

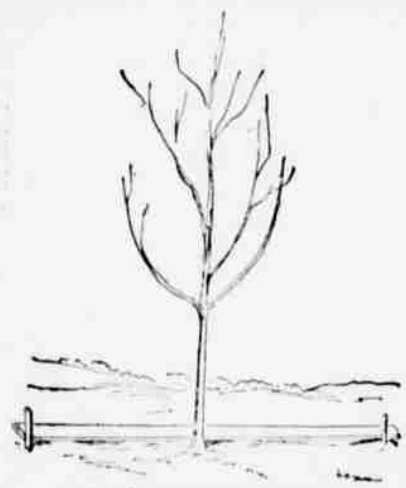
# HORTICULTURE

# ROAD & FARM IMPROVEMENT.

## SIMPLE SETTING BOARD.

This Easily-Constructed Device Makes It Possible for All to Have Straight Tree Rows.

The accompanying illustration shows how trees are set by the Virginia experiment station. By lining off and staking the ground beforehand, and using a setting board, straight rows of trees can be easily made. The stake is first driven where the tree is to be planted, then the board is placed in po-



SIMPLE SETTING BOARD.

sition with the notch in the middle filled by the stake which marks the future position of the tree. The board is then removed, the hole dug, the tree placed in position, the setting board is then removed, the hole dug, the tree made to fit into the notch, just as the stake did. This plan is very simple and makes it possible for everyone to have straight rows of trees. The orchard not only looks better, but is more easily cultivated.—Orange Judd Farmer.

## THE FARMER'S YARD.

It Should Be of Simple Proportions, Artistically Arranged and Kept with Care.

There is perhaps nothing else which better indicates the breadth of a farmer's conceptions of the esthetic things of life than the size of his yard. If it be small and crowded his mind may be comparable therewith. If it be large and well kept it may be taken as evidence of his artistic ideals. For the ideal yard is a large one—not a 40-acre field, of course—but a comfortably large area planted to native trees and sodded in blue or lawn grass.

It has been said that an acre makes the ideal yard. It should be nicely fenced and kept mowed during the growing season. It may be pastured occasionally, but this is not a good practice. The wood pile should not occupy a place in the yard, as is commonly noted, nor should unsightly heaps of rubbish, etc., mar its beauty.

Have a liberal yard, give it liberal care, take a liberal view of life, be liberal to all the things about you and nature will deal liberally with you. Don't be fenced in by a stinky yard, a yard so small that when you step out at the kitchen door you are in the horse lot. And don't have "sheep paths" through the large yard. Have a nice gravel walk or several walks leading to the front gate and to the barn-yard gate, as well, perhaps, as to the garden entrance.—Farmers' Voice.

## Feed for Cows at Calving.

A writer in the Practical Farmer claims cows that are expected to be fresh should not have any grain for several weeks previous to the event. It is often the case where a farmer has an extra butter cow that he over-feeds her at this critical period, or gives her bush quantities of grain, in the hope of making her do a little better the next time, that she is liable to have milk fever or other disease that may cause death. It is better to be on the safe side and not feed any grain for at least three days after calving. A cow will, undoubtedly, make as much butter in the long run when this is done, as if she were fed on grain until calving. Even if this were not the case, he would prefer to avoid the risk which heavy grain feeding always entails.

## Difference in Creameries.

Gov. Hoad reports a difference in the annual profits between two patterns of creameries managed by him of \$25.68 per cow on account of the difference in amount of production, one herd averaging a gross income of \$55.68 per cow, while another averaged only \$35, the first netting \$10 in excess of the cost of keeping, and the second only five dollars. The Kansas agricultural college in some investigations in the summer of 1898 at the Meriden creamery, found that the poorest cow averaged \$7.54 and the best one \$12.09, making a difference of \$4.55. The average per cow of the poorest five herds was \$9.44, and for the five best, \$33.74, a difference of \$24.30.

## Do Bees Injure Peaches?

A man in South Haven, Mich., has brought suit for \$200 against another man for damage done to his peaches by bees belonging to the man sued. The first man claims that his neighbor keeps 60 hives of bees and that they come into his peach orchard and bite through his peaches, thus rendering them unmarketable. It is the old question of whether or not bees can injure peaches. The question has generally been answered in the negative.

