



## Summer Hats.

The ladies like their Summer Hats ready. Why not the men? Our assortment is now complete. Come look.

## Summer Suits

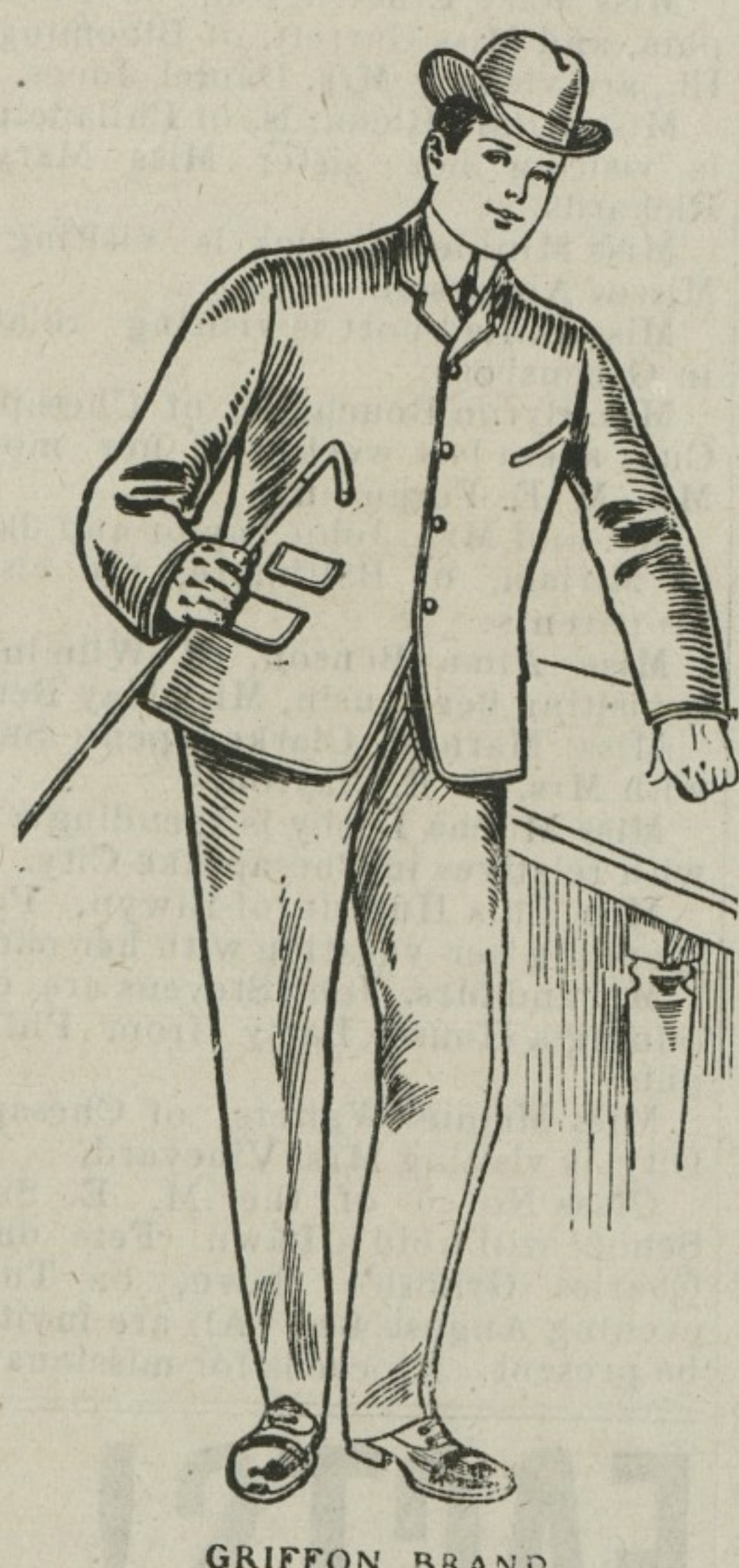
are likewise ready.

MEN'S, Boys' and Children's.

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GRIFTON BRAND

### ARE OUR SCHOOLS INADEQUATE?

BY THE EDITOR OF HARPER'S WEEKLY.

