

FARM AND GARDEN

A LAY OF SPRING.

Back to the Farm Tho' Wheat is Sixty Cents Per Bushel.

Yes, mother, I'm back to the farm an' back this time to stay. Seems like a dozen years since the day I went away. Though the brindle calf that was born just afore I quit the plough Hain't growed ter be much more nor a sizabie heifer now.

Hungry? Why that don't begin ter tell ye the way I feel. More nor a month, begosh, sence I had a good square meal. Gimme some fried fat pork an' a cup of good green tea—

No, I don't want nothin' better—that's quite good enough for me.

Not quite so fresh as I was when I kicked at your country grub. Wonder dad hadn't pounded some sense into me with a club. Charity breakfasts has done it, an' starvin' freezin' days. An' I ain't makin' no more fun of country feed an' ways.

Where's my trunk? Well, my baggage has somehow gone astray. They give no checks on the freight trains—I had to travel that way. Stole a ride from the Junction, and so I traveled light.

My trunk is at the pawnshop, mother, with everything else in sight.

Why, the city is one big pawnshop, where everybody's in debt. Where everything costs like thunder and money is hard to get. And the fortunes we used to read of are mostly paper, ye know. It's either showin' starvation or starvation without no show.

It's durned hard times in the city—the hardest I ever see— An' thousands of strong young fellers are much worse off nor me. Not havin' no home to go ter stan' between them and harm. They can't do the Prodigal Son act an' dig out back to the farm.

Not as I've blowed myself in a way that should bring me to shame. Boozin' or knockin' around to get myself a hard name. Never done more in that line than sometimes take a drink with a friend. An' squander a quarter or so, jest so I could hold up my end.

But it's jest that the bottom's dropped out and they's no more work to be had. Ye may tramp for days till daylight all dark, ye may want a job so bad. That ye offer to work for your board, Ye may go on yer knees an' pray For a chance to clean the streets in vain in the city to-day.

It would break yer heart to see the crowds that are hanging about till the paper's out. An' pay for the latest fresh pressed, what's maybe the last red cent. Fur jest one chance in a hundred from some new advertisement.

Why didn't I write for money? I reckon I'd too much grit. I'd set out to make my fortune an' was bound I wouldn't quit. Nor own myself such a doggoned chump, after puttin' on such trifles. As ter cum on dad fur the long stuff to settle my boarding bills.

Well, I toughed it as long as I could, but I didn't git no show. An' the boardin' missis shut down an' I hadn't no place to go. My clothes was mostly in hock—'twas hard to git bite or sup. So Thursday I took a tumble an' jest throwed the darn thing up.

"Ain't I an idiot?" thinks I "to be tryin' to live upon air. Where nobody wants me around an' there's nothin' to do anywhere. When dad is a slaving to death an' hirin' help on the farm, Where there's always plenty of work for a man with a strong right arm?"

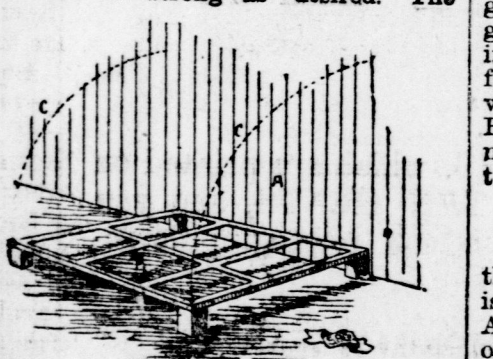
"It ain't a very soft snap—no nine-to-five o'clock day. An' board an' clothes ain't much when ye come to reckon the pay. There ain't a heap of chances to make a millionaire's pile. But it's better than huntin' a job an' findin' yerself all the while."

An' so I've got back to the farm—no more city life—not for me. Jest reach me some more of that pork—an' I'll take half a cup more of tea. Ain't had such a meal dear knows when—an' to-morrow about four o'clock I'll turn out as I used years ago an' help dad to attend to the stock.

PHILLIPS THOMPSON.

A Movable Roost.

