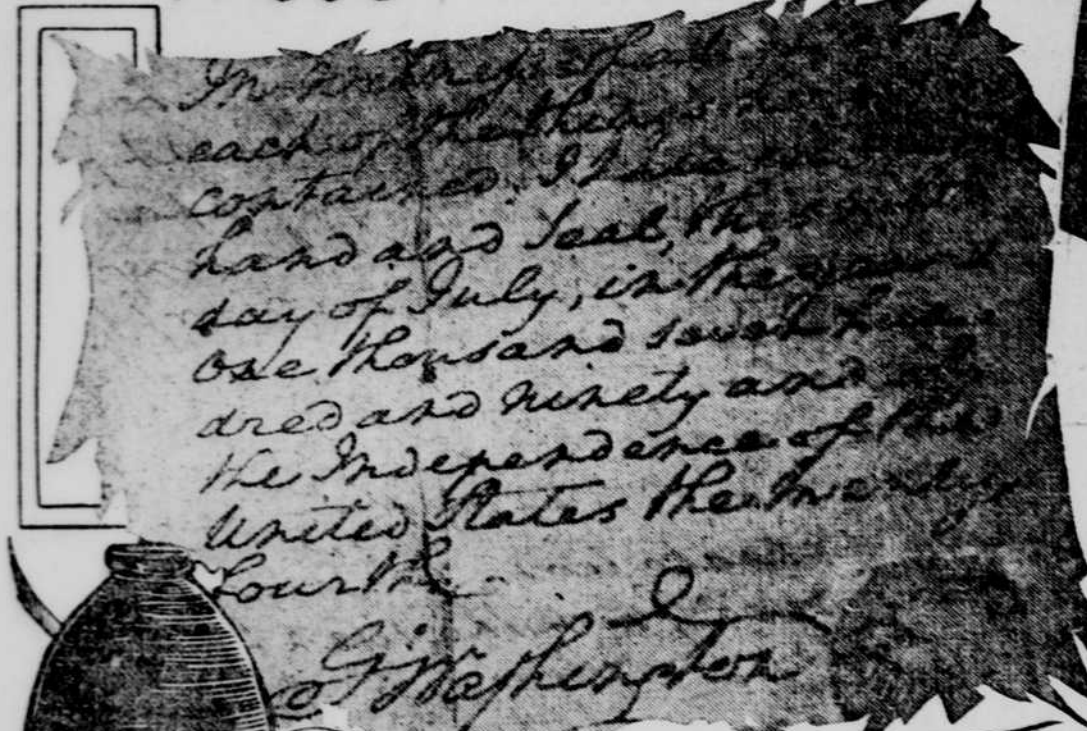


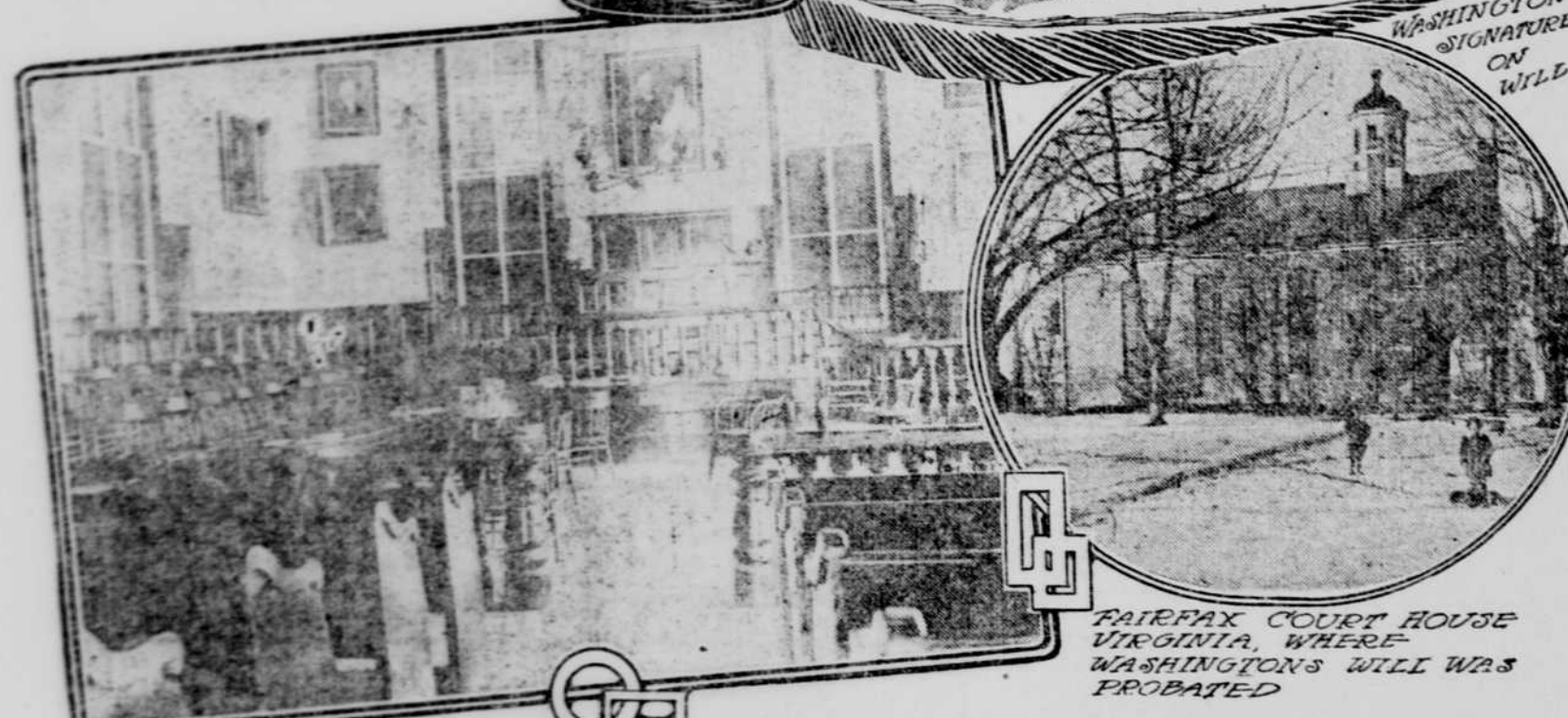
Restoring George Washington's Will

THE last will and testament of George Washington—perhaps the most precious and the most interesting of all the relics of the Father of His Country—has recently been saved to the nation. Moreover this rescue of the most significant document penned by our first president took place just in the nick of time. A few years more and the country might have had to mourn the loss of this priceless souvenir just as it has been mourning these many years past the disappearance