

You can not always tell the quality of a man or cigar by the wrapper.

Wherever an unusual crowd is assembled is the place to look out for an unusual accident.

The Japanese soldiers are mostly vegetarians and there goes another one cherished illusion.

To call any university president "Midas of the golden touch" is an unnecessary bit of truth-telling.

A physician says that nearly all politicians are afflicted with a cutaneous disease known as the itching palm.

Mr Henry Irving announces that he will make a farewell tour of America next year. May he live to make many of them.

Why is it that we never find a bank cashier embezzling and going to jail who has not always been a model to young men?

An Ohio man has attracted some attention by asking to have his pension canceled. Pooh! That's nothing. An Iowa man once resigned an office.

A Federal judge has held that the press has a right to criticize a judge. Now doth ye editor proceed to dip his pen in vitriol and say a few things.

A Missouri couple are the proud parents of a 1-pound boy. How provoking it must be to be kept awake nights by a mere 16 ounces of squalling humanity.

The Japs in Tokyo are giving thanks to the gods for the Japanese victories; but from this distance it looks very much as if the men in the field have had something to do with them.

Judge Brady of Kansas City fined a young fellow for kissing his best girl in the front steps of her home. The next time the scoundrel will know enough to step into the vestibule.

A New Jersey judge describes war as "lynch law on a large scale." Gen. Sherman's four-letter definition, however, is likely to retain pre-eminence with those who appreciate brevity as well as emphasis.

There is a "penny in the slot" machine that returns your coin if it fails to produce the desired stick of gum or slab of sweetened chocolate. Yet the pessimists continue to say the world is growing more dishonest.

Much has been written of the immigration of farmers from the United States to Canada, but the official figures of homestead entries do not make it quite so large as has been represented. Of the 32,000 entries made in 1903 11,000 were from this side of the border, more than half of them by families from Minnesota and the Dakotas.

A woman lately received into the poorhouse at Budapest understated her age. Her papers exposed the deception. When rebuked, she declared that she was ashamed to have it known how old she was. The feminine sensitiveness of Henriette Barsod dealt with large figures. She gave her age as 105, whereas the authentic record showed that she was 116.

Waste is universal and is peculiar to no class. The miser wastes as much as the spendthrift and perhaps more, because his hoarding withdraws benefits from others and does himself no good. Those only do not waste who in a sense give something for nothing. Our great philanthropies, our educational institutions, our public benefits of various kinds are the fruits of this higher philosophy of life. It is not the man who knows how to save, who avoids waste, but the man who knows how to spend. There is more joy in the latter and more wisdom is required in its exercise.

The fact that this is a leap year carries with it an effect apt to be overlooked, which is that the annual expenses of governing the nations will be considerably increased by the inclusion of the extra day. This comes home with the greatest force to those governments which have the largest armies to feed and provide for. The French budget commission was met by the fact that one day will add to the expenses of the war office for 1904 a sum of nearly 800,000 francs, which will be expended in rations for the men and forage for the horses. When all the various state departments are separately considered the total sum runs into several millions of francs.

Pessimists who complain of the corruption of politics in the United States should consider Morocco, where kid-

napping is one of the arts practiced by a ward or state boss—to use American terms—in forcing the Sultan to grant his demands. Ratsull, the "brigand," as he is called, who seized Mr. Perclearis and his stepson in Tangier last month and held them for ransom, sought more than money. He was displeased with the attitude of various government officers in his part of the country. He desired that they should be removed and that he should have control of the "patronage" in his State. He knew that the Sultan was not anxious for international complications, therefore he took what seemed to him the shortest way of securing what he was after, by kidnapping an American and an Englishman. He knew, too, that the British and the United States governments would insist that the Sultan secure the release of the captives, and was ready to release them when the Sultan would agree to his terms. It did not take the Sultan long to consent to the removal of the offending officers, and after that the adjustment of the financial end of the controversy was easy. Political brigands in America has not yet resorted to quite such extreme measures.

The cheapest thing in the world is human life. You do not always appreciate that fact, but the logic that stamps the statement as truth—horrible, naked truth—is all about you, and can be found in almost every disaster that crushes, burns or chokes the lives out of human beings. The lesson of the Slocum disaster, as shown by the investigation, is that there was some cowardice and any amount of carelessness of the criminal kind that might cause death at any time. The life preservers were rotten. The captain of the Slocum should have known it. The crew that handled them, the officers who commanded the crew, the owners of the boat, all should have known it. And on the inspectors who failed to inspect rests the heaviest responsibility of all. There had never been a fire drill on the Slocum, within the memory of one member of the crew, who had been on the boat for years. Government navigation rules provide for fire drills, and the captain knew it, and his officers knew it, and the crew knew it. The hose was worthless and the pump couplings did not fit, and all along the line, from owner to government inspector, there is an astounding trail of negligence that makes one shudder. And yet, these men are not bloodthirsty. They have wives and children, and would not have hesitated to take them on board the floating coffin, misnamed a pleasure craft. They did not hesitate to trust their own lives to unsafe equipment. Carelessness seems to be an American characteristic. The sun shines, the sky is blue and there is scarcely a ripple on the surface of the sea. Who cares about the future? Let tomorrow take care of itself. The band is playing and life seems pleasant. There is too much of that sort of fatalism mixed in American living. It may do for the Orient, but in America life should be sacred. It is going to be difficult to punish any one man, or any set of men, for the Slocum disaster. In a few days the busy world will have almost forgotten the horror. But there should be a lesson in the tragedy for humanity, and every man who holds a position even remotely connected with the safety of the public should ask himself, "Am I Doing My Full Duty?" Perhaps some good may come from a terrible disaster.