## PENNSYLVANIA ROADS.

Feeling That Permanent Highways Are Necessary Is Growing with Gratifying Steadiness.

It would be useless to deny that the people of the interior of the state want good roads, says the Philadelphia Inquirer. Their newspapers are strenuous advocates of such improvement, and they hold few conventions in which that advance is not recommended. They know themselves the folly of the system now prevailing in a majority of the counties. It has been demonstrated to them in the short lives of their horses, the repairs to their wagons and in their road tax bills for the roads which brought about those combined costs. Proofs of the theory that they



THE FINISHING TOUCHES.

would extricate themselves from their present expenditure for a worthless article is also to be found in the fact that they are more eager than formerly to have the state build good roads, and in the further fact that every proposition toward a permanent system of such roads is closely scrutinized by them in their general gatherings and at their fire-rides.

The Inquirer has not the slightest hesitation in saying that when the finances of the state warrant it Gov. Stone will be found lending all the aid in his power to the good-road movement, but, pending that time, the work should not halt. Unless the townships, counties and towns move in the matter it must be many years before there will be anything like a system of roads adequate to the needs or greatness of the commonwealth.

Montgomery began the work of improvement some years ago, and quite recently Northampton also took it up, their notion being that the roads hereafter to be built ought to be permanent. The usual repairs will be put upon the unimproved roads in both these counties, but as fast as the authorities there are able they will replace the mudpaths by the rock-bed roads, which, once being properly laid, will ever after prove smooth, economic and profitable.

It is with this thought of permanency that the counties all ought to approach this question. The first cost may be a little large, but, in the end, it will surely prove profitable.

## INTER-STATE PATHS.

They Are a Good Thing and Will Eventually Become Great National Highways.

In relation to his active interest in the construction of an interstate side path from Boston and New York to Chicago, Director Dodge, of the office of public road inquiries, at Washington, informs us that he is confident that the completion of such a wheel-way would be but the first step toward the construction of an interstate national highway along the same route.

Having brought this part of the plan to a successful conclusion, the next step would be to interest the automobile people. Judging from the rapidity with which the automobile is becoming popular, and the success which has attended recent long-distance runs, the horseless vehicle is destined to spread beyond the metropolitan districts. As good roads are essential for the rubber tired carriage, Mr. Dodge hopes, by the aid of manufacturers, automobile clubs and property owners along the proposed route, to widen the cycle path into a road sufficiently broad for the automobile.

Having obtained a smooth and serviceable road, 20 feet wide, and running in as nearly a straight line as possible from Boston to Chicago, the further task of widening it for a universal highway would be the natural sequence. As soon as the state west of Chicago evince a willingness to fall in line, as some have already done, the work will be extended westward in the same manner.—L. A. W. Magazine.

## Cows Need Lots of Salt.

We notice that Prof. Robertson, of Canada, says that a cow requires about one-fourth pound of salt per day to do her best. This is something of a surprise, but the professor is doubtless correct. He declares that milk given by a cow that has all the salt she wants will keep longer than milk from a cow that has not had salt, and he says he has demonstrated the truth of this. It is absolutely safe to let the cows have all the salt they crave, and if the milk is improved the consumer is so much ahead. It is a fact known to about every farmer that when cows do not have salt their milk soon becomes flat in taste.

## TREES ON AN ACRE.

Rule by Which Their Number Can Be Computed Easily and Accurately.

