

HAND WEAVING NEW ENGLAND'S MOST ART IS REVIVED



LOST art for nearly two decades, the industry which made New England famous, has again come into its own. To-day the descendants of our pilgrim fathers are turning out more hand-woven linen, silk and wool goods than any other section of the United States and are keeping up a hot pace in the race against other corners of the world in the industry.

To own a rug, a table cover or a curtain on which the maker has expended his ideas and personality is a pleasure quite distinct from gazing at a machine-made article which can be duplicated in any one of a dozen stores. And the fascination of fashioning things with the hands, especially essentials of the household or articles that add a refining touch to a commonplace service, has led many women to abandon china painting and fancy work for the more active work of the loom.

Though there are many amateurs in Massachusetts who make no attempt to market their wares a good many have found weaving an attractive commercial proposition. Many of these have enrolled themselves in the Arts and Crafts association. For them, rag carpet weaving provides the most direct method of securing remuneration for their work. Rugs of this sort are always in demand, and there is ample room for the exercise of taste in developing simple patterns and in the variation of colors.

Most of the rugs are woven with a grayish background. For the piazza and the summer home there are lighter patterns, soft blends which will absorb the sunshine or brighten up the tedium of a drizzly day. For these it is necessary to use white new wools in the warp and alternating cords of pink or blue.

The simplicity of these floor coverings affects one with a strange sense of relief which may be inexplicable at first. It is the sense of contrast with intricate machine-made designs which are often as confusing as the rattle of the steel tented machines that made them.

Some of these rugs are made in Boston, but most of them come from outside towns. Deerfield, Marblehead, Hingham and Lynn are regular stations of supply. In Central square, Cambridge, the Massachusetts commission for the blind has an established factory where men weave rugs.

In 1904 the experiment of blind weavers was first tried. They have proved in less than four years that their work can rank with that done by anyone. Without prejudice, buyers are agreed to this, and in many cases they insist that the work is not only as good, but superior. Of course the rugs are made under the supervision of seeing people, who select colors and distribute the materials.

An expert supervisor with the use of his eyes first teaches the mechanism to the blind pupil, who memorizes everything by a numerical system. After he has mastered all the movements, he soon can acquire the technicalities of pattern weaving.

By "numerical system" is meant the numbering of each thread, as well as the arrangement of the materials near the loom, so that once the position is memorized no sight aid is required to locate any color. From triangles and circles progress is made to the more intricate patterns. For some of these a raised proof of the design is hung above the loom. By touching it with the fingers the pattern is reproduced on the cloth.

The proficiency shown by the sightless weavers has eliminated the question of their ability to execute the work. The question remains: Where shall they market their wares?

This problem is solving itself, for the number of people who buy hand-wrought articles is rapidly increasing. When Charles F. Campbell, superintendent of the industrial department of the Massachusetts commission for the blind, was asked where the department disposed of their output, he turned up the label of the package he was tying. It was addressed to Detroit, Mich.

"We have shipped stuff to Duluth and San Francisco," he added; "so you see the folks out west aren't going to be distanced in this new twist

response to a local condition. Pupils attend the school whose homes are in remote parts of the mountains. During the winter time, it is impossible for women living in these districts to penetrate to any towns. Isolated as they are, it is essential that they have some other occupation, and, rug weaving having survived among the mountain whites, it was accepted as the happy solution.

Already some of these rugs have found their way to Boston, and the industry promises to become popular through the Tennessee mountains. In the mountain fastnesses they are still making those wonderful old bed spreads and table covers which are prized as heirlooms in a few New England homes.

The colonial atmosphere which permeates the town of Deerfield fosters the zeal of the laborers, who devote themselves to the simple industries of earlier days. From Deerfield come specially attractive blue and white woven rugs and exquisite needlework. Here, also, they dye their own materials in indigo, madder and fustic shades. Journeying down one of the honeysuckle lanes one may hear through the workroom window the whack, whack sound of the reed as it presses the weaving firmly down.

Slowly but surely modern enlightenment is relegating to oblivion the foolish and often costly superstitions which have been passed down from century to century. Of those, however, that linger is the superstition about the spilling of salt and the sure coming of ill luck—the result of the painting of a celebrated picture which showed that Judas, at the Last Supper, sat before an overturned salt cellar. Then there is the idea against thirteen at table because there were Christ and his twelve apostles around that board in the upper room at the supper which was followed so soon by our Lord's death, and that of Judas, too.

