

FARM NOTES.

Oats is a poor crop to sow in an orchard. Milking with wet hands is a filthy practice. Do not allow it. Dip the roots of strawberry plants in a "paddle" before planting. Egg-eating hens and knee-sprung horses are among the incurables. The stock market is the last place in the world where the farmer wants to venture. Comfortable quarters for the hogs are essential to proper economy of the food ration. The cheapest grinding machine is a young animal. Let calves and colts grind their own feed. Market abbreviations are "toms" for tomatoes, "cants" for cantaloupes, and "oukes" for cucumbers. Look through the vegetable bins and let the stock clean up all the small potatoes and the half-rotted apples. It is estimated that the honey produced in the United States last year would load a string of freight cars from Chicago to New York. The prosperity of the farmer was honestly earned, which is more than can be said for the success of some business enterprises. The San Jose scale louse will be hatched out this month, and we must get after him with the Bordeaux mixture and the sprayer. Millet should be sown in May or June. One of the most serious mistakes in the raising of millet is to allow it to get too ripe. Dig up the parsnips left in the field last fall, you will find them sweet and more delicious than those dug and stored in the cellar. The farmer must plan the work carefully and keep the farm help thoroughly busy if he is to realize a profit on the high wages he is obliged to pay. The object in working over the soil is not to make it light, but to mix it and break up the clods, and that roots will work best in soil that is packed down. Transplanted plants in general are greatly benefited by shading. Especially is shading valuable, and even necessary, if the sun shines clear and hot on the new set plants. Why not raise a few mules? They mature younger, and can be set to hard work any time between two and three years of age, a thing you can't do with the young horse. Overfeeding, or sudden changes from poor to very rich food, combined with want of exercise, if not actual causes, will contribute to the development of the loss of wool among ewes. A well known seedman states that maggots can be kept from destroying onions by sprinkling along the rows of onion plants sand scented with kerosene. Stir half a pint of oil into 10 quarts of sand. When breeding a good mare to an inferior stallion, either in breeding or in viduality, you are taking a long step backward. A mare should be invariably bred to a horse her equal, and her superior, if possible. The use of molasses as a stock food appears to be growing in favor, and is endorsed by practical feeders after careful use. A pint to a quart a day may be fed with good results, according to the size and appetite of the animal. It is a producer of energy and heat the same as sugar, and is slightly laxative in effect, producing flesh and ambition. In the case of horses, the verdies seems to be that the feed, if ground, may be cut short at least thirty per cent. where molasses diluted with water is mixed with the balance. When beginning its use, only a small amount per day should be given, say half a cupful, gradually increasing, the same as with any food. In giving molasses to milch cows, the requirements of each individual animal should be studied. Have you cut out that black knot in the plum and cherry orchard and burned it? If not do so at once before the trees begin to leaf out. It's the "man behind the gun that counts in the spraying. Spray with the wind as much as possible. Most gardeners who use the commercial fertilizers apply bone meal. This fertilizer is not immediate in its action. Well rotted manure is better. Fence protectors may be purchased from nursery men at a cost not to exceed six dollars a thousand and will protect trees from rabbits. They will last for years. Guess work in fruit growing is about as bad as "ohasing rain-bows." No excuse if you will plan your work. Don't forget to watch that hotbed. Never leave a shoulder in crowning a road. Cut clear to the ditches so water can flow off the road. You can't make a good road out of any known material unless there is good drainage. Some places need sub-surface drains right in the middle of the road, some along the sides under the ditches, while some stretches of road will be sufficiently drained by good side ditches kept clean. Reduces all grades to at least six per cent if possible. In some states roads are laid out on section lines and hills must be gone over but where possible avoid steep grades as these are a constant cost for maintenance and dangerous to travel. Crown the road bed up so that water will run to the ditches at once. The ditches need not be over 24 feet apart and the crowned part 16 feet wide. Keep this crowned surface in shape with a "split-log" drag. Keep the side ditches clean so water can flow away quickly. Standing water besides the road soon softens the grade. Run furrows along hills that may conduct water to a road and keep the water away from road and ditch. In one and level stretches that are soft put a tile drain in middle of road three feet below the surface. Enclose all culvert tile ends in cement end walls to prevent their being washed loose. Fill all culvert joints with cement. You don't want water to escape through joints. Never drag a road with split log when the road is dry or so wet as to stick to drag. Do it after every rain just as soon as it will work right. Ride the drag. You can control the out by shifting your weight.