of the original penned drafts of some of the famous speeches delivered by some of our most famous men on historic occasions.

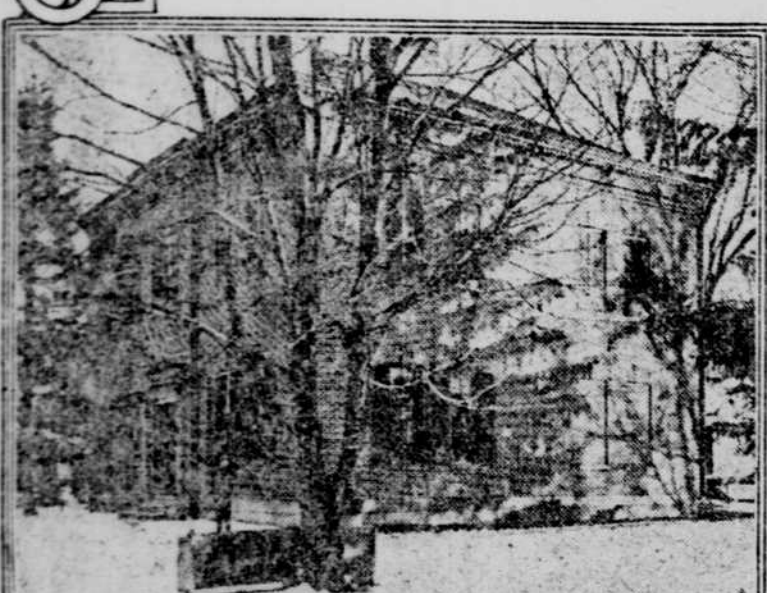
It was not, in the present case, that fire or theft threatened the Washington relic—although it must be admitted that there is a possibility of loss by either of these means so long as it remains in its present depository. However, the destructive agent that recently aroused some of the nation's most prominent officials to the peril of the Washington will is nothing less than the ravages of time. Until