In some European countries ill luck is said to follow the person who stirs any liquid in a pan from east to west. In Scotland persons when baking oat-cakes break a piece off and throw it in the fire to appease evil agencies. Still another custom in that land is to make a birthday cake with nine knobs, then of nine of the assembled company, when the cake comes hot out of the oven, each breaks one knob off, and throwing it behind him says: "This I give to Thee, Fox, Eagle, Wolf," etc.

In some countries it is considered unlucky to give a mince pie to a guest—it should be asked for. Likewise, a mince pie should never be cut with a knife, but held whole with the fingers and eaten that way. Also to eat as many mince pies as possible at as many different houses before Christmas, it is believed, will insure so many happy months for the eater.

Which may be examined in such a way as to detect these colors before they are mingled together to give the eye the impression of whiteness.

The whiteness of the snow is also in some degree referable to the quantity of air which is left among the frozen particles. Considerably more than a thousand distinct forms of snow crystals have been enumerated. These minute crystals and prisms reflect all the compound rays of which white light consists.—Chicago Tribune.

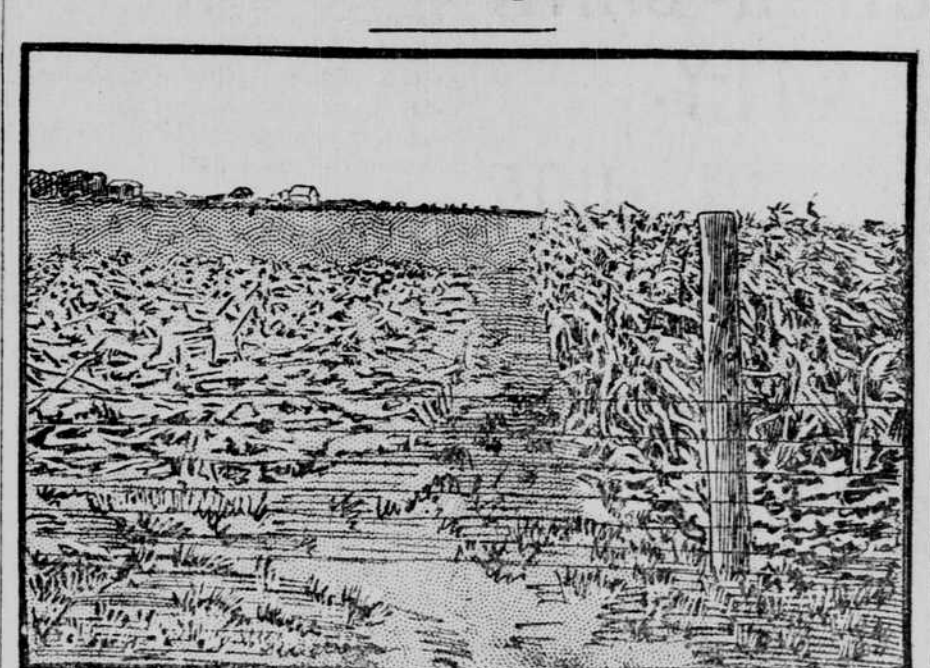
Why Snow is White.
The reason that snow is white is that all the elementary colors are blended together in the radiance that is thrown off from the surface of the crystals,

her's money we call a rocket which goes off at once. We say of you rich Americans who send money to heathens by missionaries and neglect their family at home: "They hang their lantern on a pole, which is seen from afar, but gives no light below." —New York Press.

Chinaman Can Be Sarcastic
Many of Their Sayings in Common Use Have Real Wit.
Once in a while you meet a common Chinaman who has some of the wit of Mr. Wu. One such has a laundry in Lexington avenue, not far from Twenty-third street. The other day I heard him yell at a recalcitrant customer: "You no pay? Then you paper tiger!" I asked what he meant by a "paper tiger," and he replied: "Oh, in China a paper tiger is blackguard who blows much but is harmless." He added: "When a man is very proud of himself, what Americans call 'stuck up,' we compare to a rat falling into a scale and weighing itself. When a Chinaman overdoes a thing we say he is a hunchback making a bow. The rich son who quickly spends his fa-

HOGGING OFF CORN IS AN ECONOMICAL PLAN

Helps to Solve the Farm Labor Problem.—By D. A. Gaumnitz, M. S., Agr., Minnesota.



Portion of a Corn Field That Has Been Hogged Off. On the Right May Be Seen the Standing Corn Before the Hogs Are Turned In.

Note.—Pigs should not be on one field for more than 20 days, and better if only 14 days.

