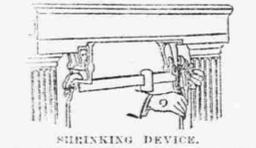
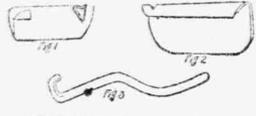


# FARMERS' CORNER.

## Cheating in Weight.

The latest fraud to deceive farmers is the scale shrinker, which has been sold in vast numbers throughout the West. The appliance is made of hardened steel. The end introduced has a raised portion or lug on one side, which has a tendency when introduced to lengthen the beam so as to cause it to weigh less than it should. Careful tests with the device have produced the following results: (1) Scale balanced properly at 1,000 pounds with shrinker attached, 890 pounds; (2) four hogs weighed 1,310 pounds, and with shrinker 1,270, an average shrinkage of ten pounds to each hog; (3) twelve hogs weighed 4,545 pounds and with shrinker 4,405, an average shrinkage of 140 pounds to each hog. In the illustration Fig. 1 shows the appliance, which is

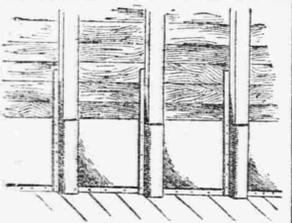


SHRINKING DEVICE.

V-shape and made of hardened steel; the end introduced has a raised portion, or, in other words, a lug on one side, which has a tendency when introduced to lengthen the beam so as to cause it to weigh less than it should. Fig. 2 shows another section of the shrinker. Fig. 3 is a handle made so as to fit over the top of the scale beam, and is used to tip the scale beam so that one hand pressed on the rod connected with the lever on the scale raises the loop connected with the beam so as to allow a space to insert the shrinker in the diamond-shaped knife, or bearing, on each side of the scale holding the rod. Fig. 4 shows the handle in place, with the hand pressing on the rod in order to raise the ring, which fits on the diamond-shaped lug on the scale beam, showing the shrinker as being put into the aperture.

## Making Buildings Warm.

Thousands of farm buildings are cold in winter, for the want of some such protection as that suggested in the illustration, which is from the Orange Judd Farmer. Along the inside wall, curving out around the studding, is stretched strong, resin-stained building paper. It is snugly fastened to the walls with laths, as shown, the second course of paper lapping over the first, and the edges held by horizontal strips of lath, as at the bottom. Such a method of making old walls tight is very inexpensive, and the result is altogether excellent. One cannot put paper under old shingles and clapboards, but he can sheath the inside in this manner, and



METHOD OF FASTENING PAPER.

can do so easily as to make the further inlet of cold air perfectly inexcusable.

## Clover and Timothy Seed.

Clover and timothy seed should be sown early. Sow on a light snow, or when the ground is slightly frozen, about the middle of the month. Sow fifteen pounds, or one peck, of cloverseed to the acre. Thick seeding will prevent weed growth. On barren hillsides and on fields that have had little animal manure cloverseed will fail to germinate, owing to a lack of plant food. Spread a thin coat of stable manure over the land after the seed is sown. If manure cannot be had, spread a thin coat of straw, and sow 250 pounds of kalmat and 200 pounds of bone phosphate to the acre. The chemical manures will furnish the plant food, and the straw will afford a covering for the young seed.

## Planning an Income.

At the commencement of each season every farmer should calculate and plan to make his farm yield him a certain and definite income. There is something almost magical in having an object in view. Estimate the yield from the wheat, corn and hay, and the returns from the cows, sheep, hogs and poultry; then put down opposite to these the taxes, the insurance, wages, feed and repair bills; by knowing exactly what sum is needed each month, a pretty fair estimate may be had and the income can be planned accordingly.

## Owning vs. Renting Land.

A great many farmers, when age obliges them to retire from the active management of their farms, dislike very much to sell the place where so many years of their life have been spent. To this cause we attribute their attempts to rent their farms, thinking that they can thus have something to say about how the farm should be managed. But all these rented farms

soon run down, and though the owner may get his rent it is at the expense of a constant depreciation of property. Selling the farm outright, and taking a mortgage on it for security, is much safer. Few men who own a farm will be satisfied to see it depreciate. Besides, the mortgage on farm property bears a higher rate of interest than the farmer could make by any other way of investing his money.—American Cultivator.

