

MAY.

The blackbirds follow slow behind the plow. Or whistle from the maple's swaying bough: The robin builds her nest among the leaves. And countless swallows twitter 'neath the eaves.

Brown Bess.

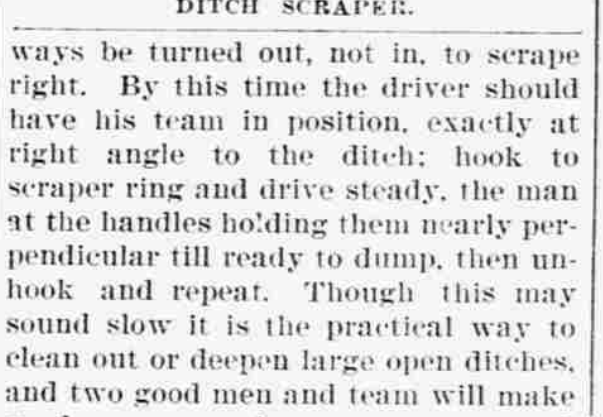
66 I WISH I could sell Brown Bess," said Susie Ross, rinsing the dishes she had just washed. "Oh, Susie!" cried her brother. "What in the world do you want to sell Brown Bess for?" her mother asked, looking up from the dough she was kneading.

lighted her. Every detail of the way was familiar to her, yet when she came to Silver Ledge Falls and saw the white spray leaping over granite rocks and dancing among tiny islands, she stopped old Dick and sat enjoying the scene as if she had never beheld it before. "Good morning," a voice said behind her. "Oh, Charlie!" she exclaimed, with a start, "I didn't hear you coming."

ly, "If I only get fifty, I'll divide even. It will be thirty dollars coming in every month if I only get the school." "I don't see's there's any chance of that," said her mother, with a woe-be-gone face. Day after day Susy waited, but no word came about Brown Bess. Tom declared that he believed there was no prospect of selling her, but one day Charlie Grant drove up to the house, his face fairly beaming.

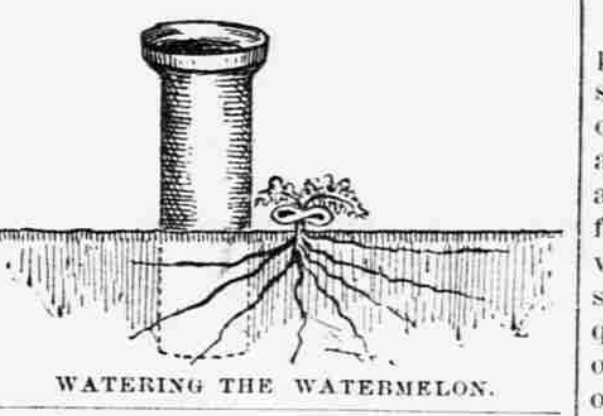


This scraper, to clean out a large open ditch, so far as I know, is not patented and may be constructed at home with the help of a blacksmith. It is 4 to 5 feet wide and about 2 1/2 feet high, made of good tough inch boards and shod with a strip of steel; an old crosscut saw is just the thing. Two handles should be bolted on the back—old plow handles will do, or something similar. The draft rods should be made something like a badly shaped S, and pass through slots cut in the scraper and are attached on back side of scraper, just over saw plate, with heavy eyebolts or other device that will allow of swivel motion. They should be made of heavy iron and be about 20 inches long, the front ends connected with 4 feet of chain with a ring in center as shown in cut. To operate scraper when the ditch can not be crossed with team requires a driver. He should have about 8 feet of chain attached to team, the big hook hanging loose. The man at the scraper drags it to bottom of ditch and sets it quickly in the mud, or behind a furrow or two that must al-



DITCH SCRAPER.

ways be turned out, not in, to scrape right. By this time the driver should have his team in position, exactly at right angle to the ditch; hook to scraper ring and drive steady, the man at the handles holding them nearly perpendicular till ready to dump, then unhook and repeat. Though this may sound slow it is the practical way to clean out or deepen large open ditches, and two good men and team will make good progress when once accustomed to the work.—Silas H. French, in Ohio Farmer.



