

SEED SELECTED EARLY

Farmer May Be Reasonably Sure of Corn Stand Next Year.

Consideration of Strength and Character of Corn Stalk, Height of Ear From Ground and Size of Shank Should Be Noted.

(By C. P. BULL.)

One of the main reasons why seed corn should be selected early is to be reasonably sure it will grow the following year when planted. Early selected seed corn is the corn that usually gives the best stand. Without a good stand it is impossible to get a maximum yield, and it costs no more to raise a field of corn with a perfect stand than it does to raise a field with a 50 to 70 per cent. stand.

Every good kernel of seed corn has in it a live, though very small, corn plant. This plant is tender and easily injured, unless kept under favorable



Ready to Select From the Standing Corn—When Corn is Selected in This Way One Can Consider the Stalks From Which the Ears Are Taken as Well as Ears Themselves.

conditions. Seed corn that is not thoroughly dry before cold weather, will in the northern climates, freeze, which will cause the kernel to expand, thus injuring the germ or little plant, lowering its vitality and often destroying it, so the kernel will not germinate.

Few farmers save enough seed corn. One bushel of shelled corn will plant from seven to eight acres. One hundred to one hundred and twenty selected ears will make a bushel of shelled corn. At this rate it will take from twelve to fifteen ears to plant one acre. It should be remembered, however, that the first selection is not always perfect; and oftentimes upon second selection and germination test, half of the first selection will be thrown out. Thus it is seen that there should always be selected in the fall at least twice as much seed as the farmer expects to plant. There is little danger of getting too much seed corn. Any surplus, if the seed is good, can usually be sold at a fair price.

In case one has no "special seed plot" in which his best and earliest maturing ears were planted, it is then necessary that his seed be selected from the field. The most practical method to do this is to go through the field with a sack tied across one's shoulder and select the choicest and best matured ears. Two rows of corn may easily be examined at once. During the process of selection, consideration of the strength and character of the stalk, the height of the ear from the ground, and the size of the shank, should be noted.

A stalk does not necessarily have to be large to be a big producer. A well-spindling plant lodges very easily. The stalk should be of good size and strong at the base, gradually tapering, and not necessarily tall. Strong, vigorous stalks of medium height, usually produce the best and earliest matured ears. The ear should be attached to the stalk by a medium-sized shank, which is long enough to allow the tip of the ear to hang down. All ears in a cornfield will not mature at the same time. A variation of fifteen days in maturing of ears in a field is not uncommon. One of the reasons why a good selection of corn cannot be made from the shock or from the field late in the fall, is that one is unable to tell the time the ear matured.

HELPFUL TO BEE BEGINNERS

One Method Which Cannot Fail to Assist Is to Give Delinquent Insects Good Shaking Up.

(By MRS. R. F. JOSEPH.)

A method I have just learned that cannot fail to help beginners in bee culture is to give the bees a good shaking when they become delinquent in their work. When you move them a short distance to prevent their going back shake them in front of the entrance of their respective hives. The most vicious bees can be made very tame by shaking. I shake them off the comb into a large dishpan. When the pan is shaken about the same as you would shake a corn popper the bees roll over in a confused mass and after a minute of shaking, rolling and tumbling they can be picked up with the hands, providing, of course, that you do not hurt them.

Profitable Industry

A profitable industry is being developed on many of the government irrigation projects in the production of honey, and reports indicate that this honey is superior in quality. Alfalfa is the chief source from which the bees secure their supply, and as it blooms constantly from early spring till late in the fall, the bees have something to work on all the time which shows a greater amount of stored

HIT HIGHEST MARKET PRICE

Easier Done With Grain Crops Than With Livestock—Animals Must Go When They Are Ready.

