

# GARDEN, FARM and CROPS



## SUGGESTIONS FOR THE UP-TO-DATE AGRICULTURIST



**Bees and Smoking.**  
Many times bees are smoked more than is necessary; perhaps, because not every one knows that during a nectar flow some honey is lost every time a hive is opened, says Farming. When bees are smoked they fill themselves with honey and if so much smoke is used that most of the bees in the hive at that time take honey, it will be more than an hour before it is redeposited into the cells and the regular work resumed. Bees sometimes gather nectar enough to make a pound of honey an hour, so one can see that it would be quite a loss if every colony in a fair sized apiary were smoked enough to interrupt the work for one hour.

**The Poor Old Horse.**  
We have a friend in Irvington, who recently gave away an old horse to a farmer, who he had reason to think would take good care of the animal, rather than accept \$25 offered for it by a city express man who he thought would abuse and half starve it. The horse is strong and good for several years' service if properly treated, but could not endure cruelty. This is an example worthy of imitation by many who have such animals. It is a pity to see an old horse or one having some blemish that renders him unsalable, put into the hands of some irresponsible, cruel, ignorant or stingy driver, to be overworked, unsheltered, beaten and starved till death comes to his release. Farmers having such animals to dispose of would better shoot them than send them to the city. The few dollars they will bring will not compensate for the stings the deed will inflict upon their conscience, if they have any.—Indiana Farmer.

**Farmers and Poultry Fanciers.**  
The farmer has a real grievance against the poultry fancier, in that he has done all of his crossing and in-breeding of fathers, daughters, uncles and aunts without any regard to practical utility, says Farming, whether the hens from which he has been breeding were producing sixty eggs a year or 200 made no difference. His whole aim has been to breed out a foul flight feather or two, or to create a better comb, or eyes of a better tint at a sacrifice of everything else. The result is that when a farmer goes into the market to buy thoroughbreds with his money in his pocket ready and willing to pay for the best stock, he not only often pays for qualities he does not need, but actually pays a premium for something that has been obtained at a sacrifice of the very qualities which he does need. There are a few men, however, raising, thoroughbred stock that is "bred to lay," or to meet certain market demands, and those are the men that should be patronized.

**Poultry Too Crowded?**  
An expert poultryman from England, Prof. E. C. Brown, has been studying American conditions with some care, remarks the "Cultivator," and seems to be especially impressed with the crowded condition of many large poultry establishments. He remarks that English poultrymen have passed through the stage of conducting large poultry plants of thousands of birds on one farm. Twenty years ago there was a severe poultry epidemic which swept away thousands of birds in the British Isles and France. Since that time poultry is kept in smaller numbers and in portable houses which are moved about over the land. In that way the hens have clean houses and enrich the soil at the same time. Professor Brown said it would not surprise him if there should be an epidemic of poultry disease in this country on account of the large numbers of poultry kept in certain localities. Danger in this direction must always attend crowding of any kind. But crowding will be continued, nevertheless, if it is found to pay, just as people are willing for various reasons to risk their health by living in cities. Poultry may be kept healthy in large flocks provided the owner does not neglect the special care needed under such conditions.

**Burbank Plum Large as Apple.**  
Luther Burbank, telling of his most interesting experiment in hybridizing, says: "The most surprising one, perhaps, is one that has lately developed. Several years ago I commenced raising seedlings from the little Beach plum (Prunus maritima). After awhile I began crossing the best of these seedlings with some of the large Japanese plums (Prunus triflora). Year before last, from a seed of these little plums (Prunus maritima), the blossom of which has been pollinated with the Japanese plum, a plum was produced quite as large as a goose egg, having all the characteristics of the Prunus maritima, in foliage and growth of the tree, with these enormous fruits as large as medium-sized apples growing on it, and a pit not much larger than a cherry pit. The tree is again bearing this year, the same fruit, only larger, and it hangs in big strings on the drooping limbs. Such a sight I never saw before in the fruit line. These plums are of a most excellent quality and of a handsome deep crimson color. You will

know that it is very remarkable that a seedling plum should be at least five hundred times as large as its own parent. A pedigree of this plum has been kept with the utmost care, so that I know that these facts are correct. Even did not the fruit, seed, flowers and growth prove it.

