

Odd News From Big Cities

Stories of Strange Happenings in the Metropolitan Towns

Uncle Sam Asks All to Swat the Fly



NEW YORK.—The whole United States government, with its vast treasury of wealth, its brainy statesmen and its army and navy, its immense force of high-brows, against the poor little house fly! That's the line-up in a bitter war of extermination scheduled to set the nation by the ears and enlist the courageous support of every man, woman and child in this broad land. The final knell of the house fly has been sounded and the battle has just begun. "Catch 'em and kill 'em; show no quarter"—that is the war cry of the army of extermination that is to put forth every effort to rid the land of the *Musca Domestica*, the polite name by which the house fly should be addressed by strangers.

Until the scientists got busy with their investigations the house fly was considered merely as a pestiferous insect, designed by the Creator of all things merely to take its bath in the sweet cream and maple sirup, annoy the late morning sleeper, skate about with abandon on the polished surface of shiny baldheads and practise the Morse telegraph code on the cleanest of windows.

Long suffering housewives since time began were the only really active enemies of the seemingly insignificant little fly, and they alone and unaided applied the imprecations and dish cloths vigorously against the nuisance. But after the scientists got onto the

job the fight against the insect began to assume proportions of magnitude.

"That little insect which the average citizen was wont to regard merely as a domestic pest is now branded as the most dangerous creature on earth. The house fly has been publicly indicted as a murderer of the human race, the greatest disease propagator and the carrier of more menacing and malignant germs than all other creatures put together.

This little, but potent, messenger of death wanders from the sick room, from the filth of the garbage pail, from the heaps of refuse of all kinds into the peaceful, happy homes of our land, walks upon the butter, the meat, the fruit, the sugar, takes a bath in the milk, leaving everywhere the germs of disease that have gathered upon its furry feet and body.

About half the deaths from typhoid in New York, according to the health authorities, are attributed directly to the distribution of germs by house flies. And worse than that, the figures show that of 7,000 deaths of cooling babies in that city from infantile diseases, more than 5,000 were traced to infection carried by house flies.

According to a noted scientist the extermination of the pest is comparatively easy. All that is necessary, he says, is a systematic effort on the part of the public. If all the people will practise the utmost cleanliness, it is declared, the house fly will be extinct in this country within a few years, for the house fly cannot exist without filth.

"Cleanliness," then, is the watchword for the American public to put an end to an insect that is not only a terrible nuisance, but a terrible instrument of death to thousands of our population every year.

'Gators and Insects Hunt New Home



NEW ORLEANS.—More than 1,000,000 acres of marsh land lying within 50 miles of New Orleans are to be drained, reclaimed and transformed from a wilderness into gardens, homes, hamlets and towns. The work of reclaiming some 50,000 acres within the corporate limits of New Orleans is now well under way, while contracts have been let for the reclamation of fully 100,000 acres additional in adjoining parishes.

This means that within two years the alligator will no longer find aboriginal harborage in the Carnival city, that the breeding grounds of countless billions of mosquitoes will be turned into highly productive farms on which mosquitoes cannot breed, that hun-

dreds of miles of paved roadways will lead from New Orleans north, east and west, and that for the first time in its history New Orleans will possess suburbs.

The nearest town or settlement of any consequence is now 50 miles distant from New Orleans. Within fifty miles of every large city in the country a million or more people reside, and many industries develop business and wealth for the urban population.

This is the end New Orleans is working to and will have reached, in large part, anyway, by the time the Panama canal is opened to the ships of the world.

Meanwhile modern sewerage and drainage within the city proper have practically and wholly solved the city's sanitary problems, and the discovery of a simple method of filtering the waters of the Mississippi river has given the city a pure water service excelled by none in the world. These systems are in operation and are nearly complete. They have cost the city about \$25,000,000.

No Corsets are Worn at West Point



WASHINGTON.—"I have often heard a question as to whether West Pointers wore corsets. It is absurd in a way, because should any effeminate youngster resort to such a thing it would be impossible to keep the affair a secret, and once known his school life would become a burden to him on account of the endless amount of criticism he would receive from his fellows. He would be made the laughing-stock of the school and would soon find himself the possessor of any number of effeminate nicknames that would grate upon his ears in any but a pleasant manner.

"It is true," continued the old soldier, who was no other than Col. K. B. Collins, a retired army officer, in a

discussion of West Pointers, "that many West Pointers acquire a figure of perfection of symmetry and a carriage the acme of manly grace, but these are due not to any ingenious appliances, but to the systematic drills and exercises that make the cadet, to a certain extent, an athlete. At the outset these young fellows are put through what are called the 'setting up' exercises, their object being to straighten the body and develop the chest. One might suppose that it would require a great amount of such exercise to make any marked showing, but three long hours of such exercise daily will soon produce beneficial results in the most stooped forms.

"The cadet uniform is also a great help in this direction. The dress coat is tight, very tight. The shoulders are heavily padded in order to give them a square effect. The chest is made thick, so that there will be no danger of wrinkling. All this for the sake of looks; comfort has no place in the make-up of a West Pointer; it is discipline and looks."

