



### FARM AND GARDEN

and sow the seed in shallow drills from twelve to sixteen inches apart. Sow the seed scattering, for it has been found that thick seeding does not pay. This done, cover it only about half an inch deep, and in conclusion firm the ground by treading down each row with the feet. It is well to get the seed in early in November, for then the plants will have a chance to come up and be thinned out before real winter weather arrives. When the ground is slightly frozen a moderate mulch of litter of leaves may be placed over the plants. In this way an early crop of spinach may be gathered—so early, in fact, that it will be entirely out of the way by the time the ground is ready for other crops.—Farm and Field.

**Ventilating the Cellar.**  
A great mistake, says Medical Classics, is sometimes made in ventilating cellars and milk houses. The object of ventilation is to keep the cellars cool and dry, but this object often fails of being accomplished by a common mistake, and instead the cellar is made both warm and damp. A cool place should never be ventilated, unless the air admitted is cooler than the air within, or is at least as cool as that or a very little warmer. The warmer the air the more moisture it holds in suspension. Necessarily the cooler the air the more this moisture is condensed and precipitated. When a cool cellar is aired on a warm day the entering air being in motion appears cool, but as it fills the cellar the cooler air with which it becomes mixed chills it, the moisture is condensed, and dew is deposited on the cold walls, and may often be seen running down them in streams. Then the cellar is damp and soon becomes moldy. To avoid this the windows should only be opened at night, and late—the last thing before retiring. There is no need to fear that the night air is unhealthful; it is as pure as the air of midday, and is really drier. The windows should be closed before sunrise in the morning, and kept closed and shaded through the day. If the air of the cellar is damp it may be thoroughly dried by placing in it a peck of fresh lime in an open box.

**Manure for Orchards.**  
So much mischief can be done by applying manures of the wrong kind in orchards, says the Agriculturist, that I doubt if we do not lose more by manuring than by neglecting to manure. Fruit trees do not require at any time barnyard manures, or their equivalent. What they require is a supply of inorganic food. You can do no better for apple trees than to supply them with coal ashes in which there is a liberal admixture of wood ashes. The coal ashes loosen the soil; the wood ashes furnish the fertilizer. If you can get a supply of old mortar you have just the thing you need. A mixture of lime and salt, when so mixed as to leave no free salt, is excellent for all fruit trees. All such manures should be applied as a top-dressing. A peach or plum orchard needs nothing better than swamp muck or earth from the woods, with a slight addition of phosphate and potash.

**Covering a Wagon Seat.**  
Procure flannel, either black, blue or green, two dozen buttons for the top cushion, and the same number for the bottom, black oilcloth for lining the "fall," a spool of stout linen thread, and a long darning needle at least five inches in length. Using the worn "fall" as a pattern, cut the oilcloth of the same size and the flannel three-fourths inch wider all around. Bind the edges of the flannel over the oilcloth, basting firmly with firm silk thread, stitch the two together, the line of stitching being very near the edge of the bound-over flannel.

**The Devil's Paint Brush.**  
This "worst" weed is rapidly entering Northern Pennsylvania from New York State. Its similarity to ladies' paint brush is great so far as character goes—far greater than the similarity in name. Salt is the remedy recommended. Prof. Buckout says that a dressing of ten to fifteen pounds a square rod will kill nearly all of it, and this is especially practicable when the first patches appear. Another application may be needed to kill out some occasional plants that survived the first application. This amount of salt is at the rate, say, of a ton an acre, and while it will kill very young grass plants and some leaves, it will not materially injure a sod. Agricultural salt will do the work, and is much less expensive than ordinary salt.—National Stockman.

**Poultry Notes.**  
Drinking water often spreads disease. Fowls with colds or roup should not be allowed to drink with the others.

