

# With the World's Great Humorists

Selections from the Writings of the Best Known Makers of Mirth.

## Addison Spriggs, Friend of the Toiling Masses

By S. E. Kizer.

Laying aside his paper, Addison Spriggs leaned back in his chair and indulged in solemn thought. Gradually he became possessed of the conviction that he had a duty to perform. He had just read a "Household Hint" in which it was candidly stated that there was more sustenance in five cents' worth of peanuts than in a pound of beef. Having pondered for a time he reached for his hat, saying: "I have no right to keep this knowledge from the oppressed and unenlightened masses. It may be that I have it within my power to become a liberator. Indeed, I may have been sent into the world for the purpose of lifting the populace out of bondage. Who knows that the chance which placed the page containing that item beneath my eye was not providential? If the horny-handed son of toil may by purchasing a five-cent bag of peanuts for his loved ones be relieved of the necessity of submitting to the arrogance of the butcher we shall have a social upheaval such as has never hitherto been upheaved. It is my duty to act."

Clapping his hat upon his head, Addison Spriggs went forth for the purpose of preaching the value of the peanut and thereby dealing a death blow to the meat trust. From a descendant of the Caesars he purchased a bag of peanuts for the purpose of relieving distress and making such demonstrations as might be necessary. He had not proceeded far when he perceived a poorly dressed woman who was entering a butcher shop. Following her inside, he waited for her to give her order. A large red-faced man with bloody hands, after sawing through a bone, made a few deft flourishes with a long knife, and then fung a hunk of beef upon the scales.



"Permit Me to Call Your Attention to This Edible."

are presenting—and I speak advisedly when I say presenting—75 cents to the glutted possessors of predatory wealth?"

He paused for the purpose of permitting the woman to get a full understanding of his impressive words. She gazed at him as if she remained in doubt, while the butcher, with his cleaver in his grasp, leaned across the counter with a look that would have caused a less determined man than

Addison Spriggs to await a more favorable opportunity for the enlightenment of the toiling masses. But he was there to do his duty as an emancipator, whether it happened to be a propitious time for emancipating or not.

"Permit me," he continued, "to call your attention to this edible, and I may say delicious, nut. When I say that five cents' worth of peanuts will afford to you and your children as much nourishment as a pound of beef I am but stating a fact which science has demonstrated. Will you, then, continue to encourage those who lead the innocent bovine to the shambles, who wantonly slay for their own aggrandizement, who shamelessly foster a taste for blood, and who demand an outrageous profit at our expense? Give back the pound, or, I should say two pounds, of flesh that this man would thrust upon you, and take to your dear ones two bags of peanuts such as I hold in my hand. You shall not permit this man to press a crown of thorns upon your brow. You have it in your power to circumvent the soulless corporation of which this person is the hired creature."

He would have said more, but the hired creature laid down his knife, walked around a chopping block and, grasping Addison Spriggs in the two most convenient places, helped him to leap from where he stood to the middle of the sidewalk. There his feet slipped in such an unfortunate way as to make it impossible for him to avoid falling upon his back in the unattractive gutter. Owing to the fact that his peanuts were scattered when he went down he found when he succeeded in getting upon his feet again that he lacked materials for making further demonstrations; wherefore he returned to his office firm in the conviction that toiling masses that insisted upon standing around and waiting to be saved did not deserve saving.

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## A Look Ahead

By R. K. Munkittrick.

The crocus now begins to blow, or to put it in more picturesque phrase, its lamp of golden beauty is decorating the wind-swept meadow, where it gleams through the casual snow-drift, until the two suggest in combination a poached egg to the lively imagination of the poet. The short-haired dog is made happy by this sign that winter has about made ready to wrap the drapery of the buckwheat cake and sausage about itself and give us a chance to lie down to pleasant dreams of the coming days when the coal bill must dwindle into next to airy nothingness.

shortly decorate the wayside barn and fence, and that the freshets of spring medicine will flood the land in the very near future. The tennis court is beginning to take on a finer green to tell us that the mince pie and pork chop are about past due. And then comes the blast of Martins discoursed in his finest manner on his brand new trumpet.—Or is it the horn of the

## An Exhibition of Nerve

By Peter Newell.

