

THE COUNTRY PRESS.

It Has Raised the Standard of Agriculture in New York State.

Albany.—Hon. Calvin J. Huson, state commissioner of agriculture, paid high tribute to the rural newspapers of the state in his address before the New York Press association on "The Agriculture of New York."

"Agriculture would not have reached its present high level," said Commissioner Huson, "were it not for the rural press of the state. The country newspaper has done and is doing very much for agriculture. It has helped raise the standard of living in every farm home. It has helped to give the farmer confidence in himself to place him on an equality with men of other occupations. It has helped to educate him."

"We no longer hear of city men selling gold bricks to farmers, but we may occasionally hear of a farmer selling one to a city man. "Farmers' institutes cannot reach all the people. They may be held in every community in the state and will then reach only a small proportion of the men and women following agricultural pursuits."

"Bulletins may be issued in large editions, but they are either unread or their teachings ignored. "Agricultural research and experimentation are of little avail unless results can be brought home to the man on the farm in such form that he can make practical use of it."

"Some country newspaper finds its way into every farm home in the state, most of them carrying a page or some space devoted to agriculture."

"An agricultural truth read by the farmer by his fireside in his favorite

local paper is more effective than heard in lecture or read in bulletin. "With the continued co-operation of the country press bringing home to the individual farmer on the farm the message of a better agriculture the standard of agriculture can be raised very high in the state of New York."

ROADS AND RIVERS.

Did you ever stop to think why roads follow the directions that they do and why railroads for the most part are built along the ways we travel so often? Now that this question is brought to our minds we must have visions of railroads along rivers and through valleys, with the mountains towering above, and besides we can remember one or two trips we have taken in a train or carriage or motor up and over a mountain. Why, then, can there be any real reason for building roads in any particular type of country when we remember some over mountains and some through valleys? Primarily, roads are built to connect one important place with another. Then the secondary question comes up—where shall we build it, and the answer is: over that part of the country which offers least resistance—which will give the least amount of work and cost the least amount of money. So then the civil engineers begin to look about and they say, "Ah, here is a river—let us run this road along the river side, as it is flat and even"; or, again, "Here is land through which a river flowed in years gone by. We will build here, as the ground is more even than over the mountains." And so it goes—old river beds, deserted long since by their rivers, and old lake districts, deserted long since by their lakes;

actual lakes and actual rivers, river valleys or vales formed by the ancient upheaval of the land; all these invite the road builder. Yes—and old glacial ground-out sections where the ice has graded and scooped out the land—these sections are used, too, in some part.

But all this has been about roads and railroads; how, then, are the ordinary footpaths made? If you stop to think you will say, "Why, I would walk along the most level ground and I would go in the most direct way to the place." And that is just how it is done! Often, though, these paths laid out by no engineers curve about too much, and when cities and highways are built the engineers straighten out the curves and level the grades.

We can hear some bright reader ask, "What about the mountain roads and bridges over chasms?" The answer to this is: Where there are no natural roadways, and where it is necessary to have roads, the engineers plan to build them, and sometimes overcome what seems the impossible! For example, the roads built up mountains, such as Mount Washington, Pike's Peak and some of the Swiss mountains. The roads that serpentine around mountains are built so as to make traveling easier, or because a direct route would involve greater difficulties and expense.

Don't you think motor trips and railroad journeys will be more interesting now that we know just a wee little bit about roads?

TREE DOCTORING.

In an article on the perils of tree doctoring, the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle cites the case of a New Jersey farmer who put heroic doses of concrete on an apple tree that was showing signs of decay. When the farmer picked some of the fruit the other day, according to the Rochester exchange, he found the apple so hard that he broke one of his gold teeth in trying to bite it. Now the man is convinced that the concrete must have hardened the fruit.

While this yarn will be received for what it is worth by people of ordinary intelligence, it may suggest the thought that the tree-doctoring fad is being carried too far. There is a question whether or not this plugging up of holes in tree trunks with concrete is the proper thing for the good of the tree. This practice has not been indulged in to any great extent until within a few years, and of course it will take some time to determine whether or not it is beneficial. The system of sawing off decayed and needless limbs and coating the fresh cuts with concrete has been followed by good results in every instance when a tree has been properly trimmed. But what is going to be the result when air and perhaps water gets in between the concrete, which becomes as a rock, and the wood?

Concrete may fill the bill in most instances where it is applied to a decayed spot on a tree. When paint is used, however, it is easy to scrape off the decayed portions of the trunk and apply a new coat if the first has not been effective. Not so when a hole in the tree has been filled with concrete that cannot be removed without danger of injuring the tree.

We would advise fruit growers to go slow on concrete. It does not seem to be the proper material to use on any growing tree or shrub.—Scranton Tribune-Republican.

Treatment of the Squash Bug.

