

## FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

### NOTES OF INTEREST ON AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

#### Proper Treatment of Sage-Freezing Grain of Smut—Threshing Wheat—Moisture and Plant Food, etc.

#### Proper Treatment of Sage.

There is always a good demand for sage if the leaves are large and dried in the shade so as to retain its original color. This is important to make the sage sell well, though it may have as good flavor if cared for with less trouble. Much of the sage that farmers grow is not harvested until it has been frosted and then beaten with fall rains. It is not good for much, and looks even poorer than it is. The extra trouble is always what pays best. This is why market gardeners make good profits from sage, while if most farmers grow any surplus there is no sale for it outside their own neighborhood.

#### Freezing Grain From Smut.

The hot water treatment of grain affected with smut, for all ordinary purposes, is much the cheaper and most satisfactory method of any now used. For convenience in the application of the hot water treatment, have two vessels, one in which the water is maintained at a temperature of 120 to 130 degrees Fahrenheit. Dip the grain into this first, and after it has been thoroughly warmed, transfer it to the vessel in which the water is heated to 135 degrees. By this method it is much easier to keep the second vessel at the required temperature, for if the mass of cold grain is immersed into the second vessel it causes a sharp fall of temperature. If the oat and wheat seed have been thoroughly freed from smut and are sown on ground which has not borne crops affected by smut, the resulting grain crop will be comparatively free from it. The importance of this treatment cannot be too strongly emphasized in localities where smut is prevalent.

#### Threshing Wheat.

The more general custom is to thresh wheat in the field, though there are sections in which this is never done. It is a question if it is the best plan. It saves labor, and that is all it does save, except some loss by shrinkage. But it encourages the early marketing of large quantities of wheat and glutting the market. To tell of getting our grain into the market, securing the money and saving interest sounds pretty, but one great trouble with farmers is that they market their grain together. Some are compelled to sell because they must have money. Why should not those who are not in need of money hold their wheat, and let those who must sell market their crop?

It is usually noticeable that some time during the year, the prices of farm products are good, but generally when prices are up, the major portion of these products are in the hands of speculators who purchased them in a glutted market at low prices. Go through the wheat producing sections at harvest time and the thresher will be found running on every farm, and most of this wheat is dumped on the market at once, with the natural result of depressing prices. Another advantage of stacking is the not inconsiderable one of being able to thresh just when it is most convenient. In the busy season the coming of the thresher is a very uncertain event. In several townships that we know, farmers have joined together and purchased a thresher and engine; and in all these cases the arrangement has proved satisfactory.—*The Epitomist.*

#### Moisture and Plant Food.

The importance of moisture for the successful growth of farm plants is in a measure well understood. A dry spell will naturally weaken and stultify the growth of all plants, and when the dryness becomes an extended drought crops wither up and die. The disasters which follow such seasons represent millions of dollars. In order to minimize the danger from this source it is necessary to provide against dry seasons just the same as we protect our crops from wind and insects. Irrigation may not always be possible on a large scale, but there are many little ways which help to keep moisture in the soil.

To begin with it should be understood that all plants take in their food either in the liquid or gaseous forms. The moisture in the soil is essential to the proper preparation of plant food for its ready assimilation. Lime, potash, iron, silicon, phosphoric acid and all similar minerals cannot be taken up by plants in their solid form; they must first be dissolved by water, and until they have thus been dissolved and absorbed by the soil, they cannot be used at all by the plants. Thus it is possible to spread over a soil freely all of these mineral elements in dry weather and do no good at all. This is actually the case very often. Unfamiliar with the philosophy of plant food and its relations to water, farmers sometimes fertilize the soil with expensive mineral elements in dry seasons. The minerals are not absorbed by the soil, but lay there through the growing season only to be dissolved by the fall rain and eventually washed away in the winter without doing any good whatever. This must be guarded against.—*American Cultivator.*

#### Grain Feed or Hay for Hogs.

An experiment carried on at the Kansas Agricultural College some time ago, with pigs and alfalfa pasture and a light ration of corn, shows that after deducting the probable gain due to the corn, there was 776 pounds of pork produced per acre of alfalfa pasture. With hogs at \$3.30 per hundred pounds,

this gives \$25.00 per acre for alfalfa, and the stand was not injured by the pasturing.