The other night I had a toothache and stayed awake to see how it felt. The ramifications of that tooth must have been like the roots of a blackberry vine for the ache involved all that portion of my anatomy lying above my shoulders. Along about two o'clock in the morning I decorated the territory adjacent to the offending molar with a coat of iodine till the gum was blistered, and the atmosphere adjacent with sulphur. And then I had a toothache plus a blister. Well, the night wore away but not so the pain, and I decided to make an early call on a near-by dentist. In accordance with this determination I presented myself at Dr. Pullum's office door, and was received by the young lady attendant and given a chair in the midst of several other sufferers.

"What time is your appointment?" said she as she handed me the morning paper.

"I can't tell you," replied I. "I forgot to wind it last night and it isn't running."

You see I can be facetious even under distressing circumstances.

And then I continued: "This is an emergency case and comes in the class of first aid to the injured."

"Oh, I understand," said she. "Toothache."

In the course of an hour I was ushered into the operating room and took my place in the fatal chair. Dr. Pullum made a preliminary examination with a miniature crow-bar heated to incandescence, as it seemed to me.

"It will be necessary to kill the nerve," was his verdict.

"All right," said I, "go ahead with the murder."

And then he sank a shaft in the tooth to a depth of about four feet with a drill that buzzed like a cast-iron hornet in the throes of a brain storm. Again he had recourse to the crow-bar, or some other similar instrument of torture, and after a season of exploration drew out the nerve between his fore finger and thumb.

And then the excitement began.

The nerve bit him on the hand and wriggled out of his grasp onto the floor. He tried to step on it but the thing eluded him and took refuge under a stand. Then he took an umbrella and poked at it and only succeeded in overturning the stand, on which were several sets of false teeth besides a choice assortment of dental instruments. One of the sets of false

teeth bit at the nerve, but in the confusion it escaped through the debris and lodged in the gizzard of the dental chair. Just then the young lady attendant came in to see what the riot was about. She saw and with a little scream hopped up on a cane-bottomed chair, and gathered her director's skirt about her.

"Don't be a fool, Miss Cooper," said the doctor. "Go and get me Rudolph's ammonia gun."

Miss Cooper obeyed with consideration.



Then He Took an Umbrella and Poked at it.

able alacrity, evidently considering celerity of movement as tending to promote her safety. Presently she returned with the gun and handing it to her employer beat a hasty retreat. The doctor stooped down and taking careful aim at the nerve, which entwined itself in the vitals of the chair, pulled the trigger. Instantly there was a muffled report and I, even though remotely in range, was moved to tears by the acid fumes discharged from the gun. However, through the mist I was able to see the doctor grinding the nerve to dust beneath his heel. And then except for my smarting eyes, I felt better and thanked my benefactor warmly for giving me relief.

"The nerve of the thing!" muttered he in response, and I went out reflecting that my gratitude was rather coldly received.

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ability as in Hawaii," says Mr. Newell. "At one point the annual rainfall may be over 300 inches in depth; only a few miles distant extreme aridity prevails. Even with the heavy rainfall on the mountain slopes there are relatively few rivers. Much of the water sinks into the porous lava."

### Needs Proper Backing.

"Hope," said Uncle Eben, "is a blessing when you's willin' to back it with a little hard work 'stid o' lettin' it play itself out on a policy ticket."

## For the Street



The first costume is both smart and useful and is a style well-suited to serge. Our model is in navy blue. The plaited skirt is cut in comfortable walking length, and has the plaits stitched down about halfway. White cloth is used for the waistcoat fastened down the center by small buttons and buttonholes. The fronts of coat are cut away and semi-fitting, fine braiding completely edges coat, while buttons and cords add further trimming. The sleeves are elbow length and quite loose, they are trimmed to match. Hat of stretched satin, trimmed with beads and feathers.