It is much easier, generally speaking, to hit the highest market price with grain crops than it is with livestock. There are various powerful interests that aim at certain seasons of the year to depreciate the prices of meat products and grain. The grain farmer is less at their mercy than the stock farmer, because he can, as a rule, hold his grain for a few months until the market suits him. The stockman cannot do this with his cattle, sheep and swine to anything like the same extent. Cattle, sheep and swine must go when they are ready for market. It is the best thing a farmer can do to sell when they are ready, that is, when they have reached a weight at which he cannot add more weight at a profit. The only advice that it is safe to give on this point is to avoid being a market chaser, and to sell fattened stock when it is fit to ship. There is a large expense connected with holding fat stock and in many instances the market goes the wrong way. Every farmer knows that with corn at, say 50 cents, he is assuming the role of a speculator by holding a bunch for a higher market, after most of the food of support and the food of gain becomes a diminishing quantity, diminished to such an extent that he cannot make a profitable increase on his stock.

REJUVENATE AN OLD ORCHARD

Increase in Size and Color of Fruit Is Very Largely Due to Judicious Use of Prune Saw.

(By S. VAN SMITH, Colorado Agricultural College.)

Our attention is being called every day to the example of some farmer with an idea, who takes a pruning saw and goes into an old and unprofitable orchard and makes it pay attractive dividends. Proper cultivation and spraying are important factors in such a rejuvenation, but the increase in size and color of fruit is very largely due to judicious pruning.

In old orchards which have been neglected the thing most noticeable is the fact that the tree tops contain too much wood; too many limbs. Many of these are large limbs which should have been cut out years ago when they were small and the shock to the tree would not have been so great, to say nothing of the saving of plant food used in the production of



Irrigated Orchard Near Montrose, Col.

This superfluous wood. One of the most valuable qualities of market fruit is good, attractive color. It takes light and plenty of it to make good color and the tree top with too many branches will keep out the sunlight and, consequently, will not produce well-colored fruit.

In market fruit, size as well as color is important. The tree that tries to produce too many apples will be unable to bring them to a good size. Thinning the fruit will aid very materially in increasing the size, but a good deal of work in thinning can be saved by taking out some of the extra wood this winter.

WHY THE FERTILIZERS FAIL

Farmers Seem to Forget That Physical Conditions Are as Important as Plant Food Supply.

Many farmers expect entirely too much of commercial fertilizers, writes an instructor for the College of Agriculture, Ohio State university. They forget that the physical condition of the soil is often just as important as the supply of available plant food.

The condition of the soil depends largely upon the amount of decaying organic matter it contains. By it clay soils are kept loose and well aerated, more easily drained and at the same time capable of holding more water in an available form. They have less tendency to surface washing, heaving and extremes of temperature when well supplied with organic matter. Sandy soils are made more compact, more retentive of moisture and plant food.

In all soils the acids produced by the decay of organic matter are the chief agents in getting into usable form the plant food locked up in their insoluble mineral particles. If disappearing results attended the use of fertilizers, it is well for the farmer to ask himself if he has made sufficient use of humus and manure, heavy soils and green manuring crops in maintaining the supply of organic matter of the soil.

Drainage of Wet Lands.

For the management of wet lands the usual advice is to drain them, but an intelligent German farmer now living in this country suggests that it sometimes pays better to make artificial ponds. In Germany, he says, an acre of fish ponds is often reckoned worth more than an acre of wheat. The dams may be built with farm labor at small expense, and the ponds add considerably to the beauty of the scenery. Very often, also, the ponds can be used to some extent for irrigation, and irrigation will work wonders.

HAPPENINGS IN THE CITIES

Chicago "Owls" Blink at First Broadway Car



CHICAGO.—Chicago's first Broadway car ran through the loop district the other night, through the La Salle street tunnel, by Clark street, and out Broadway. It was the first evidence of the city's 567 varieties of new street names.

The car, with no sign save the unwelcome "Broadway" displayed, swung around the loop at the alcoholic hour of 11:30, just when the most people wanted a car.

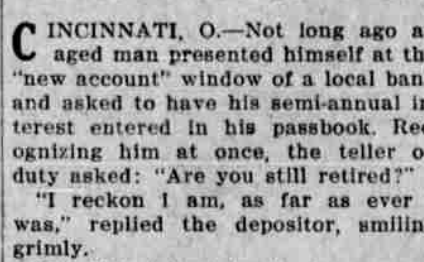
"Say, now, where'd that come from?" demanded one night owl of another on the curb, as No. 219 trundled by. "Lived here all my life an' didn't know we had a Broadway, let alone a car line on it."

