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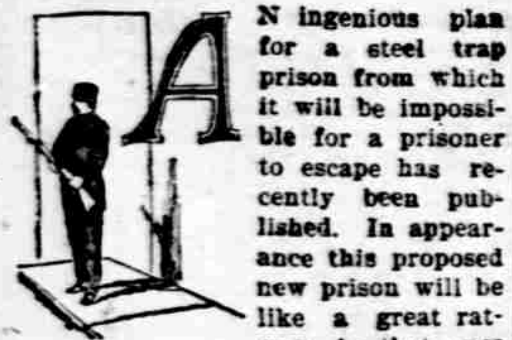
COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1898.

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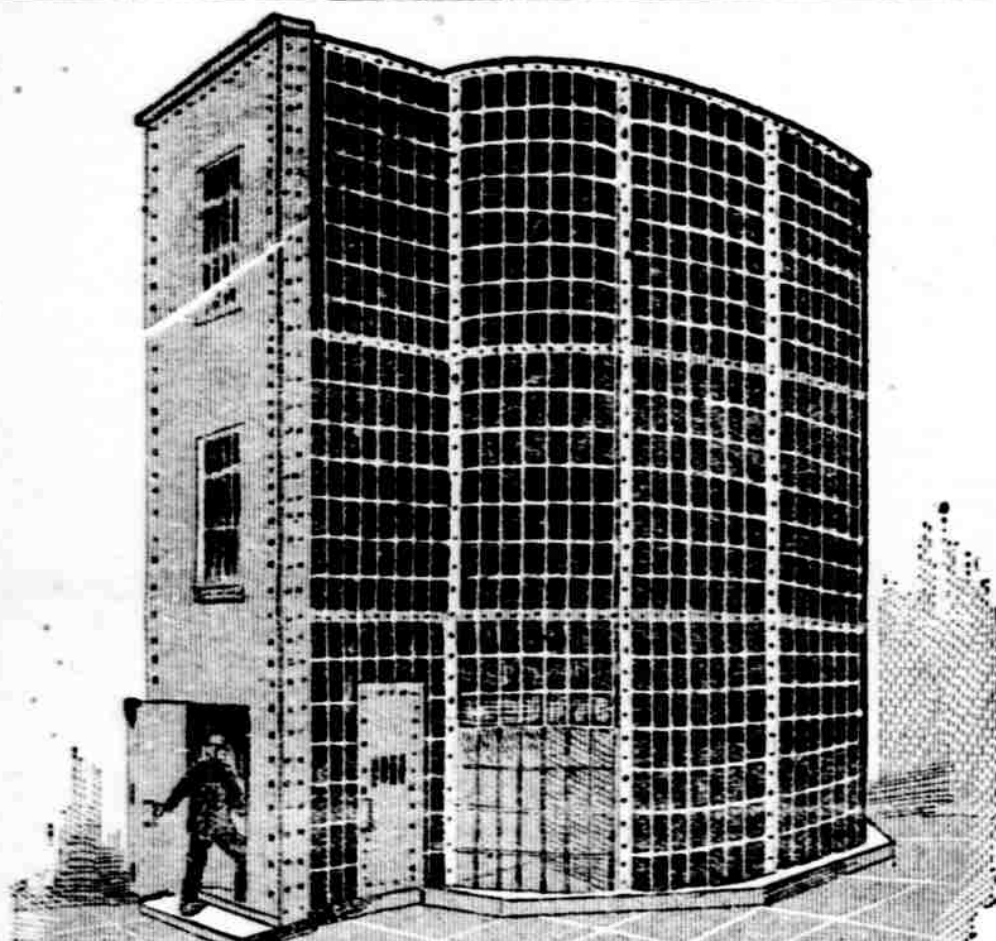
A ROTARY PRISON.

IT HAS JUST BEEN INTRODUCED IN ENGLAND.

And is Called the Country's New Terror—A Prison of Steel Which is as Instructive as a Maze, Defying the Most Vigorous to Escape.



