

AGRICULTURAL HINTS

Summer Treatment of Milk.

During hot weather the best means of caring for milk designed for the creamery is to run it through a separator a few moments after milking. Cool the cream as much as possible with the coolest well water available. Put the cream into eight-gallon cans and keep it at as low a temperature as well water will hold it. Deliver when convenient. If the well water is 54 degrees or less, the cream will keep in good condition.

Capturing Squash Bugs.

The old-fashioned squash bug is not an easy creature to destroy. It cannot be reached by the ordinary poison sprays, as it takes its food by sucking the plant and does not eat the foliage. Kerosene emulsion, soap solution and tobacco decoction have been recommended and used with some success; but hand-picking is most satisfactory. The bugs can be decoyed under pieces of boards, such as barrel staves, etc., if laid on the ground with one end slightly raised, among the vines. Clustering under these boards for shelter and protection, the pests can be collected and destroyed a couple of times daily, until their numbers are greatly reduced.

Advice to Beginners in Farming.

Beginners in farming, especially those with limited capital, should endeavor to produce early and late crops, so as to have cash coming in all the time, if possible. One of the essentials for quick returns is poultry. The hens should lay every day, with good management. One or two good cows will also be found serviceable, as milk, butter and eggs are cash at all seasons. Small fruits, such as strawberries, currants, gooseberries, raspberries and blackberries, soon give returns, but grapes and orchard fruit require more time. On a small farm it may not pay to depend upon the cereal crops. Stock, fruit and vegetables give better profits and bring in cash long before the harvest comes for corn. There is nothing that will give larger and quicker profits in proportion to capital invested than fowls, and as they multiply rapidly the number can be increased every year. The fowls will also consume much waste material that cannot be otherwise utilized.

Cultivating Fine Tomatoes.

Producing fine tomatoes is quite an art, and one that it pays the grower to master if he expects to make much money out of the crop. Professor Massey says that he formerly entertained the opinion, still held by some, that heavy applications of nitrogenous manures made the vines too rank and the fruit more crooked; but persistent efforts in improving the character of the fruit and the modes of culture have convinced him that with a good strain of seed no amount of manuring will make it any more irregular, while a poor strain will be irregular in any event, and that a rank growth of vine, induced by heavy manuring, simply indicates the need of more room for the plant and a heavier crop of big tomatoes, and that heavy manuring on the hill is the best way to insure a vigorous growth of vine and a corresponding vigor and perfection in the fruit.

I have also learned that small fruits grow from seeds of small fruits, and vice versa; that trimming and training the plant to a single stem leads to a smaller production of blossoms, less pollen and a smaller crop; that the largest crops are always on the plants which are allowed to take their full natural development and grow at their own sweet will on the ground; that healthy tomatoes lying on the ground are no more liable to rot than those trained off it. No fruit is more rapidly improved by careful selection, and none more rapidly deteriorated by carelessness than the tomato. Like Indian corn, the tomato is best when the seed is produced in the same latitude and climate where the crop is to be grown, and it seldom does its best the first season when taken far north or south of its native locality. The improvement of the tomato should therefore be carried on in the locality where the crop is to be raised.—Vick's Magazine.

The Grasshopper Pest.

Nature has ordained that an endless warfare should prevail among her creatures, to the end that one species should not increase too fast, and crowd others out of existence. The growth of microscopic plants in certain insects, causing their death, is an example of this. Most of these plants belong to a family that the botanists call empusa, from the Greek word meaning "ghost."

A striking peculiarity about the plants is that they can grow only on certain kinds of insects and always while the insects are alive. There is a kind, for example, called the empusa gryllii, that grows only on the grasshopper. One can find many dead grasshoppers, in the autumn, clinging to fences, tree-trunks or buildings, several feet above the ground. Break open the bodies, and you will find a white substance that seems to have burned up the living tissues, and turned the insects into mummies, which cling, life-like, long after death. This white substance is the spore of the empusa gryllii.

