



HORTICULTURE

Preparing for the Strawberry Bed.
Geo. W. Williams in a communication to the Missouri State Board of Agriculture, says:

Strawberries require a higher, dryer location than the blackberry. They will not live on wet land. While there can be no iron clad rules to cultivate strawberries by, there are a few general rules that will hold good in nearly all soils. The preparation of the field should begin in the fall before setting in the spring. Never set strawberry plants in the fall. If the land is not well drained, it can be aided very much by a system of subsoling, breaking with an ordinary two horse turning plow, following each furrow with another team hitched to a slim, strong "bull tongue," running the "bull tongue" in the bottom of the furrow, which breaks up the soil very deep but does not throw it out on top. This manner of breaking has a two-fold object, one is it forms an under drainage that carries off the surplus water, the other, it forms a reservoir that holds moisture and furnishes the plants with "drinking water" during a drought. When ground is plowed, cover with barnyard manure, putting on from ten to twenty tons per acre. Next spring at the proper time to set plants, which is when the earliest blooms have opened, disc or cultivate the ground over until it is thoroughly pulverized. Mark off the rows north and south four feet apart—a light wheelbarrow makes a good marker. In setting, follow the track made by the wheel, as a guide is all that is needed. Set plants from eighteen to twenty-four inches apart, setting with a narrow spade. In selecting plants, they should be taken from beds that have never borne fruit, that is from beds set the spring before. By following this plan year after year, and the proper selection of plants, the strawberry can be improved.

No Overproduction of Fruit.

Some fear an over-production of fruit; I do not. I have heard the warning cry from timorous souls for forty years that we were sure to have an over-production of fruit! What is the actual condition? What are the facts as to an over-supply of fruit? What about the increased population of the country as compared with the increasing supply of fruit? In the time that it has taken the population of the United States to double, her fruit supply has increased five-fold. In the face of this, we would naturally expect fruit to decline in price. Has it? No indeed; but on the other hand it has gone up and up in price, till it is now beyond the reach of the common people and only the rich may indulge in the use of ordinary fruit. At the present time one bushel of good apples is worth two bushels of wheat or corn! We know of apple orchards this past season that sold for two hundred dollars per acre, peach orchards that sold for as much and in some places more, and strawberry beds that sold for from one to three hundred dollars per acre! In the face of all this, with our millions of acres of superior fruit lands that can be bought at from five to fifty dollars per acre, with a splendid home market and an ever and rapidly increasing foreign demand for all our fruit, shall we continue to let the masses go hungry for fruit and the tables of the rich be supplied with inferior fruits from distant states at extortionary prices?—N. F. Murray.

Soaps as Insecticides.

A report of the United States Department of Agriculture says: Any good soap is effective in destroying soft-bodied insects, such as plant-lice and young or soft-bodied larvae. As winter washes in very strong solution, they furnish one of the safest and most effective means against scale insects. The soaps made of fish oil and sold under the name of whale oil soaps are often especially valuable, but variable in composition and merits. A soap made with caustic potash rather than with caustic soda, as is commonly the case, and not containing more than 30 per cent of water, should be demanded, the potash soap yielding a liquid in dilution more readily sprayed and more effective against insects. The soda soap washes are apt to be gelatinous when cold, and difficult or impossible to spray except when kept at a very high temperature. For plant-lice and delicate larvae, such as the pear slug, a strength obtained by dissolving half a pound of soap in a gallon of water is sufficient. Soft soap will answer as well as hard, but at least double quantity should be taken.

On the Ranges.

Reports from the ranges indicate a large supply of cattle and very good agricultural conditions. The rains have been copious during a large part of this grazing season and consequently the production of grass on the plains has been good. The lack of drinking facilities has not been felt on the plains this year as in some former years; for the reason that many of the springs have been kept supplied by the rains. This has made a condition that is favorable for grazing. The only drawback is that last winter was unusually severe on range stock and they came into spring in poor condition, thus necessitating a longer feeding period in summer for their preparation for market. The abundance of good grass encourages the rangers to believe that the cattle will put on weight rapidly from now on.

