

## **STORIES** OF THE SECRET SERVICE

Capt. Patrick D. Tyrrell

## STORY No. 8 The MISSOURI LAND **LEAGUERS**

Being an Account of the Operations and Conviction of the Band of Land Thieves Operating in Missouri In the Early Seventies.

By CAPTAIN PATRICK D. TYRRELL

(Copyright, 1905, by Marion G. Scheitlin.) well-appointed offices of the Real Estate Loan and Trust company, of St. Louis, one night in the fall of 1872. One was young, under 30, slender and somewhat stooped. His eyes were dark and shifting and he wore a black beard and mustache. The other was slightly older and bore the appearance of a prosperous business man. Save for them the offices were deserted, but nevertheless they talked in undertones.

"The plan has been tested in all its questionable points and found absolutely safe," said the younger man, the owner of the offices and at all times the leader in the dialogue. "The only weak point remaining is the limited market we now have in the sale of these lands. This market must be extended, and the east is the place the extension must be made. It is my intention to establish English and European agencies and to place safe agents in some of the eastern centers of, population. The opportunity is the greatest that will ever come to you."

There was no dissent from this statement on the part of the other. His manner suggesed an evident desire to learn more of the plan under discussion. The point in the negotiations between the two where there might be any danger in freedom of speech had already been passed. There was no exhibition on either side of troublesome qualms over the moral phase of the business in hand. and the conversation turned on nothing but the prospects of carrying out the scheme with safety and profit.

"You must bear in mind," said the master spirit of the conference, "that this is nothing new. A smart chap coaceived the possibilities of the plan when he was with Gen. Price's raiding army in southwest Missouri during the war. This chap was one that happened to be turned loose in the land office at Ironton and grabbed 300 patents, each to 320 acres of land. He would probably have taken more, but that was all he could carry. He planted them at the time and resurrected them after the war-in 1868. While he had a general idea of their value he had little ingenuity in realizing on them.

"Finally he met a friend with a quicker brain, and this friend suggested securing the services of a notary to take the acknowledgements necessary to securing land under the patents. They came to St. Louis and found the man they wanted-a notary who liked his liquor a bit too well to ask too many questions. The deeds based on the patents were made and a good business was done in the sale of the lands until the stock of patents ran out. This pair discontinued operations, but they opened a great field. I saw that thousands of these patents were available—never mind how-and am ready to carry on business on a big scale."

"But how can a deed be made in 1872 or later so that it will look like it was made a dozen years before, when the patents were issued?" cautiously asked the

"Take my word for it, the deeds issued from these patents are as good as wheat for commercial purposes. I have a process that gives them a semblance of age that no one has ever questioned. In short, it's a market we want-nothing

"Might not the signatures to these deeds be construed as forgeries?" "Possibly, although no one has questioned them so far. But in order to pre vent any complication from that source we can provide for the signing of the documents in another state. They can't

force witnesses across the state line." Numerous other objections, designed to test the security of the scheme rather than to discourage the execution of it, were offered by the visitor. Each was met with a comprehensive and plausible answer, indicating that in all its details and the time I entered the valley land and had improved and cultivated the plot had been subjected to the in the hunt for land grafters. These scrutiny of a bright mind trained to the tragedies were all the grewsome fruit the registrar at the same time. To consideration of legal technicalities. Before the men left the office they had entered into a hard and fast agreement to carry out the plan proposed by the land thieves-knowing too much some to the facts as set forth by the appli-

English Cruelty to Scotland. An English golfer on a Scottish links hit the turf ten times for every once that he struck the ball. His caddle ventured

on a sarcastic remonstrance.

"Ha' peety on auld Scotland, sir." said "She's suffered eneuch at the haunds o' yer countrymen in the past that ye sud treat her sae sair the day. Hit the ba', mon, an' let the grun' alane.'

"Confound Scotland!" shouted the exasperated golfer, flinging down his club in a rage. "It's just what Dr. Johnson described it—'stone, water and a little | English bodies come to Scotland to play

located in St. Louis in 1834.

souri, and was later sent to the legisla- whisky. ture as a "Benton democrat." During east part of the state, and became acquainted with James Lindsay, making the latter's log house his headquarters in the county.

