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## AGRICULTURAL NEWS

### THINGS PERTAINING TO THE FARM AND HOME.

#### Recipe for Making the Whitewash Used by the United States Government—Farming a Princely Occupation—The Thrifty Hollanders.

**Weatherproof Whitewash.**  
We are frequently asked for a good whitewash for farm buildings and fences. Here is the recipe for the whitewash used by the United States Government for the lighthouses and beacons, chosen for its permanence under the most extreme exposure to the weather. Fresh hydraulic cement of any good standard kind, not of the more costly imported kinds, three parts, and clean, fine sand, one part, are mixed well with cold water and immediately applied. This gives a light, brownish white that is not so glaring as the common lime and has been found to resist moisture better than any other wash. It adheres to brick or stone or wooden walls or fences very firmly. In its application the walls are first wet with water, by which the adhesion of the wash is made stronger than if applied to a dry surface.

Another good wash is made in this way: Half a bushel of good lime is slacked with boiling water and kept covered from the air during the slacking to prevent weakening of the lime by the carbonic acid of the air. It is strained through a fine sieve or cloth and seven pounds of salt are added; three pounds of rice flour boiled to a thin paste, half a pound of Spanish white and one pound of broken glue, steeped in cold water and then dissolved in hot water, are then added, and when well mixed by stirring, five gallons of hot water are mixed in and the whole again stirred. This is kept a few days closely covered, when it is ready for use. It is applied hot, being kept in a kettle over a fire. This may be colored a little brown by burnt umber, or a cream yellow by yellow ochre. A light gray is made by adding a small quantity of lamp black previously mixed with water and thoroughly stirred. One pint of this wash covers a square yard.

A wash for fences or barns is made thus and will last for five years: Half a bushel of fresh lime is slacked, strained and three pounds of hydraulic cement are added, with water sufficient to reduce it to a proper liquid condition. Ten pounds of burnt umber and one pound of Venetian red are well mixed dry, four ounces of lampblack killed with sufficient vinegar are then mixed with water and added to the other materials. The whole is diluted to make a barrel of thirty gallons. It must stand a few days and be frequently stirred before used.

A wash for inside work that will not rub off is made of one part of common lime wash, to which is added a thin paste made of half a pint of flour and boiling water.—Farm, Field and Fireside.

**A Princely Occupation.**  
Farming always was a princely occupation, and so it will be to the end of time. The farmer may not wear such fine clothes as the occupant of the city; but what of that? Is he any less the man because of that? Who though his hands be hard, and his feet be roughly shod? Shall we give him less regard? In the words of the old song, we answer, "Nay, nay, nay." What is better for a man privileged to be born in the country than that there he should remain, that there he should labor and live, and love, and die, while engaged in the safest and surest of all callings? Nine men out of every ten who set up in business fail. There is not one in a score of farmers who becomes bankrupt. As long as the world lasts there will be seed time and harvest. How pre-eminently wise, therefore, to go on and sow in hope and reap in joy, and at the end of the harvest to show our gratitude by smiling with happy hearts in holding a harvest festival every year?—Rural Life.

**Thrifty Hollanders.**  
The proverbially thrifty Hollanders manage to make a success of agriculture on very small farms. Seventeen-twentieths of all the farms in Holland are less than 50 acres in extent, while less than 5 per cent exceed 100 acres. The average size is 30 acres. The system of intense culture generally followed yields large returns. The annual rental of farm lands varies from \$4.50 to \$8.50 per acre in the pasture regions, and as high as \$27 in sections adjacent to big cities. Farm land is worth from \$80 to \$500 per acre, the highest price being paid for property suitable for the cultivation of hemp and flowers, these latter forming the only lands the price of which has not fallen during the past dozen years.

**Confinement of Swine.**  
Confinement of swine is not conducive to healthfulness and lack of exercise prevents a proper development of the body, making it much more susceptible to disease than when the animal is given a wide range and a variety of food, says a writer in an exchange. "We bear a great deal of late in regard to

producing bacon, and fault is found with our corn-fed hogs because they are usually too fat. It is an old adage that 'there are none so blind as those who do not wish to see,' and the fact is plain to those who understand the situation, that no meat we can produce would be acceptable to European nations.

"The pork produced in the corn belt of America from hogs raised on clover pasture and finished on corn is not to be compared with that made in Europe from all kinds of swill and refuse, fed in a filthy sty. There is not and cannot be better or more delicious pork produced on this globe than that made from grass and corn when the hogs are properly handled, and this fact taxes to the utmost the greatest of European statesmen to circumvent its production among their people."

