

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., May 20, 1898.

FARM NOTES.

In setting out an orchard as soon as the trees arrive plow a deep furrow and heel them in preparatory to planting, deepen the furrow to fifteen inches with a spade, cut the twine which holds the bundle together, spread out in the trench and cover with dirt. After all the trees are in, wet the roots thoroughly. They can safely stay here until the land is in proper order for planting.

I plant my trees in rows 32 feet apart and 16 feet apart in the row, making 80 trees per acre. The rows run north and south.

Well drained land is essential to a good orchard. I plow north and south where I wish the rows to stand, plowing as deeply as possible and having the deep furrow come where a row of trees is to stand, plow up the bottom of the dead furrow, stirring as deeply as possible, then by back furrowing make a ridge on which to set the trees.

When the land is properly staked scoop out a large hole where the tree is to stand and place some good soil in the bottom, having it highest in the center. Never bend the roots, cut back bruised or broken roots to sound wood. Plant two inches deeper than the trees were in the nursery. Lean considerably toward the two o'clock sun, with the lowest and heaviest branches on the south west side. Plant the soil with soil powder and pack it very carefully about the roots. Use the best surface soil for filling it. Never let pure manure come in contact with the roots, but place it on top of the ground. When the hole is three-fourths filled, wet with four or five gallons of water and after the water has disappeared finish filling it. Staking is never needed if trees are well planted.

Much trees with coarse manure or straw six inches or more in depth. Do not let grass or weeds grow in the orchard. Thorough cultivation eight or nine times in a season is a great factor in growing a successful orchard. Constantly cut two feet long and tied about the base of the tree are almost a complete protection against borers, mice, rabbits and sunscald. I plant the wide space between the trees to some kind of a crop, leaving plenty of room for cultivating the trees and fertilizing them. It is better to plant no trees at all than poor varieties or to plant good varieties and neglect to care for them.

In selecting a site for a rosebed it is of the first importance to see that it is well drained. Roses will not do well on soil that is wet and soggy, or one that holds water. The ideal rose soil is a rich loam with a porous airy subsoil, but as every lover of the rose has not got this sort of land it is well to remark that one can, by artificial means, overcome the natural defects of the soil and location. If the soil is compact, with tight subsoil, then the top should be removed and the subsoil loosened up to the depth of two feet and a quantity of gravel or sand mixed with it. If the location of the bed is not high and well drained the drainage should be provided. The top soil should be replaced, adding thereto a liberal quantity of rotted sods, rich compost or bone meal, the top soil incorporating with the soil. The plants should be set three feet apart each way, says Vick's Magazine.

One of the worst diseases which afflicts our roses is the black spot, a fungus disease which appears on the foliage in small black spots, which increase rapidly in size and number, and soon cause the leaf to drop. It is infectious and rapidly spreads to other leaves and plants, and soon defoliates the plants and ruins the flowers. It is a good practice to gather all the diseased leaves and burn them, thereby destroying the spores and checking the further spread of the fungus. But the only sure way of preventing the disease is to commence early in the spring, as soon as the leaves appear, to spray the plants thoroughly once each week throughout the season with Bordeaux mixture. I find this to be almost a complete remedy for this disease as well as for the mildew, and much better than sulphur for the latter. My roses are never troubled to any great extent with insects. The flowers should all be cut when they begin to fade; if left on the plant they not only look unsightly, but check the production of flowers. Weeds or grass should never be allowed in the rosebed. In dry weather the plants must have plenty of water if flowers are to be expected. I find a mulch of straw or other litter of the greatest value in producing fancy roses.

This mulch should be placed over the entire surface of the bed to the depth of six inches to one foot, or at least deep enough to prevent weed growth. It keeps the soil cool and moist during the hottest weather, and roses so treated thrive luxuriantly. One always regrets losing the tender leaves and other roses during the winter. They always become so much better if wintered over. After some experiment I have discovered a method which is entirely successful. In brief my method is as follows: Take common, cheap lumber 12 inches wide and saw it into lengths of 36 inches, nail these together as for a box, but without top or bottom. In the late autumn, before the severe cold weather, cut back the tea roses to within six inches of the ground. Set a box over the plant, fill with dry straw or sawdust and cover with a board so as to keep the tops dry. They will come through in perfect condition.