The illustration, re-engraved from Farm and Fireside, shows how a roost can be built so as to be close to the floor of the henhouse and at the same time not inconvenient. Such a roost is almost indispensable where very large fowls are kept. It can be made any size and as strong as desired. The



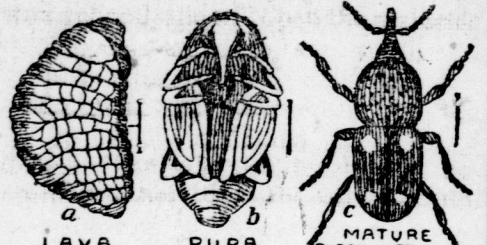
A MOVABLE ROOST.

dotted lines indicate that it can be raised from the floor and made to occupy an upright position against the wall of the house during the day, thus clearing the house of all obstructions. If desired it can be fastened to the floor or to the bottom of the wall by means of hinges. A roost of this kind is often serviceable where space in the henhouse is limited. A is the wall of the house and B the roost in position.

GRAIN INSECTS.

Remedy Against Species Introduced Through the World's Fair.

An article upon the black weevil has recently been making the rounds of the press expressing the fear that this insect would become introduced in this country by the distribution of the grain which was exhibited at the World's Fair from foreign countries. While this fear, to a certain extent, is well founded as regards the introduction of species new to this country, yet the black weevil has long been known with us. Toward the close of the Fair an agent of the Division of Entomology inspected the grain in the foreign exhibits, to prevent the spread of any foreign species



new to this country. The efforts of the division in this regard are to be commended, and the measures taken may prevent, in a measure, at least, the introduction of injurious foreign species.

By far the worst grain pest in the foreign exhibits at the Fair was the black weevil, an insect which may be said to be world-wide in its distribution. While the Fair may have been a means of distributing this species in some of the extreme Northern or Northwestern States where it has heretofore been very rare, but little danger need be apprehended in this direction. The little weevil does little or no damage in the North, but in the South it is ever present, doing more damage to stored grain than all the other species combined. It is doubtful if this species will ever do much damage in the Northern States, certainly not to such an extent as in the Southern States. The mature form of this insect is shown at c in the accompanying illustration, the line at the side showing the insect's natural length. It is a small black beetle, having four reddish-colored spots upon the elytra, or wing cases. The eggs are laid within the grain and hatch into small, light colored larvae, which feed upon the more tender portions. When mature, a larva has the appearance as shown at a (much enlarged), being a fat, footless grub of a light yellow color. In about ten days after hatching the larva change to pupae (b) within the grain, and in a few days later the mature weevil (c) will emerge and eat its way to the outside of the grain.

Thus but a short time, about three weeks, is required for the insect to go through its transformations, and this accounts, in a large measure, for the immense numbers in which these weevils appear. The species attack corn, rice and wheat especially, both in the larval and adult states. It does such damage to rice that in the East Indies it is known as the "rice weevil." But little idea can be formed of the immense damage done by this insect by one who has not seen the results of its work. In Mexico, for example, corn can be grown very easily, requiring but little or no cultivation, yet it cannot be kept three weeks after harvest on account of the black weevil. In Louisiana the rice crop is greatly reduced by its work, and throughout all the Southern States the annual production of corn is greatly lessened. In Honduras, I am informed that rice which is free from weevils sells at a great advance over that which may contain weevils. While this species is often very destructive, an excellent remedy for its destruction is found in bisulfid of carbon. This is a volatile liquid, the fumes of which are destructive to insect life. The use of the bisulfid for grain insects was first recommended by Dr. Riley in 1879, and since then it has gradually been coming into favor as a remedy. To destroy the black weevil, or other species which may infest stored grain, the grain is placed in a tight bin, and the bisulfid simply poured over the top. About an ounce of the bisulfid to the hundred pounds of grain is generally used. Recently there has been placed upon the market a much stronger product than the commercial grade of bisulfid, known as the "fuma" bisulfid. This has fully twice the value of the commercial grade, and on this account should be obtained for the treatment of stored grain insects. While the bisulfid of carbon is an explosive substance, there is no danger in its use if any care is taken to keep it away from lighted cigars, matches, and the like. Grain insects are also often very destructive in grain mills, sometimes indeed the mills are overrun with these pests. Here, again, the bisulfid is an important remedy, for, by a little attention, and with but small expense, the mills can be cleared of the insects. In the applying of bisulfid in mills, it is important that the application should be begun in the basement of the mill and continued to the top, for the fumes are heavier than air, so that if the work was begun at the top floor, the fumes would prevent thorough application being made below. American corn should in all cases be husked before treatment, as the husk affords such protection to the insects attacking the grain that a much larger amount is necessary in the treatment of the husked maize than would otherwise be the case. The action of the carbon bisulfid is still more effective if the corn is shelled. This black weevil, calandra oryzae, Linn., is probably a native of the East Indies, where for nearly a century it has been a well-known pest. The insect has been found in the grain in the field, but it does the greatest damage after the grain has been gathered. It is very destructive to maize in Mexico. The meal or the flour made from the infested grain is considered very injurious to the digestive organs. Howard E. Weed, Mississippi Experiment Station, in American Agriculturist.