"Nobody could tell him. "Come on, Bill, here she is!" announced a self-confident man to his friend. He tried very hard to walk straight, and asked as he paid both fares:

"Broadway car, isn't it?" "Sure," responded Conductor Reid. "Put us off at Herald square." And he sat down perfectly satisfied. Down Randolph street rumbled the "Broadway" apparition, and drew up in front of the Lamb's cafe just as two chorus girls emerged.

"Ain't this luck, Lili!" exclaimed one as they peeled their hobbies just high enough to allow them to reach the step. "The way I remembered it we'd have to beat it two blocks to a car, an' here's one right at the door. Call

Retired? Not So That Anybody Could Notice It



CINCINNATI, O.—Not long ago an aged man presented himself at the "new account" window of a local bank and asked to have his semi-annual interest entered in his passbook. Recognizing him at once, the teller on duty asked: "Are you still retired?"

"I reckon I am, as far as ever I was," replied the depositor, smiling grimly. "The little joke dates back a year or two to the day when the account was opened. Accompanied by his wife on that occasion, the aged farmer from Ohio's onion belt tendered the teller a roll of banknotes counting up in the thousands.

"How old are you?" asked the clerk, pursuant to the bank's practice of keeping such bits of information on file. "Eighty-six." "Occupation?" "Farmer." "Farmer, retired," repeated the teller and began to write it so. "Retired, nothing!" protested the octogenarian. "If you call working 150 acres of land being retired, then I suppose I'm retired."

The teller made suitable apologies. As it was to be a joint account, the wife also was questioned as to her age. "Do I have to tell?" she asked.

Cleveland Firemen and Police in Fly-Trap Race



CLEVELAND, O.—A desire to excel in the manufacture of fly-traps is responsible for "bad blood" between the police at the Eleventh precinct on East One Hundred and Fifth street, near Euclid, and the firemen at engine house No. 10, next door.

Sergeant Cregan, the Thomas Alva Edison of the force, wearied of "shooting flies from his face, or purging them with a swatter," designed and built a gigantic fly-trap. This was placed near the front door, as the transformation of the stable into a garage had eliminated the busy fly from that region. The flies began to buzz around.

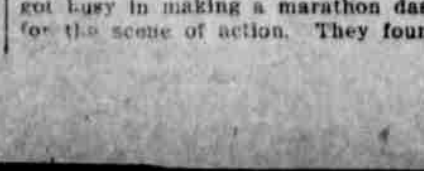
Charles Trump, the Marconi of the firemen, chanced to see the police trap and went back to the station with an idea. The firemen contributed to a fund to build the largest and most lethal fly-trap in existence. It was installed near the stable, wherein the firemen had an immeasurable advantage over the police in the matter of flies.

Then, all confidence, Trump challenged Cregan to a fly-catching contest between their respective traps. Because the firemen had the advantage of the stable, Trump gave Cregan a handicap of 100 flies. For days firemen and policemen watched their traps earnestly. Wagers were made on the result and interest grew to a fever heat. Each side accused the other of catching flies by hand and "stuffing" the traps. But, strangely enough, the police trap continued to attract more flies.

An approximate gave Cregan a lead of possibly 2,000 flies and the fire-fighters were in despair. A terrible disappointment awaited the police one morning. With the break of dawn Cregan went out to inspect his trap. He sent in a vocal riot call. The flies were gone and a nervous bat was alone in the cage.

The firemen laughed loudly and long, but the police may laugh last. Cregan took the bat, chloroformed it and performed an operation. Armed with rubber gloves, a nutpick and a reading glass he proceeded to salvage enough flies from the remains to enable the police to make up the lead the firemen are gaining every hour.

