

THE FARM AND GARDEN.

CHOICE TIT-BITS OF INFORMATION FOR THE FARMER.

Some Early Garden Crops—Early Potatoes—A Quart of Cream—How to Catch a Runaway Horse—Practical Hints.

Some Early Garden Crops.

Lettuce is one of the first and most generally planted of the garden crops. Early curled Silesia is one of the best of the very early varieties. Have the soil thoroughly tilled and rich, as a quick growth is necessary to make crisp, tender lettuce. If manure is used, have it well-fined and thoroughly incorporated with the soil. Sow the seed in drills, one foot apart, and cover very lightly. Too deep covering will often cause the seed to rot. If planted very early a light mulch of clean wheat straw will help protect it and aid in making an early growth; it can be removed as soon as the weather becomes warmer. Use seed enough for a good stand, and then if necessary thin out after the plants come up well.

Radishes are hardy and will stand considerable cold without injury. Instead of using much animal manure get a supply of well-rotted chip manure, and after preparing the soil apply it as a top dressing and work into the soil with a good steel rake. Mark out the drills about a foot apart and about an inch deep; sow the seed evenly in the drills and cover carefully. Unless the soil is unusually dry, with the early planting, it is not generally best to firm the soil after sowing the seed. With both radish and lettuce it is a good plan to drop two or three seeds of some early variety of cabbage, either early Jersey, Wakefield or early Winningstad every two feet in every other row. By the time the cabbage plants will need the room the other crops can be harvested, and, as no transplanting is needed, the cabbage will mature a little earlier. The turnip varieties, either white or red, will be ready to use first, and can nearly always be planted for the earliest crop. The half long like French breakfast, or olive-shaped, come next. Spinach, dandelion or chicory for greens can also be planted very early. Asparagus chicory is highly recommended for greens, and as any of these are easily grown it will pay to sow a few rows as soon as the soil can be worked into a good tilth. With onions that are to be grown from seed and beets that it is desired to have come in early, a good plan is to sow the seed in a bed early, and then when the plants make a fair start to grow, transplant in the open ground. With both of these in many cases a good application of wood ashes given as a top dressing just before the plants are set out will be found beneficial.

Any of these can be sown at any time now when the soil can be properly prepared. While earliness is quite an item there is no advantage in sowing or planting when the soil is so wet that it will not work readily, and while all of these vegetables will withstand considerable cold, still a quick, vigorous growth is necessary to the best results.

Early Potatoes. With nearly everyone that grows potatoes, more especially for home use, it is quite an item to have at least a few that will come in very early. New potatoes and peas make an appetizing dish, and if the potatoes are ready to use by the time the peas can be grown a little extra care will need to be given. One of the most important things is good seed of some of the best of the early varieties. Almost every year there are more or less new varieties brought out that are claimed to be very much earlier than any that have ever introduced before; but in a majority of cases after a trial a large proportion of these prove of no special value. One of the best of the early varieties is the early sunrise, it being a few days earlier under the same conditions of growth than the early rose or the beauty of Hebron. A warm, sandy loam that is stirred deep and is well drained and reasonably rich is the best soil in which to grow early potatoes. If manure is used it should be thoroughly rotted and fined, and then be well incorporated with the soil. Run out the furrows reasonably deep, using a good single shovel plough. It will save labor to take pains to run out good-sized furrows. With a wheel-barrow or hand-cart bring a quantity of fresh manure from the horse stable and put a good forkful into the bottom of the furrow where the hill potatoes is to be planted; put it into a compact little pile, as the object in using it is to secure a small amount of heat and also a thorough drainage. Over this put, at least an inch of fine rich soil and then plant the potato on this, and cover at least 4 inches deep. If the seed is handled carefully it will help a little if the seed is sprouted before planting; but if this is done, very careful handling must be given in order not to bruise or injure the sprouts or more injury will be done than benefit derived. Good drainage on each side of the hill must be given in order to induce a good germination and a vigorous start to grow.

Thorough cultivation from the start must be given, keeping the soil clear of weeds and in a loose, mellow condition. A few hills planted in this way, if given good care, will be ready for the table in not over ten weeks from the time the seed is planted, but every advantage must be taken to give a favorable condition for growth as possible.

Profit in Small Flocks of Sheep.