**A Good Rule for All Peas.**  
Because the fruit of the Clapp's Favorite pear will rot at the core when overripe, this good early sort is often unduly condemned. Joseph Meehan advises picking the fruit in the first week in August, and not later than the middle of the month in the late seasons. Gather in three lots, about a week apart, to have a succession. Put the pears away in a close closet, and in a week or ten days they are in fit condition to eat. Treated in this way, there is no rotting at the core, but instead a beautiful fruit, perfect throughout, and of a juicy, refreshing flavor. It is true that it is not a good keeper, but is there any early pear or other fruit that is? This quality is not looked for or desired in early fruits, as they are supposed to be consumed as soon as ripe. Not the least of its merits is the fact that it rarely misses a fall crop.—Granger Homes.

**Success in Dairying.**  
The foundation of your success in dairying will depend upon the quality of your cows and the care and treatment that they receive at your hands. Select cows with the recognized milk form; cows with a disposition to convert food into milk. Avoid buying animals with a tendency to lay on flesh. While some beefy cows have proven excellent dairy animals, this is the exception, and not the rule. There is as much difference between a dairy cow and a beef cow as there is between a draft horse and a trotting horse. You would not enter a draft horse in a speed contest with trotting animals and expect it to win a place; no more should you expect to gain success in the dairy by using cows of the beef breeds, or with an inclination in that direction.

**To Prevent Rust.**  
A practical machinist says he has found the following mixture to be very effective in preventing machinery from gathering rust: Melt together one pound of lard and one ounce of gum camphor. Skim the mixture carefully, and stir in it a sufficient quantity of fine black lead to give it a color like iron. After cleaning the machinery thoroughly, smear it with this mixture and allow it to remain thus for twenty-four hours. Then go over it with a soft cloth, rubbing it clean. Treated thus, machinery often retains its brightness for several years.

**Education a Benefit.**  
Farming is not merely plowing, planting, sowing and gathering the harvest. There are many other things to be thought of, and there is where a good education in farming is of great benefit. We must study the composition of the particular soil we have to farm, what fertilizers are best adapted to it, and what drainage is necessary.

**Corn Harvesters.**  
Corn harvesters are a success under ordinary conditions, and they will be improved as experience points out the need and means of improvement. This invention promises to do more than any other, save perhaps the improved cultivator, to reduce the cost of corn to the producer.

**Horticultural Hints.**  
California has only one-third of a crop in peaches and apricots this year. Peach trees often fail to do well, especially on old land, for the want of mineral plant food.

Do not plant trees in the garden. One large tree, even in a corner of the garden, will spoil a good portion of it.

There is no better red raspberry than the Outhbert. It succeeds everywhere, and under high culture is exceedingly productive of high-flavored and large berries.

The best plants of the blackberry and red raspberry are obtained by cutting strong, vigorous roots in pieces, four or five inches long, and planting about eight inches apart in drills.

There is room for the hybridizer in the case of gooseberries. Our native ones are too small, and the foreign ones too much subject to mildew. Seedlings between two generally result in an improvement.

In the flower garden, as well as the vegetable one, it should be remembered that when a plant is permitted to ripen seeds its growth for the season is about over. The moral is to cut off all decaying flowers as soon as they are perceived, that growth and other flowers may succeed.

## EDUCATIONAL COLUMN

### NOTES ABOUT SCHOOLS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT.

#### Necessary Apparatus Is Often Lacking in the School Room—Irrregular Attendance Is Trying to the Teacher.

**Lack of Apparatus.**  
How often do we find the necessary apparatus wanting. Maps are few, black-boards poor, and many other things unknown. Here the teacher has a grand chance to work. In many little ways may the supply be added to, and the pupils greatly benefited at the same time. Take for instance, a school concert. No small amount of work is implied—but it is a pleasure, and the results amply repay one for all the trouble. It is a great help to the children. The training and study necessary to an appearance in public, strengthens the mental powers and improves their reading, beside the confidence in themselves given by an appearance on the stage, a certain amount of which is necessary. Then the fact that certain articles in the school-room were obtained by their own work, gives a delightful feeling of ownership and a right to take special care of them.

