

AGRICULTURAL.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AGRICULTURE UNDER THE EDITORIAL CHARGE OF COL. R. W. FURNAS, President of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture.

Raising Potatoes Under Straw. One of the most convenient and successful methods of raising potatoes, especially in cottage gardens, or on small lots for private use, is by planting under a heavy covering of straw or old litter, as practiced at the south, where the potatoes cannot be well grown without some such protection from the extreme heat of the sun.

The plan is to dig trenches or open deep furrows with the plow, four feet apart, using a heavy two horse plow twice, in the same furrow, so as to open it to at least six or eight inches deep. Drop your seed at the usual distance at the bottom of this deep furrow. Then throw upon the seed such manure as you intend to use, well rotted stable manure, crowding and rotted soil being best, with lime and ashes applied to the peat in compost before mixing with the manure.

Now fill the entire furrow or trench with long straw, old litter, refuse hay, river wash, &c., covering the seed six or eight inches deep with such material. The vines will find their way through a foot or two, and as soon as the vines are well up, and the weeds have begun to start, plow or hoe the earth to the vines a little, so as to kill the weeds, and this is all the cultivation they need.

A haly writer says, if women were as particular in choosing a virtuous husband as men are in selecting a virtuous wife, a moral reformation would soon begin, which would be something more than a fraud and foam.

A HOUSEHOLDER in Florida, in filling up his census schedule, under the heading "children born," described one of the children as "born in the parlor," and the other "up stairs." A strict return.

THE meanest man in central Illinois is a farmer living near Deatur. He discharges his laborers Saturday night and charges them for lodging and board every Sunday.

AN exchange says: There is a farmer in this County who years ago, when a boy, blacked boots in Chicago for a living. He is now worth \$150 and owns three dogs.

RHODE ISLAND allow its legislators four cents mileage, and the furthest every day from the court house to the eight cents each day for walking down and back.

MARK TWAIN says: "I am different from Washington; I have a bigger and grander standard of principle. Washington could not lie. I can lie, but I won't."

THE rich cow called Silton, is due to the addition of the cream in the milk drawn over night, which is mixed with the new milk of the next morning.

A GERMAN writer, complaining of the difficulties in the pronunciation of the English language, cites the word Box, which he says is pronounced Dickens.

A VINCENNES paper pitches into a young bow-legged, snuff-smoking, handkerchief-fluttering Cincinnati drummer.

FIRST ENCOUNTER OF A JAPANESE WITH A SKUNK.

The interview of Prof. Butler with the Japanese, as they traveled over the Burlington route, fills a column in the Chicago Post. But I find nothing there so amusing as an incident I have heard the Professor relate, but which he omitted in his Chicago report probably thinking it beneath the dignity of a Chicago paper, especially as the name Chicago means skunk.

As the train was steaming along near midnight, it chanced to disturb and perhaps destroy, one or more potatoes. The Prof. at once inquired of the young Prince he was conducting to surprise their father, whether he smelled anything? It need hardly be said that Asahi's answer was affirmative. The next question of the Prof. was, "Did you ever smell anything like it in Japan?"

The answer was "No, never." But when the word "skunk" was mentioned, "what is it?" A skunk," replied the Professor. A skunk said Asahi. "Is that animal the buffalo, or like the buffalo?"

This question was more natural than we think at first. Why should not a big small betoken a big beast? So the lion reasoned according to Esop when hearing a cock crow in the dark he trembled, believing he was about to encounter an antagonist more than commensurate with himself.

But in spite of Asahi and all his compatriots declared they should ever hold the Burlington route among their lowly and fragrant memories.

No man must speak loud to any of the horses, or in the stable where they are. Horses of good blood are nervous, and loud, excited conversation is felt by every horse in the stable who hears it. Excited words addressed to one horse are felt by every other horse who hears them, and keep them all nervous and uneasy.

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WHAT earnest-headed, ugly little urchin is that, madam? Do you know his name? "Why, yes; he is my youngest son." "You don't say so, indeed! What a dear little sweet-dive hand-harb he is!"

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R. R. TIME TABLES.

MIDLAND PACIFIC RAILWAY. SCHEDULE NO. 5. Takes effect Sunday, March 17th, 1872. Trains daily except Sunday.

WESTWARD. No. 3. No. 1. STATIONS. No. 3. No. 1. No. 3. No. 1.

EASTWARD. No. 2. No. 4. STATIONS. No. 2. No. 4. No. 2. No. 4.

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