**Cave of Asparagus.**  
In the fall the tops of asparagus should be cut and the bed rid of grass and weeds, says Western Plowman. The asparagus seed should not be allowed to reseed the bed, as they will simply cause superfluous plants, making the product small and weak. A liberal covering of coarse manure should be applied, serving the double purpose of enriching the soil and keeping out the frost. If sufficient loose trash is spread on—it must be loose to prevent heating and smothering—to prevent the frost from reaching the crowns, the result will be good, as the plant is one of the earliest to start in the spring, and prepares for this during the winter, if the soil conditions are favorable. In the early spring time the coarse manure should be raked off and the fine manure worked in the ground. An application of coarse salt is very beneficial.

**Growing Spinach.**  
To grow spinach successfully the work of preparing the ground should begin in autumn after the fall crop of vegetables has been harvested. Work into the soil thoroughly an ample supply of well-rotted manure, then level the ground off smoothly as possible

## GOOD ROADS

**Repairing Dirt Roads.**  
For a long time to come dirt roads will predominate throughout the country, no matter how rapidly the movement progresses in favor of hard, permanent highways. It is of the first importance that they should be correctly made and properly cared for, in order to get good results from them. In discussing their construction and maintenance, E. G. Harrison, government road expert, says:

"Except when the frost is coming out of the ground in the spring, it will be quite possible to build ordinary dirt roads so that they will be very satisfactory and so that they can be kept in good condition throughout the year except during a few weeks of spring thaw. The best way, after the road is properly built, is to hire somebody in the vicinity, some laboring man, for instance, to keep in repair permanently a particular stretch of road. He can start out then just after every rain when he wouldn't be working in his fields, and with a single shovel he can make all necessary repairs to the road.

"If water is collecting in any spot, he can open up a little ditch and let the water drain off properly, although if the road was properly built, this would rarely occur. He can toss stones to one side that the rain has washed down. And, especially, he can look to see that no holes are forming. A little hollow starts in a road. The next wagon scoops out a trifle more dirt, another wagon another trifle. Soon there's a big hole. It rains. Water collects in the hole and forms mud, and then the mud clings to the wagon wheels and the hole grows faster than ever. But if, in the very beginning, the road repairer had filled in the small hollow with his shovel and some dirt, and stamped the earth down a bit, then the wagon would have packed the dirt like a roller and the hole would never have got a chance to grow.

"It's best to have roads kept in repair by contract, for then it's to the interest of the contractor that no important repairs should ever become necessary. He will exercise constant care, and with a very little labor every week he'll have no difficulty in keeping the roads in perfect condition."

**Crime in Bad-Roads District.**  
The extent and number of bloody feuds in the mountainous districts of some States is attributed to the inaccessibility of the people, their ignorance, enforced idleness and consequent crime. In many districts the roads are so bad that a four-horse team can pull but a ton during the summer and fall, while at other seasons what little transportation there is takes place by pack mules. Schools could not be attended if they existed, the people are out of touch with their kind, and have nothing better to do than to make and drink "moonshine" whisky and nurse their feuds. Permanent roads would revolutionize these communities, make industry possible and profitable, cause the establishment of schools and repress criminal tendencies.

**CASH VALUE OF IMMIGRANTS.**  
Germans Bring the Most Money Into the Country and Italians Least

If one were to gauge the worth of newly arrived immigrants by the amount of money they bring with them, those who come from Germany would take first rank. England would hold second place and Italy the last. The average German who comes to this country brings \$52.96 with him. When the average Englishman comes he brings \$1.40 less, or \$51.56. The next wealthiest average immigrant is the Frenchman, who comes with \$47.23 in his pocket. The Belgian is fourth in the list with \$45.00.

The Italian, who is the poorest of all, brings \$9.98, but it is safe to say that he returns to his native land the wealthiest of all who go back if his propensity for saving is a thing to judge by.

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## TOPICS FOR FARMERS.

