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HOME AND THE FARM.

A DEPARTMENT MADE UP FOR OUR RURAL FRIENDS.

The Cultivation of Broom Corn—Extensive Irrigation Plant in Kansas—How to Make Swiss Cream Cheese—A Nail in the Horse's Foot.

Broom Corn.

Forty years ago broom corn was grown to quite an extent in the Connecticut Valley, and the Hadley broom was a well-known article of commerce in the New England States. With the opening of rich land in the more recently settled portion of the country the center of production of this plant moved rapidly to the West. It has disappeared from the seaboard, but is a profitable crop in some of the central Western States.

If it receives suitable attention at the right time broom corn is not a difficult crop to produce. While late planting is to be avoided, it is not well to go to the other extreme and do this work while the ground is cold. A well-prepared seed bed is of great importance and it is a good plan to plow the ground some time before the planting is to be done. This will cause the seeds of weeds and grass which may be in the land to germinate before the preparation of the surface soil is made. A thorough pulverization of the surface just before planting will destroy these intruding plants, and will thereby greatly aid in keeping the crop clear. As the plants of broom corn are rather weak and make only a slow growth during the first few weeks after they appear, the providing of a clean and mellow seed bed is a matter of considerable consequence.

Planting in hills, which was at one time almost universal, has largely been superseded by drill culture. The old custom was to make the hills from two to two and one-half feet apart, in rows from three to four feet from each other. A liberal quantity of seed was used. This made it necessary to thin the plants at the second hoeing and involved a great deal of very hard work. If good machines are used and properly gauged just the right quantity of seed can be planted. When care is used in selecting seed this is by far the best way as thinning the plants is both expensive and tiresome. On ordinary soil the stalks may stand three inches apart in the drill, or two stalks together every six or seven inches. Either very thick or very thin planting will seriously injure the quality of the brush. In case a dwarf variety is grown the planting can be much closer than the distances above named.

Cultivation should be commenced as soon as the plants are well above the ground. It should be shallow and be repeated frequently. If weeds appear between the plants in the drills they must be removed. It allowed to remain they will retard the growth of the crop and greatly increase the labor of harvesting, as well as provide for a succession of their kind in future years.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Nail to Horse's Foot.

Any kind of punctured wound requires special treatment, because healing of any wound must begin at the bottom of it, and if otherwise the diseased matter in the wound will become inclosed in it, and must break out in time in some way or another, says the "Stockman and Farmer." Thus, an incompletely healed wound will in time become an abscess that may give much trouble, especially in the foot, which, being enclosed in its horny covering, affords no escape for the pus formed, and this burrows among the tissues, forming a fistula, or spreading so that the bones of the foot become diseased and the horse is ruined. The first thing to be done is to remove the nail, if it or a part of it remains in the foot, then to enlarge the opening and reach the bottom, injecting some active liniment or other stimulant, and keeping the opening free for the escape of pus until the healing advances to the surface, when a simple protection to the sore will be sufficient until the healing is completed. Care to be exercised to keep the wound clean by frequent injections of warm water with a few drops of carbolic acid in it, and if the foot is inflamed, poultices are to be used. The entrance of sand or grit into the wound is to be strictly avoided.

Swiss Cream Cheese.

Swiss cream cheese is made as follows: Bring one gallon of sweet cream to a temperature of 45 degrees, and put in enough rennet to thicken it in twenty-four hours. Let the rennet be carefully tested beforehand, and the right quantity diluted in half a small glass of water before it is added to the cream. The cream must be stirred a few minutes to have it all mixed in well, and then keep it about 65 degrees. After twenty-four hours it should be like clotted cream in consistency. Now hang it up in a cloth bag to drain for twenty-four hours, breaking it apart gently occasionally, that the whey may escape well. Next the bag is placed between two boards under light pressure, when the cheese is fit to be moulded and sold or used. An

excellent article may be made of whole milk, on the plan of the foregoing receipt for Swiss cream cheese, or one-third cream may be added to the milk. All must be perfectly sweet and free from taint, and be put on the market in the most delicate condition and packing to get the prices it deserves.