During the past six months two experiments have been carried on to test feeding alfalfa to fattening hogs. The first experiment showed a gain of 868 pounds of pork per ton of alfalfa, after deducting the gain due to the grain fed. In the second the hay was much inferior in quality to the first, but showed a gain due to the hay of 338 pounds. These experiments, with hogs at \$3.30 per hundred, makes the alfalfa worth \$28.64 and \$11.15 per ton, respectively.

The college bought fourteen head of stock hogs. They were in fair shape for stock hogs, but had evidently not seen any green food for some time. The lot in which they were turned had not been used for about a month and had quite a growth of weeds in it, which the hogs began eating very greedily. They were given a feed of Kaffir, but they preferred the weeds and ate very little grain. The bunch weighed 1,700 pounds when put in the lot, and about forty hours later they weighed 1,808, a gain of 108 pounds; and they had eaten only eighty pounds of grain. Of course this was mostly fill, but it was just the thing to dilute the digestive apparatus and get them in condition to feed. Alfalfa is the best crop for such feed. Clover is nearly equal, and many other grain feeds stand well up in the list.—*J. G. Haney, in Farm, Field and Fireside.*

#### Why Some Dairies Do Not Pay.

The dairy is the reflex of the man who governs it and is supposed to look after its wants, for the best dairy in the world, left to itself, would degenerate into a sorry lot in a few years. Why does this dairy not pay? At the start are they good milkers? Are they cows that give three or six thousand pounds of milk a year? Are they fed during the year to the point of production, or are they allowed to do a great deal of shifting for themselves? Is it not a feast or famine with them most of the time? Is not a cow that gives a small mess of milk and looks sleek regarded as a good cow, simply from the mistaken notion that she is an easy keeper? Are not the cows allowed to come in in the spring and take the summer pasture with varying conditions of feed down to winter, without any extra supply of provender to make the rations uniform, and calculated to stimulate the milk flow after the flush of feed has gone?

When the cold weather comes are not these cows allowed to go dry during the months when butter is bringing twice the price it did in the summer? Are these cows on the advent of frosty nights kept in the yards or cow houses, and given a good bait, or are they left out to make them "hardy," so as not to feel the cold weather when it comes, and as a result require less hay to winter them? Are these cows provided with a variety of food, and are they kept in a warm house instead of being left out of doors to warm a farmyard? Does this man know which is the best butter cow in the herd, and how many of them require thirty pound of milk to make a pound of butter? Is not this man always saying it is feed that makes a good cow, and that cake and grain make the quality of the milk, and never making the attempt to see if his reasoning is correct—making the excuse to himself that if he were rich he would have a dairy that would pay? Is not this man always laughing at the attempts of his neighbors, who are trying to better their herds by the best light they can obtain, and saying that it is all nonsense? If our readers will take notice, it is the man who is following out in the main the things that we have indicated who says the dairy does not pay; and the man who is doing the reverse of all this, and getting the best blood he can obtain from good dairy herds to add new producing powers to his herd, and is at every point cheapening the cost of feed, that today is saying that the dairy does pay, and "I am trying to make it pay even better yet with a yet better cow, better feed and a yet finer produce." Is the reader acquainted with these two?—*C. G. Freer-Thonger, in London Farm and Home.*

#### Famous American Privateers.

Early in the War of 1812 most of the American privateers were small pilot boats, but it was soon found that they were too weak to capture many vessels, as most of the English merchantmen were too heavily armed for them. This led to the construction of powerful swift-sailing craft, mounting twelve, eighteen, twenty-four and even thirty three-pounders, and manned by 120 and 150 men—veritable corvettes—which were sent to sea at private expense. Of this class were the privateers Paul Jones, Rosamond, Saratoga, General Armstrong and Yorktown. Perhaps the most formidable of all was the frigate-built ship America, a privateer which was purchased in France in 1785 by George Crowninshield. Many of our merchant vessels, transformed into privateers, proved to be formidable craft. In fact, a large proportion of our merchantmen were built with a view to speed; for, thanks to British interference in our mercantile affairs, the American shipowner had found it preferable to sacrifice a little carrying space in his ships to additional speed, as it would enable him to outstrip the British cruiser and thus avoid disastrous delays and degrading impressions.—*Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post.*

England, France and Germany have regular traveling salesmen who visit Mexican trade centres every three months, and they get the cream of the business.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The bicycle race is rapidly giving way, as a topic of interest, to the automobile pocket book.