An ingenious plan for a steel prison from which it will be impossible for a prisoner to escape has recently been published. In appearance it resembles a rotary. A prison of this sort is composed of three principal parts, the building consisting of four walls and a roof, in which it is contained, and the center revolving cylinder of cells. Every part of this cylinder is made of the best iron obtainable, and the whole is mounted on ball-bearings in such a way that it may revolve at the will of the official in charge. So accurately is the cylinder balanced and so well are the bearings adjusted, that it is quite easy to move it by means of a hand crank, though in actual practice the power of a motor, either water or electric, is generally used. In shape each cell exactly resembles a hollow wedge, the big end of which is formed by a segment of the cylinder's outside shell, while the smaller end touches the cylinder's core. The roof, floor and sides of each cell are made of chilled boiler iron, so hard that the finest tempered chisel or the keenest file would hardly make an impression upon it. None of these cells has a door, though each one has an opening for going in and out. This opening, however, cannot be used for



THE ROTARY PRISON.

this purpose, except when it is exactly opposite a corresponding opening in the entrance, and no two cells of the same tier or story may be entered at the same time. Outside the cylinder of cells, but entirely disconnected with it, is the wire cage, and this looks somewhat like a gigantic stationary squirrel cage wheel set on end. It is made of thick steel bars, chilled to a hardness fully equal to that of the cylinder, but separated from the cylinder and cells just enough to be out of reach, even should a prisoner get possession of tools for cutting his way out. Connecting with it are the cage-like entrance galleries, one for each tier, each containing a double set of doors. When the prisoners are to be taken out for exercise, or to enter upon their duties in the shops, they must pass out singly, the cage being revolved just far enough, as each leaves his cell, to bring the opening of the next cell into line with the entrance cage, and they must enter in similar fashion. When the last prisoner has gone in, the doors of the entrance cage are locked by one movement of the hand, while a second movement fastens the cage in place, so that it cannot be shifted.

The building inclosing such a prison need be only a mere shell of brick or stone, and the prisoners may be watched in their cells at all times from galleries or balconies on the inside of the shell's walls. While this form of jail may not be adapted to great numbers of prisoners, it possesses undoubted advantages for jails in which only a few prisoners are to be confined. It is an English idea.

A Harrowing Custom.
"It is strange that with the common sense ideas that are being developed in so many of our customs," said a woman the other day, "the custom of going to the grave should not be given up by the mourners at a funeral. It is a harrowing experience. The associations are all unpleasant, and the sight of the earth around the newly dug grave gives us the feeling that we are cut off from our friends forever. Every step of the cords as the coffin is lowered is like a stab wound. The only comfort is that we feel that we are going as far as possible with our dear ones. In the west they have a pleasant custom of lining the grave with flowers, or, at least, with vines, or evergreens, or something of that kind. To see our friends laid away in beds of flowers is not so horribly significant."
—New York Times.

JAMAICA'S OPPORTUNITIES.

The Possibilities of Water Vegetable Growing.

When I lived in the island of Jamaica, a British possession, I was greatly impressed with the commercial possibilities of the winter vegetable growing industry, says Collier's Weekly. During those months when winter fruit and vegetables are practically an impossibility in the markets of our northern and semi-northern cities, they flourish best in Jamaica—and of course, in the other islands of the archipelago as well. Jamaica is about 140 miles long and from twenty to fifty miles wide; its surface is mountainous, with many valleys and few plains of moderate extent. Oranges and coffee are the chief products of the mountainous parts, sugar and bananas of the lower levels and valleys. Vegetables are scarcely cultivated at all; the negro population, numbering over 700,000, is lazy and worthless, and can not be depended upon as laborers; they grow a few yams on their little clearings, and are then content to lie in the shade of their coconuts and mangoes and let the year go by. The coffee industry languishes; there is hardly any sugar making worth talking of now going on; there is not on the whole island a single orange grove, recognizable as such by an American cultivator; all the Jamaica oranges are practically wild, and of numerous varieties, some poor, some the best in the world, but all jumbled together for export; so that Jamaica oranges have a bad name. There is an American company in control of the banana trade, and the export is as large as the consumption warrants; but no vegetables are exported at all. The steady work on the plantations is done by coolies brought under contract from India, and regarded with disfavor by the negroes. Now, if 10,000 acres only were set apart for the cultivation of vegetables during the months from December to April, and the produce placed for sale in our seaboard cities, the profits over and above all expenses and accidents would be so enormous that I shall not state them; the balance sheet has been carefully worked out and revised; they

