

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

ITEMS OF INTEREST ON AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

Cleaning the Milk Vessels—The Cabbage Worm—English Wheat Deteriorating—Permanent Farm Improvements—Spraying Fruit Trees—Etc., Etc.

Cleaning the Milk Vessels.
All milk vessels, buckets, cans, churns, cream vats, butter workers, etc., should not only be washed clean every day, but should be treated to steam or boiling water at least once a week. By submerging in a large wash boiler full of boiling water and keeping them there for ten minutes, they can be nicely cleaned.

The Cabbage Worm.
There is no necessity of using any poisonous compounds to kill the cabbage worm. Sift fine salt over the heads or spray them with salt water and they will cease to feed and in an hour or so will drop to the ground. If there is any difference the dry salt is the most sure method. Salt sprinkled on loose heads or around them is thought to help them to head. Of course a rain will wash the salt off the head, and when worms are very plenty it may be necessary to apply it more than once, but it is cheap.

English Wheat Deteriorating.
English millers say that they are obliged to mix large quantities of imported wheat with the home-grown wheat to obtain a sample of flour that will rank as first class and command a good price. They say that the quality of the English wheat has degenerated for milling purposes, and charge that this is in part the result of a lack of care in selecting seed. There is no doubt that inferior seed, small or shrunken, will result in a poorer grain, especially if the practice is continued. The large, plump grain is the cheapest seed to use. A change of seed from one locality to another may have some effect in improving it, and experiments in regard to cross fertilization are in progress, which are hoped will unite the good qualities of some of the most hardy, prolific and best milling varieties. Some of them have been very successful thus far.

Permanent Farm Improvements.
There are some very desirable improvements that the farmer might like to make in his buildings or his surroundings that seem almost out of his reach, because they cannot be made without an expenditure of ready money greater than he has at command. And there are others that require but little more than the labor, and are within the means of every one. A few fruit or shade trees or shrubs set about the house, a space made for a flower garden where seeds may be sown in fall or spring, a clearing up of the rubbish of old wagons and tools and waste lumber around house and barn, or mending gates and fences, will make the place seem more homelike, and as if civilized people lived there, and less like an Indian camp. Then it will cost but little to set some of the bush fruits and a grape vine or two, and in a few years they will add to the table luxuries enough to make the farm more pleasant as well as more profitable. These improvements can be made even when lumber for new buildings or the paint for old ones are unattainable.

Spraying Fruit Trees.
A correspondent of the Prairie Farmer says he has been spraying fruit trees with more or less success for eleven years, but only for the last four years has he obtained results entirely satisfactory. He now stakes lime in the ordinary manner and strains it. Then for apple and plum trees he adds to a gallon of this two gallons of water and two teaspoonfuls of London purple, and sprays the trees before the bloom comes out, and again after the bloom is gone. Gives a third and fourth application if necessary, which is not often the case. Never spray while the bloom is on, as it drowns, poisons or kills the pollen. Uses the same on currants and gooseberries before they bloom and after the fruit has started. For peaches and pears he weakens it, using one-half gallon of lime water and one teaspoonful of London purple in two gallons of water. Uses lime water without London purple to spray trees after fruit is a fair size, to prevent fruit rotting on the trees, and has succeeded in saving it by shaking slaked lime from a can attached to a pole, right on the ripening fruit.

Some Incubator Problems.
To buy or not to buy an incubator, is a question often considered at about this time of the year. I will try and answer a few of the queries which usually occur in this connection. No doubt there are many worthless and inferior incubators on the market, but I have carefully inspected the merits of about all the good machines and not wasted any time on those that were visibly inferior. Speaking from experience I have yet to find any of those that I have tried that would not come up to the ordinary standard. However, there are beyond question many incubators made and advertised that are, from a practical standpoint, not worth the price of the lumber put into them, and persons contemplating buying an incubator and not being familiar with the different makes

better buy one of standard manufacture and pay a few dollars more, rather than trifle with the cheap John affairs. They will be money ahead in the end.

Inquiries are sometimes heard regarding small incubators for growers who wish to hatch a small number of chicks each season. As I have no figures on which to base an estimate, it would be impossible to say how few chickens could be hatched in an incubator profitably; however, I would not recommend the use of an incubator of less capacity than 50, but would in general recommend the 200-egg size, for various reasons, but principally for economy in fuel, as experience teaches me that it takes very little more, if any, fuel to run out a hatch of 200 than it does a hatch of 100. It requires also only about the same amount of fuel and same amount of care and time to run out a 100 or 200-egg hatch as it does a 50, and all things being equal, you can plainly see where the economy comes in.

