

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Farm and Garden Notes. Look for grubs among your peach trees right away; at the surface of the ground, or just below it, you know.

Wooden floors are objected to for poultry houses, for the reason that they tend to cause the birds to become duck-footed, and what is of more consequence, absorb and retain dampness from the droppings, and so prove a source of cramp and other ailments.

Powls need charcoal when in confinement; but that from wood is not palatable to them. The best way to furnish it is by charring an ear of corn. The fowls will devour it greedily, and the improved color of their combs will soon show its wholesome effect.

The farmer who wishes to avoid an excess of labor, with unprofitable result, will not spread a small quantity of manure over a large surface of poor land, but will only manure where his income will be as large, and his labor nearly one-half saved.

"The cause of failure in the peach crop often comes, in my opinion, from too great fertility of the soil on which the trees grow. As the peach tree grows rapidly it is often hurt by the fruit, because its wood is not sufficiently hardened. I get the best results from slow-growing trees on not over-rich soil."—Mr. Martin, Oskaloosa, Ia.

Cabbage has a superior value for feeding purposes. English cattle feeders assert that their beasts progress faster on cabbage mixed with plenty of hay than on any other vegetable. Cabbage contains one part flesh-forming substance to three of heat-producing, while in potatoes the flesh-forming is only one to twenty. Cabbage is also rich in mineral matter.

"After a long experience I am safe in making the statement that the soil upon which they are raised has much to do with the character of russet apples. Those raised on a sandy soil are much more juicy and of finer flavor, while those on hill lands are the best keepers. I have known a russet tree to bear the third year, but this is unusual. Generally about the fourth or fifth year they begin to bear small crops, though some times not until the seventh or eighth. Much depends on the size and also on the variety."—G. D., Hooking, O.

PEPPER CROW-CROW.—Cut in half, and remove the seeds from twenty-five peppers; soak in salted water for three or four hours; chop fine and add twice as much chopped onion and green peppers; one tablespoonful each of ground cloves, allspice, mustard seed, whole—salt; mix thoroughly; cover with cold vinegar and tie down.

HASH.—The following is a good and economical way for preparing hash: Take cold roast lamb or mutton; throw away the fat and trim the meat; chop and add water enough to make it quite thin; boil in frying pan; add butter, salt and pepper to suit taste; have ready hot toast which has been well buttered and dipped into cream or rich milk, and spread the hash over the toast, and serve immediately.

LEMON MARMALADE.—To make lemon marmalade, squeeze the lemons, boil the peels in water till soft, then take out the pith, and pound the remainder in a mortar till quite fine, mixing with it a little of the juice. Pass it all, with the rest of the juice, through a sieve into a preserving pan. Boil for half an hour or more, so that it sets, when two to a jelly.

ORANGE CAKE.—Two cups of sugar, yelks of five eggs, whites of two eggs, half cups of cold water, two and a half cups of flour, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder, the juice and rind of one orange, one pinch of salt; bake in jelly-cake tins. Beat the whites of two eggs to a stiff froth, add seven large tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar and the grated rind and juice of one orange. Spread this between the layers. If you like the taste of orange, you will like this cake.

Insects on House Plants. The principal insects troubling house plants are the green fly, the mealy bug, the scale and the red spider. The most effectual remedy for green fly is fumigation with tobacco. Some wooded plants, such as heliotropes, salvia, etc., will not bear fumigation without injury to the leaves, and for these a weak solution of tobacco is quite as effectual. Steep some tobacco in water and sprinkle the plant with the solution, and afterwards syringe with clean water. Mealy bug is to be searched for and destroyed. Frequent spongings do much to keep down this pest. Scale is to be treated in the same way. Warm soap suds are peculiarly distasteful to this creature. It is seldom found on house plants (one part to sixteen), will destroy the mealy bug. Alcohol, applied with a camel-hair brush, will kill any insect it touches.

Plants treated with these remedies must be syringed with clear water immediately thereafter, to wash the hellebore (to be obtained at the drug store) is infallible. It can be put in water and applied through a watering-pot, or put in two or three thicknesses of gauze, and shake the hellebore under and over the plants while they are wet. Red spider, which is seldom found on house plants, is destroyed by a dry, warm atmosphere. It is a very small insect, first appearing on the under side of the leaves, and, though difficult to see, its effects are quickly noticeable by the browned appearance of the foliage. It yields readily to nicotine-water; certain death. Keep the foliage syringed and atmosphere moist, and you will have no red spider. To kill white worms in flower-pots take common lime, dissolve it and pour the liquid on the soil. It does not injure the plants at all.

An Extraordinary Fish. A most interesting discovery has been made in the sea of Tiberias of a fish which incubates its young in the cavities of the mouth; and, what is more remarkable, it is the male which performs this part of the family function. As soon as the female has deposited its eggs in the hollow of the sand, the male approaches and draws them into the cavities of the mouth by the process of inspiration. Here they are distributed between the leaves of the gills; and in the midst of the respiratory organs the eggs rapidly develop, distending the mouth of the male fish in the most extraordinary manner. Finally the young fish make their appearance, packed in the gills like so many herings, and with their heads directed toward the opening. From this place of retreat and safety they run in and out until they are large enough to take care of themselves. It is said that as many as two hundred individuals are sometimes crowded into the mouth and gills of the male fish.