**A DEPARTMENT PREPARED FOR OUR RURAL FRIENDS.**

**How Hog Cholera Is Distributed Along Streams—Prevention of Potato Diseases—Some Farms Too Big for the Farmer—Protecting Trees.**

Careful experiments conducted in the laboratory of the Agricultural Department at Washington, D. C., have demonstrated that hog cholera bacilli will remain alive and active in water four months. This explains the cause of the rapid distribution of the disease along streams, creeks, branches and rivulets. A great many farmers allow their pigs to obtain their supply of water from streams flowing through their farms. It is a very convenient mode of watering stock, but a rather dangerous one. If the hogs upstream are attacked by cholera or swine plague the germs are sure to be brought down and the hogs infected. It is a difficult matter to keep informed as to the condition of all the hogs along a stream many miles in length, therefore it is the safest plan by far to fence the swine away from the rivers and creeks.

It is safe to say that no herd of swine that obtains its supply of water from a river or flowing stream is safe from infection, and those who persist in allowing their hogs access to such waters must expect to suffer losses from hog cholera. What makes matters worse, it is not only the person who thus allows his hogs to become infected who suffers loss, but the disease is communicated to the herds of his neighbors, and is spread over a whole township until the losses run up into the thousands. When an outbreak of hog cholera occurs in a neighborhood the best plan is to yard your hogs at once, and to keep all other animals out of that yard.—Epitomist.

**Prevention of Potato Diseases.**  
Here are presented some statements made by Mr. L. H. Reid, of Wisconsin, at a meeting of the Missouri Horticultural Society. Mr. Reid raises potatoes on a large scale and makes his statements in regard to potato culture from actual knowledge:

"No one should ever plant a field of potatoes without first soaking the seed in the corrosive sublimate solution (2 ounces of corrosive sublimate to 16 ounces of water). Even if the seed appears perfectly free from every trace of scab, soak it, as the germs of scab may be clinging to the skin of the tuber. The expense is small, and the remedy sure, if the treated seed is planted upon land free from the germs of the scab."

Bordeaux mixture is just as sure a remedy against blight as is corrosive sublimate against scab. But one thing must be remembered, and that is, it is not a cure but a preventive. In using it you must commence early and apply it as often as necessary to keep every leaf coated with an armor plate of copper. Then the germs of the dreaded blight will not be able to gain entrance. Don't apply it once or twice and think that will do, as you will be very likely to lose entirely the labor expended in the first application. If you take up the battle you must keep it up until the season is over, or your labor may be in vain. In a wet season you may have to go over your fields as often as once a week, or even oftener. The only safe way is to keep that armor plate solid, or the little foe may enter. In an ordinary season four or five applications give very satisfactory results.

**Farms Too Big for the Farmer.**  
Much of the success of the farmer depends in the relationship between the farmer and his farm. Some men can manage an eighty-acre farm successfully, but break down when it comes to 160 acres. Others can manage a quarter, but cannot manage a half section. The farmer must always be bigger than his farm; the business man, if he would always be successful, must always be capable of handling a larger business than he actually does. In short, there must always be a reserve power available for emergencies. The weaker must always be a servant of the stronger. When the farmer is larger than the farm, it runs the farm, instead of the farmer running it. In that case the farmer goes under. Some men capable of handling the farm must get hold of it before it becomes a profitable investment.—Wallace's Farmer.

**Protecting Trees with Straw.**  
People put on warm clothing to keep the skin from being exposed to cold air, well knowing that the internal heat from burning of the food taken into the stomach will furnish warmth which will keep the extremities from freezing. But there is no internal combustion inside a tree, and it may be wondered why there is any advantage in wrapping trees with straw, as is often done to tender trees to protect them from winter's cold. But there is advantage, for though the tree has no blood it has what is its equivalent, sap, which circulates in all live trees even in the coldest weather. This sap is drawn from the deep soil by the tree roots, and as it is much warmer than the winter air, if the later can be kept from touching the outside of the tree the sap inside will keep the tree alive when it might otherwise be killed.—Exchange.

