

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

ITEMS OF TIMELY INTEREST TO THE FARMERS.

New Fodder Crops...Geese...Save Your Corn...Finishing Off Beef Cattle for Market.

Questions which arise to the mind of every agriculturist at some period of his career were recently asked Thomas Shaw, of the Minnesota Agricultural College, and were answered by that distinguished scientist. The questions follow: "Shall plowing be deep or shallow? Shall land be plowed in the fall or spring? Shall the plowing be carefully done or does it make any difference so long as the land is turned over?"

To which Professor Shaw makes answer as follows, through the columns of the Northwestern Agriculturist: The question of deep and shallow plowing is entirely one of conditions. These questions relate to soil, the season and to the crop to be grown. As a rule, it is not wise to plow thin, light soil deeply. If we let the plow run deep we bring up raw and poor soil, and we bury the mould so essential to the sustenance of a quick and early growth; and both of these are important in securing good crops.

Soils that are as rich below as above may be plowed at any time, providing they can be kept sufficiently moist; but remember moisture is affected by the depth of the plowing, as will be shown below, and stiff clays must not be plowed deeply when the sowing follows close upon the plowing. The newly upturned earth may have lots of fertility in it, but it unlocks so that the young plants cannot get enough of it to enable them to make a respectable growth. But under the opposite conditions they may grow more freely, and sometimes ought to be plowed more deeply.

As a rule, lands can be plowed more deeply in the fall than in the spring, and the less moist the climate the greater the necessity for plowing such lands in the fall. When thus plowed in the fall they form a firmer seed bed than if plowed in the spring, hence it can better retain moisture. The lighter and the more spongy the soil, however, the more important, relatively, is fall plowing, because of the increased power which it gives land to retain moisture.

Again, in all soils much of the food for plants is held in forms which the plants can't get at until they become available. Now, exposure during the winter to sun, rain, frost and wind has a tendency to unlock or liberate more or less of the food, hence ordinarily a surface turned up in the fall has plenty of food for the young plants when sown upon it, and in forms easily accessible; whereas, such plants plowed in the spring, there would not be time for the liberation of food to the same extent until the plants were well grown. In a dry season there would be but little opportunity for such liberation, for it does not take place readily in the absence of moisture. When plowing must need be done in the spring, therefore, it should never be deeper than the old furrow, lest it be necessary.

The aim of the Northwest, therefore, food in it which would not be immediate soil should be brought up with should be to turn every furrow that can possibly be turned for crop production in the fall. The rains that have fallen the past season make it possible for the plows to go down this fall. Send them down, farmers; make the most of your opportunity. Try hard to turn every furrow this fall. Turn out early, return home late, and work on and on until the last furrow is turned, providing your horses can stand it.

A corn crop requires a deeper furrow than a crop of barley and a mangel crop needs a deeper furrow than a crop of corn. We must have some regard, then, as to the needs of the crop when determining the depth to which we should plow. But even for those deep-rooted crops it will be apparent that when plowing the land for them in the spring we should not go down so deep as though we had plowed in the fall.

The manner of the plowing is all important. The chief objects of plowing are, first, to bury the vegetation that may encumber the surface of the land; second, to loosen up the soil so that the roots of plants can penetrate it; and, third, to secure an even seed bed favorable to the sowing of the seed and to the reaping of the harvest. Now, if the plowing is so done that vegetation is not covered, it will not quickly decay; it will be in the way. If weeds are left with the heads sticking out between the furrows, they will at once begin to grow, and if the furrows are carelessly turned there will be unevenness in the surface that will render the sowing of the seed less effective and will enhance the labor of removing the harvest. So be convinced of the necessity for careful plowing. One has but to observe the effects of careless plowing in a country in which the soil is stiff. It oftentimes means crop failure when good plowing would be attended with success in crop production. But in rich prairie lands careful plowing is not so necessary to good crop production; and this explains in part at least much of the wretched plowing that is done.

FINISHING OFF BEEF CATTLE FOR MARKET.

Perhaps on general principles twelve to twenty-four months is long enough to keep a bullock profitably. As the

value of beef cattle of the same quality varies considerably during each year, a well-kept, fleshy yearling steer or heifer will yield a much larger amount of money to the owner at that age than the same would months afterwards, with its increased growth, says W. T. Taylor, of Ohio, in Orange Judd Farmer.

