

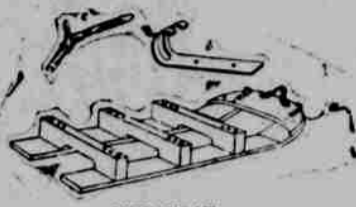
REAL RURAL READING

WILL BE FOUND IN THIS DEPARTMENT.

A Sled for Muddy Roads—No Pleuro-Pneumonia in This Country—Lack of Cultivation—Having the Corn Fodder—Poultry Notes—Hints for the Housewife, Etc.

A Sled for Muddy Roads.

A mud boat is a sled with broad runners. It has many advantages over the narrow runner sled, when there is but a small amount of snow, or after a thaw.



MUD BOAT.

long, the other part, about two feet long with a rise of eight inches. The bunks are pinned or bolted. The nose piece is about eight inches wide and securely bolted.

Eradication of Pleuro-Pneumonia.

The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture has issued a proclamation regarding this cattle disease, and for the removal of quarantine that has existed in the counties of Kings and Queens, State of New York, and Essex and Hudson, State of New Jersey, for the suppression of that disease among cattle.

Cucumber in a Bottle.

A full-grown cucumber in a small-necked bottle is a curiosity easily obtained; you simply select a healthy-looking small cucumber, place it in the bottle which is laid by the side of the growing vine, and when grown so as to nearly fill the bottle cut the stem.



Care of Squashes.

It requires some skill to handle squashes and keep them for use through the winter. In the first place they should be allowed to fully mature upon the vines and then should be gathered before becoming chilled.

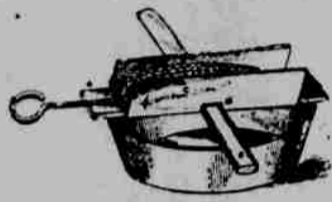
Poultry for Market.

Judging from the appearance of considerable poultry offered for sale in the city markets, a great many farmers do not know any too much about the proper way of preparing the carcasses for shipment.

fowls, where the feathers are to be preserved, a piece of muslin or bagging should be firmly tied around the body so that the feathers do not become spoiled. Have the water for scalding boiling hot, and then, taking the bird by the head and legs, dip several times in the water, seeing that the hot water goes through to the skin.

A Simple Corn-Slicer.

This is the best and simplest corn-slicer I have ever used, says the correspondent of the Practical Farmer, and it will at once recommend itself to all who dry corn for home or for market.



upper edge is level with its back resting against the board a, being held in place by wedges inserted in beneath it. A spud, consists of a piece of 1/2 inch iron 1 foot long, sharpened at one end and provided with a handle, completes the slicer.

Lack of Cultivation.

With any of the class of cultivated crops where there is a real neglect of proper cultivation, the effect is felt in the crop harvested. This fact is demonstrated by a little observation, and a few moments' consideration of the case leads to no other conclusion.

To say nothing of the unpleasant appearance produced, the effect upon any crop is very damaging in the diminished crop production. Take the case of corn and potatoes and with the eye as a judge, we believe that a neglect in culture that allows a rank growth of weeds will reduce the yield of both fodder and grain at least one third.

Sheep Shearing.

The way to keep a flock up is to keep on culling. When the purchaser seeks the producer the best prices are obtained.

A FARM may be over-stocked with sheep as with other animals, but it is rarely done now.

A STRAW shed makes a good shelter for sheep, provided care is taken to have it dry under foot.

WHEN making a special effort to improve a 3-year-old ram it will give the best results in breeding.

MORE attention to the sheep and less attention to the tariff might enable many to realize a profit where they now fail.

LAY in a supply of oil meal and bran for winter feeding; they make a good feed to mix with all kinds of roughness.

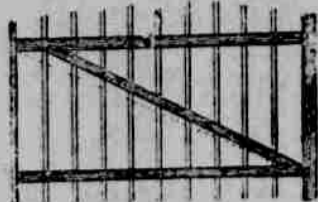
Saving Corn Fodder.

Where corn is cut up at the roots and stacked, the value of the fodder depends upon its subsequent exposure. A certain degree of curing of the fodder is desirable, which depends somewhat upon the weather.

small leaks upon the farm that make farming unprofitable. After the crop has grown and reached the point of cutting, there is no good reason why it should not be all saved and properly applied in use, as well as that of the hay crop.—Exchange.

How to Make a Picket Gate.

