

FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN



[Mr. Wragg invites contributions of any new ideas that readers of this department may wish to present, and would be pleased to answer correspondents seeking information on subjects discussed. Address M. J. Wragg, Waukegan or Des Moines, Iowa.]

One of our subscribers asks us to give the best method for packing trees and vines in a cellar, to insure the least injury or loss during winter.

This is a subject that has attracted the attention of horticulturists and nurserymen for many years, and it is along this line that much stock has been damaged from winter packing. For several years we packed our clematis using pure black earth or sand. Either of these have been satisfactory but there is a great drawback when you have any great quantity to pack owing to the great weight of either earth or sand, and having to be removed by shovel makes it quite expensive in packing large cellars. We have tried with good success wood fiber in the packing of trees, etc. The fiber above referred to is the sawdust from a shingle mill, and should be used fresh and not allowed to become heated by laying out in large piles during the summer. We use one-third Spagnum moss, and two-thirds shingle shavings, or wood fiber. This way of packing has this advantage, that there is no possible chance for it heating, and it retains moisture well. In unpacking our clematis we have found it 50 per cent easier to handle. To the above we wish to add that ventilation is one of the main requisites in packing trees away in cellars. Never pack trees in a cellar that is under a house used for a dwelling as it is next to impossible to keep the conditions right, as they will become too dry during our winters, and as a rule they do not have the proper ventilation. The best cellar for wintering stock is one built out of doors, using as a roof either a brick arch, or a lumber roof. In either event, ventilators should be built every eight feet, so as to insure perfect ventilation.

Where but few trees are to be packed away we believe the best way is to heel them in an open ground, as nature furnishes all the conditions and with a little mulch over the tops during our winter months is all that is necessary.

Two men will work horses side by side on the same farm. The horses may be about equal on the start. The feed is taken from the same mow and also from the same bins and the labor is the same in quality. The team driven by one man will keep in good condition, all the while; that driven by the other will be in low condition before the end of the season. What makes the difference? In the first place the care given to the horses in the stable, and in the second place the quiet way in which the labor is done. One man will handle his horses without irritating them, the other man has them in fear all the while.

QUACK GRASS SEED.
The oat crop ripens latest of all the small grains, and where the land is filled with roots of quack grass some of those will get even start with the grain, and will ripen their seed at the same time. Quack seed is very small, so that in winnowing the oats of it will fall through the sieve and be separated from the oats. But some of the quack seed is likely not to be threshed, and will then go into the stalk. It is in this way that quack grass often spreads from a small place over the entire farm. When it gets into the manure pile, there is no stopping its progress. Late oats and late hay grown where quack grass is now to be should be kept by themselves, and the oat straw be sold to some factory where it will not go into anybody's manure pile.

FARM HOUSE CELLARS.
Most cellars are not only too warm, but too damp. The latter evil is easily remedied by putting a few lumps of unslaked lime in various parts of the cellar, where it will absorb the surplus moisture. It will also help to absorb the odors of decaying vegetables, which are held in the moisture of the air, which is sweetened when they are removed. To keep roots in cellars, some dirt should be thrown over and sifted among them. This will also protect them from being frozen. If the cold weather causes the thermometer to sink below the temperature for freezing.

SOIL FOR BULBS.
All bulbs like a rich, well-drained mellow soil. They will not do well in heavy soils, and a great deal of moisture about their roots is fatal to them. Therefore in selecting a place for them choose one naturally well drained, if possible. If you are not sure of good, natural drainage, set about providing a means of escape for surplus water by excavating the soil to the depth of at least a foot—eighteen inches would be better—and filling in with from four to six inches of broken pottery, brick, old cans—anything, in fact, which will not decay readily and allow the soil above it to settle back into its former hardness, and thus become as retentive of moisture as it was before anything was done with it.

UTILIZING COW PEAS.
A poultryman reports that an acre of cow peas was left uncut near his poultry yard, and during the winter his hens attended to the harvesting of the peas. He was surprised to receive almost double the usual amount of eggs during that season, and asked if the peas had anything to do with it. Cow peas are rich in protein, therefore should assist in forming eggs. The exercise in securing the peas is another factor which recommends this practice to the poultryman in search of winter eggs. It would be a good plan to give cow peas a trial.

If ventilators are put on the barn, see that they are not so placed that they will cause a draft of air over the stock.

In kocking a mule, don't feel the rear unless you have a wheelbarrow escapement handy.

Keep the machinery oiled; better work can be obtained from oiled machinery.

NOTES ON THE STRAWBERRY.

