Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., Sept. 8, 1899.

FARM NOTES.

The fall is the best time for applying lime on the soil, though some farmers use it early in the spring. It does well when a green crop has been plowed under and the lime broadcasted over the surface of the land. Lime is procured in two forms for use on farms, that from limestone being preferred, but lime made by burning oyster shells is also excellent, while wood ashes contain a large proportion. The lime from stone being taken direct from a mineral substance, the shell lime being a product of shell fish, while that in ashes is produced through vegetable sources. In all cases, however, the lime is the same, but in variable quantities, according to the materials from which it is derived, though stone lime gives the most direct results. When limestones or shells are burned there is a liberation of carbonic acid, the substances being changed from carbonate of lime to lime; but as lime has a tendency to revert to carbonate of lime it is disposed to take carbonic acid from the air or any substance containing it in the soil. When slacked with water the result is hydrate of lime, and when air slacked it takes water from the atmosphere, becoming a fine white powder, in which form it is used on land. If the hydrate of lime is not immediately applied but remains long exposed to the air, it unites with the carbonic acid of the atmosphere and becomes carbonate of lime again, being then in the same condition as before being burned. It has really turned to limestone, only it is in the form of a fine powder, and has then lost its power to exert immediate chemical effect. Lime should therefore, be applied as soon as it is sufficiently air slacked to become fine.

THE VALUE OF LIME.

Lime is not classed among the fertilizers which are quickly available for plants. While it enters into the composition of all plants, it must consequently exist in all soils; but its value depends more upon its tendency to hasten chemical action in the soil, rather than upon its use as food for plants; and whether the soil is light or heavy, sterile or fertile, there is some change induced by lime when applied to the land. Its tendency is to work downward for which reason it is advantageous to apply a small quantity every year after the first application, beginning with 30 bushels per acre on light soils and 40 bushels on heavy land, but even 10 bushels will show some result, as lime fits the soil for the presence of micro-organisms which perform an important function in providing plant food, an alkaline condition of the soil being sometimes necessary. As carbonic acid is largely generated by the decay of vegetable matter in the soil the application of lime creates many chemical changes, in which other mineral and organic substances are broken up in their combinations, rendering soluble many inert materials that could not be employed as plant food, but which exist in the soil abundantly. While lime is not, therefore, a necessary adjunct to the soil with other fertilizers, and gives but little direct benefit to a crop itself, yet its indirect action unlocks stores of material and supplies the crop with available fertilizer. The action of lime in the soil has been investigated years ago, as it has always been known to agriculturists, yet it is not fully understood at the present day how it changes soils and dissolves substances which are not affected by it outside of the soil, as it seems to play certain parts according to the soil on which it is used.

LIME AND FERTILITY.

If lime compels the soil to liberate its plant food it is but natural to suppose that the constant use of lime will lead to impoverishment of the soil. With all its advantages lime can cause injury if used improperly. That it will stimulate the soil to give up its plant food is true, but lime is not to be considered as something to be used alone, or with the expectation of having it perform the service which belongs to nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid. Lime gives the best results when used in connection with manure or green crops that are turned under. It is the manure or crop that provides the plant food and not the lime, but lime induces hasty action and enables the materials added to the soil to assume the forms most available for plants. When the land is sour and grown up with sorrel (which contains oxalic acid) lime is said then to "sweeten" the soil by removing the sourness, but what it really does is to assist in changing the acids of the soil into carbonate and oxalate of lime through chemical combinations, the sour soil becoming alkaline because the lime has taken up the acids which existed before its presence. With the changes thus made follows others, but they may be rapid or slow according to circumstances, sometimes the benefits from lime not being apparent until the second year; but on soils upon which lime has not been applied for years it never fails to give excellent results, and in proportion to the benefits derived it costs but little, is plentiful and should be used more extensively.

—Wide tires are made light and strong, and they serve admirably to pack the roads and prevent ruts. They are used mostly on low down wagons, but can be made serviceable with high wheels. Low down wagons increase the draught, and when the roads are very muddy, especially when affected by frosts in winter, the low wheels cannot always be used. If good roads are made, however, the low down wagons will do more to keep the surface of the roads hard and smooth than the road roller, but if narrow wheels are used by some farmers the roads will be cut up. Low down wagons, however, are very handy for use on the farm.