Various college presidents and professors have at various times informed the people, and especially ambitious parents, of the inadequacy of the preparatory schools, for the task of preparing boys and girls to enter college. So much has been said of the weakness of these schools in this regard that in some imperfectly informed quarters the suspicion has been excited that they are failures in every respect, and scarcely worth their maintenance. It is interesting, and may be profitable, therefore, to note an example of a disposition to pass the blame farther down the line to the schools below the high school. In a New England city, where money is expended lavishly upon the whole public school system, and where presumably a correspondingly high condition of efficiency has been reached, attention has been recently directed to a suggestive result of an examination of the pupils who entered the high school in September last. Not one of them reached an average of 90 per cent. while most were considerably lower, and a surprising large number far below. Six members of the class were sent back to the grammar grades as being entirely unfit for the high school, and twenty or thereabouts were suspended because they stood below 50 per cent., with the warning that they must exhibit adequate reason for reinstatement before they can return. Requirements are not very strict, either, only 70 per cent. being exacted to ensure advancement. When an explanation of this poor showing is sought, superintendent and principal talk for the public about radical changes in methods making difficulties for new pupils, but a department teacher to whose care these pupils are committed, says bluntly, "Not one of them comes up to the high school from the grammar school ready to do the work," and inquiry among high-school teachers discloses such a judgment to be prevalent.

### HOW OLD ARE YOU?

You can easily find out a person's age in what may seem a very mysterious manner. The little story that gives the secret away is told as follows:

There was once a wise king who was awfully curious. He was possessed of a desire to know everything and was continually asking questions. Indeed, his thirst for knowledge carried him so far that he wanted to know the age of every person he met. But, being king he was exceedingly polite, and would resort to strategy to gain his ends.

One day there came to court a gray-haired professor, who amused the king greatly. He told the monarch a number of things he never knew before, and the king was delighted. But finally it came to the point when the ruler wanted to know the age of the professor, so he thought of a mathematical problem.

"Anem," said the king, "I have an interesting sum for you; it is a trial in mental arithmetic. Think of the number of the month of your birth."

"Now the professor was sixty years old, and had been born two days before Christmas, so he thought of twelve, December being the twelfth month."

"Yes," said the professor.

"Multiply it by two," continued the king.

"Yes."

"Add five."

"Yes," said the professor doing so.

"Now multiply by fifty."

"Yes."

"Add your age."

"Yes."

"Subtract 265."

"Yes."

"Add 115."

"Yes."

"And now," said the king, "might I ask what the result is?"

"Twelve hundred and sixty," replied the professor, wondering.

"Thank you," was the king's response.

"So you were born in December, sixty years ago, eh?"

"Why how in the world did you know?" cried the professor.

"Why," retorted the king, "from your answer—1260. The month of your birth was the twelfth, and the last two figures give your age."

"Ha, ha!" laughed the professor.

"Capital idea. I'll try it on the next person I meet. It's such a polite way of finding out people's ages."

### How Ruskin Subscribed.

At the dedication of the Jacob Tome institute of Port Deposit, Md., Leighton Coleman, the bishop of Delaware, said: "No doubt you are all aware that John Ruskin was opposed to the promiscuous erection of new churches. Begging for building funds for churches he especially abhorred. He claimed that unless there was a clamant need for a church, unless the people desired it passionately, unless there was on hand an abundance of money for its building, it would be a failure—a failure in point of beauty and in point of usefulness equally."

"A friend of mine, ignorant of this prejudice, once wrote and asked him to subscribe for the building of a certain church. The letter that Ruskin sent in reply was a jewel. Eight pages long, it condemned with the most burning and vehement eloquence the church's erection. But my friend took the letter to an autograph dealer and sold it readily for \$30, putting Ruskin down for that amount on his subscription list."

### PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC TREES.

Growing Interest in the Care of These Products of Nature.

One of the most significant facts in the prevailing activity for local and national improvements is the growing interest in tree preservation. Old and historic trees except in a few isolated cases, have never been regarded with more devotion than at the present time. A popular love of nature is abroad. It has found expression not only in the jealous care bestowed upon certain individual trees, but in the demand for state and national forest reservations.

In New York and Boston the subject of tree preservation has appealed powerfully to the popular mind. Here the sacrifice of hundreds of shade trees along the route of the underground railway comes as a heavy blow to many of the residents of the city, while the people of Boston about the same time experienced the shock of realizing that the old elms on their historic common were in danger of annihilation through decay and lack of proper care. In fact, three large elms dating back before revolutionary days, had to be cut down. They were the noblest survivors of American elms on the common since the famous common elm was blown down in a gale of 1876. English elms have been planted in their places, and steps have been taken to prevent the transformation of the historic little park and playground into a miniature prairie. The famous dwarf gingko tree still remains, dear to the heart of every Bostonian and lover of Holmes for the latter immortalized the tree in his "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table."

CARLISLE PINES.

It is also of interest to note the permanent preservation of the celebrated Waverly oaks and the majestic Carlisle pines, accomplished primarily through the efforts of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Of the Waverly oaks it has been said that there is not another group of such noble trees in the Eastern states. Their age has been estimated at from 400 to 800 years. James Russell Lowell, who made a careful study of one that was cut down over 50 years ago, said he counted 750 rings in the base of the trunk. These survivors of the forest primeval are in the Beaver Brook Park reservation, a short distance from Boston. There are over fifty acres in the park, and it was the first to be acquired by the metropolitan park commission, which was created in 1803.

