

FARMERS' CORNER

The Value of Knowledge.

The farmer who seeks more knowledge is sure to learn how to decrease expenses and increase the profit. He understands the kinds of foods required by his live stock. He should understand that the feeding of the various plants must also be done with judgment and according to the kind of crop. Each particular plant has its preference and will make the greatest yield only when well and properly supplied with the food it prefers.

Morning Glories for the Windows.

Nothing can surpass Japanese morning glories for a sunny window. Last year from a small paper of seeds costing 10 cents the vines grew luxuriantly and produced large, lovely flowers which were a delight until frost. The blossoms were very abundant and of smooth size, white, red, royal purple, brick red in solid color, red and purple edged with white, etc. were given the same care as common varieties but surpassed wonderfully in growth of vines, beauty and size of bloom. The vines were trained on strings to the top of the window casings and then kept clipped and not allowed to grow higher.—The Epitomist.

Good Things for Fowls.

Turpentine is good for bruises, inflammations, worms and broken limbs. Tincture of iron is good for chick-enpox, sore head and ulcers of all kinds.

Chlorate of potash is good for any throat trouble.

Bicarbonate of soda is good for indigestion.

Camphor is good for gapes in young chicks.

Carbolic acid is good for disinfecting.

The above things are all useful in the poultry house, and while healthy fowls need no medicine, still accidents may happen at any time, and it is well to have remedies at hand.

Common sense treatment will do more to keep the fowls healthy than all the physic in the world.—Home and Farm.

Work After Harvest.

At the close of the fruiting season thoroughly cultivate the ground between the rows of strawberries with a small-toothed cultivator. In the rows and about the hills the hoe and spading fork must be used to stir the ground and destroy weeds and grass. The plants should be thinned so as to stand at least six inches apart. If the soil needs fertilizing this should be applied broadcast before the cultivator is started.

Blackberries and raspberries should have the stalks which produced fruit cut out and the new stalks thinned to the proper number in the hill. If the terminal was not pinched out of the growing stalks earlier in the season the top should be cut back to about 30 inches high. Gather all the brush where it can be piled and burned, which will destroy many insects and fungi.

Currents and gooseberries close their fruiting season a little later than the strawberry, blackberry or raspberry. At the close of their fruiting season all wood that has borne two or three crops should be cut out and the young stalks thinned to five or six. If the plants are crowded too close, three to five stalks will be enough to insure a good crop. The cultivator should be started to give a thorough stirring of the surface, following with hoe and fork between the hills, and continuing the cultivating up to the middle or last of August. If the season is dry the cultivator may be kept going at intervals of six or eight days. Currents and gooseberries delight in a loamy, rich soil with a damp, but not wet, subsoil. There is no better means of securing this than by applying a liberal dressing of stable manure at the commencement of winter. This is applicable to all small fruits.—S. H. Lurton, in New England Home-stead.

Growing Potatoes Under Straw.

I prepare the ground as for ordinary cultivation. Let the soil get well warmed before planting, say from the middle of May to June 1. Plant in drills, 24 inches between rows, drop pieces 12 inches apart and cover with two inches of soil. Apply the straw as the potatoes are coming through the ground, if some are two or three inches high they will fill the surface. Cover six to eight inches deep with straw, which will settle to three or four inches with the first rain. Too much straw is ruinous most seasons, the ground is kept too wet and cold and the potatoes come up weaklings. Just enough straw should be used to retain moisture and smother weeds. One rain after the straw is applied is sufficient to secure a good crop. Be careful to select a well drained, rather light soil if possible. A wet heavy soil is not desirable.

Most tubers will form at the surface, none deeper than two inches below surface of ground. In digging throw straw off two rows at a time and scoop out each hill with a single stroke with a potato or common five-sided manure fork. One man last year dug and crated 50 bushels a day. Beetles seldom attack potatoes under straw very seriously. I have grown potatoes under straw every year for nearly 25 years and only record two or three failures. Last season the yield was 400 bushels per acre of fine smooth tubers. A single vine produced 17

tubers, 15 of which were marketable and weighed 7.25 pounds. Two vines produced 12.25 pounds. Potatoes weighing 1.5 to 2 pounds were quite common. Potatoes grown this way never take the second growth, which is always deleterious to the eating quality, and unless a very wet season are of excellent quality, both in appearance and in the table.—J. B. Keller, in American Agriculturist.

