

THE FOX IS NOT SO BAD

By Rev. A. W. Simms, Jr.

While we hear a good deal about the fox and his bad features, we do not seem to hear anything good that he does. I suppose that is because we still live under the influence of our childhood storybooks, and have not the slightest idea why he was created, let us consider the fox and other game, and the preservation of sports, and also the usefulness of this critter that some of our so called killer sports would like to get rid of

at the expense of his fellow sportsmen. If we continue to encourage the desire to kill there will not be any kind of game left in the world in the course of a few years. All game the fox included lived in this country in peace and harmless long before the white man came here.

If the fox had been such a bad animal and so destructive, there would have been no game here when we settled it, but on the other hand there was plenty, and besides the fox being one of the greatest sports himself, and offering to man one of the most wholesome and moral recreations that there is he has also another quality that we so often forget, and I suppose that is because we are influenced by the fables of childhood such as the fox and the

roster, he is a great little hustler following the ditch banks, corn strips and other haunts of the mouse, moles and rats, and any animal that is an enemy to these pests is a friend to the farmer, and also to humanity if we are to believe our government statistics.

The only way to keep our boys on the farm is to offer them good wholesome recreation at their door, it has well been said that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, and I would like to add that the generation of today are not going to be dull for the lack of play. That part of them that amounts to anything or there is any possibility in, and they are to be admired for it.

The bright lights have no lure for the boy that knows the sport of the country. The reason our boys leave the farms is because he is never taught about the fox the nuisances and the destructive animal and the value of his fur, and none of his good

qualities, the skunk and the value of his hide, the rabbit and his meat, and so on everything in dollars or its equivalent, and never the real usefulness or the pleasure it offers to man.

It seems that we are living in an age of killers when people love to kill or take life for the thrill, which almost prove its self by the human life is taken, is it kill, kill, kill, all we are to hear even from our sportsmen, or are we to hear preservation without the intention of saving life so we can have a big slaughter at a later date.

The fox hunter is not a killer, he goes to save his game for a later date at all times and a real hunter will go out of his way to save and protect his sport. He also breaks his dog so he will not pursue other game. The real reason we have foxes to day is because the hunter himself has protected and cared for

the fox and his young, while we have a law to protect him there is no officer to keep watch on the trapper and fur dealer and some of them are destroying them until it is becoming alarming to the man that loves to ride to the cry of the pack, and I hope always will ride. The father of our nation was a great fox hunter (George Washington), and may this great moral sport ever live among us.

If we are to protect sport we must not start by trying to destroy sport. If we are to have rabbits or partridges we must look at the cause of them being destroyed in another way besides the poor fox, the little game he destroys will never be missed, the best hunting grounds are when all game is together. Where does the breeders go where are all the game that is turned out? This is where. What the pet hunter does not kill goes into the high land traps, there is the end of the breeders and we must have breeders if we are to have anything. The end of game is pot hunters and traps.

Pot or bag hunters I have heard of them making such big kills that they would leave them lay for fear they would get caught, and brag about getting every bird in a covey. They are to blame in a large sense for the lack of game. The stray or the woods roaming cat live on the game that we pay our license to hunt and have protected the cur dog also plays a very important part in the scarcity of game. Last but not least is the high land trapper, this is the most deadly of all and is to be blamed for the most of our trouble in keeping a stock of game of all kinds. This ought to be strictly looked after. I don't see why this has not been looked after and something done.

In the first place we have a law for the protection of cruelty to animals, and the very members will stop a man from whipping a horse or ill treating any domestic animal and at the same time wearing fur that some poor animal has been caught and suffered all night, or froze or starved to death in a steel trap, and they have just as much feeling as our domesticated animals. The trap is not only cruel, and destructive but inhuman. That is the steel trap. Also there is no more big

forests for game to hide from the winter weather, so the breeder that has escaped these other pests, must take refuge in the den of some other animal, but when he gets there he finds a trap waiting and he is gone, will find there is a trap in almost every hole in the country and many of them are not taken up or looked after.

I have found traps in the fall that were set the year before, traps in the spring of the year with dead rabbits or partridges in them, so they collected their toll from the breeders, the high land trapper can do the country no good for he catches the useful animals, the fox and the skunk, and the game that we try so hard to protect. I have heard a trapper say he caught 55 rabbits in one season and ten partridges, these were all breeders. How can we have game.