I have raised a great many chicks, both by artificial and natural means, and can say with all truthfulness and candor, there is positively no difference at maturity between chickens hatched in an incubator and those hatched under a hen. If properly cared for from the shell I defy any expert to distinguish an incubator hatched chick from those hatched under a hen, placing them side by side.—B. M. L., in "Can Agriculturalist."

The Food of Blackbirds.
A bulletin has recently been issued by the United States Department of Agriculture on the food of the bobolink, blackbirds and grackles. This bulletin has been prepared by F. E. L. Beck, Assistant Biologist of the Department.

The birds commonly known as bobolinks, meadow larks, orioles, blackbirds, grackles and cowbirds are all comprised in a group known as the family Icteridae, which is represented in the United States by twenty-nine species and sub-species. In this bulletin are discussed the food habits of the bobolink, the cowbird, the yellow-headed blackbird, the red-winged blackbird, the rusty blackbird, Brewer's blackbird, the crow blackbird, and the boat-tailed grackle. These comprise all the important members of the group, with the exception of the meadow lark and oriole. The ravages of the bobolink in the rice fields of the South, and of some of the blackbirds in the grain fields of the Upper Mississippi Valley at planting and harvesting time, are matters of common knowledge, but the other food of these and other species is not so well known.

The bulletin is devoted mainly to the food of the various blackbirds during the summer months, and is based on a careful examination of the contents of more than 4,800 stomachs, representing nine species and several sub-species of American blackbirds. This examination, while concerning to a certain extent the popular estimate of their grain-eating propensities, has shown also that during the season when grain is not accessible these birds destroy immense quantities of seeds of harmful weeds, and that during the whole of the warmer portion of the year, even when grain is easily obtained, they devour a great number of noxious insects. It appears that the vegetable portion of the food usually considerably exceeds the animal, and is chiefly hard seeds. The animal portion consists mostly of insects. The damage done by the red-wings and some other species has apparently arisen from the excessive number of individuals rather than from the habits of the species, and there is no doubt that in the Mississippi Valley the red-wings and yellow-heads, and farther west, Brewer's blackbird, are much too abundant for the interests of the grain grower.

Provide for the Escape of Surplus Water.
The importance of having land ready for cultivation at the earliest possible moment in spring is pretty generally acknowledged by farmers in all climates where the winter consists of wet or freezing weather. The Guelph Experimental Farm in a six years' test learned that barley sown on April 21-22 produced an average of four bushels per acre more than that sown May 9th and 10th; spring wheat produced an average of two bushels more, and oats about three and a half bushels in favor of the earlier sowing. These are telling differences, which are not the only advantages of getting surplus water off the land as early as possible in spring. Thorough underdraining will do much in this respect after the frost is out, but there are very few fields that are not the better of a system of surface water-furrowing, because the later water stands on soil, especially, if of a heavy nature, the more inclined is it to become sodgy and difficult to work down to a friable condition. In our judgment, a field should not be considered plowed at this season before the furrows between the lands have been given an outlet and all low-lying portions crossed by water furrows, and then, at least, the junctions of the crossing furrows cleaned with a shovel, if the whole cross furrow is not shovelled, which will generally be found to pay. This greatly facilitates the escape of not only the melted snow, but it carries away the heavy showers that would otherwise deter work on the land for hours, and perhaps days,

just when the men and teams are ready to go on with the seeding. It will pay to give attention to this matter, as it will help the returns of the 1901 crop and facilitate the farm work, either of which is an important consideration. The general outlet or watercourse must be attended to, that the water from one field may not collect and give trouble on another field on our own or our neighbor's farm.

Probably of greater or more general importance is the matter of having all open ditches and mouths of underdrains cleared of obstructions before freezing-up occurs. We have known whole systems of underdrains to be seriously interfered with by neglecting the general outlet for a few years. All tile drains carry considerable silt, especially in loamy or mucky soils, and when this cannot escape at the outlet, it must bank back until a general clogging results. On a certain farm we have in mind, a change of management occurred, and a definite plan of the drainage system lost sight of for a time. At a certain portion of the lane leading through the farm, the road became impassable with teams for some time every spring. Attempts were made to get the water off by side ditches, but this availed very little. Again the management changed, when it was discovered that a former open ditch close to the lane—the outlet of the drainage system of two large fields—had been trampled in by stock, so that there was no free exit for the water, which was forced to ooze to the surface, not only keeping a large portion of land unworkably wet, but spoiling the lane both temporarily and, to some extent, permanently. Since the ditch was cleaned out and the drains opened back a few yards and cleaned, the system has returned to its old-time efficiency; the lane has been firm and passable, and all anxiety for the welfare of the drains relieved, since their condition can be ascertained by a casual observation. This is one instance, of which there are many throughout the country. We are all aware that the fall is a busy season, and labor scarce; but this matter of attending to water-furrows, ditches and mouths of drains is of too great importance to neglect. To give no attention to the first is to delay seeding and reduce the yield, and to neglect the last is to undo, to some extent, the efficiency of perhaps an expensive and well-executed system of tile underdrain.—The Farmer's Advocate.

