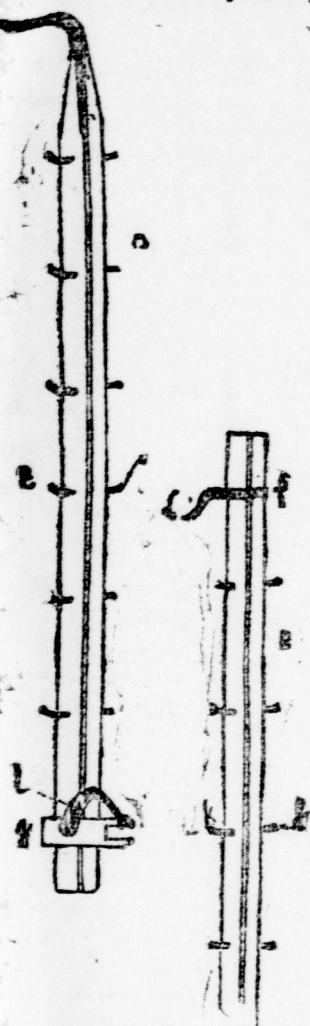




AN EXTENSION LADDER.

Two Views of a Handy One That Can Be Made at Home.

Fig. 1 shows a ladder that is made for putting up tracks to hay carriers where it is necessary to get into the peak of a barn at any set of rafters. The long hook is made to run over the rafter between any two roof boards. For two seasons we have used one to advantage in fruit gathering. By running the long hook over a limb a little higher from the ground than the length of the ladder, the weight of a person on the ladder brings the lower end onto the ground and the spring of the limb steadies the upper end. It is readily made, easily



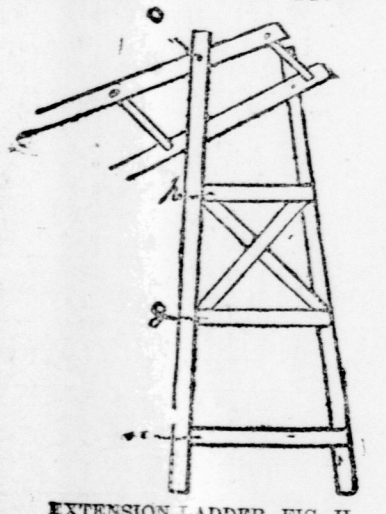
EXTENSION LADDER, FIG. 1.

handled, and on large trees, or even small ones, fruit can be picked from it where no other ladder would answer the purpose. One piece that we use, 18 feet long with long hook and splicing attachment at bottom, weighs 26 pounds. Its construction is as follows:

For standards 1 1/2 in. tough hickory, planed on all sides and well cornered. The long hook is flat where it is inserted into the upper end of standard A, and fastened by two bolts passing through both standard and hook. The part of long hook inserted may be 1 1/2 in. and the same amount of iron rounded by the outer portion, or for fruit picking only, may be flat and rounded on the under side. The rounds are of 1/2 in. rod, 9 inches long, with the outer end slightly turned up. These might be made of wood but would need to be larger, which would weaken the standard and be dangerous when they had been used a season.

The standard may be of any convenient shape and size, even 2x4-inch scantling worked edgewise. It may be more convenient in some cases to have two or three short pieces and in some it may be necessary to have two or three long ones. For such, the extension attachments are provided. Piece f is made of 1x1-in. iron and passes around on three sides of standard B and the ends drawn into a hook to hook over rounds e and c (for example) and is fastened with one bolt passing through standard. The piece j is of 1x2-in. iron and in a similar way passes around standard A. The ends are crocheted so as to admit rounds h and k and is fastened to standard with one bolt.

Hook i drops over round k and a corresponding one on the opposite side



EXTENSION LADDER, FIG. 2.

drops over round h, which, of course, is the other end of round k, but lettered for convenience. These attachments must be the same distance above and below the last round on the standard, as the rounds are apart so that they will fit one place as well as another.

Another convenience I have to-day been using with much satisfaction. We had a ladder that had been on the place at least twenty years. The side-pieces were white ash 2x4 at bottom and tapered from bottom to top, and 12 feet long. One rainy day the past summer (we had a very few such) I took it into the shop and re-dressed the side pieces and rimmed the holes from the inside tapering. I turned all new large rounds out of seasoned white ash and hickory and fitted each end to a certain hole and put a rod with a bar on one end and drew the side-pieces onto the rounds until they were as firm as the spokes in a new wheel. I then painted it, which made it good for another twenty years.

To-day I was picking pears from a standard tree, and a high standard, too, which was heavily loaded and the

small limbs spread so that neither the extension ladder above described nor the 6-foot step ladder were available. I took two 1x3-inch by 13 feet, seasoned red beech pieces, and fastened to the top of the 12-foot ladder as shown in Fig. 2. I put on three cross-pieces 1 inch thick and fitted in an X for braces. Cross-piece p is only long enough to allow the side-piece to turn freely on bolt o. Piece r is 4 feet long and piece g short enough to draw the side-pieces a little to that point.