The County Fair.

To those residing in the rural districts there is, perhaps, no occasion during the year so significant as that of the county fair. It gives an impetus to industry and agriculture which they might otherwise lack; it inspires the people with a healthy emulation. If our neighbor wishes to be understood that his grapes bear off the palm, we are equally anxious about squashes and cabbages; and how could it be fairly settled and published to the world if there were no committees whose verdict is as unalterable as the laws of the Medes and Persians? How otherwise could the superiority of Mrs. Jones' butter be established beyond a peradventure, her townswoman's bread rise to the occasion and into public favor, her cheese become the toast, her rag mats become the envy of her sex, her darning a work of art? And what an encouragement it is to do whatever we undertake thoroughly well! What encouragement to a great variety of talent! It develops rapidly the manly virtues; if our neighbor's grapes took the premium last year, we shall bestir ourselves, and cultivate our own vines more assiduously in view of next year's possibilities. The ambition to outstrip one's fellow-worker tends to the general improvement of all productions, and in the long run to the advancement of civilization, and to the welfare of the race. Perhaps the poor farmer grubbing in his field, getting sun-struck among his potatoes, getting spiring over his onion bed, interesting himself in the development of cereals, the enrichment of his worn-out land, studying the economy of nature, is not aware of these far-reaching effects any more than his wife, who is making it a disgrace that bad bread should be found upon any table, and so lending a hand to lift mankind out of the sloughs of indigestion and upon the table-lands of muscular Christianity. Neither is the young woman who arranges her bouquet of autumn flowers for the exhibition conscious that she is directing the taste of other girls, stimulating them to artistic efforts and opening wide fields of action for them. The attempt to excel is always commendable, and especially so when it is pursued not from personal vanity, but from an interest in the object attempted, and the fair offers to each one an opportunity of comparing results and industries, and of benefiting by each other's success. The occasion is suggestive of prosperity, and full of picturesque interest. The crowd in its best clothes and in good humor; the display of fruit, flowers, and vegetables, with their rich effects of shape and coloring; young Hercules at the plowing match—show us, at least, that it is a promoter of muscle and of benign social influences.

—Harper's Bazar.

"Chairs to Mend." The art of doing small things well has a good illustration in the humble chair-mender of the London streets, who is also one of the most interesting of out-door tradesmen.

He carries all his implements and materials with him. A very much worn chair is thrown over one arm as an advertisement of his occupation, and it is needed, for his cry, "Chairs-to-mend, ud," is uttered in a melancholy and indistinct, though penetrating, tone.

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THE ST. GOTHARD TUNNEL.

Italy and Switzerland is to be connected by a tunnel under the Alps that will cost nearly Sixty Million Dollars. There are men living in Italy in Switzerland and Italy whose life-dream has been a tunnel under the Alps. Many schemes have been investigated, and many schemes have failed.

These mighty barriers of mountains have for ages divided people that for them might have been of one language, one interest, alike in laws and customs. For five hundred years there was but a stone path across the Helvetic Alps, where the St. Gothard post-road was a "leeward built," and it is but a century since the first vehicle on wheels was dragged over the pass, at an expense of several hundred dollars. Till that time, the traffic between two nations was borne on the backs of mules and men, and narrow, steep, and winding roads, along glaciers, high mountain peaks, and yawning gulfs; 16,000 persons and 9,000 horses climbed over these dizzy heights annually.

There were scarcely fewer dangers to be encountered by the bold trader even forty or fifty years ago—sudden storms, almost eternal snows, avalanches, falling rocks, dangerous and unbridged torrents, and ever robbers. Nature and man conspired to make the path of the St. Gothard one of awful risk and dangers. At one moment the traveler was in the open air, and the next he was in the midst of a storm of fire and ice, and the road itself reaches an elevation of nearly seven thousand feet. Even now the snows on the pass are so deep and the dangers are so great that commerce and travel are almost entirely stopped for half the year, the mails being carried over by messengers. Such are a part only of the disadvantages arising to some sixty or seventy millions of people from this mighty mountain wall between Switzerland and Italy.

The building of the mountain tunnel through the Savoy Alps to France, and the Brenner road to Austria, have made it absolutely necessary for Germany and Switzerland to choose between losing the commerce and travel of the south, and building a mountain railroad, and a series of tunnels that shall eclipse anything of the kind in the world. The world knows how they have chosen.

The enterprise was too enormous for private undertaking or for private capital. In 1871, Italy, Germany and Switzerland voted large subventions for the building of a road, to be commenced at once, running from the Lake of Lucerne, in Switzerland, to Lake Maggiore, in Italy, a distance of 108 miles. Twenty-one per cent., or nearly 120,000 feet, of all this distance was to be tunneled through mountains of granite.