There are many other ways in which the school apparatus may be improved, and I think every teacher should consider it his or her duty to do something in this line. I will say in conclusion that I am proud to have my name enrolled in the ranks of the noble army of country teachers of Canada, as I think we are given a grand work to do, and a wide field in which to work. From among our country boys have come, and are still coming, some of our greatest men. We may have under our charge one whose name will yet be famous. Let us, then, not think lightly of our work, but rather consider the great responsibility resting on our shoulders. Let us strive to do our best, and, if we have no other, we will surely have the love of our pupils, which is worth a great deal, and we will finally receive the reward of the faithful.—Educational Record.

**A Good Law.**  
Tennessee has a law which requires candidates for the county superintendent to pass an examination. The following are the rules established by the State Board of Education:

1. The examination shall be written and shall begin on the first Monday in October preceding each biennial election for county superintendent of schools, and may continue two days.
2. The examination, in addition to papers on all the branches in which instruction is now given in the public schools, shall embrace questions on theory and practice of teaching and school law.
3. The questions for examination will be prepared by the State Board of Education, and sent by said board to the various commissions appointed by the chairman of the County Court, as provided in the act. The questions will be mailed under seal, and must not be opened until the day of the examination and then in the presence of the commission and applicants.
4. The papers submitted by the applicants shall be carefully graded by the commission, and the papers, with the grades marked thereon, shall be forwarded five days from the date of the examination, to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for final grading by the State Board of Education.
5. Under the provisions of this act the State Board has no authority to exempt from examination applicants for certificates of qualification for the position of county superintendent.

**Irrregular Attendance.**  
How very trying it is, we probably all know, to have a pupil or pupils who attend irregularly. In the country especially, pupils are kept at home for such trivial things. A little extra work to be done, one of the children must be kept home. They get behind their classes and a great amount of work must be done over again by the teacher or the pupils lose a great deal. After a time, they lose their interest in school and do not want to go. You must try to make the parents see of how much more lasting benefit, of how much greater importance, a boy or girl's education is to be to them in after life, than the little saved by their work. Youth is the time of storing for after years, and if the time is wasted then regrets will fill the years to come. Urge the trustees to give prizes and clearly impress upon the minds of the pupils that regular attendance is the principal thing. They will all be anxious to work for prizes. I often wish compulsory attendance were the law throughout the land. It would be the very best thing that we could have and I hope it will not be long in coming.—Exchange.

**Power in Personality.**  
Nobody knows it, but the true teacher is a princess—a queen. I looked at the long lines as they came marching into the building, "Line 13" looked hard. There was George, whose step-father had come the day before expressly to tell us that George was a "perfect little devil, and wouldn't mind nobody," a statement pretty nearly true. Peter, whose mother wished he would die, he

was so mean; he kicked her with his great boots and stole every cent in the house. James, who slept, he said, with their one hen in his bed every night to keep him warm, and would a little rather hit a police officer with a snow-ball than any other inoffensive citizen. Hank, who, the boys said, smoked cigar stumps; and at least six other "characters," who could not be influenced or controlled in any degree in their homes.

They could run away from school, but for some reason they did not. The truant officer was a woman, not young, who couldn't catch them if she tried, and probably wouldn't try. But here they were, not very clean, and somewhat ragged, marching with a show of dignity into their room. I opened the door an hour later and stepped in. Fifty-five of them there in the seats; several girls as subtle as the boys, and quick to respond if any sly mischief promised. What did I see? Half the room at work, interested, busy, studious—no attempt at disorder, every child knowing his present duty and doing it. The other half with books in hand, reciting in clear, pleasant tones, and giving a close, intelligent attention to the teacher's questions. And there she stood, quiet, pleasant, strong—a general, a leader, a queen. No civic officer could have exercised such control among those "hard" citizens. They recognized the power in her personality and they simply yielded to it. When the cities of this land once learn who are the real makers of civilization, where mothers fail and fathers are not, then the public school will be crowned with laurel and the teacher will be canonized.—Popular Educator.

#### Making Things Plain.

All teachers need to bear in mind, especially at the beginning of the year, that the things they teach, while plain and clear to them, are misty and shadowy to the undeveloped minds of their pupils. The longer we have taught, the oftener we have gone over a subject in the class room, the less likely are we to appreciate the difficulties that the immature learner meets. Misconception is easy and difficulties many for the childish mind, and care needs to be exercised lest the pupil, getting entangled, become discouraged. Go slowly and by easy steps until children find their footing, then the ascent of the hill of learning may be more rapid and satisfactory.—School Journal.

