

FARMERS' CORNER

The Drained Land.

Land that is tilled before winter will not be covered with water next spring and will stand plowing several weeks earlier than undrained land. As the water falls below the warmth and air follow.

Decline in British Agriculture.

The aggregate area of corn crops, which comprise wheat, barley, oats, rye, beans and peas, amounts to 8,476,892 acres, which represents a decline on the year of 230,710 acres. This contraction of the corn acreage follows, moreover, a similar decline of 96,208 acres last year, and 13,157 acres in 1899. A generation ago, say in 1871, the United Kingdom returned 11,822,243 acres as under corn crops; this year the area is 3,356,351 acres less. In other words, an area not far short of three and one-half million acres has been withdrawn from corn croppings during the last 30 years. The wheat crop alone has incurred just over 2,000,000 acres of this loss. This year's area of corn crops is made up of 4,112,365 acres of oats, 2,140,875 acres of barley, 1,746,141 acres of wheat, 254,093 acres of beans, 155,665 acres of peas, and 67,753 acres of rye. It appears, then, that nearly one-half of the entire corn area of the British Isles is seeded to oats, whilst if we eliminate the pulse corn crops, and have regard only to the cereal corn, the oats acreage represents more than half the total.

A Use for the Potato Hook.

Cool fall weather is an ideal time to gather stones from the meadows and tillable pastures. Their room has much value, and it will not pay to let them cumber the ground. To avoid backache and sore fingers, a potato hook may be used to gather the stones on a boat, and, if any are partly imbedded in the earth, the tines will more readily pass under them than one's fingers. The large stones will have to be handled in the old way. It is useless to expect an ideal meadow with many stones on the surface, even if they are quite small.

That all changes are not improvements is shown by the following: A hardware dealer advertised something new in potato hooks, and I sent by a neighbor for one. The improved tool had tines of uniform size the whole length, and flat on the ends. The bluntness is to prevent marring the tubers, but when one is scratched it makes a larger wound than would a sharp tine. If a potato becomes impaled upon a blunt tine it is not easily jarred off, and the potato is likely to be split open. In hard ground the tool is quite useless. Such changes are not the kind to stimulate trade.—New York Tribune.

Ways of Storing Cabbage.

There are several ways. One that I have found to suit very well, says a writer in American Gardening, is to select the best drained positions in the garden. Then with the plow or spade open a trench running east and west about eight or ten inches in depth and 15 inches broad; across the trench we place strips of wood about four feet apart—these act as supports for fence rails, or any pieces of wood laid over and parallel with the trench about two inches apart—on the wood we put two rows of cabbage, head down, finishing with a third row on top and along the centre of the others; over the hole put a coat of dry straw, and this is covered up with about six inches of soil, adding more as the weather becomes cold. Except during very cold or very mild weather both ends of the trench are allowed to stand open to carry on a circulation of air.

Before pitting the plants should be dry and turned downward for a time, to allow the water to drain out of the axils of the leaves. See that there is a drain or fall from the pits to allow rain water to pass away.

Another successful method is to open a trench east and west, throwing the soil to the south; then packing the heads closely together with the roots in the ground, covering up the roots and stalks up to the heads with earth. A covering of leaves or straw, etc., must be put on the top to protect from the cold. This can be removed in mild weather, giving them the benefit of air and light. This plan is especially advantageous to immature heads, as they keep on growing when the weather is not too severe.

Winter Work in Peach Orchards.

We have the worst drouth in 20 years in our immediate vicinity. Still peaches made a moderately fair crop of elegant fruit where orchards were well cultivated, which is the rule here. The yellows prevailed here to a rather unusual extent, although I think it has been more noticeable on account of an unusually rigid enforcement of the law regarding its destruction.

You ask regarding mummy fruit and dead twigs. In my orchard, where careful pruning and spraying are practiced, I do not have them, but if I did, I would certainly remove them in the fall. The only fall work I do in my orchard is to get broken limbs, if any, out of the orchard and get my cover crop of oats well started. I leave all pruning until early spring, then rush it through before the buds start. It has happened here that a large percentage of buds have been killed during a severe winter; then in order to save a crop the pruning must be light and this cannot be determined until after March 15. We wait until that date before pruning at all.

