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**HOW TO PLANT FLOWER SEEDS FOR FREE BLOOM.**—Some plants are so slow to germinate that they must be sown now in order to bloom at their proper time. For instance, scarlet sage cannot be sown outdoors till May, since the seed are very tender. It would then not bloom till fall. Consequently you usually buy plants of the florist, \$1 per dozen, set them out and have them bloom from midsummer till frost. But why not be your own florist and raise these plants yourself?  
 The same is true of cosmos. To get those huge, tree-like plants and to have a great quantity of them for a small outlay of money sow them now. Transplant and branch them often and see the result.  
 Asters must be sown early in doors, and vincas, verbenas, bellotrope, snapdragon, stocks, wallflowers, the gay annual phlox (Drummondii), pansies, ageratum and candytuft. These are the most important "musts" of indoor sowing, since they are all long in maturing. But you may sow almost anything you wish, either annual, perennial or biennial, and so have earlier bloom and save the large price per dozen paid the grower.  
 It is advisable to start these vines in the house: Moonflower, clematis, clematis and Madeira vine. They get a much better start in that way. Soak the seeds of the clematis vine overnight and be sure to plant them edgewise, barely covering them. It hastens all perennial seeds to soak them.  
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**EARLY SPRING GARDENING.**

**How to Cultivate Mignonette and Portulaca.**

No garden is quite complete without mignonette and portulaca. Either requires only ordinary care and cultivation and thrives in most any soil. Naturally the richer and deeper the soil and better the care they receive the better the results will be in the quantity and size of the flowers.

Mignonette is usually treated as an annual, the seeds sown every year, but if the plants are preserved in pots over winter in a few years the stem will become woody and a shrubby plant result.

The scent of mignonette is always strongest when it is grown in light, sandy soil. When grown in rich loam it is inclined to lose its fragrance.

For early flowering plants seed can be sown even before April. For tree mignonette, as the plants are called when they become shrubby, take a strong April seedling, pot it separately and nip off the flower buds as fast as they appear, cutting off all the lower side shoots in the autumn, giving the plant the appearance of a small tree. At that time transfer to a larger pot with fresh soil and keep it growing in a warm place all winter, repeating the operation the following autumn. Do not permit the plant to bloom until the third season, after which it will flower every summer for a number of years.

If seeds are started now and another lot started in April and May the plants will produce a succession of bloom.

**How to Avoid Visits by Burglars.**

Housewives who are anxious to avoid the attention of prowlers and sneak thieves would do well to heed the advice of a detective of many years' experience. Walter Whitsett of Kansas City, who in police service and in private practice has learned much of thieves and their ways, gives the following counsel:

If you leave the house vacant for more than a day arrange to have the daily papers taken off the doorstep.

Don't lock the doors and forget to lock the windows.

Don't let the postman leave mail at your house when you are out of the city.

Don't leave notes to delivery men saying you will not return until a certain hour.

Don't leave keys under doormats.

Don't leave valuables in the house if you intend to be gone from the city many days. A safe deposit box is the safest place for them.

If you carry burglar insurance you will be doubly protected against thieves.

**Why the Hair Turns Gray With Age.**

Hair which is dark has a good deal of pigment in it and light hair has but little of that substance, which is secreted by the body. When the shade of a person's hair begins to turn gray it means that the body is not producing the amount of pigment needed to maintain the usual color. As old age comes on and the supply grows less and less the hair gradually turns white. Worry and pain, which reduce the vital forces, also are frequent causes of grayness.

**How to Make a Crocus Ball of Bloom.**

An ingenious arrangement of spring bulbs is to tie twelve crocus bulbs to a large sponge and cover them with moss. Place the flat side against the sponge. Keep the sponge wet with warm water and hang it in a sunny window—after a few days in the dark—and a ball of beautiful bloom will result.