would amount to many millions of dollars every season. Why has the enterprise never been attempted? Because the cost of the plant required renders it impossible for any ordinary individual or aggregation of individuals to undertake it. You must have, in the first place, a fleet of six or eight freight steamers which will make the trip to New York inside of three days (the distance is a little over 1,000 miles). Then you must have wharves and warehouses in the principal cities to receive the cargoes and men to handle them promptly and skillfully, and shops in the cities where the best of produce can be sold directly to private buyers. Meanwhile, in Jamaica, there must be a large and trained force of cultivators and overseers, with farm tools and buildings of all kinds, and an abundance of facilities for transporting the produce swiftly from the fields to the city. Altogether the preliminary and working expenses would be very large, but the returns would be so large that in two average years the outlay would have been repaid and a clear annual gain of millions could be depended on. I often discussed this with the governor of Jamaica, Sir Henry Blake, and he saw as much in it as I did and proffered the good offices of the government in case a company were organized to work the industry. Jamaica is, at present, the best of the islands for the purpose simply because it is under English government and you are assured of peace and quiet. But when Cuba achieves her independence and has quieted down she will serve better than Jamaica, because she is so much larger and more than 100 miles nearer us.

When Niagara Will Run Dry.
Dr. G. K. Gilbert, of the Geological Survey, says that a comparison of gage records for a period of twenty years shows that the land surrounding the great lakes is being gradually tilted from northeast to southwest at such a rate that, of two points one hundred miles apart, the northern rises five inches with reference to the southern in one hundred years. At Chicago the lake level rises about one inch in ten years. Dr. Gilbert predicts that, if this movement continues, in about three thousand years all the upper lakes will discharge into the Illinois river, the Detroit and St. Clair rivers.

How backward, carrying the water of Lake Erie into Lake Huron, and the Niagara river will run dry.

An Electric Pen.
Among the many curious inventions in which electricity plays the principal role is mentioned a pen, provided near the point with a minute incandescent lamp intended to illumine a small space on the paper, and prevented from shining into the eye of the writer by a little reflector placed just above it.

FARM AND GARDEN.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO AGRICULTURALIST.

Some Up-to-Date Hints About Cultivation of the Soil and Trees Through Horticulture, Viticulture and Floriculture.

Had Clover in the South.
Farmer's Bulletin 18: Until recently it has been thought that red clover could not be grown in the Southern States, but our experience has been that on suitable soils and with proper management it will grow fully as well here as in any of the Northern States, and that, while it does not last as long here, its yield is heavier, and its account of its more rapid growth, the quality of hay is better. In North Carolina it has succeeded well and has maintained a full stand longer than in most other sections; while on the sandy white soil of the Florida station has done but little. At the Louisiana station it has made a vigorous growth, affording two large cuttings during the first season, but it soon succumbs to the encroachments of native grasses. At the Mississippi station on rich creek bottom and on black prairie soils it has given excellent results, making 2 tons of hay per acre in May, another ton in June, and in favorable seasons another in September, though the last cutting has been unreliable on account of summer droughts. Where such yields can be made it is one of the best crops which can be grown, but there are many localities in the South where it has not been found profitable. It requires a soil which is rich and in fairly good condition to secure a "catch" of the seed, and on many soils where it makes a promising start and yields two or three cuttings it soon becomes overrun with the native grasses and is choked out. Obviously it will not pay to grow it more than two years on the same ground. As by the end of that time it will have done its best work in fertilizing the soil, and the land will give better returns if the last crop of clover is plowed under and the field planted to some other crop. As the plants produce seed abundantly here and are not infested with the insects which have recently done so much damage to the crop in the Northern States, there seems to be no reason why the seed crop should not become of considerable importance.

