

TO INTEREST THE FARMER.

PRACTICAL HINTS ABOUT FARM WORK.

Laying Out the Farm Garden—More Than Hard Work Necessary—The Profitable Hen—Repairing Fences.

Laying Out the Farm Garden.

One of the important features of a well-regulated farm is a good kitchen garden of ample proportions. It should be carefully cultivated, and should contain a sufficient variety of vegetables to supply the farmer's table, early and late, with an abundance of the best the season affords.

With such a source of supply at command womankind will find no difficulty and much satisfaction in presenting wholesome and palatable dishes for the family consumption, with less amount of meat than would otherwise be required—a distinct gain, in point of healthfulness, especially when the meat, as is too often the case, is fat pork.

In order that the kitchen garden may be what we have described it, and be easily and economically cultivated, it should be laid out in such a way that the greater part of the work can be done by horse power.

A small inclosure, hopelessly run to weeds, and containing nothing really worth attention, is not what we contemplate, but a large area, proportioned to the needs of the family (and not without a "weather eye" to the sale of fresh "garden sass" to less favored neighbors), of the best land the farm affords—not too far away, however, from the house.

This space should be well manured and brought by repeated working to the finest possible tilth. It should not be thought a pity to put the best manure, and plenty of it, on this land, for it will return good interest in one shape or another. Then lay it out in long rows, as straight as they can be made, and of varying widths, according to the habit of growth of the plants.

A plan which lies before us, has been carefully thought out, and may serve as an indication (subject, of course, to modification according to taste) of how such a plot should be divided up. The part assigned to vegetables is four rods wide, and as long as may be desired. Around three sides is a wall or turning ground eight feet wide. This may be graveled or—as we have seen it—sodded; or winter squashes might be planted in a part or all of the space without seriously interfering with the cultivation.

On the fourth side is a row, five feet wide, of asparagus, artichokes and rhubarb. Then follow, in successive rows: 1. Parsnip, salsify and early peas, followed by winter spinach, 5 feet; 2. Peas, 3 feet; 3. Early potatoes, followed by celery, 3 feet; 4. Early lettuce, etc., from hot bed, radish, cress, mustard, followed by turnip, 3 feet; 5. Onions, 1 1/2 feet; 6. Lettuce, endive, parsley, sweet herbs, 1 1/2 ft.; 7. Bush beans, 2 1/2 ft.; 8. Beets and turnips 2 1/2 feet; 9. Early cabbage and cauliflower, 2 1/2 feet; 10. Late cabbage, 3 feet; 11. Early sweet corn, 3 feet; 12. Late sweet corn and summer squash, 4 feet; 13. Tomatoes and pole beans, 5 feet; 14. Cucumbers and musk-melons, 6 feet; 15. Watermelon and winter squash, 8 feet.

To this we should add, for localities as far north as it can be grown, the dwarf okra, excellent for soup, and the common nasturtium for pickles. In another plot there should be all the varieties of berries, currants and grapes, and of course, plantations of cherry, plum, pear, peach, and apple trees. None of these should be in the vegetable garden, as they would interfere with cultivation and give too much shade.

With such a garden and such supplies of fruit the farmer's table could be well cared in cooking and with abundance of milk, cream, fresh butter, etc., made as attractive as a Delmonico spread, and a great deal more wholesome.

More Than Hard Work Necessary.

The men who make the most money on the farm are not, generally, the ones who work hardest, or who put in the most hours in the field. There is more than hard work that influences for success on the farm. It is not necessary that the farmer should be a slave to drudgery and hard labor. Neither is it necessary for him to make himself the biggest hog on the farm. Intelligence, with a knowledge of how to manage, counts for more on the farm than with any other class of labor. The greatest reason of failure on the farm may be traced to ignorance of how to plan and manage properly the farm operations. The next prevailing source of dissatisfaction grows out of laziness, and it is so closely related to its leader that they are often hard to distinguish one from the other.

Life, energy and ambition are necessary properties in the make-up of the farmer. Such a person will see the importance of system and will proceed to arrange a place for everything and see that it is in its place when not in use. He will have a time to go to work and a time to quit; a time to feed and a time to water; in short, everything will be systematized in a way to accomplish the most in the least number of hours. The social features of life will not be neglected and the family will share a portion of his time. The long winter evenings will be spent in reading and discussing subjects of interest to farm and household, as well as learning something of what is going on all over the world.