A Boston author is suing a newspaper for \$20,000 damages. We have always said that there is money in the literary business.

Justice Freedman, in an opinion handed down in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, New York City, has decided that a husband is liable for debts incurred by his wife.

The California state board of prison directors has adopted a rule that hereafter when a convict is found with a deadly weapon in his possession he shall be kept in solitary confinement for the rest of the term, even if it be for his natural life.

The Massachusetts girl worth \$2,000,000, who married her coachman, as least is a great improvement upon Anna Gould, who married Count Castellane. When the money is gone her husband will have something to fall back on. A good ostler or coachman is not picked up every day.

We have hardly begun as yet to scratch the earth's resources for supporting human life. A ranch forty miles square—and there are larger ranches than that in the West—could raise wheat enough to supply the entire population of Greater New York. With twice the present population of the globe the United States would be sparsely settled.

Does any one doubt that Mrs. Mary Morgan is the oldest bride of the century? She had seen one hundred and two summers when, the other day she was married to James Morgan at Galena, Kan. James Morgan, the bridegroom, is only seventy.

The automobile has received official recognition from the German government. Three vehicles impelled by petroleum and two by electricity have been ordered for use in the postal service. If these prove satisfactory, horses will be abolished by the post office authorities.

Santa Fe N. M., has a woman's Board of Trade, now seven years old. The members keep the ancient palace of the Spanish Government in good order, look after the trees and shrubs in the public square, run a public library, reading room, lecture course and several charities, and strive in all ways "to advance the welfare and prosperity of the oldest city in the United States."

Men and women of moderate means and average station and of the most commonplace education and breeding now require little elegancies for the toilet, a nicety and variety of dress, comforts and conveniences in their home belongings, which kings and queens have been content to do without. Hence we have an enormously extended field for applied art, wonderful new possibilities for those who would design beautiful forms and at the same time put them into execution, observes the San Francisco Chronicle in an article dwelling upon the remarkable progress of the industrial arts during the present century.

The latest attempt to deal successfully with the servant girl problem is made by an individual who thinks that the difficulty in getting competent girls to enter into the realm of household would be overcome by allowing them to go home every night, so that it would really be like going out to work by the day. He foresees great opposition on the part of the employer, who would be much inconvenienced. But how about the object of his kind intentions, how, for instance, would she feel about giving up her comfortable quarters, starting out to less comfortable ones, and returning on cold winter mornings?

How frequently employees succumb to temptation none can say. As a rule, such cases are not brought into the police court. It is cheaper, saves time and obviates the creation of a bad impression to merely discharge the culprit. What concern is it of the house whether he fails to secure another position, or whether, having got off fairly lightly in this case, he is rendered permanently dishonest? "Am I my brother's keeper?" is asked to-day as it has been from the beginning. Competition has many sins to answer for and among them this one is by no means the least. Would it not be well, from a financial as well as from a moral point of view, for merchants generally to so arrange their business and their salary list that their employees are exposed as little as possible to such perils of life-shipwreck? asks the Dry Goods Economist.

The principal source of revenue in the field of college athletics is football, and after that baseball. "The former sport has long been the most popular sport, and long the most productive of revenue. When one considers the enormous crowds that flock to see the games of Harvard, Princeton, University of Pennsylvania and Yale, ready to pay theatre prices for seats, it becomes apparent that football turns in a vast amount of money to the common athletic fund. While the returns are large, the expenses are very heavy, because of the cost of building immense stands for the spectators and the cost of feeding and training the young men of the gridiron. Baseball has likewise been generally profitable, and at Princeton alone the profit for this season is \$3,

500. Fortunately, college baseball has been absolutely free from the taint that has almost spoiled professional baseball, and many persons who used to follow the professional players with enthusiastic interest have transferred their affections to the college games, which, however much they may lack in skill compared with the professional contests, are sure to be clean, manly and exciting.