**Sulphur as a Lice Killer.**  
The burning of sulphur in the poultry house is not a very reliable process for getting rid of lice. The sulphur smoke will kill the lice in the building, if produced in sufficient volume and continued long enough, but a greater or less proportion of the lice will decline to stay in the building to be killed if they can find any way of escape, and

In a direction from east to west. At noon to-morrow the sun will be a short distance to the east of the point in the heavens at which it is seen at noon to-day, so that when the earth has made one complete turn it will still have to turn four minutes longer before the sun can again be seen exactly south.

### LANDSEER A JUVENILE GENIUS.

Exhibited Pictures at the Royal Academy When Only 14.

As perhaps most American boys know, Landseer, the English artist, painted deer and dogs as no one had ever done before, and as, perhaps, no one has done since. He was said to have humanized their expression. His genius developed very early, so that, when only 14 years of age, his picture of a magnificent dog, chained to its kennel, and carried away by a flood, attracted considerable notice at an exhibition of the Royal Academy. A gentleman who was very much struck with its merit hurried off to the painter to make an offer for it; he rang at the door of a small garden. When the gate opened he saw a boy playing with a hoop with some other little fellows. He inquired of the children: "Does Mr. Landseer live here?"

"Yes," replied one of the boys. "When may I speak to him?" "Now, if you like; I am Mr. Landseer."

"But," explained the visitor, "it is your father I want to see. I have called about a picture of his at the academy."

"Well," said the child, "it is I who am exhibiting the picture," and he proceeded to make the sale.

His technical powers were extraordinary. He was once present at a party, when the conversation turned upon feats of manual dexterity, and a lady exclaimed: "Well, there is one thing nobody has ever done yet, and that is to draw two things at once."

"Oh, yes; I think I could do that," returned Landseer. And with a pencil in each hand he drew a profile of a stag's head with all its antlers complete, and the perfect profile of a horse's head. Both drawings were full of energy and spirit.

**The Timid Led by the Blind.**  
"I saw a most remarkable occurrence on the street the other day," said a professional man, "and it made a deep impression on me. A lady came down Euclid avenue and stopped at the corner of Bond street. She evidently wanted to cross to the other side of the avenue. She was not a young woman and she did not look strong. There was quite a jam of vehicles in the street, motor cars, wagons and bicycles, and she seemed a little timid about risking the passage. As she hesitated a man came up Bond street and paused beside her. He was a well-dressed man and carried a heavy cane, which I noticed he used constantly as if he might be a little lame.

"Sir," said the lady to him, "can I ask you to offer me the protection of your arm in crossing the street?" "She said this in a very sweet and ladylike way and the man with the cane touched his hat.

"Certainly, madam," he replied, and offered his arm. As they crossed the street I followed close behind them. The man with the cane was very careful. He halted several times, but they reached the other side without mishap. As the lady let go of his arm she said: "Thank you, sir, for your courtesy and protection."

"You are quite welcome, madam," he replied. "But I fear you overvalue my protection—because I am blind."

"And touching his hat again he turned and picked his way up the crowded sidewalk."

**When Love Means Vanity.**  
The women of French-Canada households work themselves out sooner than the men, who, as a rule, marry again very quickly.

A girl, too, considers it a disgrace if she hasn't a beau to see her home from church. A little habitation servant of fifteen was found in tears by her mistress one Sunday morning. "What is the matter with you, Celestine?" asked her mistress. "It's the first Sunday since I was twelve I haven't had a young man to walk with," sobbed Celestine. "Think, madam, of the disgrace!"

"But how about Jean Seguin?" "Oh, last night Jean came in to say he had met a girl with a cow and a feather bed, and he liked her better than me, and wanted his presents back. Don't be sorry for me, madam. I'll try to get another beau before this afternoon, and be married first just to spite him." Five minutes later she sallied forth in cherry-colored ribbons in search of a fresh beau, and brought him back in triumph to dinner.—Buffalo Commercial.

