

STATE CAPITAL LINCOLN CHAT.

State Debt Half a Million.

The semi-annual report of State Auditor Barton shows that since June 1, 1911, the amount of outstanding warrants of the state has increased from \$398,658 to \$518,775.64. The amount of warrants issued during the semi-annual period was \$1,941,414.14, and the amount paid, \$1,751,297.19.

Most of the warrants outstanding are drawn on the general fund and the temporary university fund. The warrants outstanding on the general fund aggregate \$294,761.64 and those on the temporary university fund, \$195,049.74. The outstanding warrants constitute the state's floating debt and this is the first time in many years any such debt has existed. The state treasurer hopes to wipe out this indebtedness during the next few months, after taxes begin to come into the treasury.

The following is a statement of the outstanding warrants on the several state funds as shown by the auditor's report for November 30:

General fund	\$294,761.64
Temporary university fund	195,049.74
U. S. Experiment Station fund	1,910.65
University cash fund	19,670.02
Normal interest fund	255.65
Normal library fund, Peru	122.96
Normal library fund, Kearney	62.78
Normal library fund, Wayne	107.90
State library fund	63.15
Institution cash fund	3,425.72
Hospital for insane fund	2.60
Fire commission fund	200.00
University income fund	3,143.83
Total	\$518,775.64

State Reward for Coal.

Ephraim Johnson, whose home is at Hooper, has applied to Governor Aldrich for the state reward of \$4,000 for the discovery of a twenty-six inch vein of coal, which he believes is of sufficient extent to pay for mining and is near enough to the surface of the earth to be mined by modern mining methods. He has filed an affidavit with the governor asking him to appoint some one, in accordance with the statute, to investigate and report the facts. The coal was discovered on a quarter section of land owned by Mr. Johnson and his wife in Logan township, Dodge county, on the Elkhorn river.

Interest in Recodification.

To eliminate technicalities and remove those obstacles which hinder the course of speedy justice, members of the Nebraska Bar association are taking an active interest in the revision of the Nebraska codes of civil and criminal procedure. This interest will take form at the annual meeting of the association in Lincoln, December 28 and 29, when such recommendations will be made, marking the session as one of the most important in years. The association's attitude takes on more interest because the legislature at its last session authorized the recodification act a commission is now at work on the revision.

Sugar Beets Good Paying Crop.

The industrial school for boys at Kearney raised forty acres of sugar beets last summer and sold the crop for \$2,661.55, after deducting the cost of the seed. This is considered a good paying crop by Land Commissioner Cowles, who watches the state farms with a critical eye. The crop brought a net return of over \$66 an acre.

Food Commissioner's Good Balance.