Those who have watched the live stock interests of the country know that they are advancing slowly a little each year. It is, however, possible to make a more marked advance.



LIVE STOCK

In Feeding Cattle.

In the fall feeding of cattle the stockman finds many problems different from those of the early part of the season. His feed has changed from a succulent one to one of grain, mostly corn. In the feeding of this corn, racks will prove to be economical, as they are savers of feed. There is no question that a very large amount of corn is lost by feeding on the ground. Some will reply that the hogs get what is not eaten by the steers, but it is not the object of feeding steers to throw corn on the ground for the swine. The latter are expected to get their corn only from the droppings of the cattle. If a good deal goes from the storehouse to the ground the swine will eat that instead of hunting for the other and with the grass they obtain in the pasture will be satisfied to exist without working. Moreover, when corn, even in the ear and the husk, is thrown on the ground, much of it is trampled in the mud, and is never found at all.

One of the best ways to feed the corn is to give it in the form of corn fodder, beginning while the leaves are still green and feeding each day only what the cattle will eat up. If too much is fed it will be "nosed over," and thereafter refused by the cattle. As every feeder knows, cattle are particular on this point. A careless feeder or a stupid feeder will lose a great deal of money for the owner of the cattle being fed. A bright man is needed for this work as well as for most other kinds of farm work.

Feeding yards should be kept in good condition so that the animals will find it more enjoyable to lie down than to stand up. They should be encouraged to rest, for in doing this they are saving feed for the owner and making the best use of that they have taken. Protection against the hardest winds should be given. The open lot may prove to be good in regions south of a line drawn through central Illinois, but north of that the fall is too cold to give the best results. It is, however, not advisable to shut up the animals in close barns. For feeding cattle the barns should be open to the free air. The steer does not require the same conditions that the dairy cow does, for the reason that the steer has fat under his hide and through his flesh, while the dairy cow has the fat largely on her intestines, where it can be of no use as a protection against the cold.

Cattle Everyone Wants.

It will pay the farmer best to raise the kind of cattle that everyone wants, but most farmers that are producing cattle at all are raising the ones that nobody wants. These latter find a market, but it is at a reduced price. In fact the price has to be made low as an inducement to the buyers to make bids on the kind of animals they are not particularly looking for. That most growers of cattle are satisfied with the kind of animals they are sending to market is doubtless true. They have made money on cattle and so are not particular to improve their stock. They have never figured out how much more could have been made on the kind of cattle that everyone wants. The buyers of cattle at the stock yards are constantly on the lookout for the best cattle. As soon as a fine bunch appears there are numerous buyers ready to make bids. It is this competition among buyers that sends up the price and this yields returns that are very satisfactory to the breeder. On the other hand when a poor bunch comes to the yards most of the buyers look at it and pass by. Here and there a man stops and, after a cursory examination, remarks that it is not what he is looking for but he will pay so-and-so for it, and the cattle have to be sold at the "so-and-so" price. How can a man expect to get a good price for animals that do not appeal to the buyer? But in spite of this fact, which is always very apparent, the producers of beef keep on for the most part raising the cattle that few people want and sending them to market, at the same cost that would be necessary for the production of the best quality of beefs. The transportation of cheap animals is as costly as the transportation of good animals. The poor animals take as much care and as much stall room as the other animals. The remedy is to stop saving money on bulls and purchase only those that will improve the herd.

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FARM MISCELLANY

Corn in British India.