Truckmen in the cities. With the hook lift the sack of grain on the lower edge of the board, haul it up the smooth surface of the board and when at the end set on the sloping post it may be easily transferred to one's shoulders. In the illustration figure 1 shows how the wedge-shaped pieces must be cut, figure 2 how the post should be beveled, figure 3 the iron hook, and figure 4 the slope of the board.

Handling Fowls in Yards. Where it is necessary to keep the fowls confined to houses and yards during the summer and not much chance to divide the yards, the best way to handle them is to have the yards of four-foot netting, the top covered over as well, and every few weeks move these yards to a new location, where fowls have not been the present year. This is considerable trouble, but it must be done if chicks and fowls are kept on a small area. If it is not possible to let the fowls have a range, then green food must be provided in some way. A good plan is to give them some cut grass or weeds at night just before they go to roost.

A better plan is to rake up the cuttings following the lawn mower, for they can consume these short blades better than grass cut with a scythe. All fowls in confinement ought to be allowed to run for an hour or two each night, even though it is necessary for several people to keep them out of mischief. This run will do them a world of good, and the egg results will pay for the trouble of watching them. Don't forget the necessity for an abundance of fresh water several times daily.

Single Wheel Truck. With this truck one can pick up a barrel or bag of grain, fruit or vegetables and wheel it away, even over a rough path, something almost impossible with the small, double wheeled grocery and freight trucks. A blacksmith will mount a wheel beneath a frame, as shown in the cut, and the frame ought to be within the ability of any one handy with tools. A medium sized single wheel truck will do much work and do it easier than is possible with a small double wheel truck.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Milk Shipped as Ice. The milk supply of Copenhagen, Denmark, is shipped to the city in a frozen condition. It is filtered as it comes from the farmers, then pasteurized to 185 degrees, then cooled, and frozen by the brine process. It is shipped to the city by train in insulated chambers. On arrival it is stored in cases, houses, and thawed out as needed. It is declared, the taste, flavor and other qualities are unimpaired, and that the milk so treated can be kept sweet and fresh for any reasonable time.

Electric Hewing to the Line. In France they are cutting down trees by electricity.

Sometimes this happens: A man who has been sensible all his life lets a fool make a fool out of him.

FARMS AND FARMERS



Handling Bags of Grain.

In grain-growing sections more or less grain in bags has to be handled by man-power, and this becomes considerable of a burden after a time. A device for assisting in this work may be easily constructed by any handy man. Set a heavy post in the ground so that it will stand about two and one-half feet above the surface; then take a heavy board, the wider the better, and about ten feet long. Cut two pieces of board wedge-shaped and fasten to the lower edge of the board. Cut these pieces so that when they rest on the ground with the other end of the board resting on the beveled top of the post the whole thing is firm.

They have a hook formed with a short handle, such a hook as is used



FOR HANDLING BAGS OF GRAIN.

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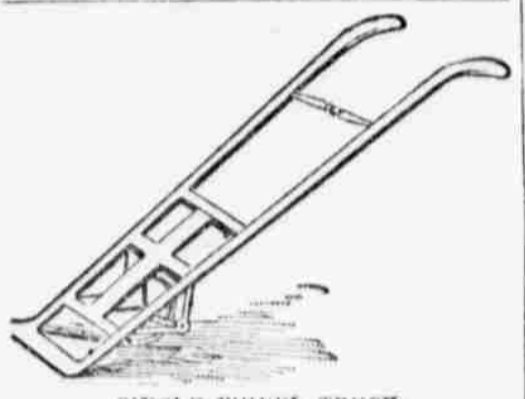
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Strawberry Planting.

Most fruit growers are familiar with the pot-grown strawberry plants offered by nurserymen for setting in the summer, says the Indianapolis News. As a rule such plants are too expensive to set in any considerable number, but this is an ideal way to obtain plants of new sorts for testing; though much more costly than the layer plants one will get from them a crop, next summer, of sufficient size to determine the desirability of the variety. Then, too, it is possible to increase one's own plantation by taking from the old beds the new plants and setting them out in the new beds any time this month. To do this with the best results, cut the runner which connects the new plant with the parent, then a week later, just after a rain, dig up the young plant with a liberal amount of soil attached to the roots and set it with the soil on the roots in the new bed.