Materials required: 8 yards serge 48 inches wide, 3 dozen buttons, 1 dozen yards cord, 4 yards coat lining.

The second is a princess shape; cloth or serge might either be used, straps of material trim the front of skirt part, two box-plaids are arranged under the strap in front. Braiding trims the back and sides of bodice part, also the revers and cuffs, which are of some light cloth, the buttons are of the same. Hat of light felt trimmed with ribbon and roses.

Materials required: 6 yards cloth, 46 inches wide, 4 buttons, 4 yards lining, 1 dozen yards braid.

### HIGH COLLARS ARE HARMFUL

Permanent Dark Mark Made if the Neck Garniture is Worn Too High.

The fad of wearing extremely high collars will have a harmful effect upon the flesh of the throat unless special care is given to prevent it, because through stoppage of circulation, a condition brought about by high collars, a permanent dark mark comes, and some remedy to obviate the trouble must be employed. It is not expected that a girl will select a neck dressing that is a misfit. But she may take the happy medium of one that is not too close to her throat. For example, if 13 is the usual size, it is the part of wisdom to take 13½ when the height of the linen is excessive. It is precisely the same theory that causes one to wear longer boots when the toes are excessively pointed.

In order to preserve its roundness and softness the throat must have some air and freedom of movement. Undoubtedly an aid to freshness is occasionally to change the style of collar worn and for a day to use one that is not extreme. This relaxes and tones muscles that may have become cramped.

**SKIRTS WIDER AT THE HEM.**

Are a Distinct Improvement on the Tight Garment That Extremists Favored.

The absurdly narrow skirt that one could hardly step in and that was only worn by the extremists, fashionable or otherwise, has had its day. All the new skirts have width at the hem. Even the street ones are three and four yards wide, and the house ones are from six to seven yards at the hem.

They are not lined or stiffened or worn over petticoats, but they have a graceful fullness. They are not held back by elastics, and give no appearance of the grotesque.

They are quite ample, easy to walk in and more graceful on every figure than the extra tight ones.

There are all sorts of rumors that the new skirt at the Paris races will be ten yards wide, but if one listened to all rumors these days no one would buy a gown with any feeling of security.

### TO KEEP RUGS FLAT.

Girls who have a habit of shuffling their feet, thereby incurring frequent scoldings for kicking up rugs, will find life pleasanter if they cut triangles of medium weight cardboard, and sew them on the under side of rugs at each corner.

### THE LINEN BAG.

This summer milady will carry a linen handbag to match or correspond with each of her gowns.

Those already seen are of white or daintily colored linen, beautified by charming designs touched and hand-embroidered. Plaited souchette forms and pretty and wear-well handles.

An ingenious woman could easily design one of these. She could pattern it over one of the new leather handbags and use the frame of a discarded bag for a foundation.

These handbags are easily laundered and are exceedingly good looking.

### EVEN THE VEILS HAVE FRINGE.

The craze for fringe has reached veils, and all the big new ones are heavily bordered, sometimes with one row and sometimes with two. If the veil is of the changeable chiffon, a stunning effect in color is produced by the border of fringe having precisely the same hues. On the frailer net veils, which cover a wide range in color, the fringe matches in shade.

Overdresses of one sort or another are seen everywhere on the more elaborate gowns.

### ALTERING AN EVENING GOWN.

Scheme Very Much in Fashion and One That is Quite Easy to Carry Out.

If the girl who indulged in a scanty, slimly cut sheath gown last winter wants to change it a bit to give more of the classic suggestion, she can do this by using two veils as drapery.

The idea is very much in fashion and is easy to carry out. The veils themselves are often used by high-priced dressmakers instead of buying chiffon cloth and hemming it. The veils have a selvaige which makes them quite effective.

One of the attractive ways of draping them is to catch one at each shoulder, drawing it up under the arm and fastening on top with a paste buckle. The edges lower down may be lightly caught together over the arm a little above the elbow. This gives filmy but straight drapery from shoulder to hem which puts one in the picture this season.