Hence the advantage of keeping stock all the time in condition, ready to take advantage of these varying circumstances. This cannot be done if we attempt to follow the ancient custom of growing before fattening and finishing our cattle for the market. Rich and strong grain need not necessarily be fed in quantities that would be detrimental to later growth should we decide to carry our cattle beyond the two-year limit, and at the same time enough can be fed to have them ready and desirable to the slaughterer and perfectly satisfactory to the consumer.

When the market price and other circumstances demand longer feeding, careful and judicious precautions in selecting stock will insure a continued growth and improvement, to repay all the food and care we bestow, although we may safely calculate that less gain, as a rule, will come as a greater age is attained. But as an offset to this loss, there is generally a better demand and advanced price for the more matured bullock than there is for one of less age and feeling.

The final effort in fattening for the market need or ought not to occupy a great length of time. If the bullock has had such attention as to insure the proper and steady development we are seeking, and such condition of flesh has been secured as to be in fair shape for the butcher at any time, and an additional season of fattening is desired, one hundred to one hundred and fifty days is long enough. Give during this time, or as soon during this period as we have brought our cattle safely to the point, all the grain of any kind that is available that they will consume, and pasture or other similar feed with the grain.

The best plan in my experience, when fall feeding, is to place the grain in a suitable position and allow constant access to it. This plan requires less labor, and the food is then partaken of at such times as the appetite demands it, in such quantity as nature indicates. Minute details of any particular method or fancy scheme of feeding I have purposely avoided, for each breeder must supply them by intelligent attention.

Every animal disposed of in a thin-fleshed condition is at a loss to the producer, while by well managed work in increasing growth and quality it would insure a profit. Then there will be an even distribution of fat and a great improvement in quality.

SAVE YOUR CORN.

The papers are telling about farmers out West burning corn in place of wood or coal, corn being the cheapest fuel there, considering the low cost of production. This looks like a waste of material, and is probably owing to excessive charges of transportation. The consolation the Western farmer has is that his loss is not his fault. He is the victim of other men's greed. Now, Mr. Farmer, are you not burning corn in your barnyard, not exactly in the same way as the Western farmer, but burning corn all the same? You know that your animals are kept alive in cold weather by heat, and that their heat is made out of the corn they eat; that the colder they are the more corn they must eat or they will have to draw on their bank account of fat laid on earlier in the season. You also know by this time that a warm stable greatly helps to heat the cows, and you thereby save at least 25 per cent. of the food they eat, compared with those fed the same amount while exposed to the weather. This has been proven over and over again. Why not, then, get some planks, old or new, and make sheds or stables for all the stock? Stop burning corn in the stable lot, and also save the manure from being trampled in the mud of the stable lot, where it is not only lost, but becomes offensive. Get a move on you; save corn and manure, and have greater respect for yourself.—Home and Farm.

GEESE.

No fowl can be reared with so much profit and with so little care as the goose, says the Poultry Fancier. After they have attained the age of four months but little attention is required other than supplying plenty of fresh water, a good grass range and a scrupulously dry roosting place, which also must be free from lice and other vermin fatal to the young.

If it is impossible to provide free range, the next best substitute is wire netting which need be but about eight inches high to confine them until matured. Give them fresh water twice each day, also green food, such as turnip tops, celery and cabbage, or allow them free range morning and evening.

When Thanksgiving time arrives you can generally dispose of the young goslings at ten cents per pound, and their average weight will be about ten pounds. Suppose, for instance, you have twelve "gooselets" at \$1 each, the receipts from the sale would be \$12, and the cost of feed has been but a trifle. It is safe to say that your profit will have been \$10 on the transaction. Of course they cannot always be disposed of at \$1 each; but on the other hand, the price is often more than a dollar; hence we take it as a basis on

which to figure. We doubt if fancy fowls would pay better, considering, of course, that we always have a ready market for our geese. By crossing a China gander on Toulouse geese large goslings are obtained, quick to grow, nicely marked, with medium length necks, yellow bills and remarkably easy to domesticate.

NEW FODDER CROPS.

New fodder crops continue to attract much attention at the Vermont station. Soya beans of the green and black varieties have proved satisfactory each year. No other leguminous food crop has given better returns in tonnage of green fodder, dry matter, or protein. The green variety yielded at the rate of six and one-half tons green and two tons dry fodder, and nearly one-quarter of a ton of protein to the acre. Good growths were made of hairy and spring vetches with and without oats, but after experience with these crops for several years at the Vermont station they are considered unequal to peas and oats. Sorrel yielded about a ton of dry matter per acre, and is recommended as a promising forage crop that is rich in protein.—American Agriculturist.