**Transplanting Fruit Trees.**  
Of the fruit trees, the apple, pear, European and native plum and cherry are successfully planted in the fall, but the Japanese plum and peach are better planted in the spring. Young, vigorous, two-year-old trees are better for general planting than those older or younger, even though they are of a rather small size. A first-class two-year-old tree, however, should be from five to six feet high, from three-quarters of an inch to an inch in diameter measured six inches from the ground, with a good number of roots and with sufficient branches to form a good head. The shorter the distance from the nursery to the place of planting, the better, for in transplanting from a distant nursery trees are often seriously injured by delays beyond the control of the shipper or purchaser. If possible, one should see the trees in the nursery before they are dug.

All injured roots should be cut smooth at the ends, and any very long ones—that is more than one foot long—be cut back to that length. All surplus shoots should be cut off, and the three or four that are left to form the main branches of the head should be headed back in proportion to the injury to the roots. The roots should be kept covered and moist from the time of digging to planting; to accomplish this dip them in a "puddle" made by stirring clay soil into water until it is the consistency of thick cream. This forms a coating for the roots and keeps them moist for a long time, even through the long exposure of planting.

**Maintaining Soil Fertility.**  
H. A. Davis tells "Jersey Bulletin" readers that the stock breeder indisputably has a great advantage over all other workers of the soil, in so far as maintaining the fertility of his lands is concerned; for he has the opportunity of returning in barnyard manure the greater portion of the valuable elements of plant food consumed by the various crops he grows and harvests. But this fact is no excuse for contentment when the breeder can still further improve his chances along this line.

Barnyard manure, although unquestionably the best of all fertilizers, affording as it does to a limited extent all the necessary elements of plant food, and humus in addition, is of all the valuable assets of the farm the one most systematically and thoroughly neglected and abused. In fact it has never been perfect since it came under the management of man, for the reason that man has made of it, a natural thing, an unnatural thing by judiciously practicing the reckless, wasteful, even shameful system of continuous cropping which naturally exhausted certain plant food elements of the soil; and the soil having been exhausted of these elements, the food stuffs grown from such soil necessarily became deficient in them, and so on, the excrement of animals feeding upon such food stuffs of a necessity became deficient in these elements also.

Of the valuable and exhaustible elements of plant food, phosphorus is now the one most perceptibly deficient. This is true because nitrogen, potash and carbonate of lime have to a great extent been returned to the soil in the stalk while phosphorus, which is found mainly in the grain, has been carried away and sold. This same element is deficient even when all grains are fed to stock, for it goes to the making of bone. It is of paramount importance therefore, that steps be taken to replace this phosphorus, and the best and most economical way to accomplish this end is to use the natural raw rock phosphate, finely pulverized, in connection with barnyard manure. Every stock breeder should have a carload of this material in use from one year's end to the other.

By sprinkling the ground rock in the manure troughs each day, an even mixture will be secured. One hundred pounds of phosphate to a-ton of manure is about the right proportion. Ground phosphate used in this way will promote cleanliness, a most desirable condition about the barn, absorbing all disagreeable odors; will absorb the ammonia and thereby prevent the escape into the atmosphere of a very valuable element of plant food and will greatly strengthen the fertilizing value of the manure by adding to it a considerable amount of available phosphorus. In round numbers, as a great number of reliable experiments have shown, ground rock increases the value of manure, 60 per cent, which certainly makes its use worthy of consideration. In my opinion every stock breeder who does not use it, is blind to his best interest.