Again, an extra long veil is dropped across the back and caught at the back of each shoulder with a buckle and tassel is left to hang straight.

### SUITABLE IN MANY MATERIALS.

Cashmere, serge or any cloth, as long as it is the same as used for skirt, would make up well for the overbodice. Three tucks are made on each shoulder both back and front; they are stitched down a few inches. A material strap stitched at each edge and trimmed with embroidered spots edges the opening and is also taken down the front over the fastenings. The oversleeve is trimmed in the same way.

Materials required: 1½ yards 46 inches wide, 2 buttons.



**Linen and Canvas for Book Covers.**

Attractive adjuncts to the living room are magazine covers made from heavy linens and craftsman's canvas. For the postcard albums the latter fabric is preferred. Both materials can be had in a variety of colors, and an applique of cretonne is a popular form of decoration.

Book covers in a cool gray linen, adorned with a spray of purple orchids cut from cretonne, are pretty, and so are those in terra cotta craftsman's canvas, displaying a swastika process cut from cretonne in dull oriental colorings.

### THE SHIRRED HAT.

The shirred hats will claim attention. There are models with shirred crowns, and others with shirred brims, and again there are hats which are all shirring. Finally, the big ribbon bow, or rather the bunch of drooping ribbon loops that fall under the brim in the back of the hat is a conspicuous millinery feature that will figure on many of the simpler hats for outings and practical purposes generally.

## SAVE WASTE WATER BY INSTALLING POWER PLANTS

Millions of Gallons of Water on Farms Can Be Harnessed and Power Utilized; Plans Showing Plant—By R. M. Winans.

The only obstruction to universally installed individual water-power plants on the farm is that not every farm is blessed with running water to furnish the power. But there are thousands of farms in the United States which have running water that can be harnessed and made to work.

The government has been taking a census of the available water power in the union, and a report will be issued in the course of a few months showing that there is at present going to waste something over 50,000,000 horse power that might be developed from the streams and fields of the country, exclusive of Niagara. Some of this, of course, is available to the farms that are near the streams entering into the calculations, but little, if

of this work may be done. The cost of concrete for the dam may be largely eliminated by the use of timbers and plank in its construction, merely using enough concrete in which to embed the timbers and cover the planking, to protect from decay. In some sections where small timber is available and in some cases desirable to remove from the land, the dam may be built of logs very cheaply and substantially.

The gasoline engine was probably the pioneer in furnishing light power for the farm; yet it has been conclusively proved by farm water-power plants recently installed that where small, even very small, water powers are available, the gasoline engine is not to be compared to them in the matter of economy, practicability and

