

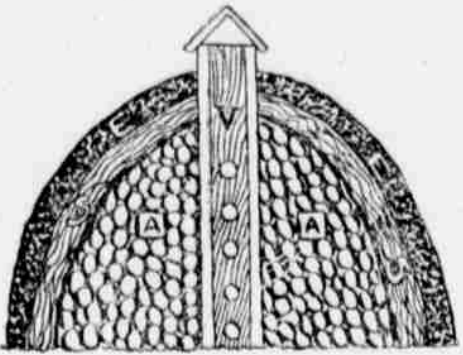


STORAGE OF APPLES.

Mounding Up and Covering with Earth. This Writer Says, Is the Most Satisfactory Method.

Now that there is a generous crop of apples in some localities this year, the general query arises how to winter them in the best manner. We have found no way that answers the requirements of the majority of farmers so well as to mound them up and cover with earth. By this method the apple retains or rather secures a flavor far superior to that of apples kept in the cellar. It is therefore quite desirable to bury them up with earth, only removing them to the cellar as they are required for use.

The proper method of mounding in winter apples is better explained in the illustration. A box five feet long is



SECTIONAL VIEW OF FRUIT MOUND. (A) Apples; (B) Straw; (C) Earth; (D) Ventilating Box or Shaft.

nailed up from two by six-inch boards and perforated as shown in illustration with holes to permit escape of gases and foul air. A small watershed is erected at top, leaving vents in gables for ventilation. This box is erected and apples mounded upon straw around it until a foot from the top. The mound of fruit is then incased around with old boards and covered with a heavy coating of straw and several inches of earth.

This is sufficient until freezing weather, when another coating of straw and earth should be placed upon the mound.

This may be done after the weather is quite cold and frozen by throwing a litter of straw around the heap base, in order that the earth may not be frozen and be accessible for covering.

After the last covering is in place a load or two of coarse manure may be scattered over the mound. By this method the farmer may have apples in cold storage until late spring and also have them secure from frost in the coldest weather.

The board covering is very necessary in order that the apples may not become compacted and mashed from the weight of covering, and the pile also is much easier to use from than a mound not protected by boards, thus easing in as the fruit is used out.

Many, however, who have cellars prefer to store in them, as it is somewhat more convenient, even though the flavor and crispness be not so well retained.

Very convenient crates may be made for this purpose by sawing plastering lath in two equally and nailing them up with ends prepared from inch boards 10 1/2 x 12 inches in dimension. These boxes will hold a bushel each, are cheaply made and can be stacked into rows or upon temporary shelves in the cellar, where they may be easily accessible to use from, in regard to variety, keeping, quality, etc.

These crates are very superior to storing in barrels or bins, as no large quantity can be crushed together, necessarily making it inconvenient to sort or discard decayed fruit.—George W. Brown, in Ohio Farmer.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN.

Soil and location will change the appearance of fruit and also the quality.

The head of the tree should always be cut back to correspond with the roots.

Mixed husbandry in gardening and fruit growing is necessary to the best success.

In pruning trees of any kind it is better to have one strong branch than two or three weak ones.

Whenever water is given to house plants enough should be given to wet the soil thoroughly.

A few apple and peach trees should be planted every year in order to keep up a good supply on the farm.

Handle the fruit intended for long keeping as little as possible, taking care not to bruise it in any way.

Soil is a protection to an orchard in winter. It is an exceptional case when it is best to plow in the fall.

The English walnut is said to be the most profitable of all nut-bearing trees. When in full bearing they will yield about 300 pounds of nuts to the tree. The nut sells on an average at about eight cents per pound. If only 27 trees are planted on an acre the income would be about \$675.—St. Louis Republic.

HAS MANY ADVANTAGES.

A Cheap, Unpatented, Dirt-Excluding Milk Pail That Can Easily Be Made at Home.

