### THE FARM AND HOME.

GYPSUM AS A FERTILIZER FOR POTATOES.

Tried With Beneficial Results-A Good Sheep Gate-The Spread of Tree Roots - Farm Notes and Home Hints.

Gypsum on Polatoes. We were much interested in a talk we had the other day with a friend who is something of an experimentalist in horticulture, as well as a practical farmer. Last season he tried gypsum on a piece of potatoes with very beneficial results, says the Farmers Voice. Gypsum, as it is commonly called, is a combination of caustic lime and sulphuric acid, and contains oxygen in large quantities. The oxygen in this substance is ever ready to enter into a combination with other materials and change their chemical form, and it is this tendency that makes the gypsum of value, for by the action of the fertilizing elements of soil are released from their ins rms and become at once available for the growing crops. Proceeding on this theory, our friend proceeded to carry out his experiment. His soil was a loamy mold underlaid at quite a depth with limestone. It is what is known as a strong limestone loam. He tried several plans of distributing the gypsum, but the most satisfactory results were got from strewing it along in the furrows made to receive the potatoes, before the potatoes were planted. Six or seven hundred pounds to the acre was used, and it was dropped by hand on a strip about a foot wide. The increase of the crop where this gypsum was used was from twenty-five to thirty-three per cent as compared with that portion of the field where none was used. The unusual wetness of the season was no doubt of advantage to the portion sown with gypsum, and helped to make the results so satisfactory. It is our opinion that on new, swampy quarter of the globe.—American committee, but he threw no light on soils, where there is a large amount of acid in the soil, gypsum could be sown with benefit, as it would tend to neut. alize this acid condition and ake the fertility more fully avail-On such soils caustic lime one has proven of benefit, and a wonderful improvement has been known to follow its use. We know of a field that had a coat of gypsum as much as fifteen years ago that has

the way of fertilizers. A Good Sheep Gate.

always produced good crops since.

A door or gate through which a thrifty condition is quite as important hundred sheep are to rush, eager for as it is for the production of fat. their feed of grain, must be so constructed that it can be opened with the greatest dispatch. A swing door is apt to be obstructed by snow-drifts, orts, ice, manure, etc.; besides which it is always swinging open in the wind when it ought to be shut and vice versa. Then, too, no matter which way it opens, when the time arrives for it to be opened the sheep are very often huddled against it so that it cannot be moved. If swing doors are to be used at all, they should be folding doors, carefully hung in such position as to avoid all obstacles.

A writer for the Ohio Farmer, after lowing: Where the side of the stable are doing. is low he has a sliding-door, eight feet long, hung on rollers and a slide. wood is faced with a one and one-half | this purpose. inch bar of iron, three-eighths inch thick, which projects one-fourth inch a guide for the door-rollers to travel on. This strip, put on with twoinch screws, one every foot, will hold up ten times the weight of the door. The bottom of the door has to be confined with stakes to prevent the sheep from carrying it away when they ush out.

Where the side of the stable is high hough to permit it he has a hoistgate of the same length, suspended from pulleys overhead with weights enough to balance it. It should be made of very light slats, set close enough together to prevent the sheep from getting their heads between them as the gate is hoisted. The frame-work or guide on each side, in which the gate plays up and down. must be nicely adjusted and true, and it is well to have small pulleys let into the outer sides of the posts to obviate friction. An iron rod, fastened to the upper corner of the gate, bent apward and provided with a loop in he middle to receive the rope, is the best attachment for hoisting a gate.

When the door is double, that is, a tight outer door and an inside one of slats, it is a very good arrangement ing a cultivation of cholera bacilli to have the inside door fastened up so that it can be thrown down and let forty-eight hours. the sheep run over it. This should be made light but strong and close, and put tegether with clinch nails. This can be kept in place by some simple fastening at each end.

It is better, however, not to have the sheep in such large flocks as to require such wide gates. Fifty or forty in a flock are enough for health. Where they are grained ewes, however, there should be provided the best possible facilities f r letting them rush without getting jammed.

How Far Tree Roots Spread. The extent to which tree roots pread is a question of practical impor cance when manuring them is in order. We do not see so many fruit growers piling manure around the trunks of old trees, or two or three feet from them, as used to be common. That is very much like placing is often as necessary.

a plate of victuals at a hungry man's feet and then tying his hands. But though this mistake has been unlearned, there is still a very inadequate notion as to how far tree roots spread. The popular idea, that is, "about as far as the branches reach overhead," is greatly inadequate. In old trees that is most likely the limit in which there are few feeding roots, and manure can do least good. Give an apple tree room and its roots will extend twice or thrice the distance its top would reach if prostrate on the ground. But usually old trees are cramped in orchards, and each occupying a square of twenty, thirty or forty feet, their roots cross and interlace in the fierce fight that ever goes on in nature for more food, more air and more light. The largest apple tree we know of was about four rods from the farm barnyard, "too far away," the farmer said, "for its roots to get any benefit from the manure.' But its vigorous growth and profusion of leaf and fruit told a different story. It more likely had a mo-nopoly of the rich soil under the barnyard, and had crowded its neighbors away from what was enough for

Health Hints for Farmers.

all .- American Cultivator.

