the center of the upper surface for a windlass (d) to turn in; c c are two by four eight feet long or as long as desired, and are bolted to a a. Ten inches be-



EASY METHOD OF HANGING A CARCASS.

low the windlass (d) is a four by four inch piece with arms bolted on the end to turn the windlass and draw up the carcass, which should be turned lengthwise of the hoister until it passes between c c. The gamble should be long enough to catch on each side when turned crosswise, thus relieving the windlass so that a second carcass may be hoisted. The peg (e) is to place in a hole of upright (a) to hold the windlass. Brace the frame in proportion to the load that is to be placed on it. The longer it is made the more hogs can be hung at the same time.—C. F. Brattain, in Farm and Home.

### Grinding Grain for Stock.

A vigorous animal, either horse, steer, sheep or hog, will grind corn cheaper than farmers can have it done for them in many localities. There has been a vast amount of misplaced labor in husking, shelling, grinding and mixing corn with corn stalks, where it first was, as food for beet cattle. Soaking hard corn frequently repays its cost. Young animals usually masticate their food better than older ones. I would go to little cost in grinding corn or oats for calves, colts or lambs. Wheat, unless possibly fed unthreshed to hogs is usually unwisely fed whole.—Prof. G. E. Morrow, in Farm and Home.

### SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR.

He Was Waiting to See What More Trouble Life Contains.

"Yes," said a tall, sallow-faced, melancholy looking man, attired in a thin pair of trousers, a fall overcoat, a pair of dilapidated shoes and a last year's derby hat, "I've never had anything but bad luck. I've worked hard all my life and only made a bare living. My health broke down years ago; most of my friends have died off or moved west. I've got literary and artistic tastes and can't gratify them. Everything I undertake to do is a failure, and I don't seem to be of any use in this world."

"Have you no friends with political influence enough to get some kind of an easy job for you?" inquired a well-dressed and prosperous-looking man.

"I've tried that," said the miserably man, shaking his head. "Every time I get a position a political landslide comes along, and I get thrown out of the snap."

"Why didn't you open an intelligence office or start a real estate agency?" asked a man in a fur cap and heavy ulster. "That sort of business doesn't require much capital."

"I've tried 'em both, my friends. Got burnt out in the first business and a partner ran off with the profits in the other. No use."

"Ever try canvassing?" inquired another sympathetic acquaintance.

"Yes; often. Had a good suit of clothes like yours ruined in that business by a vicious dog. Thrown downstairs once or twice. No use, man—I'm not in it. Last week my pet parrot died, yesterday morning I lost a quarter, and to-day I've got an earache. That's the way it always goes. If it isn't one trouble it's another. There's only one thing that keeps me from committing suicide and ending the whole wretched business."

"What's that?"

"Curiosity to know what blamed misfortune is going to happen to me next."

—Washington Star.

### A PERFECT FLOOR COVERING.

Matting in Both Winter and Summer Answers All Requirements.

If only all housekeepers knew the value and comfort of matting, how much worry and work would be saved, how many dull houses would look cheery. If you own your home and have hardwood floors, thank kindly destiny and dismiss the subject. But if you live in a rented house, or cannot afford hard floors, if, for any reason, you are considering the subject of floor coverings, pause long before passing over the advantages of matting. It is clean, fresh and easily cared for. It is a perfect floor covering in summer and an excellent background for rugs in winter—from the cheapest to the richest—adding to the cheerfulness of a room, yielding all accumulated dust to light brushing, possessing, indeed, almost every advantage that a floor covering can have, with no disadvantages. In making a move or refitting a house every yard of it can be utilized. It is easily renovated (by soap and salt water), and can be matched or pieced, using the whole or parts in two rooms to make one good, complete room. Lastly, it is cheap, its growing popularity having so encouraged its manufacture or importation that it is to be had almost everywhere in great variety at moderate cost. To sum up its merits, matting gives a house a fresh, clean feeling, a sense of cheerfulness that no other floor covering gives. Its soft, new coverings make it available in the most carefully studied color schemes; it is pleasant to walk upon, is a practical protest against dust and microbes, is, in fact, both wholesome and satisfactory.—Philadelphia Times.