A Large Irrigation Plant.

Among the irrigation plants in course of construction in Kansas probably the most extensive is that of Mr. G. M. Munger of Eureka, Greenwood County. He is constructing a reservoir which will cover about 160 acres with water. This is done by building a dam 2,800 feet long and thirty eight feet high at its greatest height. This, as described by "The Irrigation Farmer" will catch the storm waters from a large area and will be used primarily for the irrigation of a 500 acre orchard now just beginning to bear. The water will be raised by two compound duplex steam pumps, the water cylinders of which are 12 by 15 inches. Each pump has ten inch suction and 8 inch discharge. These pumps will elevate the water to a height of 65 feet, delivering it on the highest part of Mr. Munger's farm. The estimated cost of the plant complete, including ditches for distribution of the water, is \$15,000.

When to Cut Hay.

The old question of when to cut hay for the most profit is now in order. Shall it be cut early or late. There has always been a lot of evidence on both sides of this subject, and it begins to look now as though the professors had at last found out the trouble. It seems that from patient investigation it is actually proven that while cows give the most milk from early cutting, steers fatten best on late cut hay. Ergo cut to suit the purpose to which you propose putting the hay. If you are a dairyman then cut clover when the first brown blossoms make their appearance, and timothy and other light grasses before they get too yellow. For beef-making all the grasses should be as ripe as possible, not to shell the seeds when being cut. Always remember that clover hay, the cow's favorite, loses a great deal of its value from being handled.—Home and Farm.

Lamp Wicks.

Lamp wicks are as contrary as human nature, and the one that "sticks" is a nuisance calculated to make a man sweat or a woman cry. If you take a "sticking" wick out and pull a thread out next the searage it will make it work beautifully. It usually sticks because it is a thread or two too wide.

Farm Notes.

PROF. HENRY says steers can be fattened on corn alone with profit, for the concentrated grain soon burns out the digestive tract, and the steer comes to make poor use of his food. Oil meal or bran should be fed to lighten the ration. Bran is cooling and lightens the heavy corn meal materially.

A HEN that is two years old will fatten more readily than a pullet, hence caution should be exercised in feeding corn to hens. The pullets will continue to grow until they are 15 months old, but they begin to lay before maturity. A Plymouth Rock or Brahma Pullet should lay when 8 months old, and a Lechorn pullet at 9 months. Much depends on how they are fed. Do not make them too fat.

COLTS are generally fed too much hay and not enough of other things. As a writer says, they eat enough, but the feed is not of the right quality; it fevers instead of nourishes; it stunts them instead of giving growth. The remedy is corn and molasses, bran, roots, oil cake, linseed meal, ensilage, clover, hay and a chance at a reserved blue grass pasture or in a field of green wheat or rye.

THE loss from smut in corn is not usually regarded as a serious matter, or as much affecting the profits of the crop, yet it is one of those little leaks we should make every possible effort to stop. The only certain way to be rid of it is to cut and burn every affected plant as soon as discovered. Do not cure nor feed smutty stalks, and avoid following corn with corn where the disease has been at all bad.

Rehearsed His Own Funeral.

For novelty in the funeral line a certain Frenchman, who is a nonagenarian, takes the palm. For the past year he has had a workman engaged preparing his tomb, and has surveyed the work with loving care. On his ninety-fifth birthday, which occurred not long ago, he assembled all his friends to the rehearsal of his funeral. A burial service was held at the church, the priest blessed his empty coffin, and the whole ceremony was carried out just the same as if he were dead. After the service was over he assembled all his friends that he cared to have at his funeral, at his home, and over a bumper of champagne made each promise that, if alive, he would not fail to see that all the arrangements were carried out the same as at the rehearsal.

