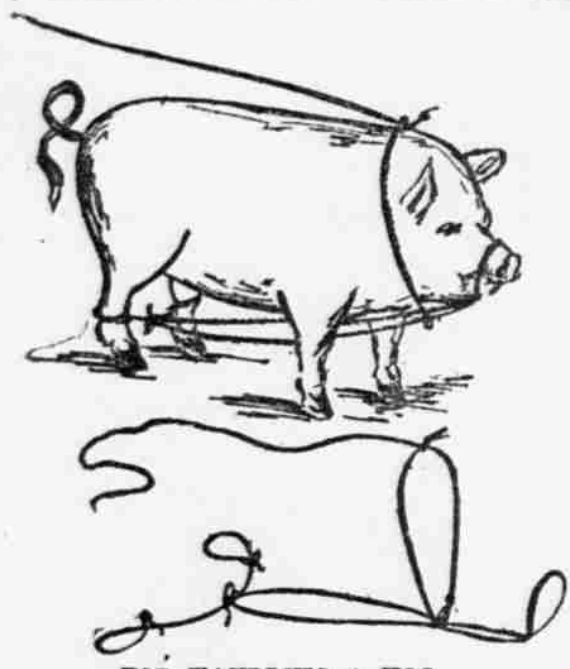




FARMERS' CORNER

Handling an Unruly Hog.
Any one who has tried it will testify that it is not an easy task to handle a stubborn hog, and most hogs are stubborn. If one has occasion to do this work the device shown in the cut is simple and effective. Take a strong rope about the diameter of a clothes-line and about ten or twelve feet long. From this cut off three feet and tie a loop in each end, then tie the remaining piece in the center of the looped piece and bring the loop over the snout of the hog after slipping the loops in the first place over his hind feet.



FOR HANDLING A HOG.

Animal is unruly and strong, the end which is shown over the back of the hog extending to the hand of the one who is driving it, may be slipped over his rump and into the lower loop and tied, leaving a long loop in the driver's hands for better control. The illustrations show clearly how the contrivance is constructed.

To Grow Fine Celery.

A Michigan gardener writes: Take any land that will stand drought, put at least one load of well-rotted manure on every square rod of ground, plow and fit the ground well, set plants in rows 16 inches apart and six to eight inches apart in the row (set with an old brick trowel), keep the surface well worked till the plants cover the ground, after which no weeds will bother. By raising celery by this method the plants become dense, and consequently darken the lower parts of the plants, causing the celery to grow white from the center. None but White Plume will grow successfully this way. White Plume can be grown in single row and be blanched by placing bundles of corn stalks on both rows. Bundles should be at least eight inches in diameter. I grew White Plume celery 33 inches high last year on high ground, and it was as white as snow. I find the Giant Pascal is best for late winter use, but it has to be earthed to blanch. These two varieties are the best to my notion.

One-Man Corn Sled.

Make two runners, one 5 feet and one 7 or 8 feet long; use 2x6 stuff; place 2 feet apart and nail boards on top as shown in cut. Fasten a scythe blade on for knife. It is better than the steel plate knives. Knife should run high on edge and at an angle of about 45 degrees from the runners.



A ONE-MAN CORN SLED.

The object of the long runner is to keep the sled from bucking to one side, which is caused by the cutting being all done on one side. We stand up to cut in large corn, and put on a box and sit down in small. It is a waste of labor to knock the corn down on sled and pick it up again. Keep it up in your arms. The single sled is now preferred to the double ones here. I am a boy 14 years old. My father has taken the Practical Farmer since before I was born.—Archie Orange, Galesburg, Kan.

On Sowing Clover.

Sowing clover is an absorbing question with farmers who desire to keep up the fertility of their land. When seed is high there is always a disposition, with some, to defer sowing clover until another year, and plow up the fields again. Seed may be cheaper next year, you know. This management may have kept these same fields under the plow for years, making it more uncertain to secure a catch, and requiring more acres, every year, to secure the requisite amount of grain. It is unwise and foolish to fail to sow clover because seed is dear.