With care not a plant will be lost in the transplanting and these plants will give one crop of berries next summer nearly equal to those from year-old set plants. The precaution to take is to have the lump of soil adhere to the roots so that the growth of the young plant will not be materially disturbed by the transplanting. Where but a few hundred plants are to be reset one can easily supply the water to the soil necessary to make the soil stick to the roots.

The New Year Book.

The annual report of the Secretary of Agriculture occupies one hundred pages of the new Year Book, after which the bulk of the book consists of thirty-two special articles; all but two of these have been prepared by officials of the department. The subjects dealt with include the relation of cold storage to commercial apple culture, the preparation of land for irrigation, the adulteration of drugs, promising new fruits, the relation of forests to stream flow, and the effect of preservatives in food on health and digestion. Free copies may be had on application to members of Congress.

The White Wyandotte.

The White Wyandotte is a typical all-around, useful fowl, that combines beauty and money-making qualities in a high degree.



WYANDOTTE.

Pure white throughout, with rose comb, unfearful shanks, and full meaty breast—all in all, the ideal fowl for farmer or fancier. The females are good winter layers of large, brown-shelled eggs, and the young fowls grow rapidly and reach marketable size at an early age. They deserve all the praise that has been bestowed upon them, and are destined to become popular with those who raise poultry for profit.

Shade for the Swine.

Shade for swine is quite as necessary as for other animals, and when one has a tree or two in the pasture the question of shade is readily settled. If there are no trees plant three or four, and while they are growing use portable houses for shade, making them with a sill set on runners and with a ring set in the front sill so that a horse may be attached and the house moved when necessary. These houses may be made of any cheap material and the roof arranged so that a portion of it may consist of tree limbs laid over the boards set far apart. The cost need not be great and the results will pay for the time and labor spent.

General Farm Notes.

Long and hard pulling makes wind broken horses. If a sow breeds well and is a good mother, keep her until she is old. Early and thorough training makes gentle, safe and tractable horses. Clean off the ground occupied by peas, early corn or potatoes and sow turnips. Always breed from a thoroughbred boar of good constitution and vigor. His vigor should be in excess of that of the sow. With poultry, as with nearly all other products from the farm, a safe rule is to market the surplus whenever a fair profit can be realized when making the sale.

Among thoroughbred poultry there is little difference so far as their economical points are concerned, but on a farm a solid, strong and coarse breed is best. Those who make the most in keeping poultry are those who have small farms and utilize every rod of them for the production of food or pasture for their stock.

OUR BUDGET OF FUN.

HUMOROUS SAYINGS AND DOINGS HERE AND THERE.

Jokes and Jokelets that Are Supposed to Have Been Recently Born—Sayings and Doings that Are Old, Curious and Laughable—The Week's Humor.

Biggs—Did you ever notice what a healthy-looking man Dr. Pellet is? Diggs—Yes; he looks so different from his patients. I wonder who his physician is?

Force of Habit. "I appreciate the fact that you have honored me with a proposal," said the dear girl, "but are you sure your love for me is the real thing?" "Perhaps not," frankly replied the young drug clerk, "but it is less expensive and just as good."

Equal to the Emergency.



Mr. Lovelorn—Oh, Miss Matilda, me heart is on fire for thee—it is burning!



Miss Matilda—Sakes alive! That ought to put it out and cool ye, too!

His Explanation. "But why," I asked the good wife, "are you so anxious to secure the top flat in that ten-story apartment house?" "Because," explained the household freight payer, "the elevator would be a great help to us in bringing up the children."

Such Dear Friends, Too. Clara—I'll tell you a secret, dear, if you'll promise never to repeat it. Maude—All right. Out with it. Clara—Fred proposed to me last night. Maude—Oh, say, doesn't he do it awkwardly, though?

Feminine Charity. Mrs. De Payne—When I married my husband his eyesight was very poor. Mrs. Dimples—Yes, it must have been.

It Looked that Way. Mrs. Henpeck—I don't think she'll ever marry him. Mr. Henpeck—Why not? Mrs. Henpeck—Oh, she quarrels with him so and is so domineering. Mr. Henpeck—Indeed? I'll bet they have been secretly married already.—Philadelphia Press.

Billville Literary Note. A Billville literary note reads as follows: "While one of our leading authors was peacefully plowing in the field some miscreant stole his shirt, his shoes and six poems. Verily the way of the literary man is not as smooth as a railroad."—Atlanta Constitution.

What Papa Said. Willie—Why! grandma, are you going home? Papa just said yesterday that he thought you were going to stay forever.

Not Up-to-Date. "He has a promising future. He's a very eloquent young preacher." "Oh, he's too old-fashioned. He will insist upon taking his texts from the Bible."—Philadelphia Press.



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Advice. "Anybody kin give advice," said Uncle Eben, "but it takes a right smart man to pick out de right kind an' take it."—Washington Star.