Local Transportation in Porto Rico.
The thing which has impressed most people from the States, on first acquaintance with Porto Rico, is the lack of transportation facilities. This is apparent to the new arrival just off the steamer as soon as he makes inquiries as to the way to reach this, that, or the other town, and learns that a coach is a luxurious express equipage, and a cart, or macadamized road, is the "best road" or route of the "fast mail" in Porto Rico. The fare, with such accommodations, for a distance of 130 kilometers (eighty miles), is 30 pesos (\$18, gold). That is less than 20 cents per mile. If the tourist desires to see any besides the principal towns on the island, he will have to be content to ride over a cambo, or unimproved country road. For a coach to go thirty-two kilometers (nineteen miles), half by cart and half by cambo, the charge will be about 14 pesos. If he wants to come back it will be more. That is only about 75 centavos, or 45 cents, per mile. Should he desire to penetrate further into the country, he must ride a Porto Rican pony. The roads will be nothing more than mountain trails, and would be both difficult and dangerous to travel on foot. But the ponies are used to them and are perfectly safe.—The Engineering Magazine.

His One Brave Deed.
She was a hero worshiper. Often she would read history, just to find some new hero to worship. Otherwise she would read such novels as "Beautiful Betsy, the Belle of the Brass Works, or the 'Baronet's Bride'." Of course this made her feel that she had married beneath her, for her husband had not grown round-shouldered from wearing heavy medals. Occasionally she would tell him that she wished he was a hero. Once the foolish man told her that he would be a hero if he had a chance. "You would?" she said, in tones of incredulity. "Did you ever do anything in your life that looked like bravery, or that seemed valorous in after years?" He thought of the day when they played Mendelssohn's wedding march, and he gave the minister \$10 and she became his wife. But he didn't say anything about it. For a true hero never talks about his glorious, dare-devil deeds. So she never knew that her husband was a hero. Isn't it a sad story.—Baltimore American.

Sharks Work the Fishermen.
On this side of Pearl harbor the sharks are said to abound in large numbers. The natives have the greatest difficulty in catching their fish, for the sharks follow the boats and snap the fish off the hooks while the fishermen are drawing them toward the boat.—Hawaiian Star.

The man who boasts that he has no enemies is usually a nonentity.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

A faster boat than the Columbia, so it is said, is needed to beat Shamrock II. Well, it will be built.

Why is it that the successful lady novelists when they enter the bonds of matrimony have a way of selecting husbands much younger than themselves?

The recent feat of a Long Island woman bicycle rider ought to result in changing the view commonly held on the subject of masculine as compared with feminine endurance.

A Providence pot hunter has just paid \$25.45 as the penalty for killing one robin, which birds now are protected the year round by the Rhode Island game law.

The Illinois Audubon Society is about to checkmate the milliners by securing an amendment to the game laws that shall make it an offense, with penalties, for any one to possess any part of the wild birds now protected by the law.

Chicago now contains a greater population than all the cities of the United States contained in 1840, and New York city now has a greater population than all the cities together had in 1850.

The Surgeon-General of the United States Navy has arranged to send to Guam a dentist to treat the teeth of the men at that naval station. There has been much complaint from sufferers at Guam, and the services of a dentist are greatly needed. The "tooth jerker" was enlisted as a hospital steward at \$90 a month.

An order has been issued to the postmasters throughout the country to observe the strictest economy with rubber bands; to reuse old bands as much as possible, and to save all pieces of string for future use. The famine in India and the war in the Philippines have advanced the prices of both the articles.

England is very much alarmed at last. Before the gigantic figure of "Made in America," "Made in Germany" sinks into insignificance. Nor is it in coal, iron, and steel alone that England and Europe will have to fear us—once we get started on the right road for fine goods in a hundred lines, they will have to look to their laurels.

An enterprising English pisciculturist has invented a lymph with which he proposes to vaccinate young lobsters to protect them against a growth which is fatal to little crustaceans, according to the London Leader. The vaccinated lobster will have a peculiar scar at the base of his tail to distinguish him from his unvaccinated brethren.