**What the Farm Garden Should Be.**  
The garden should never contain less than half an acre, and better be two acres. A garden of this size can easily be worked with a horse, saving much hand labor, which is required in small plots. If more is grown than required for home use it can usually be disposed of at some near-by market, or to some neighbor who will not have a garden. Or the area can be devoted to potatoes, or roots for stock can be increased. Being near the house, it is of easy access, and the farmer can spend many half hours working his garden, when he would not think of going to the field for that length of time.

The garden should contain all the small fruits, such as berries, currants, etc. Plant these in single rows, and far enough apart so that they can be easily cultivated. The space between can be devoted to some vegetable, which will compel working around the shrub. If the market gardener, upon lands ranging in price from \$300 to \$1,000 per acre, can upon half a dozen acres sell more dollars' worth of produce than are sold off many large farms, why may not the farmer grow, in his own garden articles for food that will take the place of much of the more expensive commodities bought in town? The garden can not be had without labor, but with less, considering the amount produced, than is required for general farm crops. Two and sometimes three crops can be grown upon the same ground in one season. With the addition of a few hotbed sash the garden can be made to produce fresh vegetables for the table all the year round.

## Barb-Wire Cuts.

The following is said to have been proved an excellent treatment for barb-wire cuts: Wash the cut thoroughly with castile soap, using tepid water; after washing, spray the wound well with a weak solution of carbolic acid, and then dust over it all the fresh, alkali lime that will adhere. This treatment should be given every day. No wrapping or covering is needed. The same treatment would doubtless be good in cases where horses get their pasterns burned or cut with a stake rope.

## A Shovel for Bedding.

Where leaves, chaff and sawdust are used for bedding, a very large, light shovel is needed for handling them expeditiously and neatly. Such an implement is shown in the accompanying illustration. It can easily be made in the home workshop, using half-inch pine boards for the sides and bottom and 1½-inch spruce for the back, into which the handle is fitted. Bedding for several animals can then be taken up at one shovelful.

## Green Bone for Hens.

The feed of sliced bone for hens is much more than so much grit in the gizzard to enable them to digest their food. It is itself food of the very best sort to make eggs, furnishing the gelatine for the egg and lime for the shell. Dried, cooked or burned bones are not nearly so good, as the gelatine has been expelled from the bone, and its lime is also in less soluble condition than while it is in the green state. But a hen's gizzard is equal to the task of grinding up almost anything. A diet of green bone and whole wheat is probably the best of all for egg production.

## The Summer's Firwood.

Firwood for the summer should be hauled to the woodshed and piled up under cover. When the days are wet and too disagreeable for outside work the wood can be sawed, split and piled, ready for summer use. The brush from trimming the trees in the orchard and the corncocks, if dry, make excellent kindling-wood, and these should always be gathered and placed handy for the kitchen fire.

## Keep Horses' Mangers Clean.

Much dust and soiled food is apt to accumulate in the horse's manger, and as he is all the time breathing over it the manger quickly becomes so offensive that much food is wasted. Much of this feed will, however, be eaten by cattle, as they will eat freely after horses. The horse has a more delicate taste than any other farm animal except a sheep.

## Early Pigs and Lambs.

Unless a farmer has a warm basement barn it is not worth while for him to have either lambs or pigs much before the last of March. Even with sufficient warmth there is not enough sunlight before March for young pigs. They will almost inevitably be kept back in their growth, and probably will not be any heavier at hog-killing time than pigs farrowed a month later.

## Potato Feedings.

In almost all farmhouses after potatoes are peeled for cooking the usual but wasteful way is to throw them in the swill barrel for the pigs. They are very little good for pigs, but if cooked and mixed with wheat bran or fine middlings they make an excellent feed for hens.

It is under contemplation to attach a phonograph department to the British museum, in which would be stored in cylinder form the voices of great people. In the event of this scheme being realized the Queen would be asked to speak into the instrument.