PAGE OF WASHINGTON'S WILL AND BOX IN WHICH IT WAS KEPT



INTERIOR OF FAIRFAX COURT HOUSE WHICH APPEARS NOW JUST AS IT DID 100 YEARS AGO



NEW OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE COURT AT FAIRFAX WHERE THE WILL IS NOW PRESERVED

within the past few months the public at large did not know of the whereabouts of the Washington will, if indeed it even knew of the existence of the paper. However, the officials of the state department and the library of congress knew its resting place in an obscure country courthouse in Virginia, and whereas they realized the futility of their ambition to ever get permission to transfer it to Washington, where it ought to repose as a great national relic, they still had sufficient interest in it to keep a watchful eye on it, so to speak.

Some months ago it suddenly came to the ears of these interested parties that the will—long known to be in a poor state of preservation—was in imminent danger of going utterly to ruin. Obviously quick action and heroic measures were necessary and thereupon there was inaugurated that project which has lately witnessed the complete restoration of the will by means of a miracle of manuscript surgery and document restoration carried on by the greatest experts in the country in this highly specialized line of work.

Persons who are at all conversant with the care with which Uncle Sam fosters and safeguards all the important state and private papers of historical value that are in his keeping—for instance, the Declaration of Independence which is never even exposed to light—may naturally marvel that so priceless a trophy as the will of Washington should have been allowed to fall into decay. The explanation is found in the fact, above noted, that the will is not and never has been in the possession of the federal government. It was filed for probate in the year 1800 at the county seat of the county in Virginia where Washington resided and in that state it has remained ever since. A century of wear and tear might be expected to play havoc with almost any document and at times during this cycle the Washington relic saw some rather rough handling for so fragile an object. During the

Civil war, for example, it was carried to Richmond for safe keeping and came near being lost entirely in the confusion that attended the fall of the Confederacy. However, the worst experience of all came only a few years ago and resulted from an error of judgment on the part of the custodians of the will, who supposed that they were acting for the best. It had come about that as a result of the handling of the will the pinning together of the 23 pages and the wear along the lines of the creases in which it had been folded almost every one of the sheets was completely severed through the middle. The persons in charge of the will realized in a vague sort of way that something ought to be done and they finally hit upon the plan of sewing together the severed sections of each sheet. When the government officials and other prominent men interested in all existing mementoes of George Washington heard what had been done they were all but ready to weep. As though it were not bad enough to

attempt to sew delicate sheets of paper, it transpired that subsequent handlings of the sewed sheets had caused the threads to wear and cut their way through the paper and ultimately the pages were literally in shreds. All the while the relic was on display in an ordinary wooden box with a glass cover which permitted the will to be constantly exposed to the light while on exhibition at the county seat of Fairfax county and which would probably have faded out the handwriting entirely had not the document been penned with an exceptional quality of ink. It was at this juncture that the government officials who volunteered their services were allowed to take a hand to save the wreck. The work of restoration was placed in the hands of a federal expert who has made a life work of the saving of damaged papers and manuscripts. He devoted weeks to the work and what he has wrought is little short of a miracle. In so far as the casual observer can detect the will is in practically the same condition as it was when it left the hands of its distinguished author. It is only when a page is held to the light that one realizes that, technically, the document is but a ghost of its former self.

All sorts of obstacles were encountered in connection with the restoration of the will. It was at first planned to have the odd salvage work undertaken by the department of state, the manuscript surgeons of which branch of the government had already worked wonders with the Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Independence and other documents. However, in order to get the benefit of the skill of the state department's ex-

parts it would be necessary to remove the will to Washington for the interim while the work of restoration was in progress, and the county officials at Fairfax who had the say in the matter refused flat-footed to allow the document to leave Virginia.