The variety of corn usually grown in a locality is the proper kind to grow for hogging off purposes, since it is probably the best adapted to the locality and gives the largest yield. However, getting an early start in the fattening process is very advantageous, and it sometimes happens when pasture supplies are short or the early sale of hogs is desirable, that such a variety does not mature early enough. To be prepared for such conditions, it is well to grow a sufficient amount of sweet corn or early maturing flint corn to tide over until the field corn is ready for use. No more than is sufficient for early fall feeding should be grown since it costs just as much to

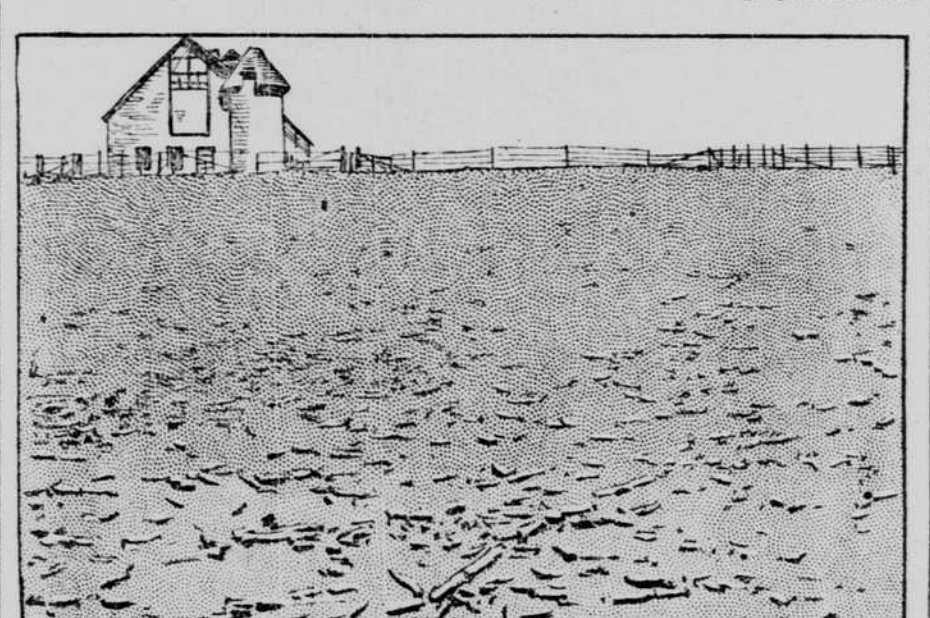
Showing Approximately the Number of Days Required to Hog Off an Acre of Corn by a Given Number of Pigs Weighing 125 Pounds.

	WITH CORN SHRUNK TO JAN. 1. and YIELDING:									
	30 bu. per acre		35 bu. per acre		40 bu. per acre		45 bu. per acre		50 bu. per acre	
Will keep	Lbs.	Days	Lbs.	Days	Lbs.	Days	Lbs.	Days	Lbs.	Days
10 Hogs	125	22.5	26.2	30.0	33.7	37.5	41.2	45.0	48.7	52.5
20 Hogs	125	11.2	13.1	15.0	16.8	18.7	20.6	22.5	24.3	26.2
30 Hogs	125	7.5	8.7	10.0	11.2	12.5	13.7	15.0	16.2	17.5
40 Hogs	125	5.6	6.5	7.5	8.4	9.3	10.3	11.2	12.2	13.1
50 Hogs	125	4.5	5.2	6.0	6.7	7.5	8.2	9.0	9.7	10.5
60 Hogs	125	3.7	4.4	5.0	5.6	6.2	6.8	7.5	8.1	8.7
70 Hogs	125	3.2	3.7	4.3	4.8	5.3	5.8	6.4	6.9	7.5
80 Hogs	125	2.8	3.3	3.7	4.2	4.6	5.1	5.6	6.1	6.5

grow these varieties as it does the dent and they yield much less. Flint corn is preferable to sweet corn for hogs, and field feeding of flint corn gives better results than where husked and fed after the corn has hardened.

One of the great objections in growing flint and other early varieties of corn has been the difficulty of harvesting them. Feeding them off with live stock eliminates this objection, and it would seem that they might be grown and utilized more extensively.

Pigs weighing from 100 to 140 pounds are best suited for field feeding since they have at that weight



A Corn Field That Was Hogged Off in the Fall, Then Disked Twice and Harrowed Once the Following Spring.

easily injured by excessive corn feeding.

For convenience, a table has been arranged showing approximately the number of days required to hog off an acre of corn yielding various amounts in order to enable the feeder to judge as to the acreage of corn he will need to inclose at a time for his pigs.

Comfort is highly essential to the growth and well-being of pigs; and while they are out in the field shelter of some sort must be provided for them.

