

STATE CAPITAL LINCOLN CHAT

Delayed Senate Journal Finished.
The long-delayed Senate Journal which has just been delivered to the members of that body contains 1,096 pages, which cost, at the contract price, \$1.14, making the total price paid by the state for the work \$1,249.44. The house journal, with its 1,008 pages, cost the state \$1,562.40. The senate journal of two years ago consisted of 1,774 pages, printed at the rate of 96 cents per page, the total cost of the work being \$1,704, or \$455 more than the 1911 journal. During the last session Secretary Smith installed a mimeograph in his office for the purpose of printing amendments and doing other odd jobs in connection with the legislative work. Approximately \$750 worth of work was done in this way at a saving to the state of more than \$500 above the cost of the machine and the price of material and cost of operation. In speaking of the work recently, Mr. Smith said that as long as it costs in the neighborhood of \$110,000 to conduct each session of the legislature, he believed that every effort should be made by all its officers to not only expedite the work, but to preserve it in a thorough and efficient manner for use after the session has closed.

Inspected Many Hotels.
Over three hundred hotels in fifty counties of the state have been inspected since November by the state hotel inspection commission. Although in almost every case the hotels have been found to comply with the law, the greatest difficulty that the inspectors have had to meet is a misunderstanding of the use of the ninety-nine inch bed sheet. At every hotel the inspectors have found the proprietors willing to comply with the law in every respect and the misuse of the long bed sheet has been due principally to the misunderstanding of the chambermaids. Every hotel has put in use the long bed sheet but according to R. D. McFadden, chief deputy inspector, the law might just as well have been violated, for fully a third of the sheet is usually neatly tucked under the mattress.

To Reclaim Swampy Land.
To convert 25,600 acres of swampy wild hay land in Holt and Rock counties into tillable land on which corn, wheat and other valuable crops could be raised, the work to be done at an estimated cost of \$75,685 to the owners or \$2.96 an acre, is deemed a good business proposition by the office of experiment stations of the department of agriculture, which has completed an investigation of the drainage question in this area. The average annual income from 23,000 acres of this territory, available for the growth of nothing but wild hay, is reported at \$69,000. According to the estimate of the office this land would produce a net income of at least \$184,000 a year if drained, the increase in the first year exceeding the cost of the improvement by 50 per cent.

Bird Preserve and Breeding Grounds.
Land Commissioner Cowles is in receipt of executive order No. 1461, from the interior department at Washington, segregating for the use of the agricultural department, as a preserve and breeding ground for native birds, about twenty-two square miles of land contiguous to Valentine in Cherry county, which preserve is to be known as the Niobrara reservation, within the confines of which reservation it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt or take the eggs of birds except under authority granted by the secretary of agriculture.

The largest bail bond ever exacted by the supreme court of Nebraska will be given by Frank V. Larson, a Burt county farmer, who is under a life sentence for the murder of his brother. Larson has appealed to the court, asking for a suspension of sentence and leave to give bail. The court has agreed to admit him to bail in the sum of \$30,000.

The insane asylum at Lincoln, with accommodations for 400 patients, has at present 617 inmates.

Under a writ of attachment and acting under the provisions of the pure food enactment, federal officers seized thirty-six cases of sorghum syrup which was in the possession of a firm of Lincoln grocery wholesalers. The officers acted under instructions from the department of agriculture at Washington.

The glee and mandolin club of the University of Nebraska is planning a two weeks' trip to Denver, Colorado Springs, Cheyenne and other western cities next March.

There are now seven patients in the state hospital for tuberculosis at Kearney.

State Superintendent Delzell has sent circular letters to boards of education of all accredited high schools in the state, urging them to send superintendents of high schools or a member of the high school faculty to the department of superintendence of the National Educational association and several of the allied divisions of education which will hold their annual meeting at St. Louis, February 27-29.



