

FARM AND GARDEN.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO AGRICULTURISTS.

Some Up-to-Date Hints About Cultivation of the Soil and Yields Thereof—Horticulture, Viticulture and Floriculture.



HERE is one class of people engaged in farm work that is almost entirely ignored by writers on agricultural topics, and we never hear of or from them. They toil on year after year, and are content if their condition does not grow worse. I refer to the tenant farmers of the country. We will, with your permission, give a short description of the system of tenant farming as it is conducted in Madison county, Ohio.

Tenants may be divided into three distinct classes. In the first class are those that have considerable capital and carry bank accounts. They lease large farms, paying from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per acre per annum. They hire all their work done on the farm. They haul very little grain to market, feeding it instead to stock at home. Some make a specialty of sheep and others of cattle. The payment of the rent is by note, with personal security.

The second and more numerous class of tenants is composed of farmers of small means, having little stock, a team of horses and a couple of cows. They are too poor to hire help, and will not rent more than 100 nor less than 20 acres. They pay from \$1 to \$6 per acre per annum. This is secured by chattel mortgage on the growing crops, or, the landowner gets one-half of the grain raised, which must be hauled to the market by the tenant. In addition to this, the tenant pays rent for the house he occupies, as well as for the pasture for all of his stock, except the team necessary to plow and cultivate the land. Tenant houses rent at from \$2 to \$4 per month.

The third class of tenants is not so large as the second class. It is made up of those that have been closed out by landlords for rent. They have no stock of any kind. Then rent a house and garden lot, and the owner hires them to work by the day, for which they receive \$1 per day. This is for common every day work on the farm. Cutting and shocking corn is done by the shock, the price being 4 cents per shock of twelve hills square. This was the price paid last fall.

Nearly every tenant has a horse and carriage. As all our main roads are graded and graveled, we have many carriages and buggies running, and some people claim that our good roads are a bad thing for poor people, as they cause unnecessary extravagance in the way of carriages and harness.—John M. Roberts, in Farmers' Review.

Truck Farming Land Values.
It is quite interesting to note the values of land as affected by the truck gardens. At the time of the last general census there were in the United States something over half a million acres of land devoted to market gardening, or, in common parlance, truck farming. More than half of all the areas devoted to this branch of farming are found along the Atlantic seaboard. They have been divided, according to their great centers, into five chief districts. These are called the New York and Philadelphia, the Peninsula, Baltimore, Norfolk, South Atlantic. The value of land varies greatly.

In the New York and Philadelphia district the land averages \$226.11 and value of produce per acre is a little in excess of \$195.

In the Peninsular district, which includes the eastern shore counties of Maryland and Virginia, together with the state of Delaware, the value per acre was only \$98.76, and the value of the produce per acre was over \$90.

In the Baltimore district the land had an acre value of \$97.50, and the product brought \$102.

In the Norfolk district the land was worth \$135.50 per acre and the income per acre was \$104.

The South Atlantic district had a per acre valuation of only \$45.25, and the receipts for truck were \$119 per acre.

By these results we see that the profits do not lie entirely with the most expensive land in the suburbs of the great cities.

Corn Fodder.
A big crop of corn means also a big crop of corn fodder, and to the wise, intelligent farmer the fodder is almost as useful and important as the grain itself. What an idea to waste corn fodder! Why, it is worth about the same as timothy hay for feeding. Of course, to be worth as much as hay it must be cut early, dried as soon as possible and then stored away from rain and snow. It is a very poor plan leaving shocks out in the field until winter sets in, for the nutritiveness and palatability of corn fodder decrease rapidly through the effects of exposure to wet and storm. Strange, farmers do not realize this fact more clearly! How often corn stalks are still in the field even after the advent of hard frosts and blinding snow storms! The farmer must follow in the wake of the successful manufacturer and curtail waste. There must be no waste and certainly it is unpardonable to waste any fodder so valuable as cornstalks. The cows relish the corn fodder as a supplement to their hay and ensilage. After fine fodder the coarser fodder is very welcome and consumed with great avidity. The farmer who uses his cornstalks more closely can either keep more stock than he otherwise would or he may sell a portion of

his No. 1 market hay and be so much in pocket. The corn plant, ear and stalk together, forms the great foundation of dairying. What would farmers do without it? It is more essential than any other forage plant, and the stalks are not of the least value.—W. P. Perkins.

Wisconsin Horticultural Meeting.

(Reported for the Farmers' Review by B. S. Hoyle.)