**How to Deaden the Sound of a Ticking Watch at Night.**

The ticking of a watch at the bedside at night is annoying to many people, particularly invalids and nervous persons. If it is covered with a thin, plain glass tumbler it can be easily seen, but not heard.

**FEAR MOVE TO ASSAIL UNIONISM**

**United Mine Workers Distrust Coal Production Board.**

**OPERATORS WANT FREE HAND**

**Would Promote Their Own Interests at Expense of Workingmen — Miners Strongly Oppose Any Attempt to Break Down Safeguards That Have Taken Years to Obtain.**

Coal mine operators who on the plea of war time necessity attempt to promote their own interests at the expense of the miners and to break down safeguards that years of effort have built up about their employment will be bitterly opposed by the United Mine Workers of America, according to a statement issued by the executive board.

Evidence that the recently appointed committee on coal production of the Council of National Defense, upon which there is no representative of the coal miners, intends to assail unionism under the guise of serving the country is submitted in an account of what is taking place in Kentucky. The statement says:

"As convincing evidence that the committee on coal production has in mind such restriction we are in receipt of a communication from one of its members setting forth that complaints have been made by operators in western Kentucky that their production is being impeded because of a campaign of organization recently entered into by the United Mine Workers of America. We are told by this member of the committee that it would be wise to call off efforts of this kind at this time."

"We wish to point out for the benefit of all who may be interested that no strike has been called in western Kentucky and no effort made by us to impede coal production in this territory. On the other hand, men who have peacefully affiliated themselves with our organization have been discharged by the coal companies, and at this writing upward of 500 miners who are anxious to work and produce coal and contribute their individual efforts as mine workers to the nation's needs are suffering enforced idleness because they signified a desire to belong to a labor organization."

"We are willing," say the representatives of the miners, "to fight for the government of the United States to establish world democracy, but we must insist as a matter of sincerity that we be allowed to retain some measure of that democracy of which we so proudly boast in the mining regions of our nation."

"We are anxious to co-operate with the government in the maintenance of industrial peace in the coal industry and have offered our services to the government, but up to date little consideration has been given to our organization and the hundreds of thousands of men it represents by those who have been entrusted with this work by the federal government."

"We hereby renew our offer to co-operate with the government in stimulating coal production and in preserving harmonious relations between employer and employee in the coalfields of the nation, but we hope the justice of our position will be recognized when we reiterate our demand for proportionate representation upon all commissions appointed to direct affairs in the coal industry."

"We are opposed to the personnel of the committee on coal production, and we protest the action that created it without giving recognition or consideration to the great army of men who produce the coal."

"We cannot subscribe to such policy nor co-operate in the plans that such a committee has outlined for the government of affairs in the mining industry of the country."

**Girls' Daylight Is Saved.**

The Life Extension Institute of New York city, of which Dr. Eugene Lyman Fisk is director, recently introduced a daylight saving plan affecting seventy-five girl employees whereby they reported at 8:30 a. m. and worked till 4 p. m. instead of their former hours of 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. The usual hour for lunch has been cut in half under the new system, and with the additional half hour each morning the actual working time is the same. The innovation was received by the girls with satisfaction, and they expressed themselves strongly in favor of the plan.

**Gompers Fights Postage Raise.**

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, in a general appeal to the American people and particularly to labor unions called for united opposition to the proposed increase of the second class postage rate and the application of the zone system. He said it was a menace to the labor press and only publications backed by great combinations of wealth could survive its enactment. At the same time the United Mine Workers of America issued an official protest against the proposed revenue measure.

**Printers Raise Wages.**

Typographical Union No. 47 of New Haven, Conn., has signed a three year contract with newspaper proprietors. Wages are increased.