As the country grows older much of the soil around dwellings becomes drawn to strengthen the authority of saturated with the drainage and slops from the house, so that it no only to guard the coast but to follow longer acts as a perfect filter. The the disease to the interior if it shall soil then becomes the breeding place gain entrance and stamp it out. of bacteria, and these are conveyed to wells, occasioning diseases more deadly than the fever and ague of new settlements. Wherever putrid sore places as he shall designate and for throat is known to exist, look for its such period of time as he may deem cause in some contaminated well necessary. whose water furnishes the drinking supply of the afflicted family. Remove the cause and the danger will disappear. If a filter cannot be procured, the water may be purified by being boiled. It is not an accidental circumstance that the Asiatic nations which have the longest used boiled water to make tea and coffee decoctions, number more than any other Cultivator.

Farm Notes.

With horses especially, the heaviest feeders are not by any means the best feeders.

Ascertain as nearly as possible what your stock is worth and then sell in the market.

A heavy growth of clover puts the land in a first class condition to grow a good crop of corn.

though before that time it was badly Good stock, good crops, rich soil run down. Of course since that time and industry are the essential factors it has been farmed in a rotation, of in good and profitable farming. which one crop was clover, but it has As an animal grows fat it consumes

had very little of anything else in less in proportion to its size and digests less of what it consumes. Even for milk production, a hearty,

> Keep the best grain and hay for your stock; if any is sold let it be the

> poorer grades as far as is possible. So far as is possible, every grower should know under what conditions his breeding animals have been

Disease and vermin are not so liable to attack colts when they are kept in a good thrifty condition during the

With many animals, one advantage in a variety of food is the increased palatableness, in this way helping the

In the majority of cases the worst experiments with several kinds of farmers are those who never make any doors and gates has adopted the fol- attempt to improve upon what they

With all classes of stock it is best to select out the breeding animals A one and one-fourth inch strip of early and feed them especially for

Variety in feeding belongs to profitable stock growing, but judgment above the wooden strip, and furnishes must be used in making and changing the combinations.

Home Hints.

Small articles of steel, such as buckles, can be cleaned with unslacked lime.

Soups and dressings are much improved in flavor by sprinkling with the chopped roots and tops of celery which have been dried.

A board one foot square and covered with tin or zinc and used to set hot kettles or pans upon is a great protection to the kitchen table.

Sweet skimmed milk will brighten up stained floors and oilcloths. Rub well first with a soft cloth wet with the milk, then with a dry flannel.

A piece of chamois skin bound on the edges, shaped to fit the heel and kept in place by a piece of elastic rubber worn over the stockings, will save much mending.

Oil of peppermint in water diluted even to one part in one million will kill cockroaches in an hour, they dying of convulsions. One drop of the oil placed under a bell jar coverwill kill both bacilli and spores in

A nice way to keep wax for the work basket is to fill half shells of English walnuts with melted wax, fastening the two half shells closely together at one end. There will then be a small space at the other end. through which the thread will slip when the wax is being used.

The following is an excellent way of cleaning marble: First brush the just off the marble and then apply with a brush a liberal coat of gum arabic that is about the consistency of thick mucilage. Expose the marble to the sun, a dry wind, or both. In short time a mucilage will crack and peel off. It all the gum does aot peel off wash the surface with clean water and a clean cloth. If the first application does not have the desired effect repeat the process

NATIONAL QUARANTINE.

A Reasonably Good Bill Passed by Both Houses-Its Main Features.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—The national quarantine bill agreed upon by both houses of congress makes it unlawful for any vessel from any foreign port to enter at any port of the United States except as prescribed by the act. The vessel must bring with it a bill of health from the United States represent ative of the port of departure, and the president is given authority to de-tail medical officers to serve at foreign

Section 3 directs the supervising surgeon gener 1 of the marine hospital service imm. tely after the act takes effect to ex — he the quarantine regulations of — state and municipal boards of he aith and to aid such boards in the enforcement of their rules and such rules as the secretary of the are good picking for the note shav-treasury may make to prevent the in-troduction of contagious and infectious are don't suffer when the farmer sufdiseases, not only from foreign countries, but from one state into another.

It is further provided that if there

are no quarantine regulations at any port or place the secretary may make them. If he thinks the existing rules are inadequate he can make additional regulations. The state and municipal authorities are to enforce them. they do not the president is to detail officers who will. There are several other pr visions of like efficacy, all the government and to enable it not

Finally, the president is given power at his discretion, to prohibit in whole or in part, the introduction of persons and property from such countries or places as he shall designate and for

SECRET PANAMA FIGURES.