It is the habit of most farmers to plant a few potatoes for early use in the garden. But this is a bad practice, because often the potatoes are planted on the same ground year after year, and as the germs of disease live in the soil over winter the potatoes thus grown are likely to be diseased. Besides, where potatoes are grown in succession the soil is filled with hard shell potato bugs, which come up just about the time the potatoes do and will often be found gnawing the potato shoot before it is fairly out of the ground. It is much better to plant a clover sod somewhere on rich land for the early potatoes and reserve the garden for vegetables not so easily grown by field culture.

The tomato needs a long season to mature its fruit, and frost often kills the vines just as the fruit is beginning to ripen. Strong stocky plants, well started under shelter and ready to put out in open ground as soon as danger of frost is over, are desirable, but the tall, weak and spindling specimens so often offered for sale are to be avoided. The gardener may be overkind to his tomatoes by planting them in rich, damp soil. So treated the plants will make an excessive growth of vine and leaf, but bear little fruit. Planting on a dry piece of ground moderately fertilized will give better results.

New Naval Warfare.

Interesting Description of How an Ironclad is Fought.

Now that a new naval war is imminent the nature of the discipline on board an ironclad in action will be of interest to the general reader. The distribution of the crew for action is based on the principle of dividing the armament into "quarters," and to number or name the guns so as to give them an individuality without reference to their size. When action is imminent every one on board repairs to the allotted station, below, on deck or aloft. The gunner obtains the keys of the magazines, gives them to the men in charge, sees that the lights are lit and everything in working order. As soon as the guns are cleared away and loaded report to that effect is made to the captain.

When this has been done the gun crews are provided with small arms, upon which they close up round their guns and await further orders. A supply of light, quick-firing machine-guns, rifle and pistol ammunition is then passed up ready for distribution on deck and a proportion of it sent aloft. This ammunition is served out first to the small-arm party and to boarders, and to the remainder of the crew as soon as their guns are cleared away and arms provided. In each tube a torpedo is placed ready for discharge. Helmsmen are provided ready to take charge of the helm, steering apparatus in the event of the steam steering gear being carried away. Orderlies, buglers and men stationed at voice tubes are ordered to repair to their stations but the use of the bugle in action is restricted as far as possible, as long and complicated calls are liable to be misunderstood.

The dress for men in action is as inflammable as possible, the blue working rig being considered the best. There is no reason why action dress should not in future be saturated with the non-inflammable material similar to that now employed in all American ships of war. It is a curious point that in action boots and shoes are ordered to be worn by all men on deck and in the tops. That portion of the crew engaged in the magazines are provided with list slippers. There was a great tendency in Nelson's time to strip during action. This practice is now discouraged. Waist belts and patches are worn, and men who have pistols are obliged to wear them. A fire brigade, consisting of carpenters and stokers, screw on hose and rig all hand pumps ready for fire. A man is stationed at each water-tight door, which is kept open, ready to close it when the order is given. As the spread of fire may at any time menace the safety of the magazine, the key of the valve admitting water to the magazine level is either kept in the personal charge of the captain or at his discretion by the officer in charge of the gun-deck. A supply of oatmeal and water for drinking is arranged all over the ship, especially in the vicinity of magazines, machinery compartments, stoke-holes and shell-rooms. No intoxicating liquor is served on the day of action on board any well-regulated ironclad. This is a great departure from the practice of double rations of grog that were in vogue a hundred years ago.