The cultivation of Indian corn, or maize, has within the past century become a factor of great importance in the rural economy of British India. The Indian Agriculturist (Calcutta) of June 1, 1904, says: "This grain, if we consider the whole of India collectively, is now of equal economic importance with wheat. In the hilly tracts of the country especially, and among the bulk of the aboriginal tribes, it is chiefly depended upon as a means of subsistence. Yet the botanist, Roxburgh, writing about a hundred years ago, described it as 'cultivated in various parts of India in gardens, and only as a delicacy, but not anywhere on the continent of India, as far as I can learn, as an extensive crop.' Its use in upper India may have been more general at that time than this writer was aware, for its most common vernacular name, makkai, derived from Mecca, is supposed to associate its introduction with the Mogul dynasty. But there is no name for maize in Sanskrit, and the grain has no recognized place in the religious or social ceremonies of the Hindus. Few of those who cultivate it now have any idea that it is an innovation, and the fact that its local name is often that of some much older crop encourages the pious belief that it has been the staple food of the district for untold generations."

Habit and Hens.

Anyone that has had the feeding of fowls for a number of years will notice what creatures of habit they are. They become used to one kind of feed and want to stick to that feed, in preference to other feeds of the same general character. That is if the chicks are fed oats they will always prefer oats to other grain, and the same is true if they are brought up on corn. This does not hold good in the case of meat or green food being offered after they have been on a single grain diet for months. Their feeling of a lack in this respect overcomes their inclination to stick to one thing. This can be illustrated by keeping chicks for a number of weeks after they are born on some particular ration like cracked corn. They will then take that in preference to other things of the same general nature. The writer has had illustration of this again and again. Thus some men have declared that hens will not eat oats. The writer has always fed oats in large quantities to his fowls from the time they were old enough to eat grain. He once kept his fowls from oats for a few days, giving them corn instead. Then he took the corn away and gave the fowls a mixed ration of corn and oats. The birds made a lunge for the oats, pushing the corn aside with their bills and picking only the oats till they were satisfied.

Thickness of Cream at Churning Time.

A well-known buttermaker says that the richer the cream the lower must be the temperature at which it must be churned to get the best results. It is not desirable to have the butterfat comprise more than 30 per cent of the cream. Even cream of this richness should be churned at about 50 degrees, which is a very low point to secure this time of year. If this rich cream is churned at a higher point the body of the butter will not be what it should be. The housewife is not likely, however, to have cream of this kind unless the milk is from cows whose cream forms a very compact mass. Cows differ greatly in this respect. The cream layer on the milk of some animals is so compact and cohesive that when it is removed from the milk it hangs together much like a piece of leather. Other milk yields a layer of cream that breaks to pieces readily. This milk will not churn quickly. In fact we have known the first described cream to form butter after being churned for two minutes in a common dash churn. It is considered best, however, to dilute such cream, as it is not believed that butter churned in two minutes has as good qualities as that requiring twenty minutes or thereabout to churn.

Horses of the World.

Not all the nations of the world are enough civilized to have statistics of their horses. In Arabia, Tartary, China and other parts of Asia are multitudes of horses, which have never been numbered. The horse statistics of the leading countries of the world are as follows:

Algeria	204,761
Argentina	4,446,859
Austria	1,711,077
Belgium	241,653
Bulgaria	343,940
Denmark	448,264
France	2,903,063
Germany	4,184,009
Great Britain	2,011,657
Holland	284,000
Hungary	2,398,457
Italy	741,739
Japan	1,587,891
Norway	150,898
Roumania	864,746
European Russia	19,681,169
Poland	1,383,908
Caucasia	1,020,550
Servia	180,871
Spain	397,172
Switzerland	124,856
Sweden	628,266
United States	19,285,461
Uruguay	561,408

There are few farms that cannot be improved by drainage.

THE REASON MADE PLAIN.

Awkward Man's Dancing Accounted for by Accident.

Capt. Spencer-Clay, who is to marry Miss Pauline Astor, is well known in the American colony of London. "Clay," said a young American, "is an amusing chap. Going about from place to place, he picks up a myriad of odd and taking episodes. These he stores away, and during lulls in conversations he relates them with vivacity.