WATERING THE WATERMELON.

continuous supply of moisture thus afforded will have a most noticeable effect by rendering every particle of plant food within reach capable of assimilation. Ordinary drain tile may be used in place of sewer pipe. Posts in Sandy Soil. There is great difference in the durability of different kinds of posts and also in the soil where they are placed. Contrary to the general impression, a sandy or gravelly soil, which is usually dry, is much more liable to rot out posts than one which is always wet. In the dry soil there are frequent changes from wet to dry, by which more air is brought in contact with the wood and this introduces the germs of decay. In an always wet soil the water is probably stagnant and contains little air. Oxygen is necessary to all decomposition. An old farmer who had owned both sandy farms and those that had a clay subsoil once told us that posts on the sand had to be removed more than twice on clay subsoil. Harrowing Pastures. Nothing is more beneficial to an old pasture than to harrow it thoroughly every spring. A few roots may be broken off, but the stirring which the surface soil receives opens it to air and to receive the rains which will set them to growing more vigorously than before. Another good effect of the harrowing is to break up the excrement dropped by the stock the previous year, and scatter it so that it can fertilize a greater number of plants. Flax Fibre for Grain Bags. The farmers of Oregon have found a new industry, which at the same time solves the problem what the convicts in the State penitentiary can be set to work at. They are to weave the cloth

from flax which Oregon farmers will grow, and make it into grain bags in which to market their surplus wheat. These linen grain bags will be stronger and more durable than those of cotton, and as the coarsest fibre such as can be got from flax for seed can be used, it is believed they will not be expensive. It is a good beginning for the flax-growing and linen-making industries. The manufacture of the finest linen fabrics will doubtless follow in due time. It is a great gain anyway for Oregon farmers to diversify their industries. They have been growing wheat too exclusively.—Exchange.

Effective Farm Help. Every spring at the beginning of farm work an army of hoboes flock to the country claiming to be in search of work. They remind one of the old English story of two tramps who said they had walked all over England trying to get work, but hoping all the time they would be refused. Such help is worse than useless, yet it is the kind that the farmer is apt to get who puts off hiring help until he gets behindhand with work, and then seeks the cheapest farm help, that is, the lowest price per month that he can find. Generally these hoboes give themselves away by asking in consideration of their low wages that they be set only at the easiest jobs. They most always want to manage the horses, as that they think involves little labor. Such men are dear even if they would work for nothing. The only help that will do the farmer any good is help that understands the business of farming, and is not afraid to tackle any kind of work, however hard and disagreeable it may be. Such help is always gobbled up early in the season, or kept on yearly contracts, so as to be sure of them when hiring-out time comes.

Making Sweet Soap Grease. In many farmhouses all the scraps of fat, cooked and uncooked, are thrown together in a large tub or kettle, where, exposed to air, it quickly becomes exceedingly offensive to the senses. One wonders how it can be that such stinking grease can be changed into good, cleansing soap. But it is, and the explanation is that the thorough boiling which the grease with the lye receives destroys all the offensive germs. But it only does this after much of the value of the grease has been destroyed. Get a cake of potash and make a strong ley of it. Throw this over the grease and fat, entirely covering it. The grease will be partly turned into soap by this, and will keep sweet without any waste.

Weigh the Milk. The owner of this device, which was originally illustrated in the Farm Journal, is going to know hereafter just what each cow is doing. He will weigh each cow's milk as it is drawn, and then put it down on the paper in black and white—the milk record for each week. The prosperous farmer makes use of business methods. He knows what each animal is doing, and whether she gains or loses on particular kinds of feed. Guesswork is poor business on the farm, as elsewhere. And in this connection it may be mentioned that the pleasing, cleanly and economical practice of delivering milk in glass bottles is steadily increasing.

Value of White Clover. One of the bad effects of frequently plowing and thoroughly cultivating soil is that this runs out the white clover, which is one of the most valuable pasture plants we have, besides also furnishing the very best pasture for bees. The plant is a low-running vine, rooting as it spreads through the soil, yet, being a true clover, it rots quickly when plowed under. No one of the grasses, except blue grass and orchard grass, will stand drought so well, and as most of its roots run near the surface, a moderate rain revives it, and sets it to blossoming again. In wet seasons bees make white clover honey even up to September, if there are enough dry days for them to be out. White clover is a prolific seeder, but owing to its creeping habit of growth the seed is hard to gather and always sells high. It will pay to sow some on land designed for pasture, and gather the seed when it occupies the whole land. If sown with red clover or alsike no white clover will be seen. But it is there under the growth of the larger clover, waiting to make a big growth when they die out.—American Cultivator.

The Season for Strawberries. Small fruit dealers are more enterprising in seeking markets than average farmers, probably because they have to be more intelligent and enterprising to succeed in their business. This is especially true of strawberry growers, who begin very early in spring to forward their fruit northward. By the time we get Virginia and New Jersey strawberries, the price comes within everybody's reach, though higher than most of our home growers can get for their product. Instead of a season of three to four weeks we can now have strawberries four to five months in the year, or even more.—American Cultivator.