THE FESTIVE PEANUT.

Interesting Facts About a Profitable Southern Crop.

Everyone eats peanuts and scarcely anyone knows anything about them. The peanut crop is one of the most profitable of the South. The yearly production of peanuts in this country is about 4,000,000 bushels of twenty-two pounds each, the bulk of the crop being produced in Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina. These 4,000,000 bushels constitute but a small proportion of the peanut crop of the world, as the exportation from Africa and India to Europe in 1892 amounted to nearly 400,000,000 pounds, half of which went to Marseilles to be made into oil.

The largest amount of the American crop is sold by street vendors, but quantities are used by confectioners, chocolate manufacturers and oil-makers. Peanut oil is used for lubricating and for soap, and is a good substitute for olive oil, lard, cottone and butter. The residue from oil making, known as "peanut cake" in Europe, is highly valued as a cattle fodder and is also ground into fine flour and used as human food.

The Virginia running variety of peanut is the typical American peanut. Its vines are large, with spreading branches, growing flat on the ground and bearing pods over their entire length. The pods are large and white. There are many other varieties grown in other states, some of them being upright bushes instead of vines.

The peanut is sorted in the factory into four grades, the first three being sold to vendors, and the fourth sold to confectioners for making "burnt almond" and cheap candies. The \$10,000,000 worth of peanuts America uses are not counted in the staple food, but are eaten at all intervals as a luxury. The peanut is used by the planter as a fattener for his hogs.

In the old world millions of bushels are made into oil, in which the nuts are very rich, thirty to forty per cent. of the shelled nut being oil. It has an agreeable taste and is more limpid than olive oil, but does not give a very brilliant flame. The peanut cake left after the oil is extracted is sold for \$30 a ton in Germany and fed to cattle and sheep. Experiments were made in Germany on an army biscuit to be made from peanut flour, but they were not successful, though the flour is most nourishing.

Legal Fees.

A would-be client once wrote to Parsons, the American advocate, stating a case for his opinion, and enclosing a \$20 note. The other did not reply; whereupon the man wrote a second letter. Then Parsons answered that he had read the case and formed his opinion, but somehow "it stuck in his throat." Whereupon the man, perceiving what was amiss, enclosed a \$100 note and got the opinion.

Nobody does anything well for nothing, and certainly not a lawyer. Lord Mansfield was so sensible of this that when on one occasion he had to attend to some professional business of his own, he took some guineas out of his purse and put them into his waistcoat pocket to give him the requisite stimulus. Sir Anthony Malone, an Irish Attorney-General, was so imprudent as to omit this precaution, and, as Mr. Croake James informs us, was grievously punished for it, for he was so inattentive as regards some property he bought for himself that he lost \$15,000 a year by it. In future he caused his clerk to make an abstract of the title deeds of any property he bought, and lay it before him with a fee of five guineas, properly indorsed, which the clerk was scrupulously to account for, after which Sir Anthony made no more mistakes, as regarded, at least, his own affairs.—London Illustrated News.

A notice has been sent to the Army and Navy officials that on and after July 4, 1897, the American flag will have forty-five stars. An order has also been issued to the custodians of public buildings to begin at once to put the additional stars in all old flags or secure new ones which must comply with the order. There will be six rows of stars. The first, third and fifth rows will have eight stars each, and the second, fourth and sixth seven stars each.

GOSSIP FOR THE FAIR SEX.

SOME ITEMS OF INTEREST ON THE FASHIONS.

Newest Aid to Woman's Beauty...Pay of Women Musicians...The Women of India...Latest Shoes for Women.

A different standard of beauty is set up in every country, and in every land artificial means of beautifying the face are used. The women of Japan are lovely with gilt teeth; those of the Indies stain their teeth red; those of Guzarat invariably stain them black. In Greenland the women color their faces with green and yellow pigment, and the prettiest Muscovite maiden cannot hope for admiration until she has covered her fair complexion with coarse red and white paint. In Persia an aquiline nose is a necessity to either male or female beauty, and frequently out of a family of sons the accession to the throne has been decided by the shape of the nose. Red hair is viewed with horror and always dyed. On the contrary, in Turkey red hair is counted as a great beauty and the women dye their hair that tint. In some countries mothers break the noses of their daughters to render them attractive or blind their infant hands in beads to elongate them. In China, where most eyes are narrow and long, a small round eye is considered an extraordinary beauty. Chinese girls pluck their eyebrows to make them very fine. Turkish women paint their eyebrows with gold, and at night the effect is very odd and not displeasing. An African beauty must have very small eyes, thick, pouting lips, a large, perfectly flat nose and a jetty skin, which, from constant oiling, positively glistens. A nose-ring to a European is very objectionable, but the Peruvians pierce the noses of their women and hang heavy rings, the thickness of which indicates the rank of the husband. Nose boring is also very prevalent among the Hindus, and often a number of perforations are made, from which are hung tiny rings of jade, crystal, silver, gold or turquoise. Ears also are bored to an extravagant extent, and sometimes a belle will have the entire rims of both ears garlanded with innumerable rings.—Chicago Times-Herald.