Because I am held to the dead level of plans. history in these narratives and not permitted to indulge in the temptations to flights of romance that constantly present themselves, I am here forced to call attention to a trait in the character of Grant that was in a great measure responsible for the Missourl land thefts. In his sojournings at the Lindsay

home Grant conceived a strong personal elected president he appointed his friend Lindsay pension agent at St. Louis. To this trust Lindsay proved recreant and was soon found \$22,000 short in his accounts. This brought about his removal from that office, but it did not deter Grant from appointing him registrar of the Ironton land office in 1877, just before his second term expired, thereby indicating the bulldog constancy with which the great military genius clung to his old friendships whether the objects of them were worthy or not.

Robert L. Lindsay, the son, inherited many of the traits of his father, the keenness of mind, geniality of manner and, unfortunately, the shifty standard of morals. The younger Lindsay was educated in the law and had he centered Two men sat in the back room of the fession along honorable lines he would have attained a place of prominence among lawyers. Instead he turned from this bit of history turns.

Robert L. Lindsay, the president of through their own misguided efforts. the Real Estate Loan and Trust com- In the land of "moonshine" stills pany, of St. Louis, and the leader of the knowing too much has been a capital onversation in his private office on the offiense punishable by deatth at the night in question, was a man of in- hands of self-constituted judges and fice of the district, where it was held creasing prominence in his state. He executioners. So it was 'n Arcadia until the applicant appeared with was the son of James Lindsay, who had valley and throughout southwestern Missouri following the civil war, Lindsay Sr. became the editor of the the tabooed subject being land frauds first "free soil" paper published in Mis- instead of the making of white corn

From this readers must not infer the early days of the war, while Ulysses | that Robert L. Lindsay and the other S. Grant was recruiting the regiment principal thieves were in a conspiracy at the head of which he made his first to commit murder; but they were in leaps toward military greatness, he a conspiracy that led to murder as an Madrid and Ste. Genevieve counties, incident. Young Lindsay was su- the land titles in this district going preme in the district and his word was back to the original Spanish grants. law, even when it meant the commis- The United States surveys of the tersion of crimes of violence to protect ritory lying west of this were made the land conspirators in their nefarious

A large number of supernumeraries were necessary, men who little by little were dragged into the crime vortex for meager pay, and, once involved were driven to desperate crimes to protect themselves. Innumerable county officials and other men-prominent within the county lines, but the merest cogs in the big liking for his host, and after he was machine of fraud—were drawn into the common cause of land stealing. Such men composed strong secret, oath-bound rings in the counties of Shannon, Dent, Butler, Wayne, Reynolds, Iron, Carter, Oregon, Madison, Stoddard and Ripley.

> Do not understand me to say that all officials in these counties were corrupt, for some were honest men who dared not move against the thieves. There were enough of the dishonest ones, however, to control largely in and with it thousands of patents ispublic affairs of the district, and to sued on fraudulent applications. succeed in fostering a general belief that no man's life was safe who became informer.

Thus matters stood in the fall of 1875; Carl Schurz was secretary of the interior and James J. Brooks was his energies on the practice of that pro- chief of the secret service, Elmer Washburn having been deposed by President Grant because he had been so vigorous toward some of Grant's the law to real estate, and early in his friends in the whisky ring scandals career began the development of the I had been chasing the ever-active but most gigantic steal of the century. It elusive counterfeiter through the cenis around this swindle, with Robert L. tral west when my chief called my at Lindsay as the pivotal character, that tention to a communication from a resident of Missouri to the depart-This steal has passed into criminal ment of the interior. This letter history under the title of the Missouri | pointed out the fact that wholesale



THE OPPORTUNITY IS THE GREATEST THAT WILL EVER COME TO YOU."

pioneers in the science of government land stealing on a wholesale basis.

In my dealings with criminals I have mantle of charity around the evil-doer | reached me. who, by birth, environment and lack of opportunity for better things, has followed criminal paths, than around the well-bred, luxuriously nurtured thief whose wrong-doing is contrary to, and not because of, early training or necessity. Such crimes as these gigantic land grabs, therefore, appeal to me as being of a peculiarly vicious kind, and the prosecution of the culprits I believe to call for efforts of extraordinary earnestness on the part of the government. Land grabbing, as exemplified in the and murder were the components. Incalculable wrong was done to the owners of millions of acres of land, to say nothing of the moral wrong of the crime itself, by the unsettling of titles to the farms of southeast Missouri.