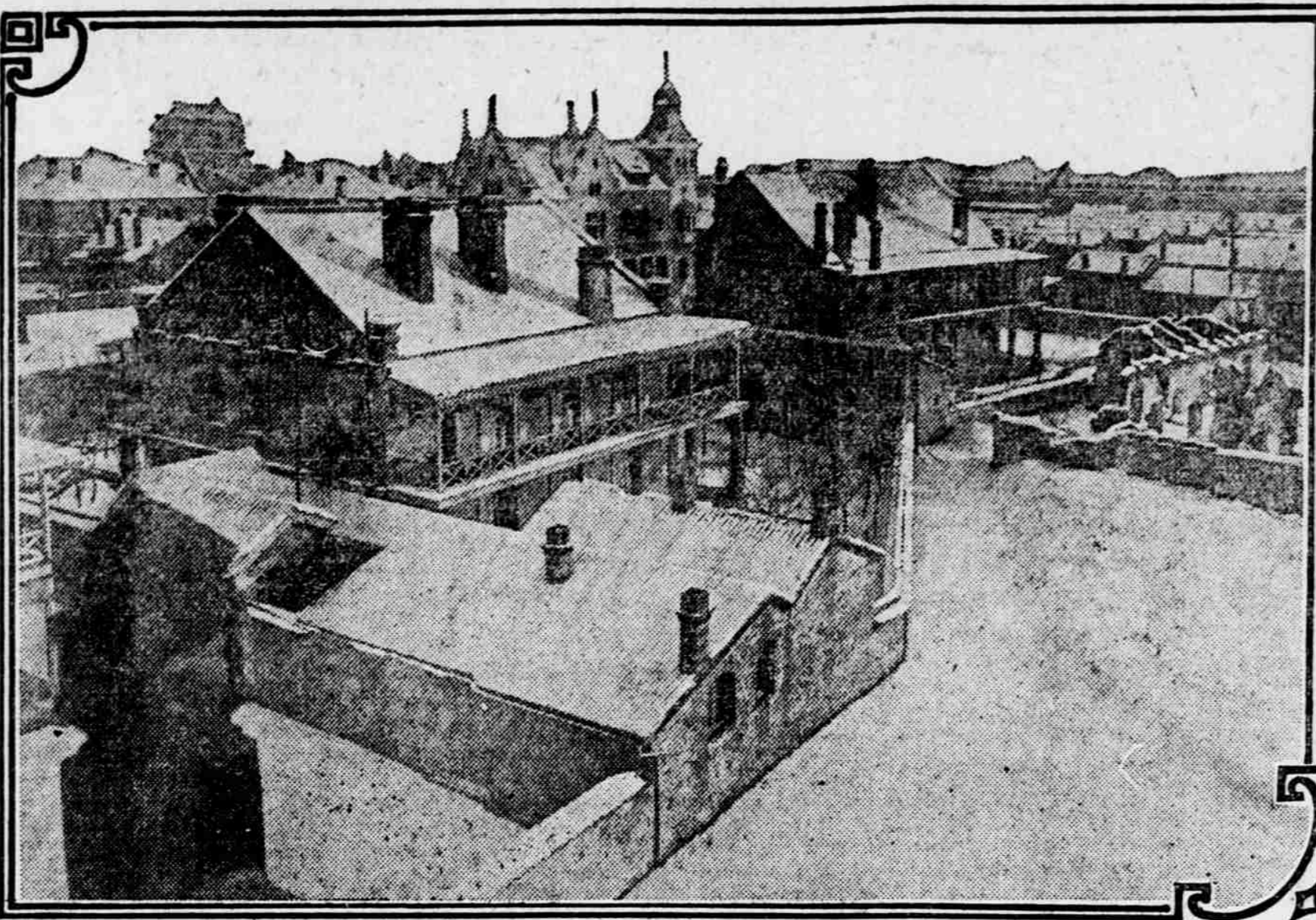
The semi-annual report of State Food Commissioner Jackson shows that during the past six months his department has expended a total of \$9,231.44 in the payment of salaries of inspectors, transportation, telegraph and telephone charges, leaving a balance of \$19,939.41 in that fund.

Arthur B. Allen has entered the race for secretary of the state railway commission. Mr. Allen is now secretary of the state republican committee. He formerly occupied the same position and served as private secretary to Governor Mickey.

Falls City people are endeavoring to get the Burlington and the Missouri Pacific railroad officials to agree to build a union depot at the junction of the two roads near the city limits. At present the Burlington depot is one mile and one-quarter from town and the Missouri Pacific depot is one mile away. The citizens have not brought the matter before the state railway commission, but have appointed a committee of citizens to confer with railroad officials.

Semi-annual reports from heads of state institutions now coming into the governor's office show that it cost \$149.36 per capita to support members of the soldiers' home at Grand Island for the six months' period ending November 30, while it cost only \$137.41 for each member of the state school for blind at Nebraska City. Formerly the cost of maintaining students at the school for blind was larger than the cost at any other state institution. The state reclaimed \$100 a year from the general government for each old soldier in state homes.