Dentists Believe They Have a Kick



CHICAGO.—"Well, I don't know what under the shining forces I am going to do, anyway," and a dentist in the Masonic temple sighed a perfect mammoth of a sigh.

"The matter? Hair, just plain hair. No—not plain, either. Now, for instance. A lady came up to my office the other day and wanted her teeth fixed, and finally I took hold of the top of her head with one hand, while I worked with the other. Then I turned away to get an instrument, and my sleeve button caught in her hair and the whole back of it, about fifteen feet, shiny curls, came along with me. She curiously froze me up, and she didn't come back to pay her

bill, either. Say, this new fangled hair style is putting me to the bad.

"The worst feature of the whole thing is that the heads, or rather the hair, won't fit into the headrests. I have tried all manner of schemes, and even had a new headrest built along lines that I was sure would fit, but the heads simply won't fit into anything.

"If we do succeed in getting the mass laid out and tucked away carefully where it won't bother us, we get something like this:

"Oh, mercy, doctor, you are musing my hair all up. And I am going to a party this afternoon, too."

"But the most usual thing is: 'Oh, doctor, there is a hairpin sticking in my head. Wait a minute. O, dear, it's coming down. Doctor, do stop a minute while I fasten up my braid.'

"I do tell you what, the dentists ought to get together and boycott the present style of hairdress, or else insist that all extra hair be taken off before any dental work will be done. That would settle it, all right."

ROAD and FARM IMPROVEMENT

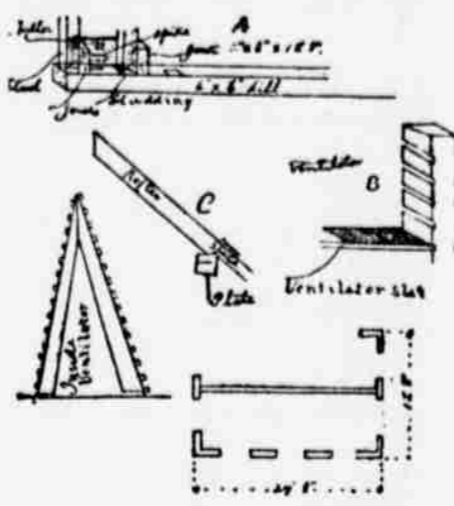


GOOD PLANS FOR CORNCRIB

May Be Used for Other Grain as Needed and Is Not Expensive—Gives Fullest Protection.

In detailing plans for a crib to hold 1,200 bushels of corn, D. P. Barry, writing in Rural New Yorker, says:

Such a building must contain 3,000 cubic feet of space and support a weight of 42 tons. The desideratum in a corner crib is ventilation. A building to contain 3,000 cubic feet of space should be 12 feet wide, 24 feet long and 10 feet between joists. The foundation should be piers of concrete, and pyramidal, 1 by 2 feet on the top, five feet apart on the sides, three feet apart on ends. The center wall should be continuous, and may be of rough stone laid up roughly in mortar. Good foundations should be sought for. Stones with sharp an-



Plan for a Corncrib.

gles weighing five to six pounds may be used in the piers; there should be an inch of matrix outside all stones. Put the forms together with screws and inch lumber planed. Lubricate the forms with soft soap before filling; loosen screws to remove. Sills should be 6 by 6 inches, joists 2 by 8 inches, 12 feet 8 inches; studding 4 by 4 inches by 11 feet; plates and rafters 2 by 4 inches; plates should be doubled. Place the posts on top of sills and set studding well toed to sills, 18-inch on centers, and thoroughly spike joists to studding. See Fig. 472, A. The upper tie joists may be 1 by 6 inches, well nailed under plate to studding. All material thus far preferably hemlock. Pieces same width as joists should be nicely nailed on studding between joists on sill to prevent rats getting on sill from inside, Fig. 472. The floor should be of 14 gauge perforated iron, or lay one-half inch mesh wire on the joists and lay floor over this. The perforated sheets would furnish ventilation.

On inside of studding nail one-quarter inch mesh wire cloth, 11 to 12 gauge, with light wire staples, from floor to plate all over the inside except at openings.

Between the studding cut in strips all around and to the top, one-half by 5 1/2 inch, beveled on edges to a miter. These strips should be set at an angle of 45 degrees and may be three inches apart. Use window blinds for model. Cut gins one-quarter by one-half inch in sides of studding. See Fig. 472, B. Put strips in place and toe with sixpenny nails. Strips and studding should be surfaced, and may be set up in pairs and painted before being nailed in place. It will be impossible to drive rain over these. Put a shelf high enough from the bottom so two widths of one-half inch mesh wire screen will reach it; put shelf all around at same angle as ventilator slats. Rats cannot climb over it. Put openings above shelf for shoveling in the corn. Doors may be placed on sides or ends; rat-proof by using wire cloth or perforated sheets.

This building may be used for other grain by simply lining with building paper as may be needed. This is not an expensive structure, but will give the fullest protection.

GOOD ROADS ARE VALUABLE.

German Farmer Gives His Views on Question That Interests Every Agriculturist.

(By HOWARD H. GROSS.)

