

FIRST PHOTOGRAPH OF AMERICANS IN CANTIGNY BATTLE



This is the first authentic photograph to reach the United States showing the Americans in the battle of Cantigny, their first really important conflict with the Huns. The first men to go over the top are seen leading to the attack, while their companions in the trenches await the command to follow. Within 45 minutes the Americans had obtained all their objectives, taking many prisoners.

GREEK NURSES AWAIT WOUNDED COUNTRYMEN



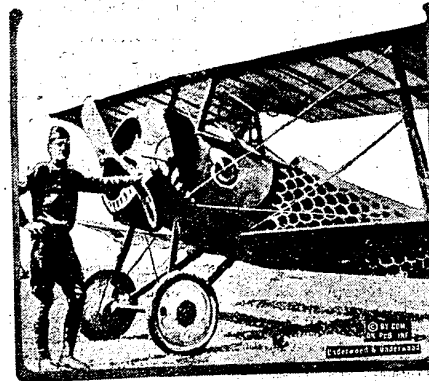
This picture, taken in Athens, shows a corps of Greek army nurses, with flowers and delicacies, awaiting the arrival of wounded Greek soldiers from the hospital ship Lafayette.

QUIT WHITE HOUSE JOBS TO FIGHT



Charles Swen (on the right), the only stenographer who has taken the president's dictation since Mr. Wilson was first elected, and Warren Johnson, personal stenographer to Joseph P. Tumulty, the president's secretary, have joined the army. Swen, who has a wife and a child, will go into the aviation service, while Johnson will be assigned to some other branch. Both have been anxious for some time to get into uniforms.

HERE IS A REAL FLYING FISH OF THE AIR



This Nieuport airplane can rightly be called "the flying fish." Judging from the manner in which it is decorated, its American pilot is standing alongside of his machine, somewhere in France.

Horticultural News

OBJECTS SOUGHT IN PRUNING

Mistakes in Forming Head or Results of Neglect in Early Years Are Irreparable.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The principal objects sought in pruning may be summarized as follows:

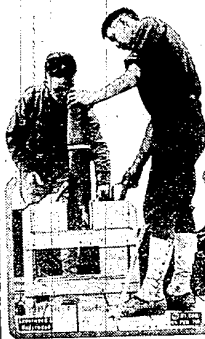
1. To modify the vigor of the tree.
2. To keep the tree shape and within bounds.
3. To make the tree more stocky.
4. To open the tree top to admit air and sunshine.
5. To reduce the struggle for existence in the tree top.
6. To remove dead or interfering branches.
7. To renew the vigor of the tree.
8. To aid in stimulating the development of fruit buds.
9. To secure good distribution of fruit buds throughout the tree.
10. To thin the fruit.
11. To induce uniformity in the ripening of the fruit.
12. To make thorough spraying possible.
13. To facilitate the harvesting of the fruit.

The pruning which a tree receives during the first two or three years after it is planted has much to do with its future. Mistakes in forming the head or the results of neglect during the early years in the life of a tree are practically irreparable. On the other hand, if the tree is well formed and properly pruned during its first years, the foundation of a good tree is established; subsequent errors in pruning, if they occur, may admit of correction without permanent harm to the tree.

In general, the proper time to prune peach trees is during the dormant period, preferably in late winter or early spring, just before growth starts, except in regions where bleeding from wounds is likely to occur. In such regions it should probably be done in early winter. But conditions and the object of the pruning must be considered in each case. If the pruning operations are very extensive, it may be necessary to prune throughout the winter whenever the weather is suitable for men to work in the orchard. If the fruit buds are endangered during the winter by adverse temperatures, it may be advisable to delay pruning as much as economic conditions permit until settled spring weather arrives. This is especially advisable if heavy heading in of the previous season's growth is involved, since the proportion of live buds may determine the extent to which the cutting back should be carried.

A limited amount of summer pruning can usually be done to advantage. The trees should be observed constantly.

DUMMY BOMBS FOR AVIATORS



Two men at Ellington field, Houston, Tex., preparing dummy bombs for the practice work of the aviators who are being trained especially for bombing.

The Padre Scores.