# GOOD ROADS

## Wide Tires Abroad.

The importance of wide tires in preserving the highways is appreciated in many foreign countries, and laws exist prescribing the width of tires that may be used on the public roads. The San Francisco Chronicle says that "Austria requires tires for wagons built for more than two and one-fourth tons to be at least four and one-third inches wide. If for more than four and one-half tons, six and one-fourth inches. Bohemia requires a four and one-half inch tire for two-horse wagons. France requires tires from three to ten inches wide; for four-wheeled wagons tires are usually at least six inches, with the front axle shorter than the rear, so that the wheels do not 'track.' Germany requires at least four-inch tires for 'wagons for heavy loads.' Switzerland requires one inch of width for each draft animal, and six-inch tires for wagons for 'heavy loads.' In Canada the Agricultural Department recommended six-inch tires for loads of a ton or more, and that is probably the law."

A number of States in this country have passed wide-tire laws, but even some States which spend much money in improving their roads fail to see the importance of prescribing the width of tires that will do most to maintain and protect them. It is a short-sighted policy and one that costs money.

## What Transportation Costs.

During 1897 some \$25,000,000 was collected by street car lines in New York City, and the amount paid there in the course of the year for other kinds of transportation would double these figures. The same thing, in kind, goes on in every city, town and hamlet of the land, while the annual expenditures for car fare by the tens of thousands of commuters who live in the suburban districts surrounding the cities in which they do business would swell the total to a vast sum. With perfect highways, a large portion of this would be saved to the worker, not only to the advantage of his pocket, but of his health as well, through the use of a cycle, and the competition would in some cases cause a reduction of fares. Perfect roads and good cycles will revolutionize methods of locomotion.—L. A. W. Bulletin.

## Roads in Porto Rico.

Speaking of the roads in Porto Rico, Gen. Roy Stone says: "I can only add to all that I have heretofore said in favor of the good roads movement, a warning and reproof drawn from a country where, except for a few military lines, no roads have ever been built; and where the bulk of the product of a marvelously rich soil is carried to market on the heads of men and women or the backs of diminutive animals. As a result of this neglect, together with other kindred causes, the agricultural population of the island, although industrious and frugal, is so poor as to be almost without shelter, furniture or clothing, and entirely without supplies of food, so that their trifling wages must be paid day by day to enable them to continue this hopeless existence."

## A Perfect Road.

A dry foundation; water effectually excluded from sides and bottom; a covering of material so packed and solidified as to shed falling rain, and the whole maintained in these conditions—this constitutes a perfect road.

## Causes of Death of Presidents.

George Washington died from a cold which brought on laryngitis; John Adams died from senile debility; Thomas Jefferson died from chronic diarrhea; James Madison died of old age; James Monroe died of general debility; John Quincy Adams died of paralysis; the fatal attack overruling him in the House of Representatives.

Andrew Jackson died of consumption and dropsy; Martin Van Buren died of catarrh of the throat and lungs; William Henry Harrison died of pleurisy, induced by a cold taken on the day of his inauguration; John Tyler died from a mysterious disorder like a bilious attack; James K. Polk died from weakness caused by cholera.

Zachary Taylor died from cholera morbus, induced by improper diet; Millard Fillmore died from paralysis; Franklin Pierce died of inflammation of the stomach; James Buchanan died of rheumatism and gout; Abraham Lincoln, assassinated by J. Wilkes Booth; Andrew Johnson died from paralysis; Ulysses S. Grant died from cancer of the throat; Rutherford B. Hayes died from paralysis of the heart; James A. Garfield, assassinated by Charles J. Guiteau; Chester A. Arthur died from Bright's disease.

## An Odd Apple Problem.

Once upon a time, says a writer in St. Nicholas, there were two old men who sat in the market early one morning and sold apples. Each one had thirty apples, and one of the old men sold three for a cent and the other old man sold three for a cent. In that way the first man got 15 cents for his basket of apples, while the second old man received 10 cents; so that together they made 25 cents each day. But one day the old apple man who sold three for a cent was too sick to go to the market, and he asked his neighbor to take his apples and sell them for him. This the other old man kindly consented to do, and when he got to the market with the two baskets of apples, he said to himself: "I will put all the apples in one basket, for it will be easier than picking them out of two baskets." So he put the sixty apples into one basket,

and he said to himself: "Now, if I sell two apples for one cent, and my friend sells three for one cent, that is the same thing as selling five apples for two cents." When he had sold the sixty apples he found he had only 24 cents, which was right; because there are twelve fives in sixty, and twice twelve are twenty-four. But if the other old man had been there and each one had sold his apples separately, they would have received 25 cents. Now, how is that explained?