The steel trap ought to be done away with and a stricter law on game. The season ought to be shortened, and not come in before the first of December, and a strict enforcement of a law for the protection of both the fox and the skunk. This is not book study but being interested in all our door sport and in the farm and farmer it has come from experiences and observation, also I hope that there will never be a law in our State to try to do away with the fox and the great sport he offers to both the rich and the poor, and especially our country boy whom the whole nation is depending on for its living.

Underwater Terrors

The average weight of the American submarines ranges from 600 to 800 tons. The thickness of the sides is from one-quarter of an inch to one-half an inch, depending upon the type of submarine.

Narrow Idea

We think of liberty as something that was won in the Revolutionary war and placed on file for all time in the archives in Washington—Brand Whitlock.

Simple Sharpener

An easy way to sharpen scissors is with sandpaper. You will not have to wait for a grinder to come around.

THE UNPARDONABLE SIN

In his preachments Elbert Hubbard reflects: "I am not sure what the unpardonable sin is, but I believe it is the disposition to postpone and evade the payment of small bills." How vast is the army of workers-for-their-fellowmen who can say amen to that little sermon.

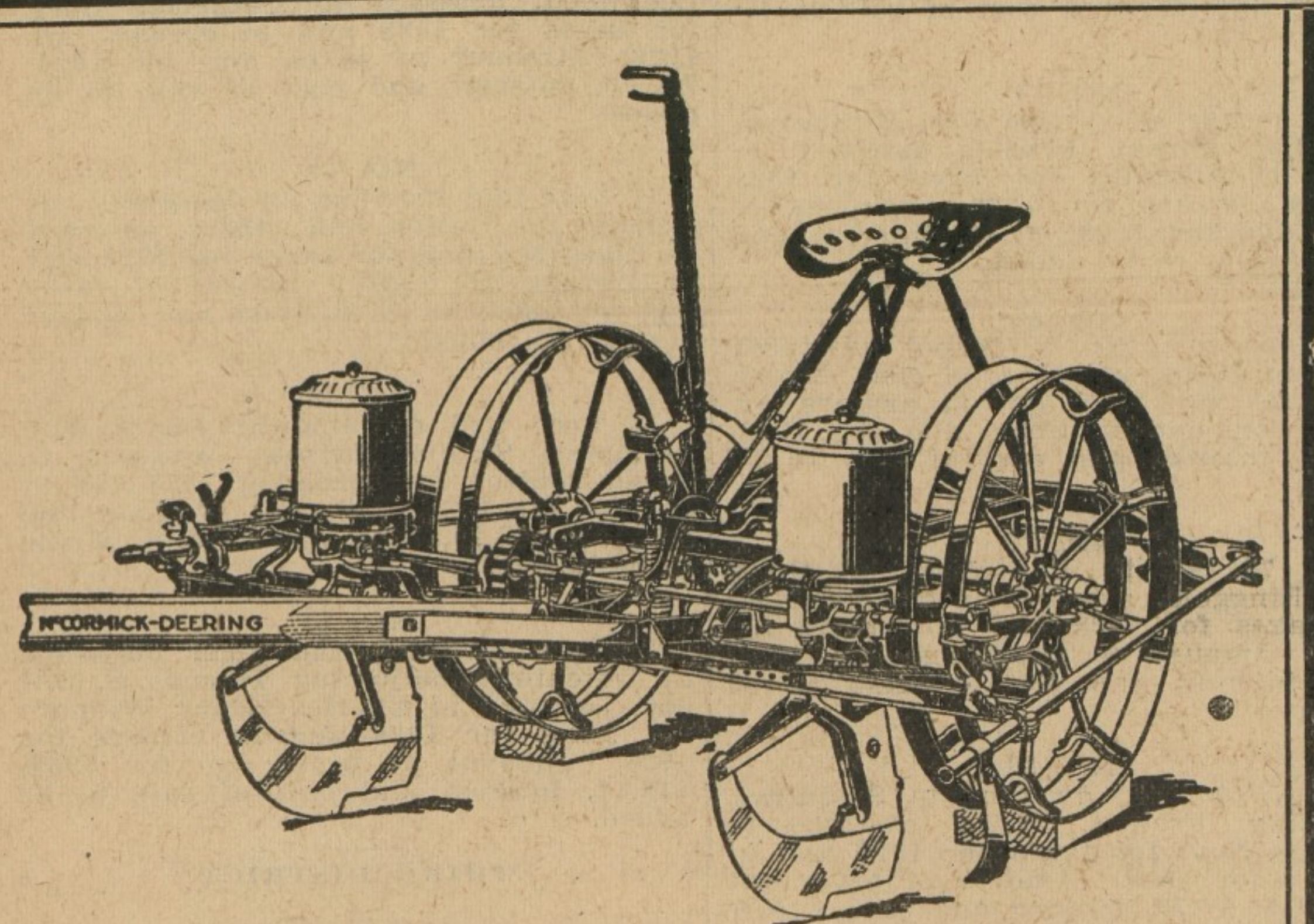
Perhaps there are sins more unpardonable than "the postponement and evasion of bill-paying," but at least it cannot be said that there is a sin more frequent in commission. Tradespeople, professional men and other public servants will attest to the latter as a declaration of fact.