Whispered Tip to Cop Wakes Up City Employees



PITTSBURGH, PA.—These are strenuous days for the Coppers-Afrails of Their Jobs. What with the wily thieves active and the public claiming the city is overrun with robbers, pickpockets and other plundering rascals, said Director John H. Dalley after these same coppers until they dream of "shakups" and dismissals, the life of a bluecoat or a plain-clothes man is not pleasant.

us at One Hundred and Nineteenth street, conductor." "Serene in their belief that they were headed for home, they settled down for a talk.

"Will this car take me to Evanston avenue?" inquired a precise individual as he held back his nickel and eyed the conductor suspiciously.

"Yes, sir." "But I don't understand—I never saw a car before with that name. Are you sure?"

"Yes!—make room, please, for these passengers." "But how can a car take me where I want to go when it runs on a street I never heard of? And I've lived on Evanston avenue many years."

All the way out the precise gentleman debated with himself where that car would land him.

But there were many voyagers who did not intrust themselves to the piratical-looking craft flying such strange colors.

"Say! Where does that thing go?" asked one of these from the curb. "Right out Broadway, sir," answered the conductor.

"Wherell's that? Don't know any more'n I did before." "Where do you want to go?" "Evanston avenue."

"Come along—this car'll take you." "Not me. Only got one nickel, an' no strange car don't git that."

And the cautious one shooed off until he could find a car with a familiar sign.

Many, thinking they recognized something familiar about the car or crew or both, came out into the street, looked doubtfully at the unfamiliar "Broadway," and looking like victims of misplaced confidence, stepped back to the curb to wait for the genuine blown-in-the-bottle Evanston car. Nothing less would satisfy them.

M. Jean Homolle, the new librarian-in-chief of the Bibliotheque Nationale, in Paris, was general manager of the national museums of France, and consequently of the Louvre, when "La Gloriosa," the celebrated masterpiece of Da Vinci, disappeared. Although M. Homolle was absent at the time, nevertheless public opinion demanded a sacrifice for the departed "Mona Lisa," and he was relieved of office. He is a native of Paris, sixty-five years old, and is a member of the Legion of Honor and of the Institute. The world-famous library over which he presides has 4,000,000 books, 2,500,000 engravings, and hundreds of thousands of medals, maps and manuscripts.

Veal's Too High. "All our food except sugar has advanced two-thirds in price since 1899," said H. Wallace Corson, the Denver statistician. "The bureau of labor statistics back me up in this."

"The men responsible for these advances are begging for another chance to serve us. They are begging our pardon. They are prodigal sons—can't we forgive them?" "No, I say no!"

"And I'd politely inform those fellows that the supply of fatted calves is not as large as the number of prodigal sons."

Common Enough History.

Mayor Gaynor of New York, as all the world knows from his letters, was a subtle critic, and as a recent luncheon at the Century club, discussing a novelist who had begun well, but had degenerated into the lowest type of "best seller," Mayor Gaynor said: "This scribbler's whole biography could be put into two questions and answers, thus: "How did he commence writing?" "With a wealth of thought." "And how has he continued?" "With a thought of wealth."

How to Move Them.

First Reclor—I am going to preach to the 400. How can I move them? Second Reclor—You'll have to move them in limousines.—Judge.

Exactness in little duties is a wonderful source of cheerfulness.—P. W. Faber.

HAPPY OLD AGE Most Likely to Follow Proper Eating.

As old age advances we require less food to replace waste, and food that will not overtax the digestive organs, while supplying true nourishment. Such an ideal food is found in Grape-Nuts, made of whole wheat and barley by long baking and action of diastase in the barley which changes the starch into a most digestible sugar.

The phosphates also placed up under the outer-coat of the wheat, are included in Grape-Nuts, but are lacking in white flour because the outer-coat of the wheat darkens the flour and is left out by the miller. These natural phosphates are necessary to the well-balanced building of muscle, brain and nerve cells.

"I have used Grape-Nuts," writes an Iowa man, "for 8 years and feel as good and am stronger than I was 10 years ago."

"Among my customers I meet a man every day who is well along in years and attributes his good health to Grape-Nuts and Postum which he has used for the last 5 years. He mixes Grape-Nuts with Postum and says they go fine together."