Naturally one of the richest spots grafters of the '70s was a blight on |

the land for a generation. If there ever was a spot in nature sell it by irregular titles to people

To this day in Arcadia valley there is pointed out to the traveler a tree from whose gaunt limbs 17 men have of the one big crime. The victims the fact of settlement and improvewere men whose crime was knowing ment there had to be two witnesses, too much about the operations of the neighbors, who were required to swear times by accident and sometimes cant.

"Sae the dochtor said that, dide he?"

"He did.. And he was a very wise man,

let me tell you," snapped the English-

"I believe ye," retorted the caddie.

"Nae doot the dochtor was a verra wice

mon, for there is muckle o' stane an'

watter in Scotland-oor mountains an'

lochs that ye come sae for to see; an'

it's a sair truth that the soil is no verra

deep. You see, there's sic a number o'

inquired the caddie.

Land League. The 22 men who were frauds were being perpetrated in Misconvicted for this crime were the souri in land matters, and roughly indicated the method by which the stealing was being done. Secretary Schurz had turned the communication always been disposed to throw a heavier over to Chief Brooks, and it soon

The preliminary investigations were made by me in my capacity of secret service operative, and in making them it became necessary to incur what at that time was an unusually heavy item of expense in having abstracts of title made. At that time the total government appropriation for the secret division was only \$60,000 a year, an amount but \$10,000 greater than was recently allowed for the search for the plate from which Missouri case, was a composite crime, of a \$100 counterfeit bill was being made which forgery, perjury, larceny, arson | For this reason arrangements were made ostensibly severing my connec tion with the secret and making me a special agent of the interior department for the purpose of the land fraud investigation.

It will be necessary for me. at the hazard of lapsing into technicalities in the country—the valleys fertile and to set forth briefly the law governing the mountains of solid mineral of in- the acquisition of the class of lands estimable value—the work of the land dealt in by the thieves. This particular law went into effect in August, 1854, and was generally known as the "graduation act." In Missouri it came unfitted for a theater of crime, it is to be known as the "bit acre" act. the Arcadia valley in southeast Mis- this title springing from the fact that garden adjoins mine-why-why, I souri. Its soil is rich, its streams the price to be paid per acre under the watch him. He is a square, true man clear as crystal, its air hazy blue, and act was 121/2 cents, or a "bit," in Mis. in honest politics, and I must say he its people peaceful. Yet here was the souri parlance. The act provided that occupies rather a lonesome position. scene of a score of crimes of violence any citizen of the United States over So broad, so bountiful in his character growing out of the one big plot to 21 could make application for 320 steal land from the government and acres of land in the prescribed district, and must actually settle on the who could ill afford to lose their sav- land applied for within six months of application. In one year from the end of this six months' period the settler was required to appear at the a glue factory-it may moderate the land office of the district and make been hanged between the civil war affidavit that he had settled on the it according to description filed with

He Waited.

"Supposing you wait here in this com-

fortable seat by the elevator while I

match these two samples of ribbon.'

said Mrs. Mayfair sweetly to her hus-

band, who had been entrapped into go-

ing shopping with her. When she came

donably long time, you poor dear?"

"Have I kept you waiting an unpar-

"Oh, I haven't minded it." he said.

cheerfully. "I just jumped on a car and

ran out to the league grounds and saw

most of the ball game, and then I took

back she said contritely:

"Is he a poet?" "W-e-ll, he writes magazine verse." -Houston Post.

his new auto. Did you match the sam-

"One of them. It's so provoking. I'll have to come in again to-morrow, for they're closing the store now."-Lippincott's Magazine.

Better Than Nothing. "So there is only one tree on this a spray of fern done in water colors. plantation?" observed the would-be

"Yes," replied the agent. "The planis the family tree; it's the only one a little spin in the park with Dorton in | they ve got."-Detroit Free Press.