WHERE FOREIGNERS IN CHINA ARE CONCENTRATING



VIEW OF FOREIGN LEGATIONS IN PEKIN

WILLIAM J. CALHOUN, American minister to China, and others in authority, are doing all in their power to persuade Americans and Europeans in China to seek safety in the treaty ports and in Peking. The foreign legations in the latter city, of which a view is here given, already are becoming crowded with refugees.

LOVERS ARE BALKED

"Princess Pretty" and Young Marquis Meet Obstacle.

Indian Maharajah Will Not Allow Daughter to Marry Heir of the Duke of Sutherland.

London.—The course of true love is not running smooth for the East Indian Princess Pretiva, the young daughter of the Maharajah of Cooch-Behar, and the young Marquis of Stafford, heir of the Duke of Sutherland and his millions.

Pretiva, whose intimates rightly call her "Princess Pretty," and her mother passed the summer at Bexhill, where Stafford, who is 23 and an amiable youth, was a constant visitor. And small wonder, for the charming Princess excels in outdoor sports.

Although her lovely features have an Oriental cast, her skin is almost as fair as that of an English girl. She loves England, where she has passed most of her life, and has declared that she will not marry an Indian potentate.

Of course no one but Stafford knows how much he had to do with inducing her to form this resolution. Now the Princess has gone to India with her mother, the Maharane of Cooch-Behar, carrying the late Maharajah's ashes.

Stafford swears he will follow his innamorata, making the durbar his pretext. His father, whose lineage runs back to a Gower who followed William the Conqueror, and his intelligent mother, who was Lady Millicent St. Clare-Erskine, daughter of the Earl of Roslyn, strongly oppose such a match for Stafford. They have asked the war office to refuse him the leave he must ask to go to India.

And there are other obstacles in the way of his pursuit of the girl he loves. The Maharane has informed Stafford that he cannot visit her daughter in India, as she will live in retirement in the palace of her brother, who is now the Maharajah of Cooch-Behar, and will not attend the durbar. Besides, the new Maharajah objects to

his sister marrying an Englishman, as calculated to further weaken his subjects' loyalty. It has been strained by his own prolonged visits to Europe before his father's death and by the fact that he and his family are so largely Anglicized.

BABY SECURITY FOR DEBT

Mother Successfully Appeals to the Court for Infant Held by Woman for Board.

Oakland, Cal.—Her baby held as security for a board bill, Mrs. Estelle E. Ramos of Berkeley applied to the superior court for an order compelling Mr. and Mrs. John Rudy of 2100 Sixth street, Berkeley, the people to whom the board bill is due, to give up the child. Mrs. Ramos won her petition before Judge Wells after a hearing that lasted only about ten minutes.

Women Spoke In a Church

As a Result, Louisiana Presbyterians Are All Torn Up—Appeal to General Assembly.

New Orleans.—Because women made verbal reports at an interdenominational meeting in the fashionable Lafayette Presbyterian church here Lafayette strife has been started among Louisiana preachers of the Presbyterian sect and the shades of John Calvin are being invoked to call down wrath upon those who permitted such a violation.

The Rev. J. C. Barr, pastor of the church, and whose congregation includes many of the wealthier families in New Orleans, announced today that he would carry to the general assembly, the highest body of the church, the verdict which the state synod at its meeting this week at Ruston, La., found against him. The Rev. W. M. Alexander, pastor of the Prytanian church, brought the charges. He said that the alleged violation of church rules was of the gravest importance,

Mrs. Ramos recently secured a divorce from John W. Ramos and an order for \$25 a month alimony. Since then Ramos has been out of work, unable to find it, he says, while his wife declares he will not take employment offered him. Unable to secure anything from her former spouse, Mrs. Ramos herself went to work and placed her baby with the Rudys with the understanding they should be paid for its keep out of the alimony.

Ramos paid nothing, and Mrs. Ramos decided to try to care for the child herself; but the Rudys refused to surrender it until the bill was paid. At the hearing today Ramos appeared in court with the Rudys, but did not participate in the proceedings.