Diversified Farming in the Extreme.
The managers of the Maryville (Mo.) Street Fair offered a \$10 prize to the Nodaway County agriculturist who should exhibit the largest number of farm products grown on his farm this season. W. K. Bosley, of Ravenwood, drove up with a wagon load of stuff and took the prize.

His wagon contained a stalk of corn thirteen and one-half feet high; white, red, yellow and speckled corn in ear; wheat, rye, buckwheat, rape, timothy seed, oats, thirteen kinds of green

beans and peas, three kinds of popcorn, two kinds of cucumbers, one red pig, a turkey, two chickens, two Guinea fowls, hedge hogs, strawberry vines, one cabbage weighing fifteen pounds, celery, summer and winter lettuce, peanuts, two kinds of beets, horseradish, asparagus, bluestem grass, slough grass, clover hay, prairie hay, carrots, green mustard, six kinds of pickles, seven kinds of jelly, jam, cherries, three kinds of parsnips, three gourds, two kinds of sunflower seed, sweet corn, can of honey, castor bean, one sunflower, the flower of which measured forty-six inches in circumference; sugar cane, two kinds of millet in stalk, an oyster plant, four kinds of radishes, turnips, four kinds of Irish potatoes, two kinds of sweet potatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, two kinds of squash, green lettuce and onions.—Baltimore American.

How to Market the Butter.
Those who possess the knack of making butter that has that fragrant flavor that distinguishes the produce of many farm dairies, often make the mistake of keeping the butter on hand too long after it is made before marketing it. It will be found that however palatable it may be, and however good the flavor it possesses when first made, it will have escaped after too long keeping. Even when transported long distances it loses its distinctiveness while in transit. In fact, it seems that butter which possesses to a large degree this much-desired flavor deteriorates much quicker than an inferior kind. As a consequence of this, the farmer's wife who makes a superior article which has a local reputation for excellence should endeavor to dispose of the product to local trade, or at least sell it so near home that it will be but a day or two between the churn and the customer. This can be easily managed in almost any locality where there is a market for it by securing a list of private customers and furnish it to them direct as they need it. This class of patrons are much more profitable year in and year out than the city hotels or the commission houses or those customers who buy in the general market.

To Prevent Black Rot.
As a preventive of black rot in vineyards next season the North Carolina experiment station recommends that all dead leaves and rotten grapes be raked up and removed and rotten grapes clinging to the vines and trellises picked off.

Loose shredded bark that can be readily pulled from the vines prunings, dead grass and weeds should be burned; in fact, anything capable of harboring the dustlike spore should be destroyed or taken away.

While the vines are still in a dormant condition, spray with the copper sulphate solution, thoroughly wetting the vines and posts, and paying particular attention to bunches of tendrils or rough surfaces on the posts that would be likely to retain the spores. It is much easier to keep black rot out of a vineyard once cleaned than to keep it down in a vineyard not cleaned.

Asparagus for the Family.

One hundred plants will furnish the average family with a supply of this most delicious early vegetable. They should not cost over \$1, and hence instead of being looked upon as a luxury it should be common in every family garden. Rich sandy soil is best, but it will thrive in any soil if given a reasonable show. Palmetto, Concord, Colossal and Baris Mammoth are recommended as very satisfactory varieties. The plants should be set early in the spring as possible, in rows 30 inches apart and 18 in the row. Plant in holes or trench, six inches deep, filling it up gradually, and do not cut the stalks, except sparingly, until the third season. It readily responds to good care and fertilization and should be liberally top-dressed with manure each fall.

Digestibility of Foods.

The value of cattle foods depend largely upon their digestibility. There is more protein in straw than in corn fodder, but the latter is more digestible. Some coarse foods are valuable, however, in assisting to digest the concentrated foods by giving bulk to the mass and separating the materials, especially when the coarse foods are reduced to a fine condition. Even if but a portion of the straw foods is digested, they are prepared for the manure heap by the animals and are thus increased in value compared with wasteful use.