SOME girls begin to fall before marriage as soon as they are engaged.

CHINA'S EQUIPMENT FOR WAR.

Viceroy Li's Development of the Navy and the Arsenal.

Shanghai letter in the New York Sun: Letters from Weihaiwei say that the old viceroy, Li Hung Chang, is carrying out the triennial inspection of the gulf ports in a way which excites the wonder even of foreigners. This inspection, it was found, was vital in order to keep up the standard of the Chinese soldiers and marines. The Chinese do not take kindly to the profession of arms, and requires long training to produce efficiency. The Viceroy, however, determined ten years ago to make the Chinese fleet respectable, even if not formidable, and he also decided to put an end to the farcical gun practice and drill which was carried on at the different forts and arsenals. He secured the best foreign drillmasters to be procured, choosing them impartially from English and German officers, and the result has been a very great improvement on the whole service.

The Chinese navy is now respectable. The large vessels are the best which money could buy in Europe, while the smaller vessels, like gunboats, torpedo cruisers, and dispatch boats, have been made at the Foochow arsenal, largely by Chinese who received their training from British and German experts. The moment the native workmen could be trusted to work under Chinese overseers the foreigners were discharged, for the Chinese are extremely sensitive and they disliked to have anyone who would report the progress they were making.

Under careful training the Chinese have proved far better sailors than any foreigner ever imagined would be possible. They have also developed unexpected skill in the handling of guns. The maneuvers this year at Tientsin were said to be very satisfactory. The old Viceroy is a harsh critic, as he has paid great attention to the work done on the best foreign ships, and is, therefore, exacting in his demands. He was greatly pleased with the skill with which the ships were handled and at the efficiency of the gunners. The artillery practice at Weihai was especially commended for its accuracy, and foreign experts who also witnessed it declared that the next European nation which gets into a war with China will not and the Celestial gunners shooting wild. The men handle their pieces like veterans and the ranging and sighting were done as well as the average practice of this kind in European batteries. The battalion drill of the blue jackets was also highly praised. The torpedo establishment here and at Port Arthur were inspected with great care and were found to be in good condition.

Under the old regime an inspection of this kind was a mere farce which was regarded by the high official assigned to it as a pretext for a fine junket. Every petty official was bound to serve the best food and wine that he could secure, and the inspection thus degenerated into a round of festivities. Unless some flagrant accident occurred the reports were always complimentary, though foreign experts who witnessed the maneuvers told stories of the utter lack of skill and discipline shown by the Chinese crews of gunboats and the native marines who were supposed to guard the forts and arsenals. The war with France over Tonquin, however, was an eye-opener for the Viceroy Li, and ever since he has been unsparing in pains and expense to make the Chinese navy effective and to build up the army. It has been up-hill work, because the discipline and efficiency are not natural to the Celestial. Only a man of Viceroy Li's great energy and indomitable will could have made headway against the apathy and corruption which existed on every hand. With his unlimited power—for he is the real governing head of China—he soon made the lazy and conscienceless mandarins understand that they must turn over a new leaf. The first of his triennial inspections of the posts of the Gulf of Pee-chee lee was a farce, but each succeeding inspection has shown a marked improvement that promises well for the future of China's defenses.

SCENES AT WATERLOO.

Incidents of the Famous Battle Showing Bravery and Charity.

At the battle of Waterloo a Scotch color sergeant, who had been mortally wounded, fell into a ditch, and one of his comrades, missing the flag, went straight to the ditch where he had seen the Highlander fall. Meantime the enemy were charging vigorously. His comrade tried to disengage the flag from the hands of the wounded Highlander, but as he could not succeed he hoisted the wounded man on his shoulder, thus carrying both sergeant and flag. The enemy, who were charging, seeing this good deed, stopped suddenly, crying "Bravo! bravo, l'Ecosseis!" They did not charge again till the brave man had rejoined his company.