A clash between Mrs. Ramos and Mrs. Rudy occurred when Mrs. Ramos went to take her child from Mrs. Rudy's arms, after Judge Wells had given her its custody. The two women scolded each other despite the warnings of the bailiff, hurling angry accusations at each other as they fled out of court. Ramos has a petition for appointment as guardian of the child.

and the state body sided with him. The synod raised its hands in horror at the mere idea of women not keeping silent in churches. True, the women who spoke were not preaching sermons, and the meeting was not strictly a Presbyterian meeting, but it was in a church and women broke away from the "keep silence in public" mandate.

Dr. Barr admits the charge in general, but says that the women were not speaking in the church. He says the congregation is the church and that the place of worship is merely the church building.

"Our buildings do not represent the church itself," he declared.

Kin of Fairbanks a Suicide.

Marysville, O.—Miss Alice Fairbanks, aged forty, a niece of former Vice-President Fairbanks of Indianapolis, committed suicide with poison at the home of her mother, Mrs. Matilda Fairbanks, near Chickery. The motive is unknown.

Boom Black Art In London

Witchcraft Act of 1736 to Be Used Against Fortune Tellers of Metropolis.

London.—This city is at the mercy of a veritable plague of fortune tellers, palmists and other self-proclaimed necromancers, who prey upon the rich and poor alike, particularly in the shopping districts. They have even become so fearless that they are advertising by means of sandwich men along the Strand, in Piccadilly Circus and in Regent and Oxford streets.

It seems impossible to convict them of obtaining money under false pretense of foretelling the future, and it is almost impossible to get evidence against them, as they receive no un-recommended clients. Their success among the superstitious and the credulous is due to the fact that their clients unconsciously reveal information concerning would-be visitors.

"It is all very well to say that the official police view is that, so long as fortune tellers and palmists do not dupe the poor, they should be allowed to take money from the rich. Catholic Wason, M. P., has communicated with the home secretary suggesting that these persons who pose as necromancers in any way can be proceeded against by the witchcraft act of 1736, which imposes penalties upon persons who pretend to exercise or use any kind of sorcery, witchcraft, enchantment, or conjuration."

As to those particularly dealing with the wealthy, Mr. Wason adds: "It is all very well to say that the ladies who patronize these fortune tellers are above the superstitions of the

ignorant and not likely to be duped, but I maintain that the practice is a grave danger to society. Suppose a woman asks—as many do—how long her husband is likely to live, and the fortune teller discovers that there is another man in the case, and the name of that man. Imagine the possibilities of the situation.

"The more humble fortune tellers are causing enough trouble in the provinces. Welsh miners have refused to go down to work because a local 'wise woman' has foretold disaster. In Newcastle it was proved that 25 girls had visited one fortune teller in a single afternoon. In the Isle of Wight it was proved that one woman had correctly

Uses Champagne for Shave

Seattle Visitor Makes Lather With Wine Because of Water Famine.

Seattle, Wash.—It has been forbidden for any person to take a bath either in a private residence, public bath, club or hotel, because the city has been without water since the pipes were carried away.

J. J. Forster, of Chicago, an officer of the Atlantic steamship service of the Canadian Pacific railway, staying at the Calhoun hotel, went without a shave and a bath as long as he thought he could and then he rang for a pint of champagne, mixed his shaving lather with it and had a de-

lightful shave, he says. Then he ordered eight gallons of milk and indulged himself in a milk bath.

Changes Son's Name.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y.—To perpetuate the name of her grandfather, Mrs. John Toler petitioned the supreme court that after January 1 her son's name be changed from John to John Watts De Peyster Toler.

82,546 Women to Vote.

Los Angeles, Cal.—The official count of voters eligible to cast ballots in the city election on December 5 totals 192,177. Of these 109,628 are men and 82,546 women.

PLOWING FOR WATER GREAT DANGERS IN DISKING

Must Be Done Deeply and at the Right Time.