Now and again a guy will take me off to one side and fix it up with me to write his girl or his mother after he is bumped off, promising to do the same for me.

Yet they joke about it, too. Pop said to the chaplain today: "You never forget that little matter padre, will you?" "What little matter is that?" asked the chaplain.

"Why, my tombstone!"

The chaplain looked surprised.

"You never mentioned a tombstone to me," he protested.

"Sure I did! Don't you remember a bottle of rum at head and feet?"

But the chaplain came back at him.

"No," he said gravely; "for then you would be the quietest."—George Patton in Saturday Evening Post.

Flour Little Hurt by Sea Water.

It is a widely known fact among sailors that flour will not only float after immersion in sea water, but suffer very little damage. To ascertain the actual damage a baker in New South Wales submerged a bag of flour in the ocean and left it in the water 67 hours. A 35-pound weight was necessary to sink a 150-pound bag, which would have supported 75 pounds on top of the water. It is estimated, or half its own weight. When lifted and weighed, the bag scaled 135 pounds. It was dried for four days and yielded 120 pounds of perfectly dry flour, the bag and waste weighing 28 pounds. Baked into bread, it was perfect.



Badly Pruned Peach Tree Where Bearing Wood Is Near Extremities of Limbs—Weight of Small Crop Would Be Likely to Break Limbs to Serious Extent.

ly throughout the season of active growth. Whenever a branch is seen to be so placed that obviously will need to be removed at the annual pruning for the shaping up of the tree, it is well to take it off at once. In this way the annual pruning can be reduced to a minimum and the removal of large limbs will rarely be necessary.

Then, too, it frequently happens that a single branch in the top of a tree will grow considerably faster than any of the others, making the tree unsymmetrical if the growth of the branch is not checked. A slight heading in as soon as such a tendency is apparent will usually keep the top well balanced.

KEEPING QUALITY OF FRUIT

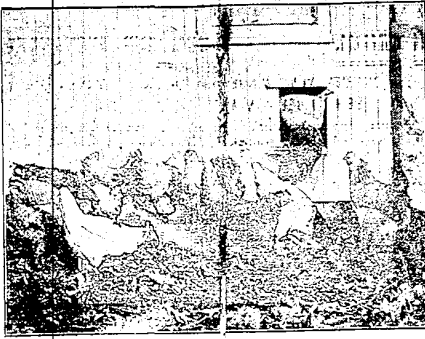
Among Dominating Factors Are Character of Soil, Age of Trees and Care of Orchard.

The character of the soil, the age of the trees, the care of the orchard—these factors modify the growth of the trees and fruit and may affect the keeping quality. The character of the soil also modifies the keeping power of the fruit.

A Bird in the Hand

(Special Information Service, United States Department of Agriculture.)

SELL THE SLACKER HEN!



A Well-Selected Mongrel Flock of Layers.

TIME TO GET RID OF SLACKER HEN

Fowl That Begins Molting Early Almost Certainly Poor Egg Producer.

SEPTEMBER IS BEST MONTH

Many Indications Cited by Which Flock May Be Culled Down to All-Year Layers—Save Exceptionally Good Breeders.

Get rid of the slacker hen. The poultry keeper cannot afford at any time to keep a hen that is a poor egg producer, and that is particularly true now when feeds are unprecedentedly high in price. The summer and early fall is the best time to cull the poor producers from the laying flock. It is best to start as early as possible removing those hens whose appearance indicates that they are stopped laying. As a general principle it is wise to cull out about the first of August all hens over two years old unless they are laying or are exceptionally good breeders.

Hens will usually begin to molt in August. The slacker hen is an early molter and can be readily distinguished at this time.

The indications of high egg production are most pronounced in September, and if the flock is to be culled only at one time, September is the best month to select the good producers. The better plan, however, is to cull gradually, beginning somewhat earlier. A number of factors have to be considered in distinguishing the good from the poor layer, and certain allowances have to be made for essential differences between the small and the large breeds.

Cull These Hens.

The indications of poor production are as follows:

Lack of vigor.—Indicated by listless actions, dull sunken eyes, shrunken comb and long thin necks. The poor producer is usually one of the first hens to leave the roost in the morning, and also goes to roost early in the evening.