The Carlisle pines, which were saved from all danger of destruction about two years ago, stand in a little reservation of ten acres, twenty miles from Boston. The Appalachian Mountain Club is custodian of the property. The trees are white pines, and the group is the only remaining one of the extensive white pine forest which covered a large part of New England in aboriginal days.

The difficulties of tree preservation were illustrated a few weeks ago in Hartford, when, despite popular appeals, the old Wadsworth elm, or Washington elm, as it was also familiarly called, was cut down, owing to its decayed condition. The elm stood in front of the Wadsworth Athenaeum, and in 1894 the Sons of the American Revolution placed a bronze shield upon its trunk recording the fact that Washington was entertained there by Capt. Jeremiah Wadsworth on June 29, 1775, while on his way to Cambridge to take command of the American army. Since the loss of the Charter Oak this elm was the most historic tree in Hartford. It was badly decayed, and when the trunk was cut through it was found that the live wood was barely two inches thick. The fear that the venerable elm might fall during a storm led the municipal authorities to order its demolition. A large section of the trunk has been placed in the rooms of the Connecticut Historical Society.

### THE CHARTER OAK.

The Charter Oak, although it is now half a century since a great storm hurled it to the ground, still lives not only in memory, but in countless souvenirs shaped from its wood and better yet, in two vigorous offshoots, now sturdy and graceful trees growing in Bushnell Park, Hartford. Since Mark Twain uttered the facetious remark that the bridge over the Connecticut river at Hartford was built entirely of Charter Oak timbers, a natural suspicion has been directed against Charter Oak Souvenirs. In the city of its home, however, one may see some handsome pieces of the original tree: The Connecticut Historical Society possesses several, but the finest specimen is in the capitol. It is a chair made wholly from Charter Oak, exquisitely carved, and is occupied by the speaker of the Senate during the legislative sessions. The old Connecticut charter is still sheltered within the tree as it was in 1687, only instead of being secretly hid in the great cavity it is now in a box made from wood which was carefully selected after the destruction of the oak. Many estimates have been made of the probable age of the historic tree, and from 900 to 1000 years have been accepted by many botanists. This is in accordance with Dryden, who says: "The monarch oak, the patriarch of the trees, shoots rising up and spreads by slow degrees. Three centuries he grows and three he stays Supreme in state; and in three more decays."

A penny in the slot machine in Sweden gives, for a small coin, a pint of good milk, warmed. Stockholm has found the experiment so successful that the demand for machines has largely increased, and the liquor dealers state that their sales have been diminished by the new system.

