

ROAD AND FARM IMPROVEMENT

COLD STORAGE ON FARM.

Suggestions for the Construction of an Underground House Where Frost Cannot Reach.

Whatever may be its disadvantages, the farm cellar is about the only place on the farm where a temperature above freezing can be maintained throughout the winter, and as the pit cannot or at least should not be disturbed during the winter, we may expect the cellar to be the chief storing place for apples for winter consumption for some years to come.

The "dugout" or cave, so much used in the west, both for storing all kinds of vegetables, butter and fruits, and as a refuge from windstorms, may come under the closed cellar or under ventilated



SECTIONAL VIEW OF DUGOUT STORAGE.

storage, depending upon how they are built and ventilated. Some of them are not ventilated at all and the heterogeneous mixture of everything to be preserved into which the cyclone refuge dashes is not conducive to the best keeping of fruit.

This is the best method for keeping apples in the fall, unless ice or artificial cooling is used. Some modification of the plan is adopted by all large apple growers, usually in connection with their packing plants.

The dugout mentioned above, if properly constructed and attended to when in use, is a cheap and successful method of storing small quantities of apples. It is made by digging into a side hill so that only the entrance end is out of the ground. Sometimes the walls are stoned up, sometimes cemented, rough boarded on study, or left bare. Rough boards are laid across, upon which boards on brush are put and dirt shoveled on, or the cave may be arched with brick, stone or cement.

The dugout should be well ventilated. For this purpose, there should be a sliding door and a large flue extending up through the roof at the opposite end. Put a valve in this flue and open it and the fresh air will rise in the fall, closing them when warmer. Adjust winter ventilation to the temperature and danger of freezing.

By increasing the size and complexity of the dugout, and adding more appliances for ventilation, we have what is called hillside storage. Fig. 1 shows cross section plan of such a storage house. It is to be placed so the long way is parallel with the hill, to save labor in excavating. The height may be six feet in the clear or more, if desired. Cedar posts are set at the sides, with a shoulder cut at the top to receive the 210 joists, which are spiked to them. The matched sheathing inside and the boards or plank above hold the frame firm. The ceiling will last longer and the cellar be of more even temperature if the spaces between the posts and the joists are filled with sawdust.

Cold fresh air is supplied by a row of tile inlets on the downhill side and the warm air removed by a row of ventilating flues on the opposite side. If the inlets can be connected with a larger one which extends several feet under the soil for a hundred feet or more, good ventilation can be secured in the coldest weather, as the soil will moderate the temperature of the incoming air.—Farm and Live Stock Journal.

Runs a Crow Incubator.

Farmer Billings, of Brookdale, Pa., has taken a contract to furnish a New York millinery manufacturer with crow's heads at 25 cents apiece. It costs something to get a dead crow. Alive it is an elusive bird and ammunition is expensive, but Billings is an enterprising speculator. He has set up a chicken incubator in which is placed, as fast as laid, the eggs of about 100 hen crows that have been trapped and confined with perhaps a dozen cock crows. Within 15 days the little creatures are hatched and a fortnight later they are ready to be headed. It is understood that the head of a crow chick is worth just as much as an adult of the same species. At the uniform rate of four for a dollar, dead, they will pay the producer. Billings has the only crow hatchery in the world.

How to Get Rid of Stumps.

In the autumn bore a hole one or two inches in diameter, according to the girth of the stump, vertically in the center of the latter, and about 18 inches deep. Put into it one or two ounces of saltpeter; fill the hole with water and plug up close.

In the ensuing spring take out plug and pour in about one-half gallon of kerosene oil and ignite it. The stump will smoulder away to the very roots, leaving nothing but ash.—Scientific American.

Education is the best improvement a farmer can make to himself.

QUIT BURNING STRAW.

A More Economical Way of Disposing of This Waste on the Farm.