Hay and Pasture Grass.

Hay is perhaps the most important article of food for live stock on the farm, and grass is said to be the "foundation of farming." The grass crop may not be as valuable as corn, but it is an article of food for which no substitute can be found, as it gives bulk and quality to the rations, both in the green condition and when cured as hay. There are many excellent and nutritious grasses known, and which can be used by the farmer, but he confines himself to but two or three. Clover and timothy are the grasses mostly used for hay (clover not really belonging to the grass family), and with all that may be said in its favor there are many grasses superior to timothy. Custom, however has given timothy a prominent place on the farm, and which it will hold for a long time. But although timothy and clover are grown on the same land, as a mixed crop, yet they do not ripen together, and are consequently not suitable for each other and for producing mixed hay of the highest quality, for if the clover becomes too ripe it will contain a large proportion of woody fibre, while if the clover is cut before the timothy is ripe the latter will not be as nutritious as when fully matured. Orchard grass, which is disliked by many because it "stools," comes into blossom at the same time as clover, and will also stand drought better than timothy and will give successive cuttings. Timothy is also low in nutritious matter compared with some grasses, and its place can be filled by some other grasses without risk of loss.

Pasture grass should be for pasture only, and not for mowing for hay. If a pasture can supply the stock in summer it should not be required to do more. Another reason why the hay crop should be separate from the pasture product is that the pasture should contain as many varieties of grass as possible, some of the best kinds not being profitable if mowed, as they do not grow to sufficient height for being cured as hay. Pasture grass should be short, because the animals will prefer it so, as they can then better select the kinds prepared. The young and tender grass, that is but a few inches high, is always more highly relished than any other, and if a pasture is to be occupied by the stock they will keep the grass down. No farmer, therefore, should expect a crop of hay from his pasture land. The meadow is also depended upon for producing the hay crop, but the meadow is also given up to the animals at times. The point is not to take advantage of the meadow, but to make it better, by increasing the variety of grasses. A variety having some fault should not be condemned if it also has merit. Orchard grass comes early in spring, it will remain for several years, and it thrives where some grasses should not exist. Herd's grass is excellent on meadow land that is somewhat moist, its running roots soon forming a thick and permanent sod. Blue grass can be made to thrive on a great many soils, but prefers limestone land, and it is a grass that gives the best late pasturage, but it should not be grazed too closely early in the season. Adapt the grasses to the soil if possible.

There are a great many kinds of hay crops that need not be mixed in the fields, as they can be mixed in the feed box when cutting the feed for stock in winter. Clover is the main hay crop, but such a crop as Hungarian grass, which grows in the summer, and in a short time, will add largely to the supply of hay, and experiments made show that cow peas and oats, cut when not too ripe, will give good yields of hay that may perhaps be better than clover in some respects. One of the most valuable crops, in proportion to cost, is cow peas and corn. Plant the corn in rows and plant the cow peas in the same rows, but between the corn hills, the corn being one foot apart in the rows. Cultivate one way, and allow the pea vines to grow upon the corn. It may be mentioned that it is not too late now to grow such a mixed crop, as it may be harvested at any time. It adds variety of ensilage and the ensilage will be more nutritious and also more highly relished by stock in winter than if the ensilage is made exclusively of corn. But the farmer should study grasses and hay crops, for there are kinds that thrive on rich soils only, while others will grow on sandy soils, damp soils, medium soils, etc., and if they cannot be grown together they can be grown on different fields. The greater the variety the less the liability of loss during dry seasons, as some hay crops will give good results when others fail under the same conditions.—Philadelphia Record.

The Rocking Chair Fans the Newest.

The latest fan is the rocking chair fan. It is attached to the chair and works itself while you rock. A man uptown, who has patented the device, hopes to reap a fortune from it if the summer only stays hot enough. It isn't a big fan and the spring and cords that work it are not elaborate, but the inventor can talk for an hour on the ease that comes to tired women on hotel piazzas from its use.—New York Sun.

PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

Nature and wisdom always say the same.—Juvenile.

Life has no blessing like a prudent friend.—Euripides.

Wealth is not his that has it, but his that enjoys it.—Franklin.

Politeness is good nature regulated by good sense.—Sidney Smith.

Choose such pleasures as recreate much and cost little.—Fuller.

Every one has a fair turn to be as great as he pleases.—Jeremy Collier.

The less we parade our misfortunes the more sympathy we command.—O. Dewey.

A crowd always thinks with its sympathy—never with its reason.—W. R. Alger.

There is not a string attuned to mirth but has its chord of melancholy.—Hood.

Prejudice, which sees what it pleases, cannot see what is plain.—Aubrey De Vere.

The innocence of the intention abates nothing of the mischief of the example.—Robert Hall.

A person under the firm persuasion that he can command resources virtually has them.—Livy.

STRIDES IN MATCH-MAKING.

Great Part Played by Machinery—Cuba Unconquerable.

The consolidation of two large match companies recently effected in London attracts attention to the great growth of the business abroad, and, curiously, its apparent inability to secure a foothold in Cuba. The union of the Diamond Match company with the Bryant & May concern makes undoubtedly the largest incorporation of its kind in the world. An idea of the total output of matches is to be had by figures furnished by the Atlantic Match company, one of the strongest competitors. Five hundred million matches are said to be made daily in Europe, and these figures may be doubled for the United States.

One factory in Ohio alone is credited with turning out 100,000,000 finished matches in 24 hours. Fifty million feet of lumber are used in the United States in the manufacture of matches, and some \$20,000,000 invested. What an important part modern machinery plays in this industry may be imagined when it is said that only about 15,000 people are employed.

"There are but a few statistics to give," said a match representative recently, "to convince one of the strides in the business. American matches have been able to secure a foothold in Europe because of the superiority of American machinery over tools that were in use 25 years ago. In Cuba, however, machinery is almost unknown. Matches are handmade, and yet we do not seem to get in. Some attribute this lack of success to the popularity of the small wax match made in Havana, which boys peddle on the street for almost nothing. There are about nine of these factories in Havana alone, and it would be a strange Havana, indeed, without the ragged little match-boy. Cubans will not use any other kind of a match."—New York Post.

Personnel of the Navy.

The semi-annual edition of the naval register, bearing date of July 1, but which has been delayed in publication through the failure of the board of rear admirals to report the names of the two lieutenants whom they have selected for retirement, shows that there have been 26 resignations, 23 retirements and 26 deaths in the navy and marine corps since Jan. 1. One naval cadet was dismissed, but subsequently pardoned. There are 21 rear admirals, of whom three are "extra members," promoted for war services, whose retirements will not create vacancies; 70 regular and three extra captains, 112 regulars and three extra commanders, 170 regular and two extra lieutenant commanders, 200 regular and four extra lieutenants, and 104 junior lieutenants.

The register shows that there is a serious shortage in the number of ensigns. The law authorizes 245, but the list contains only 126. There has been much complaint over the lack of watch and division officers for warships, but although secretary Long has frequently urged on congress the necessity of authorizing an increase in number of naval cadets and shortening the course of instruction in order to provide enough junior officers, his efforts have been unavailing. The fact that 119 vacancies exist among the ensigns at a time when there are more vessels in commission than ever before except in war times, will be brought to the attention of congress as an argument in favor of increasing the number of naval cadets.

News from Tristan da Cunha.

An interesting account of Tristan da Cunha, that solitary island in the middle of the Atlantic, between America and South Africa, is given in "Annales Hydrographiques," by a German captain who recently visited it.

There are sixty-three inhabitants on the island, he says, and their time is spent in fishing and breeding cattle. They have between five hundred and six hundred cows, and as many sheep, and they also have an abundance of butter, milk, eggs and vegetables. On the other hand, they are often in need of flour, tea, coffee and tobacco; though, as there are only five smokers on Tristan da Cunha, the occasional death of tobacco cannot be regarded as a national calamity.