#### When Shaving Became Fashionable.

The confessor of Francis II. of France refused him absolute until he had completely removed his beard. An ancient German was by tribal custom not allowed to cut off his flowing beard until he had killed his first man in battle. About the year 290 B. C. the Roman Emperor Scipio Africanus inaugurated the custom of shaving among the Roman nobles. Henry I. of England wore a beard until a courageous preacher leveled his eloquence at him to such good purpose that he submitted to be shaved. From the time of Julius Cæsar until the advent of William the Conqueror the Britons wore mustaches, but the clergy, after the conversion of the islanders, were forced to shave by law. One of the early popes established the shaving of Roman Catholic priests to distinguish them from the patriots of Constantinople. The priests of the Greek Church still wear beards. Peter the Great of Russia laid a tax on beards, and delinquents were forced to have their faces shaved with a blunt razor or to have the hairs pulled out with pinners. So everybody shaved. The first shaving was done by order of Alexander the Great, who forced the Greek warriors to cut off their beards, as he found them awkward impediments in the hand-to-hand contests of that time.—Current Literature.

#### The Third Napoleon's Wealth.

Ex-Empress Eugenie, of France, recently sold some jewels, and a notice ran through the papers that she was in straitened financial circumstances. She will not starve, however. Napoleon III. left over \$100,000,000, as the Germans found when they got hold of his papers at St. Cloud. His money was invested in 6 per cent American bonds, 5 per cent and 3 per cent Russians, 5 per cent Prussian and English consols, 5 per cent Turks and some industrial shares, such as English, Belgian and American railroad shares and Suez canal shares. The jewels which the ex-empress sold were so gorgeous that only royalty can wear them without appearing over-ostentatious, and the \$300,000 which the jeweler paid for them has been added to the rest of the interest-bearing money.

**Not Particular.**  
The old gentleman looked at the youth rather sharply over the top of his glasses.

"I gather from your remarks," he said, "that you would like to be my son-in-law."

"I don't care a continental about that," retorted the young man with considerable asperity. "Your daughter has enough money in her own right to satisfy me."

#### Wages of Seamen.

The wages of seamen on sailing vessels are about the same all over the world, averaging about \$15 a month, with food; seamen employed on steamers receiving about 10 per cent more.

## WOMAN AT HOME

### ADVICE TO GIRLS.

Few wiser counselors of young girls can be found than Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, who has in her day planned much work, duty and pleasure for the younger members of her sex. In a recent article discussing the serious side of the girl's life this noted writer gives her views in brisk, hopeful language as follows:  
"Girls, first make up your mind that you will be something. All the rest will follow. What you shall be comes more easily and clearly in due time. A girl of 13 cannot decide with any discretion or any assurance whether she will be a sculptor or a washerwoman, a farmer or a poet; but she can decide distinctly whether it is her wish or duty, after leaving school or college, to remain dependent upon her parents or fit herself for a self-providing life. The education by which you mean to get your bread and butter, your gloves and bonnets, is a very different affair from that which you take upon yourself as an ornament and an interval in life. The chemical experiment which you may some day have to explain to pupils of your own is quite another thing from the lesson that you may never think of again. The practice in bookkeeping, which may sometimes regulate your dealings with live flesh and blood customers, becomes as interesting as a new story. The dull old rules for inflection and enunciation fairly turn into poetry if you hope to find yourself a great public reader some coming day. And the very saddest of the French or the Latin grammar becomes ashes of roses to the stout little fancy that dreams of brave work and big salary in some foreign department at Washington or tutoring girls or boys for college.

"All over the terrible ocean, among the lawless sailors, the men with wives and children to work for are those who lead the gentlest and cleanest lives. So, on the great ocean of school life, the girls with aims to study for are those whose labor is the richest and ripest. Ah, you will never realize till you have tried it what an immense power over the life is the power of possessing distinct aims. The voice, the dress, the look, the very motion of a person define and alter when he or she begins to live for a reason. I fancy that I can select in a crowded city the busy, blessed women who support themselves. They carry themselves with an air of unconscious self-respect and self-content which a shabby alpaca cannot hide, nor a rich silk enhance, nor even sickness or exhaustion quite drag out."

#### Order Reigns in This Trunk.

The process of improving trunks has been steadily pursued since the days of the huge round-topped Saratoga. The modern trunk is a triumph of ingenuity, and perfection seems almost to have been reached. What more can really be desired than a trunk that will open without being pulled out from the wall, against which porters invariably jam



AN IDEAL TRUNK.