—The land that produced potatoes this year may be infected with disease, and it will be proper to plant potatoes on some other location next year. It will be in order this fall to lime the potato plot, which will greatly aid in destroying the spores of fungi and thus assist in lessening the liability of scab or some other disease in the future. All potatoes taken from the land should be carefully examined before storing them for the winter, as any that are unsound will affect the whole.

—When the vegetables are stored away this winter there will be less risk from cold than from warmth. It is better to have vegetables cold and remain so than to be subjected to changeable temperatures. While the cellar should be so arranged as to protect against severe cold, yet it should also be ventilated with ventilators that will be under control. The thawing of fruit and vegetables does more damage than freezing-

——You ought to take the WATCHMAN.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

If you want a good dessert made of peaches try this one. Peel and pare two quarts of peaches; place in a dish with one small cupful of sugar and set in a cool place for two hours; mash fine; add one quart of water and freeze. This makes a delicious dessert. Oranges may be substituted for peaches if preferred, or if the latter are out of season.

As every one knows, the slanting waist line is the proper thing in these days. The Stanislaus girl would have made it popular if it had not already made the Stanislaus girl popular, for it so improves the figure and lessens the apparent size of the waist that a woman must be blind not to see its advantages. Contrast any one of the old fashioned women, whose waist was often shorter in front than in the back, or even one whose belt knew no deviation as it encircled her, with one whose waist line slants, for confirmation of this assertion—but here comes the usual difficulty with extremists, there is really no necessity for placing the belt half way up the back in order to obtain that slant.

That's what many women do, however. They place their girdle at least two or three inches above the waist line in the back and then draw it down about to the waist proper in front, by dint of which manipulation they manage to obtain a "slant" which makes them look more than a trifle deformed.

The slanting waist line on a woman who holds herself according to the laws prescribed by health and beauty and whose figure is normal, arranges itself. There is no trick about it, and the belt ought to require neither pins, nor hooks, nor screws to keep it in position. The waist itself slants—therefore the girdle must. The latter should not be worn too tight, if the effect is to be of the best.

Sleeves are being made with a band of three tucks around the armhole, so as to keep them quite flat, and yet give a little relief to the severe outlines which not every shoulder can do with. A sloping shoulder line is once more the accepted standard of beauty. For this reason apparently we are in love with fichus, and we are coming to scarfs. The fichus are made in batiste, in organdy and in net, and often in flowered muslin, but the scarfs are mostly white.

In Paris they are often made in silk, with fringed ends. Here they are generaly muslin. Our grandmothers wore soft surah silk, with rich brocaded ends, blue and black finding special favor, and many gauze scarfs were worn at the beginning of the century, with embroidered ends, so, perhaps, we shall come to some of these.

We are adopting transparent yokes, collars and collar bands, but the great art is to make them as high and no higher than they are needed. It is a great mistake to have them so high that they turn down the wear. A novel collar band emanating from Paris is a stitched plain band of ribbon, passing through a large, dull gold buckle at the throat and finished off in a pointed, short tab. It looks well for traveling and morning suits.

In wrapdom there are just three things to keep your eye on: The ulster, the three-quarter garment, and the very short jacket.

The dinner gown for al fresco affairs, a gown which will serve as the correct toilette for the casino of an evening at the watering place, consists of a long sleeved, demi-decollette gown, and a broad low hat, wreathed with plumes or flowers. How becoming these hats are with their undulating brims and drooping garlands! The decolletage, whether round, square or V-shaped, is hardly a rival to the robe that veils the neck and shoulders and arms with but the sheerest, flattest of gauze coverings, which, with its pretense of being high necked and long sleeved to a puritanic extreme, the sleeves continuing to the knuckles, the choker high into the hair and about the ears and chin, is in reality far in advance of the frankly low cut gown in coolness.