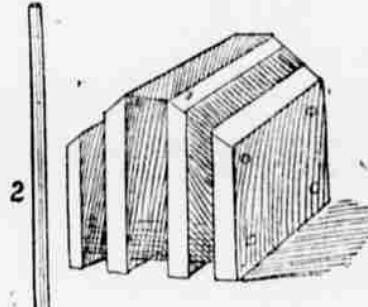
Suppose you have ten acres which you desire to plant to orchard next spring—you have decided what kind of trees you are going to plant and at what distance apart they shall stand in rows. How many trees will you buy for that ten acres? Will you guess at it or will you determine exactly what number will be required? There is a way to ascertain with satisfactory accuracy the number of trees needed. Here it is: An acre consists of 43,560 square feet or nearly 209 feet square—you have heard it said that 70 yards square is a little more than an acre, and there being three feet to the yard you have 210 feet; but this is more than an acre. Leaving out fractions, however, there are 43,560 square feet in an acre. You have decided to set your trees 30 by 30 feet, leaving, of course, 15 feet next the fence on the four sides, assuming that the plot is square. This allowance provides the required space for proper spreading of the trees and admits of cultivation between trees and the fence or whatever may border the orchard. To ascertain the number of square feet the trees will occupy planted at a distance given you multiply 20 by 20. That will give you 400 square feet or the area occupied by four trees. Now divide 43,560 by 400 and the result is the number of trees required for one acre. Multiply that result by 10 and you have the number required for ten acres. See if it would be 480. It ought to if no errors are made in the calculations.

This rule may be used in computing number of any kind of plants, bushes or trees required for an acre, having decided upon the distances at which same are to be set. It makes no difference about having your trees in squares—they may be planted 20 by 16, 7 by 8 or any desired distance. In the first case you would multiply 20 by 16, which would give you the number of square feet included by four trees or plants; with that result divide 43,560 and you have correct number of plants needed for planting an acre.—Farmers' Voice.

## HAND BEAN THRASHER.

An Easily-Made Device Which Works Well and Can Be Used for Other Farm Purposes.

Every farmer has or ought to have a few beans to thresh, and this device is just the thing to thresh them with. It is easily made. Take a block 5 by 7½ inches on the face or lower side,



HAND BEAN THRASHER.

and nail cleats on it one inch thick and an inch apart, or take 1½-inch board for center for handle, 2-inch nail on each side of center inch boards, every other one an inch shorter. Have the beans perfectly dry, put them in a good solid barrel and a very short time pounding with this tool will thresh them clean. Remove the hulls and put beans in again. It is also good to pound carps when washing them.—A. S. Forsman, in Ohio Farmer.

## Leaf-Footed Plant Bug.

A communication from the Oklahoma experiment station says: Several specimens of the so-called "northern leaf-footed plant-bug" have been received at the experiment station at Stillwater from various parts of Oklahoma accompanied by the report that the bug was injuring the fruit of peaches and plums. They are reported as puncturing the fruits and sucking out the juice. The bug is quite closely related to the common squash-bugs from which they are readily told off by their rather more slender form and particularly by the peculiar leaflike expansion of the hind legs. The bug has been known as an enemy of the cucumber, cantaloupe and other cucurbits, but this is the first recorded instance of their injuring peaches and plums.

## Peanut Vines Are Ornamental.

Southern flower lovers use the peanut vine as an ornamental plant for the parlor, or sitting-room window. Kept in a warm room or by the kitchen stove a peanut kernel planted in a pot of loose, mellow loam, kept only moderately moist, will soon germinate and grow into a beautiful plant, extending its branches over the side of the pot in a pendant manner. An interesting habit of plant life is the curious way its compound leaves have of closing together at nightfall or during a shower. Its tiny yellow flowers on peduncles on which the nuts grow impart a unique charm.

## Blame Rests on Retailers.

It is not possible to inspect fruit in the same way that grain is inspected. When a barrel of apples has been headed up, the apples having been pressed down as much as possible, it would be very destructive to the apples to have them opened and exposed to the bruising of repacking, repressing and reheating. Nevertheless, the laws should be stringent enough to protect both the purchaser and the grower. Much of the rasculy complaint in the handling of fruit is due to the repacking by men that retail the fruit.—Farmers' Review.

## GOOD ROADS CONVENTION.

Chicago Paper Explains Why the Meeting Was Treated Shamefully by the City Authorities.

As the result of the three days' convention at Chicago of the various elements interested in the improvement of public roads and highways a permanent national organization has been perfected and a promising plan of campaign mapped out for the ensuing year. Of the value and utility of the good roads movement no intelligent citizen has the slightest doubt. While the question is hardly a "burning" one, it elicits general support and hearty approval.