Washington Leaving Mount Vernon to Answer the Call of His Country
From Historic Picture by Howard Pyle

FROM his earliest boyhood George Washington's life was closely associated with the old Mount Vernon estate. When Lawrence Washington returned from the West Indian campaign, in which he had served under Admiral Vernon, he gave to his estate the name of that gallant commander. Soon after this he married the daughter of a retired Royal Governor of the Bermuda Islands.

Into the refined and elegant associations of this home the boy George came as a favorite visitor. During these years the seeds of that love of the place which later led him to spend lavishly on its improvement were planted.



George Washington Once Lived in Old New York

Great Statesman and Patriot Had Residence There, and Citizens Today Are Proud of the Fact



INTIMATELY associated with the years 1789 and 1790, when Washington, as first president of the United States, was living in New York city, is the original Trumbull portrait of him, painted from life, the oldest portrait owned by the city, and now hanging in the governor's room of the New York city hall.

Flippant young Manhattanites make merry over the tiny watery blue eyes and red nose of that dignified gentleman and the enormous hand, which rests on the wooden horse, a caricature of the spirited war charger. In the background of the portrait is shown the old Kennedy house, now No. 1 Broadway, where Washington held his first headquarters during the earliest days of the Revolution. He then removed to the Richmond Hill mansion, at the corner of Varick and Charlton streets, afterward the home of Aaron Burr. It was during these days that his troops drilled in the City Hall park, then the "Fields," or "Commons," and here on July 9, 1776, on horseback, surrounded by patriotic soldiers, the general listened to the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence in New York city; for that one time New York was slower than Philadelphia.

After the disastrous defeat of the Battle of Long Island, August 27, 1776, Washington was forced to abandon the city. During the Battle of Harlem Heights, September 16, and for five weeks afterward the Jumel mansion, in One Hundred and Sixtieth street, near Amsterdam avenue, then known as the Roger Morris house, sheltered him. For seven years, until 1783, the British lion swished his proud tail and roared through our New York streets, but on November 25 of that year General Washington returned to his own. The previous night the Van Cortlandt Manor house, in Van Cortlandt park, opened its hospitable doors to the victorious general, and you may see the room he occupied, the bed in which he slept.

He entered the city on Evacuation day at the head of his ragged but triumphant soldiers after Lord Howe and his troops had sullenly departed. Quant little Frances tavern, at Broad and Pearl streets, then came in for its share of the glory, for that very night the patriots gave Washington a banquet, which ended with the toast, "May the remembrance of this day be a lesson to princes." Again, on December 4, a farewell dinner was given by Washington to his officers in the "Long Room," and here

you may read the tablets describing the affecting scene on his departure to his home in Mount Vernon.

But on April 30, 1789, little old New York went wild with joy when the idol of the nation returned to be its president, and the pomp and ceremony of that first inauguration took place in the old Federal hall, now marked by the Subtreasury building, in Wall street. Here you may see the very stone on which the president stood while taking the oath of office, and the Bible is owned by St. John's lodge, in the Masonic Temple.

The fine mahogany furniture of Sheraton design used at that time is shown in the Governor's room of the city hall, the high-backed inaugural chairs, and the desks and armchairs used by the cabinet and the senators. The flag that waved over all this rejoicing is carefully preserved in a glass case.

Two different houses were used by Washington during the year 1789 and 1790 as presidential mansions—the first, a beautiful colonial house belonging to Walter Franklin, a wealthy merchant, that stood at No. 1 Cherry street, now shadowed by the gloomy Brooklyn bridge pier; the second was at No. 39 Broadway.

Each day he drove in courtly style to the federal hall, in Wall street, and so thoroughly did he acquire the habit that he is everlastingly glued to the spot in the bronze statue on the subtreasury steps.

On Sundays the president worshipped at St. Paul's chapel, in the commodious box pew, as large as a room in our modern apartments, being of sufficient area to admit of the comfortable stretching of his long, dignified legs, and far enough removed from the pulpit to encourage a few yawns or a sly nap unheeded by the rector.