With these long sleeves no gloves are worn, and, indeed, none are desirable on warm evenings with this dainty veiling over the arms, ending in a flaring wired cuff of gauze, and two or three rings on the slender fingers below. With heavier unlined sleeves of guipure, the gloves are of lace kid, in the color of the lace, string color, ecru, butter, ivory, pure milky white or beige, as the case may be.

Sleeves are so close and skimp about the shoulder now that the effect is rarely becoming to very slender figures. Discerning dressmakers are beginning to discover this and they are very sensibly adapting the line of the seam to individual figures. The tailors have never fallen into the error as they have fixed notions as to the way cloth should be handled which nothing can ever move. A sudden transition from a well-defined shoulder seam to an undecided and formless sleeve top weakens the whole effect of a costume and gives a look of insignificance to the bodice that no amount of ornament can overcome.

The tailor made frock for early autumn use adds to the coat a hanging collar of ecru batiste embroidered in white silk. This is called the "shaped collar" because it is fitted on the shoulders like the sailor collar worn by children, and there cut into whatever shape is preferred. Sometimes the border is deeply indented or simply waved. It is cut shallow or narrow, board or deep, as best suits the figure. Hence its name.

Fruit Crackers.—Prepare a dough with one cup of cold sweet cream and three cups of Graham flour, knead well, and divide into two portions. Roll each quite thin. Spread one thickly with dates or figs seeded and chopped; place the other one on top and press together with the rolling pin. Cut into squares and bake.

If you would have a most stylish evening cape make one of cream broadcloth divided in three sections, each section scalloped. Beneath the scallops an accordion plaited ruffle of white taffeta silk and the plain high collar has a monogram in front embroidered in gold. Line it with rose pink taffeta and you will have just the smartest sort of a wrap for summer evening wear. Silk and broadcloth you can secure at different times at remnant sales and made the cape yourself, so that what looks like a twenty five dollar beauty will hardly cost you five.

When the neck and throat have become brown or yellow looking they may be whitened by the presistent application every night of the following paste spread on a soft rag and wrapped around the neck: Honey, 1 ounce; lemon juice, 1 teaspoonful; oil of bitter almonds, 6 drops; the whites of 2 eggs. Add enough fine oatmeal to make a smooth paste.

The War in the Philippines.

Probably the greatest calamity that could ever befall any country would be to have its inhabitants fully agreed upon all questions.

As "competition is the life of trade," so is controversy the guarantee of ultimate righteousness.

In the seventeen-hundred-and-seventies, there was a considerable number of English people who stood ready to back up in a substantial fashion their belief that this great and glorious country of ours should be continued as an outlying ward of Great Britain. Others, among them the immortal G. Washington, also an Englishman, objected, and a controversy followed, the result of which we annually celebrate by the burning of several million dollars' worth of powder.

Later, in the eighteen-hundred-and-sixties, there was a difference of opinion as to the probable correctness of the system of slavery then in vogue in a part of the States. This, too, was settled, and where is the Englishman to-day, or where is the Southern American, who would claim that those two great questions were not settled as they should have been, except as to the method?

That both could not have been settled without the loss of life is the unending regret of every truly human being.

Right always triumphs, we are taught, but that is because whatever triumphs is always right,—right and wrong being convertible into each other except as to a few simple every-day principles.

Some one has said that "the majority is usually wrong," and history proves this to have been frequently the case, but the majority is apt to be always strong as well as sometimes wrong, and this, when the question of war is concerned, makes results that are often deplorable.

Fighting is a direct result of anger. A perfectly calm, philosophical, intelligent man, never fights until someone hits him, and then he at once ceases to be either calm or philosophical.

Nearly all, if not all, war could be stopped henceforth and forever if it were possible to put in the front ranks at the first battle all the men, on both sides, who had publicly recommended war. A certain New York daily newspaper, of the saffron-colored sort, claims to have been directly responsible for the start of the recent war with Spain, and one of its admirers recently stated to the "War Editor" that he considered the war a most valuable benefit to this country, inasmuch as "it would kill off a lot of people, and thus make more business for those who remained at home." Cheering words, those, for the mothers and wives of the boys who are suffering in the Philippine swamps.