It looked for a time as though this might block the whole plan, but finally the officials of the library of congress, who have on their staff a manuscript surgeon almost as skillful as the one at the state department, offered to send this wizard to Fairfax Courthouse and have him carry on the work there. This was done and the outcome has been as satisfactory as though the work of rejuvenation had been conducted in the well-equipped plant at the national capital. However, there were many handicaps and not the least of these was found in the necessity for transporting to Fairfax a heavy press and other paraphernalia needed for the intricate piecing of the torn and ragged pages and mounting them on the cardboard mounts, one of which has been provided for each page of the will.

Unquestionably the gratifying success which has attended this attempt to restore the Washington will to the appearance it bore one hundred years ago has been due in no small measure to the aid afforded by a number of blank sheets of paper made especially for George Washington and watermarked with his name. When the government officials first inspected the torn and tattered will with a view to applying their ingenious "first aid" treatment they at once realized that an inordinate amount of piecing and patching would be necessary and they were in a quandary where to obtain material that would match the original, for, of course, the will was written on very distinctive paper, and to patch it with ordinary paper of present-day manufacture would have resulted in only partially concealing the wounds made by time and careless hands.

There was a long search for paper that could be used with confidence that no person examining the restored document without the aid of a magnifying glass could tell where the original left off and a patch began. Finally the officials discovered in a second-hand bookstore in Washington a number of sheets of the writing paper which General Washington had manufactured especially for his personal use and this paper was used wherever new tissue had to be grafted on the original document, with the result that the appearance of the original has been simulated so as to defy detection. Each sheet of the will has been so backed or mounted upon "creneline" that it will stand any reasonable amount of handling and the ink of the will has been "set" so that there is little danger of further fading.

However, for all that the precious document has been put in condition to stand another century of strenuous existence if need be, it is not likely that it will ever again be called upon to suffer such neglect or abuse as in the past. The county officials who are the custodians of the will appear to be aroused to the necessity of giving it more intelligent care than it enjoyed in years gone by. To that end the pages of the will have been bound in the form of a book with handsome red levant cover and a special fireproof, burglar-proof steel safe, made specially for the purpose under the supervision of the government officials will henceforth be the repository of this relic.

The attention which this restoration of the will is receiving is expected to result in the visits in future of considerable numbers of tourists and sightseers to Fairfax Courthouse, the Virginia hamlet where the will has its home—the more so since this historic spot can now be reached by trolley from the national capital. The county seat of the county where Washington lived and died has many picturesque landmarks not the least interesting of which is the old courthouse in which Washington's will was probated and which presents today the same appearance that it did on that historic day more than a century ago. The will is not kept in the courthouse but in the office of the clerk of the court, which occupies a separate building. The work of restoring the Washington will, had it been entrusted to any manuscript surgeon outside the government service—and there are only a few such in the country—would have cost \$200 to \$300 at least and it is probable that several times the latter sum might have been demanded for the service for, which the government made no charge.

times larger than life size. Another find was an inscription of Sennacherib to the effect that he had "built a house to the God Nimh." This presumably refers to an extension of the temple at the east corner, of which little now remains, but the temple well built by Sennacherib is intact. The Temple of Assur is shown to have been of vast extent. The excavations reveal a courtyard surrounded by rooms and two immense halls. The excavators found here fragments of enameled brick dating from modern Assyrian times and showing markedly the influence of Egypt. These bricks depict battles, prisoners and soldiers on march and the destruction of fortresses.

Temples of Babylon

The Deutsche Orient-Gesellschaft gives an interesting account of the past year's excavation work in three different parts of Babylon. In the town quarter known as Ksar were laid bare several hundred meters of a wall about 25 feet thick, broken by numerous door openings which were originally flanked by towers. The most interesting find here was a coffin of burned clay, on the lid of which was a relief of a bearded head. Near the north wall of the quarter known as Sacha was discovered a system of drains, built of brick, laid in asphalt. Here were also found several fragments of tablets with cuneiform inscriptions from the time of Nebuchadnezzar. This discovery enabled the excavators to complete fragmentary tablets discovered some time before. The legend referred to the building of the Zicourat, the temple tower of Babylon. The beginning reads as follows: "Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, reverer of the great