When the original application was

made it was customary to forward it

to Washington, where a patent was

nade out and sent back to the land of

The graduation act was the out

growth of a peculiar physical condi-

tion. All early settlements of new

territory are made along its princi-

pal waterways. In Missouri the first

settlements were made along the Mis-

sissippi river in Cape Girardeau, New

in 1820-21, but the lands back from

the river had not proved tempting to

the pioneer. For a quarter of a cen-

tury they lay in their virgin condi-

Congress at that time reflected the

general desire for rapid settlement,

and as an inducement the "bit acre'

act was passed. As far back as the

passage of this act there were men

who saw the possibilities for land

grafting under it. Greer W. Davis.

a prominent resident of Missouri.

signed thousands of applications con-

trary to law before the war, and his

operations, with those of many others,

covered vast areas—so vast, in fact,

that a large part of several counties

was covered. The patents correspond-

ing to these applications were sent

on from Washington to the land of-

fice then located at Jackson. In 1861

the land office was moved to Ironton.

Then came the civil war. In addi-

tion to the fraudulent applications

thousands of others had been made by

either were killed or settled elsewhere

when peace was declared. Their pat-

true that some of these patents had

meet. To him I revealed my true

identity; to others I was the repre-

sentative of a Chicago land syndi-

"You have a prodigious task before

you," was Zwart's introductory re-

mark. "Not only that, but you are

"I first became convinced that whole-

matters since. Recently Mrs. Sals-

bury, of Ironton, told me that she had

writing of deeds in his office in that

city. As nearly as I can learn, Lind-

say has six or seven clerks employed

in making out deeds in his Ironton of-

fice, and I am convinced that these

A survey of the situation showed

me that when Grant in 1869 appointed

James Lindsay pension agent at St.

Louis he made Carroll R. Peck chief

clerk. The relationship between Lind-

say and Peck was unusual in that

Lindsay's second wife was Peck's sis-

ter, and Peck's wife was Lindsay's

daughter. Peck. therefore, being James

Lindsay's brother-in-law and son-in-

law, and Robert Lindsay's brother-in-

[To Be Continued.]

INTRODUCING THE SPEAKER

Chairman Who Knew Just How to

Do It Without Saying

Too Much.

How seldom does a speaker get a

chairman who has the wisdom to make

the right introductory speech, but here

is a model. The chairman, in intro-

"Ladies and gentlemen, I have the

honor to introduce to you this evening

the gentleman who is going to deliver

an address to us. He goes to the same

church as I do. As a pure citizen I

respect him! as a personal friend of

years I have the warmest regard for

him; as a neighbor whose vegetable

that he has never turned a tramp emp

ty-handed from his door, but always

gave him a letter of introduction to me

Pure, honest, incorruptible, that is the

speaker of the evening. Such a man in

stench, but it doesn't destroy it. I

haven't said any more of him than I

tlemen, our friend will now proceed to

Doubtful.

ducing the speaker, said:

deeds are not straight."

WAYS OF ENTERTAINING ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS.

An Up-to-Date Book Party-Inscriptions for the Home-The Dutch Supper-A Left-Handed Party -Girl's Birthday Party.

(Copyright, 1905.)

An Up-to-Date Book Party. The hostess informed us that ad spent weeks in preparing for this entertainment, and we believed her when we gazed upon the 32 objects, each bearing the name of an author. The title of the book represented was to be guessed and written on the card opposite the number the object bore. For instance, "The Eternal City," by Hall Caine, was represented by a map of Rome; "The Virginian," by a picture of George Washington, with Evans Wilson, by a white bird covered with specks; "Black Rock" was easy-a black stone on the table, with Connor on it. A spray of blue flowers recalled that Van Dyke had written "The Little Blue Flower." Three Musketeers" was represented by three toy soldiers. Kipling's "Seven Seas" was recognized by seven C's written on white paper and pinned on the wall. "The Octopus," by William Norris, was a large picture of that fish. Other books represented were: "A Paste Board Crown," by Clara Morris; "Boy," Corelli; "We Two," Edna Ly-all; "The Duet," Kipling; "The Gentleman from Indiana," Booth Tarkington, and "Three Men in a Boat." by bona-fide settlers. Large numbers of Jerome.

