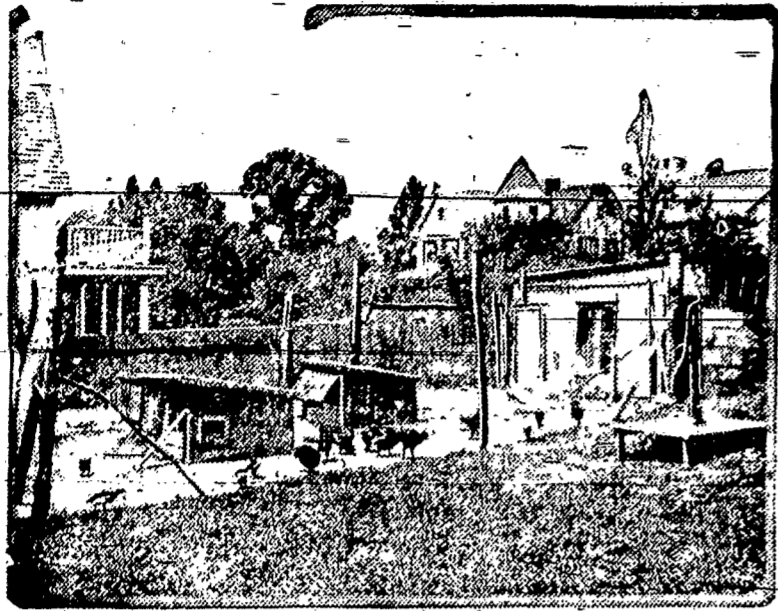


Yards For Chickens

Prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture



Free Range is Best for Chickens, but They Can Be Kept Successfully in Small Yards in the City.

In most places where poultry is kept it is necessary to have yards enclosed by suitable fences which will confine the birds. When it is possible, however, to allow the chickens to have free range, this is the best and most economical way of keeping them.

Fences dividing the land into yards increase the cost of equipment, labor and maintenance, and there should be as few fences as possible, as land can be cultivated and kept sweet more easily if not fenced, and the value of fresh, sweet land for poultry can hardly be overestimated. A grass sward can be maintained on good soil by allowing 200- to 250 square feet of land per bird (217 or 174 birds to the acre), while more space is necessary on poor or light land. A larger number of fowls are usually kept to the acre where double yards are used, and the land is frequently cultivated. Plymouth Rocks and the heavy meat birds in small yards require fences five to six feet high, while a fence six to seven feet high is necessary for Leghorns. The upper two feet of the fence for the latter may be inclined inward at an angle of 30 degrees, or a strand or two of barbed wire may be used on top of the regular wire to help keep them confined, while it is sometimes necessary to clip the flight feathers of one wing of those birds which persist in getting out. It is not advisable to use a board or strip along the top of the fence, as hens will often fly over one so constructed.

Produce Food, Mr. Town Man

Get Blistered and a Clean Conscience

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture)

Speaking of food—how much of what you eat do you help to produce by your own work? Farms need labor. The difficulty is not an insufficiency of actual man power. There are plenty of men to supply the farms with help. But that man power is applied to other things and the farms will not be adequately supplied with help unless men turn temporarily from their present business or employment and work on farms in their county during the rush periods of cultivation and harvest.

If we were not at war you might feel free to disregard this as your personal duty. But we are at war; this is a war need, and you are not free to disregard it.

It is the duty of every strong man of firm experience or of firm attitude who is not now engaged in work of war value, and not engaged in work to which his personal attention is constantly indispensable, to go to farms in the agricultural territory adjacent to his town when farm labor needs are urgent and help produce the food crops which are essential to war winning.

You eat every day. Some man's hard work produced that food. Our soldiers in France must eat and somebody's hard work must produce that food. If you are so situated that you can help produce this food it is your duty to do so.