A sturdy clear-headed German, in speaking of good roads, said:

"My farm is ten miles from Sheboygan; if it was only five miles it would be worth \$10.00 more an acre. If I had a good road all the way I could go to Sheboygan whenever I wanted to and haul twice as much. So a good road would be just as good for me as if I lived five miles out with a bad road. So that's why I go in for a good road. Sure it will cost money but so does everything else worth having."

"Bad roads and the extra cost of doing business over them would bankrupt almost any country except ours. We have the worst roads on earth and yet we are better able to have good ones than any other people. When we wake up and take hold of this question at the right end, we will get results. We need both state and national aid and to build permanent roads by bond issues and let the next generation help pay the bill. If this is done we can have good roads with very little increase in taxation."

LADDER THAT WILL COLLAPSE

As Arranged by Illinois Man Steps Fold Up and Permit Sides to Be Drawn Together.

There are several forms of collapsible ladders, but that shown in the illustration seems to be the most ingenious yet. It was invented by an Illinois man. The sides of the ladder, or the stiles, have recesses along



Ladder Will Collapse.

their inner edges in which the steps fit and into which they can be folded. The steps themselves are hinged in the center with the form of hinge that opens only one way. When the ladder is in use and the steps are flattened out they are quite as safe as if they were of a solid piece. When the stiles are pressed together the steps break and fold into two parts, each part fitting into the recess along the side of the stiles and giving the ladder the appearance of a couple of planks laid side by side. The back supports of this ladder and the side pieces connecting them with the stiles are also jointed and can be folded into a very small compass. Though this apparatus is perfectly safe it takes up no more room when collapsed than a four-inch plank of the same length.

NO MOSQUITOES BREED HERE

One Barrel of Water May Be Breeding Place for Enough Insects to Infest Entire Farm.

Keep your rainbarrel covered. One barrel may be the breeding place for



No Mosquitoes Here.

enough mosquitoes to infest a whole neighborhood or the entire farm. That malaria is caused by a certain type of mosquito has been proved beyond a doubt; without the pests no such sickness would exist.

Home-Made Water Cooler.

A good home-made water cooler may be made as follows: Take a sugar barrel and put straw in the bottom, on this place a large stone jar and pack around with straw. On the cover of the jar place a wet cloth and then cover the barrel. Nice cool water where the men are working will be appreciated during the summer.

FARM NOTES

Peas will sprout at 45 degrees. Cheap seed is often the most expensive.

Always plant the best seed you can get for every crop.

Good time to cut out the poison ivy. It's almost a crime to allow it to grow anywhere.

Give the boys a chance to take a swim every day possible—and the horses too.

Do not let any pickles ripen so long as more are desired for pickles, for the vines stop bearing.

After the hay is off the meadow we can see its thin spaces better. Get busy with the manure spreader.

Make sowings once a week of such quick-raising vegetables as lettuce and radishes, to insure a continuous succession.

Smilax does not need sunshine. It requires a soil of sandy loam, should be watered freely and kept in a warm place.

Cucumbers for pickles should be picked every alternate day at least. Cut them but never pull them off, as the vines are liable to be injured.

Why do so few farmers raise asparagus for family use? It is very little trouble; once planted it remains indefinitely and never fails to bring a crop.

Machinery used during the summer harvest should not be allowed to stand out in the fields. If it has not yet been placed under cover it is high time that it is placed there now.

One may have green corn until frost comes if care is taken to plant varieties which come to the eating stage at different times, or early sorts may be planted every ten days until August.

SOMETIMES.



Henderson—When a man marries he keeps his wife in dresses, hats, shoes—in fact, everything she needs. What does a wife keep her husband in?

Henpeck (absently)—Hot water.

LEG A MASS OF HUMOR

"About seven years ago a small abrasion appeared on my right leg just above my ankle. It irritated me so that I began to scratch it, and it began to spread until my leg from my ankle to the knee was one solid scale like a scab. The irritation was always worse at night and would not allow me to sleep, or my wife either, and it was completely undermining our health. I lost fifty pounds in weight and was almost out of my mind with pain and chagrin as no matter where the irritation came, at work, on the street or in the presence of company, I would have to scratch it until I had the blood running down into my shoe. I simply cannot describe my suffering during those seven years. The pain, mortification, loss of sleep, both to myself and wife is simply indescribable on paper and one has to experience it to know what it is.

"I tried all kinds of doctors and remedies but I might as well have thrown my money down a sewer. They would dry up for a little while and fill me with hope only to break out again just as bad if not worse. I had given up hope of ever being cured when I was induced by my wife to give the Cuticura Remedies a trial. After taking the Cuticura Remedies for a little while I began to see a change, and after taking a dozen bottles of Cuticura Resolvent in conjunction with the Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment, the trouble had entirely disappeared and my leg was as fine as the day I was born. Now after a lapse of six months with no signs of a recurrence I feel perfectly safe in extending to you my heartfelt thanks for the good the Cuticura Remedies have done for me. I shall always recommend them to my friends. W. H. White, 312 E. Cabot St., Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 4 and Apr. 13, 1909."

Statistics are almost as unsatisfactory as facts are stubborn.

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