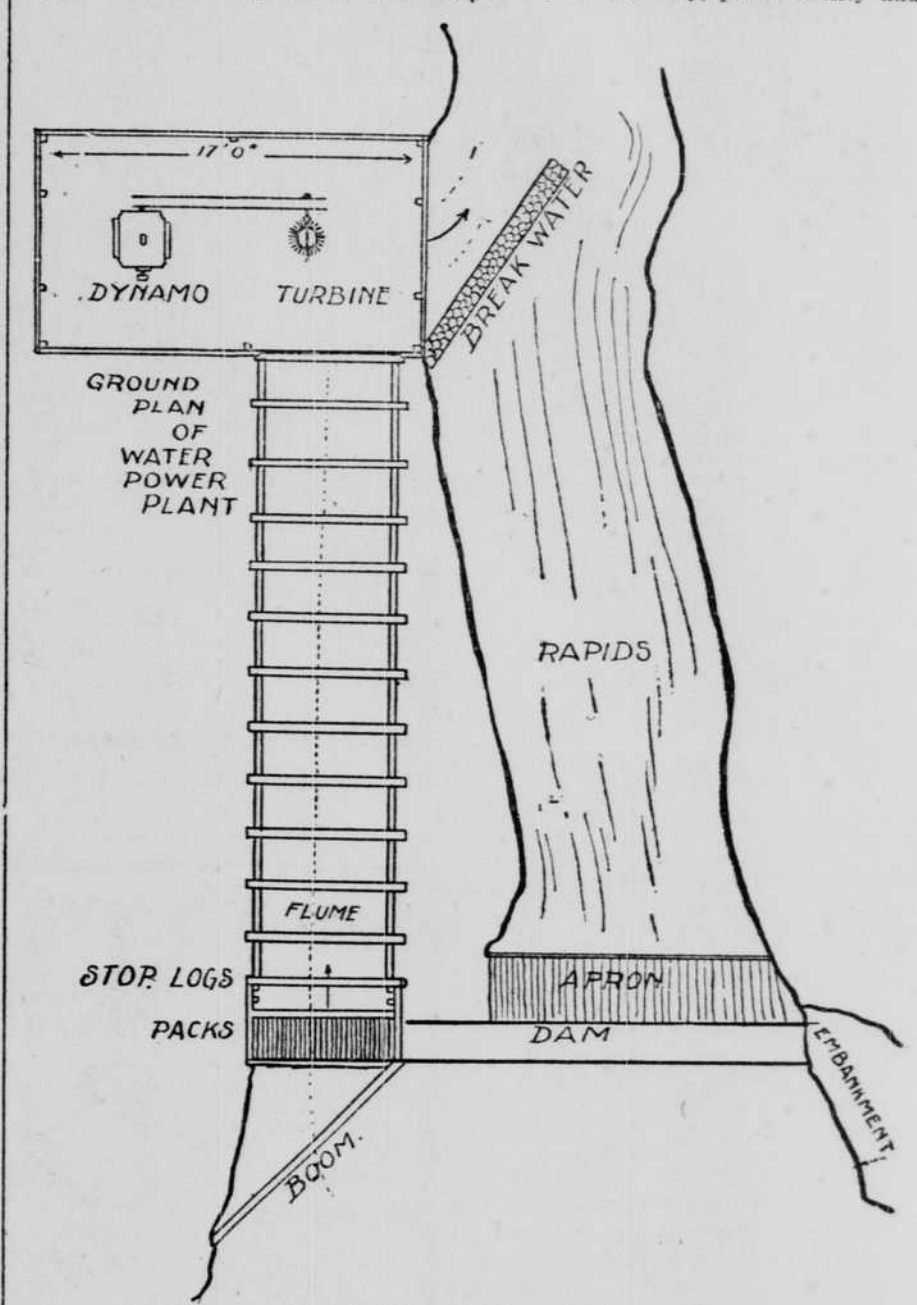


Fig. 1.—Ground Plan of Plant.

any, account is taken of the minor streams, the babbling brooks and rapid-flowing creeks that run through thousands of farms unintercepted on their idle way to the sea.

It does not require the thunderous rush and swirl of a Niagara to drive a turbine large enough to furnish power for the use of a farm. The most innocent-looking, spring-fed brooklet having the proper fall will be ample to serve the purpose of meeting every power requirement of the average farm, providing, of course, that it can be suitably dammed and a sufficient head given to the pened-up water in the reservoir. From three to six feet will give a working head of water to drive a turbine that will furnish an electrical generator.

On hundreds of farms with which the writer is acquainted in a number of states of uneven topography there are many streams with volume and fall sufficient to drive a turbine of from 50 to 200 horse power, and where the power plants could be installed at relatively small expense. And the first expense is practically the only ex-

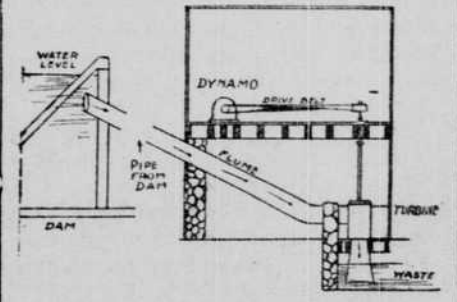


Fig. 2.—Water-Power Plant with Good Head of Water.

pense in generations to come, except one counts the cost of oil for the bearings and the renewal of brushes (which are cheap) on the generator once a year.