The subject of the semi-centennial celebration of Wisconsin as a state was introduced, and after some discussion as to what part of the work the society would assume, on motion J. C. Plumb of Milton was made the historian of the society to collect and prepare matter to be printed for distribution as the society may direct. Mr. Chas. Hirschinger of Baraboo gave a history of the Newell apple. The seed was brought from New York and planted in 1848 in township 12, range 63, on section 13, and was the only tree of the lot that did not winter kill. It was transplanted when quite small on section 14, where it now stands in healthy condition after a life of nearly half a century.

The secretary presented his plan for planting the trial orchard, which led to discussion of varieties and hardiness. Prof. Goff thought that top working on hardy stocks had a tendency to increase hardiness of varieties, but would not do it for all varieties—would start with ten varieties that are known to be hardy and take twelve trees of each and plant thirty feet apart. And for the trial orchard would take all new, promising varieties, as they may be offered by growers, or would top work by putting scions in older or bearing trees.

Mr. Hirschinger favored owning the land rather than renting for a term of years. Would set out five acres the coming spring of our known hardy varieties, Duchess, McMahan, Newell, Hiberna, Scott's Winter, Avista, N. W. Greening and Wealthy. Considered the Hiberna was more hardy than the Duchess. Would plant twenty feet apart each way, and favored the experimental orchard of all hardy varieties he could get. Would plant the trees from two to five year olds, nursery grown.

Only a very few from the committee of observation reported. J. L. Herbst of Sparta said that the severe frost of last May killed most all the strawberries, as well as the raspberries. Currants were considerably damaged, gooseberries only slightly, and were a good crop. The late rains in that locality favored plant growth, and the prospect for a strawberry crop with an abundance of plants for 1896 was good.

Report from Eau Claire.—Frost was damaging, but though the crop of small fruit was not large prices were good. Plums and grapes were a fine crop.

Mr. Converse of Ft. Atkinson.—The past season was very poor for small fruits; strawberries nearly a failure. Currants and gooseberries a good crop. The earliest plantations of strawberries last spring are the most promising for a crop in 1896. Would advise fruit growers to stick by those varieties which paid them best.

Baraboo.—All small fruits nearly a failure by reason of May frosts. The promise of tree fruits was fine, but owing to the hard freeze no fruit set.

Sturgeon Bay, Door County.—Plums a fine crop, apples good, strawberries injured some by frost.

Appleton, Outagamie County.—Mrs. Huntley reported plum trees in full bloom May 10 with mercury at 90. May 13, apple trees in full bloom, with ice and snow. Grape leaves all killed, but some new bloom from dormant buds matured a little fruit. Currants were a total failure.

George J. Kellogg of Janesville gave a short paper, "Orchards in Hard Places." Advised planting the seeds of Duchess and Hiberna where you wanted the trees to grow; did not believe in whole root grafts, but preferred to graft seedlings when two years old with Virginia Crab, then after two years' growth top work with Duchess, Charlamoff, Hiberna, Repka, Melena and Patten's Greening. For culinary purposes the Virginia Crab is equal to Transcendent. All young trees should be shaded on the south side with some kind of protection from the hot sun.

Mr. J. C. Plumb thought such trees would be too expensive for the farmer to buy, as no nurseryman could afford to grow them to sell for less than 75 cents apiece. He favored a short root with long scion, plant rather deep, and in two years' time you have a tree virtually on its own roots. Mr. Hoyle thought farmers would not object to paying 75 cents for an apple tree if they were sure they were getting something hardy. He had known some who had paid more than this sum and then were fooled. Mr. Phillips coincided with the statement. Mr. Hinkley, delegate from Iowa, stated that he saw very fine apple trees last fall from Nebraska, grown on trees from seeds planted where the trees were to remain, and were top worked with such varieties as were wanted, and this plan was much favored in that state. Mr. Potter of Charles City, Iowa, had found the seeds of the Perry Russet to be very hardy. Seedlings of the Whitney No. 20 are the most hardy of any variety he has planted. Sweet Russet is very hardy and the variety was originally from Vermont. Virginia and Shields' Crabs are both hardy and make excellent stocks to graft on. Would favor short roots with long scions. Planting seeds where the trees are to grow is impractical.

Soon after New Year's day St. Peter's at Rome had to be reconsecrated, as a man had the bad taste to cut his throat before the high altar during noon mass. The services were stopped at once. The last suicide was in 1867, but it was not thought necessary to bless the building in that case, as the pope was in it at the time.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

VOICE OF OUR PRESS ON ISSUES OF THE DAY.