**Caesar on the Rhine.**  
The new and grand bridge across the Rhine, which the city of Bonn has just completed, is embellished by a most imposing entrance tower. Upon this the art-loving university town has erected a statue of Julius Caesar in honor of his having been the alleged first builder of a Rhine bridge near Bonn, although historical research has plainly proved that the great Roman general crossed the river further up, near Neuwied. The attention of the good people of Bonn was again called to this fact a week or two ago by a professor of its university, but they are determined to keep their false hero guarding the entrance to their magnificent Rheinbruecke.—London Times.

One idea of a chump is a man who asks another man where he bought his umbrella.

A bad player and a bad piano make a bad combination.

The jokes of the writer who does his level best often fall flat.

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**Raising Peanuts.**  
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**Neglect of Weeds.**  
It is hard to explain why our farmers are so reckless concerning the encroachments of weeds? The wild carrot might easily have been headed off if we had the right sentiment among our land-owners. The only difficulty now in eradicating it is the fact that there is so much of it. It is easily pulled before going to seed. The hawkweed is spreading through the fields of New York State and elsewhere. The best way of dealing with this pest, as well as with moneywort, where it gets lodged on the lawns, is to sow liberally with salt. Buy a barrel or more of damaged salt, which you can generally find at any country store and obtain for less than half price. While the salt kills the weeds it fertilizes the grass. Apply three or four times in order to thoroughly reach every plant and root.—Farm and Fireside.

**Raising Tobacco.**  
The farmers in the highlands of Dickson County, Tenn., have never raised cotton, but plant tobacco as the money crop, and it usually yields from \$50 to \$75 per acre net, which is doing very well when we take into consideration that all the grain and meats used upon the farmer's table are produced at home, besides the fruits and vegetables. More tobacco is being planted in this section every year, and the farmers becoming more and more independent thereby. It is usually prepared for market in wet weather when it is too disagreeable to work out of doors, and in this respect the tobacco raiser has the advantage because he is kept busy all the time. Idleness will ruin the farmer as well as his machines, and tobacco culture is a good cure for the disease.—Epitomist.

**True Indian Corn.**  
Three or four years ago an Indian mound in Arkansas was being excavated, when an earthen jar was found hermetically sealed that contained a small quantity of grains of Indian corn. Some of the grains were the next year planted in Missouri and several bushels raised. On the top of the mound from which the jar was dug out a large tree 4 feet in diameter was growing, and it is thought the corn lay buried about 3,000 years. The ears are not large, but grow two or three on a single stock. The one thing peculiar about this corn is its color, or, rather, colors. On the same cob are grains of different colors, and in the row you can find an ear that is white, another blood red, one a salmon color, and another perfectly black.—Harrodsburg (Ky.) Sayings.

**Tanning Rabbit Skins.**  
Split skins same as those of larger animals, stretch and tack on a smooth board hair side down. Take equal parts common salt and alum pulverized and mixed, rub this over and let stand a day, then rub with a brick to loosen flesh that adheres to hide; repeat as above till skin is smooth, then let dry. When dry remove from board and trim the edges. Moisten a rag with linsed oil and rub it over lightly; it will keep the skin soft. In tacking be careful to lay the hair down smooth. The older the rabbit the stronger the hide.

**Bird Hunting.**  
Bird hunting would be a less popular amusement if men could occasionally witness a pitiable spectacle like that described by an Italian naturalist. He came across a snipe that was thin as a nail and unable to move. Both its feet had been shot off, and in attempting to stop the flow of blood by putting on some fine feathers, as snipes do when wounded, some of the blood and down dried on its bill and closed so that it could not open it to feed; and when found it had been slowly starving for several days.—New York Post.

**Pure Cider Vinegar.**  
One of the reforms that should be enforced, not only in the interest of public health, but of the fruit-growing farmer as well, is to enforce the laws which most States have to punish adulterations of vinegar. The malle acid of the apple juice when soured is hardly injurious at all, unless the stomach is already in bad condition. But the use of the various chemical acids to make into vinegar destroys the tone of the stomach as well as the enamel which protects teeth from decaying.