A Boomerang. "I know a German editor," said a newspaper man, "who found himself one night when the paper was about to go to press without any editorials. What was he to do? It was too late to write any himself, too late to have any written. Like a flash an inspiration came to him, and, dipping his pen, he wrote hurriedly: "After carefully reading the editorials written for the morning's issue by four of the ablest and most brilliant members of our staff we have come to the conclusion that they might be misinterpreted by the authorities and regarded as an attack on the government. We ourselves consider them perfectly innocent, but as we have no desire to see our newspaper confiscated we have very unwillingly, though, as we think, prudently, resolved to withhold the articles in question. This must serve as an apology to our readers for a blank editorial page. "Imagine this editor's shock when his secretary telephoned him the next morning that the paper had been confiscated. "But—but on what ground? the editor gasped. "For malicious ridicule of the governmental authorities by the omission of the editorials."—Los Angeles Times.

Pat Poisoning a Trade. "Every town has its pet poisoner if you know where to find him," said a druggist. "These men keep my stock of alkaloids on the move. There is a demand for the pet poisoner. Suppose your favorite dog breaks his back. What a relief, then, to summon the pet poisoner and have the animal slain without pain. Cats and birds, dogs and even fish come within the province of the pet poisoner. He charges usually a dollar a case, but if you are rich he won't object to charging you \$5 or \$10. Some folks in their wills leave directions that their pet dogs or cats be poisoned, fearing that the animals would find life too harsh and sad after their loving owners' decease. Some folks, too, if they are going away for a long time—making a tour of the world, say—have their pets poisoned rather than trust them to servants possibly careless. Mistaken kindness I call such doings, and that, I bet, is what the pets call it too."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

"Either" and "Neither." There are two or three things about these two words that one should remember. In the first place, they should never be used in connection with more than two things—as: "It was either Tuesday or Wednesday," not "either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday." "It was neither Tuesday nor Wednesday," not "neither Tuesday, Wednesday nor Thursday." Then, either should not be used in the sense of each, as "they walked on one on either side of the road." It should be one on "each" side of the road. The third caution is about the pronunciation. Some persons insist that they should be pronounced "i-ther" and "ni-ther," with the "i" long. But this is more an affectionate perhaps than anything else. The best authorities agree that the right pronunciation is "e-ther" and "ne-ther."—New York World.

"Pinched." The humor of school and college examinations is perennial. One specimen was contributed by one of the high schools where a girl in the department of history was required to write a brief sketch of Queen Elizabeth. Her paper when turned in was found to contain the following sentence: "Elizabeth was so dishonest that she stole her soldiers' food." The teacher who conducted these examinations was puzzled to know just where this particular information had percolated into the girl's mind. So, calling her up, she asked the question. "Why," was the ready answer, "that's just what it says in the history." The book was sent for and the passage examined. It was found to read, "Elizabeth was so parsimonious that she pinched her soldiers' ration."—Bookman.

A Curious Rescue. Two officers hunting wolves on the Dry mountain, in central Serbia, lost their way in a fog. After wandering for fourteen hours, one of them lay down in the snow and speedily became unconscious. His comrade bound him with cords, placed him in a sitting position and then rolled him down the mountain. He glided down the slope at terrific speed and reached the bottom safely, being found an hour later in an exhausted condition by a peasant.