Get in touch with the county agent of the United States department of agriculture and the state agricultural college or write the state agricultural college if you cannot get in personal touch with nearby farmers who need help. Lay off your present job or get away from your present business for a few days or a few weeks as you are needed. You'll gain money and weight. You'll gain blisters, sore muscles and a clear conscience.

British Food Experts Tell How Potato Butter is Made

Butter, which formerly was an exclusive product of the cow, will in future be made from nuts and potatoes. The latest substitute to compete with the bovine nectar of the meadow and the silo has been announced by the conservation department of the United States food administration to the potato butter.

From the home of the "magna charta" comes a recommendation by the British ministry of food that potato butter can be made for ten cents a pound. Here is the modus operandi: "Boil the potatoes. Boil until they fall in pieces and become lumpy. Rub them through a fine sieve into a warmed basin. To 14 ounces of potatoes add two ounces of butter or margarine and one tablespoonful of salt. Stir until smooth. Mold into rolls. Keep in a cool place. Use butter coloring to improve the appearance. If intended to be kept more than a few days, use butter preservative."

OUR LITTLE HOUR

Our little hour—how swift it flies
When poppies flare and lilies smile,
How soon the fleeting minute dies,
Leaving us but a little while
To dream our dream, to sing our song,
To pick the fruit, to pluck the flower,
The gods—they do not give us long—
Our little hour.

Our little hour—how short a time
To waste our wits, to fan our hates,
To take our fill of sinners' crimes,
To troop our banners, storm the gates,
Blood on the sword our eyes blood-red,
Blind in our party reign of power,
Do we forget how soon is sped
Our little hour?

Our little hour—how soon it dies,
How soon it slips to common leads,
To think sweet thoughts, to do good deeds,
The altar light to glow and dim,
To trace the steps of the lowly—
So pass it with the daily hymn—
Our little hour.

—Lester Robinson, in London Poetry Review

Mother's Cook Book

A grindstone that is not the grit in it,
How long would it take to staff to an ax,
And axes that had not grit in them,
How long would they take to make a man?
H. W. Beecher

—Ways With Vegetables.
We live of certain vegetables because they are served so often in the same way, until we grow to dislike them. "Variety is the spice of life," and every housewife should endeavor to put a little of this spice into everything she does. The individual is unfortunate who has been spoiled by a monotonous diet, for enjoying all kinds of foods, especially vegetables, which are so valuable to keep the body in good health.

Simple Cabbage Salad.
Shred a small cabbage, add a small amount of celery and a bit of chopped onion and pour over the cabbage the following dressing hot: Beat two egg yolks, add two tablespoonfuls of water, a tablespoonful of butter melted, a dash of salt and cayenne, and a quarter of a cupful of vinegar. Cook this over hot water and pour over the cabbage, stirring it over the heat until well heated, then serve hot.

Onions Stuffed With Rice.
Parboil a sufficient quantity of onions of even size, remove the centers and chop fine; mix the chopped onions with cooked, seasoned rice, season with butter and salt with a few dashes of cayenne, stuff the onions and bake, basting with good stock or butter and water. Serve as a garnish around a platter of chops. Any sweet butter substitute may be used in place of butter, in cooking. Sausage, leftover meats of various kinds, bread crumbs and nut meats, as well as cheese, all make good filling for stuffed onions.

Stuffed Cabbage.
Remove the heart of a small cabbage, drop into boiling water and cook until tender. Cut in to the center in triangular pieces and pour over the well-drained vegetable a white sauce made rich with a cupful or more of finely chopped rich cheese.

Nellie Maxwell

Flunky Wastes Own Time as Well as That of Others

The feeling that idleness is a crime under present conditions is rapidly spreading all over the country. A Sheriff in Sherman, Tex., recently announced that every man in his jurisdiction would either go to work or go to jail. The Ku Klux Klan recently reappeared in Birmingham, Ala., with a warning to all idlers. Several states have recently passed laws providing that every able-bodied man must work so many hours a day, and many towns and cities have begun to enforce laws to the same effect.