William Waldorf Astor was not an American in any except the nominal sense of the word. Usually when his name came before the public it was in connection with some act of snobishness, bad manners or bad taste that made Americans wish foreigners could not refer to him as "your fellow-countryman." Also it was extremely distasteful to him to think of himself as an American. It reminded him of the ancestral butchers and peddlers of the New York World. And when he talked to Americans of his pet delusion—his unfounded and now publicly exploded notion that he was descended not from German peasants but from haughty French and Spanish nobles—he knew that they were laughing in their sleeves at him. America retains all of him that was of any value—his property. That remains here to enrich this country. Only its income goes abroad, and it has been going abroad for years anyhow.

A defense of the view that the new century begins with 1900 seems to have simmered down to the statement that our present system of designating the years is not like another system used by certain persons for certain other purposes; and that if that other system had been extended, as it should have been, to the naming of years, the new century would begin twelve months before it really will. All this is undoubtedly true, but what pray, has it to do with the case as it is? Facts are one thing; might-have-been's and should-be's are another, and failure to distinguish between the two leads to much waste of time and temper. Beyond question, "1899" means the one thousand eight hundred and ninety-ninth year of the Christian era, and the next to the last year of the nineteenth century. Beyond question, too, 1900 will close that century and 1901 will start the next one. We are not denying that to have had a year 0 would have been a good idea, but we do assert that no such year was ever recognized, and that none ever can be without changing every date in all our modern literature, historical and other. And that would be a terrible bother, not to be seriously contemplated by any sane man.

Times seem to be very hard in Australia, and the army of unemployed in that colony is so large that many hard things are being said of the Queensland government for sending a man to England to instruct the people of the mother country about the resources of the colony and the many advantages it offers to emigrants. A correspondent of the London Chronicle says that men are "humping the bluey," whatever that may mean, from one end of Australia to the other, vainly seeking to earn a living, and the workers in the cities besiege the various state labor bureaus by the thousand. In Victoria it is estimated that 10,000 men are out of employment. In Sidney the unemployed number between 3,000 and 5,000. In Adelaide nearly 3,000 persons have registered at the local labor bureau. This state of affairs is set down principally to the prolonged drought through which Australia has just passed. Victoria and South Australia have both been unable to retain their natural increase of population. The former has lost about 120,000 persons in seven years by excess of emigration over immigration.

#### Darwin's Old Home.

For many years Charles Darwin, naturalist, lived in the village of Down in Kent, and now comes the news that the house which he occupied there has for some time been utterly neglected, and may be destroyed at an early date. English scientists express the hope that steps will at once be taken to preserve a building "which is full of great memories, and in which some of the most important scientific works of this or any other age were produced." Darwin lived in Down from 1842 until his death, and his best works were written there. The house which was once his is at the corner of two streets, one of which leads to Tunbridge and the other to Westerham. The rumor that it may be destroyed does not sound probable to many, for the reason that there is no great demand for land in Down, and even if there were there are many building plots around the old house. The suggestion has been made that the building be transformed into a Darwin museum of natural history, and various scientific journals are doing their best to have this suggestion carried out.—*New York Herald.*

#### A War Minister's Humble Home.

It is wonderful how much interest the appointment of General de Galliffet to the French Ministry of War has excited. We are continually receiving recollections and stories of him. A correspondent informs us today that the general lives alone in a small fifth-story apartment in the Rue Lord Byron, off the Champs Elysees, with his books, his dogs (Freestone and Milord, presents from the Prince of Wales) and a gray parrot. The extraordinary vigor which De Galliffet has managed to retain in his old age he ascribes to his fondness for cold water, his devotion to athletic pursuits and his extreme sobriety. Mr. Gladstone used to limit himself rigidly to seven hours' sleep. General Galliffet, it is affirmed, rarely sleeps for more than four hours of a night.

## BRAVEST OF DOCTORS.

### HEROIC DEED OF A SHIP'S SURGEON WON A DECORATION.

#### Pathetic Episode at Sea That After Eight Years Has Resulted in the Awarding of the Medal of the Legion of Honor to a German-American Physician.