Every division of boarders ready to leap onto the enemy's ship and take it by assault when its armament has been silenced has a special place of its own on the upper deck, with the men repair when called. Every officer on board has a special station where he is to be found unless specially employed elsewhere. The danger of fire during action since the battle of Yalu has occupied close attention of admirals of all countries. All fires breaking out below the gun deck are in charge of the fire brigade, thus leaving the gun crews free for their important duties. When, however, the fire is likely to make head notwithstanding the efforts of the firemen or if more gun crews are called off as necessary may arise for the purpose of attending the hose. As a fire may occur in the neighborhood of a magazine or shell-room, and the supply of ammunition to the guns on deck during action be interrupted from this cause, a special drill for obviating this difficulty is arranged, so as to prevent the slackening of fire, by the provision of shell and ammunition from other magazines. If the fire is on the gun-deck the shell crews are not told off to deal with it except in emergency, as the maintenance of rapid and steady fire in action is the paramount object of every commander. In case the fire breaks out in the vicinity of the gun-deck, the attention is directed to the danger of going to general fire stations, the guns are fired or their ammunition is thrown overboard. The small ammunition on deck is either thrown overboard or placed in a convenient position for that purpose. Other details of action drill include the resistance to torpedo-boat attack, which the Americans are now hard at work practicing in their various squadrons. If an attack be expected by night in dry weather, the decks, gun-carriages, etc., are white-washed—a device which in the absence of artificial light is of great service to the crew of a ship attacked by torpedo boats. The use of small arms is discouraged, as experience shows that no weapon using lead bullets is of much use in repelling torpedo-attack. The guns in the firing-tops, as they enjoy the advantage of plunging fire through the unprotected decks of the torpedo-boats, are found to be the best primary means of defense. The larger guns can only be used against torpedo boats for one or two rounds. They are reserved when hitting is practically assured, and then only in a last resource. The introduction of smokeless powder for the auxiliary armament is likely to prove an immense advantage to the American navy, as with ordinary vigilance the successful approach of a torpedo boat is practically impossible. In the event of a night attack, and in fact in action altogether, the use of the bugle is restricted as much as possible. None but important orders are now conveyed by it. The noise of action under any circumstances is bewildering, the torrent of the three-pounders in the tops being considered more trying than heavy guns in turret. Each gun, in the event of torpedo attack, is given a definite arc of the horizon to defend, and the gun crews are forbidden from directing their aim at any object outside the limits of those arcs. All the men at disengaged guns are as a rule ordered to lie down and to take cover as much as possible, but they are not as a rule sent below during an action, as the services of the guns may be required to be resumed at any moment.

The fire discipline prescribed in the navies of the great powers is practically the same, though long experience has taught British naval authorities certain details of secrets of the greatest value, which, being confidential, cannot be disclosed in a newspaper article. More than a score of submarine cables, operated by six different companies, afford means of telegraphic communication between the West Indies and this country, and the places of particular importance are so well connected that any interruption in the services is regarded as unlikely by the officials of the cable companies. Nevertheless, the vigilance of the Spanish censors at Porto Rico, Santiago de Cuba and Havana and of American censors at Key West and New York prevents the unrestricted transmission of news and causes delays in the dispatches which are passed by the censors as well as the suppression of messages which do not meet with favor of these officials.

From Porto Rico there are four lines, all under control of the Spanish censors. The cable of the West Indies and Panama cable company crosses the islands, and one line extends from Juan, on the north coast, the other from Ponce, on the south coast, both to Kingston, Jamaica. From the latter place the line of the Direct West India cable extends by way of Turk's island and Bermuda to Halifax, whence land lines and the cables of the Commercial cable company afford abundant communication with New York. From Jamaica there are also the double cable lines of the Cuban submarine telegraph company to Santiago de Cuba, thence to Cienfuegos, thence to Batabano, and across the island of Cuba to Havana. Four western union cables cross from that city to Key West, and thence to Punta Rassa, whence land lines carry the messages to New York.