### Doing the Right Thing.

Some people are gifted with the power of doing the right thing in the right way and at the right time. They are kind, gentle, sympathetic and responsive. They think of others. They anticipate danger and point it out. They are on the lookout for service and ready to perform it. They make it easier for those about them to be good and to do good. They hesitate not to lend a helping hand at every opportunity. They speak the encouraging word. They straighten out the tangles that perplex and annoy companions. They smooth rough places. They go out of their way to relieve distress or to supply a need. In their presence the day passes pleasantly. Away from them things look drearier and burdens grow heavier. Welcome and blessed are life's helpers.—Detroit Free Press.

### Coffee Cream.

Soak one-half box of gelatine in cold water one hour. Put one-half cupful of ground coffee into one pint of boiling milk and allow it to stand ten minutes. Strain through a thick cloth upon a cupful of sugar, and then add the yolks of three eggs well beaten. Stir the whole until it becomes creamy and then add the gelatine and stir until it is dissolved. Set away in a cool place, and when it begins to harden whip and add a cupful of whipped cream.—Boston Budget.

—Stand and shine! Lift up thy face to the divine airs. Reflect the light. Perchance only this is required of thee. Prove thy willingness to serve, and that thy service is a labor of love, and broader opportunities for the more interior action of the spirit will open out to thee.—Trinities and Sanctities.



NEW CITY POST OFFICE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

derness of undergrowth, within half a mile of the capitol building. It is only since 1872 that the city has grown up and spread out in accordance with the plans of the civil engineer. Even now, with a population of nearly 400,000 people, the capital city is practically in its infancy, although it has fully assumed the forms and outlines intended by the brainy man who thought it all out so many years ago.

Pennsylvania avenue cuts diagonally across the city from Georgetown to the navy yard, a distance of more than three miles. If it were continued in a direct line it would go directly through the center of the capitol. But the grounds around the capitol are very large. They are well cared for, and have been developed by the best landscape gardeners in the world.

The great avenue passes around the capitol and runs along B street, past the new congressional library building, and then resumes its diagonal course eastward to the eastern branch of the Potomac river—a stream which is no longer navigable and over which the government will ultimately build arches and convert it into a sewer, just as Tiber was long since hidden from view. There are many thousands of people here to-day who never saw the Tiber and who never even heard of it.

Westward from the capitol, at Fifteenth street, the avenue deflects from its course and passes around the treasury building and the executive mansion. At Seventeenth street it resumes its diagonal course to Georgetown, crossing Rock creek, a stream which divides Washington city from ancient Georgetown. This stream will also soon be arched over, and will live only in history.

East of the capitol Pennsylvania avenue amounts to almost nothing. It will be many years—say 50 years, at least—before the great thoroughfare will be attractive in that section. It was the intention of the founders of the city to have it built up east of the capitol. But real estate dealers were as avaricious then as they are now. They held up prices so that home builders went

the lowest kind of saloons were maintained and where a vile theater for vile men and vicious women was a prominent feature, a public building has been erected. It is a beautiful piece of architecture and is the only building on the entire avenue which is worthy of a place there.

The congressional mail is annually increasing, and hence the business of the Washington city post office is constantly increasing. Five years ago the congress made an appropriation for a new public building for the city post office. With wisdom unusual for a congressional committee, this site was chosen. The building is now almost completed and will soon be occupied.

Senators, representatives, visitors and residents here are proud of this building. Moreover, it is going to be a landmark for the future. It marks the beginning of an era. Every thinking man and woman, looking at this building, entertains and expresses the thought: "Pennsylvania avenue should be beautified with such buildings all along its line."

This thought will crystallize into action. On the corner of Fourteenth street, three blocks west of this new building, there is a block of vacant ground, upon which the secretary of agriculture is looking longingly. A new building is needed for the department of agriculture. There is a splendid site only one block from the treasury, and only three blocks from the white house. It is just the place for a grand edifice for the new department of the people. We cannot expect the congress to make an appropriation for this purpose at once; for the treasury is poor. But it is now simply a question of a little time when there will be erected a building on Pennsylvania avenue for the department of agriculture; and that will emphasize the necessity for the improvement of the avenue, by the erection of public buildings, in place of the unsightly and crime-stained rookeries which now disgrace the place.

SMITH D. FRY.