I like this ladder because I can stand on the highest round and reach the otherwise tantalizing fruit 18 feet from the ground. It took two of us only about twenty minutes to put on the whole thing, and when not needed can be quickly removed by taking out the two bolts (one on each side) at top and laid up in a dry place until another fruit season.—E. E. Boyne, in Ohio Farmer.

THE HARROW.

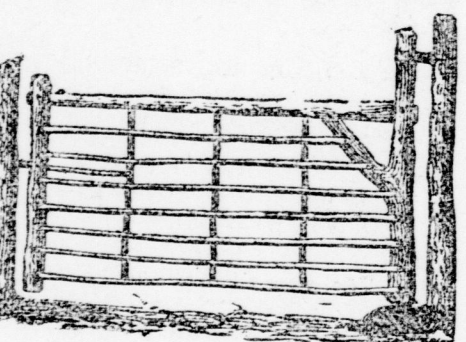
Its Free Use Advocated by Prof. Thomas Shaw of Minnesota.

The harrow has never been used to anything like the extent to which it ought to be in our systems of agriculture. The necessities of some of the prairie soils of the far west are compelling many of the farmers to do what science and good judgment should have taught them long ago. I refer to the harrowing of the grain after it has appeared above the surface of the ground. Owing to the persistence with which they have grown wheat on the same lands from year to year, those lands are becoming very foul with weeds. Two ways of cleaning them have been resorted to. The first is through the instrumentality of the bare fallow, and the second is through the free use of the harrow after the grain has appeared above the surface of the ground. The latter practice has not been resorted to very generally, but some farmers have tried it, and with results that are most encouraging.

When the grain appears above the surface, numerous weeds present themselves at the same time, and these grow to such an extent as to seriously interfere with the yield of the grain at harvest time. Those weeds, if left alone, will steal from the grain what it ought to have by way of nutriment; hence it must be injured just to the extent to which the weeds draw from the soil. Introduce a harrow of the right make at such a time. The teeth will put those weeds into a tribulation from which they will never recover. The whole surface of the ground will be so stirred that the weeds which are shallow rooted at such a time, will be torn from their place, and in consequence will perish in the hot rays of the sunshine. Another advantage follows. The surface of the ground having been thus stirred and mounded, the dust blanket formed in this way arrests the ascension of ground moisture; that is to say, it prevents its escape, and holds it for the advantage of the crop.—Thomas Shaw, Minn. Ex. Station.

A Farmer's Gate.

"I send you a style of farmer's gate," writes a subscriber of the Country



FARMER'S GATE.

Gentleman; "it is made from the woods at small cost except the labor, and cannot sag in use."

The heel post has a rod or pivot turning in a hole in a stone. The upper bar is mortised into the right-hand branch of it and the uprights are mortised into the top bar. The horizontal slats are of split poles.

Restoring Fertility.

"Having rented out 30 acres of my land for several years, it having been planted in corn each year, was almost unfit for anything. I concluded to try to restore it to productiveness. I sowed it in wheat, then in the spring in clover. When I cut my wheat I found a very poor stand of clover. On July 20 I began to plow again for wheat, using rolling coulters and chains, so as to hide everything in the way of the drill. I began to sow my wheat Sept. 10. When I cut this wheat I had about a half stand of clover. In September following I sowed in wheat again, having begun my plowing on July 25. The plowing under the clover seemed to make the ground fresh and new. After cutting this third crop of wheat I had a perfect stand of clover.

"The first crop of wheat yielded about eight bushels per acre the second crop yielded twenty-two bushels, and the third crop twenty-eight bushels per acre.

"This, the fourth year, I have planted the thirty acres in corn, having plowed the land in the fall and, notwithstanding the severe drought, I have a splendid prospect for first-class corn.

"I do heartily recommend plowing under clover as a fertilizer."—W. H. Glasscock in Journal of Agriculture.

Sub-Satting.

We think it most advantageous to subsoil just before the ground freezes up, so that there will be no beating rains on it before freezing solid. Under these conditions the soil is most benefited and is filled with moisture by the winter snows melting and gradually working into the ground. If the ground can then be seeded in the spring before it is beaten down so that the roots can get growing downward with the gradual settling, ideal conditions of growth are furnished for vegetation of all kinds. No soil is nicer to work than well subsoiled land just after the frost has left it and before beating rains have impacted it.—The Homestead.

EDITOR FROM HAWAII.

SOME OF THE QUEER EXPERIENCES OF W. S. SMITH'S CAREER.

He Conducted a Paper in the Domain of "Queen Lil," and Found Journalism Not a Bed of Roses—Some of the Things He Has to Tell of Other Experiences.

Walter G. Smith, the young editor who made such a stir in Hawaii in his conduct of the Star, which he founded and used fearlessly in his attacks on Hawaiian royalty and its supporters, returned recently to his former home, Sherwood. His old friends greeted him enthusiastically, and have been listening eagerly to the narratives he has told of the many exciting episodes in Hawaii during the time of suspense which the American government inflicted upon the residents there. Mr. Smith has also brought home some amusing anecdotes.