Early molt and yellow legs.—Hens which molt before September 1, especially those molting in July and early in August, are usually poor producers. These hens will usually have yellow legs during August and September, as the yellow color returns to the legs after molting. The time of molting and the color of the legs are very important characteristics in selecting hens by their appearance.

Pelvic.—Pelvic points close together, only one to two fingers apart, depending upon the breed. The space between the pelvic points varies according to whether or not the hen is laying. Arch from pelvic points to the end of keel or breast bone only two or four fingers wide. Pelvic points either small and hard or coarse (covered with fat), bent and hard. A hen in good condition usually accumulates fat on abdomen, producing a plump appearance.

Other characteristics.—Comb pale or dull red, small, shrunken and covered with fine scales or dandruff. Ear lobes and wattles pale, shrunken, hard and dry. Ear lobes, eyelids and beak yellowish.

Save These Hens.

The indications of good production are as follows:

Vigor.—Indicated by full, well-developed breast and body, general alertness; bright, full eyes; well-developed nostrils; short, heavy neck; and firm, firm nails. A hen must have vigor and capacity to be a good layer. Such a hen usually has a good appetite and goes off the roost early in the morning.

Late molt and bleached legs.—The late molting one that does not begin to molt until after the 1st of September, is usually a good producer. During the late summer these hens are noticeable by their raged and dirty appearance.

The plumage of the good producer in the winter and spring is usually smooth and bright, giving a neat, trim appearance to the fowl. The legs of these good layers will be nearly white, with all the yellow gone. After a hen molts she gets this yellow color back, and the color gradually leaves or bleaches as the laying season advances.

Pelvic.—Pelvic points wide apart, from three to five fingers, depending upon the breed. Arch wide apart, from three to six fingers distance between pelvic points and end of keel or breast bone. Pelvic points soft and pliable.

Other characteristics.—Comb full and red. Ear lobes and wattles red of good size, soft and pliable. Ear lobes, eyelids and beak of bleached or whitish appearance.

HENS THAT HELP ENEMY.

Every hen that does not lay except for a little while in the spring consumes more than she produces.

Such a hen not only does nothing toward winning the war, but actually aids the enemy. In times of peace and plenty the slacker hen might be tolerated, but she must be handled ruthlessly now.

Go over your flock carefully and continuously. Eliminate until you have got rid of all except the good egg producers.

Action Against Rats.

It frequently happens that losses of young chickens attributed to the depredations of hawks and to other causes are due to rats. There is no more destructive pest about the poultry yard than these. Coming like the thief in the night, and usually leaving no visible marks of their ravages, they escape, in large measure, the relentless hunting down that they deserve. Not only are they destructive to young chickens, but they prey upon the egg supply throughout the year.

The United States department of agriculture points out that anyone, by care and industry, may free his own premises of these rodents but that he is helpless to prevent an early recurrence of the trouble unless he can secure the active co-operation of his neighbors. The department urges, therefore, that wherever possible the destruction of these pests be a community undertaking.

The same effort, it is pointed out, that is made by individuals working independently, if organized on a community basis will be less costly and more effective. The department has worked out and tested definite plans for the destruction of rats, in conjunction with other rodents, and information concerning the matter can be had by writing the department.

Eggs Before Candies.

The U. S. department of agriculture issues the following statement as to how good eggs should look before the candle:

A good fresh egg should have a clear, bright surface. The shell should not be very plain. There should be no black spots or rings. Sometimes the eggshell will have fine cracks in it. This is commonly known as a "chicken" egg, and should not be shipped with first-quality eggs, as it rots very quickly.

Blood rings are partially incubated eggs and show a distinct ring of blood on the yolk. They are classed as unfit for food and should be rejected.

Cause: A fertile egg in which the development of the germ has proceeded until blood has formed but the embryo has subsequently died. Ring formation is not present while the embryo is alive, although blood spots or veins may show.

Moldy eggs generally have cracked shells and show black spots before the candle. They are unfit for food.

Cause: Field nests or wet nests. Holding eggs in damp places, or disturbing shell mucus by washing, or allowing eggs to become wet, thereby enabling mold spores to enter the pores of the shell and grow inside the shell. Mold can also enter through cracks in the shell.