Sheep for Mutton.

Mutton as a human food is gaining rapidly in reputation. So much improvement has been made in the methods of breeding, fattening, slaughtering and ripening mutton that a great army of people who were once prejudiced against it no longer find anything the matter with it. Good authorities predict that the time is rapidly approaching when as many sheep and lambs will be slaughtered in this country as there are hogs and cattle slaughtered now. History shows us that in old countries mutton is the poor man's meat. The reason for this is that it can be raised at less cost.

Some Kansas Wheat Yields.

The banner yield of wheat in Kansas is said to be that of Joseph C. Ort, of Gove county, who thrashed 228 bushels of 62-pound wheat from three acres of an old corral, and 4,563 bushels (eleven bushels) from a 100-acre field. The seed was Turkey red, one bushel to the acre. The three-acre piece has been heavily fertilized for vegetables and after these were gone he again fertilized and plowed it four inches deep.

During 1903 Boston received 60,595, 976 pounds of butter.

THINK WORST OVER

FLOOD SITUATION IN MICHIGAN BEGINS TO IMPROVE.

LOSS ABOUT FIVE MILLION

FIVE LIVES FATALITY LOST SO FAR AS KNOWN.

Conditions Better at Grand Rapids, But Saginaw in Bad Way—Indiana Rivers Pouring a Flood into the Ohio.

DETROIT, Mich.—Five lives have been lost and probably upwards of \$5,000,000 worth of damage to property has been done by the flood which has devastated many parts of Michigan during the past five days. Tonight the indications are that the end is in sight, although conditions are still very bad at Grand Rapids, and also along the course of the Saginaw and Bay City, while no such marked improvement is to be noted, the fact that much of the ice that blocked the mouth of the Saginaw river at Bay City has gone out, is taken as a very favorable indication. At Saginaw the water rose five inches during the past twenty-four hours but it is hoped that the improvement at the mouth of the river will have a noticeable effect at Saginaw during the night and tomorrow.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.—The suffering of the flood victims will now be aggravated by the failure of the gas supply. During last night all the gas mains leading to the flooded west side became filled with water, and there is no possibility of their becoming opened for use before the flood completely recedes. It is not known to what cause the filling of the mains is due, although it is supposed that a number of small pipes burst, and that the high water quickly entered the mains. The result will be very serious. Gas was being used extensively for heating and cooking. The Grand river continues to recede today but slowly.

Orders Flag Hauled Down.

LONDON.—A correspondent of the Times at New Chung, cabling under yesterday's date says: "The Russians today ordered the American flag on the correspondents' mess to be hauled down."

"The proclamation of martial law completely paralyzes the whole commerce of this port."

The Chronicle's Shanghai correspondent asserts that practically the whole Japanese army in Korea consisting of 100,000 men, is concentrated at Pak-Chen and Anju, only small detachments being left in southern Korea to maintain communication.

A St. Petersburg special says that a Russian division of 25,000 men from southern Ussuri is advancing in two columns through Korea. The main column, coming along the east coast road, reached Puk-Chank 180 miles from the Tumen river, and the flanking column consisting of Cossacks and mountain artillery, coming along the valley of the Tumen river towards its source, has reached the coast of Lake Tadjik. The column reports that the Japanese are advancing north from Gensan, and that their advance guard is encamped at Chong Ping. It is probable, however, that one of these reports can be accepted as authentic.

Rebuked By Court.

NEW HAVEN, Conn.—During the second day's hearing on the appeal of William J. Bryan from the probate court in the superior court today before Judge Gager, former Judge Stoddard, counsel for Mrs. Bennett, and Mr. Bryan engaged in a wordy war during the morning session and the court had to intervene. It followed immediately after reference to the correspondence between Mr. Bryan and Mr. Bennett had been made by Judge Stoddard to which it was alleged that Mr. Bennett was brought to the point of writing the "sealed letter" by Mr. Bryan.