If I was working in a southern orchard I feel sure I would change the plan and finish all my pruning and fertilizing during the winter months, but I would not, under any circumstances, practice what I have seen in some southern orchards, that is, winter plowing or cultivation. I am fully convinced of two things in peach culture. First, any disturbance of soil or roots while a tree is dormant or in a resting stage is injurious; and second, any pruning or cutting of the peach during its active or growing period is very injurious. I am aware that the inclination to do things out of season, as a matter of convenience, is sometimes almost irresistible. But in my experience I have always paid a penalty when I violated these laws of nature. Roland Morrill, in Orange Judd Farmer.

Making High Grade Butter.

No one can make good butter with bad odors around the creamery. The vats, churn, worker, utensils and employes must be absolutely clean and sweet. In running a creamery where the milk is drawn to the creamery and there separated, is much better than a gathered cream plant where only the cream is brought. Farmers will not take care of cream properly and the greater part of it comes sour. In running a factory with a separator, I should separate my milk at 80 degrees Fahrenheit, letting the cream stand over night and cool down to churning temperature about 62 degrees in winter and 58 in summer. I always want my churn stopped when the butter is in granular form, about the size of wheat kernels. The buttermilk will then draw off freely and can be worked very easily. I always work my butter twice and sometimes in third water, the water being 10 degrees colder than churning temperature.

I salt it to suit my trade, using mostly one ounce to the pound. I have never used the combined churn and worker, for I think the butter has a better grain with the churn separate. In packing I want my packages as clean as possible on the outside as well as inside. In packing in tubs I have them lined up and fold over the edge of butter one inch, then the top circular is put on top and tucked down between tub and lining. I have had men tell me that my butter took well, because when they took a cover off the butter was smooth and nice. In putting up prints the same care should be taken to have full weight and a neat package. In making butter from gathered cream it requires more care. I am selling all I make in pound prints, at two cents above highest market price, having the same regular trade for 12 years. I always take my prize butter right out of the churn with all the rest and do not follow any different methods.—F. S. Mallory in American Agriculturist.

Fall Treatment of Insects.

One cannot do better on the farm late in the fall and winter than to make a thorough search in the orchard and garden for insect pests and their eggs or larvae. We know enough about the insect world now to destroy them in the best way to destroy these is to prevent their millions of eggs from hatching. Many of these are laid on the twigs and in the bark of the orchard trees. The tree borers and grubs bury themselves at the base of the trees and inside of the bark, and there hibernate. The flies and insects glue their eggs to twigs and bushes, or bore pinholes in the trees and deposit them there. Millions of these eggs are laid for another season's crop of insect pests. The old insects of many species die in the fall, and leave the future of their race to the eggs thus laid. By destroying these eggs we get ahead of the pests and greatly limit their ravages.

One should go carefully over the orchard trees and vines, and examine twigs, branches, roots and trunks. Wherever there is any suspicion of eggs glued in masses to the bark or sawdust to indicate the presence of a hole full of eggs, the owner should scrape the bark carefully and run a little thin wire in the hole. Great quantities of eggs can be gathered from the bark of twigs and trunks in this way, and if immediately burned thousands of insects will be prevented from coming into the world. The worms and grubs that bore in the trunks of trees to hibernate must be hunted for diligently, and with a piece of wire they can easily be killed. Even the leaves under the orchard trees should be raked up and burned. If it were generally known how many insect pests these leaves harbor in winter they would not be saved for bedding or anything else. Many a pest crawls under the leaves and goes to sleep for the winter or deposits eggs there to hatch in the spring. The only sure way to prevent this is to rake up the leaves after they have all fallen and burn them. It will pay in the end good interest on the work and investment. Not even spraying will do so much good in keeping down the insects, as this searching investigation of the trees in fall and winter. Repeated every year, the orchard will soon become so free from noxious insects that the foliage and branches and fruit will take on quite a different appearance. Many twigs on affected trees will be found honeycombed with small pinholes. These should be pruned off and burned. They represent colonies of insect eggs that may bring forth millions of pests next spring.—Professor James S. Doty, in American Cultivator.