gods, establisher of Esagila and Erida, son of Nabopolassar, of the king of Babylon, am I. When Marduk, the great lord, elevated my head I abused myself reverently before Marduk, the god who created me." After this Nebuchadnezzar goes on to boast that he made the temple "brilliant as the day with bitumen and blue glittering bricks" and that for the same end he had his mighty cedars prepared. The inscription ends with Nebuchadnezzar's prayer that Marduk will reward his pious deeds by granting him "eternal days." Work was also carried on at the town wall built by Nabonid, the last king of Babylon, who reigned 555-538 B. C. About 400 meters of this wall were uncovered. The wall is about 25 feet thick and has a tower every 60 feet. The main gate lies in the line of the great Babylonian procession street. The pavement of the processional street at this point is

perfectly preserved. It is constructed of two or three layers of bricks set in asphalt and covered with a thick coating of asphalt. King Nabonid, it is proved, built his fortifications out of the ruins of works constructed by his predecessors, as the excavators found brick with a four lined inscription of Heriglissar, in which this ruler, whose inscriptions have hitherto been missing, describes himself as "the accomplisher of good deeds." The excavations made in Assur by Dr. W. Andrae in the season April to October yielded still more important results. The complete ground plan of the Temple of Assur was laid bare, and the history of the great building pushed back to the third millennium, B. C. This makes it the oldest Mesopotamian temple so far discovered. The temple was renewed by the King Sams-Adad about 1800 B. C., and it was burned down 500 years later under Salmamassar I, who, however, reconstructed it on exactly the old lines. Many important finds were made by Dr. Andrae. Near the door in the southeast front were found remains of a relief of a bull three

Many Miles of Champagne

Visit to Immense Caves at Rheims, Where Wine is Stored, Worth While. Rheims is perhaps best known because of the most beautiful relic of Gothic architecture embodied in its cathedral. The town's association with the career of Joan of Arc is another link between us and it. Some may ever remember the tale of its

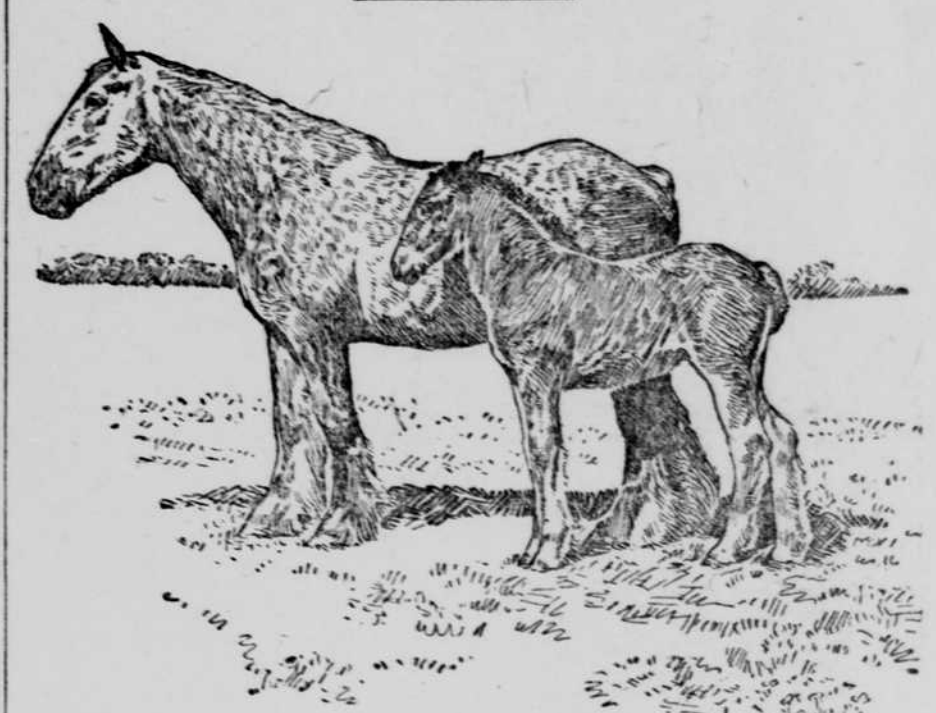
famous jackdaw. But there are few who know Rheims as the center of the champagne trade, and the home of the most famous champagne firms in the world. If you look in the city directory you will find no less than ninety establishments for making champagne. And these are not the only inhabitants who are connected with the industry, for besides twenty firms which are employed in making