Red clover is a universally recognized standard in the seed catalogues of all other crops, when grown either for hay or as a green manure, and we have made special efforts to test it on as great a variety of soils as possible, and do not hesitate to recommend it on all rich soils which are in good mechanical condition, but on sandy or poor soils, or on rough and poorly prepared lands of any kind, it seems best suited for growth on alluvial and black prairie soils, and has never been satisfactory on sandy or white lime lands. August sowings have given the best satisfaction, and the plants from such sowings are sufficiently strong to keep down any growth of wild grasses and weeds the next spring, and will give a heavy cutting of hay in May. If sown in February, the more common time, the first cutting will be principally of volunteer grasses, but the clover will give two or three cuttings later. Sowing with oats in February is often successful, but the clover is often injured by cutting the oats, thus removing the shade just at the beginning of the hot weather. Sow 1 bushel of the seed to each 3 acres.

Flax Plant in the Garden.
No vegetable responds more readily to a minimum amount of cultivation than rhubarb, and as it makes a first-class substitute for fruit, it should be more extensively grown, especially in a country like this, where the fruit resources are extremely limited, says Northwest Farmer. Two methods of starting a bed of rhubarb may be adopted, either by sowing the seed or planting roots, but the latter is much to be preferred. In the first instance, rhubarb will not come true to type from seed; in fact, retrogression in every feature is very apparent in seedling rhubarb. If a few old roots can be obtained so much the better, and these may be divided with a sharp spade into as many pieces as there are stems. Care must be taken to guard the fact of there being an eye or bud to each root, as they will not grow if this is missing, no matter how large the root may be. Rhubarb is a particularly heavy feeder, and this fact must be taken into consideration when preparing the land for planting. An old piece of garden, which has been manured for a few years, will make an excellent situation, if plowed deeply and heavily manured before planting. Do not be afraid of putting on too much manure in this position. The purchase was made they had a few hundred dollars at command to make the first payment, and from the day of the purchase the deferred payments drew interest, and like an eating moth, night and day it devoured upon the life and energy of those who burden themselves in this way. If they had taken the money with which they made the first payment and applied it in the underdrainage of the land which they owned, the result would have been far more gratifying. By the draining the crop product could have been increased from 50 to 100 per cent, which would have added much each year to their income, so that in a few years they might have had the money in hand to buy the land desired, and at the same time been free from the burdens of debt, and in every way better off.

Flavor Demanded.—It is my impression that butter-making is on the verge of a great change. It is not only the wants of the American people, and those abroad, and there is no question but what they are very rapidly cultivating a taste for fine flavored butter and are looking upon it more and more as a necessary article of food. To be able to make such a fine flavored article and overcome the defects which our conventions and state fairs point out by returning our score cards marked perfect on everything but flavor, and that scored off from one to five points, should be our study and must eventually be our accomplishment. It is not a difficult task in making butter to get a perfect flavor.—F. C. Ottoleng.

Popcorn contains more nitrogen and phosphates than the regular Indian corn.

DAIRY AND POULTRY.

INTERESTING CHAPTERS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

How Successful Farmers Operate Their Department of the Farm & How They Go to the Care of Live Stock and Poultry.