Land for strawberries must be properly prepared. We saw a case this year where strawberries were set out on virgin soil—soil that had never had the plow on it, and where the ground was so compact that even the natural verdure on it was thin and weak. This land, although manured, did not do well, and should not be expected to do well, in helping to make a good strawberry bed. Though the growing season has been a good one, most of the plants in question are now small and stunted in appearance. Had the year been a dry one they must of necessity withered and died. Land like the above lacks both the mechanical structure and the plant food to permit the strawberry plant to do its best.

Nurserymen are often blamed for sending out strawberries that do not come up to the expectations of the buyers. In many cases the poor results are directly traceable to the manner in which the plants were handled by the purchasers or to the very unprepared condition of the ground in which they were placed. The land for strawberries must be land that has been growing some thrifty crop and that has received proper manuring and attention. Virgin soils are not suitable for the development of a crop that must feed as grossly as does the strawberry. Land well-worked and well-manured and of proper mechanical structure will give good results when the plants are properly handled and taken care of. It is our experience that the nurseryman is seldom to blame, but the buyer often. This is especially the case when the buyers are people setting out a strawberry bed for the first time.

The custom of dipping sheep once or twice a year has now become a part of their regular work incidental to sheep husbandry in well managed flocks. It is only quite recently, however, that dipping has been resorted to as a means of removing ticks, lice and other kinds of vermin from cattle, also certain skin diseases. Some owners of large herds are constructing large vats at considerable expense and are experimenting in order to ascertain as to whether cattle will not be benefited as much from dipping annually as sheep.

AMONG THE APPLES.
Red, and russet, and yellow,
Lying here in a heap—
Pippins, round and mellow,
Greens for winter keep;
Seek no further, whose blushing
The soul of the saint would try.
Till his face showed the crimson flushing
The cheek of a Northern Spy.

CLEAN AND PURE FEED.
Poultry that are fed grain receive pure feed, but it is not by any means advisable to make grain the sole ration of the poultry. Soft feeds will have to be fed to some extent and troughs must be used for this kind of feed. Where the residue is left to sour the fowls will show the effects in time. Fermented feeds do not appear to be readily digested by poultry. Carelessness in the matter of cleaning the troughs may cost the poultry owner dear. It requires some effort to have the feeding and watering vessels always clean, but it is the only thing that should be done. Spoiled food is a disease breeder and it should not be permitted within reach of the fowls.

CARING FOR THE BULL.
The bull should have a ring in his nose about the time he is a year old, says Charles L. Hill, and earlier if he is headstrong, and as soon as it is healed he should be taught to lead by it, and always be handled by a stall. A daily grooming will greatly improve his looks and doubtless do him good. Do not keep your bull in a foul dark pen, but if possible give him a light airy box stall, in sight of the herd of cows, and be sure and clean his stall, and water him daily. Do not abuse him, but still be firm with him. Never fool or play with a young bull, but always make him mind, and then as he grows older never give him a chance to know that he can do anything else. Do not trust him if he is gentle, though you may do as you please about it if he acts cross. It is always the gentle bull that kills the man. Careless handling of bulls has cost our state some of the best dairymen and breeders.

A noted sheep raiser says that it is a mistaken idea to think that one should depend principally on corn for fattening sheep; one should use plenty of bright, sweet, roughness such as clover hay, sheep oats, mixed hay, millet and there is nothing superior to corn fodder or hay cut from new meadow with plenty of weeds in it, for sheep are fond of weeds and never fail to eat all such feed.

Any time now, as soon as the ground is frozen the strawberry bed may be covered for the winter. For this purpose nothing is better than marsh hay; the next best material is corn stalks, then clean straw of any sort. The sole object of covering the bed is to prevent the thawing of the ground and not the freezing.

Fortune knocks once at every man's door, but many of them are either finding fault or chewing the rag so hard that they fail to hear the knock.

A sure sign of financial indigestion is living to-day on to-morrow's income.

BUILDING THE ICE HOUSE.

The following suggestions on building the ice house and storing ice will be found helpful. They are from the pen of T. B. Terry, of Minnesota. The ice question is one that the farmer should pay more attention to, and at least experiment with it—it will not be a costly experiment, but on the contrary will be found to be almost indispensable, once tried. The season is now at hand when the work can be commenced. The lakes, creeks and ponds, already frozen over will soon produce ice of sufficient thickness to store and in great abundance. Get your ice house ready for it, and next July and August, and during several other months, you will thank your lucky stars you were so provident. Mr. Terry's helpful suggestions on the subject follow:

"Ice will keep, be the house above ground or below, if the construction and management are right. There are three points that everyone absolutely must pay attention to. They are ventilation above the ice, drainage below it, and a body of sawdust or similar non-conductor, about one foot thick, on top, bottom and sides. The ventilation can be obtained by good sized openings in each gable of a small building, or on all four sides of a larger one. The opening may be covered with wire cloth, to keep out the birds. Blinds may be used, with large slats turned down so as to keep out the most of the rain, while letting the air in freely.