The other two lines of the West India and Panama cable company leave Porto Rico from San Juan and Ponce and extend to St. Thomas, whence a single cable runs through the Lesser Antilles to Martinique, and on down to Trinidad and South American points. The French West Indies cable company can take a message at Martinique and send it to Porto Plata, Haiti, thence to Cape Haitien and on by several loops to Santiago de Cuba, where it can be taken by the Cuban submarine telegraph company. Or at Cape Haitien the United States and Haiti telegraph and cable company can take the message and send it by its direct line to New York.

All messages coming from Porto Rico now have to pass the Spanish censor at San Juan or Ponce. But from St. Thomas messages can be sent by using the lines of three different companies, at heavy expense by way of Martinique and Haiti, to New York, and here they will come under the scrutiny of the American censor, who stands guard at the New York end of the line, at No. 17 William street. Upon the capture of Porto Rico the cable lines will fall into the hands of the United States, and Rear Admiral Sampson will be able to report to Washington either by way of Jamaica and Halifax or by way of Martinique and Haiti.—New York Tribune.

But Blanco Gets His Three Meals a Day.

According to accounts received here the blockade of Havana is pinching the inhabitants dreadfully. Nothing in the shape of supplies is entering the city, and the residents are gloomy and depressed. Orders have been issued by General Blanco prohibiting dealers from selling more than one day's supplies to the same persons at one time. Fresh provisions are very scarce and meat is selling at 75 to 80 cents gold per pound. The lower classes of the people are suffering greatly and the animals are perishing.

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Spain with its 18,000,000 people has fewer newspapers than the state of Illinois with its population of 3,500,000. The Spanish press censorship is very strict.

How to Look Good.—Good looks are really more than skin deep, depending entirely on a healthy condition of all the vital organs. If the liver is inactive, you have a bilious look; if your stomach is disordered, you have a dyspeptic look; if your kidneys are affected, you have a pinched look. Secure good health, and you will surely have good looks. "Electric Bitters" is a good Alterative and Tonic. Acts directly on the stomach, liver and kidneys, purifies the blood, cures pimples, blotches and boils, and gives a good complexion. Every bottle guaranteed. Sold at F. Potts Green's drug store. 50 cents per bottle.

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Spanish Cabinet Out.

Sagasta Still at the Head.—Being the Liberal Leader He is Charged With the Formation of the New Governing Body.

The Spanish Cabinet resigned Sunday though Senator Sagasta will be charged with the task of forming a new one. The Liberal Cabinet, under Senator Sagasta, was formed shortly after the assassination of Senator Canovas del Castillo, on August 8th, 1897. General Azaraga, the then Minister of War, was first appointed president; but Senator Sagasta assumed office on Oct. 4th, confronted by the troublemakers in Cuba since the first steps taken by Senator Sagasta were to recall General Weyler. After the brilliant victory of the United States fleet under Commodore Dewey, on May 1st, the situation became more and more strained, and the Minister of Marine, Admiral Bermejo; the Minister of War, General Correa, were repeatedly attacked in Parliament.

"The conclusion to be drawn from the reorganization, that they are seeking a peacable solution of the American question, has for the moment been abandoned, and the war will be prosecuted vigorously." Four Ministers, Senors Gullon, Bermejo, Moret and Xiquera, will retire, partly for personal reasons and partly because of differences on important policies. Senator Sagasta will choose the strongest Liberals he can find, but several of the strongest, notably Senator Gamazo, have intimated that they will not take office at present. It is hoped and expected that General Correa, Minister of War, who has valuable qualifications for his present post, will remain.

Havana is Confident.

People Think the Americans Cannot Stand the Onslaught.

Blanco has shown great energy in preparing for the expected siege by the American fleet and land forces. The city and forts are provisioned for three or four months. It is believed the mortality among the besiegers in the hot and rainy season will compel the Americans to raise the siege. Havana is now surrounded by entrenchments for thirty miles. The troops in the garrison number 70,000, and a like number are in the interior fighting the insurgents.