Kerosene for Head Lice.—A reader wants to know what is the very best mixture to destroy head lice on old birds. Any of the well known lice killers will do the work. If these cannot be secured use kerosene and lard. Rub this well into the roots of the feathers and it will be only a short time till the bird will be free from the lice. It is said that any kind of oil is death to lice. This statement is verified by the fact that the duck is rarely if ever bothered with lice, because there is naturally a great deal of oil on its skin.

Poisoning Insect Pests.—Insects that chew the foliage may be poisoned by applying the poison so that it is taken into the insect's stomach, while those that pierce the stems and leaves must be poisoned from the outside. The arsenic compounds, like paris green, should be used in combating the leaf chewers, while soap suds and coal oil are the most popular in fighting the plant and leaf suckers. Where a less violent poison is needed, helio-bore may be used instead of the arsenic poisons.

BED-BOUND FOR MONTHS.

Hope Abandoned After Physicians' Consultation.
Mrs. Enos Shearer, Yew and Washington Sts., Centralia, Wash., says: "For years I was weak and run down, could not sleep, my limbs swelled and the secretions were troublesome; pains were intense. I was fast in bed for four months. Three doctors said there was no cure for me, and I was given up to die. Being urged, I used Doan's Kidney Pills. Soon I was better, and in a few weeks was about the house, well and strong again."
Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

MORE USED TO SELLING PINS.



Absent-Minded Clerk (who has been transferred from notion department)—So, you'll take this piano. Shall I send it, or will you take it with you?

For and Against.

A Philadelphia lawyer, retained as counsel for the defense in a murder trial, tells of the difficulties in getting together a jury.
"Counsel were endeavoring," says this lawyer, "to elicit from the various prospective jurors their views concerning the death penalty."
"One man to whom the question was put, 'Are you against the infliction of the death penalty?' replied, 'No, sir.'"
"What is your business?" he was asked.
"I am a butcher," he replied.
"When the same question was put to the next man he answered that he was against the death penalty."
"What is your business?"
"Life insurance," said he.

The Revolving Cat.

Little Susie has always been deeply interested in mechanical toys, and numbers several among her choicest possessions. Recently the family cat, having apparently eaten something which disagreed with her, began a mad race around the room, leaping chairs, diving under sofas and turning somersaults. Susie's mother, much frightened, seized her small daughter and mounted a convenient table. But Susie remained unscared. Clapping her hands in glee, she shouted, "Wind her up again, mamma; wind her up again!"

Swadeshi.

In the sense in which Sir William Harcourt remarked "We are all socialists now," it may be said that all Anglo-Indians are believers in Swadeshi. While all reasonable Anglo-Indians deplore the senseless agitation and the unsound economics of the extremist advocates of Swadeshi principles, they are all anxious to assist that natural development of indigenous industries and the creation of new ones upon which the future prosperity of the country so largely depends.—Pioneer Mail.

Had Been Attended To.

An Italian went up to the civil service commissioners' rooms in the federal building the other day to be examined for a laborer's position. He answered most of the questions correctly. Finally they asked him if he had ever been naturalized. He seemed a bit puzzled, but at last his face lighted up.
"Ah, I know what you mean. Scratca de arm. Yes, lasta week."—Philadelphia Ledger.

DROPPED COFFEE

Doctor Gains 20 Pounds on Postum.

A physician of Wash., D. C., says of his coffee experience:
"For years I suffered with periodical headaches which grew more frequent until they became almost constant. So severe were they that sometimes I was almost frantic. I was sallow, constipated, irritable, sleepless; my memory was poor; I trembled, and my thoughts were often confused."
"My wife, in her wisdom, believed coffee was responsible for these ills and urged me to drop it. I tried many times to do so, but was its slave."
"Finally Wife bought a package of Postum, and persuaded me to try it, but she made it same as ordinary coffee and I was disgusted with the taste. (I make this emphatic because I fear many others have had the same experience.) She was distressed at her failure and we carefully read the directions, made it right, boiled it full 15 minutes after boiling commenced, and with good cream and sugar, I liked it—it invigorated and seemed to nourish me."
"This was about a year ago. Now I have no headaches, am not sallow, sleeplessness and irritability are gone, my brain clear and my head steady. I have gained 20 lbs. and feel I am a new man."
"I do not hesitate to give Postum due credit. Of course dropping coffee was the main thing, but I had dropped it before, using chocolate, cocoa and other things to no purpose."
"Postum not only seemed to act as an invigorant, but as an article of nourishment, giving me the needed phosphates and albumens. This is no imaginary tale. It can be substantiated by my wife and her sister, who both changed to Postum and are hearty women of about 70."
"I write this for the information and encouragement of others, and with a feeling of gratitude to the inventor of Postum."
Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich., Read "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs. "There's a Reason."

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.