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Good Roads

Convict Road Builders.
The plan of building better roads by means of convict labor will probably be generally adopted in Canada. In connection therewith a novel proposition is advocated. It is suggested that the convicts be paid remunerative wages, and that this money be used for the support of convicts' wives and families.

We Trow Not.



You whom the wheel is giving
A world of perfect bliss,
Would life be worth the living
Were all the roads like this?

Good Roads in Michigan.

The question of good roads is receiving much attention in southwestern Michigan this season, and in many places more road work is being done than before in many years. In the fruit belt the growers are awakening to the fact that it is much money in their pockets to be able to deliver their products in good condition at the shipping stations, while farmers in general are taking much more interest in the manner in which the road taxes are expended. Heretofore residents have found the improvement of the highways to the lake shore a profitable investment. The original intention was to attract more trade to the village from the neighboring farmers, but it has also resulted in making a favorite route for parties of Chicago wheelmen, who ride up from Benton Harbor and give the village an appearance of life, which has been largely absent since the removal of the county seat.

Good Roads Began in Egypt.

It would be interesting to know how many of those that clamor for good roads know the history of road building. Good roads and the desire for them began with civilization and have kept pace one with the other ever since.

It was recognized long ago that good roads meant the life of a nation, for once there were no means of transportation other than through the medium of good roads.

For one of the good roads of the olden times the world is indebted to Cheops, one of the greatest of Egyptian kings. He, with others of his time, believed that 3,000 years after he died he would return to earth again in the flesh. He therefore began the construction of the Pyramid of Gizeh, which is 450 feet wide and stands intact to-day.

The pyramid was constructed of great blocks of stone, which had to be transported from a distance. To facilitate their transportation Cheops built a road of polished stone from the quarries, on the Nile, to the pyramid.

In the construction of that road 100,000 men were busily engaged for ten years. They dragged the great blocks of stone over the polished road by fastening ropes about the blocks and hauling on them. The road of polished stone was twelve miles long. That was the beginning of the good roads movement, which has continued ever since with more or less ardor, but always advancing.

The Romans were famous road builders, and the Greeks vied with them. They built roads to make easier the transportation of their armies. The system of roads under the power of the Romans, and particularly at the time when Julius Caesar made history, was extended into France and Germany, and the foundations for the good roads for which France is famous to-day were laid by the Romans. The Romans extended a system into England and built roads there the foundations of which remain to the present time.

In the building of roads the Romans do not seem to have gone about it much differently than we do to-day. Their roads were from four to seven feet thick and were made up of rocks of different sizes, the lower layer being blocks of stone fitted together by hand. Smaller stones succeeded and the top layer was of fine stone rolled down to a smooth surface.

With the advent of the locomotive highways were neglected and deteriorated gradually until the appearance of the bicycle. The wheel revived interest in and the necessity for good roads, and imparted an impetus which has, already wrought wonderful changes.

The League of American Wheelmen, of whom credit is due for the improvement on public roads, has been very active in bringing all interested to a realization of the situation.

Matters have progressed so far that within a comparatively short time good

roads will be as common as were poor ones heretofore. The result will be that the total value of property, farming lands in particular, will be increased many millions of dollars.

A STRANGE PEOPLE OF OLD.

Marco Polo Describes One of the People He Met in His Travels.

Badashan is a Province inhabited by people who worship Mahomet, and have a peculiar language. It forms a very great kingdom, and the royalty is hereditary. All those of the royal blood are descended from King Alexander and the daughter of King Darius, who was lord of the vast empire of Persia. And all these kings call themselves in the Saracenic tongue Zulkarnain, which is as much as to say "Alexander," and this out of regard for Alexander the Great.