Judge Stoddard implied that Mr. Bryan was withholding the contents and said:

"If this man insists on getting \$50,000 from the widow by suppressing facts and showing these letters were written at his behest, the court should know the facts."

Mr. Bryan jumped on his feet and testified that Judge Stoddard had misstated the facts but the court ordered Mr. Bryan to sit down.

To Fix Up His Findings.
WASHINGTON.—The Dietrich investigation committee may meet tomorrow to formulate a finding. When it will make its report is not known.

Reverse The Usual Order.

RICHMOND, Va.—Yesterday fourteen negro wagon drivers of the Richmond baggage transfer company notified the company that they would not work with a white man employed as a driver. The company discharged the negro force and substituted white drivers.

THEY ADMIT A DEFEAT NO PART OF WILL

RUSSIANS FRANKLY CONFESS REVERSE IN KOREA.

Forces of Czar Retreat in Good Order, and Occupy New Position—Cavalry and Infantry Engage in Fight

ST. PETERSBURG.—The emperor has received a dispatch from General Kuropatkin giving a lengthy report from General Mishchenko, dated at 10 p. m., March 28, which says that an important engagement took place near the town of Chong Ju, in which the Russians were defeated, retiring in perfect order.

General Kuropatkin's report is as follows:

"I have the honor to respectfully communicate to your majesty the report of General Mishchenko dated March 28, at 10 p. m. which says:

"For three consecutive days our small outpost attempted to draw the Japanese cavalry into action, but their patrols, after contact was established, retired beyond Chong Ju (about fifty miles northwest of Ping Yang.)

"Having learned that four squadrons of the enemy were posted five versts beyond Chong Ju on March 27, six companies marched toward Kusan and on March 28 reached Chong Ju at 10:30 a. m. As soon as our scouts approached the town the enemy opened fire from behind the wall. Two squadrons promptly dismounted and occupied the heights six hundred yards distant. An engagement ensued.

"Notwithstanding this, and our commanding position, the Japanese gallantly held their ground and it was only after a fierce fight of half an hour's duration that the Japanese ceased fire and sought refuge in the houses. The Japanese hoisted the Red Cross flag at two points.

"An hour and a half after the beginning of the engagement four companies were seen on the Kusan road, hastening to attack. I gave the order to mount, and the entire force, with a covering squadron, advanced in perfect order and formed in line behind the hill. The wounded were placed in front and the retirement was carried out with the deliberation of a parade.

SEOUL.—A report has reached here that fifty Japanese and one hundred Cossacks were killed and wounded in a skirmish that occurred between Anju and Tsinju.

The above dispatch probably refers to the engagement reported Monday night as having occurred March 23, but in which no Cossack losses were mentioned.

Marquis Ito, upon taking his departure yesterday, submitted to the government some suggestions for Korean reforms. The emperor has appointed Yi Chi Ying, former minister of foreign affairs as a special ambassador to bear presents to the Japanese emperor and return the compliment of Marquis Ito's visit to Korea.

Swore Lives of Men Away.

CHICAGO.—A child's testimony reversed saved five men today from the gallows. The result was a striking parallel to the case in which a fortnight ago Millionaire Peter Van Vlissingen practically demonstrated that under police pressure a boy named Wiltrax had given false testimony leading to the conviction of the boy's father for murder. Today's instance of youthful unreliability under oath was in the case of William McCarthy and four Polish young men on trial for murder, the witness being a little girl, Apollonia Starosta, who first gave direct straightforward, eye witness testimony, apparently establishing beyond question the guilt of the men, and then repudiated her sworn evidence.

In explanation of the remarkable change of front, the child declared that she had been instructed how to testify by the widow of the murdered man. Charges against the prisoners were withdrawn on the spot by the state's attorney, the five men immediately walking out of the dock free by order of the court.

To Resume Smoot Inquiry.