"The drainage under the ice may be obtained in various ways. The well, or pit, is all right, provided it is fixed so water can be readily got to the well, and it is pumped out, or soaks away before it becomes full. A foot deep of small stones, covered with two inches of gravel, will also make a fair drain and a proper foundation. The water may be taken away from below this by tile drains that run outside to some point that is low enough. Bear in mind that the water must not stand under the ice; you must fix it so it can get away out of the foundation as fast as it comes, that is all.

"Now with these precautions, it doesn't matter particularly what the building is, whether of brick, stone, slabs, or lumber, cheap or costly. Just pack your ice on the sawdust leaving a space a foot wide all around, and fill up solidly with sawdust as you go up. There is no need of sawdust in the roof, or in walls of building. A single inch board is as good as more for sides, or at least is good enough. The sawdust, with its air spaces, keeps the ice."

A day spent now in cleaning, oiling and putting under cover all farm machinery not needed until another season will pay big interest in time and money saved. We always followed the practice of cleaning and oiling plows, cultivator teeth, corn planter knives, in fact, everything that will rust. Linseed oil is good for this purpose, and can be easily applied to the wearing parts of machinery with a rag. We went further and applied oil to wood-work where needed, using a brush for the purpose. More than that, we housed every tool on the farm when not in use. Weather often does more damage to expensive machinery than actual wear. Of course the machine agent likes to see machinery standing in fields and fence corners covered with rust and decay, for he has more to sell, but the farmer who takes care of his implements is his poorest customer.

GRIZZLY BEAR A MONUMENT
A stone carving of a grizzly bear in the attitude of defending her cubs has been carved by Andrew Chester Thompson of Seattle, and will be immediately shipped to Alaska to be placed over the grave of R. Shadesty, one of the most prominent Indians in the north when alive, says the Seattle Times. He died Dec. 17, 1903, leaving \$600 to defray the cost of the monument.

The big piece of stone carving, weighing 3,000 pounds, will be shipped from Seattle to Wrangel, and from that point will be carried about 150 miles overland to the home of the Bear family Indians. The Indians themselves will transport the grizzly on its overland journey according to their own primitive methods of transportation.

Mr. Thompson has been carving im-

ages for Alaska Indians for the last twenty-five years, but this is the largest monument he has shipped to Alaska carved from a single piece of marble.

The stone carving provided for Shadesty is the first to be ordered in a defensive attitude. For the Black Bear tribe Mr. Thompson has carved several statues of bears, but they have all been on all fours. The Wolf tribe and others taking their name from wild animals have ordered carvings, but the work done for Shadesty is novel in its conception.

It is customary among the Alaska Indians to leave money to pay for their own tombstone, and Shadesty saved for a lifetime to give himself a suitable piece for his grave. He was wealthy enough, though, to leave his kinsmen considerable money.

REAL TROUBLE WITH RUSSIA

"Some days before our departure from Moscow for Nizhni Novgorod we had booked tickets for places in a sleeping car," writes a traveler. "There were two of us, and by booking berths in time we hoped not only to avoid trouble in obtaining places, but to insure a night's rest in the 'wagon-lit.' We were en route for the famous and always unspeakably interesting 'Bolshaya Yarmaka,' that great fair at Nizhni which is absolutely without rival in the whole world of periodical commercial exhibitions. I had been cherishing some degree of apprehension as to what might happen at the 'Nijegorodsky Voksal,' or station of the line which runs by Vladimir to Nizhni Novgorod. My worst fears were realized. Many people were going to Nizhni-Novgorod. And I wondered how many might have booked for the first-class carriages, and whether many would make a rush to capture the berths in the 'wagon-lit.' So I somewhat heavily tipped the most intelligent looking official I could find, showed him our two numbered tickets and engaged him to see that we were able to appropriate them.

"Suddenly the doors of the waiting-saloon were flung open and there was

WOES OF BLOCKADE RUNNER

Here is a tale of adventurous blockade running during the Russo-Japanese war: In December of last year the steamer Carlisle, Capt. Jensen, 1,035 tons, belonging to Leith, Scotland, left Vladivostok with arms and ammunition worth over \$4,500,000 on board, destined for Port Arthur. Before that port was reached, however, it had surrendered to the Japanese. Capt. Jensen altered his course while he had yet time and stood out to the open sea. All went well until the steamer was 300 miles to the eastward of Yokohama when the Carlisle lost all her propeller blades. The captain rigged up sails on the steamer's stumpy masts, and navigated his vessel 2,000 miles southward, ultimately dropping anchor in San Miguel Bay, Caramines, in the Philippines, on Feb. 13.