To be sure, no one would place the brand of "dead-beat" upon all who are slow in paying. There are extenuating circumstances in all phases of life, and financial reverses, poverty and ill-fortune are visited upon some members of the human family sometime during their worldly existence. Toward the creditor-world gladly shows patience. But Hubbard remarks that "curiously enough the people who are most given to this sort of sin are not the poor nor the illiterate."

Hubbard might have mused over the matter further and found that the "postponers and evaders of payments of small bills" may be divided into two groups: Those who must gratify a mania for buying, knowing they have not the wherewithal to pay for their extravagances, and those who, without any perverted intent to defraud or cheat, have allowed themselves to acquire the habit of "slow-paying." The former in time lose their credit, but the latter lose the respect of their fellowmen, which is greater than credit. Make a bargain, and keep it. Every man is entitled to the dollar he has earned, and if you accept service you admit his title to his "pay" for that service.—Snow Hill Messenger.

Almanacs

Remarkable manuscript almanacs, dating from 1292, are preserved in the British museum and also in the libraries of Oxford and Cambridge. The first printed almanac known appeared between the years 1450 and 1461 and "The Kalender of Sheperdes," which appeared about 1497, was the earliest one printed in English.



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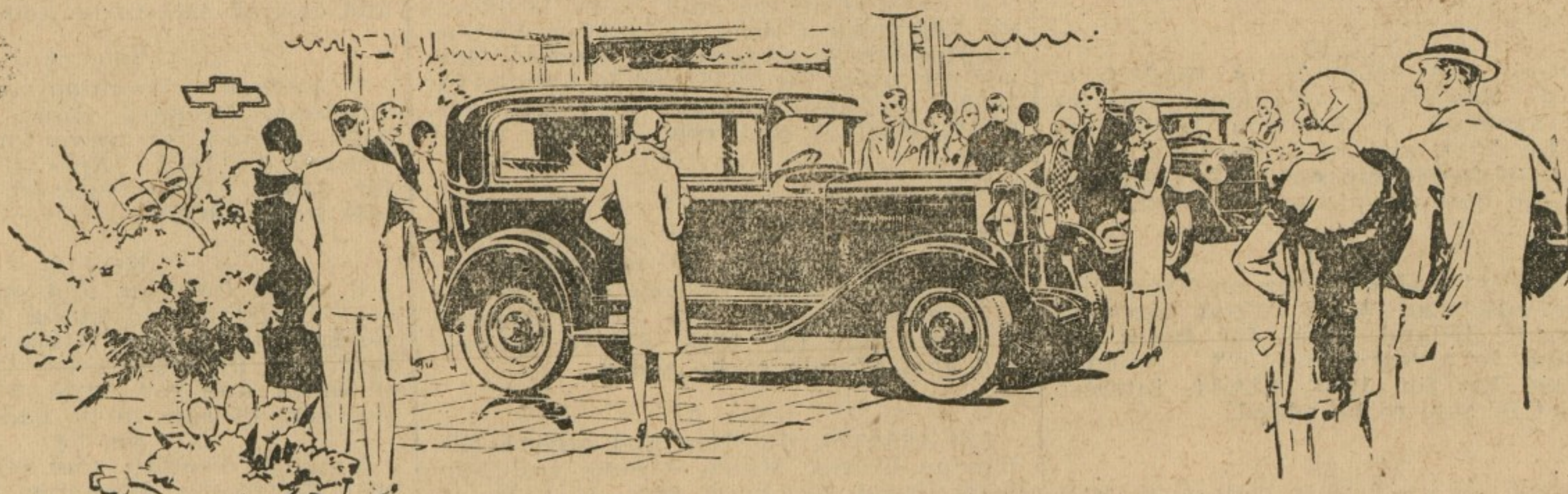
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