The Paris Figaro relates a pathetic incident which, after eight years, is to result in the decorating with the Legion of Honor of a German-American doctor, who is also an officer in the reserve of the German Army. A few years since this would have raised a nationalist breeze, with threats of a whirlwind against the Ministry. The prime mover in securing the decoration is M. Alfred Masson, the Rouen lawyer, who is known in literature as Masson-Forestier, the author of the truest French short stories since Maupassant, and in a far healthier kind of life.

In 1891 an English petroleum boat left Rouen for Philadelphia, with a crew of eighteen Frenchmen. It is said that only Frenchmen will brave the dangers of explosion; and, in fact, four years later, the Wild Flower went up in the open sea. As the boat passed out of the basin, one of the crew jumped overboard, and escaped to land. As only the necessary men had been taken, it was essential to find a substitute for the deserter, and a young Breton, eighteen years old, was accepted. Some derangement of the steam apparatus obliged them to work the helm by hand, and the young Breton was appointed for this dangerous work. The Figaro says that the English merchant marine is the only one of the civilized world which uses no sort of protection in such cases. This is due to the fact that English courts do not hold the owners of ships responsible for accidents that may happen to the crew through lack of simple precautions. At any rate, the little Breton was thrown against the wheel, and rescued only when his arm had been completely crushed. The wound was wrapped up as well as possible, but after ten days gangrene set in. The captain, at the request of the crew, consented to steer toward the north where a surgeon might perhaps be had from one of the transatlantic liners.

At last the Russia of the Hamburg-American Line bore in sight, and, unlike another steamship, which pursued its way without noticing the signals of distress, demanded, from the regulation distance of nine hundred yards, what was the matter. "Wounded man on board—help urgent!" was replied. The sea was high, but Dr. Max Breuer, the ship surgeon, found eight volunteers to row him over to the Wild Flower. He ordered the Breton to be taken from the foul corner where he had been lying to a decent cabin, and quickly amputated the injured arm. The man was saved. As the doctor was climbing down to his boat, the captain asked him what was owing for the operation. The doctor drew himself up: "Sir, such danger as my men and I are running is not paid with money." The French boatswain heard the words, and, with tears in his eyes, thanked the young German in the name of the French crew. "I am glad to have saved a Frenchman," replied the doctor, as he entered his boat.

At Philadelphia the young Breton was taken to the hospital, where he rapidly recovered. But how was he to earn his living with a single arm? He applied to the French Consul, and was answered that nothing could be done for him, since he was sailing under the British flag. He went to the English Consul, who offered him twelve dollars—the remainder of his wages—on condition that he would sign a paper foregoing all further claims against the company. The Breton was hardheaded like those of his race, and refused to sign. After months of misery, he worked his way back to Rouen, where some one advised him to consult M. Masson, who, as readers of his stories know, has made a specialty of the legal interests of sailors. It happened that the Wild Flower was back in Rouen, and he at once attached the boat. The captain was obliged to deposit sureties, and the French court condemned the company to pay the Breton sailor, maimed in their service for lack of due precaution on their part 14,000 francs damages. An appeal was made, and the second court demanded that an annuity should be settled on the disabled man. The company finally offered a lump sum of 9,000 francs, which the young Breton accepted, and on which he now lives as best he may in his little town of Brittany. With the simple sentiment of his race, he insisted on putting aside a hundred francs for the Germans to whom he owed his life. His lawyer gave as much more and asked Comte de Munster, the German Ambassador at Paris, to see to the disposal of the little sum. It was turned over to the life saving society of Bremen.

Then, M. Masson set about obtaining some recognition for Dr. Max Breuer, who had risked his life in the interest of French humanity. He addressed a first memorial to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, but received no answer. Two years later, in 1898, he prepared another and stronger representation of the case, and took it to a Deputy, who was also a former Minister, to secure the weight of his signature. The ex-Minister confessed that he did not dare to sign a petition for conferring the Legion of Honor on a German subject. Two more years passed and then Jules Lemaitre, anti-revisionist, and now leader of the anti-Masonic crusade, having no political fears, took the memorial to M. Delcasse, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who has been subjected to the humiliation of Fashoda, and who has done so much to secure the revision of the Dreyfus case. He promised that he would decorate the German doctor, who, in the meanwhile, has married an American, and settled down to practice in Buffalo. He is still,

however, a German subject. He has promised, in his turn, to go to Paris to receive his decoration. He is unconsciously a significant figure in this strange tangle of French opposing sentiments, where the one enemy—"perfidious Albion"—is concerned. He has also to do with the first story which brought Masson-Forestier before the public—the charming and touching "Jambe Coupee."—*New York Post.*

#### ENLISTED MAN'S ETIQUETTE.

##### How Our Soldiers Salute Their Officers Under Various Conditions.

When an enlisted man without arms passes an officer he salutes with the hand furthest from the officer. If mounted he salutes with the right hand. Officers are saluted whether in uniform or not.

