

The Corn Crop—Suggestions in Season.

The corn crop is the most important crop grown in this country, for the reason that it gives not only a large amount of grain but also a larger proportion of long food than any other. No matter how low a price corn may reach in the future, its value as a "combination" crop will always make it desirable on the farm. It thrives on a greater variety of soils and over a larger extent of territory than any other staple crop, and is a substitute for many articles that cannot be produced in some sections. It is almost exclusively an American plant and is a source of wealth and a security against famine, and places this country in a position to which no rival can attain. The very ease with which it is grown, and its adaptability to nearly all sections, have caused much carelessness in its cultivation. To properly cultivate a crop of corn means to thoroughly clean the land of weeds and grass. Corn should therefore be grown in rotation with other crops, and the labor bestowed in its cultivation should not be charged wholly to the corn crop, but also to the succeeding crop. There are several modes of laying off and cultivating corn, but in this section the "check-row" system is in general use. It permits of cultivating the crop in two directions. The most important matter is good seed, and it should be of a variety that has been tried in the neighborhood where the crop is to be grown, as some varieties do best in certain sections only. Next in importance is plenty of manure, as the crop is a gross feeder and grows rapidly. The young plants should receive more cultivation when just beginning to make headway than later on, in order to gain a good seed-off before the dry season (should it happen) shall come on. Some farmers do not work the corn thoroughly, allowing grass and weeds to make progress before going into the field with the cultivator. A corn crop should always be kept clean. The grass and weeds should be killed as soon as high enough to do so. There are two reasons for this. One is that the seeds of weeds and grass are induced to germinate by frequent cultivation, thus destroying a larger number, as well as avoiding the seeding of those that get ahead of the corn. Another reason for frequent cultivation is that by keeping the ground loose the fine earth serves as a mulch and prevents, to a certain extent, a loss of moisture from the soil, as well as rendering the plant food of the soil more soluble. Corn may be planted now, and the cultivation should begin as soon as the corn can be seen in the rows.

The Apprentice System.

A very serious question confronts the American youth under the existing restrictive system of apprenticeship. What is to become of the millions of boys, who, having finished going to school, are looking about for something to do? It does not matter how anxious parents may be to have their boys learn a trade, nor how willing the boys may be to serve an apprenticeship at any of the industrial pursuits, they find it impossible to get places, because the labor organizations will not permit it to be done, save in a very limited way. One would suppose that the workmen themselves, who are almost always best with families of vigorous boys and girls, would so modify the restrictive features in their constitution as to enable their children to learn trades if they are so disposed. As it is, the mechanics of this country—native mechanics, we mean—are becoming scarce; and the places which they should occupy are being taken by mechanics from across the sea. The result is, the American boys are deprived of an opportunity to acquire mechanical skill, and are perforce, driven into overcrowded professions, for the filling of which they may have no qualifications whatever, or they are compelled to take to day laboring, or to live upon their wits. Something ought to be done to remedy this. It is worth the best thought of men like Powderly, who have close at heart the welfare of the toiling classes, to work out a remedy for all this. American boys ought to have a chance to grow up as skilled mechanics, and not be compelled to eat the bread of idleness, and become useless, if not dangerous members of society.

A Dozen Facts Worth Knowing.

The best preventive for cholera is cleanliness. A bathroom should not open into sleeping apartments. Antique oak or cherry is the favorite wood for bedroom sets. Fine pillows are used on library lounges as seating slumber. Keep a separate saucpan for boiling potatoes in if possible. The oven door is sifted for sponge cake, the lighter the cake will be. The water in which codfish has been soaked is very good for washing the zinc under the stove. Bathroom accessories may be simple or elegant, but plenty of water and soap are within the reach of all. To be a bucket of fresh water into your bedroom every night, and let it remain uncovered. It will absorb all poisonous gases. Every one should have eight hours sleep, and pale, thin, nervous persons require ten, which should be taken regularly, in a well-ventilated room. Paint stains that are dry and old may be removed from cotton or woolen goods with chloroform. First cover the spot with olive oil or butter. To cure water marks on an Irish potato and cut a piece of the end and rub on the wart two or three times a day, cutting a slice from the potato each time used. Very often one potato is sufficient for the cure. Dyspepsia and Liver Complaint. Is it not worth the small price of 75 cents to free yourself of every symptom of these distressing complaints, if you think so call our attention to a bottle of Sibley's Vegetable. Every bottle has a printed guarantee on it, and if it does not cure you we will give you nothing. Send 75 cts. to J. J. Davison.