Winter Work in Peach Orchards.

The greenfinch is the earliest riser of the bird family. It sometimes begins to pipe at 1 o'clock on a summer morning. The blackcap comes next and then the blackbird.



FOR WOMAN'S BENEFIT

To Make Clothes Last.

Never in home dressmaking cut any kind of woollen goods until it has been sponged, as cheap material is often not dampened before it is sold. To do this properly at home get an ironing board or table the width of the goods, and cover with tightly stretched calico. Spread your cloth wrong side up cover with a linen cloth that has been well rung out in water, and then press with a hot iron the lengthwise of the goods. Never let the iron be still, and while pressing allow the goods to fall evenly onto a clean cloth placed on the floor.

Not Necessarily Expensive.

It is not necessary to pay so much for a Gainsborough hat. It is of all hats the most reasonable. While it will accept a great deal, it will also go without much and will look well on a little, when any other hat would look skimpy. The Gainsborough must be large and of good shape. Its crown must be of moderate height and its brim broad and inclined to be undulating, that is, it must be a brim that can be bent or molded, turned or twisted. But when once the hat is secured, the worst is over. The rest is comparatively simple, for the Gainsborough can be trimmed with odds and ends that would look out of place upon another hat.

New Shirt Waists.

The new shirt waists are nearly all in light colors and in white, many showing a printed floral design and all bearing lace in one way or another. The large square lace trimmed collar is still popular, the sailor neck beneath showing lace incrust, while the tucked sleeves form a puff at the wrist. The new woollen muslin is an excellent material for the pretty new blouse, which is an essential feature of milady's wardrobe, and this comes in plain and printed, showing the most delicate combinations of color. A pretty blouse in pale yellow Tuscan silk had the finely tucked collar and sleeves of material, trimmed with lace of the same shade in applique, while the tiny vest of finely tucked white muslin was crossed with narrow bands of pale yellow velvet fastened on the left with small buckles.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

A Western Equestrienne.

Mrs. Minnie Austen, a typical woman of the plains, has recently been giving exhibitions of equestrianism at Portland, Ore., and has astonished many, even among the experienced plainmen, by her daring feats. She is an absolutely fearless horsewoman, who delights in feats that seem hazardous and in risks that appear dangerous. The crowd of cowboys who were performing at the carnival during the horse show were so confident of Mrs. Austen's ability that they were willing to back her to the extent of \$100 to ride any four-footed animal sent to the grounds. During the week Mrs. Austen has been nightly doing a tandem hurdle act that has proved immensely popular with the carnival visitors. With two spirited horses going at the utmost speed that vigorous whip-fashing could get out of them, she went tearing around the track, taking the three hurdles as clean as ever any famous hunter cleared a brush or fence.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Woman Census Taker.

It was through the death of her husband that Mrs. Daniel A. Button of Fontaine, Mich., became the first woman census enumerator a number of years ago. She had been in the habit of arranging and copying the work of her husband, who was one of the deputies appointed for census purposes. When left alone Mrs. Button applied for her husband's position, in due time receiving the appointment. It was decided by the government after receiving her reports that the manufacturing statistics should be compiled for the first time in the history of the census, and this work was placed in her hands. Mrs. Button found it a difficult task, as she had to visit personally every manufactory, large or small, in the district, and ascertain the amount and cost of material used, the value of the articles purchased, the expense of production, and the gain or loss per year. Upon sending in her final report to the superintendent of the census bureau she received from him a letter of commendation for the excellence of her work, and a deputy marshal's badge—white silk in blue letters.

One of the Chinese Empress's Cloaks.

"There'll be an opera cloak worn here this winter that will make every woman in town turn green with envy," said a Washington woman who had just returned from a visit in New York. "I saw it last week, and if I could have pulled my soul up by the roots I think I'd have traded it off for that dream of a cloak. The woman who bought it will spend the season here. I saw it at a tea—I won't say whose—in New York City. 'The woman who sold it is the sister of a naval officer—a surgeon, I think. The brother brought it from China, and a whisper—it's loot. He found it in the Forbidden City, where a lot of Russian soldiers who were looking

for secret doors and hiding places in the walls of a palace had hung it on the floor and were tramping it under foot. He brought it away to keep it from being carried off by some careless and dishonest person.