Now it is suggested that one of the best ways to get rid of the grass-

hoppers in the west, where they do so much injury to the crops, is to infect some of them with the empusa gryllii, and thus cause an epidemic among them. Those who have studied the question say that the plan is wholly feasible, for the spores of the plants are blown from the body of the dead insect in every direction by the wind, and if even one falls on a live hopper, it is likely to grow, and as surely as it grows, it will kill the hopper.

The way the farmers now try to rid themselves of the pest is to drag over the fields, by hand or by horse power, a broad wooden trough, partly filled with water having petroleum on the surface. Back of the trough is stretched a cloth, against which the grasshoppers fly, falling thence into the oil. This device, however, is only partially successful, and the empusa infection would supplement it, even if it would not render it wholly unnecessary.—Philadelphia Record.

Preparing Wool for Market.

To get the full value for our wool it must be washed. The difference between washed and unwashed wool is so great that it pays the grower every time to wash it. Good delaine wool will not shrink one-third, which prices quoted in the market seem to indicate. There are many ways of washing, however, which do not prove successful. I have seen some housed breeding ewes washed so that the discoloration which appeared only in patches before the operation was distributed all through the wool, practically injuring its quality to a considerable extent. By distributing the color all through the wool it was given a dingy appearance which immediately excited the suspicions of the buyers.

Nevertheless, the careful preparation of the wool for market is an essential today as any other feature of the business. In the northern wool-growing sections cold weather and cold water often make the work late in the season, and this sometimes proves quite a disadvantage. Probably what is needed as much as anything else in every good wool-growing section of the country is a co-operating scouring house. This would solve the problem and save to the farmers a considerable part of the profit that now goes to the commission men. It would cost little to send the wool to such a house and have it scoured ready for market. Scoured wool sells so much higher that the profits in some instances would be increased from 20 to 50 percent. Such a scouring house could be conducted in almost any good sheep raising district on the commission plan. It would pay both the farmers and the commission men. The two could agree on a fair commission for scouring the wool, and the farmers could easily keep such a house running. In fact, it would draw upon a wide neighborhood, for it would pay the growers to have their wool scoured at home on a fixed basis, and then ship it to market in this condition. As it is now, the unscoured, unwashed wool is always purchased at such low prices that there is a very wide margin of profit left for somebody to make before the wool is finally made up into cloth. There are too many middlemen who must get their pay. By disposing of a few of these growers would receive more, and the consumer would actually be charged less for his manufactured product. A good scouring house would save washing, which is sometimes an expensive process, and also save loss in other ways. A house of this kind located right in the heart of a wool-growing country could easily calculate upon handling from 10,000,000 to 15,000,000 pounds of wool annually.—W. E. Edwards in American Cultivator.

Poultry Points.

A poultry farm is a photo of the poultryman.

Low level roosts are preferable to high, sloping ones.

Plenty of fresh water placed in the shade is always in order in the poultry yards.

Camphorated balls are recommended for keeping lice from the nests of laying and sitting hens.

Keep the little chicks busy. If they are taught to hustle for a portion of their food they will grow fast and look thrifty.

Don't let cats and dogs worry the hen with young chickens. Many of the little fellows are permanently injured by being trampled.

As soon as the goslings are about feathered, put them out in a pasture with plenty of grass and water, and they will be no more bother until picking time.

A quart of corn, or its equivalent, is estimated as being sufficient for 10 hens one day. But some hens eat less and some more. Besides, it is hard to measure the "equivalent."

Raw corn meal should not be fed to small chicks. If it must be given, mix it with one-third shorts and bake. Give the fowls plenty of cool, fresh water and keep the drinking vessels under shade.

There may not be anything in show but there is a whole lot in looks when it comes to poultry. A neat-looking egg basket is more apt to have good eggs than a dirty one, and the customer will have his eye on it, too.

Every conscientious poultry raiser will be careful not to send stale eggs to market. If the egg is doubtful do not sell it, for your neighbor to eat. Gather the eggs every day and use china nest egg. Leaving an egg for a nest egg should never be tolerated on any poultry farm.

When Spain's King Comes of Age.