Man and Plants. M. Camille Saint-Saens says: "I do not pretend to adduce irrefragable evidence in support of my theory that man began his earthly career as a plant. I do maintain, however, that an impartial examination of my theory must allow that my assumption and hypotheses are sufficiently plausible to be considered justifiable." Keeps Him High Strung. "The manager always keeps back a portion of the villain's salary." "Why does he do that—afraid he'd skip?" "No, but he always acts his part better when he's mad."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The Loser. "To what do you attribute your success in acquiring money?" "Partly to the success of other men in letting go of it," replied the great financier.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Misguided. Minister's Wife—Wake up! There are burglars in the house, John. Minister—Well, what of it? Let them find out their mistake themselves.—Christian Register.

A Well Kept Murder Secret. That the identity of the man who killed Campbell of Glenure on May 14, 1752, should still be handed down from father to son a solemn trust among a few members of the Stewart clan is one of the curiosities of history: The mute trees know who fired that shot, but the secret well they're keeping. The highlanders refused it to Robert Louis Stevenson. Andrew Lang says that, like William of Deloraine, "he knows, but may not tell." Mr. Mackay, the author of this most complete and interesting account of the crime and trial, leaves us a little doubtful whether he is among the initiated. "I should be the last," he writes, "to make public a secret that has been so well kept. Its antiquity makes it sacred."—London Spectator.

What He Would Do. An individual applied to the cab company for a situation. "Do you know how to drive?" "Yes, sir." "You know that you must be polite with all your passengers?" "Ah." "And honest. For example, what would you do if you should find in your cab a pocketbook containing \$25,000?" "Nothing at all. I should live on the income."—London Tit-Bits.

Unselfish. "Why don't you go to work?" "Work?" rejoined Meandering Mike. "Look at de thousands of poor fellows dat is lookin' fur work an' feelin' miserable widout it. Now, work ain't necessary to me, an' I ain't goin' to butt in an' reach fur it merely fur de sake of havin' somethin' to brag about."—Washington Star.

Some Famous High Notes. Melba, F sharp; Jenny Lind, B in alto; Christine Nilsson, G in alto; Evangeline Florence, G in alto; Teatrazzini, D in alto; Carlotta Patti, D in alto; Adelina Patti, C in alto.

The Foes of the Trees. There is a group of men at Washington who seem to be bending every agency to handicap the efforts of the President and of Gifford Pinchot, Chief Forester, and of the good Americans who are backing them up, to make further additions to the national forests. Last winter what is known as the Appalachian Forest Bill was passed successfully until it reached Speaker Cannon of the House, who killed it. Why he did so he has not been able satisfactorily to explain; but, at all events, in so doing he lost the respect of those who hitherto had believed in his loyalty to American farm interests.

This winter the Appalachian Bill is coming up again, and, if the farm interests of this country are to be served, every one of those interested must get busy, and get busy at once. Now, this bill provides for making a national forest of an area which not only includes seventy-five million acres of hardwood, but also includes the wooded districts on the head waters of streams which supply several of the most valuable agricultural regions within the Appalachian State group I have already named. Last year, just after Speaker Cannon had killed the first bill, a disastrous flood visited the out-over region of this section, almost as if Providence had thought to visit upon us a swift, practical lesson, while the subject was on every tongue, of the harm which comes to regions that are dependent on their farming interests and have not had sense enough to keep their forests.

Do we need another? Sit down at once and let your Representative and your Senator know how you feel on this subject. Make them understand that you expect them to use their influence and their votes for the people. If enough of you write the day will be won.

And America needs all of its forests for the people, and all of its water for the crops.—"Fair-Play."

"Say, ma," inquired an anxious dad, "what ever's the matter with Grace. She's out there in the sitting room doing high kicking, turning flip-flops, and running all over the place. Is she stage struck?"

"Stage struck!" exclaimed ma, "I should say not. She's simply practicing the new barn dance."

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