The old wasteful habit of burning all the straw on the farm is still followed on those farms that do not have a good deal of stock. Even where it is possible to utilize the straw by hauling it to the barnyard it is still burned, because the owner does not figure out that the fertility in the straw is worth hauling the straw to the barnyard for. He says that any way the ash is left and there is some fertility in that. Taking all in all he is under the impression that he is getting about as much out of his straw by burning it as in any other way, unless he can sell it or feed it to stock.

But all investigations go to show that humus plays a much larger part in the matter of soil value than we thought. Every pound of straw should be brought back onto the land in some form. A number of cattle will trample up a good deal of it if it is thrown into the barnyard from time to time. This would be especially the case with some barnyards we have seen and it would at the same time greatly improve the condition of the barnyards.

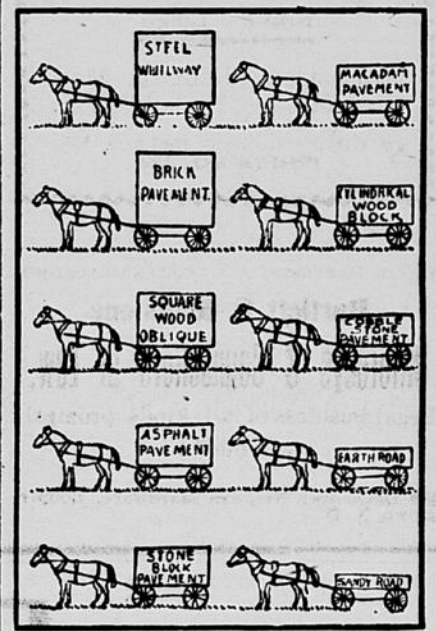
Get the straw and the manure mixed together in the shortest possible time. When the straw is mixed with the manure it is surprising how quickly it will go to pieces, says the Farmers' Review. One farmer has a barnyard that does not cover more than half an acre, yet into that every year he puts the cornstalks from 40 acres of land. The stalks become quickly pulverized under the feet of the farm animals and in the course of months one fails to recognize in the manure any cornstalks.

Of course this means work, but it means also the keeping up of the producing capacity of the land. It also means the keeping up of the ability of the land to resist drought. Get the straw into the manure and then get the manure into the field as quickly as possible after it is fit to go there.

THE LOAD AND THE ROAD.

Graphic Illustration of the Relation of the One to the Other as Displayed at World's Fair.

The accompanying picture, made from a world's fair exhibit illustrating the importance of good roads and streets,



ROADS AND LOADS. shows the comparative loads that can be drawn by one horse on different roadways.

MAIL BOX POST.

How an Old Wheel May Be Utilized to Advantage of the Carrier and Farmer.

I am very much interested in the devices in your paper and I now send you a sketch of a mail-box post device used by myself. In many instances it is necessary for two or three neighbors to have boxes at the same crossing. By fixing the post as I have described it will make same very convenient for the carrier. Take an old wheel of any kind and set it on the post, as shown in the illustration. Several boxes can be attached to the spokes and rim of this wheel. It is quite handy for the carrier, as the wheel can be revolved and he can get at all the boxes at one stopping. The rim of the wheel extends out so that it will be impossible for him to run against the post and break it down. Try it and see how handy and convenient it will be for you and your carrier.—Meritt S. Atkins, in Agricultural Epitomist.

POINTERS.

Readiness begets steadiness. Grit is more valuable than wit. Modern machinery makes money. Dilute sentiment with common sense. Temperance is a good enough fountain of youth.

Many a lame man who does not limp is crippled only under his hat. A farmer can't know too much about his business, and his women folks can't find enough ways to lighten their labor.

Do not nail or staple wire fence to trees. The tree will grow around the staple, so that the wire will have to be cut to remove it.

A dung fork is a good implement to load stones from plowed ground. You can handle one-half more stones and save your back and hands.

Shelter means protection from wind and wet. Hot, stuffy barns or bars where the cold winter winds whistle through do not meet the requirements.—Farm and Home.