The Republican Congress the Most Cowardly Body that Has Ever Disgraced the American People—The Great Opportunity.

Chicago Chronicle: The democratic party of the United States faces a great opportunity such as is seldom presented in the career of a party, a nation or an individual. It was in an almost hopeless minority at the state elections two years ago. At the opening of this year it was almost ready to permit the presidential election to go by default. Within a few days it has been surprised by a situation in which the gravest possibilities are involved.

The republican party will be disrupted by the silver question this year, as the democratic party was disrupted by the slavery question in 1860, or it will be compelled to adopt a platform and enter the presidential campaign with silver pledges to restore the Sherman act or to "recognize silver" in some still more vicious measure to debase and degrade the currency.

The republican party must challenge defeat as an honest money party or it must surrender to the silver conspirators on a makeshift, false and fraudulent platform. The republican silver contingent will desert unless its demands are granted in a platform which the honest voters of the country will be compelled to reject.

In this supreme political crisis the democratic opportunity is presented. If the democrats shall adopt a platform of which honest-money sentiment is the inspiration—the platform of Jefferson, of Jackson, of Benton and of Tilden—and if a candidate with faith in the platform shall be nominated, a new era of democratic advancement will be installed, leading to permanent democratic supremacy in a majority of the states and in the nation. The path of democratic duty is the path of safety and the path that leads to eventual victory.

But the history of the past is an admonition that democratic party leaders may be blinded by false visions of success, through shameful compromises and by prostitution. The disastrous Greeley campaign of 1872 is an instance. The democrats then agreed to abandon an honest tariff platform and to relegate that question to congress—a makeshift, a straddle and a fraud—for the purpose of temporary success with the most malevolent and grotesque enemy of the democratic party for its leader and presidential candidate. The overwhelming defeat which followed this utterly false and perfidious policy retarded the restoration of the democratic party for more than twenty years.

But that lesson was unheeded. Fatuous impulses prevailed. A few years later the pernicious greenback falsehood and heresy became popular among democratic politicians and blind leaders of the blind. They adulterated democratic platforms with the vicious element of faith in a dishonest financial system. They formed a combine with the loose factions that had codes of belief but little removed from the rascality of repudiation. This policy was as disastrous in its results as the coalition with Greeleyism.

The supreme question now presented to honest democrats relates to the course which shall be pursued in view of the silver rupture in the republican party. False and blind leaders again will present their claims to leadership. The quacks and impostors will offer again their fallacious pleas. Honest-money democrats, conscience democrats, will be told that by just one more treacherous departure from democratic principles—by another surrender, by another act of diseased prostitution—a temporary victory may be gained, including the spoils and plunder of office.

This is immoral counsel. What may be of more interest to time-serving politicians, it will lead only to a worse catastrophe than all those of the past if it shall be followed. Democrats cannot outbid republican schemers, conspirators and corruptionists for the dishonest vote of the country. False issues will fail, and each successive failure will be more disastrous than any which had preceded.

Democrats should adopt an honest-money platform to be followed by the nomination of an honest-money candidate on entering the campaign of 1896. Nothing can be gained but everything will be lost by a silver coalition. A single honest campaign for honest money and an honest tariff may end in present defeat. But it will be fruitful of good and will prepare the way for a long series of democratic victories in the future, which will be of permanent value to all the people of the country.

Chicago Chronicle: The partisan republicans in congress have made a series of attacks on Governor J. Sterling Morton, secretary of agriculture, for his refusal to distribute seeds under the absurd legislation on that subject and for other alleged irregularities by which he has refused to expend public money extravagantly with no useful purpose in view. An implied censure of Secretary Morton for his official action in these respects would carry as little weight as the proposed censure of Minister Bayard for telling the members of an English literary society that vicious tariff legislation was unwise policy for any government to adopt.

The distribution of seeds by the government at a great annual cost was an extravagance and abuse for which no justification can be found. It was of no practical benefit to the great masses of the people who cultivate the soil. No seed was furnished except that of rare and curious exotic plants or of grains

and other vegetables which could not be raised in our soil and climate or that would be of no value if grown and brought to maturity.

Even if the seeds of exotic vegetables would have produced an available harvest in the United States its value would have been trifling compared with the expenses to the government. If individuals had desired to make experiments in strange productions of the soil it would not have cost them cents where it costs the government dollars to procure the seeds. Private enterprise could have established better results at a trivial cost than were obtained by the government at an expense of millions of dollars.