The condition of the reconcentrados in Havana grows steadily worse. The Spaniards ask them when their Yankee benefactors are coming to relieve them. The mortality is increasing among the wretched class, who have taken to begging for morsels of food. Nobody in Havana except a few higher officers know that the Spanish fleet was annihilated at Manila, and the story is believed that the Americans were beaten there. Blanco allows no unfavorable news to be circulated. It is believed in Havana that the campaign in the island will prove enormously fatal to the American troops and will be prolonged a year. Another account is that food supplies in Havana are good for a month less time, and that Blanco is in a trap unless the Spanish fleet breaks the blockade to allow supplies to come in. The Havana people continue light-hearted and the theatres put on pieces ridiculing the American fleet.

Living on Horse Flesh.

Provisions Running Very Short in Manila.—Insurgents Wanted to Attack the City.

HONG KONG, May 15.—The United States dispatch boat Hugh McCullough arrived here yesterday from Manila with dispatches for the United States government. She reports that the Spanish gsnboat Calao, from the Caroline islands, recently entered Manila, being ignorant of the outbreak of the hostilities. An American war ship fired across her bows and signaled her to demand for her surrender. The demand being disregarded, the American ships fired directly at the Spanish gsnboat and the latter surrendered. The populace of Manila is reduced to eating horseflesh, and the prospect of relief seems far distant. The Philippine insurgents applied to Rear Admiral Dewey for his approval of an attack by them upon the city. The admiral approved of the plan provided no excesses were committed. The insurgents then pleaded that they had no arms, with the exception of machetes, to which the admiral replied: "Help yourselves at the Cavite arsenal."

Starvation Near Havana.

Carruages of Dead Reconcentrados Taken Daily Through the Spanish Lines.

A tale of great suffering in Havana was brought to Key West, by Major Lima, inspector of the northern coast of Cuba of the Cuban army under General Alexander Rodriguez, who arrived last week with four officers of his staff. Major Lima was taken off the coast of Cuba between Del Norte and Ojmar by a United States gsnboat, and was transferred to a torpedo boat, which vessel brought him here. The Major is the bearer of dispatches for the United States military authorities asking for the co-operation of the latter and seeking arms and supplies. He may proceed to Tampa after conferring with Commodore Watson.

Major Lima says the uprising in the vicinity of Havana has brought about frightful conditions of starvation. He adds that carruages of reconcentrados who have died from lack of food are taken daily through the Spanish lines. The bodies are thrown together in piles, without any form of burial, for the buzzards to feed upon. Major Lima asserts that the Cubans around Havana are gathering strength every day, but he explains that they are in need of supplies.

The Katabidin.

A Vessel for Which Foreign Nations Have no Match. Naval experts have argued for and against the value of the ram vessel Katabidin as a factor in a sea fight, while all admit that the ram itself is an extremely powerful and dangerous weapon. A ship designed exclusively for ramming is something which is still to be tested, and at present the arguers are holding their peace, waiting to hear what the odd looking craft will have to say when she confronts an army enemy. On her last trip she failed to make the speed required by her contract, and improved propellers of magazine bronze were substituted for those originally used. These had the effect of materially increasing her speed and adding to the discomfort of those on board, for the work of speeding her is not at all agreeable to those who are below when she is in a hurry. When she is going at full speed the only objects visible above the deck are the steel conning tower, which is used as a pilot house; the smoke pipes, the ventilators and a slender signal mast, and below everything is a smother of heat and a deafening racket. The steel ram of the Katabidin weighs about fourteen tons, and as her hull, about fifteen feet back from her stem, is of the novel nose order, she throws a great mass of water up over her deck when under way. As this ram is her only weapon of offence, it seems as if this trouble could now be avoided. A peculiarity of her hull is the knife-edge which the deck makes in its projection over the underwater part of her hull. This is expected to exert a great cutting force in case she could succeed in getting

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- Fine Cheese,
- Fine Canned Goods,
- Fine Syrups,
- Fine Dried Fruits,
- Fine Hams,
- Fine Bacon,
- Fine Olives,
- Fine Pickles,
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- Fine Oranges,
- Fine Lemons,
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