It is simply impossible to have good milk or gilt-edged milk products while the milk is contaminated by the filth of the barnyard. Few people have any idea of the amount of filth they consume in a lifetime in the milk and milk products they consume. The proverbial peck of dirt is a mere trifle to that. A convenient milk pail, almost entirely proof against such elements, may be cheaply and conveniently made in the following manner: Take an ordinary tin or zinc milk pail; have a spout made on one side with a cap; make a cover to hatch on. In the center of the cover make a hole six inches in diameter, and around this hole put a protecting rim about 1 1/2 inches high, and flaring outward. This will greatly reduce the dirt-catching area. Next make a bag of the thickest, closest wove twine, about eight inches in diameter and about eight inches deep, with a draw string in the top. Suspend this in the hole in the lid, doubling the top over the protecting rim and pulling the draw string tight to hold it in place. Put inside this a similar bag of cheesecloth. Milk into the bag and the milk will filter into the pail as it is milked. When dirt falls into the bag it can be picked off and not go into the milk. When the pail is full empty through the spout, take out the cheesecloth bag with all its accumulated hairs and dirt and put in a clean one. Such a course might seem troublesome to dirty milkers, but it is a cheap and effective way to make gilt-edged milk and to increase the price and popularity of your milk products. I will enumerate some of its advantages: (1) It keeps filth and hairs out of the milk. (2) It keeps the odors of the barnyard from the milk. (3) It makes it almost impossible for the cow to put her foot in the milk pail. This item alone would, on the average, more than pay for its cost and trouble in a year. (4) The milk need spill but little should the pail get tipped over—another item of economy. (5) People who eat your milk and its products, including yourself, will have far finer flavor and eat far less dirt. (6) With all these advantages your milk will keep sweet much longer, early souring being a sure sign of filth.—M. W. Gunn, in Prairie Farmer.

SAVING STABLE WASTE.

How a Michigan Farmer Makes a Compost Heap of Wonderful Fertilizing Power.

My plan is that a cistern be dug ten feet deep and wide, at the end of a prepared place, for the barnyard manure, to be dug in a sloping position from one side to a depth of three or four feet, and long enough and wide enough to accommodate the manure. A stone wall is built at each end and at the back to



HOW TO SAVE FERTILIZERS.

Keep the earth from caving in. Into this cistern, at the end of the compost heap, drains are constructed from the stables to carry the liquid, and also a drain or small sewer from the kitchen sink to convey the waste and keep it clean. Then we have it where we can utilize it to a good purpose. In the cistern is a pump, and occasionally the accumulated liquid is pumped and thrown over this compost or manure heap, is readily taken in and absorbed, and the fertilizing elements preserved, thus making one of the best compost heaps I have tried.—T. F. Collins, in Farm and Home.

Pure Butter for Export.

Mr. A. S. Mitchell, chemist of the Wisconsin dairy and food commission, says that in most of the foreign butters sent to England preservatives are used. He expresses the belief that American butter known to be free from such chemicals would find a ready sale on the British market. The opinion of Mr. Mitchell should be given weight. People of England as well as of this country are opposed to having their food doctored with borax and other stuff. They will gladly turn from goods so treated to goods that are pure and free from all other preservatives than salt.—Farmers' Review.

How to Prevent Rust.

The best thing I have seen or used to keep plows, cultivators and all other farm implements from rusting is to use petroleum and lampblack about the consistency of paint. Put it on with a brush or swab. If the implement is dry and clean when put on it will never rust as long as the paint stays on. The beauty of it is that you do not have to clean it off. If it is a plow, all you need to do is to hitch to it, stick it in the ground and go ahead.—Reuben Weller, in Farm and Fireside.

Right After Public Schools.

After the public schools close the public highways in their effect on the public welfare and an economic prosperity.

IN ARID COLORADO.

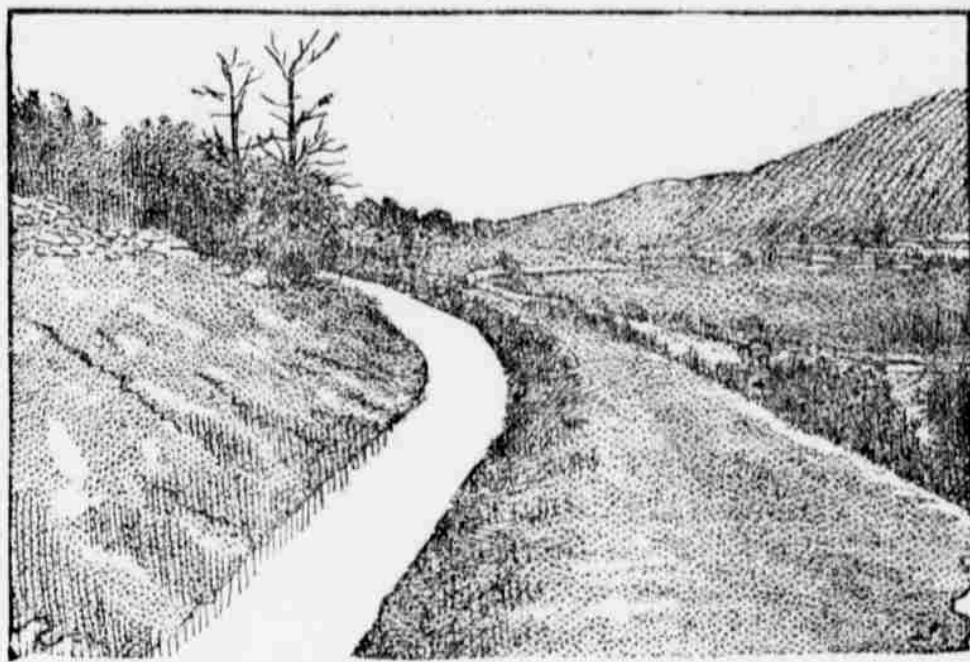
Irrigation Has Changed the Desert Into a Garden.