Feeding and Shipping Poultry.
F. W. Keith, a commission merchant, sends us the following article on dressing and shipping poultry for the Chicago market:
In the first place, poultry should be kept without food twenty-four hours; full crops injure the appearance and are liable to sour, and when this does occur, correspondingly lower prices must be accepted than obtainable for choice stock. Never kill poultry by wringing the neck.
To Dress Chickens—Kill by bleeding in the neck; hang by the feet until properly bled. Leave the head and feet on, and do not remove intestines nor crop. Scalded chickens sell best to home trade, and dry picked best to shippers, so that either manner of dressing will do if properly executed, but as there are but very few outside orders received for chickens until after the first of the year, we would advise shippers to scald their chickens until after the holidays. For scalding chickens, the water should be at boiling point as possible, without boiling; pick the legs dry before scalding; hold by the head and legs and immerse and lift up and down three times; if the head is immersed it turns the color of the comb and gives the shrunken appearance, which leads buyers to think the fowl has been sick; the feathers and pin feathers should be removed very cleanly, and without breaking the skin; then "plump," by dipping ten seconds in water nearly or quite boiling hot, and then immediately into cold water; hang in a cool place until the animal heat is entirely out of the body. To dry pick chickens properly, the work should be done while the chickens are bleeding; do not wait and let the bodies get cold. Dry picking is much more easily done while the bodies are warm. Be careful and do not break and tear the skin.
To Dress Geese—Follow the same instructions as given for picking chickens, but always dry pick. Dressed turkeys, when dry picked, always sell best and command better prices than scalded lots, as the appearance is brighter and more attractive. Endeavor to market all old and heavy gobblers before January 1, as after the holidays the demand is for small fat hen turkeys only, old toms being sold at a discount to canners.
For Ducks and Geese should be scalded in the same temperature of water as for other kinds of poultry, but it requires more time for the water to penetrate and loosen the feathers. Some parties advise, after scalding, to wrap them in a blanket for the purpose of retaining the heat, but this is not in this condition long enough to cook the flesh. Do not undertake to dry pick geese and ducks just before killing, for the purpose of saving the feathers, as it causes them to become soiled, and is a source of injury to the sale. Do not pick the feathers off the head; leave the feathers on for two or three inches on the neck. Do not singe the bodies for the purpose of removing any down or bright spots, as the flame will injure them and they will be entirely spoiled. After they are picked clean they should be held in scalding water about ten seconds for the purpose of plumping, and then rinsed off in clean cold water. Fat heavy stock is always better for the home trade.
Before packing and shipping, poultry should be thoroughly dry and cold, but not frozen; the animal heat should be entirely out of the body; pack in boxes or barrels; boxes holding 100 to 200 pounds are preferable, and pack snugly; straighten out the body and legs, so that they will not arrive very much bent and twisted out of shape; fill the packages full as possible to prevent moving about on the way; do not pack for chickens and ducks that for turkeys; use a convenient, avoid putting more than one kind in a package; mark kind and weight of each description on the package and mark shipping directions plainly on the cover.—Farmers' Review.

Abating the Dog Nuisance.
During November, December and January more dogs are bred than any other three months in the year, so it is very important that the breeding dogs be in good condition and receive the best of care and attention, as he is counted one-half of the herd, a fact that every breeder knows, writes J. L. Van Doren in National Stockman. The boar should be kept by himself in a clean, warm pen and have exercise every day that he can get. His food should consist of a mixture of corn, ground oats, mill feed and milk, only given in quantities sufficient to keep up a strong, healthy growth and retain vigor. Never overfeed or get the animal too fat if you want large, strong litters. If a pig sows to eight months, let her range on a good day, but turn the sow away immediately after service, and keep her in a close pen for a couple of days, as she is more apt to catch than if turned in with other sows. Should the boar be a large hog, one that has matured, and business is crowding, he can be allowed to run with the sows in the morning and again in the evening. Never turn the boar out with the sow and allow them to run together, for it has ruined many a good animal. An instance was related to me a short time ago where a boar that was known to be a first-class sire, was allowed to run with a sow all day, and he never sired a litter of pigs afterward. Many others of a similar character could be mentioned. Should the breeder or farmer want to raise good, strong litters of healthy pigs he must not turn the boar with the sows, but keep him in a clean, warm pen, and have exercise every day that he can get. His food should consist of a mixture of corn, ground oats, mill feed and milk, only given in quantities sufficient to keep up a strong, healthy growth and retain vigor. Never overfeed or get the animal too fat if you want large, strong litters. 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