

# THE FARM AND HOME.

## HOW TO CULTIVATE AND GROW POTATOES.

Newly Cleared Land is Good—Dressing Poultry—Winter Quarters for Hogs—Farm Notes and Home Hints.

### How to Cultivate and Grow Potatoes.

As potato crops are almost as profitable a crop as the farmer can raise, it is well to take some extra work in the preparation of the soil and in the cultivation of the crop, and I believe a great deal more than is generally taken even by those who make growing potatoes a specialty. Successful growing of potatoes depends upon these conditions, viz: good soil, good seed and thorough cultivation. This is also true of most crops. The soil should be and must be rich in plant foods, and also in vegetable matter. A firm, rich piece of land, on which stock has been pastured and fed, is good and far better than a dry, light loam, or sandy soil. Newly-cleared land is good. Old land, long cultivated, very seldom produces good results, and the labor expended in cultivation is far greater. The ground should be broken as deep as the soil or bottom lands, eight inches deep at least. Harrow and pulverize it thoroughly, and if it has been previously manured, let the manure be worked into the soil. I think the manure should be hauled on the ground before it is plowed, and then it is better mixed with the soil. Mark off the rows three feet apart, about four inches deep with a shovel plow, and if the ground is rightly prepared the soil will partly fall back in the furrow, and will make a good seed bed on which to plant the seed. Now we are ready to plant, says the Practical Farmer. Don't plant what you can't eat. A potato too small to eat is too small to plant. Select nice, smooth, sound potatoes; cut them two eyes in a piece; plant them from 4 to 6 inches apart, one piece in each place; cover them the depth of the furrow or more; a little elevation keeps the soil from getting hard. Next begin the cultivation, which should be done as soon as the plants are up. Go over them with a smoothing harrow, it destroys the weeds that have started better than a cultivator, and the work is easier done. Use the harrow again in a week or oftener, if the weeds start. When the potato plants are four inches high, use a cultivator or double shovel plow. Don't throw more dirt to the row than is necessary to cover up the weeds. After this cultivation, give them, if possible, a good hoeing; then in a week or ten days cultivate them again, but don't plow quite so close to the rows. If the season is dry, leave the ground as level as possible when you have laid them by; but if it promises to be a wet season, take a small turning plow and ridge up the vines; they are easier to harvest from a ridge, as the ground is not so hard. There are no grain crops, the yield of which can be so greatly increased by high and thorough cultivation and manuring, or which will yield a greater return for fertilizers than the potato. Cultivate often, cultivate well, cultivate deep between the rows and shallow around hills. Every one knows how to grow potatoes. Of course a digger is best, but if you have none, a plow can be run on each side of the row, and then the potatoes can easily be forked out.

### Dressing Poultry.

As this is the season when our neighbors are preparing their poultry for the trade, and like to be conversant with all the new methods of procedure, we give them one style of dressing which for cleanliness and rapidity we have never seen equalled. To dress a fowl with the least trouble hang it up by the feet so that it will drop to a convenient height, and attach a wire hook to the under beak of the fowl, to which hang a brick. Sever the jugular vein with a sharp knife and proce to pick, holding the wings with one hand while you pick with the other. Work quickly. Get most of the feathers of the breast side with three or four pulls, and change the wings to the other hand held across the breast of the fowl, and with a few pulls get most of the feathers off the back. Grasp one wing at a time and pull out the long feathers at a stroke. Then finish picking entirely before taking down. When done, chop off the head, take a sharp knife and cut through the skin around the vent, being careful not to tear the intestine. Pull gently and as the intestine comes out insert the forefinger and bring out the intestines rapidly and do not break them. Get them out by the gizzard and break off there by thumb and forefinger and your fowl is ready for market. If you wish to make ready to cook the hole must be slightly enlarged and the gizzard pulled out, cut open and the inner lining removed with all food, gravel, etc. A slit must be made in the breast and the crop removed, which should be empty when the fowl is killed. Some people remove the lungs. It is not necessary. The heart should be removed and washed as some clotted blood is usually around it. The operation of preparing a fowl for market can sometimes be done by an expert in three minutes.—Midland Poultry Journal.

### Winter Quarters for Hogs.

Several years ago a writer for the Farmers Gazette put up quite an extensive hog house, planned according to his best ideas at the time. The rooms where the hogs slept were not large and had a plank floor raised from the ground. Wishing to test the new building he kept one lot of hogs in a portion of it and put an equal number in a cheap structure with a dirt floor not far away. He had ex-

pected to show a difference of several dollars in favor of keeping the bunch of hogs in the large house, but to his surprise those outside did rather the best. He says: Our number of hogs increasing, we have for some winters past been obliged to seek temporary quarters for the surplus. Each winter we have kept hogs in a lot in which was a movable square pen made of common lumber, the sides eight feet in length and about five feet in height, with a board roof. These hogs slept on the ground and were given a reasonable amount of straw bedding. They came out into the snow to eat out of a trough in the open air. Animals kept in this way have uniformly done well both in healthfulness and gain for food consumed.