It, and of which the bottom and every other part is as accessible as the top? One of the latest inventions is really a movable chest of drawers, from any one of which articles can be removed without disturbing the entire contents of the trunk. Things of a fragile nature, too, are not endangered by the weight of goods above them.

#### The Way a Woman Stands.

"Without knowing how to stand and to hold the body well," said an authority on physical culture, "no woman can sit, stand or walk with grace, or with any amount of being and padding being anything but ungraceful. Just cast your eye along the line of your acquaintances of the gentler sex when they are unconscious of your scrutiny and see how much they could improve their looks by a little care and attention to the proper position when standing. Stand firmly but lightly, with the weight resting on the ball of the foot, poised so that one can rise on the toes without bending backward or forward to keep the balance. Practice this. Do not jerk your elbows; do not lean backwards from the waist; rest the head

and chest and draw in the chin. This position puts the shoulders where they belong, curves the back naturally, flattens the abdomen and raises the bust. This position can be acquired by patience and perseverance, and many defects may be eliminated by remembering to assume this attitude whenever standing, and soon it will become second nature. Above all, do not give undue prominence to the abdomen; nothing is so ugly, and certainly even the best cut skirt will not hang well on a person in this posture."

#### Why Men Fall as Lovers.

"It is a question with me," says a writer in the Ladies' Home Journal, "whether a woman ever knows all the joys of lovenaking who has one of those dumb, silent husbands who doubtless adores her, but is able to express it only in deeds. It requires an act of will to remember that his getting downtown at 7 o'clock every morning is all done for you, when he hasn't been able to tell you in words that he loves you. It is hard to get a letter telling about the weather and how busy he is, when the same amount of space saying that he got to thinking about you yesterday when he saw a girl on the street who looked like you, only she didn't carry herself as well as you do, and that he loves you, good-by—would have fairly made your heart turn over with joy and made you kiss the hurried lines and thrust the letter in your belt, where you could crackle it now and then just to make sure it was there. Nearly all nice men make good lovers in deeds. A great many fall at some important crisis in the handling of words."

#### Bogus Sealskin Garments.

The plush imitation sealskin sacks so popular some years ago have gone out of vogue entirely. Yet in obedience to the demands for a substitute which will deceive the unpracticed eye manufacturers are introducing garments made of rabbits' skins so cleverly dressed to imitate the coverings of the seal that detection will be possible only to the expert. It is expected that this innovation will be one of the most remarkable developments the fur trade has ever known. The new fur is called "electric seal," and consists of the skin of the ordinary French tame rabbit electrically treated. The idea is not new. It has been considered for many years, but it is only through recent modifications and improvements in mechanism rendered possible by electricity that it has become a factor to be seriously reckoned with in the wholesale fur business.

#### Invented by Women.

A scissors holder consisting of a metal loop, with ends bent backward and safety-pin attachment.

An ingenious work table provided with handy little pockets and drawers which pull out just where wanted.

A combination of curling tongs and stove or heater for same, with fuel, and all combined in a pocket case.

An ingenious hinged garment stretcher, which simulates the human form and when not in use folds into a small compass.

A sectional blackboard for school purposes, with sections so arranged as to permit several scholars to work at once without interference.

A lapboard which, instead of being made in the ordinary shape is made round, and prevents any possible looseness in the outside material, as the board has practically the curve of the body.

#### American Girls Criticized.

"American girls," said an observant Frenchman, "may easily be detected abroad by their energy and lack of repose. They seem to be always afraid of missing something. When they come over here they want to look under the gravestones; the exterior of things is not enough for them; they want interiors, and they adore underground passages; they do not even abhor the steps that lead to them. From the time they leave their native shores they never sit back. When they are driving the car; sit forward on the edge of the seats; they seem to think that in this way they are propelling the horses and that they will reach their destination quicker."

#### Notes of the Mode.

A pretty frock for a red cloth bodice is made of eoru lace insertion, held together by black velvet ribbon.

Alpaca petticoats with ruffles of the same bound with satin of a contrasting color are very pretty and much more durable than silk.

Red is the favorite color for many little accessories of dress, and a brown coat and skirt costume is made very attractive by a red silk vest.

The new combination undergarments are very attractive with an extra belt of pink merino, which extends from the bust well below the waist. This gives warmth where it is needed, and the pink and white mixture is very pretty.