An enlisted man armed with the sabre and out of ranks salutes all officers with sabre if drawn; otherwise he salutes with the hand. If on foot and armed with a rifle or carbine he makes the rifle or carbine salute. A mounted soldier dismounts before addressing an officer not mounted.

A non-commissioned officer or private in command of a detachment without arms salutes all officers with the hand; but if the detachment be on foot and armed with the rifle or carbine he makes the rifle or carbine salute, and if armed with a sabre he salutes with it.

An enlisted man, if seated, rises on the approach of an officer, faces toward him and salutes. If standing, he faces the officer for the same purpose. If the parties remain in the same place or on the same ground such compliments need not be repeated. Soldiers actually at work do not cease work to salute an officer unless addressed by him.

An enlisted man makes the prescribed salute with the weapon he is armed with, or, if unarmed, whether covered or uncovered, with the hand, before addressing an officer. He also makes the same salute after receiving a reply.

Indoors, an unarmed, enlisted man uncovers and stands at attention upon the approach of an officer; he does not salute unless he addresses or is addressed by the officer. If armed he salutes as heretofore prescribed without uncovering.

When an officer enters a room where there are soldiers the word "Attention" is given by some one who perceives him, when all rise and remain standing in the position of a soldier until the officer leaves the room. Soldiers at meals do not rise.

Soldiers at all times and in all situations pay the same compliments to officers of the army, navy and marines, to officers of volunteers and officers of the militia in the service of the United States, as to officers of their own regiment, corps, or arm of service.

#### A Mechanical Milkmaid.

A German manufacturer has invented a new milking machine, which is finding a ready sale in Europe, especially in Denmark, Switzerland and Russia. An iron pipe about one inch in diameter is conducted through the stable, and is affixed at the ceiling so that it remains about three feet above the back of the animals. Flexible shafts, provided with small cocks, run from this pipe to a cylindrical milk collector, which, again, is held by a belt laid around the back of the cows.

At one side of the cow there is attached a small flexible hose divided into four small arms, all provided with small cocks, and which are connected with the udder. The first mentioned iron pipe, running all through the stable, is connected with a large cylinder fixed at the ceiling, from which a perpendicular tube runs down into a vessel filled with water. By means of a small hand pump the air is compressed in the cylinder and thus through the whole pipe. The water when rising regulates the pressure in the pipes. It needs only a few movements of the pump's piston to compress the air throughout the whole system. The only thing to be done then is to open the small cocks of the pipes connected with the udder, and the milk flows into the above described milk-collecting vessel.

By this apparatus a large number of cows can be milked in a few minutes. The whole process, from the beginning to the end, does not require more than eight minutes.—*Philadelphia Record.*

#### President McKinley's "Trap."

A man with finely cut, dark, smooth shaven features was driving a swell "spider" to which a handsome pair of bays were attached up Fourteenth street the other evening. A pretty young woman sat beside him. A brown-skinned footman in cool summer livery occupied the looking-to-the-rear seat behind. The man holding the reins wore a big, well-fitting gray Fedora hat, a dark serge suit and pearl driving gloves. It was an unusually handsome rig and there was a look of distinction about the man. "Wonder who that duck is?" asked a workman who had friend when the "spider" whirled by the open car in which they were seated. "Oh, he's a feller that lives across from Lafayette Square," replied the other workman.

"That so?" said the first speaker. "Knows how to handle horses, don't he? What's the gezer's name?" "McKinley," answered the other workman, grinning.

And then his inquisitor stretched his head out and said, "Why, so it is!"

#### Its Useful Function.

Teacher—Describe the safety brake of a passenger elevator. Bobbie Bright—Please, sir, it's the part that fails to work when the elevator falls.