It is in this province that those fine and valuable gems, the Palas rubies, are found. They are got in certain rocks among the mountains, and in the search for them the people dig great caves underground, just as is done by miners for silver. There is but one special mountain that produces them, and it is called Syghinan. The stones are dug on the King's account, and no one else dares dig in that mountain on pain of forfeiture of life as well as goods; nor may any one carry the stones out of the kingdom. But the King amasses them all, and sends them to other kings when he has a tribute to render, or when he desires to offer a friendly present; and such only as he pleases he causes to be sold. Thus he acts in order to keep the Balas at a high value; for if he were to allow everybody to dig, they would cease to bear any value. Hence it is that he allows so few to be taken out, and is so strict in the matter.

There is also in the same country another mountain, in which azure is found; 'tis the finest in the world, and is got in a vein like silver. There are also other mountains which contain a great amount of silver ore, so that the country is a very rich one; but it is also (it must be said) a very cold one. It produces numbers of excellent horses, remarkable for their speed. They are not shod at all, although constantly used in mountainous country, and on very bad roads. They go at a great pace even down steep descents, where other horses neither would nor could do the like. And Messer Marco was told that not long ago they possessed in that province a breed of horses descended from Alexander's horse Bucephalus, of which had from their birth a particular mark on the forehead. This breed was entirely in the hands of an uncle of the King's; and in consequence of his refusing to let the King have any of them, the latter put him to death. The widow then, in despite, destroyed the whole breed, and it is now extinct.

In the mountains there are vast numbers of sheep—400, 500 or 600 in a single flock and all of them wild; and though many of them are taken, they never seem to get caught the scarcer.

Those mountains are so lofty that 'tis a hard day's work, from morning till evening, to get to the top of them. On getting up, you find an extensive plain, with great abundance of grass and trees, and copious springs of pure water running down through rocks and ravines. In those brooks are found trout and many other fish of dainty kinds; and the air in those regions is so pure, and residence there so healthful, that when the men who dwell in the towns, and in the valleys and plains, find themselves attacked by any kind of fever or other ailment that may hap, they lose no time in going to the hills; and after abiding there two or three days, they quite recover their health through the excellence of that air. And Messer Marco said he had proved this by experience; for when in those parts he had been ill for about a year, but as soon as he was advised to visit that mountain he did so and got well at once.

In this kingdom there are many strait and perilous passes, so difficult to force that the people have no fear of invasion. Their towns and villages also are on lofty hills, and in very strong positions. They are excellent archers, and mirth given to the chase; indeed, most of them are dependent for clothing on the skins of beasts, for stuffs are very dear among them. The great ladies, however, are arrayed in stuffs, and I will tell you the style of their dress. They all wear trousers made of cotton cloth, and into the making of these come will put sixty, eighty or even 100 eils of stuff.—St. Nicholas.

Bad Tempered Bulls.

Every year we hear of so-called accidents where men have been killed by bulls that they supposed were perfectly docile. There is never any dependence on a bull. Even those a year old have been known to suddenly turn and attack those attending them. When the bull is a calf a stout ring should be inserted in his nose that will last him through life. Then with a cord tying the ring to a stout stick the attendant can always have the bull under control so that no matter what his will may be he will be powerless to effect harm.

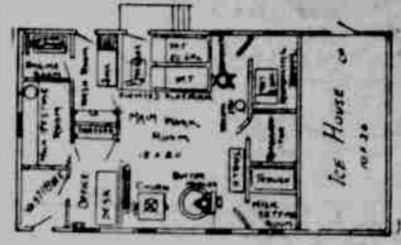
Ceilings which have become blackened by the smoke from lamps or gas may be easily cleaned by washing them with cloths wrung out of water in which some soda has been dissolved.

ALL ABOUT THE FARM

SUBJECTS INTERESTING TO RURAL READERS.

Dairy Department Equipment in an Experiment Station—A Homemade Windmill that Answers All Requirements.