Congressional Investigators Mystified-Px-Secretary Thompson Knows Little.

WASHINGTON, Feb. -Mr. Cohn, secretary of the Ame an Panama canal committee, was xamined by the Panama investigati g committee to-day with reference to accounts in the blotter heretofore laid before the entries made. He could not explain the meaning of certain numbers, similar in character to the numbers to denote pages in the ledgers usually use i in blotter account books, but it could not refer to a ledger for there was none. An order system was adopted and it might refer to the number of the orders.

The committee then got into a discussion over the failure of witnesses to appear and it was suggested that warrants be asked of the house for witnesses and also that the committee go to Indiana and examine ex-Secretary Thompson, Mr. Geary saying that Mr. Thompson was evidently the man who had transacted the business, who could throw the most light on affairs and who handled the money, Seligma being simply a banker.

stated that Mr. Thompson knew scarcely anything about the accounts; that he(Cohn)attended to them. of course submitting a state nent to Mr. Thompson when he came in the office, three or four times a year. It was finally decided to go to New York Monday and to have new subpœnas, requiring the several witnesses wanted to be at the postoffice building Monday morning. Mr. Bovard, Jesse Seligman, E. A. Adams, Winslow, Lapier & Co., wanted as witnesses in New York.

DEATH IN A MIGHTY WAVE. Three Officers and Five Cable Passer gers Swept to Their Deaths.

LONDON, Feb. 13.-The Allan liner Pomeranian, from Glasgow January 27 via Moville, for New York, has returned to Greenock after losing three of her officers and nine others of her crew and passengers in a heavy storm. The Pomeranian was about 1,150-mi es west of Glasgow when she encountered weather of unusual severity. Captain Dalziel, who was on the bridge when the avalanche of weather struck the vessel, was swept from his post and dashed against the bulwarks where he lay stunned and helpless.

The mates, John Cook and John Hamilton, who were on the bridge with the captain, were swept out to sea and drowned, as were also two quartermasters, two stewards, four first cabin passengers and one second

cabin passenger. James and Lilian Gibson of Dalkeith, Jane Caffery of Londonderry and John Stewart of Glasgow were the first cabin passengers lost. They were in the deck saloon at the time and were hurled overboard with the ruins of the saloon. They were never seen again, but survivors say a despairing cry pierced the air, even amid the thunderous roar of the waters.

The crew cleared away the wreckage and the vessel started on its return voyage, making its way back slowly and carefully to Greenock. The survivors of the passengers and crew are in a very exhausted condition after their terrible experience.

DE LESSEPS COMATOSE. The Venerable French Englueer May

Never Know the Law's Harshness. Paris, Feb. 13.-Madame Ferdinand

De Lesseps since the conviction and sentence of her husband has been as courageous and resolute as ever and as earnest as ever in her belief in her husband's innocence. To a representative of Figaro she said yesterday that her husband was in a very weak condition. A week ago he had been seized with a delirium that lasted for a day. Then he had a relapse and had since remained in a state of coma.

Cremated in a Railroad Wreck. PETOSKY, Mich., Feb. 13.-There were four wrecks on the Grand Rapids and Indiana railroad last night. Three were freight trains with no one hurt. In the other, a passenger, Brakeman Whiting was killed and

Harry Burleson, a traveling salesman, was roasted to death. Conductor Chamberlain was badly injured. After the Ex-Treasurers. SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 13 .- Acting Governor Gill has ordered suit to be brought against the ex-treasurer of the state to recover interest on the

state's funds, the amount involved

being about \$2,000,000.

Bard Times in North Dakota.

Times are hard in North Dakota. Money is scarce. Everybody is lopping off unnecessary and in many cases necessary expenses. Business languishes with the decline in the price of wheat and for those dependent upon labor times look blue enough. A short crop could be en-dured. A small price could be en-dured if there were any let-up to the extertions of the railroad sharks and the money loaners. Monopoly's demands are no less in bad seasons than in good ones. The coal combine has advanced its price to meet the situation in North Daketa. Jim Hill's railread continues to charge as much for hauling a bushel of wheat as though there were ten times as many bushels to haul. Moneyless farmers are good picking for the note shavfers. His goods don't sell and if they lo sell they must be disposed of at cost or be kept over or be sold finally by the sheriff. Still the merchant is too dull to see that cheap wheat and extortionate railroad and interest charges paid by the farmer have any lisastrous influence on himself. And so the system continues to work out tts own destruction of everything involved. Some day the farmer will wake up and turn things over. Pernaps then the merchant will help the farmer instead of helping the monopolist to crush the farmer as now. After long years of paying it may ocour to the deluded farmers and thickskulled merchants that their interests are the same and that they are both being ground into poverty by the same insatiate grist of monopolies .-North Dakota Independent.

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