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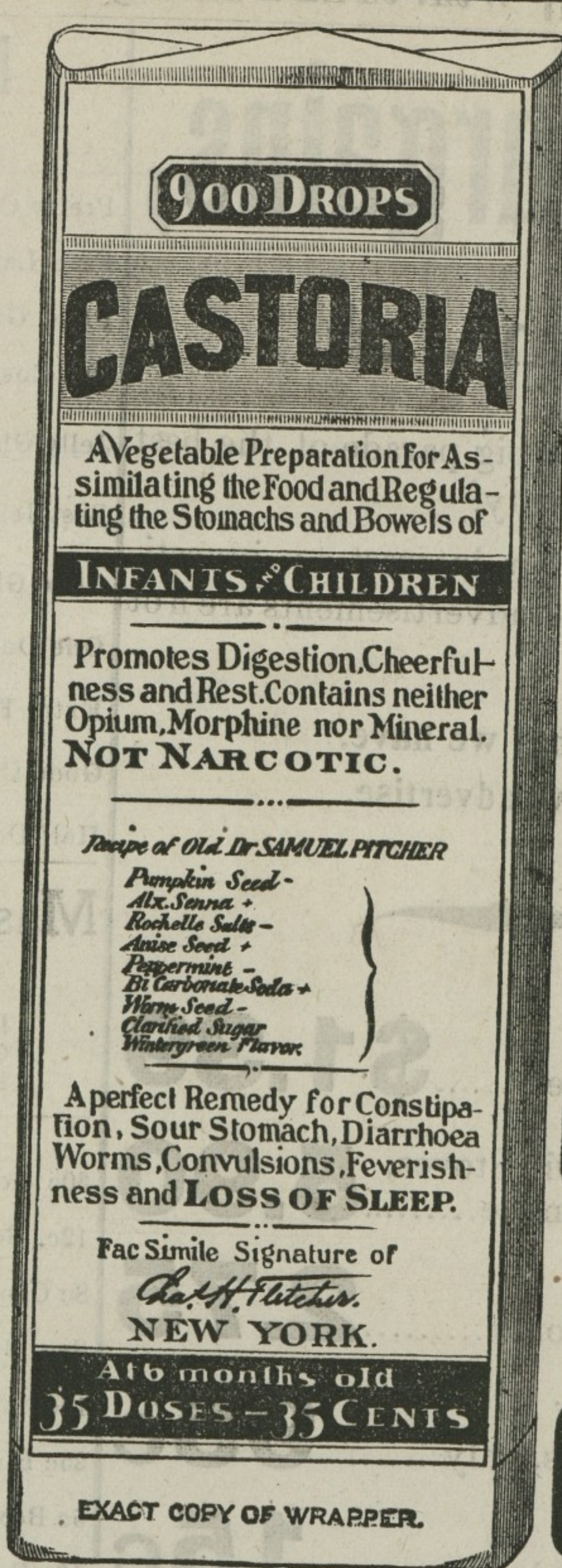
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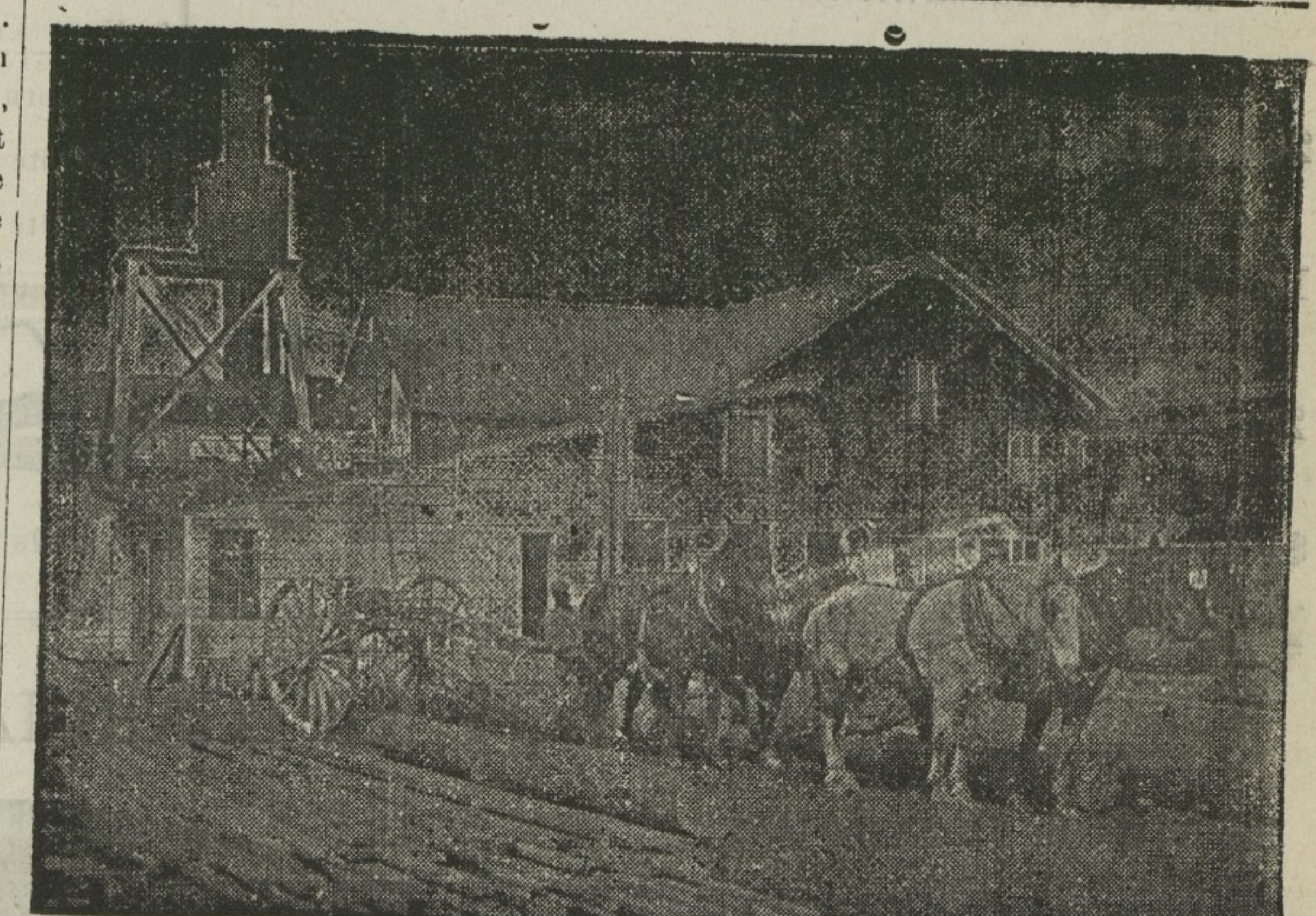
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