Unique but Effective.

A unique way of calling attention to the absence of a tool from the toolroom is recommended by a correspondent. As soon as the tools are hung in the best order in a new room he marks the outline of each on the wall back of it with a heavy pencil. Thus, when the hatchet or hammer or saw is gone, its picture is here to call for its return.

An Orchard Hint.

In the management of an apple orchard pruning is essential. All the weak shoots, those which seem to suffer from overbearing, or from other cause, should be carefully cut out every year. Again, wherever the branches are likely to be thick and struggle with each other for light, they should also be thinned.

Make the Cows Look Well.

If the cows have their hair rubbed off, showing bare patches of skin, rub on a little sulphur and lard.

THE BABCOCK TEST.

Many Arguments in Favor of Paying by this Rational Method.

One question is now uppermost in Ontario—that of paying for milk by factors, for cheese-making, by the Babcock test, the same as for butter-making. A few factories have adopted this plan and find—as have the experiment stations and the great tests at Chicago—that milk makes cheese exactly in proportion to the butter fat that milk contains, and that another man sells 9 per cent milk has been swindled out of a pound of butter to each 100 lbs. of milk. The great excuse urged against the plan is the cost of making the tests. Now it was found that the samples could be taken daily and put in a small jar, for two weeks, and then by adding a little dilute lactic acid to break up the lactic acid, a sample from this jar would be within .05 of 1 per cent of the average fat shown by making fourteen daily tests, and reduced the cost in time and material to the minimum. So that after making 1,000 tests himself and comparing the report from all quarters on both sides of the line, there was no longer any reason for the unjust pooling of milk, which by the present system was only to put a premium on dishonesty, skimming and watering milk, both by thin milk cows and common pine pails.

Along this same line Prof. Van Slyke, of N. Y., the noted chemist and cheese expert, gave the result of two years' work. "Old vs. New," in making cheese and basing all calculations on the fat contents of milk. He showed by tests at factories for the last three years that the range of fat contents of milk supplied by different dairies was 2.65 per cent. to 4.80 per cent., and no feeding of the dairy had raised the quality, nor had any dairy an even record for fat, there being an almost constant though somewhat slight variation, that of individual cows being very marked. He had found that after repeated tests it was not once in ten thousand times that the curd of milk ever equaled the fat in weight, and the albumen must be included even then, but in fact the albumen went out in the whey along with the sugar and did not appear in the cheese, so that the relation of the two was about 1 to 2. The proportion of three pounds of fat to two pounds of whey of curd, and this extended through all the grades of milk sent to the cheese factory. It was a mistake to say that a good, careful maker could not incorporate 4 to 5 per cent of fat in a cheese. The man who ripened the milk and worked it as he should would not be contented with mere escape of fat in the whey, but with three per cent milk, as the proportions were so fairly uniform that the combination of the two could be maintained. The weight of cheese when made was always indicated by the fat content. It was impossible to make a pound of cheese containing a normal amount of moisture from as few pounds of skim-milk as from full milk, and the price that it contained was always based on the fat it contained. The quality of the cheese, as the former gives it its quality and is worth 25 cents a pound whether as butter or in the cheese, and curd had no value alone of over 2 cents a pound. The charts showed that milk with less than 3 per cent of fat required about 12 pounds of milk to make a pound of cheese, and less than 9 pounds of 4.75 per cent milk made a pound of cheese that sold in the Shelley class, and the first went begging for a customer at any price.