The Rev. Edward Everett Hale has uttered a shout of jubilation over the fact that five of the heroes selected for enrollment in the Hall of Fame, in New York city, were Boston Latin School boys. "One in six," he says, "ought to satisfy even Latin School pride; and this in a list which can afford to leave out John Hancock, Henry Knox, Lotarop Motley, Wendell Phillips, and Charles Sumner."

An American in Bern, Switzerland, writes: "The more money one deposits in a bank here the less interest is paid upon it. The largest bank in the city has a gigantic printed sign posted near the paying teller's window, which states the rates of interest upon various amounts. Sums up to \$1,000 draw 4 per cent interest per annum; from \$1,000 to \$3,000 3 3/4 per cent is paid, while if one has an account of more than \$3,000 he receives only 3 1/2 per cent."

California contributes from its State Treasury for the partial support of half-orphan and complaint is being made of the amount of money thus demanded. For the six months ending June 30 last, \$81,767.53 was thus paid, and there are previous claims of \$175,000, which the board refuses to pay, declaring that they were contracted before the present administration took office and their correctness cannot be established. Some counties will sue.

The Philadelphia Press, commenting on the remarkable bank defalcation in New York city, says: "One might expect that shrewd New York bank officials might be interested in knowing how their note teller could keep seven thoroughbreds, and half a dozen stylish traps, and let his wife attend a neighborhood ball of wheelmen in an imported lace gown, worth half his yearly salary and covered with diamonds." But so far as the directors went, Mount Vernon and its social life might as well have been in Indiana.

There is a theme for a novel in the case of the man out West who had his nose made over by a surgeon so that the wife of his bosom should not recognize him when he returned to her, after a separation, and stole their child. If one may cast aside his exemption allowed to persons by law. Miss Loffin's counsel took the ground that the services rendered by his client were in the nature of manual labor, against which such exemption could

not be legally claimed. The court held that the point was well taken, and the exemption was not allowed, on the ground that school teaching is manual labor.

It is quite common for prisoners to be starved in the jail at Constantinople, Turkey. Theoretically the government allows a small loaf of bread a day to each prisoner, but the supply is never sufficient and prisoners have always had to rely on their friends to bring them food, or buy it from a sort of canteen in the prison. All the authorities are interested in this institution and therefore do their utmost to force the prisoners to purchase their food there.

A new Australian gold story describes the finding of nuggets as large as lemons, with free gold in the placer almost as abundant as the gravel. Long Flat, near Gundagai, where the discovery was made, will soon find its name as celebrated as that of the Klondike or Cape Nome if it keeps on at its initial pace of production. Australia stands high in the list of gold producing countries, and if Long Flat develops into a Witwatersrand reef, according to local expectation, it may in time come to head them all. But further information is necessary before the future of the new diggings can be intelligently forecast.

John McDonald, a Kansas journalist, who is touring Scotland, says in a letter to one of the papers of the Sunflower State that he recently went into a store in a little Highland town and inspected the goods displayed for sale, finding among them the following American products: Corn flour, canned beef, canned peaches, canned apricots, canned pears, soap, rolled oats, washboards, churns, cheese, hams, flour, salmon, apples, forks, hoes, axes, hammers, saws, joiners' tools braces and bits. "This partial list of things used in a Scotch mountain village," says Mr. McDonald, "will give some idea of the immense trade between the United States and Great Britain."

Reports continue to come into Honolulu of trouble with Japanese laborers on nearly all the plantations in Hawaii. The Japanese who continue to work on the plantations do not do above 75 per cent. as much labor in a day as they did when they were under contract. In addition to this they will not work more than about half the time. As the plantation furnishes them houses, wood, water, medical attendance and other perquisites, their failure to work regularly adds considerably to the price of labor. In addition to this, wages have gone up on an average nearly \$5 a month. Whenever any effort is made by the plantation managers to get the Japanese to do as much work in a day as they formerly did or to work more regularly they leave the plantation. Persons who have been on the various islands, especially on Hawaii and Maui, say that the roads everywhere are filled with Japanese, with their packs on their backs, wandering from one plantation to another.

Only two classes of immigrants appear to be specially welcomed in Argentina. One is the capitalist and the other the farmer class. The capitalist may get a larger return on his money than in England or the United States, but he may lose his money as quickly, easily and irrevocably as in London or New York city. As in any other part of the world, he must understand the conditions exactly before investing in lands, industries or any other form of enterprise, without running great risks of losing his investment. The poor farmer who is willing to turn his back on civilization and rough it for years may get along faster and further than he could in either of these foreign countries, as the government is as liberal as it can be toward colonists. The lands at its disposal are given to settlers on extremely favorable terms, but the quantity of best lands is now quite limited; and no farmer should go to Argentina with a capital of less than \$2,000. The native is not astounded at the sight of a little money and it takes just as much capital to go into business in Argentina as elsewhere.