The seeds bought by the government were not equitably distributed. Under the old rule the secretary of agriculture gave to each member of congress his share. Members of congress often sold the seeds to speculators or gave them away to other members or made no use of them, in fraud of the law providing for their distribution.

The reasons for abandoning the seed abuse were abundant and conclusive. All the other acts of Secretary Morton which the partisan republicans criticize are equally worthy of praise. He is entitled to popular commendation even if he should receive the censure of a partisan and corrupt congress.

Protection in Great Britain.
Washington Post: It is the intention of the British ministry to open at the next session of parliament a fight against free trade and for protection. True, this struggle is to be waged in a single item of imports—live animals—but it involves the whole question of free trade versus protection. If the English Conservatives succeed in imposing a protective duty on cattle, the farmers will next demand protection for cereals. Supposing the farm products are to be protected and the cost of living to be increased, the men who work in the factories, mines and all occupations other than agricultural, will have to be protected from starvation by increase of wages. And then what will become of English supremacy in the markets of the world?

Silver Men Logical at Least.
Philadelphia Record: The chairman of the republican national committee—Senator Carter, of Montana—declares that the vote of the senate practically defeating the Dingley tariff bill "will bring the republican party to its senses." If iron and copper and lead and coal and wool and wood are to be protected, why not silver? Silver and lead come out of the same mine. Why make drakes of one metal and ducks of the other? "Protection forever!" shouts Mr. Carter, "but let everything be protected." Unless the mountaineers are to be taken in under the cover of paternalism they will kick, and according to the protective logic they are quite justified.

McKinley's Lead Full of Peril.
Philadelphia Bulletin: There is no more unfortunate place than a presidential candidate can occupy four months in advance of a national convention than to be in the lead. This is the position which William McKinley occupies today. He can count on more delegates with reasonable certainty than any two of his competitors in the race. Even his enemies admit that he will be in the van on the first ballot at St. Louis. This is the reason why every other candidate is now directing his special attention to heading off McKinley. It looks as if the Buckeye statesman would be a wiser politician if he held back his tables of "estimates."

Free Coinage and McKinleyism.
Boston Post: The free silver republican senators are logical in their demand that their party must "take free coinage with McKinleyism." The republicans who denounce, as they did on the floor of the senate, the "antagonizing protection with free coinage," are weak and illogical. If monopolies in iron, in wool, in coal, in scores of other products are to be "protected," why should not the ring of silver mine owners claim a like "protection"? This is the sensible, logical, commercial view. Moreover, it is the view which prevailed in 1890, when McKinleyism won its short-lived triumph.

Honesty the Only Thing Needed.
Philadelphia Record: If the republican congress were honest in its anxiety to put money in the treasury it would pass a bill for the purpose which the president could approve. The Dingley bill was framed in the interests of the trusts and with a view to appease the mutiny of the silver mountaineers by a tax on wool. Happily, the revenue from customs is steadily increasing and there is surplus cash enough in the treasury, in excess of the gold reserve, to carry the country along until a new congress shall have been elected.

The Present Congress summed up.
New York Sun: Beyond doubt the present congress, making all proper allowance for the shining exceptions, is the most unenlightened, incompetent, sordid and shameless body that has ever trafficked in the interests of the people beneath the dome of the national capitol. The bottom rail has gone on the top in the country at large, there is reason to fear. It certainly is not in the legislature chosen by the country at large. This is not parliamentary, but it is true.

Hard on the Shoddy Business.
Springfield Register: Come to think of it, the Wilson bill was hard on the shoddy business. The people can buy the pure, unadulterated goods cheaper than they could shoddy goods under republican legislation.

WONDERFUL GARDEN, THIS.

At Least the 'Hory About It Is Wonderful Enough.

Most people, says the Portland Oregonian, have heard of the hanging gardens of Babylon, the modern roof gardens and the gardens or floating islands in which vegetables used to be grown for the citizens of ancient Mexico, but probably few have heard of a garden on board a ship, with farmyard attachment. The splendid ship Mowhan, now in port, and the largest vessel which has ever been here, had such an arrangement on board during her trip to Oregon. On leaving Belfast for Portland she took on board as ballast 2,000 tons of Irish soil, which, when leveled off, made quite a stretch of ground, and as the soil of Ireland is proverbially fertile the ship's company proceeded to put it to good use by planting a stock of garden truck in it—cabbages, leeks, turnips, radishes, lettuce, peas, beans, etc. The seeds came up all right and the plants flourished finely, and when the ship was in the tropics, grew with great rapidity. As they progressed toward the Horn and the weather grew colder things came to perfection rapidly. The crew amused themselves by weeding and cultivating the plants and the captain and officers took regular walks in the garden daily and all had green vegetables to their heart's content.