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Food For Thought. He who does not look before he leaps lags behind. Don't expect too much from those around you. It is nothing to begin; perseverance is everything. Listen to both sides of a question before you decide. You will not be loved if you care for none but yourself. If you are prospering in your business do not make too much show. There is no place so high that an ass laden with gold cannot reach it.

How Indians Fish. The two Indians were going to show their method of catching trout and salmon. The stream runs between steep mountains, is very rocky and the current quick swift. The water was icy cold and clear as crystal. It was alive with small trout and the big fishes were well filled with salmon, or salmon-trout, ranging from 5 to 12 pounds. How I did ache for my split bamboo, which I had foolishly left down in the valley. These fish, from the smallest to the largest, would take the fly or any kind of bait readily. Steiger proved this by losing fly hooks to two of the big fellows, but he captured a nice lot of the smaller ones, ranging from half a pound down. He stopped when he had enough, but I verily believe five hundred could easily be taken in a day by the industrious and unscrupulous trout-hog. The Indians were fishing for themselves and of course we could not prevent them from using their regular methods of taking all the fish in their power, which they salt and dry for future use. While not sportsmanlike, it was decidedly interesting.

To Abolish Dishwashing. The suggestion that such table ware, plates, cups and saucers, butter dishes, etc., as are washed after each meal, be manufactured of paper and sold so cheaply that they can be destroyed after using, is having a wide circulation. The papers now, though it has been talked among the other possibilities of the development of paper material for as long as ten years and it was suggested in a paper read before a young ladies' society a year or so ago when housekeeping was being discussed.

The Mare in Foal. It is a common but erroneous idea that mares in foal should not be worked. It is better both for the mare and the future foal that the mare be given moderate work up to a month before foaling, and if the work be continued up to within a week of the foaling it is fully as well. The same rule will apply to all domestic animals. They should be allowed ample range for daily exercise during the time of carrying the young. The time for rest is when the animal is suckling the young. At this time it is altogether better both for the mare and the foal that the dam have full liberty and that she be kept on grass.

Cape Cod Drifting into the Sea. "It seems only a question of time, and that not so remarkably far distant, when the whole of Cape Cod below Wellfleet will drift into the sea and lose itself. Less than 100 years have passed since a lighthouse was placed here by the Government. The original purchase included a plot of land in acres in extent. At the present time this inclosure embraces barely six acres. The waste is steady, gradual and certain, it never builds up and the sea is moving slowly but surely in land. At points where there is little or no soil to hold the lighter sand beneath, the wind gets a firm hold and lends its aid to the efforts of the sea and rain. On a point just north of the face of the bluff has moved inland 200 feet during the past five years. With the present rate of waste in thirty years the lighthouse will stand on a dangerous foundation."

Oh, What a Cough. "Will you heed the warning. The signal perhaps of the sure approach of that more terrible disease, Consumption. Ask yourself if you can afford to risk the possibility of 50 cents, to run the risk and do nothing for it. We know from experience that Sibley's Cure will Cure your Cough. It never fails. This explains why more than a million bottles were sold the past year. It cures Croup and Whooping Cough at once. Mothers do not be without it. For Lamé Back, Side or Chest, use Sibley's Porous Plaster. Sold by Dr. T. J. Davison.

The Best Way to Improve a Light, sandy soil is to put on all the vegetable matter you can, either in the form of muck from swamps, or by turning under peas, buckwheat clover or some similar crop. If the land is very porous more or less of the fertilizing materials applied will sink out of reach of ordinary crops. Your main point is to get the land full of vegetable matter, not only to increase its fertility, but to make it hold moisture in summer.