As we celebrate the birthday of Washington, patriotic New Yorkers will point with a pride that is pardonable to the four buildings still in fine preservation, which were honored by his presence—the Jumel mansion, the Van Cortlandt Manor house, St. Paul's chapel and Frances's tavern.

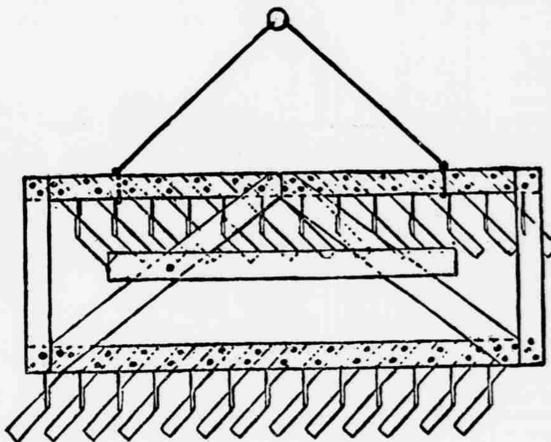
Can proud Philadelphia or boastful Boston show more?

Historic and Beautiful Ground. There is no more historic ground in the country than that around Valley Forge. The very mention of the revolution suggests Valley Forge, the scene of its greatest crisis. And the work of beautifying and improving it is continually progressing. But recently it was that congress was urged to pass a bill granting \$100,000 for the erection of suitable memorial arches. Already a memorial chapel and a museum are under way, in addition to historic buildings that are maintained as nearly as possible in their original condition.



Washington's State Coach.

USEFUL IMPLEMENT IN ARID SECTIONS



The implement shown in the illustration is used with good effect in the arid districts of Utah and other western states. It not only deals effectively with weeds, but also tends to level the surface and create the necessary "dust blanket" mulch. The implement consists of a rectangle, 10 by 4 feet, made of two-inch planks 8 inches wide. To the under side of the 10-foot planks are bolted nine knives, made from 1/4-inch steels, 24 inches long. The steel is bent eight inches from one end, so that it will drop down behind the plank. The knives

are bolted to the plank diagonally at an angle of 45 degrees by means of two bolts. The bend is about three inches deep, which allows the knives to work that distance below the surface of the ground. The long part of the steel below the bend is sharpened on the front side, so that weeds will be cut. The knives on the front slope to the right, while those on the rear plank slope to the left. This arrangement makes it impossible for any weeds to be missed, or any part of the ground to remain unstripped, thereby preparing a bed for rainfall.

FOR SAVING MOISTURE

Type of Soil Should Determine Depth of Plowing.

Certain Kinds of Plows on Market Which Have Tendency to Thoroughly Mix Soil From Bottom and Top of Furrow Slice.

(By ALVIN KEYSER, Colorado Agricultural College.)

The question of whether land should be plowed deeply or not is largely a question of the type of soil with which one has to work. If the soil is quite sandy, much shallower plowing will give better results than if the soil is a silt loam, a clay loam or adobe. Deep plowing should be performed for certain definite purposes; chief among these is making a deep reservoir to catch the water that falls. A sandy soil does not need such treatment because water penetrates a very sandy soil with very little difficulty without the deep plowing. Such a soil is also sufficiently loosened and aerated for crop growing purposes. On heavier soils, however, such as the silt loams, clays, clay loams and adobes, deep plowing is of decided advantage. It enables the precipitation obtained to penetrate the soil in which humus is blended. As a consequence deep plowing on the heavier soils is always of advantage if it is done sufficiently long before the crop is put in to allow nature through time and rainfall to properly compact the furrow slice. Such deep plowing is usually best accomplished by gradually increasing the depth, although there is no great damage done on ordinary soils by going down deeply at once.

There are certain types of plows on the market which have a tendency to thoroughly mix the soil from the bottom and the top of the furrow slice. Such plows can be used with safety to plow as deep as desired and do it at once, observing the precaution given above, viz., plowing a considerable period prior to the planting of crops.