WASHINGTON.—The investigation of the protests against Senator Reed Smoot will be resumed April 2 by the senate committee on privileges and elections. The witnesses will include a number of officials of the Mormon church.

Heavy Storm Abate.

MANDEN, N. D.—The passenger blockade was raised today at this point and passengers from six west-bound trains had been delayed here were sent forward.

WACO, Tex.—A severe frost was experienced in central Texas last night. Fears are felt for cotton which had been planted early in an effort to head off the boll weevil. It is also thought much garden truck was injured.

DECISION AGAINST BRYAN IN HIS FIGHT FOR FORTUNE.

Judge Right Blunt in His Rulings Against Claimant—Mr. Bryan to Take an Appeal to Higher Court.

NEW HAVEN, Conn.—A finding that the sealed letter by which Philo S. Bennett expressed a wish that \$50,000 should be given to William Jennings Bryan and his family was not a part of the last will of Mr. Bennett was returned by the jury today in the superior court in the trial of Mr. Bryan's appeal from the decision of the probate court.

The finding which upholds the decision of the probate court was given in accordance with instructions to the jury from Judge Gager who presided at the superior court trial. Judge Gager's ruling in the question which has never before come directly before the courts of Connecticut decided that the sealed letter could not be admitted as evidence in the trial. The decision followed arguments which had occupied most of the two preceding days of the session regarding the admissibility of this letter as evidence, counsel for Mr. Bryan contending that it should be admitted while the attorneys for Mrs. Grace Imogene Bennett the widow and other heirs presented opposing arguments.

Mr. Bryan here said that he would not insist upon this trial but that his side was prepared and any delay would not be through his fault. He continued:

"This is the only case in which I feel personal interest. I say now, as I said in the court below, that no money will be used personally by me without the consent of Mrs. Bennett. I am willing to give bond, he went on "that no member of my family will receive one cent of that \$50,000 without the consent of Mrs. Bennett."

Judge Bennett then ordered the Bennett appeal stricken off the trial list.

At this point the jury returned with a verdict excluding the "sealed letter" and the typewritten copy of the same as evidence as a part of the will. The court then adjourned. An appeal to the supreme court will be made at once.

Hearing Must Begin Anew.

SAN FRANCISCO.—Late this afternoon Superior Judge Cook announced from the bench that an attempt had been made to tamper with the jurors in the Botkin murder case. He declared that he would discharge the jury tomorrow morning and begin the trial anew. This is the second trial of Mrs. Botkin, who was convicted of sending a box of poisoned candy from San Francisco to Dover, Del., to Mrs. John P. Dunning, causing the death of Mrs. Dunning, and her sister. Acting on information that four jurors had been bribed to favor Mrs. Botkin, Judge Cook ordered the jury into the custody of the sheriff until morning.

It is alleged an attempt was made to bribe a fifth juror. When the denunciation came in court today Mrs. Botkin's attorney made a passionate speech, disclaiming that Mrs. Botkin or any one connected with her case was implicated. He said that he would not continue with the present jury. The state's attorney concurred in a motion to discharge the jury. A trial investigation was held by Judge Cook after the jury left the room.

Chief of Police Wittman testified that one of the jurors had followed him to his office after the noon adjournment yesterday and said that on the previous evening a stranger had called on him and said:

"We have secured four jurors for the defense, and want a fifth. We will give you \$50.

The juror told the chief that he refused the offer.

The chief of police said that when the juror left the court room yesterday afternoon he was followed by a detective who saw him secretly meet a woman with whom he talked for several minutes.

Prairie Chickens in Hay

LINCOLN, Neb.—A. E. Brigham, a general merchant of the little town of Oconto, Custer county, was arrested by Chief Game Warden Carter on the charge of shipping 800 prairie chickens during the closed season. The birds were sent to C. H. Cane of Chicago in a car of baled hay.

Foyer Released.