LATEST SHOES FOR WOMEN.

"The manufacturers are trying to run out the pointed toes," said the clerk in one of the best shoe stores, "but they do not succeed. The women like them too well, and retail dealers like them also, for it is much easier to fit a foot satisfactorily with the pointed toe than with the square or round toe. However, the extreme toe-pick toe is not quite so popular."

The bull dog toe is the latest street shoe for the feminine foot. It is an aggressive boot and is likely to assist in developing the new woman, for it is strong and may be depended on to carry her dry shod over rough and storm-swept paths.

It has all the qualities of the common-sense shoe, while it is a little more shapely over the instep. The newest slipper has a pretty leather rosette on it and this rosette has a cut jet buckle. This slipper costs about \$2.50, and is a dainty affair.—St. Louis Star.

THE WOMEN OF INDIA.

Indian women are peculiarly simple and childish in character, yet very different from Europeans of the same class. Northern and Southern India, says Mrs. Besant, are two distinct countries in all the laws and customs which affect women. In the north the "Purdah" is in full power, and the women look upon any publicity as an outrage, while in the south their position is quite different, yet men and women do not meet freely in society. Mothers and grandmothers have great influence and authority in the family and home life, and in outside affairs as well, for an Indian will not act in a public matter against the advice of either one. In Southern India very young children are married, and if the infant husband dies his youthful widow can never marry again.

A CRAZE FOR TWEEDS.

The attention of all fashionable Londoners is now directed to the conspicuous revival of the craze for tweeds. Those of the present season are of fine texture and cost a handy sum. Canvas materials, too, of the thickest and coarsest qualities are putting in appearance, most of them displaying at least two colors, violet, dark blue and green making the favorite combinations. The short, loose black coat is trying valiantly to make its appearance, but most of the tailor suits still adhere to the close, tight styles, the skirts growing narrower and the coats being cut in the style of a man's morning coat. For street and out of door sport the Norfolk jacket is being seen frequently, but this is a trying fashion. A gown was recently seen at a Scottish country house which combined the rare attractions of a tea gown and a dinner gown. It was made of black mousseline de soie, striped with narrow yokes of fine jet, and falling from a square yoke of fine lace, with tight sleeves of the same, surmounted by double frills of kil-plaited mousseline. This was always worn with the hair arranged in the latest French fashion, which consists of a waved fringe in front and waved hair at the back of the neck, with a small tight knob on the extreme top of the head. Another attractive evening dress seen at the same country house had a moire silk skirt, shot with green and blue, completed with a pale green chiffon bodice high in the neck and formed entirely of tucks run crosswise. This has a hanging in points to the waist of cream-color lace, studded with beads and jewels matching the three colors of the skirt.

NEWEST AID TO WOMAN'S BEAUTY.

A double veil is, possibly, the newest aid to woman's beauty and attractiveness. A thin veil of the most delicate shade of pink tulle is first procured, and over this is placed one of black, with dots or designs in it. The two are securely fastened together, and the improvement in the appearance of the complexion is really wonderful. The fashion, which must have emanated from the brain of a French woman, will be a blessing to the women who have had or indifferent complexions.

FASHION NOTES.

Mauve and brown are one of the popular contrasts in millinery. Corsets of brocaded satin with jeweled clasps are one of the season's novelties. Mahogany-colored hair is the latest fad, and the transition period between dark brown and this coveted shade of red is very interesting to the keen observer.

Silk Moreen is a new material for petticoats. It costs \$1.50 a yard, is fully a yard wide, and comes in a variety of colors.

A novel muff and cape long enough to reach to the elbows are made of coque feathers, with the breast feathers for the yoke.