A practical sheep raiser thinks there is more money in sheep than formerly. Writing for the Southern Farm he says: Where farmers have gone intelligently into the handling of small flocks of sheep they have usually procured such results that it has been an object-lesson to their neighbors and induced them to do likewise. This is why so many small flocks now are to be seen all over the country than was the case a few years ago. To carry a small flock in connection with the diversified industries of the farm, and in order to

still further diversify them, is a wise policy, and we hope to see it more generally adopted. No branch of the live stock business can be made more profitable in a small way, nor will it return more for the capital and labor invested. One reason for this is that there are so many channels through which the revenue comes. There is the rapid natural increase of the flock; the annual proceeds from the sale of wool; the food value; the enrichment of the land; and their services in clearing land, which is always worth considering, because they are the best weed exterminators in the world. Another reason why sheep are more profitable than they were in the past is because the average weight of the fleece produced in the United States now is double what it was 34 years ago, and along with this gain in the fleece has been almost a proportionate increase in the size of the carcass and the quality of the meat. It is these high-class features that have made the business more profitable and more attractive than it was in the past, and development along the same lines will do as much for any branch of agriculture.

A Quart of Cream.

"How much butter will a quart of cream make?" is asked. Just as many different amounts of butter as there are quarts of cream. It all depends, first upon the cow that gave the milk, the kind of machine, or plan of setting, the temperature in which the milk is set, whether in a water or air-bath, and how long it sets. In a test report, it was found that in twenty samples submitted from as many sources, that the water contents of the cream varied all the way from fifty up to seventy-one per cent., no two being exactly alike. This would give the first sample forty-three per cent. butter-fat, and the last nineteen per cent. The dairyman who sold the seventy-one per cent. kind of cream based on butter value, needed over twice as much as his cream was worth as compared with the other. Of course the cream, if mixed, would show so much butter, and the two milks divided would make each cream equally valuable by the balance of errors.

This "guessing," with test-tubes and methods of testing, will not do justice. The churn is what we must fall back upon for butter. The acid test will point out our shortcomings and the faults of the churn, but until it is churned, the quart of cream is an unknown quantity of butter.

How to Catch a Runaway Horse.

Most persons, when trying to stop a runaway horse merely add to the panic which has caused the beast to take to his heels. Don't stand in the middle of the road, and throw your hands and shout. No one ever saw a real runaway stopped by such tactics. Don't stand on the side of the road and yell to the horse to stop. That will merely cause him to be more frightened than before. As you see the horse coming, start to run as fast as you can in the same direction the horse is taking; when he catches up with you, and before he passes—horses don't go with the rapidity of a bullet from a gun, even when running away—jump for his bridle-rein, and hold to it running along all the while as fast as possible. The check thus given by the pull on the bit will almost always stop a runaway. If you are on horseback you can do this with ease and very little danger; for, in this instance, your horse is running, and you have all your strength to give to the runaway.

Practical Hints.

A long-handled shovel, which can be used without stooping, saves the back of the man who uses it. Any hour when no other work is pressing can be put into advantage in forking over the manure heap. If not already done cover over your strawberry bed with straw to remain and protect the fruit from the ground. Set out your new currant plantation as soon as the condition of the ground will permit. Economy is the proper term for good farming. Save the litters all around. Chips will make as good fire while they last as big cord wood. Put your sawdust around your currant and gooseberry bushes. They need good manure also and will pay for it.

In setting out trees, shrubs, berry plants, berry bushes or flowers, be sure you leave no open interstices under the roots; make sure that the soil touches the roots at every point. Cultivating the ground for flowers and delicate early vegetables can be better accomplished by a four-tined spading fork than with a spade. Visit a nursery and see how spades may be kept bright. The digging up of trees needs the very best kind of a tool. Few farmers have a good spade, and a less number keep it bright and sharp. The winter winds often pile up the leaves of the woods so that they may be easily gathered and used for bedding down live stock when straw is scarce. When you set a broody hen give her a green sod for the bottom of her nest; it tends to keep moisture for the eggs. Mark the date of setting on each egg and see that no hens lay to her or break her eggs. Vigorous, healthy fowls may almost always be detected by the rich quality of the comb—a sure indication of health. The comb always loses color as disease approaches its worst stages, in some instances turning black, says Poultry World.

From present indications the wool clip of New Mexico this year will be the largest in the history of the territory, and the quality superior to that of any previous years. From every section reports come that sheep are in fine condition.—Texas Stock Grower.

Chicks should be as lively as crickets when a day or two old even in winter if hatched in an incubator. If they stand about with heads drawn back, wings drooping and faintly chirping constantly, something ails them and they should have immediate attention.

THE ALLIANCE.

Southern Star: If the value of the metal in the silver dollar be measured by the cost of the dollars in existence, so far from being 80 cents each, it is not less than 250 cents. The statistics of silver mining show that, taking all mining ventures into account, there have been more than \$3 expended in the business for every dollar that has been realized from it.

Alliance Herald: Reform in government depends solely upon the interest of the people in the reform sought. If it is in the interest of the people, and for their welfare, and they will grasp and push it, no power can prevent its consummation. The earnestness and sincerity of the people, and their zeal and determination are the first and only requisites for success.