But the Profit Is Reaped by Water Monopolies Whose Proprietors Grow Fat on the Sweat of the Tillers.

(Special Denver (Col.) Letter.)

A great change is taking place in Colorado. Many eastern people are under the mistaken impression that the mining industry is the principal source of its prosperity, but the stock and farming industries are much more profitable. Certainly they are more lasting. The profits of agriculture and stock raising during the present year are estimated at \$60,000,000. This rapid increase is mainly owing to the numerous irrigation enterprises, especially in southern Colorado—the arid district. There are in Colorado about 5,000,000 acres of land susceptible of irrigation, and practically valueless without water. About half of this area is now under irrigation and cultivation. To water this desert region there have been constructed within the past few years 12,000 miles of irrigating canals. The capital expended is estimated at \$5,000,000, not including the purchase of the arid lands. These irrigating canals extend southward from Denver to Pueblo, Canon City, Trinidad, Durango, De Beque, and throughout the Grand, San Luis and Arkansas valleys, tapping the mountain streams for hundreds of miles.

From these large canals small canals are run in various directions, ear-

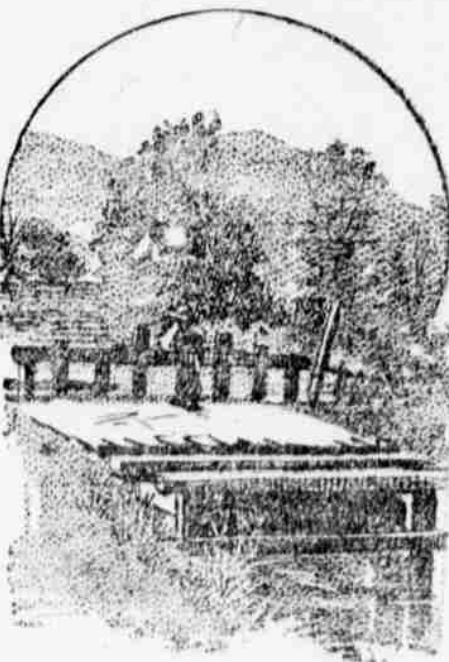


AN IRRIGATING CANAL NEAR DURANGO, COL.

rying water to farmers throughout the districts, thus gridironing the valleys with artificial streams and, to some extent, modifying the dry, heated atmosphere.

These canals are 10 or 12 feet deep and about 20 feet wide at the bottom, sloping outward at the top. The bottom and sides are, of course, cemented "water tight." The larger ones have a capacity of irrigating about 30,000 acres of land.

In constructing these immense canals the builders have adopted the prehistoric grades and followed the lines of the ruined and forgotten primitive irrigating ditches of the aboriginal tribes who inhabited this country ages ago. The modern engineer finds that he cannot improve upon these scientific channels. Here are the rains of ancient reservoirs, into which were led the fertilizing streams from the moun-



HEADGATE OF CANAL.

tains and the rivers to nourish their growing crops.

In this arid section it requires about 15 inches of water yearly to grow crops. This water is distributed in six irrigations, of about three inches each, at stated intervals. There is much dissatisfaction among the farmers at the appropriation of these natural streams by the water syndicates. Stock raisers must also pay a royalty for water, as the streams are fenced with barbed wire, or guarded. The few sluggish streams on the desert soon run dry, or sink into the sands, and during the heated term, when no rains fall in this arid region, thousands of dead cattle are seen on the plains—perished for the lack of water which is taken from them by the big compa-

nies. The loss in cattle and sheep by the appropriation of these streams is immense.

Water can only be had by purchasing stock in the company, and upon the face of each certificate is a description of the land to which the water is to be applied. Based upon this certificate the company issues to the farmer a water deed, or check, for the quantity he is entitled to. The holder is entitled to a voice in the management of the company. When he sells his land the water stock goes with it. The water is the most valuable part of the farm.