## FATHER OF AN EMPRESS.

Played Zither for Money and Said His Daughter Had Married Well.

The death of the Empress Elizabeth of Austria has brought out many stories of her and her family. Some of the most interesting are about her and her father. Some of the most interesting are about her father, the Duke Maximilian. This man was a remarkably simple and genial character. Once he was making a pedestrian tour and stopped in a small tavern to eat. He had a zither with him, and some guests asked him to play, thinking, on account of his plain clothing, that he was a strolling musician. He obeyed readily and played everything that he could think of till coins rained into his hat. Then he ordered a meal that was so expensive for a strolling musician that the tavern-keeper became suspicious that his strange guest intended to run away after eating without paying. There was hesitation about serving the food, and while the Duke was waiting a corporal of one of his regiments entered the inn. He saluted, much to the Duke's embarrassment, who threw the money for the meal on the table and ran away, says the New York Press.

Once the Duke was in a train traveling to Vienna to visit the imperial family. In the coupe with him was a banker, who, misled by his fellow traveler's simplicity, patronized him, and in the course of a conversation told him that he had a daughter in Vienna who had married very well. She was, he boasted, the wife of one of the richest bankers in the city. "So?" said the Duke. "Why, that is quite a coincidence. I have a daughter in Vienna who has married very well, too?" "Who is the husband of your daughter, my good man?" asked the banker, and in his most haughty tone Maximilian answered, "The Emperor of Austria."

## Grown in Hawaiian Islands.

The soil of the Hawaiian Islands is of a very rich volcanic nature and nearly all the plants and trees of the tropical and temperate zones may be grown on it, but only a small portion of the land is under cultivation. When irrigation is perfected there is scarcely a limit to the productive capabilities of the islands.

Citrus fruits, oranges, lemons, limes and grape fruits can be grown, ripening in time to supply the deficiency of the California market when that gives out. All vegetables, breadstuffs, mangoes, dates, figs, pomegranates, mulberries, strawberries, guavas and coconuts grow in profusion. There are hundreds of acres of land which might be used for coconut groves with great success. Thousands of acres are covered with guavas in the wild state, which are falling to the ground ungathered. The fruit makes a fine jelly and United States capital might make guava jelly factories profitable.

Celery is grown if the proper soil is selected. That this vegetable thrives in a warm climate was proved in Southern California, where five years ago not enough was produced to supply the home market, but on the introduction of skilled methods from Michigan celery raising has become a great industry. Dairying might be made a profitable business in the Hawaiian Islands, but at present is neglected.

## Good Maxims.

Never be idle. If your hands cannot be usually employed attend to the cultivation of your mind. Always speak the truth. Keep good company or none. Make few promises. Live up to your engagements. Keep your own secrets, if you have any. When you speak a person look him in the face. Good company and good conversation are the signs of virtue. Good character is above all things else. Listen to neither loose nor idle conversation. You had better be poisoned in your blood than in your principles. Your character cannot be essentially injured except by your own acts. If any one speak evil of you, let your life be so virtuous that none will believe him. Drink no intoxicating liquors. Ever live, misfortune excepted, within your income. When you retire to bed, think over what you have done during the day. Never speak lightly of religion. Make no haste to be rich, if you prosper. Small and steady gains give competency with tranquility of mind. Never play at any game of chance. Avoid temptation through fear that you may not withstand it. Owe no man anything. Never borrow if you can possibly avoid it. Be just before you are generous.—American Cultivator.

## Strange.

Mr. Crimmonbeak—Did you ever think what a funny thing a lemon is? Mr. Crimmonbeak—Why funny? "You know how sour it is?" "Oh, yes." "Well, people take them to make 'em sing sweetly.'—Yonkers Statesman.