When an English doctor operates for appendicitis and finds there isn't any, he calls it a case of pseudo-appendicitis, and the patient uncomplicatedly pays the bill.

## THE HIGHER BURGLAR.

Artistic Professionals Who are Known in France as Boucarniers.

The British burglar is disgusting to encounter owing to his want of artistic training; he is what his cultivated French confrere would call an "es-carpe," a "steep," one in fact who has tumbled headlong into his calling.

True "grinches," or "toughs," are at present, it seems, only produced in Paris, where the "Academie de la Pegre" has been founded during recent years.

The "pegre"—a word of uncertain derivation, used to designate the whole corporation of amalgamated burglars—is distinguished into the "Haute Pegre" and the "Basse Pegre." One who takes a low view of his profession will never rise above the ranks of the "low company." He will find himself either a "venternier," a "monte en l'air," a "fric-frac" specialist, or a "caroubleur."

The "venternier," or "window-man," operates from the roofs of houses, obtaining entrance through skylights and trapdoors.

The "monte en l'air," or staircase man, slips up the servants' staircase as far as the attic, where he participates in the cook's and housemaid's economies. The "fric-frac" operator and the "caroubleur" both engage in the unexpected opening of doors.

The true artist is formed chiefly by the "Ecole Mutuelle," as it is called—that is to say, the police court—where he is an assiduous visitor, noting the reports of experts, correct methods of work, the little eccentricities of clients and the hiding-places where they ordinarily stow away their money.

Midway between the "low" and the "high" company are the "bonjouriers," or "good-morning men," and the "locandiers," or "paying-guests." The lower ranks of the "good-morning men" address their courteous salutation to the cooks and housemaids, obtain entrance to kitchens and sculleries as "the milkman," or "the baker," or "the man who has come to look after the stove," and seldom leave the premises unrewarded for their courtesy. The better "bonjouriers" call upon doctors, dentists, lawyers and clergymen for consultations; they usually leave immediately on securing their object. The "paying guests" haunt lodging and boarding houses, pay down a week's lodging in advance, and never return from their first promenade on which they always take with them a well-stuffed leather bag.

The "high company" of burglars are known in France as the "boucarniers." They employ the services of the "bonjouriers" and "locandiers" as scouts, and only appear upon the field themselves when a great coup is to be effected. They undertake the removal of whole suits of furniture, pictures, &c., in appropriate vans, and even of heavy safes. In their service are whole armies of auxiliaries, "placiers," or shop men, who coax information out of servants, "fourgats," or receivers, with whom they deposit their acquisitions in safety, and lastly "nourrisseurs" (grub-stakers).—London Sat. urday Review.

### A Discredited Prophet.

There had been years when Obed Small had given the town the benefit of his weather predictions; the former resident of Bushby remembered those years, and was not prepared for the unresponsive look which marked Mr. Small's features when asked what the prospects were for a good picnic day.

"I've got nothing to say about it," and Mr. Small gazed carefully toward the road, on which there was nothing to be seen save dust and a small boy with a large paper bundle.

"Why, Mr. Small, aren't you the town prophet, just as you used to be?" asked the former resident, reproachfully. "I relied on you to tell me before I invited the young people."

A spark of angry recollection kindled in Mr. Small's dull eyes.

"If you'd been here in the summer of '92," he said, slowly, "you'd know my reasons. If you'd seen Ma'am Gregg when she came at me, all sails set, for telling her Mary Jane that 'twas going to be a lovely afternoon for her to go riding with that young Simpson chap she was trying to get, you'd have known 'em."

"Seems she wore her best suit of summer goods and a flower hat and a pink spotted veil, all on my representations of the weather. They set forth in an open buggy for Wilson's Lake, and a thunder-storm came up from over behind old Greenough's mountain, and struck 'em on the upper road, where there's no house for nearly three miles.

"She's afraid of lightning, and had hysterics; besides which her clothes spotted and shrunk most fearful, and her hair came out of crimp; her hat flowers ran, and so did her veil; and she lost the Simpson chap as the results, her mother said.