As they came around the Horn the garden was replanted and by the time they reached the equator everything was abundant and all hands feasted on fresh vegetables daily. The only drawbacks to the garden were the weeds, which grew so rapidly that they could hardly be kept down, and the drove of pigs, which were kept in the farmyard attachment, and which on several occasions when the ship was backing broke out of the bounds and made serious inroads in the garden. It is a serious matter to call on hands on board ship, and is only done in emergency, but when the pigs got into the garden there was more pounding on the fore-castle scuttles and handspikes and blowing of boatswain's whistles than if the ship had been laid aback by a typhoon or all the masts had been carried away, and every sleeper was aroused to help get the pigs out of the garden.

The last pig was killed and served up with green vegetables just before the Mowhan entered the Columbia. On the arrival of the Mowhan here the Irish soil was discharged on the elevator company's dock and piled up neatly, so that any exiled patriot who desires a bit of the "ould sod" can be accommodated. The pile will doubtless be covered with shamrocks in the spring and will furnish boutonnières for a whole St. Patrick's day procession. Doubtless many a sack of it will be carried off to fill flower pots, etc. Although it comes from the "black north" it is still the real "ould sod."

THE PARIS CABBY.
For Ways That Are Dark He Has Very Few Equals.
Should an accident befall the vehicle of a Paris cabman during your occupancy, he will abandon himself to a paroxysm of grief, compute the loss, and tell in moving accents of his wife and children, whose bread will be taken from their mouths by the mishap. But if your fingers thereupon make instinctively for your pocket, restrain them; he is insured. He pays a small monthly premium to a cab insurance company; and in the case of a smash-up, only the company suffers. A playful intimation that you are aware of this circumstance will do wonders to console him. There was, in days gone by, a cabman who made such a good thing out of accidents that he ended by adopting them as a specialty. He confined his labors to those quarters of the town chiefly affected by the English, and his system was to pick up a benevolent English tourist (by preference a lady) and break a shaft. He knew a method of turning a corner which no shaft could resist. Then he would beat his beast, and shake his fist at heaven; call upon the universe to witness that he was a poor man, who would be ruined by the sum it must cost to get his cab repaired, bring in his wife and children, though the unprincipled creature was a bachelor—and what could a benevolent-looking English tourist do but help him out?

Reunion of Brothers.
Seven brothers, all over 65 years old, had a reunion in Fresno, Cal., recently, and a notable photographic group is an interesting memento of the occasion. The brothers are of the Finck family. There are three sisters in the family, too, all very near the three-score and ten years mark. The oldest of the brothers is 84 and the youngest 65. A noticeable fact is that each wears a long white beard and none is bald.

Said by a Proseur.
God put no child into this world to grovel and to be a worm; God wants everyone to strive to get up in the world. It is only as men are possessed with this desire that the world improves. Let all men be satisfied with everything just as it is and that would stop progress.—Rev. W. H. Fishburn.

A Confession from Boston.
After all, nothing draws such a magnificent crowd in this town as an athletic show. Not even the sweet notes of the operatic artists nor the acting of the dramatic stars can compete with the magnetic power of athletic sports. They top the whole list.—Boston Herald.

Putting on the Screws of Oppression.
It is proposed to reduce the strength of the Irish bench by five judges, and to stop all appointments until the reduction has been effected.

That

Extremetired feeling afflicts nearly everybody at this season. The hustlers cease to push, the tireless grow weary, the energetic become enervated. You know just what we mean. Some men and women endeavor temporarily to overcome that

Tired

Feeling by great force of will. But this is unsafe, as it pulls powerfully upon the nervous system, which will not long stand such strain. Too many people "work on their nerves," and the result is seen in unfortunate wrecks marked "nervous prostration," in every direction. That tired

Feel-

ing is a positive proof of thin, weak, impure blood; for, if the blood is rich, red, vitalized and vigorous, it imparts life and energy to every nerve, organ and tissue of the body. The necessity of taking Hood's Sarsaparilla for that tired feeling is, therefore, apparent to every one, and the good it will do you is equally beyond question. Remember that

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