the corks used, there are almost as many more who are engaged in the machinery necessary for the industry. A visit to the immense caves where the wine is stored is worth while. Some of them extend for miles into the city, and many parts are completely honeycombed with them. In order to vary the temperature they are often three stories deep under the street level, and one may descend to them by a fine flight of steps, some hundred and sixteen, which have been cut from the chalky soil. Though the

caves extend for more than ten miles, they are constantly being added to. Some, the corridors named after various prominent men or cities, such as Thiers, Carnot, Washington, Paris, New York, are more than a quarter of a mile in length and lead to some two hundred large rooms. In these cellars one may expect to find rows of dusty bottles covered with webs and spiders. But in this he will be disappointed, for every part is as faultlessly clean and fresh as constant care can make it. Here are often stored as much as 528,000 gallons of champagne, or from thirteen to fourteen million bottles. Tunnel Between Sweden and Denmark The Swedish parliament is at present discussing the projector's submarine tunnel between Sweden and Denmark. The undertaking is intended to enable the military forces of the three Scandinavian countries to cooperate in time of war. The tunnel would probably be made between Copenhagen and Malme.

SHIRE HORSE ESSENTIALLY ENGLISH FARMERS' OWN

Animal Has Improved Vastly in Recent Years, in Uniformity of Type, in Feet, Action, Pasterns and Quality of Hair and Bone.



English Shire Mare and Colt.

(By G. T. BARROWS, England.) The Shire horse is essentially the English farmer's own. Across the border the Clydesdale holds sway. It is flattering to the English breeder to know that America and Canada are now taking more Shires than they have ever done before.

England today is being constantly scoured by American buyers for the right kind of Shire horses.

The English Shire horse has improved vastly of recent years, in uniformity of type, in feet, action and has vastly better pasterns and quality of hair and bone.

The farmer's brood mare—the rent payer—is a real feminine type, namely, neither of the gelding or the stallion appearance. She is always mated to a stallion of great masculinity, possessing good, wide, strong feet, and is naturally a free mover, with flat, sound bone, of strong constitution and as big as possible.

In the large studs the greatest care is taken over the matter of suitable stallions selected. Very few traveling stallions are to be found without a veterinary surgeon's certificate of soundness.

If anything, some of the farmers who have found breeding a rapid means of acquiring wealth, are inclined to get quality at the expense of weight and substance. Shows are the best advertisement that the English tenant-farmer has for getting rid of his wares to the landlord or the rich breeder.

Shows in an English summer are as plentiful as sparrows. They are held upon the slightest provocation, where two or three horse breeders are gathered together.

One of the most gratifying features of the Shire horse breeding in the old country, is that the rich man settles in the locality, or suddenly becomes prominent as a breeder of first-class animals. He spends no end of money on buying and maturing.

These often fall into the hands of the farmer cheaply, and very often the farmer sells back their offspring at considerable prices.

Shire service is cheap in England, when one considers the enormous out-

lay of some of the breeders, and the tenant farmer, or the farmer whose land is only rented, has all the benefits of his rich proprietor's patronage. The old country may have old-fashioned ways, but the farmer knows when he is well off and he knows that to raise Shire horses successfully is to have a bank balance, and to have no haunting fears from a disastrous season.

HORSE SHOING IS SCIENCE

No Man Is Fully Equipped for Task Unless He Understands Anatomy of Animal's Foot—Advance Being Made.

(By WM. J. KELLY.) Formerly the ordinary blacksmith, who knew very little about the underlying principles that should govern horse shoeing, was called upon to shoe horses. As a result very much of the work done was inferior and such work reacted in many instances against the usefulness of the horse that was thus shod.