"It's a long, kimona-shaped thing of black satin, embroidered in a marvelous way, and it's lined through and through with the richest ermine, and if the Empress misses it, I'm sure she'll be glad to know it's in safe hands."—Washington Post.

Margaret Fuller.

It is due to a woman's effort that a tablet has been erected as a memorial to Margaret Fuller, who was drowned many years ago off the Isle of Pines, Long Island, and on this spot the tablet to her has been placed. Margaret Fuller's real influence among women is only beginning to be understood. Hundreds of women who today are reaping some results of her movement scarcely know of her existence, or if they do, it is merely as a member of the set of literary persons in Concord, Mass., when Emerson, Alcott and those men were a unique coterie. As a matter of fact, Margaret Fuller was far less associated with them than seems to be thought. She did indeed know them, as those men admired the type of women for which she stood, believing, as has since been demonstrated, that woman was capable of embracing more opportunities than were then afforded her.

Margaret Fuller was in the best sense of the word a broad-minded, intellectual woman, says a writer in the Home Magazine. The men of her day considered her their mental equal, and what was equally to the point, treated her as such. She lectured and wrote, and her opinions were heard with respect.

Her tragic death off the Long Island shore on her return to this country with her husband and child, having married an Italian, is one of the events that has until recently been unmarked in any way. Her body was never recovered, and with the passing of time much that she did has been forgotten.

It is Mrs. Lillie Devereaux Blake, who has at last done something to perpetuate her memory by raising money for the tablet that was put in place a few weeks ago. Although she has long admired Margaret Fuller, it was not until several years ago that Mrs. Blake, who spends her summers on the Isle of Pines, found that she was within a short distance of the place where the former was drowned. Mrs. Blake immediately set about having a memorial of some sort erected there. With energy that has remained unflagging she has interested persons in the work, has held sales, given teas, and resorted to other similar means to raise money, with the result that this season she found there was enough, and with simple ceremonies the tablet was unveiled.



FASHION NOTES

Flowers are used on cold-weather hats.

Large white wings are much seen on the new toques.

Pretty afternoon gowns are made of the gay silks and liberty-satin foulard now shown in floral designs.

Tucking promises to be used for waist trimming on every sort of material that can possibly be tucked.

A new fancy in corsets is the use of white velvet printed in colors with floral designs. This is a step beyond the silk and satin of other years.

The dog muff has made its appearance in Paris. In the front is a deep padded pocket, in which the wearer's tiny pet can be safely deposited.

Collecting scraps of lace to mount in an album is said to be a fad at present among English women. Beneath each piece of lace is written the name and the date and place where it was obtained.

Every now and again one sees jet combs, though they are not very universally worn, and there are pretty things in jet brooches to be found. These come in fancy designs, fleur-de-lis, horseshoes, and in more conventional patterns.

White Indian cashmere is utilized for elaborate evening coats and one notable example from a Parisian designer is combined with black chantilly lace. A broad puffing of white chiffon down the front is held in place by jet motifs.

Very attractive is a brooch, a long spray of acorn leaves and fruit, the leaves of diamonds, the lower part of the acorns each a single pink pearl and the upper part, in which the pearls are set, of a bronze gold, set with small diamonds.

In bags of various kinds, those to carry in the hand, chatelaine bags with silver frames and card cases are combined black and steel. Frequently the foundation of the bag or case will be of the jet beads and worked in will be a design of some sort in the steel beads.

Beading plays an important part in handkerchiefs. Very dainty little handkerchiefs have a line of beading on the exact edge in lieu of a hem, and inside this a line of embroidery, fine and delicate—anything heavy would be out of keeping—a slender vine with a little more elaborate work in the corners. In some of the handkerchiefs the beaded edge is entirely straight, and in others it is slightly undulated. Perhaps the former is the most attractive.

BUYING "GREENGOODS"

DIFFICULTY IN PREVENTING THE FORM OF SWINDLE.