The arrangement that has suited me best is the result of an accident. Owing to the surplus we were obliged to make use of a lean-to about fifty feet in length and fifteen feet in width, having a dirt floor. From this shed the hogs passed by gates to a feeding floor in the main barn where troughs were arranged for economical feeding. The hogs were kept in the lean-to—except at feeding time. This was divided into two parts by a partition and each part further divided into two parts by a plank six or eight inches in width set edgewise. In one of the apartments straw was placed for the hogs to sleep on, and the other was where the droppings accumulated. The ceiling was about nine feet in height. Each week the droppings were carefully cleaned out; this done the old bedding was all thrown over into the space where the droppings accumulate and fresh bedding supplied. The lean-to is double boarded with building paper between so that there are no draughts. Windows high up are kept open, sometimes only one or two, usually most of them, all winter long.

Now our expensive hog house never proved entirely satisfactory for often animals are ailing the most common trouble being in dragging of the hind quarters. In our outside cheap sheds and in the lean-to described the animals have at all times done remarkably well, there being a surprisingly small amount of ailments and each animal showing thrift and contentment.

As a result of our experience we are about to tear down that part of the main hog house which has heretofore furnished the sleeping quarters and to rebuild. We shall now build a room about fifteen feet in width, the length of the building. This will be divided crosswise into pens about fifteen feet in width. Eight of these pens will be a place for sleeping, and six or seven for a space for droppings. I assure you there will be no plank floor in this room, but instead a layer of clean straw resting on dry earth. Along the south side will be a series of windows arranged to give an abundance of light, sunshine, and ventilation, from the frequent cleansing out of the space where the droppings accumulate the ground becomes lowered and the hogs root a little where the bedding is placed. Each fall a few wagon-loads of earth should be thrown in to keep the ground up level.

### Farm Notes.

The wheat straw can nearly always be worked into good manure. Success is not made in farming now without more or less planning ahead. The horse that has steady work every day is best able to stand hard work.

### The Knowledge of how to sell farm products will come largely from experience.

On plowed land there is very little loss of manure applied in winter by washing.

Do what is necessary to be done in good seasons; there is often much loss in doing.

On many Western farms there should be less plow land and more meadows and pastures.

A complete failure rarely falls to the lot of a really good farmer with any one crop.

### Home Hints.

Persons of defective sight, when threading a needle, should hold it over something white, by which the light will be assisted.

A beautiful smile on the female countenance has been compared to the sunshine on the landscape; it embellishes an inferior face and redeems an ugly one.

Cheap, impure articles of toilet soap should not be used; it is very injurious to the complexion. If the face and hands are powdered with corn starch each time after washing them it tends to keep them smooth.

Black lace will resume much of its pristine beauty if washed in thick suds made of tar soap. The lace must be allowed to dry without rinsing, as the tar imparts a slight stiffness, which is very desirable.

It is a great mistake to make a large tea biscuit. Properly speaking, a tea biscuit should not be more than two inches in diameter and proportionately thick when baked. This gives a delicate, moist, flaky biscuit which will be cooked through before the outside crust has become hard or over-brown.

A new household implement which will delight those who have suffered the annoyance of putting down a modern carpet at home with the old-time carpet stretcher and tack hammer is a combination stretcher and tacker. By its means the carpet is stretched in place and tacked at the same time. A room is dusted only when the dust is taken out of the room, and that is done only when it has been carried out of the room. This is done by using a soft cloth to dust with, and by wiping the surface of each article slowly, and with care not to throw the particles of dust up in the air, whence they will settle again somewhere else.

# EMPLOYMENT OF IDLE LABOR.

The government can use one to two million laborers at good profit for years to come creating works of great national importance and permanent value.

Our nation of wealth owes to every citizen the right to earn an honest living. Every human being that God sends into this world has the right to exist. The right to exist implies the right of labor to support existence.

Under the present conditions there are all the time from one to two million of able laborers seeking employment and unable to find it.

This condition has become a national crime and a national peril.

Under the direction and management of the engineer corps of the army and navy (departments of government free from taint of corruption or partisanship) and of world-wide fame for efficiency, a million or more of laborers may be most profitably employed for years to come on such public works as the building of the Cape Cod Canal, the Hennepin Canal, the Nicaragua Canal, the permanent improvement of the Mississippi river, the vast irrigation works needed in the arid regions of the West, the drainage of such large swamp tracts as the Atchafalaya swamp, (where, at a cost of two million dollars more than twenty million dollars of land can be redeemed), the great swamps of the South, and last but not least, the construction of a good system of public highways in all sections of nearly every state (for which there is an urgent demand.)

The labor problem stands before us a spectre of possible and probable revolution. The continued appeal for work to do goes up to that God whose ear is always open to the needy when they cry. The million of idle men are needy and small consumers. Employed, they would be good consumers and every line of production would be stimulated.

The relief of the overcrowded labor market would be like a safety valve, until a peaceful evolution of a satisfactory solution can be arrived at.

The government now employs a half-million men in postoffice and civil service. Well organized, well paid, useful, profitable. It employs thousands in army and navy at the industry of destruction.