In view of the existing barbarism that remains beneath the civilized surface of our citizens, it may be necessary to admit that *sometimes* war is justifiable. It would not be difficult to carry on such a war with all agreed, but it is important that the justice of the cause be made apparent to those who make up what is sometimes all too lightly referred to as the "rabble."

The "War Editor" asked his readers—pugnacious, patriotic, peace-loving—for expressions covering the question: "What is the United States fighting for in the Philippines?" We print herewith a portion of the answers received. Some were too lengthy for reproduction and others were expressed in language hardly suited for polite ears.

These expressions came from all parts of the country, and from people who for the most part are business men. We submit them as showing something of the present diversity of opinion on this very important question.

We have thought best to withhold the names, although several of the writers were willing to be personally designated.

We make an exception only in the case of Edward Atkinson, who has already taken so prominent a part on the anti-imperialistic side. His is the first opinion quoted below:

"1. To subjugate the inhabitants and to deprive them of their liberty. 2. To develop commerce at the cost of our taxpayers,—and with small benefit to anyone else. (The war tax already amounts to about $15.00 per family.) 3. To make places for military and naval officers, and for the officials that will be required to continue the suppression of liberty among the inhabitants. 4. To subvert the constitution of the United States and establish militarism at the cost of personal liberty."

"The United States is fighting against a portion of one of the Filipino tribes, to establish throughout the islands a modern, stable and, ultimately, representative government, which will insure to all the inhabitants of those islands, of whatever nativity, the same rights and privileges as are enjoyed by the citizens of the United States, and which are not known under the governments of Asia nor granted by the governments of Europe."

"If you stop a runaway horse, with a small boy in the carriage, and the boy hits you with the whip, isn't it better to take the whip away from the boy than to let the horse run again?

"The United States monkeyed with the buzz-saw and can't get out of the Philippines without being the laughing-stock of the balance of the world.

"Because of the need of a foreign market for our manufactured products, in behalf of our manufacturers, to whom no administration dare say no."

"We paid Spain $20,000,000 for these little brown men, and now we are trying to get the worth of our money."

"Because the leaders of the United States are not willing to acknowledge that a mistake has been made."

"This illustrates the attempts made to mystify a plain humane purpose of the United States government."

"To exact recognition and obedience on the part of an ally who subsequently became our enemy."

"The war was started for humanity's sak[illegible] and is now carried on to humanity's sha[illegible]

[illegible] to the world that our boasted D[illegible] of Independence was a fraud."

[illegible] peace of the Philippines, and, in [illegible] act, a piece of the Philippines."

[illegible] event the European governments fron[illegible] getting a foothold there."

"To enable American capital to operate in the islands with cheap labor."

"We are fighting to protect them from the despotism of usurpers."

"Fighting? Gatling guns against naked savages; that isn't fighting."

"A war of independence, or conquest, which ever way you view it."

"The same as Great Britain fought for in America in 1776."

"To divert public attention from home mismanagement."

"We bought 'em for twenty million; they're our niggers."

"We want to save the Filipinos from Spanish misrule."

"Peace; and the fight must continue until we have it."

"The United States is fighting for its own shame."

"We are fighting to please the spasmodic politicians."

"To gain control of the goods we bought from Spain."

"We want to give them a progressive government."

"To provide plunder for prospective office-holders."

"It is a case of the survival of the fittest.'

"For a jingoistic love of gore and glory."

"We are fighting for the glory of God."

"To give McKinley a second term."

"To make angels of the Filipinos."

"To extend Christian civilization."

"An outrageous war of conquest."

"To maintain our authority."

"To subdue insurrection."

"A land-grabbing fight."

The above opinions, from as many American citizens, are given for what they are worth. The "War Editor" states as his own opinion that the administration is very much in the predicament of the colored gentleman who had a large, enthusiastic bear by the tail and called to his friend to come and help him let go.

Whether we believe the existing conditions *should* have been avoided or not, it is the duty of every real patriot to lend whatever aid he can toward the clearing up of this most unfortunate state of affairs and, to say the least, the experience ought to be valuable to coming generations, especially if they are readers of history.—*Elliott's Magazine.*

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