## Young Recruits.

More than half the infantry recruits of the British army for the past year have been under 18 years old.

## The Earliest Library.

The earliest library was that of Nebuchadnezzar. Every book was a brick, engraved with cuneiform characters.

A man isn't old so long as he can take pleasure in estimating how much money he will save "next year."

# HOUSEHOLD DEPARTMENT

## Foiling Eggs.

The boiling of an egg seems one of the most simple of all culinary ventures, yet where there is a member of the family who is distressed if his egg is not boiled in such a manner, his anguish is frequently so often repeated as to become chronic. It is a dreadful thing to ask for a soft-boiled egg and receive one just warmed through, or for one "well done," and receive a stone. The fault usually lies in the fact that the water is not boiling when the egg goes in, or that the time is counted from the moment the egg goes in, instead of from the time it commences to boil. For a soft-boiled egg, two minutes should be allowed; for a medium egg, three minutes, and for a hard-boiled one, five minutes. Have the water boiling when the eggs are immersed. This will lower the temperature, and a few seconds must elapse before the boiling again commences. Then cover, and watch the clock, removing the eggs the second the allotted time has expired.

## Home-Made Horchound.

This is an old-fashioned preparation for coughs and that made at home will contain horchound, while the boughten candy has the flavor given to it with cherry. A manufacturing confectioner once said that he had never had an ounce of the genuine horchound herb in his factory. To make this candy, first make a rather strong tea of the herbs and boiling water, then add 1 pound of granulated or coffee C sugar to each half-pint of the tea and boil until it will crack when tried in cold water. Pour into shallow, well-buttered pans, and when nearly cold mark into squares or bars. One can soon tell how strong to make the tea. The fresh herbs are preferable, but the dried packages one gets at a drug store will do nicely.

## Mince-meat for Pies.

Four pounds of lean meat, boiled until tender and then chopped fine. One tablespoon cinnamon, half-ounce mace, 3 pounds suet chopped fine, 8 pounds chopped apples, 2 pounds currants, 2 pounds stoned raisins, one lemon seeded and chopped skin and pulp, one tablespoon allspice, 1 pound candied citron, 6 pounds brown sugar, 1 tablespoon ground cloves, 2 tablespoons salt. Wet with boiled cider and cook together until apples and suet are done. Some do not add apples until ready to bake the pie. This is sufficient to cook the apples.

## Foiled Sausage.

Use the link sausage, piercing each one with a fork to prevent their bursting. Place the sausages in a steppan or chafing dish, pour cold water over them, just enough to cover, and add a tablespoonful of vinegar to the water. Let them simmer slowly about half an hour, or until the water is all evaporated. Serve a horseradish sauce with them or freshly grated horseradish moistened with lemon juice or vinegar. Baked apples or warm apple sauce are appetizing accompaniments to the sausage.

## To Waterproof Boots.

Summer and winter this is useful. Dress boots waterproofed would save many a cold, for the wearers often leave a warm room to tread on damp ground. Take half a pint of linseed oil and half a pint of neatfoot oil and boil them together. Bottle and keep ready for use with a sponge on the cork. Apply when the boots are perfectly clean. Of course only the soles of dress boots are to be so treated, and the oil must be allowed two or three days in which to dry. Two successive applications are best.

## Scalloped Oysters.

In boiling scallops select large firm ones, wash and pat dry with a soft, clean cloth. Season with pepper, but omit the salt until they are cooked, as the salt tends to extract the juice. Flatten slightly, roll in cracker dust or Indian meal, lay on a fine wire broiler, well buttered, and broil quickly over bright coal fire or under the gas flame in a gas range. Serve with thin strips of broiled bacon, quarters of lemon and parsley.

## To Renovate a Fur Garment.

A disreputable-looking fur garment can be coaxed back to its pristine good looks by dampening the fur thoroughly with a wet brush, then combing out carefully with a new coarse comb, working always in the direction that the fur naturally takes. Shake well, and hang up where it will not be molested until quite dry, when it will be found almost as good as new.

## Household Hint.

Good forks should never be used for toasting purposes.

Damp salt removes stains of tea and egg from china articles.