But the idea that superfluous and unnecessary work is worse than idleness does not seem to have made so much progress. Yet it is patently true, writes Frederick J. Haskin, in Springfield Colon. The flunky wastes not only his own time but often also the time and money of those he serves. The man who takes a job that a woman could hold is not only neglecting the work he should do, but is depriving some woman of the independent income that might release another man.

Automobiles Climb Fences.

In many parts of the West and Southwest where automobiles are numerous it is becoming common to drive one's car over a fence instead of stopping to open a gate, drive through, and then shut it. The new and quick method is made possible by the construction of inclines which make it compelled to keep up a constant war against them. Millions of these do the other side. The inclines are usually composed of two tracks, set the proper distance apart for automobile wheels and supported by posts.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Soap and Fertilizer From Insects.

Locusts are plentiful in Uruguay and the farmers of that republic have been compelled to keep up a constant war against them. Millions of these do the other side. The inclines are usually composed of two tracks, set the proper distance apart for automobile wheels and supported by posts.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

WHY Perfect Mirror Can Be Produced Cheaply

Primitive man used the quiet pool for his mirror and highly polished metal mirrors have been found in most of the ancient ruins. For many generations mirrors have been made of glass, mercury or quick-silver films being the favored substance for the reflecting medium.

The older process is fully described in many places. It was attended by uncertainty and was objectionable for several reasons. The more modern method is that of depositing the silver itself upon the glass, which must be clean if an even, homogeneous film is to be the result. Silver in certain solutions is easily displaced by other substances and being no longer in the solution, it is thrown down upon all available surfaces. The process is to have it deposited at a rate that may be controlled and in a manner to give a uniform, continuous film free from defects. A large percentage of the silver must be deposited from the solution if losses are to be avoided.

Some recent work at the University of Pittsburgh has shown that alcohol added to the solution increases the efficiency of the process and that sugar is an excellent retarding agent, making it possible to control the rate of deposition.

Formaldehyde is used as the reducing solution. By the use of these methods it has been estimated that serviceable films can be made at a cost for material not exceeding a few cents per square foot of surface.—Scientific American.

ARE GREAT NATIONAL ASSET

Why It is of the Utmost Importance That Country's Forests Must Be Properly Guarded.

A little known but highly important service, both to the present generation and those that are to come, is rendered by the men who guard and care for our national forests. These are situated in all parts of the country, from Porto Rico to Alaska, and one of the most important duties is to protect them from fire, says the New York World.

The method employed in the Nebraska National forest is to first clear a strip of land. Twelve furrows are plowed on each side of this and the ground between them is burned over. This firebreak will halt the flames driven by a high wind. Its cost, 50 cents a mile for each furrow over ordinary land, may run to \$50 when heavy timber has to be cleared away.

To keep the forests up to standard, between 12,000 and 15,000 acres must be planted each year. In the Douglas fir region of Oregon the seeds are sown in the snow. They are scattered broadcast, and as the snow melts they sink deeper and deeper. Some are eaten by the birds, but when the snow has disappeared most of them are covered with enough earth to germinate and take root.

This work will yield results only in the future, but the national forests are already a great asset. Under export selection many thousand feet of timber are cut each year.

Why Maine Girl is Proud.

Although but eleven years of age, Christine Reed of Sanford is one of the "war-honor girls" of Maine. This title was bestowed on her by state school officials. She is the youngest state driver in New England and her daily duty is to see that a score of pupils living in rural districts are transported to their schools.

When the war called the young men of Sanford to service there wasn't anyone left to drive the school children's stage coach. For a while it looked as though the children wouldn't be able to get any schooling this term.

Then Christine went to her father and said she would drive the stage. Her father consented and the child began. All through the winter she made the trips and none of the children she transported was late at any session. To accomplish this Christine has had to get out of bed each morning at 5:30 o'clock.

Why Marines Wear Green.