MANY TOWNS FOR MEN ONLY

Communities in the Old World and the New That Are Without the Feminine Element.

On the borders between China and Russia in Asia, almost due south of Lake Baikal, is a good sized town known as Maimatshin, which is exclusively inhabited by men. The place has a considerable trade and is also a military post, says the New York Herald. An old law forbids women to live in this territory, and they cannot pass the great wall of Kalkan nor enter Mongolia at all.

"The Prison of the Ten Thousand" is the name given by the wandering Arabs of the district across Jordan to the fortress monastery of Mar Saba, on the Dead sea. Not many years ago there were actually 10,000 monks living in this grim retreat, and even to-day there are more than 1,000 left. The monastery is one of the oldest in the world, having been founded about 1,300 years ago by Euthymius.

The Empress Eudoxia formed a romantic attachment for this stern old anchorite, and built near by a tower, which still exists, from which she could watch him at a distance. True to his vow, Euthymius utterly refused to see or hear the voice of a woman. Now the tower is inhabited by a watchman, who keeps guard against the incursions of prowling Arabs. Twice during the last year the place has been raided by hordes from the desert. The monks who live there to-day are the most rigorous of any in the Greek church. They pass their lives in everlasting penance, without hope of pleasure or cheerful incident. Many of them go mad from the horror and desolation of their surroundings. No woman is permitted to come within sight of Mar Saba.

When Montana City burned some strange facts concerning its inhabitants came to light. The town, which held at the time about 5,000 inhabitants, was occupied only by less than 100 Chinamen, who lived by working the tailings of a once valuable mine. Small wonder that the fire raged for days till the town was reduced to ashes. It is said that for years no woman had been seen in that once prosperous town.

Another far western settlement which is composed exclusively of men is Excelsior City, situated in a wild, rugged stretch of country on the Mexican edge of Southern California. This, too, was once a mining town and has many fine buildings, but the one gave out and it was deserted. Gradually it became a resort for escaped criminals and outlaws, who are practically all men. There are said to have been 300 of them in all, murderers and desperadoes every one. But as there is no port or railway anywhere near, they are entirely isolated and practically prisoners.

A spot practically unknown to civilization on the shores of the Red sea at Midil is the home of pirates and slavers, a regular nest of criminals. The place is inhabited almost entirely by men, for the sheik who holds absolute control there allows only the best of his warriors to marry. It pays no tribute to the Turkish government, for it lies at the end of a long, narrow harbor inaccessible to vessels. It seems probable that it will continue its career unchecked.

JAPANESE WAR TOWELING.

Sears Artistic Sketches and Caricatures or Cartoons of Battle Scenes.

As might have been expected, military and naval subjects occupy a large place among the year's designs for towelings. The towel designs celebrating naval victories were particularly successful; they are mostly in white, on a blue ground; or in black, on a white ground.

Besides towels decorated with artistic sketches of this sort, says Lafcadio Hearn, in Atlantic, there have been placed upon the market many kinds of towels bearing comic war pictures, caricatures or cartoons which are amusing without being malignant. It will be remembered that at the time of the first attack made upon the Port Arthur squadron, several of the Russian officers were in the Dally theater, never dreaming that the Japanese would dare to strike the first blow. This incident has been made the subject of a towel design. At one end of the towel is a comic study of the faces of the Russians, delightedly watching the gyrations of a ballet dancer. At the other end of the towel is a study of the faces of the same commanders when they find, on returning to the port, only the masts of their battleships above water. Another towel shows a procession of fish in front of a surgeon's office, waiting their turns to be relieved of sundry bayonets, swords, revolvers, and repeating rifles, which have stuck in their throats. A third towel picture represents a Russian diver examining, with a prodigious magnifying glass, the holes made by torpedoes in the hull of a sunken cruiser. Comic verses or legends, in curative text, are printed beside these pictures.

Larger Gloves Worn.