In Brittany a certain mineral known as "staurolite" is imagined to have mysterious power for good. Amulets of this material are sure preventives against shipwreck, drowning and hydrophobia. Queen Elizabeth made her breakfasts and suppers off of salt beef and ale.

QUEER OLD ENGLISH CHURCH. Built by Richard III, and Used Only Twice a Year. About a mile from the village of Towton, near York, there is an exceedingly interesting and curious old church, known as the Lead Hall chapel. It is remarkable for several reasons, chiefly because of its age; its very small size—probably it would not seat twenty people altogether; its mean fittings; and, lastly, because of its curious choir. To understand about this choir it is necessary to review a little of the history of this famous old place of worship. There are two theories as to its origin. It is most commonly believed that this chapel is the one known to have been built by Richard II, in memory of those who fell at Towton in 1461. It is claimed that the yearly services now taking place in it are a revival of those that were formerly ordered for the purpose of praying for the souls of the good Christians who fell in the great battle. Another supposition declares this chapel to be attached to the old manorhouse of the Tyas family at Lead Hall, and that the memorial chapel of Richard III, has long since disappeared. It is obvious, however, that if this were the case a service every six months would not greatly edify the people in their spiritual life. Having thus explained the chapel's history, we may go to the choir. There are two services yearly held at the Lead Hall church—one in April and another in October. There is, therefore, no regular body of choristers, but on such occasions a choir is made up from the chief singers in the neighboring towns, who are under the control, for this purpose, of a well-known musical professor in Yorkshire. The majority of the men and boys who make up the choir are drawn from York and Leeds. They receive a stated fee for their day's services, and are provided with refreshments. Those who maintain the theory of the chapel's origin in the time of Richard III, declare that that king made a grant of money for the holding of memorial services, and that it is for this reason that two services a year are regularly held.—Sunday Reader.

ANECDOTE OF JUSTICE FIELD. Two Meetings of the Late Jurist with Richard J. Oglesby of Illinois. "Among the war Democrats," said the Doctor, "no one exercised more influence than the late Judge Field, and that reminds me of a story. Mr. Field went to California as a 49-er, and there are still living some men who remembered him as the alcalde or mayor of the little town of Marysville in California. He was then a good lawyer and he was elected to the headship of the municipal government because an alcalde was judge, mayor, and supervisor all in one. "One day Richard J. Oglesby, who had gone from Illinois to California, drove over from his mining camp with his ox team to Marysville for supplies. Scarcely had he arrived in the town when he was summoned to appear as a jurymen in a case about to be called. He protested and said that he wasn't a resident of the town, he had no interest in the affairs of the county, and he was only there for a short time, and he did not want to serve. No excuse was taken, and he was sworn in as one of the jury. It then occurred to him that all of the panel might get off if they would insist upon having their fees before they took their places in court. "Oglesby was a lawyer, and he presented their point with considerable adroitness. The alcalde, surprised by the new point raised, heard the argument, saw the point of the speaker, ordered the clerk to pay the fees, and held all the jury for the full length of the trial. Years after this, when Oglesby was United States Senator from Illinois and Field was an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, the two were introduced in Washington. Oglesby at once said that he had had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Field in California. The Judge said that he did not remember any meeting in the West. Then Oglesby told the story of the jury fees, and Mr. Field remembered distinctly the incident. After more than twenty years the alcalde of a California village and the grub-stake miner renewed their acquaintance, one as Senator and the other as Justice of the Supreme Court.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Appropriate Yell. The imitative qualities inherent in man—a legacy from his simian ancestors, some philosophers assert—received a humorous illustration in Philadelphia the other day. There is a "college" in that city for the education of youths who intend pursuing the "tonorial profession," and at a meeting of the students, held to discuss various matters pertaining to their interests, it was unanimously resolved to have a "college yell." After much consideration the following was evolved: "Rah! 'Rah! 'Rah! We're scampers, by gum! Hair cut, shampoo, shave, bay rum! Next! Next! Next!" This yell has at least the merits of perspicuity and sanity, which cannot be said of the "college yell" in general.

Worth the Money. Mrs. Homespun (indignantly)—Here's an article says that in Formosa a wife costs five dollars. Mr. Homespun (thoughtfully)—Wal, a good wife is wuth it.—Spare Moments.

Sufficient Liquid. Three pints of liquid a day is sufficient for the average adult. Keep at work all the time, and people will have greater difficulty in discovering that you are a fool.