"I moved my Bible and hymn-book to the Marshtown church a month later, so I shouldn't have to see that Gregg woman and Mary Jane every Sunday. I've suffered pretty well for my folly, I tell ye—and I learned my lesson once and for all.

"That boy coming along the road'll probably tell a good deal more about the weather prospects in five minutes than I'll ever tell long as I live. So I'll bid ye good day."—Youth's Companion.

### Certain to Attract Him.

"I am almost certain Pierpont Morgan will buy this book."  
"Fine piece of work, is it?"  
"Yes, but it isn't that. Every sheet of paper in it has a different watermark."—Cleveland Press.



New York City.—The simple waist fills so many needs that it may be called the all important element in any wardrobe. This one closes at the front and consequently is a model of convenience at the same time that it



is eminently smart in effect. Again it can be made either with three-quarter or full length sleeves. In the illustration taffeta is trimmed with silk braid and combined with chemisette and sleeve trimming of

and one and one-eighth yards eighteen inches wide for the chemisette and deep cuffs if long sleeves are used.

**Fancy Blouse Waist.**  
Every variation of the chemisette effect is in vogue and very many are the attractive waists and gowns that result from the fact. Illustrated is one of the prettiest of the new blouses that shows a chemisette of novel shape and that has the very great merit of closing at the front. In the illustration it is made of chiffon faille in the lovely shade of red known as crushed raspberry and is trimmed with velvet of the same shade and with velvet buttons while the chemisette is of cream lace over chiffon. The material is one of the prettiest of the new silks and is well liked both for separate waists and for gowns, but there are also a great many other silk materials that are appropriate and also a long list of velvets and the like. In fact, the blouse is adapted to any reasonable material that is available for indoor wear.

There is a fitted lining that is closed at the centre front and on this are arranged the chemisette and the various portions of the waist. The back of the waist is laid in tucks that are stitched flat and which give becoming lines to the figure, while in front are pleated portions in the trim that are distinctly novel and provide becoming fulness. The clos-



inserted muslin in lingerie style, but both trimming and chemisette can be varied again and again. Any fashionable banding can be utilized for the former while for the latter all-over lace or almost any contrasting material is appropriate. If a very plain, serviceable waist is desired the chemisette could be made of taffeta, while the waist itself is of cashmere or velveteen and the long cuffs utilized with cuffs of silk to match the chemisette, whereas made as illustrated there is a more dressy effect obtained, so that the model provides for a great many occasions.

The waist is made over a fitted lining that is closed at the centre front and itself consists of fronts and back. These last are tucked to yoke depth and arranged in gathers at the waist line, the closing being made invisibly. The sleeves are moderately full puffs that are finished at their lower edges with flare cuffs, whether the shorter or longer length is used. The bands of tucking and lace illustrated combine with the chemisette to give a guimpe effect but are entirely optional.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is three and three-quarter yards twenty-one, three yards twenty-seven or two yards forty-four inches wide with five-eighth yard of banding, seven-eighth yard eighteen inches wide for the chemisette, one-half yard of edging for the sleeves



yards twenty-seven or one and three-quarter yards forty-four inches wide with two and one-half yards of velvet ribbon and three-eighth yard of all-over lace.

**Lace Still Popular.**  
Lace shows no decline in popularity, in spite of the dire prophecies of failure made by certain depressing mortals. And the old rule of imitations affecting the popularity of the real has been proved as false in its way—never has anything been so imitated and travestied as has Irish lace. Yet it holds its own and promises this winter to be even more extravagantly used than it was last year.

**As to the Corset.**  
A doctor who was talking to a woman's club in New York about corsets declared that the women of America know what they are about. "Before I made a visit to Europe," he said, "I was an enemy to the corset. Seeing the shapes presented to public view on the other side, I have been converted. Do as you please, ladies. It is better to be shapely even though you are a little constricted in the breathing apparatus."

## QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

Fifty years is the average life of a wooden railway sleeper.

Salmon continues to be the premier fish industry of British Columbia.

The sap of the birch tree is convertible into wine, spirit, or vinegar.

The Bermudas have a parliament of thirty-six members, while the number of voters is only 1,200.

The Japanese have excellent manners, and as a race enjoy the reputation of being models of courtesy.

Among those who handle high explosives there runs this proverb: "In this business a man never makes more than one mistake."

At a railway station just outside Bridlington there is a garden in which the flowers have been arranged to form the words, "Tickets, please."

The capacity of the rail mills of the United States is about 3,000,000 tons a year, which barely suffices for the ordinary demands of the roads.

Twenty long columns in recent issues of New York papers, filled with small type, present a mere list of the polling places in the city for the coming election.

Chicle is the milky sap of the sapote tree and is used for chewing gum. This gum is now exported more from the adjacent territories than from Yucatan.

American exports of cotton, raw and manufactured, were last year \$431,000,000. Iron and steel came next with \$134,000,000; then hog products with \$105,000,000.

The neatest town in the world is Brock, in Holland. So tidy are the inhabitants that they will not allow horses in the streets. It contains a population of 2,700, and the chief industry is the making of Edam cheese.

The Pope maintains a mosaic factory in the Vatican. Here the patient artists work in a gallery lined with 29,000 lockers in which repose sticks of silica, of all the myriad varying shades required to reproduce the tints from canvas.

Matrimonial tickets are supplied by the Canadian Pacific Railway to settlers in the Northwest Territory who wish to make a journey in order to secure a wife. On presenting the return coupon and the marriage certificate the settler is entitled to free transportation for his bride.

The strawberry is a much more ancient fruit than most people might suppose, but probably when Virgil spoke of Arbutus he did not refer to the variety that is so familiar with us. The Romans were certainly acquainted with some kind of strawberry, for other poets of the time besides Virgil referred to it, their descriptions corresponding with the fruit of the present day.

### RADISH REVELATIONS.

#### How to Write a Sketch of Sublimated Marriage.

She sat in the cool library with a closed volume in her lap. Sweet flowers in tall vases nodded at her as the gentle breezes played around them and a yellow bumblebee purred drowsily through the air.

But the atmosphere of peace did not extend into her soul. There a tempest was raging; the foundations of things mental were shaken, the veil of her inner sanctuary was rent in twain. Was this all it amounted to? Was this to be the only result of months of infinite pains and breathless anticipations? Was this all that living meant? All that faith, hope and charity meant? In her agony she could have thrown the book, or anything else within reach, but she was well bred; she had always been referred to as a lady in her girlhood.

Her girlhood! Where was her girlhood? What had become of it? That was what she wanted and it was gone! She glanced through the open window at her husband out in the garden. Would he understand if she spoke? But the futility of speech came over her. How could a man understand how she felt about her girlhood?

She glanced again at her husband. After all, he was her husband; perhaps she might have had a little to do with making him such. She remembered in a vague, dazed way that she had said "yes" when he had asked her about it. Now he was dropping radish seeds into the warm, brown earth. She had always been fond of radishes and he knew it. A thought flashed through her mind. Perhaps the answer to the turmoil of her soul awaited her out there in the garden.

In the light of this divination she walked out and laid her hand on her husband's shoulder.

"Did you know?" she challenged. He answered lightly, but with deep meaning: "From the first, dear," he said. The revelation nearly suffocated her, but she pursued: "And the radishes?" A smile broke over his grave kind face. "They are the apotheosis, the symbol, the epitome!"

And at last she understood.—Judge.

**Opposed to the Process.**  
"Come, Tommy; it's time for you to take your bath."

"I don't want to be washed, mamma! Give me a dry cleaning, like they do papa's white vests!"—Chicago Tribune.