TELLURIDE, Col.—Chas. H. Moyer, president of the western federation of miners, who has been held in jail here since Saturday on a charge of desecrating the flag, was released today by County Judge Wiley on furnishing a bond of \$800, but was immediately arrested by a squadron of soldiers acting under orders of Adjutant General Sherman M. Hall. The nature of the charge on which he is held by the military has not been made public.

NEBRASKA NOTES

The Albion National bank will erect a new building for its business.

A Sunday School Institute will be held at Cook, Johnson county, on Thursday, March 31.

David Whistler, formerly of Tecumseh, is dead of neuralgia of the heart at Vancouver, Wash.

Mrs. Margaret Anderson died at Seward after a brief illness. She was 71 years of age and leaves five children.

Temperance meetings, which have been in progress at Tecumseh were poorly attended.

The Columbus Journal has been sold to F. H. Abbot of Fremont and Stuart Kennedy of St. Edwards.

Miss Anna Craig of Beatrice has been promoted to chief state operator of the Nebraska Telephone company.

The Farmers' Grain and Live Stock association has bought Chalmers Brothers' elevator at Sironville. The price was \$2,100.

C. L. Forsaker, a young man who has been working for some time at Beatrice has been left \$5,000 by his father and has gone home.

Deputy Postmaster Peter Peterson of Holdrege died suddenly of apoplexy. He was one of the pioneers of the state.

Sixty men who were working on the asylum building at Norfolk struck for higher pay. They were getting 75 cents a thousand for cleaning brick.

The farmers around Plattsmouth are talking of the new "million dollar rain" which fell in the past few days.

Z. O. Dean of Humboldt has gone to San Francisco, where he will sail for the Philippines to spend three years teaching the native Filipinos.

There may be a shifting of assessors at Humboldt in order that each precinct may be assessed by an unprejudiced man under the new revenue law.

Two Omaha boys who ran away from home have been arrested at Nebraska City and will be sent back home. They are Chris Rubold and William Sudenburg.

At Plattsmouth a motion for a new trial in the case of Charles Holmes convicted of perjury, was overruled. He was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary.

Guy Upson Fink died at his home at Marquette of cancer of the tongue. He was formerly employed in the butter department of Bennett's store at Omaha.

The state fish car started out to distribute fish in the streams of Holt, Brown, Cherry, Sheridan and Dawes counties. The car contains 200,000 rainbow and lake trout fry.

The Rev. Brockett of Council Bluffs has been called to the pastorate of the Cottage Grove church near Humboldt to succeed the Rev. B. A. Shively, who has removed to Shelton.

The wheat crop has been greatly benefited by the rain which fell Sunday throughout the state. The soil in the southwestern part of the state is in good condition for spring planting.

Mrs. Ferdinand Zessin, a pioneer resident of Madison, has disappeared and a trace of her can be found. Friends and relatives are greatly alarmed and have instituted a vigorous search.

Sheriff Clark of Albion has returned from Kewa Paha county with John Wilson, said to be wanted for horse stealing. A mare belonging to F. M. Tully of Cedar Rapids was found in his possession.

Mrs. Fred Marshall, wife of County Superintendent Marshall of Knox county, died suddenly at Plainview while visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hoskins. She was a bride of but three weeks. Her death was caused by appendicitis.

The Rev. W. B. Maze for several years pastor of the Evangelical church at Humboldt, has resigned and will make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, where he will pursue his studies. The Rev. Dillon of Fullerton will take his place at Humboldt.

D. E. Thompson United States minister to Brazil, left to resume his duties in the South American country. He will sail from New York April 15. Mr. Thompson has appointed W. D. Pittman, formerly with the Western Union company at Lincoln, secretary to the American legation.

While the attendant at J. Murphy's lunch counter at Table Rock was absent a short time Sunday some one robbed the place of \$8. A 17 year old boy has been arrested.

J. J. Green and wife, living south of Plattsmouth, report the arrival of triplets at their home. All are boys. They have been named Grover Cleveland, Theodore Roosevelt and William Jennings Bryan.