There is no business that affords better opportunities for cultivating regular hours and running fifteen hours into a day's work than farming, if permitted to be prosecuted without a system. The disposition to greed is almost sure to follow this plan of farm management, and man then practically places himself a rival with the largest hog on the farm and surrenders all prospects and advantages for enjoyment to the one object, that of accumulating wealth. Such farmers are neither a credit nor an advantage to any community.—Omaha World-Herald.

The Profitable Hen.

The profitable hen may be a Brahma, Cochin, Plymouth Rock, Leghorn, Hamburg, or any other of the good breeds. On the other hand, the Brahma, the Cochin, Plymouth Rock, Leghorn, Hamburg, or a hen of any of the good breeds, may be an un-

profitable one. First, the breeds, and then the care. In selecting the breed to obtain the greatest profit, the climate is a matter of importance; if the climate is cold, the Leghorn and Hamburg would not be the profitable selection; then again the purpose for which they are raised is a matter of importance. If it is for market we wish to breed poultry, the Hamburg would be unprofitable, or even the Leghorn unless it be used to cross with some larger breed, says Western Poultry Breeder. Having selected the breed to suit the climate and purpose, the next consideration is the care; this matter of care extends over a period which includes the mating, gathering and selection of eggs; incubation, rearing, and keeping after maturity—if kept for market, egg or breeding purposes. As a prerequisite to the raising of the profitable hen, the proper mating of only vigorous parents is of great importance. The imbecile hen is not profitable. The eggs must not become chilled nor be old when used for incubation, or else the vigor of the forthcoming hen will be impaired. Use only fresh eggs. The young chick must be kept dry and warm or its vigor will be lessened. The food must be varied. Provide pure water and plenty of sharp grit, in order that the chick be kept vigorously growing until it reaches maturity. The hen thus reared and properly cared for is the profitable hen.

Repairing Fences.

Among the first items of farm work that usually have attention in the spring is the building or repairing of fences. Our own plan is to attend to this in the fall, so that there will be no possibility of its interfering with the production of crops. We do not intend now, however, to discuss the best time for doing that work, but to ask whether so much of it is really necessary. About the heaviest tax we have to pay on our own farms in the way of an expenditure that brings nothing back is the labor and material employed in fence-building; but we have got so accustomed to cutting our farms up into little fields that it is hard to overcome the practice. We see adjacent fields grown to corn and wheat and meadow, with strong fences between them, as if the owner was afraid that one crop would encroach on the territory of the other. The theory is, we believe, that he may want to pasture one of the fields at a season when there is a standing crop in another, but if he does so the chances are very much against his getting value enough from it to pay for maintaining the fences. Then there is the waste land of the fence row—no small item, and the fence row is very apt to be a harbor for weeds, and time is required to keep them down that ought to be given to the cultivation of crops. These things may have all been said before, but we want to bring them fresh to your mind just now, so that before you rebuild those fences you may stop and ask yourself if they can not better be wholly dispensed with. Some day we shall get to the point of keeping our cattle up, to the greater economy both of land and feed, and then we shall be able to do away with our fences wholly.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

About Poultry.

Poultry in health need no medication. Patent nostrums sold as "egg food" "condition powders," etc., to be fed to poultry to make them more prolific, are humbugs. "The whole need not a physician, but they that are sick," is as true of fowls as of men. Healthy fowls need to be kept healthy and the only way to do that is to feed them wholesome food, wholesome water, and protect them from inclement weather. All medicine is foreign to the digestive apparatus of healthy creatures. The surroundings may be sickly and need medical treatment. Filthy houses, nests and runs should be purged by mechanical means, altered with disinfectants, and toned with tonics. Or, what amounts to the same in English, clean up with rags and hose, burn with fire, whitewash with lime and sprinkle with carbolic acid or sulphuric acid, fumigate with bromine, and cease not until everything is pure and sweet; then keep them so. These are the prime conditions of health in the poultry yard.—Texas Farm and Range.

Valuable Hints.

Small turkeys sell better than the larger carcases. It requires about a year and a half to produce a twenty-five-pound gobbler, hence the large birds are not as tender as those that are smaller.

Good shelter during the winter means that less grain will be needed. It is cheaper to keep up the animal from the outside than from the inside. When cold, cattle burn feed for fuel. Then they make no gain upon it.

The experiment of burning old straw beds over while the ground is frozen has given good results to those who have practiced it. The plants come out thick and strong in the spring, and some growers maintain that it is equivalent to having a new bed of young plants.

It does not pay to feed potatoes to stock unless they are very low in price. In proportion to the amount of solid matter in potatoes—they being composed mostly of water—they are expensive, and should only be substituted for grain as an article of diet in promoting the condition of animals by a change of food.