THE young King of Spain, Alfonso XIII., comes of age next spring, and will have the nominal ruling of his country. He will have good advisers, however, including his mother, the present Queen Regent, Senor Sagasta, and the Duke of Tetuan. Alfonso XIII. will be sixteen years of age on May 17. It is believed that the coronation will be practically a private event, and in the light of present political conditions in the country, it will probably be a wise precaution.

The political atmosphere has cleared somewhat. Things are not so bad as they might be; there is a surplus, even



LATEST PORTRAIT OF THE YOUNG SPANISH KING.

though not a large one, in the treasury, and there is no lack of activity in the more important trading circles.

Senor Sagasta, one of the notable figures in the political history of the day, has a tremendous task before him. He stands for Spanish Liberalism, and there is no one in the country that is so well versed in its peculiar conditions. Worn by long service to his country, absolutely faithful to it in every sense, of unimpeachable integrity, Sagasta has earned the title of the Grand Old Man of Spanish Liberalism, and it is a deserved recognition.

Sagasta's cabinet includes General Weyler, as Minister of War; Senor Moret, as Minister of the Interior; the Duke of Almodovar del Rio, as Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Duke of Veragua, as Minister of the Navy. The first and last named gentlemen are not known in the United States, but it can hardly be said that they are regarded with favor.

The American people remember Weyler through his Cuban administration, the story of which, all things considered, does not improve with the telling. The Duke of Almodovar del Rio is said to be somewhat in sympathy with the British; Senor Moret is perhaps the best known of all the cabinet, and has an excellent record. General Weyler's influence was in evidence in connection with the marriage of the Princess of Asturias, the Queen's eldest child. The Princess's choice—Don Carlos de Bourbon—is the second son of the Count Caserta, who is a pronounced Carlist. The Queen Regent approved of the match because it was based entirely on mutual esteem and love, but Senor Sagasta strongly opposed the marriage, even refusing to be in office when it took place. General Weyler's friendship for the young man meant so much, however, that notwithstanding Sagasta's disapproval, which was warmly seconded by both Liberals and Republicans, the marriage was consummated. Don Carlos—now Prince of the Asturias by the royal decree—studied in the Artillery School at Segovia, and served in Cuba under Weyler.—Harper's Weekly.

Cuba's Salvation. The pest of yellow fever has been combated with such vigor in Cuba that not a single death has been reported as resulting from it this year, according to good authority. Reports received by Surgeon-General Wyman from members of the medical staff scattered all over the Island of Cuba show that it is practically free from yellow fever. This is probably the first time this statement could be made for centuries. The reason that yellow fever has been so successfully overcome is because of the efficient sanitary methods employed by the United States health officers. Havana itself has been revolutionized as regards its sanitary conditions. Recent experiments having proved that yellow fever was to a great extent transmitted by mosquitoes bred in the tropical swamps and the cesspools, drastic means were employed to kill these insects. The streets and sewers in Havana and other cities of the Island were sprinkled with kerosene, with most satisfactory results.

Sad to say there is such a thing as alert stupidity.

COMING FUR FASHIONS.

Tails Galore Form Neck Pieces—Fur Lined Paletots.

The nimble fingers of a fashionable furrier's employes are already busy carrying out the clever designs from London and Paris in mink and sable neck pieces. Sable, you know, is imported in the pelt shape without duty, so it is really sane to buy these fine natural furs here where one knows and has confidence in the furrier.

To judge by these fine novelties our furry fellows have taken to growing a great number of tails. Of yore, when we complained that there were too few tails on a neck piece we were informed that animals seldom had more than one each.

Evidently we've changed all that, for these advance beauties are composed entirely of tails.

In mink tails these pieces cost from \$50 to \$75. The one shown in the illus-

NIGHT WORKERS IN NEW YORK.

Figures That Show the Number of Them to Be Upward of 40,000.

There are 800,000 persons, men and women, employed in what the law describes as gainful occupation—working for others for compensation—in New York City, says the Sun. It has heretofore been supposed that about 5 percent of these were employed at night, which would give a total of 40,000 night workers in the city.