Plowing is best done when the soil contains a degree of moisture which is just right to cause it to pulverize well when thrown out by the plow. If plowed in this condition deep plowing works no serious injury on the soil; in fact, it usually works a benefit. Deep plowing when the soil is very dry and lumpy unless followed by propitious rains, usually works injury.

Most Difficult Problem Perhaps Best Solved by Heavy Listing Crosswise to Prevailing Winds.

Much of the very best dry farming land is of such a loose nature that it blows badly. Theoretically, clays hold more moisture than sands and sandy loam, but the difficulty of maintaining a soil mulch allows so much escape of water by evaporation that this characteristic is largely offset.

How to stop blowing has been the most difficult problem, and is perhaps best solved by heavy listing crosswise to the prevailing winds. Here again theory and fact conflict, for it is evident that there is more surface exposed for evaporation on listed than flat ground and not only that, but the bottom of the furrow has no soil mulch until the furrows crumble somewhat. The fact, however, that the furrows catch the drifting snows must be taken into consideration, and in practice there will usually be a greater moisture content in spring in furrowed ground than that which is left level, besides which it holds the better the fine soil which drifts away so easily. Sand continually breaks down under cultivation and weathering, making a good soil of it if it can be retained.

INCREASED VALUE OF FARMS

Census Bureau Gives Aggregate in the Arid and Semi-Arid Regions as \$10,488,000,000.

The arid and semi-arid regions make a remarkable showing in farm values, according to the census taken last year.

A bulletin recently issued by the census bureau shows that the aggregate value of farm land in the sections named is \$10,488,000,000. This enormous value is all the more remarkable because of the contrast with the \$3,249,000,000 indicated by the census of 1900.

The value of farm land in the arid and semi-arid regions in 1910 was nearly half that of all the farm land in the United States ten years before that year. Whether values of this kind in other parts of the country increased in the same proportion or not, it is evident that they made a big advance; and from it all one may form an idea of the vast growth in the country's wealth from this source.

The census report should open the eyes of people in the east and middle west to the importance of that part of the country which lies west of the ninety-eighth meridian. It forms nearly half the area of the national domain outside Alaska and the insular possessions; and the great increase in farm land values in ten years suggests the importance of the part it will play in the national development of the future.



Hens relish a feed of boiled potatoes occasionally.

There is no better place for the incubator than a clean, dry cellar.

It is an easy matter to chill a lot of profit out of a hen this time of year.

Young hens should be depended upon for winter eggs.

Fowls for killing will be better for not having had food for from 10 to 12 hours before butchering.

As a layer the overfat hen is about as useless as the hen that is thin from not getting enough to eat.

Hens do their best laying before they are two years old. Hens more than two make the best sitters.

For successful work it is necessary to have good incubators, good eggs and good, common-sense management.

A chicken will drink as much water, proportionally, as a cow, and it is quite as important that it should have it.

Leg weakness is the result of a lack of mineral elements in the feed. Green feed and lime in some form are needed.

Having dropping boards made of matched lumber will save time and temper when it comes to cleaning them.

It costs more to keep a poor hen than it does to keep a good one. More worry, more vexation, more dissatisfaction.

Wherever cement floors are used short litter should cover them several inches deep. The bare floor is too damp and cold.

Keep the temperature of the egg chamber as near 103 degrees as possible, and keep the incubator away from the sunlight.

To encourage duck eggs, which are so greatly in demand during the winter months, the stock birds should be fed liberally.

An occasional drink of water in which ten drops of carbolic acid per gallon have been mixed is a recommended preventive of disease.

Another Duty.
"You are my wife's social secretary?" he asks of the beautiful creature who is seated at the small desk in the study. "Yes, sir," she smiles. "I am supposed to take Mrs. Blirrup's place in as many social details as possible."
"Well—er—she doesn't seem to be coming downstairs this morning, and it has always been her custom to kiss me good-by when I start for the office."—Judge.

There never was a man as important as a bride expects her husband to be.

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