The presiding officer and some of the speakers complained of the "apathy" toward the convention on the part of "official" Chicago, and perhaps not without justice. The local authorities might easily have displayed warmer sympathy with the commendable efforts of the gathering. But our visiting friends should make reasonable allowance for the difficult and disturbed situation in which the city happened to be placed. We have had troubles of our own and of an acute character. The revival of hold-ups and thuggery, and the painful recriminations it called forth, monopolized the attention of the city officials and banished every general subject from their minds. Add to this the tax agitation, the street railway franchise and tunnel question and other absorbing topics, and the lack of active interest is accounted for.

But the delegates may rest assured that Chicago will do her part in the future in encouraging the National Good Roads association. Our manufacturers and business men are not unmindful of the economic disadvantages of bad roads. As President Stevenson Fish, of the Illinois Central, put the matter in his striking communication, the present condition of the public highways is probably costing the people of the country annually as much as they pay for all the freight transported by all the railroads. When this is duly impressed upon the legislative mind the action advocated by the convention will not be refused.

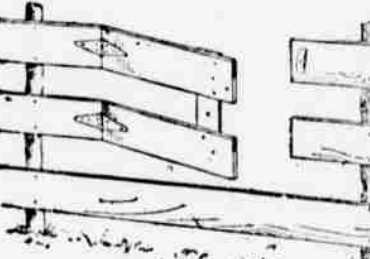
Here are the practical recommendations of the convention, which indicate the programme the national association will endeavor to realize:

- 1. That suitable legislation in different states repeal the statute labor laws, substituting therefor the payment of the usual road taxes in cash.
  - 2. That state legislatures make provision for the employment of convict labor in preparation of material for the construction of public roads, as they may deem advisable.
  - 3. The passage of suitable state aid laws and the appointment in every state of a nonpartisan highway commission.
- Of the national government the convention asked nothing beyond an appropriation of \$150,000 for the bureau of public road inquiries at Washington. But the question of rural free delivery is clearly bound up with that of good roads. The whole movement is certain to make slow but sure progress.—Chicago Post.

## OPENING IN A FENCE.

How to Make a Half Gate That Saves Many Weary Steps and Considerable Work.

Where a fence is crossed but rarely, a half-gate like that shown in the cut can be made in a few moments. Saw off two boards and screw over the



SMALL FENCE GATE.

cuts two strap hinges. Nail on the up-and-down piece and saw off the other ends. A button completes the gate. Where a whole gate is to be made in a fence, it can easily be made in this way after the fence is built. Nail on the up-and-down pieces. Saw off the boards at one side and screw on hinges. Then saw off the other side.—Orange Judd Farmer.

## Wide Tires and Good Roads.

Sections of our expensively constructed county highways that have been subjected to but three or four winters' wear are now well advanced on the way to disintegration by the cutting of coal wagons or other heavy vehicles with narrow tires, says a paper of Pittsburgh, Pa. If those loads were carried on broad tires every trip over the roads when they were softened by moisture and frost would have the compacting effect of a roller. Carried as they are on narrow tires their effect is more like that of a plow.

## Western Homes for Millions.

Homestead grants for 20,000,000 people, it is said, will result if the plans of the National Business Men's league are successful. The league wishes the federal government to construct immense reservoirs for controlling the flood waters in the arid regions of the western states and to determine a practical method of irrigation for that country. To make the suggestions possible congress will be urged to give \$250,000 yearly.

## Lamb Feeding in Colorado.

Colorado says that she will make a record this winter on the number of lambs fed for market. It is estimated that winter before last she fed 500,000, while last year the output was only 400,000. Some of the best posted feeders claim that this season there will be 750,000 handled. The Denver Stockman figures that if these lambs can be sold on a basis of six cents at market, a fair profit for the winter's work will be had.

# Time to Oil Up.

Like every other complex machine, the human body has its periods for repair. Sleep is Nature's time for rest, when the repair shops of the brain make good the damage of the waking hours. The man who cannot sleep, or who suffers from headache, nervousness, lost appetite, indigestion, heart trouble or pain, is running with a hot box. Give the tired brain and worn-out nerves a chance to rest. Stop! It is time to oil up.

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