**HOW TO TAKE CARE OF AN AQUARIUM.**

Have you ever had trouble taking care of an aquarium? Does the water turn green, and do your fish die? Now, don't be discouraged. Get out your aquarium and let's start all over again, and you will see what a fine one you can have and keep too. A five gallon bowl is big enough to hold a dozen medium sized fish, and they'll be well and happy as they can be. The very first thing to do is to find a good place to keep the bowl, for you cannot move it around. A northern exposure is best, for too much light makes the water turn green too quickly. The next thing is to get some nice river sand and wash it thoroughly until it is very, very clean, and then put in about two inches of this sand, covering the bottom of the five gallon tank. Now for the water plants. Either the cabomba or myriophyllum are good, hardy plants. Two bunches of either of these will be plenty, and after you have taken off the lead pull off all the leaves about an inch from the bottom of the stems, so you can plant them in the sand more easily.

After this you must let the aquarium stand for several days so the water will become clear and full of air before putting in the fish. And now for the great moment when you select your fish! American gold and silver fish are a little more expensive than some others, but they are much harder than the cheaper ones, and you must be careful to choose strong, healthy fish. If their fins are frayed out or if they have humps right back of their heads or on their backs you may be sure they are sick.

For a dozen goldfish a piece of prepared fish food about two inches square given every other day is plenty. And it's a splendid plan, too, to give all the fish a very little scraped beef once a week, but you must be very, very careful to take out all that is not eaten. You can replenish the water from time to time, but be sure always to pour it over your hands. If you put a pinch of salt in the water, if the fish appear ill, you will find it does them a great deal of good.

**FOOD PREJUDICES.**

**Why They Should Be Abandoned For the Sake of Economy.**

Be willing to try new foods. Certain plentiful and nourishing foods widely used and enjoyed in one section are practically unknown in other sections of the country. Learn to know all the good things, not a few only.

People too easily get into food ruts—insist on eating only the food they are used to and refuse to give a fair trial to others. This causes undue demand for certain staples, with resulting scarcity or high prices when crops are short. At the same time other valuable foods may be relatively cheap and available. A striking instance of this is failure fully to appreciate rice—a valuable source of starch—when potatoes are scarce and high. Another example is refusal in certain sections to use anything but wheat as a breadstuff when corn—a valuable cereal widely used elsewhere as a breadstuff—is plentiful and relatively cheap.

Learn how to cook all kinds of staple foods and to serve them in a variety of ways. Simple dishes well prepared are better than expensive foods badly cooked.

Many persons are prejudiced against certain good foods because when first tried the foods were improperly cooked. Remove from your vocabulary "don't like" or "can't eat."

Most individual prejudices against widely popular foods are either imaginary or baseless.

Try to like every simple food; give it a fair trial.

Demonstrate thrift in your home. Make saving rather than spending your social standard.—United States Department of Agriculture.

**How Country Folk Interpret Common Rain Signs.**

The people in our country very seldom need a weather forecaster to tell them if the morrow will be clear. In eighty-five cases out of a hundred they will tell you it will rain within three days if there is a ring around the moon or sun.

Another old maxim believed in by the country folks is "the farther the sight the nearer the rain." When the people of a mountainous region can see a distant peak that is usually invisible they know that it is too good to last and will rain soon. There are sound scientific reasons for every one of the above signs, as well as for the belief that sounds carry better when a rainstorm is near.

**How Flags Should Be Hoisted.**

When a flagpole is in a slanting or horizontal position, if the rope holding the upper corner of the flag be pulled very tight and the rope holding the lower corner be slackened somewhat, thus allowing the flag to drop slightly away from the pole, the wind will spill out of it. This will do much to prevent the flag from wrapping around the pole.

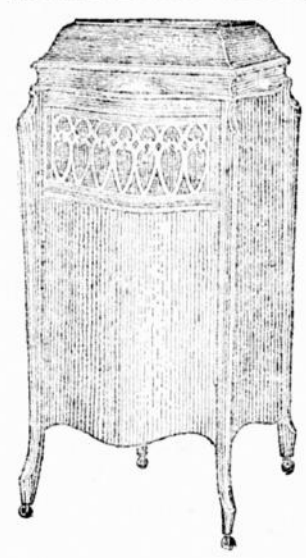
A little experimenting will show how much to slack away the lower corner. It depends on the size of the flag and the angle of the pole.