Folks from coast to coast are still wondering why the time-honored blue uniforms worn by the United States marines were superseded by the "forest green" now in use.

"Practical military reasons" was the brief answer given by marine officials. But a history shark now comes forth with a better cause, he says, than mere military necessity for the change in colors.

He claims that green is the historic hue for the marine corps, and to prove it he has dug up an order of the "marine committee," dated September 5, 1776, prescribing a uniform of green coat, faced with white, white waistcoat and breeches edged with green, and black "gaiters."

How Temperature Changes.

Up to a height of six or seven miles the temperature falls one degree Fahrenheit for every 300 feet above sea level. Above the seven-mile point the temperature remains fairly level—at least up to 18 miles.

HOW GERMANY PLANS TO EXPLOIT RICH LANDS OF THE UKRAINE.

Now is restored to the speech of men the term "Hittlerian vestigialism," a term of horror from medieval times. The people whose genius conceived the sack of Louvain, the sinking of the Lusitania, the "spurious verisimilitude" policy and the systematic spoliation of Belgium and northern France is the same that now changes the inhabitants of the Ukraine with a plot to massacre Germans, a plan to leave no German alive in the richest wheat province of old Russia.

The scheme of subjugation has never been shaped into a perfect system even by the efforts of all conspirators whose deeds are recorded in the annals of Hittlerian exploitation. There is a successful method of extracting honey from bees without retention from the bees, but the plans of ruthless Germany for taking over the food-stuffs and the government of the Ukraine in one coup constitute an experiment that has few entirely successful precedents.

Nations may be exterminated, but a people cannot be permanently enslaved. The German authorities are exercising their hateful power to the great hurt of the Ukrainians, much as earlier in the war they starved Belgium and Poland to feed Germany. Oppression continues to keep pace with the forces of the Kaiser.

SEEMING CHANGES IN COLORS

Why Long Exposure of the Retina to the Action of Red Rays Creates an Optical Illusion.

It is well known that when a ray of white light is analyzed, as by a prism, it is found to be composed of seven colors, the so-called colors of the spectrum—red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet—and that when the colors of the spectrum are recombined white light reappears. If, however, we eliminate the red rays and then recombine the remaining six colors, we obtain the so-called complementary color of the red, namely, green. If we eliminate the green rays the remaining rays will give red light, and so on with the other complementary colors, orange and blue, yellow and violet. Now, if the retina has been fatigued through being exposed too long to the action of red rays, it will be susceptible only to the remaining six colors, and the eye, when immediately struck by the white light, will receive the impression of the complementary green color. Many other influences are based upon the same principle. Thus, when looking for a long time through blue spectacles, immediately after their removal all objects will appear yellow. When the retina has been irritated from gazing at red fireworks the ray flames will look greenish after their extinction.

How "Foolscap" Originated.

Several explanations have been given of the meaning of the word "foolscap" as applied to a certain class of paper. One of the explanations is that when Charles I found his revenue short he granted certain privileges, amounting to monopolies, and among these was the manufacture of paper, the exclusive right to which was sold to certain parties, who grew rich and enriched the government at the expense of those who were obliged to use the paper. At this time all English paper bore, in watermarks, the royal arms. The parliament under Cromwell made a jest of this law, and among other indignities to the memory of Charles it was ordered that the royal arms be removed from the paper and a fool's cap and bells be substituted. These were in their turn removed when the Rump parliament was dismissed, but paper for the size of the parliament's journal still bears the name of "foolscap."

How Would You Rate Your Wife?

In the Woman's Home Companion occurs this account of a plan that raised much discussion and more money in the town where it was tried: "Two months in advance a date was set for Wage Day in our Sunday school class. At that time every one was asked to give one day's wage, enclosed in a sealed envelope, without a name. The men had no trouble reckoning the amounts they should give, but their wives rated themselves in various ways. Some felt their work worth as much as their husband's and gave the price of the average wedding fee. One large woman whose husband said she was worth her weight in gold computed it at one gold dollar per pound and divided it by the number of times he said it in two months."