The total length of the mountain tunnel, which enters the Alps at Goeschelen, in Switzerland, and emerges at Airolo, in Italy, is 48,936 feet. A number of the smaller tunnels, bringing the road up to the proper level in the Alps, exceed 7,000 feet. On the lake of Lucerne, two galleries cut alongside the main tunnel, the celebrated Axenstrasse, high above the waters of the lake.

At the time the international treaty for this great undertaking was signed it was believed that the work could be done for the sum of 187,000,000 francs; a company was organized, with 84,000,000 francs of stock, in 220 shares, and 68,000,000 francs of mortgage bonds. Italy presented the undertaking with 45,000,000 francs. Germany and Switzerland each gave 20,000,000 francs. The work, however, around his neck he under way when it was discovered, to the astonishment of everybody, that an awful mistake had been made in estimating the costs, and that, instead of 187,000,000 francs, 289,000,000 would be required to complete the work as at first proposed. It is under in estimates of 102,000,000 francs.

This blundering calculation threatened all sorts of bad results. The stock of the company ran down to a minimum, and hundreds of families were nearly ruined by the collapse. The bonds slumped in value, and the credit of the friends of the enterprise faded; the money which had been so lavishly given was buried under the mountains forever. It became a serious question whether the works would not have to be completely abandoned. There certainly was no choice, except to lose all that had been expended, and to begin millions more to the subventions. The times were hard, financial crises were imminent everywhere, and war was raging on the continent. Everybody was discouraged. Some of the little cantons of Switzerland, which would be left to the mercy of the conqueror, refused to lift a hand or to spend another dollar.

In the face of all opposition, however, the money has, at this writing, been almost raised. The three countries, parties to the treaty, have largely to their subsidies, and the work is well advanced. For every single day in arrears of contract he forfeits \$1,000. If he delay continue six months, the forfeit is \$2,000 per day; and should he be one year in arrears with his work, he surrenders the contract, and forfeits \$1,000,000, which he and his friends are to deposit with the company as security.

On January 1, 1877, the headings, or a sort of advanced gallery eight feet square pushed forward at the top of the tunnel, were half-way in. Whether the gigantic work can really be completed within the time specified is a grave question for Mr. Favre. Opinions differ, and even engineers can do little more than guess.

Mr. S. M. Byers, from whose article in Harper's Magazine the foregoing information was obtained, gives the result of a recent visit to the unfinished tunnel. Four of us with the engineer stood on the little cow-catcher platform at the front end of the engine, and were soon hurled off into the darkness. The screaming of the engine whistle right at our ears was frightful, and the darkness was so utter and so complete that we felt as if we were groping our way through a maze of mist. The gas began to be almost unbearable, and the miscellaneous noises throughout the tunnel something terrific.

I presume our train was not running fast, and yet it made so much noise, and the darkness was so unusual, it seemed as if I had never in my life bounded along at such a rate. I had had many a strange ride, too, before, but never had I felt so completely helpless, or more likely to be snuffed out by the unseen should anything happen to the rails, or to the novel machine on which we were riding. As we rushed by dripping walls, and saw here and there ghastly figures with dim lamps hiding behind rocks or in deep niches, I involuntarily recalled what our conductor had said of a glimpse of the bowels of hell.

It was impossible to speak and to be heard. I might as well have addressed myself to the granite walls of the tunnel as to have attempted a word to either of my companions. Suddenly our locomotive gave one extra, unearthly yell, and stopped. We alighted, got our lamps burning, and with a little motion on our own feet soon felt our way again. The air was so thick with dust and rattling like the voices of Milton's damned.

We now started forward in the tunnel on foot, and as we recovered our breath, had abundant time to look about, and seemed to be stopped and gazed at by the specter of the picture of which we formed a part. The air was so thick with dust and rattling like the voices of Milton's damned.

Far ahead of us we heard the dynamite explosions, sounding like heavy mortars in the midst of battle. In some places where we were walking the water was nearly a foot deep, and again it came through crevasses above our heads, and we were instantly drenched. Mothers often brought in their two little Mohammedan boys under six, then carried in from a great distance, in his skeleton arms, a little girl too far gone to stand or sit up, and who, apparently, could not live through the night. But with good nursing she was brought round to look like a moving skeleton and eat rice. A tiny Mohammedan of three would call another but a little older who tried to take care of her, her sister. The two could not be parted, and both were taken. Both had lost their fathers and mothers under twelve years. No temptation to idleness was held out, and in five weeks many were restored so as to be sent out to work. One orphan boy, nine years old, told as soon as he could speak that he knew of other famine orphans—might be brought in, and he instantly called out and brought in first two little Mohammedan boys under six, then carried in from a great distance, in his skeleton arms, a little girl too far gone to stand or sit up, and who, apparently, could not live through the night. But with good nursing she was brought round to look like a moving skeleton and eat rice. A tiny Mohammedan of three would call another but a little older who tried to take care of her, her sister. The two could not be parted, and both were taken. Both had lost their fathers and mothers under twelve years. No temptation to idleness was held out, and in five weeks many were restored so as to be sent out to work. 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