"He described the other day a dance at his place in Surrey. He said two girls were there who were jealous of one another. The first girl danced with a tall and awkward fellow, and afterward she sat down beside her rival. Clay, who stood near by, then heard her say:
"I have been dancing with Mr. Smite."
"Yes?" said the other girl.
"Mr. Smite," she went on, with a complacent laugh, "pays beautiful compliments. He said that, till he met me, his life had been a desert."
"Ah," said the second girl, "that is why he dances like a camel, eh?"

Impatient Mosquito.

It was in a well-regulated family of mosquitoes that had recently moved hither from New Jersey.
The wife said to the husband:
"For pity's sake, Spiker, go and see what that child is crying about!"
Dutifully the husband arose from his bed and went into the children's room.
When he returned his wife said:
"Well, what was the matter with little Prober?"
"Nothin' much," responded her good-natured husband, "except that he said he hadn't had a good feed of crude oil since he left New Jersey and he was just starving for it. I gave him a dose and he went to sleep contented. By the way, we must lay in a new supply to-morrow. We're all gettin' a little run down for the lack of it. We'd better move to Forest park."—Baltimore American.

Miss Roosevelt at Bar Harbor.

It will tend to the social making of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Damrosch when Miss Alice Roosevelt visits them in Bar Harbor. It is expected the colony there will outdo itself in entertaining her. The Damroschs always have moved in the best element of Bar Harbor society and Mrs. Damrosch, as a daughter of James G. Blaine, had a good social position before her marriage. But it is one thing to entertain quietly and another to have a president's daughter as a guest. Miss Roosevelt's itinerary is arranged carefully and no matter how pressing may be her hosts, she must order her maid to pack up her boxes and move along at a fixed time.

A Foe to Comfort.

When the tall woman with the bun dles sat down she sighed contentedly.
"This is nice," she said.
"Yes, it's hard work standing," said her short friend. "You got pretty tired, didn't you?"
"No, I didn't get so tired," said the tall woman. "That is not the reason I'm glad. I am rejoicing on account of all those men sitting down. They look so much more comfortable since I got off their toes and their conscience."

But the tall woman was mistaken. From then on to the end of the trip there wasn't a comfortable man in the car.—New York Press.

The Patient That Got Away.

"I have cause to feel encouraged," remarked a young medical man who recently hung out his shingle, "for I nearly had a patient the other day. I got back to my office after a morning ramble and almost fainted when the maid announced that a man was in the office waiting to see me. The gentleman inquired if I was the doctor. On assuring him he was speaking to that important personage he politely remarked that he was glad to meet me, and went on to say:
"I just dropped in to ask you if you could possibly tell me where the doctor who used to live next door has moved to?"

German Scholar Honored.

Kuno Fischer, the renowned philosopher and teacher of Heidelberg, among the most distinguished of living professors and the last representative of a great school of German scholars, reached his eightieth birthday recently. In spite of the old man's protests thousands of students who have sat at his feet gave vent to their reverential and affectionate feelings by messages and otherwise. Even the grave old senate of Heidelberg rose to the occasion and established an honorary Kuno Fischer prize. The great old man is rapidly declining.

Lawyer's Labors Divided.

De Lancy Nicoll's most recent explanation of his retirement from the post of district attorney of New York county in 1894 came under the eye of James W. Osborne, who was his opponent in the criminal libel proceedings involving Amory and the Metropolitan Street Railway company. "I had tired of sending men to jail, and wished to try another branch of the profession." "Guess that's about right," observed Osborne. "The first half of Nicoll's career was spent in getting scoundrels into prison. The last half is spent in keeping them out."

Desire.

If I might touch her hair—
The joy would be so great;
A touch upon her lips would be
A royal gift from fate.

And I might have the gift—
It makes my pulses start—
If only with my love
I first might touch her heart.
—Grace Joy White, in Harper's Bazar.