In the manufacture of naval ordnance and army supplies government shops are models of efficiency and successful industry.

The proposed employment of labor on great works of permanent wealth will not interfere with skilled labor now employed, but will be a great stimulus to all other lines of labor and production.

Thirty years ago the government employed a million of men, whose vocation was the destruction of wealth. If that vast power had been turned to the production of wealth, and could have been continued to this day, what a spectacle of accomplishment we could to day show to the world.

"Paternalism" some will say. A strange objection for a government of the people by the people for the people, when it offers profitable employment to the people who need labor to exist.

"Increased immigration" says another. What matter how rapid immigration of able labor so we have the means of turning it (labor) to profitable account in producing permanent works of national wealth.

"Corruption" says another. Let all the work be put under strictest rules of civil service reform and it may be the grandest education toward a purified civil service.

Such a system of enlarged industrial activity will necessitate an increase of circulating medium.

Let the labor be paid: 1st. By issue of full legal-tender greenbacks to the extent of \$50 per capita of total population.

2d. By long-time taxation of adjacent property to be benefited by internal improvements.

Let a monster petition go to the next congress for immediate steps to employ idle labor. Let a bill be presented for such action as will secure this "first step"—Journal of the Knights of Labor.

### The Presidential Term

The direct expenses of a presidential election amounts to many millions of dollars, and the indirect losses to the country in an exciting campaign by the retarding of business is incalculable. A shrewd political authority, accustomed to handle campaign funds, estimates that it cost the two political parties \$1,500,000 in New York state alone to conduct the recent campaign.

The lengthening of the term to eight years would reduce such expenses and losses by one-half. It would be greatly to the advantage of our diplomatic service in the longer continuance in office of experienced men, and would also strengthen civil service reform among all classes of employes and save them from the temptations always incident, in a greater or a lesser degree, to the frequent changes in the minor offices which follow in the wake of presidential elections. The professional politicians and the bosses would be likely to oppose such a change, and the hungry crowd who are waiting for federal appointments would raise the old cry of "an aristocracy of office-holders," but the common sense of the country will yet demand the stability and tranquility which would come from a lengthened term of office for the chief magistrate of the United States.

### They Will Never Do It.

The child is yet unborn that will live to see the reforms promised by the Democratic party brought about. It is an utter impossibility under its present management and control. The people may with perfect safety look forward to another year of 6-cent cotton and 50-cent wheat without a single ray of hope for better times or happier conditions.

# A CURIOUS CURE.

Father Kneipp and His Wonderful Success in Cold Water Practice.

A short time ago Rev. Bramley Moore visited the famous cura of Father Sebastian Kneipp, the parish priest of Worishofen, Bavaria.

The special features of the Kneipp cure as distinct from ordinary hydropathic practice are very short courses of douches of cold water, putting on garments immediately and drying the skin, coarse linen for lining for clothing being prepared, walking in the early morning barefoot among dewy grass; walking in sandals or barefoot in cold water, and wearing regularly a coarse linen shirt next the skin. He also uses a few preparations from the simplest herbs. His theory is that local maladies must be treated through the strengthening of the general organism and in the rectification of the circulation of the blood.

Father Kneipp has been parish priest of Worishofen for thirty-seven years, but has practised his system of hydropathy ever since 1817, although it is only during the last ten years that he has attained among his countrymen such wonderful celebrity. Surrounded often by seven or eight doctors, he gives audiences every morning from 8:30 to 12, and in the afternoon from 1:30 to 4, and afterward delivering his Sprachstunden to an immense crowd awaiting him at the door of the Kurhaus, and who sometimes have to wait three hours before they can obtain the desired interview.

The number of names inscribed on the visitors' book from March 16, 1891, to December 25, 1891, was 11,450, and it is stated that during the previous year, 1890, Worishofen was visited by 30,000 persons as patients.

The village is full of the lame, the maimed, the blind the disfigured (especially from lupus), the sick, many of whom have exhausted the resources of ordinary medicine, and who have come here as a forlorn hope, many hundreds of whom have returned cured.

### NOT TO BE FOOLED.

How Mr. Vanderbilt Got Ahead of the Jeweler.

A good story is told of one of the Vanderbilts. While abroad recently he was visited by a rich Berlin jeweler, who, without waiting the usual formalities incident on gaining an audience, marched in on Mr. Vanderbilt unannounced.

The intruder was an elderly man, with an intelligent face, attired in faultless evening dress, the fashion prescribed by European etiquette for visits to potentates, ambassadors and other high dignitaries, irrespective of the hour or season.

Mr. Vanderbilt was surprised but not overwhelmed, by the jeweler's evident attempt at continental complaisance. He listened to his tale of the "greatest ruby on earth," which the dealer was willing to dispose of at a sacrifice, with a courteous air, and then offered him one-tenth of the price demanded.

"I have five stones of exactly the same dimensions and coloring," said he, "and I am willing to complete the half dozen at a fair figure. You may send me your answer within two hours. Good morning!"

The answer arrived eighty minutes before the prescribed time elapsed. It was in the affirmative.

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