these applicants went to the war and | First, second and consolation prizes were given, consisting of books. This was an afternoon affair for ladies, but ents were still pigeonholed in the it would be quite suitable for a club Ironton land office. It is undoubtedly, or church society entertainment.

been stolen by Gen. Price's raiders Quotations Appropriate for the New

about the time of the battle of Pilot Home. In the old-time manor house it was Knob, but thousands of them remained inclaimed in the office. Such were the the fashion to inscribe a motto over physical and legal conditions in which the fireplace, especially in the great the greatest conspiracy of the genera- dining-room and library. The inscription was usually in Latin, the lan-In the early part of 1880 I registered guage of the scholar. This custom is at the primitive tavern at Ironton as now being revived, and there is scarce-James Hall, of Chicago. Inquiry be- ly a room in which a sentiment pretfore my arrival had convinced me that tily expressed would not be a welcom there was one man in the district addition, and which would at once atwhom I could trust implicitly, and he tract the attention of a guest as being was Bernard Zwart, United States something unique. Here are a few commissioner for the district, and as good sentiments; the lettering may be 'square-toed" a government official as done in script or Old English: it ever has been my good fortune to

For the hall: "East or west, home is best." "A man's home is his castle." "Home is the resort of love, of joy,

"Our house is ever at your service." Over the fireplace in Mark Twain's house in Connecticut is this beautiful

dealing with a clique of men who are inscription: "The ornament of a house is the deep in the mire of fraud and who will not submit tamely to being hauled guests who frequent it." into the daylight by the government." The three following inscriptions are I realized this fully. I asked Zwart especially appropriate for the family for such information as he could give. living-room:

"Oh, ye fire and heat, bless ye the sale fraud was being committed," he Lord." "God has given us this ease," or

replied, "when, several years ago, Robert Lindsay offered to sell me all the "Seek thine own ease." patents to 320 acres each I wanted at "No place is more delightful than ten dollars apiece. I bought none of one's own fireside." them, but have kept half an eye on | For the library:

"Old wood to burn. Old friends to trust, Old authors to read." "There is an art of reading." "The monuments of minds."

"Infinite riches in a little room." For the nursery: "God rest ye, little children." "A child in the house is a well-

spring of pleasure." For the music room: "The hidden soul of harmony."

"Music, the speech of the angels."

A very popular form of entertainment is the Dutch supper. If it is possible, do not use a table cloth, but have dollies or orange crepe paper. that is the Dutch color. Use all the Delft china that is procurable; and imitation ware is very effective and very cheap. Tulips are the Dutch flower, and tulip shaped bon-bon boxes and candle shades may be made from orange tissue paper. Little wooden shoes may be purchased and used to hold the salted nuts. Serve the following menu, which is written in Dutch, much to the mystification of the guests. (The translation is given for the benefit of the hostess):

Kalf Soep Met Gehak Ballen. (Veal Soup with Garnish of Meat Balls.) Gebraden Tong. (Roasted Tongue.) Brussels Sprinten. ((Brussels Sprouts. Bloemkool met Room Sause. (Creamed Cauliflower.) Haring Sla met Croodjes (Herring Salad with Rolls.) sneden Sinaas Appelen met Wyne Sause (Sliced Oranges with Wine Sauce.) Gesorteerde Noten. (Assorted Nuts.)

For a left-handed party, write the politics is like a bottle of perfumery in invitations with he left hand, and ask each guest to practice using the left hand, for very few are clever enough to be ambidexterous. When the guests arrive the left hand must be should say of myself. Ladies and genused in greeting, also in serving and eating the refreshments. Have a type-written or a printed quotation which each one must copy, using only

the left hand. Award prizes for the

best and poorest specimen. This is

really a very amusing affair.

Kaffee.

(Coffee.)

Here is a green and white luncheon to be served to eight guests, the ideal number for a luncheon party. table center piece is a glass bowl filled with maiden hair ferns; use candlesticks of glass, with green shades. A large fern ball suspended over the table makes a most beautiful decoration. The place cards are white, with

The following menu is very appetizing and easy to prepare. A puree made from spinach and peas served with a tation belongs to the family, and this spoonful of whipped cream; creamed , sweethread salad served in green pep- of benzoin. Apply at night

pers; pistachio éco in tali gias standing on a fern decorated plate Green frosted cakes ornamented with blanched almonds and creme de menth completes this dainty menu.