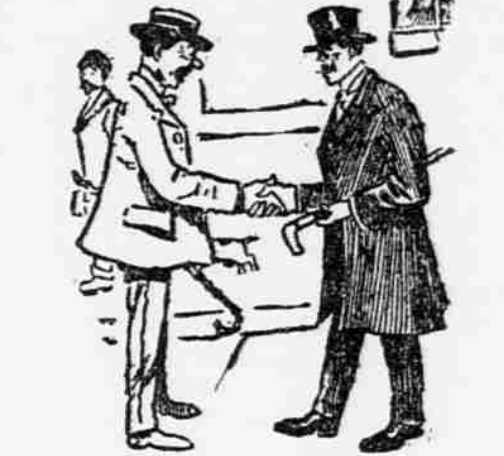


Her Ex-Son.
Mrs. Wabash—There goes Mrs. Marimore with her stepson. What a homely boy he is!
Mrs. De Vorse—Yes, and yet I remember several years ago I thought him quite pretty.
Mrs. Wabash—Ah! but you were his mother at that time, were you not?
Mrs. De Vorse—Why, yes, I believe I was.—Philadelphia Press.

A Logical Inference.

Little Bess—Who is that strange lady, mamma?
Mamma—That is Miss Goodwin, the philanthropist, my dear.
Little Bess—What is a philanthropist?
Mamma—it is a word derived from the Greek signifying "a lover of men."
Little Bess—Then I guess all women are philanthropists, aren't they, mamma?
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The Old, Old Story.



Ted—Well, ta-ta, old chappie, I must get away; I have an engagement.
Gus—A pressing one?
Ted—Well, it generally ends in that, don'tcherknow, when the gas is turned down.—Half-Holiday.

Two Ways of Seeing It.

First Lump of Delight—My husband is so jealous!
Second Lump of Delight—How absurd!
First Lump of Delight—Why, isn't yours?
Second Lump of Delight—Of course not.
First Lump of Delight—How humiliating!—New Yorker.

Blaming It on the Bread.

"Sick at your stomach, eh?" said the boy's mother. "What made you that way?"
"I was," said the boy, reproachfully, "it was that bread you made me eat at lunch time."
"Indeed? Where have you been all afternoon?"
"Over in old man Peters' apple orchard."

Looking Over the Family.

Mr. Watkyns—Do you think that that young Mr. Sprygyns is especially interested in Mabel?
Mrs. Watkyns—Well, it looks that way. The last time he called he persisted in having her bring out the old photograph album and show him the pictures of all the near and distant relatives.

Could Not Believe It.



Jack—I thought that the author of this book was famous for his keen understanding of women?
Jane—Well, do you doubt it?
Jack—Of course. He says that the heroine suffered in silence.

Retribution at Hand.

"Mandy," said Farmer Cornstossel "do you know that one of them boarders is the man that got me into a crooked game in the train last winter?"
"Are you goin' to have him arrested?"
"No, jes' you see that he doesn't pay his board in counterfeit money an' we'll get even all right."

About the Size of It.

"Ever notice it?" queried the man who begins his remarks in the middle.
"Ever notice what," asked the easy mark.
"That for every dollar a man wins on fast horses he loses two on slow ones?" continued the other.

Just Like the Giver.

"Whew! Who gave you this cigar, old man?"
"Why, Dauber, the artist."
"I thought so. It's just like him."
"In what way?"
"Why, it's cheap, full of flaws and draws poorly."

Taking a Straw Vote.

Canvasser—Who is Mr. Henpeck going to support?
Mrs. Henpeck—Me.

Prohibits Sorcery.

In the Rhodesian Government Gazette is published a proclamation prohibiting the practice of sorcery throughout the territory, including the throwing of bones, the use of charms, any manner of conjuration and trial by ordeal.

Cattle Bring High Prices.

At a sale of shorthorn cattle in the capital of the Argentine Republic sensational prices were recently paid for Scottish shorthorns; £2,610 was given for Newton Stone, a Morayshire-bred bull.