About midsummer many inquiries come to the office of the State Zoologist, Harrisburg, Pa., asking for information on the methods of destroying the insects commonly known as the Stinking Squash bug. This is a large very brown bug, provided with a sharp beak and bores the plant, but does not chew it. As it is a sucking insect it cannot be killed by internal poison, which must be eaten. It is necessary to kill it by other methods. Among these are the following:

- 1. Watch for large blotches of conspicuous brown eggs on the under side of the leaves, and remove them by hand.
2. Place small boards under the squash plants, and raise them just far enough from the ground so the bugs can get under them at night. Then brush them from such traps into water and oil, where they will be killed at once.
3. Where the leaf is infested hold a pan of water and kerosene oil under it and shake it. The pest will be destroyed by falling into the oil.
4. Plant a few early varieties of squash upon which the bugs will congregate, and then spray or drench them with pure kerosene oil, killing bugs, squash and oil, but thus getting rid of the pests.
5. After the squashes, pumpkins, etc., have been gathered this year some person should make it his duty to see that all bugs remaining upon the few green leaves or plants are destroyed by oil, in order that they do not have an opportunity to find winter retreats, and come safely through the winter.
These insects pass the winter in rubbish of almost any kind that will protect them. It is an easy thing to destroy the last of them as they stay on the bunches of leaves of the squash and pumpkin.
6. Destroy all rubbish in gardens, thus destroying the hibernating places of the pests. It is important to destroy such pests while they are few in numbers. If this is not done they are likely to increase year after year until the time will come when they will break out in uncontrollable destruction as they did in 1902.

FARM NOTES.

Profitable beef production in the future means that better gains must be made. Cows should be in prime condition at time of freshening. Therefore feed grain if necessary. The first requirements for success with fall calves are clean, well ventilated and sunny pens. The leanness with which a horse walks is one of the best evidences that his legs work in harmony. On a small scale, vegetable seeds may be started in small boxes or flats, placed under the kitchen stove. Never breed from a fowl, however fine, if it shows a tendency to be

kind to disease germs or has any weaknesses. Butter from fresh and properly ripened cream not over one day old keeps better than does butter made from sweet cream.

Every poultryman has his favorite breed and it would be foolish for him to desert it for some fowl that he did not care for.

The heifer that is cared for and handled gently throughout her entire life will need little breaking in when it comes time to milk her. Air slaked lime sprinkled on the floor under the roosts and on the dropping boards will help to keep the place healthy and the air pure.

At this day and time there are scores of breeds that are well suited to the needs of the farmer for both egg production and for market purposes.

According to Uncle Abner.

The celluloid collar may have a place in this world, but it isn't on a feller's neck.

There is one class of fellers that don't care much what happens to 'em and they are the ones whose wives insist upon makin' their shirts.

It is more of a disgrace to have a 1911 model automobile than not to have any at all.

A feller always feels safe when he has got a little money in the bank, but he always feels a little safer when he's got a little more.

It's a bad sign when you call upon your gal and find the "Welcome" doormat on the front porch has been turned upside down.

If I have any partickler pet aversion in this world, it is to listen to an old maid talk baby talk to the cat.

It is easy enough to be pleasant when life goes along like a song, but the feller worth while is the one who can smile when the stuff from the laundry is wrong.

STEEL TRADE IS BOOMING.

Seldom in the history of this country has the outlook in iron and steel been better, either for volume or for prices yielding a profit. According to the Iron Age indications of a record addition to the country's wealth in this year's crops makes railroad buying more than ever the pivotal factor in the steel trade of the coming year.

SEALED PROPOSALS.

Sealed Proposals will be received by the trustees of the State Hospital for the Criminal Insane at Fallow, Pa., for the following items: One team of horses, one two-ton wagon, one set of harness combs, brushes, netting, 75 bushels of oats, 2 tons of hay, one plow, one harrow, and other farm implements, one stone crusher, engine, screens, bins and roller. Detailed information may be received on application to the Superintendent, Dr. Fitzsimmons. All proposals must be in the hands of the Trustees not later than August 21, 1912, the Trustees reserving the right to reject any or all bids.

WALTER McNICHOLS, Chairman.

Buildings and Grounds Committee. 61st.

SHERIFF'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE.—By virtue of process issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Wayne county, and State of Pennsylvania, and to me directed and delivered, I have levied on and will expose to public sale, at the Court House in Honesdale, on

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 1912.

All the defendant's right, title and interest in the following described property—viz:

All that certain lot or tract of land situate in the township of Damascus, county of Wayne, and State of Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a beech at the southwest corner of land which Thomas Stewardson by deed dated October 24, 1840, conveyed to Eli B. Kessler; thence by land of John Torrey, north two hundred ninety-eight and one half rods to a beech corner; thence by land in the Warrantee name of John Van Devin north forty-four degrees east one hundred and seventy-six rods to a post corner; thence by a tract of land in the warrantee name John F. Ernst, south eighty-eight degrees east sixty-four rods to a stone corner; thence by said warrantee and land in the warrantee name of Jacob Beedleman and John Bern, south four hundred forty-nine and one-half rods to a stone corner; thence by land contracted to Philip P. Brigham and Hiram W. Brigham north seventy-nine degrees west one hundred and eighty-eight and one half rods to the place of beginning. Containing 402 acres and eleven perches more or less. Saving and excepting thereof two pieces of land containing each fifty acres, one sold to P. C. Brigham and the other to Aaron Brigham and surveyed from the southern part or end of said lot by line run parallel with southern end of said lot sufficiently distant north thereof to embrace said two lots hereby excepted and reserved. On said premises is a two and a half story frame dwelling, barn and other outbuildings. Seized and taken in execution as the property of James M. Howarth at the suit of Albert E. Mitchell, administrator of the estate of Elias Mitchell, No. 165 October Term, 1907. Judgment, \$1,500. Searle & Salmon, attorneys. TAKE NOTICE—All bids and costs must be paid on day of sale or deeds will not be acknowledged. FRANK C. KIMBLE, Sheriff. Honesdale, Aug. 1, 1912.

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