Experiment Stations Find That When Work is Done in Fall it Proves Water Conserving and Has Many Other Advantages.

It is not alone sufficient to plow and to plow deeply; it is also necessary that the plowing be done at the right time. In the very great majority of cases over the whole dry-farm territory, plowing should be done in the fall. There are three reasons for this; first, after the crop is harvested, the soil should be disturbed immediately, so that it can be exposed to the full action of the weathering agencies, whether the winter be open or closed. If for any reason plowing cannot be done early, it is often advantageous to follow the harvester with a disk, and to plow later when convenient. The chemical effect on the soil resulting from the weathering made possible by fall plowing, as will be shown in chapter IX, is of itself so great as to warrant the teaching of the general practice of fall plowing. Secondly, the early stirring of the soil prevents evaporation of the moisture in the soil during late summer and the fall. Thirdly, in the parts of the dry-farm territory where such precipitation occurs in the fall, winter or early spring, fall plowing permits much of this precipitation to enter the soil and be stored there until needed by plants.

A number of experimental stations have compared plowing done in the early fall with plowing done late in the fall or in the spring, and with almost no exception it has been found that early fall plowing is water-conserving and in other ways advantageous. It was observed on a Utah dry-farm that the fall-plowed land contained to a depth of 10 feet 7.47 acre-inches more water than the adjoining spring-plowed land—a saving of nearly one-half of a year's precipitation. The ground should be plowed in the early fall as soon as possible after the crop is harvested. It should then be left in the rough throughout the winter, so that it may be mellowed and broken down by the elements. The rough land further has a tendency to catch and hold the snow that may be blown by the wind, thus insuring a more even distribution of the water from the melting snow.

A common objection to fall plowing is that the ground is so dry in the fall that it does not plow well, and that the great dry clods of earth do much to injure the physical condition of the soil. It is very doubtful if such an objection is generally valid, especially if the soil is so cropped as to leave a fair margin of moisture in the soil at harvest time. The atmospheric agencies will usually break down the clods, and the physical result of the treatment will be beneficial. Undoubtedly, the fall plowing of dry land is somewhat difficult, but the good results more than pay the farmer for his trouble. Late fall plowing, after the fall rains have softened the land, is preferable to spring plowing. If for any reason the farmer feels that he must practice spring plowing, he should do it as early as possible in the spring. Of course, it is inadvisable to plow the soil when it is so wet as to injure its tilth seriously, but as soon as that danger period is passed, the plow should be placed in the ground. The moisture in the soil will thereby be conserved, and whatever water may fall during the spring months will be conserved also. This is of especial importance in the Great Plains region, and in any district where the precipitation comes in the spring and winter months.

DRY FARMING IN THE FUTURE

Conservation of Moisture in Soil Is at Bottom of Theory and Practice of All Experts.

(By A. T. STINEL)

"Dry farming," or the science of agriculture under scant rainfall, made good where the farmer followed directions, but thousands failed because they did not heed the advice of experts. These failures have turned out to be a blessing in disguise for the high plains regions, because the advocates of "dry farming" were forced to take a broader path. Conservation of moisture in the soil is at the bottom of their theory and practice. Many thought of moisture only as direct rainfall upon their cultivated acres. But there is a limit to rainfall under which no plan of storage and cultivation will avail to produce crops. The season of 1910 went under the limit in many of the newly settled regions of Texas, New Mexico, Colorado and western Kansas and, following a year like 1909 which also was dry, there was no moisture in reserve in the soil. Discouragement and disaster followed, but the wise heads among the agricultural pioneers of the high plains declined to stay whipped. They saw a great light and from the dawning thereof there has come about an ideal union of "dry farming" and irrigation development all over the southwest, that promises to reclaim literally millions of acres of land, millions of acres now scantily yielding, richly productive.

This is to be accomplished by storage of the storm waters, and utilization of the underflow by pumping and the development of artesian wells.

Habit Comes From Humid States Where It Rains Often and Little Cultivation is Needed.