"For many years before I began to eat Grape-Nuts, I could not say that I enjoyed life or knew what it was to be able to say 'I am well.' I suffered greatly with constipation, but now my ailments are as regular as ever in my life."

"Whenever I make extra effort I depend on Grape-Nuts food and it just kills the bill. I can think and write a great deal easier."

"There's a Reason." Name given by Postum Co. Battle Creek, Mich. Read "The Road to Wellville," in pligs. Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.

VALUABLE QUALITY TO HAVE

Man Who Can See the True Possibilities of Other Men is the One That Succeeds.

"Seeing" men is an art. It amounts almost to second sight. Often, in a business "line," some man makes his way mysteriously and rapidly to the top, or near to it. He does not seem to have greater trading ability than many others, nor has he been favored by a larger capital or a more magnetic personality. But he rises. His faculty of "seeing" men has been the magical force.

It is no trick at all to discover the man who has triumphantly made a record, who is already a personality in this trade or that. Unfortunately, such a man is unfailingly costly. What he has done, moreover, is no positive guarantee as to his future exploits. Men of great reputation as lieutenants many times prove great disappointments when they shift. The chief who "sees" picks a man whose reputation is yet to be made and thereby nets the profit himself.—Harper's Weekly.

PIMPLES ON FACE AND ARMS

411 Howard St., Dayton, Ohio.—"About a year ago my face, neck, arms and back were beginning to become afflicted with pimples and blackheads. My pimples would get very large and appear to come to a head. If I tried to open them the pain would be terrible, but nothing could be taken from them. They itched very badly; I suffered terribly from itching. After scratching, the pimples would swell and after the swelling was gone my face would become very red and remain so for some time. My clothing caused the itching to be worse. When it was warm it was utterly impossible to sleep."

"I used a cream and the more I used the worse they got. Shortly after I read the advertisement of Cuticura Soap and Ointment and determined to use them. The itching stopped almost immediately. This was about three months ago and I am entirely cured now." (Signed) Miss Marguerite E. Jacobs, Jan. 13, 1913.

Cuticura Soap and Ointment sold throughout the world. Sample of each free, with 32-p. Skin Book. Address post-card "Cuticura, Dept. L, Boston."—Adv.

Made the Scapegoat.

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Many a fellow has avoided straitened circumstances by being prooked.

Plea With a Punch to It. Clerk (to employer)—I should like a four weeks' vacation this year, sir, if possible. I never felt so strong in my life!—Puck.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, 25c a bottle.

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Getting Down to Facts.

Bernard's mother tries faithfully to break the boy of his habit of exaggeration, and every improbable statement is closely questioned. Once, aroused by the sounds of feline disturbance, she asked:

"What is the matter on the back porch, Bernard?" "There are 40 cats out there," the boy replied from his post of observation at the window.

"You don't mean that there are really 40?" his mother asked. "Well, then, 20." "So many as 20?" "Maybe there aren't more than ten."

"But, are you sure there are ten?" mother went on mercilessly. "Well, mamma," replied Bernard decidedly, "there's our cat and Thompson's cat—and I won't fall another cat."

Cool in Face of Death. One of the most extraordinary cases of sangfroid on the scaffold occurred sometime ago, when Macdonald, who murdered a Miss Holt, paid the penalty of his crime in England. The hangman had forgotten the white cap to place over the prisoner's eyes and Macdonald, noticing what had happened, remarked to his executor:

"Put your hand in my breast pocket and you'll find a silk handkerchief. That will do to bind my eyes, won't it?"

Used to Such Vicissitudes. Colonel Roosevelt, at a luncheon at Oyster Bay, told a hunting story. "Smith," he said, "had a narrow escape from being killed by a lion in Nalrobi."

"When the lion closed its jaws on you," asked a friend, "did you give yourself up for lost?" "Oh, no," Smith answered calmly. "You see, I sleep in a folding bed."

Instruction. Johnny—And does the gas meter measure the quantity of gas you use? Papa—No, my son—the quantity you have to pay for.—Puck.

A medical journal has an article on "How to Lie When Asleep." Of more value would be an article on how to induce people to tell the truth when awake.

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