This important fact is usually overlooked by the eastern purchaser, until it is too late. He should first endeavor to get land near an unappropriated stream—if he can find any in southern Colorado; otherwise he will land within the grasp of the water octopus and find himself making yearly payments for his farm long after he has paid for the land. That is, he must continue to pay for water or abandon his ranch. It may be within a hundred yards of a living stream, but he is not permitted to dig a ditch and tap that stream, though he sees "oceans" of water running by his door and to waste. The stream has been "appropriated" by the irrigation company and he must get his supply from them.

A "water right" costs from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for an eighty-acre farm, near the towns; but out in the arid regions the stock is sold at smaller figures, and the farmer pays, in addition, about \$2 per acre, yearly, for water.

As water is most valuable where it is scarce, these companies practically hold a mortgage upon the productive energies of the people of the districts. True, they have greatly aided in reclaiming the waste lands, but there is no doubt that Colorado would soon be-

HOW THEY RUN GOVERNMENT.

Striking Illustration of Methods in Vogue in Guatemala Described by a Former Resident.

"A quaint little experience I once had in the interior of Guatemala," said a former resident of that republic, "furnishes a tipp-top illustration of the way they run governments in Central America. I had occasion to visit a small garrison town in the coffee belt on some business and found the commandant in a state bordering on distraction. We took dinner together and he told me his tale of woe between courses. His soldiers, it seemed, had been without pay for over three months, and as the government made no effort to provide them with rations, they had subsisted on beans, tortillas and coffee furnished on credit by the old women of the village. Naturally, the credit had worn itself out, and two days before I arrived all the old women went on a strike, since which time the garrison had been practically without food. Needless to say, the soldiers were desperate and they had determined to desert en bloc and go back to their homes.

"I advised the commandant to telegraph the facts immediately to the president, and at last he screwed up enough courage to send the message. As soon as it was received the president sent word to a wealthy planter 'requesting' him to dispatch some cash instantly to the commandant. The planter gave the messenger a \$100 bill and rushed him off on horseback for the village, which he reached at daybreak the next morning. When the poor commandant saw the remittance he nearly swooned away, for under the circumstances \$100 was about as much use to him as 100 brass elephants. Nobody in the whole department could change it, and he was in the depths of despair until I suddenly appeared in the role of good fairy. I happened to have 100 one-dollar notes in my saddlebags, and I handed over the bundle in return for the bill brought by the courier. The commandant grabbed the package and kissed me violently on both cheeks. Glory hallelujah! The country was saved! Each soldier got a dollar, which he paid on account, and the credit of the government was restored. The garrison howled with joy, and the old women shed happy tears in the coffee which they at once proceeded to boil. It was a touching scene. If ever I go back to that place again I will be treated like a prince."—N. O. Times-Democrat.

ON THE ICE TRAIL.

Desperate Race of Prospectors with Famine and Cold in the Klondike Country.

All through December a long procession of men passed Fort Selkirk, bound for God's country. All classes of life were represented, from the peddler to the millionaire mine owner, and it is only fair to the peddler to say that for grit and endurance no one surpassed him. Some trudged and tugged at heavy sleds and were their own dogs, as the saying went, and others trotted along behind well-broken dog teams and had their hired men to attend to the animals and do the work of making and breaking camp.

It was a gayly caparisoned procession and not at all suggestive of the desperate race with famine and cold. The men who knew to a certainty that their provisions would not last them to the coast, and who had no idea what they would do when the food gave out, wore carnival colored packages of yellow and white, or blue and white, or tawny fox skins, and the richer and darker furs. Even the face masks and projecting heads, when seen at a little distance, carried out the masquerade idea suggested by the domino-like packages, but a closer inspection of the deep-set faces behind their fringe of ice showed hard lines and little suggestion of mirth.

And yet the men were not conquered and despondent. Once in awhile, it is true, some moaned, half frozen creatures would come along, half crazed with fear and pain, but with the majority the hardships and care brought uppermost the masterful spirit that is characteristic of the born pioneer, and difficulties and danger were taken banteringly and with disdain.

"You Americans have wonderful substitutions," said John Peche, the Canadian government messenger, who late in December was the first man in from the outside world. "Coming down the river I met over 300 men on their way out, and most of them were from the states, and knew nothing of the cold that is cold, or how to take care of themselves right, yet they acted as if they were on a picnic and as if the devil were really dead, and they didn't seem to mind little inconveniences like frozen cheeks and feet and hands with the nails coming off and blistered with frost. They're reckless devils, and I more cheeky set I never met."—Forest and Stream.

Relieved Him.

Magistrate—Do you acknowledge that you were with the gang when this man was robbed?

Prisoner—I refuse to commit myself, judge.

"All right; I'll do it for you. Three months."—Philadelphia Record.

J. M. SCANLON.