This is a very clever scheme devised by a mother to celebrate her little girl's tenth birthday. Invitations were his own experience, and who has sent out "from half after two until avoided the many new forms and fansix." "Rainbow Party" was written cles that spring up and seem to flour in one corner. The rooms were comish for a day, may congratulate himpletely transformed by yards of red, self that he is not thrown off his orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and base or led into temporary disaster violet cheese-cloth, which was used as by following some line of manipulaportieres, window drapery, etc. It was tion or some plan of management that festooned from the corners of the is not practical or progressive. room to the gas fixtures in the center

and was draped from the grillwork. -the two children who set out to dis-Owen Wister written on one corner; found on the end filled with pepper- of years without a failure is a safe "The Speckled Bird," by Augusta mint candy, which had been wrapped in gold paper.

The birthday cake was crescentshaped, bearing candles of the seven colors. This party is really very pretty and not half the trouble to prepare "The as it appears to be from reading the one great reason, and perhaps the chief description.

A novel way to find partners is to write on the cards passed to the men the names of states, and the names of capital cities on those for the ladies. Then tell the "states" to find their "capitals." It is surprising to see the mixed-up condition of things for a few minutes, especially if the western and

newer states are selected. ELLYE HOWELL GLOVER.

SILK VOILE BLOUSE. Light, Cool Stuff Which Drapes Prettily and Does Not Easily Show Mussing.

Silk voile is a delightful material for blouses! it is light anl cool, drapes beautifully, and does not easily crush. It has moreover the quality of washing well. Our model has a small voke that is continued to the waist to form a sort of vest; the voile is gathered to is sufficient packing of the right mathis yoke. The berthe is edged with terial on the top. My argument is that finely-pleated ribbon; the same out they must be packed so warm that the



A VERY STYLISH WAIST.

lines the voke and each side front. the spots form a trimming on the collar band and bust; the end of each standard L., making the frame just strap is finished by a paste button, The ten inches from top to bottom. sleeves have tight-fitting under parts of lace with pleatings at top and will generate more heat than a more

Materials required for the blouse: Two and one-quarter yards four and It gives me more depth of brood and one-half inches wide, one and one-half vards lace 18 inches wide, two yards velvet, one dozen buttons, about five yards pleating.

Accepting an Invitation. In accepting an invitation you should say: "It gives me much pleas ure to accept your very kind invitation for luncheon on Wednesday, October the seventh." Do not say "if will give me much pleasure." An invitation should never be accepted provisionally, that is, you should never say: "I should be delighted to accept your very kind invitation if I am not obliged to leave town before that date." Your hostess will not know whether she can depend upon your being present at the entertainment or

to fill your place. The Chaperone. You should try always to skow your chaperon that you are not unmindful of her presence. It is always an evidence of refinement and good breeding to remember all these little acts of courtesy and you should remember that after all she is making, no doubt, an act of great sacrifice by giving up her own pleasures in order to be with you. You should present your friends to her if it is possible. A man always feels it is a compliment when he is presented to a girl's mother or chap-

whether she must ask some one else

Exercise Essential. Exercise is of immense benefit in treating the skin. A woman should exercise until the skin is in a glow. She must exercise until she can feel that her lungs and heart are stimulated. Then she is ready for the skin lotions and for the scented bath. The exercise upon which the belies of other days depended for their beauty was Dancing and horseback riding were the two diversions.

Filter the Smoke. Users of tobacco should, according to a German investigator, filter the smoke from their pipes through cotton soaked in ferric salts. By this process the fumes of the essential oil, of the hydrogen sulphide, the cyanhydric acid and about half the nicotine and its products of decomposition are got rid of, while the smoke is not deprived of its aroma.

Old-Fashioned Skin Food A simple, old-fashioned skin food that is very good for wrinkles is made by beating to a cream two tablespoonfuls of oil of sweet almonds and one teaspoonful of rose water, adding three minced chicken baked in ramakins; drops of camphor and two of tincture

ABOUT WINTERING BEES.