The main expense, where the work is done by contract or by specially hired labor, is that of grading, of excavating and filling; and the farmer is at an advantage in this, that he often has idle teams and labor that could not be better employed during the "slack" seasons, when most, if not all,

## LITTLE FEAR FOR HOG MARKET

Winter Season Satisfactory Both to Grower and Packer.

Little apprehension is now felt in growing circles as to the status of the summer hog market. The winter season has been satisfactory to the grower, if not to the packer. The latter has accumulated a stock of provisions of considerable proportions at an average cost of around six cents for live hogs. He is naturally interested in merchandising this stock at a profit and the larger the profit the better he will be satisfied. Of a market he has no doubt. During the winter middlemen, both here and abroad, have been sparing purchasers. Their policy has been delay. As a middleman said recently: "We can buy at high cost any time and there never has been a time this year when hog product looked cheap."

perfect convenience, to say nothing of the matter of care and operation of the engine, or the facility with which the electric power from the turbine dynamo may be transmitted to various buildings and points on the farm for use at the same time.

Fig. 1 shows the ground plan of a plant located near the dam and connected with an open wooden flume and with a vertical turbine. This is an excellent plan where the fall is from three to six feet with a good supply of water. With this type of turbine the generator or dynamo may be placed overhead and driven by a bevel gear. The foundation of the power house should be of stone or concrete, with heavy timber bases for the turbine and dynamo, to insure steady running without jar or vibration.

A breakwater must be built at the power house to prevent ice and debris gathering or lodging across the outlet or tail race. The dam should have an apron of concrete or planks protected with concrete, to prevent wearing and washing by the flow over the spillway. A heavy boom is placed across the entrance to the racks, to guard against floating rubbish, and close-barred racks must be built at the entrance to the flume, to catch leaves and small stuff that might clog the wheel. A heavy gate or stop log is set inside the racks, to regulate the flow of water or to cut it off entirely.

Where there is the opportunity to get a good head of water, the plant and connection may be cheaply built, as shown in Fig. 2. The flume in this case may be of sewer pipe of the proper size, or a square wooden flume heavily coated with some wood preservative may be used instead. This drawing shows a vertical turbine with a direct belt drive, which is cheaper than the bevel gear. With the closed-flume arrangement the power house may be located at any reasonable distance from the dam or head of water.

Give Pigs Salt.—Do not wait till the pig is dead before you give him salt. He should have salt every day in his life and then some rubbed in after he is dead.

Southern trade will be broad all through the spring and summer months, consumption of live produce has received impetus on account of the high price of beef and mutton, foreign dealers are becoming alert and will be good buyers right along while the populous east is calling on the west for more hogs than last year for fresh meat purposes, despite the fact that prices have ruled two dollars per hundredweight higher, says the Breeders' Gazette. Packers have felt the pulse of trade and are not advertising bargain sales. Seventeen hogs are dear but they are possible. Probably the buyer will continue his policy of economy by taking light stuff, but this is no handicap to the grower, as the hog he markets short of maturity was made cheaply. In trade opinion cashing hogs as fast as they are decently fit for market is good policy, but nobody believes delay will be at the expense of financial results. It is merely a question of economy in production.

A real clever woman makes it a business to appear dense at times.

## May Reclaim Hawaiian Land

United States Official Says: 100,000 Acres There May Be Made Into Valuable Farms by Irrigation.

Washington.—Giving the results of observations made in a recent visit to the Hawaiian Islands, Director Newell of the reclamation service says it is probable that over 100,000 acres of land now practically useless in the islands may be reclaimed by irriga-

tion. He says that on this basis it would be possible to furnish 5,000 farms of 20 acres each, which would provide for a population of about 20,000 persons. He therefore recommends a systematic examination of the preparation of a contour map.

"There probably is no land of the United States, where in as small an area there is as great a diversity in the quantity of water and its avail-