Even carpenters and mechanics in making nicely finished gates and doors, nearly always place the diagonal strip from one corner to the other, as shown by the dotted line in the



cut. It will invariably sway down in the mud, besides spoiling its appearance. Place the diagonal piece as shown, mortising it into the upper strip about one foot from the end of the gate. This prevents it from sagging because it acts as a brace.

Let in the Light.

The long nights and many dark days in winter make the surroundings of the average stable quite gloomy. Add to this the scantily lighted stalls which many horses are compelled to stand in, and the average life of these animals will be found to be dark and doleful.

Keep Good Cows.

The moment a man keeps one cow to produce the same amount of butter two cows did before, he makes nearly a clean profit on the keep of one cow. The gross amount of butter is not increased, but the gross profit is. This is a consideration of economy that we have been struggling long to get our readers to adopt.

Hints to Housekeepers.

PRESERVE tin foil to cover the corks used in bottling catchup and Chili sauce.

It is stated that cheese will not mold if wrapped in a cloth wet with cider vinegar.

FLINT glass ground to a powder and mixed with the white of an egg makes a strong cement.

CORK that has been boiled may be pressed more tightly into a bottle than when it is cold.

A GOOD way to clean stovepipes is to rub them well with lincseed oil while they are warm.

If the stovepipes are found to have rusted during vacation, rub them thoroughly with lard.

TO REMOVE ink stains from linen, soak the soiled parts in hot tallow, then wash and boil as usual.

TO KEEP black ants away, sprinkle black pepper in their haunts, or draw a chalk mark across their runways.

Miscellaneous Recipes.

COCONUT CUSTARD.—To a pint and a half of boiling milk add a small cupful of desiccated coconut. Boil ten minutes, and when cool add three well beaten eggs and three table-spoonfuls of sugar.

POTATO BALLS.—Beat three eggs and one cup of lard in two cups of well washed potato, a little salt and one cup of yeast. This is the sponge; let it rise and then make up with flour to a dough stiff enough to roll out. Let rise again, then make out in the baking pan; let rise again and bake in a quick oven.

APPLE FRITTERS.—A cupful of milk, one beaten egg, two teaspoonfuls baking power, a pinch of salt, and thicken with flour enough to prevent its sticking to the spoon. Slice two or three sour apples very thin and mix them in the batter. Drop into hot lard from the spoon, and fry like doughnuts. They are nice with syrup or cream and sugar.

A BREAKFAST DISH.—Chop fine remnants of any kind of cold roast or steak, season with salt, pepper and a little butter, and make into small cakes. Prepare an egg batter (as for nice griddle cakes). Lay a spoonful of the batter on the hot griddle and on it the chopped meat; cover with batter. When browned on one side, turn as you would a griddle cake and brown the other side. These cakes should be eaten as soon as done.

STEWED HARE OR RABBIT.—This is probably the very best way to cook a rabbit or hare, and good also for any other game. Joint up the rabbit, cutting the back through the middle and crosswise into neat portions. Brown in a little very hot butter in a frying pan; put into the kettle and fry a chopped onion and, if liked, a pint of mixed carrots and parsnip cut in dice. Put all in the pot, with a pint of boiling water; cover closely and simmer until tender. Season highly and thicken the sauce with a little roux.

NEW STORIES OF POE.

The Erratic Poet Had Loose Ideas of Commercial Honor.

To have loaned Edgar Allen Poe 50 cents is a distinction; to have put into type the poet's own correction of one of his poems is an honor. It is questionable, however, that the man who entered into such transaction with the poet back in the forties thought he was particularly favored.

"I knew Poe very well," the Colonel said yesterday. "He was a tall, slender fellow, looking much younger than he really was. His hair made him look like a poet. It was long and he combed it under in the style of the time. His piercing black eyes were another feature of his unusual appearance."

According to Col. Child, Poe sold his "Annabel Lee" twice once in Buffalo and again in Richmond. If this story has ever appeared it has been kept out of books on Poe and his work, for the reason that it casts a shadow over the glamor that envelops the character of the poet.

POE has the reputation of being weather-wise; good weather may be expected when she washes herself, but bad when she licks herself against the grain or sits with her tail to the fire.

"I've got a new thing by Poe here in my pocket. I clipped it from a Buffalo paper and I'll bet it beats that thing you are hiding."