Few Realize to What Extent This Particular Calling of the 'Green Goods' That Prey is Carried—Kings Among the Crooks—The Methods of the Sharpers Are Many.

Perhaps every newspaper reader knows what a "greengoods" man is, but how many people who think that they were pretty well acquainted with the intricacies of metropolitan life have any idea to what extent this particular calling of the "powers that prey" is now carried? The trade of the "greengoods" man is one of the most puzzling and mysterious with which detectives have to deal. And what is most astonishing of all is that every day within a radius of a few miles from New York City hundreds of daring schemes are being carried on and brought to full realization.

A New York Tribune reporter was prompted to make inquiries as to the extent and workings of this practice by a Washington dispatch. This dispatch said that J. L. Bristow, fourth assistant postmaster general in his recent report, had advocated an amendment to the interstate commerce law which would prohibit telegraph and express companies or their employes from aiding and abetting "greengoods" or lottery swindlers, or any other scheme carried on partly by mail and partly by common carrier in violation of the postal laws. The necessity for such a law, together with the probable difficulty of its enforcement, was made evident by Theodore W. Swift, chief of the New York post-office inspectors. Mr. Swift said:

"The 'greengoods' man is one who promises to give a certain amount of counterfeit money for genuine money. He is one of the oiliest individuals with whom detectives have to deal. He is difficult to apprehend, and when he is caught it is almost impossible to obtain sufficient evidence to secure his conviction. Every year he robs innocent, trusting men, of large sums of money—how large we have no means of determining. He is a highwayman, a true freebooter, who handles his revolver with as easy an assurance as he does his chief weapon—his tongue. We have fought him sub rosa for years, and we are still learning his cunning ways. He is the trickiest, nerviest, most desperate ruffian in good clothes with whom we deal. I could talk to you for hours of his workings, his twisting and his burrowing, but perhaps a description of only one of a hundred different methods by which he makes his living will serve as an illustration.

Practically all the "greengoods" men of the country operate from New York. They work in this city because the great volume of mailing which goes on here makes detection more difficult. If after they receive replies they could be tracked and watched, and if we knew from whom their mail comes, of course we could more readily drive them out of existence. As the system is now worked we have no means of knowing who send letters to them or at what point these letters to the sharpers are really written.

Let's take the simplest case. The "greengoods" man sends out a circular to a man whose name he finds in the directory of some town. This circular may state that the writer has a son who once worked in the treasury department, who is perfectly familiar with the process of making money. The crook adds that further instructions may be obtained by telegraphing to, say, "J. W. Ellis, Greenville, N. J.," which, of course, is a fictitious address. The innocent is told not to use the mails, but to telegraph all communications to the crook under a signature, say, for example, "736."

No. 736 accepts the bait and telegraphs as instructed. In a short time a generous pile of messages from gullible persons, addressed to the crook, accumulate at Greenville. It is easy for us to find these telegrams at that office, but we can't find the crook. By collusion with the telegraph operator, copies of these messages are sent by mail, by express, or by hand to New York, where the crook has all along kept himself. This scheme prevents us from capturing him. It is practically impossible to prove that the operator, who receives \$50 for his share in the transactions, is an accessory to the operation.

Each of these copies of telegrams represents to the crook a possible "sucker." The greengoods man then writes again to No. 736, the weakling, and sends him a genuine one dollar bill as a specimen of the counterfeit money which is for sale. He adds that for \$500, in good money, \$5000 worth of counterfeit money like the sample enclosed may be purchased. The innocent is then instructed to come to New York, but to first telegraph, always in cipher, to the sharpers' real address in New York telling him when he starts.

A few minutes after No. 736, the innocent, goes to a room at an appointed hotel, the "steerer," or associate, of the greengoods man appears. The "steerer" then pilots the man with the \$500 into the country, perhaps to a small Pennsylvania town, where the greengoods man meets them. He is told that safety requires such a move. The crook then actually gives the "sucker" \$5000 in genuine money for his \$500.