Long cloaks of brocaded silk, cloth, and uncut velvet, made with bishop sleeves and trimmed with fur, are worn with evening dress.

Watches have gradually diminished in size until now the very latest bit of enamel, set round with diamonds, is no larger than a man's signet ring.

One secret of success in dress is to find out the colors which are most becoming and never wander away from these, no matter what the fashion is.

The fashionable society girl of to-day knits golf stockings for her own amusement and advantage, and this humble occupation affords an unlimited field

highest vogue both here and abroad. Skirts of white Lyons satin have bodices of black and white brocade or striped satin, lavishly trimmed with white Venetian point lace. Again, white satin sleeve puffs are veiled with jet sequins and handsome black satin gowns have accessories of very rich white lace and insertion. White and creamy Liberty satins are decorated with wide black velvet ribbon, of the ribbon alone, or overlaid with point de Gene, guipure, or Venetian lace insertion bands. Black laces of every elegant description are used by high-class modistes in making entire waists and for bretelles, fichus, berthas, collarettes, sleeves, puffs, blouse-fronts, jacket effects, and rose, cognille and fan pleatings and rosettes for bodices and skirts of full-dress toilets. For a woman whose wardrobe is limited, and who wishes a gown at once becoming, suitable and refined, a black and white mixture of some elegant materials that are not necessarily extravagant in price, is a pretty and sensible choice between a sombre hue and any of the brilliant gowns of the present season.—New York Post.

THE POLAR PEOPLE.

The following interesting facts were gleaned by the Philadelphia Record from the recent lecture on "Some Characteristics of the Most Northern Eskimos," delivered by Henry G. Bryant, commander of the Peary auxiliary expedition of 1894:

The Eskimos in Southern Greenland are a separate and distinct people from those of the northern part. Some of the individuals of the Southern Eskimos have blue eyes, light complexions and blue hair, unmistakable proofs of the admixture of European blood.

They are physically deteriorating from the use of stimulants and tobacco, and are no longer able to endure the rigors of the winter. Their kayaks or boats, however, are marvels of ingenious construction, being built on the graceful lines of our own racing shells.

The Eskimos of the north of Greenland are completely isolated from the rest of the world, hemmed in on the north by the Humboldt glacier, an impassable ice wall; and on the south by Melville glacier, while inland they cannot go on account of lack of food and means of travel. Their country extends about 350 miles between sixty-six and seventy-nine degrees north latitude.

Until Sir John Ross landed there in 1818 they believed themselves the only people in the world. When the Kite landed there in 1891 most of them had never seen a white man, although they had traditions of the visit of white men and their strange boats.

These people are exceedingly primitive, apparently just emerging from the stone age of prehistoric man. The weapons with which they pursue their game are exceedingly crude. Until within the past twenty years they did not know the use of even the bow and arrow, or of the kayaks, so characteristic of the Southern Eskimos.

They were very friendly to the Peary expedition, and welcomed the arrival of the vessels and white men with much boisterous expression of good will. Their language is exceedingly scant and simple, so that with the aid of signs the Peary expedition soon learned to converse with them.

They dress in skins, their costume consisting of mocassins knee high, of sealskin, with rabbitskin stockings, breeches of reindeer skin or bearskin and a coat and gloves of sealskin. They eat their food uncooked. They do not use fire to keep themselves warm, depending solely on animal heat.

Nature has made a wise provision in providing this peculiar people with a layer of fat directly under the skin, similar to the blubber of the animals of that region.

The general belief that edelweiss grows only in dangerous and almost inaccessible places has no foundation. Of course, with it as with any other Alpine plant, this may now and then happen. But, as a rule, it is found on rough and rather stony slopes of grass, the ordinary pasture of sheep and goats, at heights ranging from six thousand to eight thousand feet above sea level. It is not often met with below the former limit, and seldom above the latter. That it is a great rarity is another article of faith; but this also is a myth, for there are few districts where it does not occur, often abundantly.

What has caused it to be so highly prized is difficult to understand. It is an everlasting, but that is almost equivalent to saying it has no great beauty. It is, in short, a quaint rather than a beautiful flower. The edelweiss is an extremely easy plant to raise from seed and should be treated as an annual. It is, however, very difficult to transplant with any success. When grown on anything like the sea level, or in fact anywhere from home, it entirely loses its distinctive character and becomes worthless as a garden plant.

There is a movement on foot in England to hold a great conference of English speaking religious workers, non-sectarian in character, to emphasize the duties and blessings of those who are using the English language.