Dairy Department.
In the accompanying engraving the first shows the floor plan of the new creamery, and the second presents a perspective view of the new dairy barn, which have recently been added to the equipment of the Maryland Experiment Station. This addition has been



GROUND PLAN OF CREAMERY.

made in order to keep pace with changing conditions of the agriculture of the State. Many sections that were but a few years ago grain-producing are now becoming dairy centers. In 1888 there were less than six creameries in the State, but now there are eighty in operation. The work at present of the station will be to illustrate the best methods of work with the average conditions as they exist in the State. Illustrations how to go about selecting and rearing a profitable butter herd will be a prominent feature—a herd that will produce 300 pounds or over per cow, instead of the present low State average of 100 pounds per cow. It will also be the aim of the station in its every day work, and by means of accounts, to show how it is possible to carry a cow per acre instead of using four or five



PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF DAIRY BARN.

acres as is usually done. The more technical work will be with feeds and improved methods of handling and care of products. The dairy barn is fitted, up with a number of kinds of stanchions, Newton cow ties, Bidwell stalls and the old-fashioned mangers, and many conveniences for preparing and handling feeds.—American Agriculturist.

Good Advice.

The habit of calling attention to defects about homes, by apologizing for them, is a bad one, and one that no self-respecting woman should follow. The following advice given to a young married woman who was visited by another older and more experienced one may be helpful to some of our readers. When the visitor rose to go the hostess came with her to the door, and out upon the piazza, which, however, looked a little dusty in the corners. "Oh, dear!" said the young wife, "how provoking the servants are! I told Mary to sweep the piazza thoroughly, and now look how dusty it is!" "Grace," said the older woman, looking into the disturbed young face with kindly, humorous eyes, "I am an old housekeeper. Let me give you a bit of advice: Never direct people's attention to defects. Unless you do so they will rarely see them. Now, if I had been in your place and noticed the dirt, I should have said, 'How blue the sky is!' or 'How beautiful the clouds are!' or 'How bracing the air is!' Then I should have looked up at that as I spoke, and should have gotten you down the steps, and out of sight without your seeing the dust!" There is a good lesson here for many of us.

Benefits of Early Fall Plowing.
In all our experience we have never seen any but the best results from early fall plowing, while on the other hand we have often seen the ill effects of late plowing on the next crop. At one time we began the plowing of a field containing eighty acres while still engaged in stacking, the wet weather having interfered with the latter work, says a writer in the "Homestead." Plowing was continued at odd times till late in the fall, and the following year the entire field was planted in corn. During the summer the growing corn told unerringly of the difference in time of plowing, the crop being the best on the early plowed ground and the poorest on the late plowed. With our experience in plowing stubble ground for a crop of corn we would much prefer plowing to that of the late fall, the only thing to be said in favor of the latter being that work is not usually so pressing in the fall as in the spring, but early fall plowing is far better than either, whether for corn or small grain, and if the surface

of the soil does become packed all the better for the crop. It will show its appreciation as soon as it secures a foothold.

Poultry Pointers.

When hens lay thin-shelled eggs they are in need of lime.

The roosts should be low, especially for large, heavy fowls.

Build the house ten by ten feet for ten fowls, and the yard ten times larger.

Ducklings are marketed at five pounds weight, which they attain in ten weeks.

Placing an old cock bird in a run of cockerels will prevent the latter from fighting.

Ten dozen eggs a year is the average estimate given as the production of the hen.

Thirteen eggs are considered a setting, though many breeders are now giving fifteen.

Better for the wife to earn her pin money with poultry than to take in washing or sewing.

In shipping live poultry it is poor economy to ship the best with the poorest. Grade them.

Don't forget to clean out the nests and put in new litter, for the lice are still with us. Better strew a handful of insect powder in the nest to help drive the enemy out.

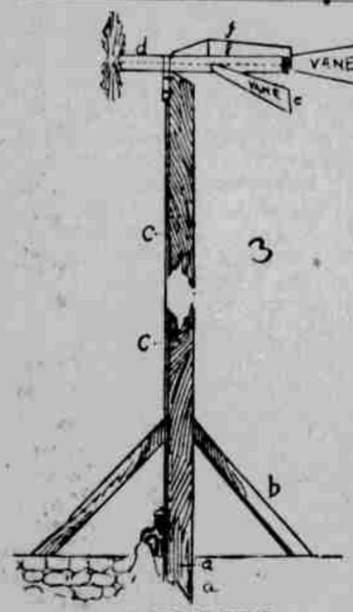
Attention to poultry pays on the farm, and during these times, when country produce is selling at such low prices, there is no product on the farm that brings cash so readily as poultry and eggs.