"Read it!" chorused Thompson and Child. Then Heath began:

"It was many and many a year ago In a kingdom by the sea That a maiden there lived—"

"Great Scott!" Thompson exclaimed. "The same thing," murmured Child. "And he's got the money for it," Thompson went on.

"What in the world is the matter?" Heath finally asked. "Matter?" Thompson almost shrieked it. "Why, the matter is that d— fellow has sold a poem to the Messenger that he had already disposed of up north. I'll sue him for damages if it's the last thing I ever do!"—Kansas City Times.

His Precious Burden.

The wind was blowing a gale, the muddy expanse of water was heaving like an angry sea, says the Sioux City Tribune. Spectators on the elevated braced themselves against the breeze and offered up silent prayers for the heroic men risking their lives in the rescue.

Feelings.

One of the most trying phases of selfishness is not recognized under this name at all. What is called sensitiveness, however, is very often nothing but selfishness pure and simple—a morbid, miserable form, too—making the person himself and every one around her uncomfortable.

Henry IV.

On August 25, 1792, the equestrian statue of Henry IV, on the Pont Neuf, Paris, was pulled down to make cannon for the revolutionists. It was replaced in 1818, under the Restoration, the bronze from a colossal statue of Napoleon I. having been used in the casting.

Italy's Naval Strength.

Italy ranks fourth among the naval powers of the world, and in some respects she has no superior.

There are in her fleet twenty-one armored vessels, fifty-one unarmored vessels built and building, in addition to 152 first-class torpedo boats. This is a formidable array, especially as nearly all the ships are new and embrace the latest improvements in naval science.

These vessels carry 1,000 tons of coal and steam but 2,500 miles, which would practically render them useless on this side the Atlantic unless a coaling station was established. Their twenty-seven feet draught would pretty thoroughly keep them out of the American harbors.

Folk-Lore of the Cat.

Puss has the reputation of being weather-wise; good weather may be expected when she washes herself, but bad when she licks herself against the grain or sits with her tail to the fire.

"Whenever the cat of the house is black, The lassies of lovers will have no lack." It is considered unlucky to dream of a cat, a piece of folk-lore prevalent in Germany, where if one dreams of a black cat at Christmas, it is an omen of some alarming illness during the following year.

The Spectators Were Delighted.

At a bullfight held at Fresno, Mexico, last Sunday, the performance was pleasantly varied for the delectation of the spectators by matches of the bull against two Mexican lions. The entertainment proved a draw-card, and fully 2,000 people assembled to witness the sport.

JOHNNY, let Willie have the

JOHNNY, let Willie have the dandy-winks and you keep the stables board. You can't play things at once. "Yes, you can't know a boy who played baseball as well as the same time."

THAT which is often accepted

THAT which is often accepted as best response is often silent conversation.

Cervantes.

The history of "Don Quixote" not wait for the tardy fame of ages; it was universally read and admired as soon as it was published.

The author, however, had not interest enough to obtain even the smallest pension from the court, but friendless and indigent Cervantes was, he retained his admirable humor to the end of his life. Many anecdotes are told which illustrate the power of his wonderful book to amuse people of all classes.

"I was that person," at once Cervantes: "save my companions let me perish alone!" The Deity, struck by his intrepidity spared his life, allowed him to ransom, and permitted him to return home.—Youth's Companion.

Discovering Diamonds by Electricity.

An interesting addition has been made to the Mineral Cabinet of Harvard College in the diamond-bearing meteorite lately discovered in Arizona. It will be remembered that these diamonds were first found by a professor in a cavity of iron which he was subjecting to examination. Finding that his cutting tool was arrested by a hard substance, he investigated further and met with several black diamonds and one white one.

An Anecdote of Rossetti.

Anecdotes of Rossetti are just as "in the air," says the Pall Mall Gazette. He went one day with a friend for a stroll through the poorer quarters of the town, and was greatly attracted by the shops in Seven Dials. Outside one he saw in a cage a curious round ball of spikes.

Well, let me have twenty to-

Well, let me have twenty to row evening." The retail dealer, whose stock consisted of a few linnets, a chaffinch, two, and four or five starlings, looked aghast. Said his friend on the way home: "What on earth did you want with all those hedgehogs?"

"I'll put them in my garden," Rossetti, "and when fellows come see my pictures they'll pass them by the garden. Look at this little ball, the one of them will say: 'Why alive. And here's another; and here a third! Why, the garden is full of them.' And then they'll be in good spirits at the discovery they'll buy my pictures."

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