Care of the Teeth. "What should a man do to keep his teeth?" This is the question that well-known dentists are asked. "Nothing but water. There are good teeth ruined by a careless use of these dentifrices, but to produce a preparation that will very little rubbing of the teeth, the teeth look perfectly clean and white. To accomplish this they use pumice stone, and some strong alkalies, and use them every day. Some of us have questioned the use of the pumice stone. An alkali will in a few weeks destroy the tooth. In washing the street you often see a man with a way of advertising his pumice stone, call a small boy from the street, and opening the boy's mouth, and in a minute almost take the boy's teeth, and make the teeth look pure and white. Now, a man that fakes ought to be arrested, has forever destroyed the boy's teeth. The preparation, composed of a fine alkali, is eating away the boy's teeth, and in a few days the boy will not have a sound tooth left. The dentifrices, composed of pumice stone, are not so bad as containing an alkali, because they do not destroy the teeth so quickly if used habitually, they will destroy them in the end. I advise a man by all means to use a dentifrice of any description unless prepared chalk. If this is used oftener than once a week, it will injure the teeth, and may help to injure them, but it should be used no more than once a week. If you use teeth no harm and give a pleasant taste to the breath; and if all that is composed simply of pumice stone, prepared chalk they would be injured enough, if not beneficial. My aim is to use a moderately hard brush, plenty of cold water, and nothing and my teeth are in excellent condition. If people would only pick their teeth carefully after each meal, making that not the slightest particle of food remain near the gums or between the teeth, and would, also before retiring, run a piece of soft thread through their teeth they would not have any necessity for a dentifrice. Of course sweets and candies, or tobacco, or cold drinks; but had you no doubt, I really think the worst enemy the tooth has is the dentifrice. Take the advice of the dentist and never use anything but tooth powder and brush and good water."

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Farming Under Low and High Tariff. Congressman Knute Nelson, of Minnesota, made some telling points in his speech on the tariff last week. We do not wonder that Mr. Nelson's Republican associates tried to hound him down. His departure from the usual Republican line on the tariff was calculated to make the dry bones rattle, and it did. One of the most interesting portions of his speech was that which referred to the low-tariff period from 1840 to 1890. Mr. Nelson referred to the well-known fact that during the operation of the Walker tariff the country enjoyed the greatest general prosperity it has ever known. No class of our population realized more decided benefits from that tariff than the farmers. In those days the money of the country was in the hands of the farmers. Strange as it may seem now, it was a common thing for merchants to borrow money from their country customers. The average yield of cotton then was not much over three bales to the hand. How does the case stand now? The average yield of cotton is at least three times as much to the hand as it was before the war. The price of cotton is better on the average than it was then. And yet we now have poverty and mortgages among the farmers instead of the prosperity and wealth which they enjoyed in the low-tariff period. This is in spite of the fact that their labor now costs them less, that is on an average three times as productive as it was then.

Cultivating the Nettie. Great attention has been bestowed in Germany within the last two years upon the cultivation of the common nettle. From it an immense number of articles are made, and there is scarcely a branch of textile industry in which it has not been used. The growing of nettle has become part of the business of every farmer. The crop never fails, weather affects it, and so it requires planting only once in every ten or fifteen years the labor of cultivation is small; and as it needs but three or four inches of earth, many a piece of unprofitable land, even old quarries and gravel pits, are thus turned to account. A manufacturer in Dresden has succeeded in obtaining from it the finest thread known in the trade, so fine that 100,000 metres of it (or rather more than sixty miles of length) weigh only 2 lbs.

PEAS may be planted now for succession to those that were planted early. The tall growing kinds will furnish a late supply. Of the varieties the Champion of England is the best developed, but is not prolific. The Marrowfat are excellent for late planting, but require supports.

THERE are times when a man should not give up his seat in a street car to even a lame woman. That time is when twelve men are packed like sardines on one side of the car and four women have spread themselves to last up every inch of room on the other.

A LAWYER engaged in a case before Judge Peters, testified a witness saw much with questions, that the post followed as last cried for water. "As I expected," said the Judge, "if thought you would pump the dry."

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