Then the crook tells No. 736 that it would be better if he did not take these five crisp one thousand dollar bills to his native town; that it would be far safer to submit them to a chemical process, invented by the crook, that would, after a few days of treatment, make them appear older and

less likely to cause any one to suspect their origin. Mind you, this proposition is made after the \$500 is in the pocket of the sharper. It is almost incredible, but it is a fact that the countryman, in the majority of cases, consents to give back his \$5000 worth of genuine bills to the crook to subject it to the "process." After receiving the \$5000 back the sharper disappears, the "steerer" goes likewise, and the "sucker" is penniless. Had he murmured an objection or hesitated a moment, he would have been confronted with a loaded revolver. In this way theft by assault and battery is not necessary, and the same object is achieved in the quiet suave fashion described, and the victim, because of his position as a would-be dispenser of false bills, is blocked from complaining to the police.

This is the simplest method of greengoods procedure. There are a thousand variations to this theme, each of which is a hard nut for us to crack. You ask why cannot one of our men impersonate a credulous person and then arrest the blackguards? We have done this, but have practically abandoned the idea, because generally we have been unable to produce enough evidence to convict. The sending of the telegrams and letters is so adroitly managed that the train of evidence which we may collect is likely to break at an important point. Of course, the detective's life is in constant danger when pursuing these crooks.

"Where do the sharpers get the money with which to play their trade? Where did the man in the case cited get his \$5000 in genuine money?" was asked. Mr. Swift replied:

"That is the most interesting part of the story. The system does not depend for its success upon the resources of a few needy swindlers. These men are simply agents of wealthy criminals, who manage their men, outline the plan, think of new schemes and pay their agents a generous percentage of the amount they steal from their victims. This wealthy criminal is the king sharper of the crowd; it is he who furnishes the capital. To prove my knowledge of the existence of these facts, I'll say that I know one of these king crooks. He lives in Pennsylvania where he has a magnificent stock farm. Many acres of rich land, on which are costly cattle and horses, stretch on all sides from his baronial-like mansion. There are others like him, closer to New York human vultures, who by the exercise of a peculiar cast of intelligence have been able to amass large fortunes. They have wrought so cunningly that, while we are certain that they are exceedingly dangerous to society, we are almost powerless to convict them. The very nicety of the law of evidence renders almost impossible the fulfillment of justice.

We have been fairly successful, however, in driving these highwaymen from our postoffice, and what we want now is just this amendment to the interstate commerce law which will make telegraph and express companies—the former particularly—more heedful of their duty. We have a law in New York state which prohibits this wretched business being carried on by telegraph or mail. All states should have such a statute, or else let us have a Federal law to the same effect. New Jersey has a statute prohibiting telegraph and express companies from aiding and abetting these swindlers. We have recently had a New Jersey operator imprisoned for violating this law.

Had Been There All the Time.

One of the "fly men" at the central police station was given instructions several weeks ago to "bring in" a young man who had a criminal record. The detective knew his man and had received information that he was in the city.

A detective working under an instruction to arrest a man when found does not usually devote all his time to the search. He puts the warrant into his pocket and depends upon encountering his man sooner or later. If he has no other work on hand he occasionally drops into the resorts such as are usually favored with the presence of men who have been photographed side and front.

One morning the "fly man," while on his way to his room met the long-sought crook at the front stairway of the building.

"I want you," he said good-naturedly, "but I didn't expect to find you here."

"This is where I live."

"For how long?"

"Since I came back, six weeks ago."

"Well, you're a bird. I live here, too." Both men were touched in their professional pride—one that he could search for weeks to arrest a man in the same building, the other that he should rent a room next to a "fly man."

—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Snails to Wash Windows.

Snails have long been employed in this country for cleaning windows. The creatures are dipped in cold water, and then placed upon the pane. They crawl around slowly, devouring all foreign matter and leaving the glass quite bright and clear. They are, of course, used only for upper windows, not easily reached from outside. Water snails also command a ready sale. Almost every aquarium owner keeps a few water snails. They are the best of scavengers and keep the place as tidy as a new housemaid. London Answers.

On the Mississippi, between St. Louis and Minneapolis, 60 sawmills are in operation, and 179 steam craft of various kinds navigate this stretch of the river.