Latest reports from the Far East state that Russia is bending every effort to the completion of her Trans-Siberian railway, which is not only to play a large part in the politics of the northern power, but in the development of its resources and of the commerce of the world. For while it will bring the west into direct and speedy overland communication with the Far East, and so be of first importance from a political, military and commercial point of view, it will open to Russian colonization and development a region one and a half times as large as Europe. This region, known as Siberia, includes the whole vast expanse of territory reaching from the Polar Sea to the borders of China, and from the Urals to the Pacific, a total area of over twelve million square versts, or about forty times the size of the British Isles. Divided for administrative purposes into four great governments, Eastern and Western Siberia, the Governor-Generalships of the Steppes and of the Amoor, it has a population of something more than 8,000,000, but 8 per cent. of which is in the towns, though several of the latter have from 20,000 to 50,000 inhabitants.

THE JOKERS' BUDGET.

To Kiss a Miss.
It is no bliss
To miss a kiss,
But, oh, 'tis bliss
To kiss a miss.
But sometimes,
After you have kissed her
You wish to thunder
You had missed her.
—Detroit Free Press.

Defeated.
He—Sorry to hear your engagement with young De Rocks is off.
She—Yes; he ran away and enlisted to fight in China, the coward!—Chicago News.

The Resemblance.
Jackson—The baby's getting more like its mother every day.
Johnson—That so?
Jackson—Yes; it's learning to talk.—Indianapolis Sun.

Family Secrets.
Inquisitive Relative—Willie, what floor do you live on in the apartment house in the big city?
Willie (on a visit)—Mamma says I mustn't tell stories.—Chicago Tribune.

A Tumultuous Moment.
Doctor—I'm afraid your husband doesn't get enough exercise.
Mrs. De Style—Well, he'll be exercised enough when my dressmaker sends in her bill.

Effective Method.
"She attracts a good deal of attention."
"No wonder; she's so outre!"
"In what way?"
"Well, for one thing, she tries not to attract attention."—Detroit Journal.

Preparatory Studies.
Teacher—I'm glad to see you take such an interest in chemistry, Johnny. Are you going to be a chemist when you grow up?
Johnny—No, ma'am; I'm going to own a maple sugar and syrup factory.—Chicago News.

Had Words With the Teacher.
Mother—Tommy, what makes you so late?
Tommy—Had some words with the teacher, and she kept me after school.
Mother—You had words with the teacher?
"Yes, mother. I couldn't spell 'em."—Tit-Bits.

Took Her at Her Word.
May Putter—Everybody's talking about the way you let Jack Huggard kiss you on the lips yesterday.
Belle Hazard—Well, I couldn't help it, I was just teasing off when he asked me if he could have just one kiss. I yelled, "Fore!" and he took them.—Philadelphia Press.

Queer Conceit.
"Snags has a queer idea of college life," said one university man to another.
"So?"
"Yes; he said yesterday, when I told him to get ready for the cane rush, that he came to study and not to mix up in riots."—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

Quick Collection.
"My! What a splendid library your husband has, Mrs. Flashington. It must have taken him years and years to get all those books together."
"Oh, no. We moved into a house two years ago that had book shelves built all around one room, and he done it in about three weeks."—Chicago Times-Herald.

Before and After.
"Do you think of me as often as you did before we were married?" asked Mr. Meekton's wife.
"Much oftener," he answered, cheerfully, but absent-mindedly. "You see, Henrietta, you weren't in a position to then remind me of yourself as much as you can at present."—Washington Star.

The Proofs Were Palpable.
"That man," remarked the great detective, "is undoubtedly a vegetarian of the most pronounced type."
"How do you make that out?" queried his friend.
"Oh, that's dead easy," replied the g. d. "He has carrotty hair, reddish cheeks, a turn-up nose and a sage look."—Chicago Daily News.

Literary Fame.
He saw that the mood of the hour called for Concord philosophy.
Happily, this was not difficult.
"It matters little," he wrote, "which shoulder you see the new moon over, provided you put the shoulder to the wheel!"
An intuition told him at once that his literary fame was now secure.—Detroit Journal.

His Pointed Remark.
"I frequently hear you say that money talks," she remarked.
"Yes, it is an old saying, and a true one," he replied, "but unfortunately while money talks all that talks is not money."
"Why do you say 'unfortunately'?" she asked.
"Because if that were so," he answered, "I would be married to a fabulous fortune."