Nothing but ashes and dust should ever be thrown into a dust bin.

It is bad to sleep so that the morning light falls direct upon the eyelids.

Ceal in the cellar should never be damp, as it generates poisonous fumes.

Wash silk stockings in lather of castile soap, rinse very thoroughly in clear water, turn wrong side out, wring dry in a cloth; when nearly dry stretch and rub with hand to shape them; do not iron.

Flaxseed syrup for colds is made by boiling flaxseed until water becomes slimy, then strain, sweeten with powdered sugar and juice of fresh lemons. Dose, wineglassful when cough is troublesome.

Not a 'believer.' Miss Antiquette—You would scarcely believe that I was born in '76, would you? Miss Canstle—Oh, I don't doubt it. That was the year in which the United States was declared free and independent, was it not?

## How She Saw Her.

"How does it happen, Jane," snapped the angry mistress, "that I can see you feeding that policeman pumpkin pie in the kitchen last evening?" "I forgot to plug the keyhole, mum."—Detroit Free Press.

## Kaifir Swimming Feats.

The Kaifirs are great swimmers. They can do things in the water which other folk would look upon with astonishment. For example, a Kaifir "boy" can ford a stream, shoulder high, running as swiftly as if shot from a torrent. The way they accomplish the feat is thus: Just before entering the water they get a huge stone, sometimes as heavy as themselves, and with the help of a companion place it upon the head. A weight like this gives the "boy" balance, and he can keep his footing against the heaviest stream. If he were to drop the stone, he would be so light that the water would sweep him off his feet. And this is just one of the Kaifir tricks to accomplish things against tide and flood.

Mrs. WILSON'S SPECIFIC SYRUP FOR CHILDREN (nothing) soothes the gums, reduces inflammation, kills pain, cures wind-colic. 25 cents a bottle.

WANTED—Case of bad health that I.P.P.'s S-S will not benefit. Send a note to BEANS Chemical Co., New York, for 10 samples and 100 testimonials.

Every one has a fair turn to be as great as he pleases.—Jeremy Collier.

## "Better Be Wise Than Rich."

Wise people are also rich when they know a perfect remedy for all annoying diseases of the blood, kidneys, liver and bowels. It is Hood's Sarsaparilla, which is perfect in its action. It so regulates the entire system as to bring vigorous health. It never disappoints.

Cottré—For 42 years I had gotto, or swellings on my neck, which was discouraging and troublesome. Rheumatism also annoyed me. Hood's Sarsaparilla cured me completely and the swelling has entirely disappeared. A lady in Michigan saw my previous testimonial and used Hood's and was entirely cured of the same trouble. She thanked me for recommending it." Mrs. ANNA STRIBELAND, 406 Lovel Street, Kalamazoo, Mich.

Poor Health—Had poor health for years, pains in shoulders, back and hips, with constant headache, nervousness and no appetite. Used Hood's Sarsaparilla, gained strength and can work hard all day; eat heartily and sleep well. I took it because it helped my husband." Mrs. ELIZABETH J. GIFFELS, Moose Lake, Minn.

Makes Weak Strong—"I would give \$5 a bottle for Hood's Sarsaparilla if I could not get it for less. It is the best spring medicine. It makes the weak strong." ALBERT A. JAGNOW, Douglastown, N. Y.

Hood's Pills cure liver ills, non-irritating and the only cathartic to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.



THE EXCELLENCE OF SYRUP OF FIGS is due not only to the originality and simplicity of the combination, but also to the care and skill with which it is manufactured by scientific processes known to the CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO. only, and we wish to impress upon all the importance of purchasing the true and original remedy. As the genuine Syrup of Figs is manufactured by the CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO. only, a knowledge of that fact will assist one in avoiding the worthless imitations manufactured by other parties. The high standing of the CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO. with the medical profession, and the satisfaction which the genuine Syrup of Figs has given to millions of families, makes the name of the Company a guaranty of the excellence of its remedy. It is far in advance of all other laxatives, as it acts on the kidneys, liver and bowels without irritating or weakening them, and it does not grip nor nauseate. In order to get its beneficial effects, please remember the name of the Company—

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