The Sentinel says of Nicaragua: One would think from what is heard here that a large force of men were at work. The fact is that no work of consequence has yet been done. There are several million piles and a good deal of lumber rotting there. Of the four dredges which were started up from Panama one was sunk on the way, two are at the mouth of the river, and one has managed to work its way up the shallow bed four or five miles. That is all the dredging that has been done. The work that has been accomplished has been simply clearing from Graytown to Rivas on the lake.

Topeka Advocate: Even the least civilized people are not driven by their necessities to use their total labor force, and while the advance of humanity from barbarism increases the wants of man, it increases his ability to supply these wants in constantly greater proportion. This is not less true in agriculture than in mechanics. The gardeners of Paris, and those well informed of their methods, tell us that they can provide food for that enormous city within her own district. That is they can maintain, so far as food is concerned, three million and two hundred thousand people on three and one-half millions of acres of land. Broadly the effective labor force of the world is greater than its consumptive demands, always has been and always will be.

Richmond Dispatch:—How many bankers in Lombard or Wall street have ever seen a pound sterling coin—the fetish which they worship with heart and soul, mind and strength, might and main? There never were any such coins until 1815, if we except a few struck in the reign of Henry VIII; yet this pound sterling has been the unit of British currency for generations past. Length is material and can be measured. Weight is material and can be ascertained by scales; and if allowed to drop will mash your toes. But value is an ideal thing. The coinage acts of congress fix its unit in our country as a dollar. If the weight and composition of this unit be fixed by congressional prerogative, there might be no piece actually coined of the denomination of the dollar.

The Pioneer Exponent: Silver has been demoralized in the United States, and consequently what was once a dollar's worth of bullion is now about 74 cents worth. This enables England to purchase our supposedly depreciated bullion and send it to India and Russia, which are free silver countries, where its purchasing power to buy wheat for England is 60 cents on the dollar. They thus save 34 per cent in the purchase of their wheat while the American wheat grower finds his loss correspondingly as great, and besides his market is thereby partially destroyed. This scheme is worked by England, a single standard country, which also has this same depreciated metal there. By reason of this, these same exploiters who are seemingly wedded to the single standard idea, take advantage of the low price of bullion and obtain wheat from India at 34 per cent saving, as above stated, and at the same time throw the American wheat grower at 24 per cent greater disadvantage than the pauper laborers of India and the serfs of Russia in disposing of his crop. But the Cleveland and Harrison Mills and Sherman, go right on serving the money power of London rather than the interests of the American products.

The Alliance Herald: Three billions of dollars mortgages on the homes of farmers—a indignity brought about by a financial system that is a disgrace and shame to a sensible people. Two hundred and fifty millions annually taken from the pockets of the people by syndicates, combines and trusts—organized, stimulated and encouraged by an inactivity of legislators that is criminal, and licensed by a government to rob those it extorts money from as taxes to pay it to protect. Four hundred and twenty millions annually extorted by freight bills, in the nature of a tax, by railroads on watered stock and bonds—Why? Because the people sit listlessly while the robbery progresses and their representatives hold their peace, when they should be at work for redemption of their constituents from this robbery. What is to be done about it? Talk partyism and prate about partisanship until the people are bankrupt and English syndicates own the country? Or be on the alert ready to strike a blow for freedom from vampires and redemption from robbery? Are you free men or slaves? If free men, why not address yourself to the task of redressing your wrongs and remedying the evils? If slaves, crouch at the feet of your master, beg that you may be permitted to kiss his toe and pay obedience to his tyranny and oppression of you, and the enslavement of your children.

Perpetual Motion.

During the discussion of the United States Banking bill in congress some time in 1835 or 1836, John Randolph of Roanoke, who was opposed to the passage of the bill which was intended to establish a United States Bank, said that he had discovered perpetual motion, and it was very simple, being that— "Paper makes money. Money makes banks. Banks make poverty. Poverty makes rage. Rage makes paper. Paper makes money. Money makes banks, and so on forever and forever."

The Messenger: Of all men the farmers are the most conservative; they are not visionaries nor revolutionists, excepting in so far as the revolution of political parties is concerned. The Alliance demands a reform that will bring back this government to the principles upon which it was founded. The constitution provides that government shall be administered in the interests of the people—the masses. But it has drifted into the hands of politicians and capitalists, who run it in their own special interests. In order to again make this government a "government of the people" is why the farmers have organized in Alliance. It is their aim to wrest the government of this country from the grasp of professional politicians, corruptionists and monopolists.

A Language of Yellow. Buxom Widow (at evening party)—Do you understand the language of flowers, Dr. Crusty? Dr. Crusty (an old bachelor)—No, ma'am. Buxom Widow—You don't know if yellow means jealousy? Dr. Crusty—No, ma'am. Yellow means biliousness.—Texas Siftings.

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