Winter Rye.

An Eastern farmer writes: To those who have never tried it I would say, sow a field of rye this year. Sow it early, and do not be afraid to pasture it late. It will come up nicely in the spring, affording pasturage long before the grass is big enough to turn into. Keep it fed down as long as possible, but when it begins to joint, keep out the stock if you want it for hay, or to perfect the grain for threshing. In cutting for hay out before it begins to turn yellow at the roots, so that it will be green and nice when cured. If it can be used for hogs let them remain in it all summer and you will find it the easiest way of fattening them you ever tried. Making makes spring pigs grow equal to it, although a little ground feed may be fed to advantage at any time, and milk the same.

A Home-made Windmill.

A windmill such as is arrayed below can be made by an ingenious farmer at a trifling expense. For an upright to place the windmill on, I use 6 by 6 inch elm scantling. Cut a 2-inch strip four feet long from the center and run it down on the cribbing of the well. Two bolts, a. a. were riveted through upright to cribbing. Two braces, b. b. of 2 by 4 inch scantling make the upright secure. To upper end of upright is bolted a piece of old pump piping about two feet long for the sucker rod c c to work through, as well as for the windmill to turn and face the wind. The crosspiece upon which the windmill works, d. con-



A CHEAP PUMP.

tains a hole just large enough to allow it to turn easily on this pipe. The shaft from the windmill to pitman passes close at one side of this pipe. The tail or vane is put on the opposite side of the crosspiece to the fan and balances it. To prevent the main vane from holding the fan too straight to the wind in a storm, I placed a smaller vane, e, at the side. Strong winds press against the smaller vane, turning the fan out enough to prevent breaking. The crosspiece is 6 by 6 inches. At about one-third of the distance from the pipe to pitman is placed a standard, g, for a lever, f, to work on. These parts were made by a blacksmith. My windmill has been in operation over a year, and since placing the smaller vane, e, on the side, I have had no trouble with it; before then, a storm would break the leaves.—R. M. B., in Farm and Home.

Horticultural Hints.

Cut out the raspberry canes that have borne fruit this year.

How have you been most successful in keeping winter apples?

Cuttings of currant or gooseberry plants may be made this month.

If horticulturists want to improve their conditions, and the general condition of the people, they should get in touch with each other.



TALKS ON POLITICS.

The only woman campaign speaker in the East who addresses meetings exclusively of men is Mrs. Edward Montgomery Tillinghast, better known as Elizabeth Sheldon. She is a bright-eyed little woman, who looks as though she might better grace an evening reception than carry on an argument in a political debate. As a matter of fact, she is a most versatile young woman, and can with ready tact adapt herself either to the drawing-room, the political



MRS. EDWARD M. TILLINGHAST.

speakers' platform or the studio. Mrs. Tillinghast has a varied experience for a young woman. In school she was noted for brilliancy in debate and rhetoric, but immediately after leaving the high school in New Haven she began the study of interior decoration. Her first big audience was in Chicago, where she addressed the Woman's Congress at the World's Fair. Her first speech which might be called a political effort was made before the Woman's council in Washington. The subject of political finance was not a new one to her, as her father, former Judge Sheldon, had always made it a point to discuss political questions in the family circle. Having a thorough knowledge of the political questions of the day, and having accustomed herself to speaking before an audience, Mrs. Tillinghast determined to enter the campaign as a stump speaker and address political meetings through the East.

Women on a Real Equality.

Ireland is said to be a paradise for the woman's fighter, for from the earliest period the women of that little island have enjoyed a distinct individuality, having always had an equal place in the household with their husbands. In all matters of church and parish woman has her vote, and, as the church and state are combined, this is really a civic privilege. She has also full municipal suffrage, but as yet cannot vote upon matters pertaining to commerce, nor for members of parliament, though there is a strong sentiment in favor of giving her these additional advantages. Women take part in many political meetings, and talk upon all political subjects. During the althing sessions great numbers of the intelligent women of the capital city are in constant attendance. For some years there has existed a political society of women, and when momentous questions affecting their interests are before the legislative body, large meetings are called and addressed by women, setting forth their claims.