The result was that after the fullest discussion of the question, that took on every form and purpose, from sending pure cream down to undiluted brook water, and whether the Babcock test was made for the farmer or speculator, and if the latter it was made for the man could not outwit it if adopted, the matter was left for expression, and of the five hundred persons present less than a half dozen went on record as wishing to continue the old practice of pooling milk by the pound, and it is probable that hundreds of factories in Canada will this year join with the few and the fat test will be largely adopted.—Prof. Dean, O. A. C.

Barns for Dairy Animals.

E. L. Vincent, in the Ohio Farmer, says: I do not like a damp place for stabling cattle; and if I could not arrange my barn so as to provide dry stables with good ventilation, I would not build a bank barn. I am of the opinion that many diseases among cows may be traced to improper methods in the construction of barns.

I believe I have a barn which in most respects combines warmth, pure ventilation and freedom from damp. My barn has a nine-foot basement. In this I stable my cows, facing north. In the rear of the cattle is a shed running the whole length of the barn for receiving manure and this is supplemented by a shed joined to the barn on the west, extending southward, affording shelter for stock and storehouse for straw over sunny days. On the north side of my barn are the entrance to the barn I built a stone wall to support the bridge over which I drive into the building. The barn itself being boarded up and so far removed from the wall, no dampness comes to the stable from the stones. I built a cupola on the roof, the advantage possible from the bank. The east row of windows admits light and sunshine. A similar row on the west side lets in the sun in the afternoon. All the cracks being well battened, my stable is as warm as a house. In front of the cattle is my shoot for putting down hay. This also affords a way of escape for impure air while still further ventilation is afforded by shutters on the roof, provided with shutters on the roof, provided with shutters on the roof, provided with shutters on the roof.

Good Advice.

"The scrub must go!" That is the kind of a talk we should like to see dinned into the ears of every farmer in the land every day in the year, and that man rising to the farmer's vocation ought to have deeply impressed upon his mind every day of his education until all scrubs have disappeared from the face of the earth, and especially from the dairy farms.

Hard Up.

Tom—When I was in hard lines last winter I hocked everything except my dress suit. It nearly killed me!

Bess—It must have been embarrassing, but I don't see how it could have nearly killed you.

Tom—Why, you see, I had to stay up every night for over a week so as to have an excuse for wearing the suit mornings!

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON XI, FIRST QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, MARCH 18.

Text of the Lesson, Gen. xviii, 17-21 (a Missionary Lesson)—Memory Verses, 17-19—Golden Text, Gen. xviii, 18—Commentary by the Rev. D. M. Stearns.

17. "And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do?" As we have choice between a temperance and a missionary lesson, I unhesitatingly choose the latter, believing that the greater includes the less, and also firmly believing that if individual Christians and churches, societies and Sunday schools would only yield fully to the Lord that He might through them accomplish all His pleasure in preaching the gospel to every creature, not only would the Lord be greatly rejoiced, His elect church hastened to completion, but these same individual believers, churches, societies and Sunday schools would know the blessing of the Lord as never before. These five verses of this lesson are in connection with the visit of the Lord and the angels to Abraham under the oaks of Mamre and the approaching destruction of the cities of the plain. It is a most suggestive missionary topic, as the same Lord who said, "Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do?" said also some 1800 years later, when here on earth in His humiliation, "As it was in the days of Lot, they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded, but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed" (Luke xvii, 28-30), and now over 1800 years later those who are Abraham's seed by faith in Christ Jesus (Gal. iii, 20), with this thing not hid from them, are as indifferent to the impending storm that is surely coming and the welfare of people about them as if the Lord had never uttered these words. Please to read Prov. xxiv, 11, 12; Ezek. xxxiii, 7-9.