Recently a table has appeared intended to show how many night workers there actually are in the four boroughs, and this estimate gives 3200 policemen, 3000 railroad employes, 3000 bakers, 3000 newspaper employes, 2500 engineers and firemen, 2500 actors and musicians and 1000 restaurant employes. The total is 20,000, the balance being made up of butchers, pedlars, steam railroad employes, telegraphers, watchmen, electricians and miscellaneous workers.

The table, accurate in many respects fails short or completeness as to the total number of persons employed at night in New York. There are in New York and Brooklyn 2167 Rainses law hotels which are open all night, in each of which there is at least one man employed and usually two. This figures up 3500.

The table does not include the market men, a considerable group of night workers, who number at least 1000, the men who work along shore loading or unloading boats to the number of 1000 additional, and it does not take into account either those employed on or connected with the ferry business of the city, which is carried on all night, in which there are at least 500, a total of 6000 additional.

The number of watchmen is estimated at 400, actually it is nearer 2000, for there are watchmen of buildings under construction, watchmen of office buildings, watchmen in care of material, factory watchmen, private watchmen and ordinary night watchmen.

There are 250 hotels in New York City and the number of night employes of these—clerks, porters, elevator men, watchmen, bell boys, gas men and cleaners is 2500, or an average of about 10 for each hotel.

Another considerable item of night workers is made up of the employes of apartment houses, elevator men and janitors, and still another of city employes connected with the water supply department, which is going all night, and in charge of public buildings.

Gas houses in New York do not shut down at night time, but employ night shifts of men, and the same is true of the foundry business, and there are the all night drug stores as well as the all night saloons, and the night hawk cabmen, whose chief time of profit is between midnight and day-break.

Taking all these classes together, it is probably no exaggeration to say that there are 40,000 night workers in New York, exclusive of physicians and clergymen.

Bollivar Scared Him.

The life of a photographer is not always a happy one. He has to invade precincts which are almost sacred in his efforts to get a snap shot, and sometimes he literally takes his life in his hands when he has to set up his machine in dangerous quarters. A well-known artist had an exciting experience the other day when he essayed to make a photograph of Bolivar, the huge elephant at the Zoo. Getting inside the cage in which Bolivar has been confined for so long, the photographer set up his machine and awaited a favorable moment.

Bollivar seemed to be disturbed by the presence of the strange apparatus in his cell, and, suddenly whisking around, managed to snap the chains by which he is always bound. The frightened photographer made a dash to one side to escape the waving trunk which he saw coming his way, and in his confusion made a misstep which landed him, camera and all, in a pit in which the waste hay and refuse of the cage are kept. Luckily for him the keepers rushed to his assistance and dragged him out before the angry animal could get at him. His camera was badly damaged, and nearly a week passed before he could muster up sufficient courage to renew his attempt.—Philadelphia Record.

The Arms of Wales.

The king is said to be favorably disposed to the inclusion of the arms of Wales in those of the future Prince of Wales. It is to be hoped that the dragon will not be used as the symbol of this inclusion, for nothing, heretically, could be more absurd. The dragon does not occur in the coats of arms of any of the ancient Welsh princes or in those of any of the old Welsh families. It is sometimes spoken of as the emblem of the Tudors; but Owen Tudor, the founder of the Tudor family, was not armigerous; and the red dragon which Henry VII. adopted was not that of the Tudors, but was a compromise between the white bull of York and the red lion and greyhound of Lancaster.

Big Window, No Harmony.

The Builders' Trade Journal says that plate glass, the creation of comparatively recent times, is responsible for many of the enormities which render the street architecture of today so devoid of grace and harmony. Those, however, who contend that a house window glazed with small panes—even those so popular at the beginning of the 19th century, about 12x15 inches—is much more pleasing in appearance than one glazed with one great sheet, are, we think, quite in the right.



New York City.—Simple blouses with deep round collars are among the latest designs shown and are very generally becoming. The smart May

binations might be suggested for street wear.

The front is simply full, finished with a narrow standing collar and closes at the center back. The Blouse includes a seamless back with rounded fronts and an Aglon collar and novel fancy sleeves, that are arranged on a plain foundation. The skirt is five-gored with the fulness at the back laid in inverted pleats.