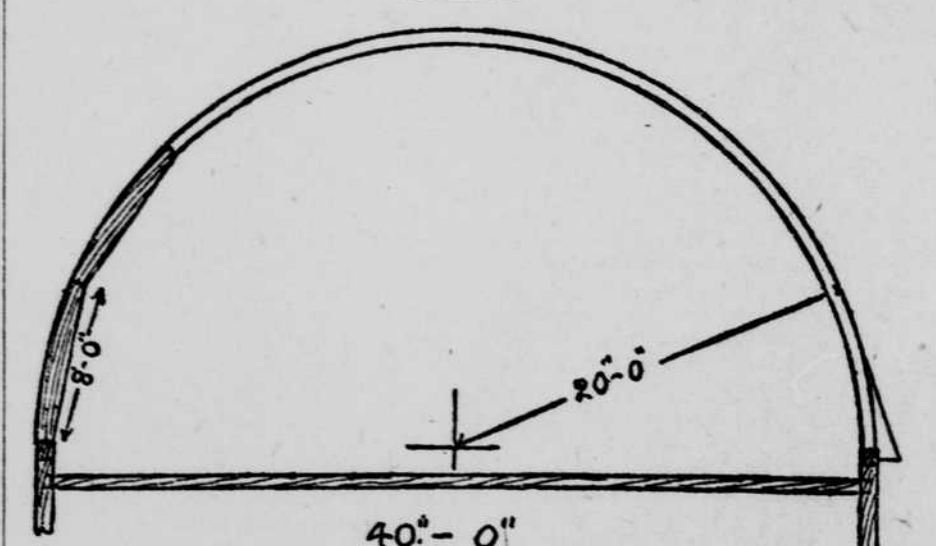
The advance that has been made in this branch of blacksmithing during recent years, has been very great.

The work of shoeing horses is so variable in its requirements that no small degree of skill is required on the part of those engaged in the business.

It would perhaps be correct to say that no horse shoer is fully equipped for his work who does not understand considerable about the anatomy of the horse's foot. He should also be able to detect defects in the animal's locomotion and should know how to shoe the horse in such a way that the evils arising from these defects will be lessened or overcome entirely.

Chickens With Turkeys. It is downright cruelty to chickens to confine them with turkeys, as many of them will be killed by the larger birds.

PRACTICAL ARCHED ROOF BARN



The accompanying plan of arched roof will not need any bracing, providing it is built on a wood frame. If placed on a concrete wall it would need to be fastened to the wall in some manner. This arch could be made out of one-inch lumber, three ply thick, using eight pieces. These will be a trifle shorter than eight feet. Cut outside to circle of 20 feet radius. It will be a little stronger by leaving inside straight. These should be

placed about two feet centers. Nail on outlook like shown on plan for cornice. You can make them out of two-inch by eight-inch the same length, which takes a little more lumber, and we do not consider they would be as strong. It would be better to use a 3 by 8 inch or a 3 by 6 inch bolted on to underside of ridge to fasten track to, as this would bring the load on two or three rafters.

Apples for Home.

The following choice varieties of apples cannot be beaten for the home orchard. They cover the entire apple season from late July to May of the succeeding year and include both dessert and cooking kinds: Yellow Transparent, Pimale, Red Astrachan, Oldenburger, Chenango, Sweet Bough, Porter Maiden Blush, Fameuse, Fall Pippin, St. Lawrence, Wealthy, Hawley, McIntosh, Jonathan, Hubbardston, Grimes Golden, King, Wagener, Yellow Bellflower, Northern Spy, Roxbury Russett, Newtown, Pippin and Winesap. In selecting varieties for the home orchard, at least one tree of each should be secured, provided space can be given. If the family is of good size and ground available, two trees should be bought at least of the later varieties.

to be of much use to the owner. In borrowing labor this kind of neighbor will work the hired man half to death and then in returning the labor spend half his time telling stories. In exchanging labor or anything else pick out a farmer who will practice the golden rule.

New Mint Region.

Peppermint growers of New York and Michigan will meet competition from the reclaimed lands of Louisiana. A distillation plant is also in operation. A party of expert agriculturists recently inspecting the region were convinced that the crop can be grown in limited quantities at a good profit. Peppermint oil was imported into the United States during the fiscal year to the extent of 1,238 pounds, worth \$6,415, while the exports of American peppermint oil amounted to 161,811 pounds, worth \$288,318.

Breeding Pens.

Most breeders are willing to sell their last year's breeding pens for less than half what you would have to pay for the same quality in pullets.