(By E. R. PARSON.)

We have been watching the effects of shallow plowing and disking for nearly thirty years, and still we can see no good in it. Every dry year the same thing happens. In 1908 we went over thousands of acres where the crops had been disked in on stubble. We saw oats burned out six and eight inches high; spring wheat completely fired just beginning to head; winter wheat that went only five bushels to the acre; and fields of corn on shallow-plowed sod that yielded nothing but a handful of fodder.

The disking and shallow plowing habits come from the humid states, where it rains sometimes twice a week, and small crops can always be raised by simply cultivating enough to keep the weeds out. Farmers will sometimes say: "We can raise more by disking than plowing." This is true, because a surface farmer seldom plows more than three inches, and he can do this equally well and more quickly with the disk. Or he may plow without harrowing, let the ground dry out as he goes, and plant in a poorly prepared seed bed.

An old friend of ours used to raise indifferent crops by plowing once in three years and disking in his seeds the two intervening years. The first year his oats would be about two to three feet high; the second year, 18 inches; and the third about a foot; but if a dry year happened, there was nothing doing. He always would persist that he could raise good crops without plowing to carry his cattle through the winter. I happened to meet him in 1909. "Well," I said, "how did you come out last year?" "Oh," he said, "I sold my cattle."

Thousands of head of cattle were sold in the fall of 1908 for the same reason. This put the market right down and the dry farmers lost heavily. Supposing we plant a crop of spring wheat or oats on corn stubble, what happens? Ninety per cent of the farmers put cattle on the stubble during the winter. The ground becomes hard and overpacked; we disk this on the surface and plant the seed. For awhile it does splendidly, and if the rains keep up will make a fair crop; but if dry weather comes and a crust forms on the surface or under the mulch, the crop is gone, for it is solid underneath. It has never been plowed.

It is the surface farmers who are always walling about this crust under the mulch, but those who belong to the deep-plowing school pay no attention to it, for they still have plenty of room for the roots of their crops down below, and if the mulch above the crust is in proper shape there is no more evaporation than there is before.

A man wrote to me once and asked what he should do for the crust under the mulch. I wrote back and said: "Next year plow deep." His answer was: "How did you find out that I didn't plow deep?"

The worst consequence of disking without plowing is the effect it has on next year's crop. The ground being hard, the water penetrates very little; the available moisture is used up by the crop, and the surplus evaporates or runs off. Nothing is saved for next year.

In dry farming, if we work only for the present, we are living from hand to mouth. The very foundation of this branch of agriculture is to farm for the future. Store up moisture in the soil next year and the year after, keep track of it with the pick and shovel or with a ground auger, and you will soon find out which style of farming pays the best.

POULTRY YARD AND PEN.

Houses must be kept sanitary and the fowls free from vermin.

Lice are working havoc, and too severe measures cannot be adopted.

It is the even, steady thrift of our stock that makes them pay a profit.

In making an egg ration, do not forget a liberal allowance of sunshine. The comb not only denotes egg laying, but the general condition of the hen.

Less grain is needed for fowls when bone and vegetables are fed in abundance.

A cold draft will stop hens laying as quickly as anything in the world—sure.

Early hatches do better than those brought off after the heat of the summer has begun.

To make the chick grow, first give plenty of good fresh air; don't allow them to crowd.

Chilled or long-laid eggs will not produce as strong chicks as fresh, well-cared for eggs.

In grading up the chickens, only those that are the most vigorous should be considered.

Turkey raisers find it profitable to have Guinea fowls with the turkey flock. They act as police.

There is only one time when a poultryman is justified in selling a good pullet, and that is when he is going out of business.

The hen is admitted to be one of the greatest financial factors in the country today, and she is also one of the most overworked.

Some good poultrymen think by feeding setting hens in the morning they are more apt to remain contentedly on their nests all day.

A hen that runs to meat may lay steadily for a week in the spring and summer, and then go on a vacation for the balance of the year.