Garbed for Climbing Mountains.



She Repairs Bicycles.

The new woman in London has gone into the bicycle repairing business. She has a long list of customers, each of whom she calls upon once a week. With every part of the bicycle she is familiar, having studied it very carefully at a bicycle school. She can tighten up a pedal, repair a broken chain, and readjust the saddle with marvelous ease and great rapidity. She can also instruct beginners.

made that even their boots are not much protection to their feet; but the low shoe is purely ornamental, and if it is worn out of season a dozen small woes will affect its wearer to her continued discomfort. Chilled ankles and cold feet mean a low tone to the whole system and a multiplicity of petticoats will not remedy the evil. George Elliot in her later years attributed her miserable health to the fact that when she was a girl at school the stoves failed to heat the large rooms properly and her hands and feet were almost always cold. If you want to keep your complexion good or make it better—if you want to escape the physical ills that so often come with October days; if you want to feel strong and bright and comfortable and well, see to it that your dainty silk stockings and bewitching ties are securely hidden out of sight and your feet and ankles are clothed so warmly that their due share of blood is where it belongs, and not in some other part of your body making mischief.

Value of Bright, Attractive Homes.

"The Touch of a Woman's Hand" is the caption of an editorial in Ladies' Home Journal, in which Edward W. Bok makes a plea for pleasant, bright homes in which are manifested the evidences of the wife's good taste and an enthusiastic interest in her household: "One reason why some men do not get along better in this world," Mr. Bok contends, "is because they have not the proper stimulus in their homes. Their homes lack those little touches of refinement which bring the best out of them. Neatness and taste are possible in the poorest homes. Let a woman make that atmosphere as dainty as her means allow, and she will raise her husband to the same standard. And as she elevates him the effect is felt upon herself, her children, her home and her future. Some men respond more slowly to the touch of a woman's hand displayed in their homes and upon their surroundings. The task may seem hopeless to the wife at times. But sooner or later the effect will show itself. There is something in every man which responds to a higher and gentler influence. Let his home be bright and his wife be rough, but infuse into that home a softening touch, be it ever so simple, and the man feels it even though he may not directly notice it. He imbibes it unconsciously, and its effect is sure upon him.

Mrs. David R. Francis.

There will be a few women in Washington society next winter who will surpass in beauty or spirit Mrs. David R.



MRS. FRANCIS.

Francis, the wife of the new Secretary of the Interior, recently appointed by President Cleveland to take the place vacated by Hoke Smith. Mr. and Mrs. Francis are Missourians, and have the hearty Western hospitality which seems so usual in the trans-Mississippi region.

Just Like Other Grannies.

The little daughters of a member of the Duke of Connaught's staff were recently invited to lunch with the daughters of the latter at Government house, Aldershot. After the meal the young people adjourned to the grounds. "Do you know my grandmother?" asked Princess Margaret of one of her guests.

"No," was the reply.

"I am going to stay with her at Windsor to-morrow," continued the princess, "and she is going to have a company from London and some theatricals. I mean to get around grannie to let me sit up to see them. I always have to go to bed."

Evidently Princess Margaret did "get around grannie," for the day after the theatrical performance, which she was so anxious to witness, her name was among those of the spectators. "During the absence of their parents in India she and her sister were so much with the queen that they probably know as well as any of the royal grandchildren how to coax their august grandmother into giving them any wished-for treat.

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The new woman in London has gone into the bicycle repairing business. She has a long list of customers, each of whom she calls upon once a week. With every part of the bicycle she is familiar, having studied it very carefully at a bicycle school. She can tighten up a pedal, repair a broken chain, and readjust the saddle with marvelous ease and great rapidity. She can also instruct beginners.