The German captain found the islanders very sociable. They provided him and his men with a supply of fresh meat, and in return received some articles of clothing, which were much needed.

American Emigration to Canada.

The recent census of Canada will show a population of about 6,000,000, or a gain of at least twenty per cent. in a decade. In the encouragement of immigration Canada is now remarkably successful. About 50,000 home seekers enter the country annually from abroad. Fully seventy-five per cent. of these seek the unlimited free lands of the Northwest, and are of a desirable type of agriculturists. An interesting feature of this movement is the fact that the United States is furnishing a larger number of these immigrants than any other country. Over 12,000 American citizens crossed the line to the north last year and adopted Canada as their home. It is estimated that at least 20,000 will do the same this year.

The Canadian Government is spending about \$250,000 a year in the encouragement of immigration. The results of the educational work done in the United States have been so satisfactory that increased effort is now being made in that direction. Canadian agents travel and advertise in every State, and last year twenty-nine of the American commonwealths contributed to Canada's increase of population. The largest number are secured in Dakota, Nebraska, Michigan and other northern farming States. Sir Wilfrid Laurier expresses the belief that Canada being the only country in the temperate zone now offering free land to home seekers, has fallen heir to the great tide of agricultural immigration which once flowed into the United States.—J. D. Whelpley, in the Atlantic.

A Crow Story.

A few months ago the gardener on John T. Telford's place at Peru, on the short line, accidentally wounded a crow while shooting at another bird, and he made a prisoner of the bird. After its wings were clipped it became quite tame, and was placed in the garden, which is surrounded by a fence eight feet high. It thrived on worms and bugs, and became as docile as a chicken. When the warm weather set in others crows began to gather about the garden at early dawn, and for hours at a time kept up a continual cawing. The cawing crow in the garden answered each caw, and morning after morning the size of the visiting party increased, until fully two dozen perched themselves on the fence.

On Sunday morning Mr. Telford heard a commotion in the garden. He went to investigate, and found four or five crows hovering around the cawed crow. Presently he saw three of the visitors peck their beaks under the cawed crow, and attempt to fly away. They managed to get the cawed crow over the high fence, then it was dropped. The liberated bird hopped two hundred or three hundred yards, when all but two of the other crows flew away. The remaining two swooped down on the cawed crow and seemed to be caressing it, when a boy captured the crow and returned it to the garden.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Consolation From His Honor.

A certain judge who once presided over a criminal court was famous as one of the most compassionate men who ever sat upon the bench. His softness of heart, however, did not prevent him from doing his duty as a judge.

A man who had been convicted of stealing a small amount was brought into court for sentence. He looked very sad and hopeless, and the court was much moved by his contrite appearance.

"Have you ever been sentenced to imprisonment?" the judge asked.

"Never! Never!" exclaimed the prisoner bursting into tears.

"Don't cry, don't cry," said the judge condescendingly, "you're going to be now!"—Stray Stories.

Telephone's Progress Abroad.

Although the use of the telephone has increased rapidly here there are countries in Europe in which telephones are in far more general use than here. In Stockholm, Sweden, one person in every fourteen has a telephone, there being more than 20,000 telephones in a population of 271,000. Every tobaccoists' store is a public call office and the rates are very low.

England is far behind in the matter of telephones, there being only one to every 636 of the population. In little Switzerland there is one to every 172 persons, but far more business is done over the telephone in England than in Switzerland.—New York Sun.

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Beware of Ointments for Catarrah That Contain Mercury.

Mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the damage they will do is ten fold to the good you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catharrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O., contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catharrh Cure be sure to get the genuine. It is taken internally, and is made in Toledo, Ohio, by F. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonials free.

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Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

An ostrich which was lately dissected in London had in its stomach a small prayer book.

Piso's Cure for Consumption is an infallible medicine for coughs and colds.—N.W. SAMUEL, Ocean Grove, N. J., Feb. 17, 1900.

Only nineteen of the seventy Berlin tram lines are now worked by horse traction.

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