This Store Open Every Night, Until Xmas

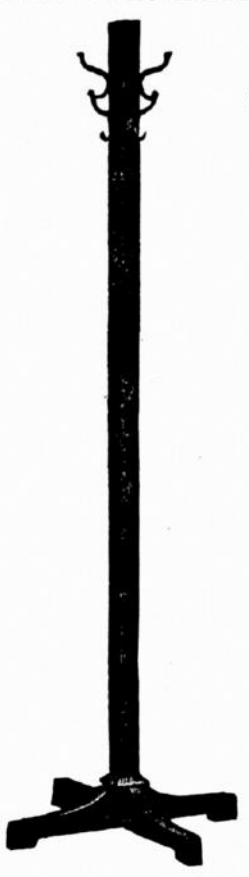
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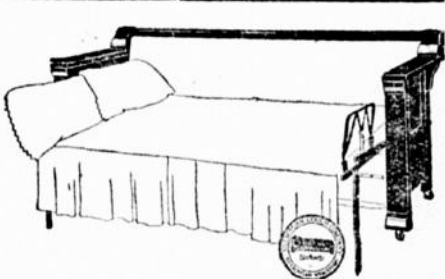
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**John Franklin St. John Obituary.**

At a late hour on Wednesday evening, November 28th, John Franklin St. John died at a local hospital. For the past year he had been in poor health and came to Minor to consult physicians who found his condition such that an operation was imperative; their best efforts were unable to give him relief and death claimed him. Mr. St. John was born in Xenia, O., Oct. 24, 1860. In 1887 he was married to Miss Zora E. Huffman, in whose companionship he has walked down the long way of the years. Theirs was a very happy life and to their home four children were born. Two passed away early in life; Glenna and Glen. Two sons are still living, Roland Earl and Harry, who will keep the home together, caring for their bereaved mother.

Besides the wife and two sons Mr. St. John leaves six brothers, two sisters and his aged father to mourn his loss. The body was taken back to the old home in Ohio and he is resting beside the children who have gone before. Early in life Mr. St. John became a Christian and united with the M. E. church and in all the years his

faith was a source of comfort and joy. For the past nine years he has been living at Surrey and has been a member of the Presbyterian church there. He has also been a member of the K. of P. lodge for nearly 25 years and his character and worth were valuable assets to that Order. The funeral services were held at the Van Fleet Parlor, being conducted by Rev. P. W. Erickson of the Minot Presbyterian church, assisted by Rev. James Young of the Surrey Presbyterian church. The local K. of P. lodge also assisted in the services and in every way rendered helpful service in this hour of bereavement.

Mrs. St. John has been under the doctor's care for some time and is now recovering from an operation; the loss comes with unusual severity to her because of these circumstances. The family have the heartfelt sympathy of the entire community. The life is gone but he will always be held in grateful remembrance in the entire Surrey community.

**CAUGHT IN WOLF TRAP.**  
 While investigating the peculiar actions of a coyote near a dead cow on

the Little Missouri river the other day, Gus Sunblad stepped into a wolf trap. The trap was of the large double-jaw kind with teeth and if it had not been for the fact that he had been wearing heavy high-top shoes and overshoes at the time he would doubtless have suffered severe injury. He managed to free himself by unlacing his shoe and drawing his foot out, leaving the shoe in the trap. He succeeded in releasing his shoe from the trap and after putting it on again he stepped carefully back to his wagon. —Schaefer Record.

**Major Murphy Failing Fast.**

D. A. Dinnie returned from Minneapolis Tuesday where he transacted business. Just before leaving, he called up the Major Murphy home and was informed that Mr. Murphy was alive, but failing rapidly and his death was expected within a short time. Mr. Murphy throat all his illness, has suffered little or no pain until the past few days, but he has been in great agony of late.

Enemies only energize a man worth while.