Hives, If Packed Warm Enough, Will Winter the Bees as Well as the Cellar.

The beekeeper who has kept himself within the safe beaten paths of

I would not discourage experiment nor lay a straw in the way of prog-The mother told the old fairy story ress. Thought, theory, experiment, each is a key that unlocks the door to cover the pot of gold at the end of the hidden truth. We may fan into error rainbow. Then each child was given at times, but the success attained is a piece of string which he or she was the reward of investigation and experito wind up without breaking; the ence; and this leads me to say, in re cords had been arranged as for a gard to wintering bees in this north spider-web party. When the end of ern climate, that a plan or a practice the string was reached a tiny pot was that has proved itself true for a period plan to follow for the one making the trial, if not for others.

In this locality, writes a Hillsdale (Mich.) correspondent of Gleanings in Bee Culture, the temperature often goes down from zero to 20 below; and reason, why some have failed in out loor wintering of bees is that they are not packed warm. I formerly wintered my bees in the cellar, and lost them in the spring by the score. 1 then tried an outside repository with about the same percentage of loss. I have also packed them in chaff, and still lost a large number; but for the past several years I have lost no beer of any account.

I now place them in winter cases, three hives in a case. These cases are made of good lumber, and papered with thick building-paper all around the sides and bottom. I placed 91 colonies in these winter boxes last fall, and every one of them is in fine condition except one in a single box. that I overlooked in packing. Since I have adopted my present plan I have not been troubled with spring dwind

The chaff hives made by the different firms are all right provided there moisture will not condense-so warm that the bees can move to any part of the hive without any danger of being caught in a "blizzard;" so warm that they just laugh when they hear the winds blow with the temperature going down below zero. But some will "Pack your bees so very close, and there will be no upward ventilation, and the hives will become damp, and the combs will become moldy, and the bees diseased; and, as a result, hey will come out in bad condition in the spring."

It occurs to me that this bad state of things which some seem to fear is not the result of close packing and warm hives, but the result of loose packing, too much cold, and too much upward ventilation. Absorbents are all right if warm. However, the only absorbent that I use is the propolized canvas, flat on the frames, and then two thicknesses of heavy building. paper, and then a large chaff cushion, loose chaff or forest leaves, as the case may be, then the three hivecovers on top with the tight cover to the winter box, which completes the

eighths of an inch deeper than the think it is true that this deeper hive shallow one. I run my bees for comb honey, and I like this deeper frame, more bees, and it is bees that make

The whole surplus energy and warmth and odor from this deeper and more populous hive flows up into the super above, warming the sections and the foundation, so that I have very little trouble in forcing bees into the sections. There is such an up ward push that they must go above.

PLATFORM FOR ROOSTS.

It Is Set Up on Four Legs and Stands About Eighteen Inches Above Ground.

In those poultry houses where platform for roosts is desirable the accompanying plan will doubtless be suggestive of a scheme that will be valuable



to many. It consists of a platform set up on four legs raised so thatitis about 18 inches from the ground. This is high enough for the heavy breeds, though the lighter fowls may be made to use a higher platform without trouble. On two 2x4's are placed the roosts. The rear of the 2x4's, explains the Prairie Farmer. are attached to the platform by hinges, so that the roost may easily be raised to clean the platform.

Keep Sheep on Small Farms. Imports of wool from British markets have so far this year exceeded last year's imports by 48,000 bales. This, together with the high prices growers are receiving for the clip ir the west, is strong argument in favor of more sheep on western farms, says

the Farm and Home. Sheepmen certainly cannot complain this year, for besides having good prices for wool and lambs there has been an unprecedented demand for wethers and old breeding stock. It is also being rapidly shown that large flocks are not necessary for profitable sheep raising, but that a few added to the other live stock of the farm will bring in a steady and handsome

Destroying Sheep Maggots.

A report from New South Wales says that the sheep have been suffering from an attack of sheep maggots. Carbolic washes of various kinds were tried and abandoned. They seemed to be effective for a time, but the effect was not lasting. A mixture of sulphur and oil proved to be effective.