18. "Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him." As to the far-reaching blessing, see chapters xii, 3, and xxii, 18. Although it was not fully revealed to Abraham just how this glorious result was to be accomplished, it is not hidden from us to whom has been given the New Testament as well as the Old. The New opens with the statement that Jesus Christ is the son of David, the son of Abraham (Matt. i, 1), and goes on to show that He is the one of whom Moses in the law and prophets did write that though He was rejected by Israel, to whom He specially came, yet He suffered and died and rose again according to the Scriptures; that while the kingdom of the King He is by the preaching of the gospel of His grace gathering from all nations an elect company who shall reign with Him as His bride when He shall bless all nations through His elect, restored and holy nation, Israel (Luke xxiv, 25-27; xix, 11; Acts ii, 13-21; xv, 14-17). The national conversion of Israel will be accomplished when they look upon Him whom they have pierced, as He shall return in power and glory, bringing His bride with Him; then shall they be smitten with true conviction of sin, like Saul on the way to Damascus, and shall welcome their rejected Messiah, saying: "This is Jehovah. We have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation." (Isa. liii, 1-5; Rev. vii, 9-10; and the face of the world with fruit. See Zech. xii, 10; xiii, 1; Isa. xxv, 9; xxvii, 6.

19. "For I know him that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment, that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken of him. The Lord knoweth each of us thoroughly, even to our thoughts and imaginations (Ps. cxxxix, 1-4; I Chron. xxviii, 9), and He knows what He can accomplish through us, and whether we will walk in His way or not. By disobedience we hinder Him from accomplishing His pleasure in and through us. If we were willing and obedient we would in every true sense eat the good of the land, and be filled with the fatness of His house (Isa. i, 19; Ps. lxxxi, 13, 16; xxvii, 8). The way of the Lord is as high above our ways as heaven is above the earth (Isa. lv, 8, 9), yet vain man clings to his own thoughts and ways, and thus knows neither the Lord's thoughts nor counsel (Mic. iv, 12). Much time and strength is thus wasted by individuals and churches by not knowing the Lord's way and purpose.

20. "And the Lord said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous, All sin cries unto God, and He hears the cry of all the oppressed. 'The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto Me from the ground' (Gen. iv, 10). The cries of the oppressed reachers enter into the ears of the Lord of Hosts (Isa. lv, 1). His eyes and ears are open to all things on earth, but because He is long suffering He tarries to the utmost if perchance He may lead men to repentance and deliver them from eternal loss (II Pet. iii, 9; Job xxxiii, 29, 30). And while judgment is restrained He gives us the privilege of interceding for men as Abraham did, and of beseeching men to be reconciled to God (II Cor. v, 20).

21. "I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me, and if not I will know." He never punishes without cause, nor without due and patient investigation. "Ye shall know that I have not done without cause all that I have done in it, saith the Lord God" (Ezek. ix, 23). Before the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, taking vengeance on all that know not God and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus (II Thess. i, 7, 8), there will be a judgment of the saints for their service (Rom. xiv, 10; II Cor. v, 10), and as there is a possibility of much work being burned up (I Cor. iii, 13-15), I for one desire to keep the way of the Lord and have Him work in me both to will and to do of His good pleasure (Phil. ii, 13).

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Paine's Celery Compound Banishes the Seeds of Disease and Gives Long Life and Good Health.



GEORGE A. WILTSE.

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These principles of dissolution—mortality—death—are seen in thousands with whom we come in contact every day. We meet the dyspeptic, rheumatic, nervous, bilious, sleepless and run-down on every hand. In such, the germs of mortality are fast expanding and tightening, and will hold them captive unless released by a strong and effective agency.

Mr. George A. Wiltse, of Athens, Ont., whose portrait appears above, was fast becoming a victim to dyspepsia. Knowing what Paine's Celery Compound had done for others similarly tormented and afflicted, he used nature's health-giver, and soon found a complete cure. Mr. Wiltse writes as follows about his case:

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