To cut this costume for a girl of ten years of age five and a half yards of material twenty-one inches wide, four and a half yards twenty-seven inches wide or two and three-quarters yards forty-four inches wide will be required with one and a half yards thirty-two inches wide for chemisette and sleeve puffs.

Beauty of the Panama.

The beauty of the Panama hat is that when simply trimmed, as it should be this year, it can be rolled into a bundle and packed away into a trunk or bag, and come out as good as new. Instead of the plain band, occasionally a Panama is to be seen with the narrow silk ribbon, but tied in front, or a little at the side, and a quill thrust through it.

Tea Gowns.

The smartest tea gowns are fitted quite close by half bodices of heavy lace; this idea, with the broad sweep of the pleated skirt, gives a graceful effect.

Misses' Five-Gored Skirt.

The graduated circular flounce is



BLOUSE WAIST.

Manton design illustrated is tucked across the front to yoke depth and includes tucked elbow sleeves, which are charming when the stock and shield are omitted, but can be made with full length bishop sleeves when preferred. The tucks at the front give graceful fullness below, and render the waist effective and stylish with very little additional trimming. The original is made of figured Louise silk in shades of pink and is banded



GIRL'S ETON COSTUME.

with black velvet ribbon, but all pliable materials suitable for tucking are appropriate.

The foundation or fitted lining closes at the center front. On it are arranged the smooth back, the tucked fronts and the deep collar. The elbow sleeves are peculiar, being tucked in the center and free at top and bottom and form graceful frills at the elbows. When the waist is desired high neck the shield and stock are added and the plain sleeves can be substituted for the fancy ones whenever preferred. When made unlined the gathers at the waist line are staid with a band of material, or the fulness is drawn up by means of tapes inserted in an applied casing.

To cut this waist for a woman of medium size four and a quarter yards of material twenty-one inches wide, four and a quarter yards twenty-seven inches wide, three and three-quarter yards thirty-two inches wide or two yards forty-four inches wide will be required when elbow sleeves are used; four and three-quarter yards twenty-one or twenty-seven inches wide, three and three-quarter yards thirty-two inches wide or two and a quarter yards forty-four inches wide with bishop sleeves.

Girl's Eton Costume.

Young girls are never more charming and attractive than when wearing some variation of the fashionable Eton. This stylish little costume includes all the latest features and can be made simpler or more fanciful as the trimming is varied and the sleeves are plain or made with puffs. The May Manton original from which the large drawing was made is of novelty goods in mixed browns with trimmings of banana yellow taffeta and brown velvet ribbon and full front and sleeve puffs of the banana colored silk, but all dress materials can be used. Serge with a plain skirt, straight bands of black on the jacket, plain sleeves and taffeta full front seems a simple and serviceable school frock. Pretty light colored costumes or simple silks, made as illustrated, are charming for afternoons at home and various com-

marked favorite for young girls' gowns as well as for those of maturer folk. It is graceful, it provides ample flare and freedom and it is exceedingly becoming. The admirable May Manton skirt shown combines it with a five-gored upper portion and is satisfactory in every way. As illustrated it is made of castor colored serge with stitched bands of taffeta, but all suiting and skirt materials are appropriate.

The upper portion of the skirt fits with perfect smoothness, the fulness at the back being laid in inverted pleats, while below the knees it takes the fashionable flare. The flounce can be arranged over the skirt, or if preferred the material can be cut away beneath and the flounce seamed to the edge, or again the skirt can be cut full length and left plain.

To cut this skirt for a miss of fourteen years of age six and five-eighths yards of material twenty-one or twenty-seven inches wide, six and one-quarter yards thirty-two inches wide or four and a half yards forty-four inches wide will be required when the



FIVE-GORED SKIRT.

flounce is used; four and three-quarter yards twenty-one or twenty-seven inches wide, four and five-eighths yards thirty-two inches wide or two and seven-eighths yards forty-four inches wide when the skirt is made plain.