A size six glove to-day is larger than one five years ago, and this applies to all the sizes made. The explanation is that women's hands have grown larger than they used to be, through their practice of tennis, golf, etc., but they do not like to admit it, so the glove-makers must meet the new conditions and yet avoid hurting the vanity of their customers.

Out of the Ordinary.

Mr. Subbubs—That Mrs. Newcome seems to be a very remarkable woman. Mr. Subbubs—Why, what do you know about her? Mr. Subbubs—I notice that although she's been living in this neighborhood nearly six months, none of you other women have found out anything mean to say about her.—Catholic Standard and Times.

OFFICIAL CUP OF COFFEE.

Proper Method of Brewing the Beverage to Be Determined in Washington.

By direction of the secretary of agriculture the bureau of plant industry is to take up at once experiments to determine the best manner in which to brew a cup of coffee. To this end, says a Washington report, F. L. Lewton, a specially trained expert, has been engaged. The view of the department is that a cup of coffee is good because of the manner in which it is brewed, rather than from the quality of the bean from which the beverage is made. It will be appreciated by all persons acquainted with the art and mystery of coffee-making that various conditions, apparently trivial in themselves, have to be taken into consideration in producing the beverage.

For instance, in the process of roasting the beans may be more or less damaged by being under or over done, and the flavor of the coffee thus impaired to a corresponding degree. Hence the necessity for ideal conditions in roasting. Again, the effects of water at various temperatures upon the ground coffee and the proper period for infusion will, for the first time in the history of coffee-making, be thoroughly and accurately ascertained.

The retention of caffeine, the active principle of coffee, to which it owes its stimulating effects, and the elimination of the caffeotannic and caffeic acids, which are not only injurious to health, but communicate an unpleasant, bitter taste to the beverage, will be, of course, the principal objects.

MURMURS FROM GROUND.

Strange Sounds Heard for Many Centuries on the Red Sea Borders.

A singular phenomenon occurs on the borders of the Red sea to a place called Nakous, where intermittent underground sounds have been heard for an unknown number of centuries. It is situated about half a mile distant from the shore, whence a long reach of sand ascends rapidly to a height of 30 feet. This reach is about 800 feet wide and resembles an amphitheater, being walled by low rocks.

The sounds coming up from the ground at this place recur at intervals of about five minutes, and they at first resemble a low murmur, but ere long there is heard a loud knocking, somewhat like the strokes of a bell and which at the end of about five minutes becomes so strong as to agitate the sand. The explanation of this curious phenomenon given by the Arabs is that there is a convent under the ground here and that these monks ring for prayers. So they call it Nakous, which means a bell.

It is said that the noise so frightens their camels when they hear it as to render them furious. Philosophers attribute the sound to suppressed volcanic action—probably to the bubbling of gas or vapor underground.

Her Mistake.

"Mamma," said a little West side girl yesterday morning, "I can't go to school to-day. My tooth is achin' awful." "All right, Lucy," said her mother, "get your jacket and I'll take you to a dentist and have the tooth pulled." The child hesitated a moment and then said: "Oh, mamma, I made a mistake. It ain't my tooth—it's my head that's achin'."—Kansas City Times.

A Teacher's Testimony.

Hinton, Ky., Nov. 28 (Special).—It has long been claimed that Diabetes is incurable, but Mr. E. J. Thompson, teacher in the Hinton school, has pleasing evidence to the contrary. Mr. Thompson had Diabetes. He took Dodd's Kidney Pills and is cured. In a statement he makes regarding his cure Mr. Thompson says: "I was troubled with my kidneys for more than two years and was treated by two of the best doctors in this part of the state. They claimed I had Diabetes and there was little to be done for me. Then I started to use Dodd's Kidney Pills and what they did for me was wonderful. It is entirely owing to Dodd's Kidney Pills that I am now enjoying good health." Many doctors still maintain that Diabetes is incurable. But Diabetes is a kidney disease and the kidney disease that Dodd's Kidney Pills will not cure has yet to be discovered.