Insist on Getting It.

Some grocers say they don't keep Defiance Starch because they have a stock in hand of 12 oz. brands, which they know cannot be sold to a customer who has once used the 16 oz. pkg. Defiance Starch for same money.

Tibetan Earth Dwellers.

Earth dwellers are common in Tibet. Strangely clad men and women, who since childhood have rarely looked upon the sun, are found living in roomy clay apartments in a mode as stringent as any monastic order. They are supplied with food and other necessities by their children, who alone leave the caverns; and much of their time is occupied in extending their curious residences.

First Bomb Outrage.

The first "bomb outrage" was committed on Christmas eve, 1800, by Saint-Nojant, who wished to remove Napoleon, then first consul, in the interest of the Royalists. Napoleon escaped, but among his escort and the bystanders there were about 130 casualties.

Value of Laughter.

If we realized the power of good cheer and the habit of laughter to retard the progress of age and to stay the hand which writes the wrinkles of care and anxiety on the face, we should have discovered the famed fountain of youth—the elixir of life.

Man and Wife.

Buxton, N. Dak., Sept. 12 (Special).—Mr. B. L. Skriveth of this place has been added to the steadily growing following that Dodd's Kidney Pills have in this part of the country. Mr. Skriveth gives two reasons for his faith in the Great American Kidney Cure. The first is that they cured his wife and the second is that they cured himself.

"I must say," says Mr. Skriveth, "that Dodd's Kidney Pills are the best remedy for Kidney Trouble I ever knew. My wife had Kidney Disease for years and she tried all kinds of medicine from doctors but it did not help her any. An advertisement led her to try Dodd's Kidney Pills. The first box helped her so much that she took eight boxes more and now she is cured.
"I also took three boxes myself and they made me feel better and stronger in every way."
Dodd's Kidney Pills have never yet failed to cure any kidney disease from Backache to Rheumatism, Diabetes or Bright's Disease.

Real Leaders of Men.

Men of genuine excellence in every station of life—men of industry, of integrity, of high principle, of sterling honesty of purpose—command the spontaneous homage of mankind. It is natural to believe in such men, to have confidence in them and to imitate them. All that is good in the world is upheld by them, and without their presence in it the world would not be worth living in.—Samuel Smiles.

Catch Words or Phrases.

If you desire to get rich quickly, invent catch-words or phrases that will grip the attention of the public. Big sums are paid for the right article. The inventor of a word now used for a brand of crackers is said to have received \$5,000 for it. Manufacturers of various things from soap to nuts have paid nearly as high. A railroad company gave \$100 to a girl who suggested a name for one of its fast trains.

Tribute to a Dutch Smoker.

To pay due reverence to the memory of an ardent smoker named Ondersmans, who had died in Rotterdam, all his old cronies came to the funeral smoking long clay pipes. Ondersmans left a sum of money to pay the expenses of a yearly smoking concert to keep his memory green.

Some men go through life pretty much as a dog with a chain to his collar and a woman yanking at the business end.

WHAT'S THE USE

To Keep a "Coffee Complexion."

A lady says: "Postum has helped my complexion so much that my friends say I am growing young again. My complexion used to be coffee colored, muddied and yellow but it is now clear and rosy as when I was a girl. I was induced to try Postum by a friend who had suffered just as I had suffered from terrible indigestion, palpitation of the heart and sinking spells.
"After I had used Postum a week I was so much better that I was afraid it would not last. But now two years have passed and I am a well woman. I owe it all to leaving off coffee and drinking Postum in its place.
"I had drunk coffee all my life. I suspected that it was the cause of my trouble, but it was not until I actually quit coffee and started to try Postum that I became certain; then all my troubles ceased and I am now well and strong again." Name furnished by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.
There's a reason.
Look in each package for a copy of the famous little book, "The Road to Wellville."