The best way to prevent sheep from getting cockleburns in their wool is to kill the weeds before they produce burs.

Texas sheep raisers can produce mutton cheaper than those of any other state, and can compete with the best in wool.

The old practice of feeding a farrow cow everything she will eat to fatten her, and milking her until she is sold, is a good one that might be followed with profit by many a family now going without milk.

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THE ALLIANCE.

The Industrial World: Value is an idea, not a gross property of substances. The greatest facility for expressing the idea in tangible shape the better for the happiness of the people.

The Southern Alliance: The Alliance is gaining ground in every state in the Union. As the people read and become acquainted with the plutocratic methods which are in vogue for the purpose of robbing labor of that which it produces, they denounce the corruption and join with the Alliance in the great work of reform.

The Springer Banner: There is no question in which the people are more deeply concerned than in the question of taxation. Every citizen feels, or ought to feel, that it is his duty to contribute so much of his substance, so much of that which belongs to him, to the support of the government as is essential for its economical and honest administration. He also feels, or ought to feel, that any claim that he should contribute more than this is unjust, and that any law requiring him to do so is oppressive. The power to take from the citizen any part of that which is his own without pecuniary compensation and without his consent is only accorded to the state, and whose civilization and enlightened liberty exist the state itself is permitted to take so much, and so much only, as is necessary to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and welfare of the country.

The Messenger: The study of the principles of political economy has not been taken up by the farmers of the United States as a pastime. It is not a passing whim that has been called to their attention by accident. In former times when a people were oppressed beyond endurance by the demands of their more powerful neighbors, they arose in frenzy and stamped them out of existence with fire and sword. Or, not having the courage to do this, ceased effort and turned vagrants until the nation in its weakness was overrun by a foreign invader, to whom they gave their services as slaves. But in this day of enlightenment no such barbaric measures are necessary. The people being oppressed with poverty, apply themselves to study the causes, and when understood, go to work to remove them. Violence is the weapon of ignorance, the ballot the recourse of the intelligent. The people of the United States propose to use it to their own salvation.

The Monheim Sun: Every reform that has ever been inaugurated in the history of the world has met with violent opposition on the part of some, who, through prejudice or some other cause, were found arrayed against the promulgation of any theory that was considered a departure from established rules or custom. This has been the case in religious matters especially, and the same state of affairs existed in temporal things as well. Every man and woman familiar with history knows that this has been the case from the beginning of the Christian era. If not from the beginning of the world. It seems strange that a similar state of affairs should exist in this enlightened age, but such is nevertheless the case. The same spirit that existed in people in their early centuries finds place in their minds now, which fact is clearly and plainly demonstrated by the unreasonable manifestations of opposition that are presented upon the advent of any reform movement in the social or industrial system.

What This Century Gives Us.

It gives us men whose sole purpose in life is either money getting, or pleasure; it gives us hard, hypocritical, smooth, smiling knaves who can without a twinge of conscience rob widows and orphans; it gives us weak, indolent, corrupt young men, devoid of a single noble impulse, who as parasites, infest social life in their insatiable love of ease and bodily pleasure; it gives us rascals and gamblers, men who trade upon the necessities of the poor and weak; it gives us in all our large cities armies of fallen women, from whom every vestige of purity has departed, and who sell themselves body and soul to minister to the depraved appetites of men; it gives us a still larger army of women, who herd in dens called rooms, and who live on the dregs of life, and into whose existence a ray of the sunlight of hope or happiness never enters. There are the sewing women of these great cities. It gives us little children with deformed minds and bodies, chained to the task of feeding and tending the loom mechanism of trade. It gives us, in one word, poverty, that reaches from one part of the civilization to the other; and has outworked itself in these terrible, loathsome forms of social life. For there is a more deadly poverty than that which General Booth in his "Darkest Days of England" describes. It is the poverty of the soul, from which all that is great and good and noble and heroic has departed; of a life barren of right results. And this is what the nineteenth century, with all its inventions, scientific discoveries and intellectual progress has given us. The poverty, suffering, and physical and moral degradation of the people are the witnesses, the visible expression of the deeper and blacker poverty of soul—that nearly every where exists. It is time that the angel of discontent stirred the stagnant waters of social life; it is time that the John Baptist of a new social order preached in the wilderness of human affairs that there is something higher, something nobler than money getting, eating and drinking, and their train of sensual pleasures.—L. C. Fales in the Topeka Advocate.

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