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The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PA. AGRICULTURAL. NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

Every farmer in his annual experience discovers something of value. Write it and send it to the "Agricultural Editor of the Democrat, Bellefonte, Penna.," that other farmers may have the benefit of it. Let communications be timely, and be sure that they are brief and well pointed.

Farm and Orchard. A FEW HINTS ABOUT GRAFTING.

This is a subject about which a great deal has been said in this department in time past and it is of so much value in itself that very much more will doubtless be said about it in time to come. Perhaps no other paper has from year to year given so much practical information about it.

The readers of this journal know that we seldom theorize, or in more homely words, "beat about the bush," in anything we have to say on questions interesting to our brethren who are deeply interested in the economy of agriculture, but rush at once into the gist of the subject.

In grafting it should be borne in mind that the scions should be taken only from healthy trees, as any diseased condition of the scions will convey this unhealthiness to the new growth, which will actually affect the trees ever after, even if it should not cause its eventual destruction. The fruit grafted can only represent that of the parent tree, and when there is a falling off in size or quality it may be taken for granted that something is wrong in the condition of the tree from which the scions are cut. In cutting the scions care should be observed to do it before the sap has begun to move in the spring. In fact, to be sure of there being no mistake in this, it is better to cut them late in the fall or in mid winter, and tying each kind together, label and bury in the ground under a shed, from which much moisture is excluded. Or, should the ground not be frozen, stick the ends two or three inches in the ground at the bottom of the tree from which the scions are taken. Grapes and cherries cannot be cut too soon in the winter or spring, and all scions had better be cut now, and then the work will be sure not to be omitted through neglect. Pear and apple scions cut and preserved in this way can be set quite late in the season—even up to May and June. In grafting it is very necessary to do the work carefully, as it is sure to be compensated for by the ready and un-failing success which will follow.—Germantown Telegraph.

Barnyard Economy. A dark stream, often of golden color, always of golden value, flows to waste from many American barnyards. This liquid fertility often enters the side ditch of the farm lane, sometimes of the highway, and empties into a brook, which removes it beyond the reach of plants that would greatly profit by it. Mice may gnaw a hole into the grainary and daily abstract a small quantity of grain, or the skunk may reduce the profits of the poultry yards, but these leaks are small in comparison with that poorly constructed and ill-kept barnyard. The most valuable part of manure is that which is very soluble, and unless it is retained by some absorbent, or kept from the drenching rains, it will be quickly out of reach. Manure is a manufactured product, and the success of all farm operations in the older States depends upon the quality of this product. Other things being equal, the farmer who comes out in the spring with the largest amount of the best quality of manure, will be one who finds farming pays the best. A barnyard, whether on a side hill or a level, with all the rains free to fall upon the manure heap, should be so arranged as to lose none of the drainage. Side hill barnyards are common, because the barn thus located furnish a convenient cellar. A barrier of earth on the lower side of the yard can be quickly thrown up with a team and road-scraper, which will catch and hold the drenchings of the yard above, and the course, newly made manure will absorb the liquid and be benefited by it. It would be better to have the manure made and kept under cover, always well protected from rains and melting snows. Only enough moisture should be present to keep it from fermenting too rapidly. An old farmer who left his manure to take care of itself, once kept some of his sheep under cover and was greatly surprised at the increased value of the manure thus made. In fact, it was so strong that when scattered as thickly as the leached dung of the yard, it made a distinct belt of better grain in the field. The testimony was so much in favor of the stall-made manure,

that this farmer is now keeping all his live stock under cover, and the farm is yielding larger crops and growing richer year by year. If it pays to stop a leak in the grainary, it is all the more important to look well to the manures that furnish the food, that feed the plants, that grow the grain, that fill the grain bin. At this season the living mills are all grinding the hay and grain, and yielding the by-products of the manure heap. Much may be saved in spring work by letting this heap be as small as out-door yard feeding and the winds and rains can make it, but such saving is like that of the economic sportsman, use as little powder and lead as possible. In farming, grow the largest possible crops, even though it take a week or more of steady hard work to get the rich, heavy, well-prepared manure upon the fields. More than this, enrich the land by throwing every stream of fertility upon the acres which have yielded it. Watch the manure heap as you would a mine of gold.—American Agriculturist.