During the retreat which followed this battle two companies of field artillery stopped under orders near Loissons, at a village a little distance from the main road. The Mayor was sent for to make the customary distribution of food, etc., which was requisitioned, that it

might be done without confusion. It seemed only a moment before all the bread was collected, each inhabitant willingly giving his own part, and the Mayor ordered that lots should be drawn who should give a cow to furnish meat for the soldiers. The lot fell on a poor, old, infirm woman, who with some difficulty dragged herself forward, leaning on her stick, to speak to the Mayor. "This cow," she said, "which you wish to take from me is all I have; she is both my means of living and my companion, and if you kill her there is nothing left for me but to die, too." The Mayor was inflexible, and the ax was raised to kill the cow when the artillery men cried with one voice: "What does it signify? We will fancy this is Friday and fast most willingly." They returned the cow to the old woman, and she led it away with tears of joy and gratitude.

Mad Elephants.

When we present the elephant in possession of such intellectual gifts as may be his, there has to be considered the case of the elephant that, being "must," is for a time bereft of its senses. It is only the male that suffers from this affliction of insanity, but every male is liable to it some time or other, and, unfortunately, may be attacked by it without warning of any kind.

Some men of long experience of elephant keeping say that the "must" condition is preceded by premonitory symptoms, and if taken in time may, by diet and treatment, be averted, but, without presuming to contradict these better informed people, I can aver that I have known some of them to be taken by surprise by the sudden "musting" of elephants under their own immediate supervision.

Some elephants become demons of cruelty when "must," as for example, a commissariat elephant that, during my time in Oudh, broke away from the Lucknow lines and went over a considerable tract of country, killing men, women, and children wherever it found an opportunity of doing so.

I do not know the total number killed by that beast, but it was sadly large, and, valuable as the animal was to the Government, only one course could be pursued in regard to it. The sentence passed upon it was that of death, and the execution was carried out, not without difficulty, and danger to the executioners, by several upeans, who followed and shot it down.

Child Labor.

Child-labor has rapidly grown to monstrous proportions within the last twenty years, but the more enlightened portion of the nation is waking to the folly and wrong of it. This is shown by the fact that legislation on this subject exists in many States, though often evaded, and that factory inspectors have been appointed though their number is inadequate. Some working people will not let their children go into the mills, saying "they learn too much badness." Others say it is better for them than to be on the street. Mrs. W. E. Willoughby has shown that the rate of wages is lowered by child-labor, since the rate of wages depends on "the standard of comfort," which standard is lowered by the employment of the young children of a family. The effect of the prohibition of child-labor would be a permanent rise of wages, owing to the lessened competition, and also an improved condition of the laborer, rendering him more valuable as a consumer, which would lead to a better condition of the market. From the history of child-labor in England we may learn an instructive lesson for our own country. In the last quarter of the eighteenth century, it existed there to a horrible extent. Restrictive laws have been passed from time to time, with good results, and the condition of the British workman is now improving rapidly.—Lippincott's.

A Detestable Fashion.

Many Brooklyn residents have their summer homes on Long Islands. How much of the charm of these cool retreats depends on the music of the birds, and yet statistics show that during a period of four months 70,000 were supplied to the New York dealers from a single village. The delicate, airy plumes, called aigrettes, which have been so fashionable all winter, are obtained from the white herons, which are killed in great numbers, at a time when they are forgetful of their own danger in their solicitude for their young, which are left to starve in their nests while the mother birds are heaped in piles, the few handfuls of coveted feathers having been plucked out.

And, after all, this cruel slaughter, is there any beauty in a dead bird? Celia Thaxter says, "The birds lost their beauty with their lives," and adds: "How refreshing is the sight of a birdless bonnet! She might have had birds, this woman, for they are cheap enough and plentiful enough, Heaven knows, but she had them not, therefore she must wear within things infinitely precious—namely, good sense, good taste, good feeling."—Brooklyn Eagle.

If you don't believe everybody lives in a glass house, just throw a stone.