Japanese in the vicinity had heard of the vessel's arrival and disguised as fishermen set out in four sampans to attack and if possible sink the ship.

LITTLE MAN'S LONG SILENCE

A little man of 12 years, already a qualified practical in silence and obedience, whose father owns a large rubber plantation in Central America, and who not long ago secured options on two plantations adjoining his own, went to New Orleans to raise the money to purchase them.

In a short time his wife secured an option on a third plantation, which he very much desired, but which he had not been able to get before leaving for New Orleans. With a wife's caution, she was afraid to trust the option to the mails, so she sewed it carefully in the lining of her small son's jacket, and sent him north by the next steamer.

"Mind, you are not to talk to anybody!" was her parting injunction.

The boy obeyed her so literally that half the passengers thought him dumb. Several persons took a kindly interest in him, and tried to make the voyage pleasanter for him; but he refused to make friends, and except for

ANECDOTES OF FAMOUS MEN

There are some interesting anecdotes of the leading British literary lights of the middle nineteenth century in a volume recently published in London, "Mrs. Brookfield and Her Circle." On one occasion there was great embarrassment at one of their gatherings. The majority of the party were anxious to hear Tennyson read "Maud," the first copy of which had just reached him; but it was known that Carlyle could not endure to hear any one reading aloud. What was to be done? A plot was laid to have the reading during the time of Carlyle's morning walk; but for this he always demanded an appreciative companion. Mrs. Brookfield says: "Chairs had been arranged in a quiet sitting room; the visitors were taking their places. Alfred was ready. So was Carlyle—in the hall—waiting for a companion in his walk, and evidently determined not to stir without one. It was quite an anxious moment. At length Mr. Goldwin Smith generously

THE FATE OF SENNACHERIB

The Assyrian came down like a wolf on the fold,
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold;
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea,
When the blue wave rolls night on deep Galilee.

Like the leaves of the forest when summer is green,
That host with their banners at sunset were seen;
Like the leaves of the forest when autumn hath blown,
That host on the morrow lay withered and brown.

For the Angel of Death spread his wings on the blast,
And breathed in the face of the foe as he passed;
And the eyes of the sleepers waxed deadly and chill,
And their hearts but once heaved, and forever grew still!

a wild stampede. A big squad of most respectable Russian passengers made a rush for the sleeping cars. "All the berths were not booked they would seek to occupy them, although only possessed of ordinary first-class tickets, and they might be allowed to do so by the expedient of a small bribe quietly administered to the guard. I have never seen a wilder scrimmage than the fight that ensued. The passengers with numbered tickets had booked up all the seats for the night's journey. But our man had to shout, push, strike right and left, to hurl out two invaders who had stormed our places and to back hard against others who elbowed their way along the carriage corridors before the way was clear and we could reach the places to which we had a right.

"What can be the matter with Russia? What can be the real cause of her troubles? These are questions which thousands of people are asking. The little incident I have described suggests the accurate answer. Absolute carelessness as to administration is typical of the management of all public affairs. 'Nichevo' (no matter) is the word most constantly heard on native lips. Nobody cares."

WOES OF BLOCKADE RUNNER

With the assistance of the customs officers on board the crew managed to beat off the repeated attack of the Japanese, but not before many shots had been exchanged. An American warship ultimately arrived on the scene and towed the Carlisle round to Manila, where she was interned by the American authorities. At Manila the Carlisle was provided with a new propeller, but watched by the American warships within the port and by a Japanese cruiser which kept continually appearing in the offing. The Carlisle one night disappeared from Manila at the time of the passing of Singapore by Admiral Rojestvensky's fleet.

But again fortune frowned; the Carlisle could not find the Russian fleet, and after many days' fruitless search the captain had again to turn south. At the end of May the vessel steamed innocently into Saigon, where she is at the present moment with her valuable but dangerous cargo on board.

ANECDOTES OF FAMOUS MEN

step forward and joined the philosopher and then Mr. Brookfield joined them both, while the rest of us remained to listen with enthralled attention to the new words of the poet."

Of Macaulay's conversational method Mrs. Brookfield gives the following curious example: "I remember sitting next him at dinner, at one period of which I asked him if he admired Jane Austen's works. He made no reply until a lull in the conversation occurred when he announced, 'Mrs. Brookfield has asked me if I admire Jane Austen's novels, to which I reply—' and then entered into a lengthy dissertation, to which all listened but into which no one else dared intrude."

A Tennyson incident: "Mr. Moxon said that Alfred one day while traveling said to him, 'Moxon, you have made me very unhappy by something you said to me at Lucerne,' the unfortunate speech having been: 'Why Tennyson, you will be as bald as Speeding before long.'"

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