Preparing for the Garden. The success of a garden depends much on its early preparation and planting in the spring. Crops which do not need putting in till warm weather arrives, are greatly benefited by the thorough preparation and the pulverizing and enriching of the soil. It is well, therefore, to apply in winter all the manure which may be wanted. Pulverized by frost and leached into the soil by rains and melting snows, it will be worth more than if spread in lumps after spring opens and is imperfectly intermixed. All new gardens for vegetables should be arranged for horse cultivation, by extending the plants in drills across it from end to end. This will greatly reduce the labor of keeping it clean, and the few minutes required to cultivate it once a week will be trifling compared with long and laborious hand labor. The crops will grow vigorously by keeping the soil constantly mellow and clean by the frequent passing of the narrow one horse harrow or cultivator. Gardens which are already laid out may be modified by re-arrangement, so that much, if not most, may be subjected to horse cultivation, and the amount of hand hoeing materially lessened. There are many crops which are commonly planted in beds, and kept clean, if at all, with hand labor, which may be arranged in drills for the purpose.

PROPER DIVISION OF FARMS.—There is very little economy practised with regard to fencing, as a general rule, and this should be looked at more than it is by our farmers. If you look at the majority of farms you will find the same division of land into fields that was a quarter of a century ago, and even further back. As far as can be made convenient, the different fields should be composed of an uniform quality of soil. A field that is partly heavy and partly light soil, or some of which is on high and some on low ground, is rarely the best for any crop, and the different parts, if not fenced off, should at least be cultivated and cropped by themselves. There is a great amount of money lost every year, in the shape of valuable land and productions, by not having proper and conveniently fenced fields. It is not unusual to see corn in the shock, turnips, fall wheat and aftermath in the same field at the same time of the year, and the pasture in this field is completely lost.

RAISING ASPARAGUS.—A Massachusetts gardener plows very deep for asparagus, manures plentifully and plants in furrows eight inches deep, gradually filling up level as the plants grow. Rows should be four feet apart, and plants from twelve to twenty inches. Thick setting bring in a full crop sooner, but thinner setting gives quite as good results in the long run. A bed is in perfection from eight to twelve years old. The fourth year's growth will be of full market size, but the third will give a medium crop of medium sized stalks. An old bed is hard to kill, but constant and late cutting up to August, with subsequent cultivation, will do it.

The want of pure and fresh water accounts in many instances for the lack of eggs during the winter season. Fowls require a constant supply of water, and without will not lay.

The Poultry Yard. RAISING CHICKENS FOR PROFIT.

As a general rule farmers, in the true sense of the word, cannot or do not make a specialty in any line that is not strictly in the category of actual farming operations. There are very few lines of operation but that have their specialists, and when they set themselves up as teachers, do not do so from the real farmers' standpoint, but do so as professionals, and so, in making their recommendations shoot, so to speak, over the average farmer's head and from numerous rules and suggestions, tend to discourage rather than encourage. Every farmer should raise poultry, the quantity of which he must judge for himself, taking into account his location regarding neighbors and all questions of feeling in any way the successful management of the same. Whether turkeys are to be raised depends upon the location. If near neighbors, and the farmer has any regard for the quiet and peace of the neighborhood, he had better omit the turkeys, since their disposition is to roam and they will become trespassers and a prolific cause of dissension. Geese and ducks are similar in their nature, and unless restrained will roam about at will, causing damage to crops; but they can be confined in a pen where there is plenty of water and will thrive, which is not the case with turkeys.

In point of fact, for all purposes and as a source of profit, hens are the most profitable for the farmer. The benefit that comes from hens de-