Sir John Madden, chief justice of Victoria, who is famous for his proximity recently delivered a judgment of 100 words, the reading of which occupied him seven hours. Sir John kept awake during the whole recital.—Punch.

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The World's Greatest Skin Soap—The Standard of Every Nation of the Earth.

Millions of the world's best people use Cuticura Soap, prepared by Cuticura Ointment, the purest and sweetest of emollient skin cures, for preserving, purifying and beautifying the skin, for cleansing the scalp of crusts, scales and dandruff, and the stopping of falling hair, for softening, whitening and soothing red, rough and sore hands, for baby rashes, itches and chafings, and many sensitive and astringent purposes which readily suggest themselves to women, especially mothers, as well as for all the purposes of the toilet, bath and nursery.

The Russian brand of patriotism may be judged from the fact that about half the population would leave the country if they could get safely over the border.—Philadelphia Ledger.

New York & Philadelphia.

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A woman attaches more importance to asking three people to afternoon tea than an admiral does to taking battleships into action.—N. Y. Press.

Lowest Rates Ever Made to Florida, For Midwinter Exposition and South Florida Fair, Tampa, Fla. Tickets will be sold beginning November 15th, 1906, with final limit of 21 days. See that your ticket reads via Seaboard Air Line Railway, the shortest and best route to and through Florida.

Good advice is well enough in its way, but a hungry man can't make a satisfactory meal of it.—Chicago Daily News.

Do not believe Fin's Cure for Consumption has an equal for coughs and colds.—F. Boyer, Trinity Springs, Ind., Feb. 15, 1906.

Society is the mother of convention, and quite often deserves its child.—Chicago Journal.



Miss Whittaker, a prominent club woman of Savannah, Ga., tells how she was entirely cured of ovarian troubles by the use of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—I heartily recommend Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound as a Uterine Tonic and Regulator. I suffered for four years with irregularities and Uterine troubles. No one but those who have experienced this dreadful agony can form any idea of the physical and mental misery those endure who are thus afflicted. Your Vegetable Compound cured me within three months. I was fully restored to health and strength, and now my periods are regular and painless. What a blessing it is to be able to obtain such a remedy when so many doctors fail to help you. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is better than any doctor or medicine I ever had. Very truly yours, Miss KARY WHITTAKER, 604 30th St., W. Savannah, Ga."

No physician in the world has had such a training or such an amount of information at hand to assist in the treatment of all kinds of female ills as Mrs. Pinkham. In her office at Lynn, Mass., she is able to do more for the ailing women of America than the family physician. Any woman, therefore, is responsible for her own trouble who will not take the pains to write to Mrs. Pinkham for advice. Her address is Lynn, Mass., and her advice is free.

A letter from another woman showing what was accomplished in her case by the use of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.



"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM: I am so grateful to you for the help Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has given me that I deem it but a small return to write you an expression of my experience. "Many years suffering with weakness, inflammation, and a broken down system, made me more anxious to die than live, but Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound soon restored my lost strength. Taking the medicine only two weeks produced a radical change, and two months restored me to perfect health. I am now a changed woman, and my friends wonder at the change, it is so marvellous. Sincerely yours, Miss MATTIE HENAR, 429 Green St., Danville, Va."

The testimonials which we are constantly publishing from grateful women prove beyond a doubt the power of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to conquer female diseases.

\$5000 FORFEIT if we cannot forthwith produce the original letters and signatures of above testimonials, which will prove their absolute genuineness. Lydia E. Pinkham Med. Co., Lynn, Mass.

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Strawberry and Vegetable Dealers

The Pioneer Department of the Illinois Central Railroad Company has recently issued a publication known as Circular No. 12, which is described as the best territory in this country for the growing of early strawberries and early vegetables. Every dealer in such products should have a copy of this circular. Write for a copy to the Pioneer Department, 125 Adams St., Chicago, Ill.

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