How to Destroy Poison Ivy.

The cheapest and most effective method of eliminating poison ivy, according to experts of the United States department of agriculture, is the simple one of rooting up the plants and destroying them. If the poison ivy is in large fields it may be necessary to plow and cultivate the land. Ivy on large trees, stone walls and buildings can be killed by arsenate of soda, at the rate of two pounds to ten gallons of water. Two or three applications are sufficient.

Historic Forests Are Cut Down to Supply the Many Needs of Warring Nations

War, with its greedy demands, is fast sweeping away the carefully tended forests of Europe. Even in England, which has been protected by its fleet from invasion, the ax of the woodman is making great changes in the appearance of the landscape. Reports say that the beautiful woodlands, forests and groves that have for centuries formed part of the charm of rural England are disappearing.

It is expected that by the middle of this summer the British government will be converting trees into lumber at the rate of 6,000,000 tons per annum. The old, careful methods of Europe, by which trees which had passed their prime were selected and individually chopped down, leaving the forest undisturbed, are being replaced by a style of lumbering more familiar here, says the Rochester Times-Union. Cannibal lumberjacks are swinging their axes in the New Forest and many other historic tracts, cutting a wide swath in much the same fashion as in the woods of British Columbia or northern Ontario.

Over in France, American forestry regiments are making a similar sweep through the woodlands. In Great Britain replanting has followed the lumberman, but it will take a century, fully to cover the scars. In France there has been no chance to pay attention to anything but getting what was needed for the war.

With European forests thus laid low we should be the more careful to see that our own great resources are not recklessly wasted, and should follow the example of the older countries in making even private owners guard forests against fire loss.

HAVE A LAUGH

Proves His Point.

After witnessing the wonderful performance of a blind pianist one Irishman remarked to another: "Be the powers, that's the best music I ever heard with me two ears."

"He does pretty well for a blind man, doesn't he?" "He does, indeed; but I was just thinking of your thing."

"What's that?" "It wouldn't make any difference to him if he wasn't blind."

"Why not?" "Well, I was watchin' him all the evening, and he never looks at the piano anyhow."

The Solution.

"You can't be too drastic in your treatment of a nation like Germany," said Admiral Couden Perry at a Cold Springs luncheon.

"You've got to consider Germany as John Nagg considered marriage."

"John," said Mrs. Nagg, "have you read this book, 'How to be Happy Though Married?'"

"None," said Nagg. "I didn't need it. I know how, you see, without reading it."

"Well, how then?" said his wife. "Get a divorce," said he.

Observations.

"Did Rogindall call to see you?" "Yes, Gwendolyn," replied Mr. Currox. "I suppose you wanted to see whether I'd object to him as a son-in-law."

"Not exactly. I thought you two had better get acquainted so that Rogindall would be able to object to you as a father-in-law."

The Absentee Owner.

Pollu (on short leave)—Where is your mistress' maid? Suzette—Up stairs, monsieur, arranging a madame's hair. Pollu—And madame—is she with her?

Self-Criticism.

Doctor—The man who told you your heart was weak was mad. When was it? Recruit—When I last came up, sir. Doctor—Who was it? Recruit—You.

Longest Submarine Cable Is 3,458 Nautical Miles

The longest continuous stretch of submarine cable now working, that is, without relay, is 3,458 nautical miles—that from Vancouver to Fanning Island in the Pacific, and the average distance without relay is much less than this. It is evident, therefore, that on the long transoceanic cables such as those across the Pacific, islands must be found for relay stations. This explains the rivalry of certain of the European nations for the possession of small, solitary islets, scarcely more than mere rocks, and useless except for just such a purpose as this. This was the reason for Germany's acquisition of the Caroline and Marshall Islands and later of one of the Samoan group, at the time of our war with Spain. Similarly England is to be found in possession of conveniently placed islands all over the world.