The system of the jail management in the islands is peculiar. It is the custom there to rent out the prisoners to citizens as laborers at so much a day. Every one who pretends to any social standing in Honolulu has a telephone in his house, and a conversation over it like this is said to be of frequent occurrence:

"Is this the jail?"

"Yes."

"Well, won't you please send up a murderer to the house to-day? That burglar you sent up yesterday was not satisfactory."

The prisoners are required to return to the jail before 6 o'clock every night. Mr. Smith is said to have asked the keeper what he did when the prisoners failed to return.

"What do I do?" said the keeper in surprise at such a question. "Why, sir, I lock 'em out!"

It will be remembered that Mr. Smith was threatened with assassination by Paramour Wilson because Smith dared to give expression to Wilson's scandalous relations with the royal house. Upon receipt of the news to expect death Smith went out on the street armed, and exposed himself purposely to meet his antagonist. The other man didn't shoot. "But Smith was none the less ready for emergencies."

It turns out, however, that it wasn't Smith's first experience of this kind in newspaper life. Before Smith went to Hawaii he edited a newspaper in San Diego, Cal. There was a tugboat captain there who came from Smith's native place, Sherwood. One day the editor found in a paper sent to him from his old home an extract from a letter that the tugboat captain had sent home, and which, because of the glowing account it gave of the writer's success, got into print as an instance of what push would do in the far west. The tugboat captain referred to himself as the captain of "a large steamer," and so exaggerated his position in life that he appeared to be one of the magnates of the town. Smith, in a spirit of fun, reprinted the article without comment.

Soon after its publication a sound of heavy feet was heard rushing up the stairs to the editorial rooms of the paper. The excited tugboat captain dashed in and inquired for Editor Smith. He hadn't come down yet, the boy said. "Well, you tell him," said the captain, "that I shall be here to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock to shoot him dead. I give him warning."

Smith received the message, and has acknowledged since that he did not like it. Still it would not do to show the white feather. He procured two large revolvers, had them cocked and hidden under a newspaper on his desk that had been thrown down carelessly, as it seemed, and tried to show no concern when on the following day the lookout reported that the angry captain was headed for the office exactly on time. He burst into Smith's office, and the latter's right hand stole under the newspaper and grasped one of the cocked revolvers. With a tremendous amount of profanity the captain shouted:

"What did you mean by printing that thing about me?"

"You wrote it, didn't you?" asked Smith, as his hand stole under the paper and grasped the second revolver, and both hands began to tip up the muzzles for instant use, the editor at the same time trying to conceal his trepidation.

"Yes, I wrote it, but what the blankety, blankety blank did you mean by printing it?"

"If I choose to reprint such an article," said Smith, the points of the revolvers coming up still more and his hands shaking a little more, "I have a right to do so."

"You have, have you?"

"Yes I have."

"Well, do you know what I am going to do?" asked the furious captain.

"No. I don't," said Smith, prepared now to shoot and kill if his trembling hands would permit him to hit the mark.

"Well, I am going to go down stairs and stop my paper."—New York Sun.

No Rice Throwing Allowed.

The Vicar of Cropely, an Oxfordshire village, has had the following notice attached to the church door with regard to rice throwing at wedding: "It is particularly requested that no rice be thrown at the conclusion of weddings when the bride and bridegroom leave the church. The bride's house, and not the church, is the right place for observances which have no connection with the religious ceremony, and are sometimes a cause of disorder and irreverence."

The Relationship.

There is the same relationship between faith and works that there is between the fruit of a tree and its roots.

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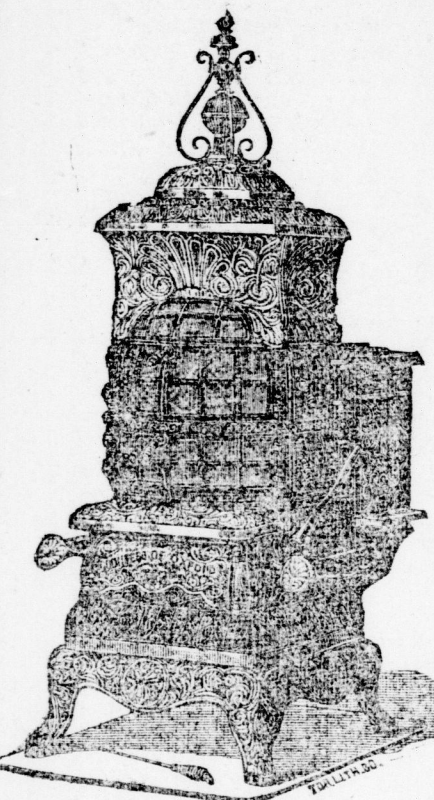
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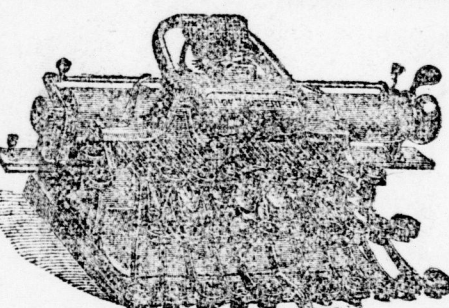
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