

Plan for Wild Flowers.

This is the season of the year when dwellers in cities and towns may be seen returning after holiday excursions, loaded down with flowers, leaves and branches of trees, torn off from their stems by people who wish to carry away with them the beautiful things that nature so lavishly spreads abroad in the spring.

Preserving "Scenery."

Not long ago a man of national importance characterized an attempt to beautify the city of Washington as "spending money for scenery." The phrase may be taken as a sneer, as it was intended to be taken, or with approval, as expressing a truth and a wise policy.

An abundance of work and a famine of workmen represent a condition that is constantly growing more common in America. The greatest trouble is the dearth of farm hands, as shown by the report of the state's free public employment office in this city.

One divorce to every six marriages is Maine's record, and the ministers of that state have lately promulgated a set of rules for the signature of clergymen and have appointed an interdenominational committee to push the crusade against divorce.

Any American who owns a hook wagon and wants to hook around a bit in Canada is free to do so on certain conditions. He must duly report his machine to the customs officers, state its selling price, give a bond for double the regular duty and make a deposit of \$25.

NATIONAL CONGRESS ENDS TASKS BY PASSING IMPORTANT MEASURES

RATE, MEAT INSPECTION AND PURE FOOD BILLS HURRIED THROUGH BEFORE ADJOURNMENT—RESUME OF WORK ACCOMPLISHED.

Washington.—Congress completed Friday the execution of its legislative programme and adjourned Saturday. On the eve of adjournment the difference between the house and senate on the important bills pending was adjusted.

The railroad rate act. The agricultural appropriation bill, including the meat inspection amendment. The pure food act.

In the end the house has had its way mostly regarding the railroad rate bill. Oil pipe lines remain in the measure as common carriers, but the commodity provision of the bill has been fixed so as to make the prohibition of an alliance between transportation and production apply only to "railroad companies."

Senator Tillman contented himself with a severe "roast" of the Standard Oil influence, and then as the one in charge of the measure voted to accept the conference report.

House Victory in Meat Bill. The meat legislation was a complete victory for the house. The senate agreed to the conference report and the house formally ratified it.

In announcing the failure of the senate conferees to win on these disputed points, Senator Proctor said the bill accomplished a great deal, inasmuch as it provides for thorough inspection of all meat products and the sanitary regulation of packing plants, and lost the conferees felt they could not lose everything by holding out for distinctive features which the public would not accept.

In the house, acceptance of the report was a pure formality. One important new feature of the measure as it passed both houses is an added appropriation of \$900,000 to the \$3,000,000 for inspection provided in the house amendment.

Pure Food Bill Criticized. The conference report on the pure food bill was adopted by both houses without any change. In the opinion of Dr. Wiley and other officials of the department, it is a good measure as far as it goes, but Mr. Mann, of Chicago, who had charge of the conference report, says that it was not as good as had been hoped for.

Greater Aid for Militia. Among the acts affecting the military establishment were those increasing the efficiency of the ordnance department of the army and increasing the appropriation for the militia from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 annually.

Boon in Alcohol Bill. A most important piece of legislation is the removal of the tax upon denatured alcohol. It was strongly opposed by manufacturers of kerosene and gasoline. In the debate it was alleged that, with the tax removed, alcohol could be manufactured and sold cheaper than either kerosene or gasoline and that it would enter into universal use for illuminating, motive power and otherwise.

already great burden the consideration of cases raising the issue as to whether certain articles of food or drugs contain harmful ingredients, are misbranded or because of their labels violate the pure food law.

With the adjournment of congress it is possible to make a survey of the entire field of important legislation enacted during the session. The three most prominent measures already have been referred to, and their general provisions are well known to the country. Next in point of interest perhaps comes the Panama canal act.

A joint resolution was passed by congress requiring the purchase of supplies and materials for the canal in the American market unless the president shall determine that the bids of domestic producers are extortionate or unreasonable.

Congress appropriated \$42,500,000 for continuing work on the canal, \$15,500,000 being deficiency appropriations and \$27,000,000 being for work during the fiscal year 1907. In addition these appropriations steps are being taken to issue the canal bonds authorized by the Spooner act, which may be issued "from time to time" to the extent of \$130,000,000.

Statehood Issue Settled. The admission of Oklahoma and Indian territory as a single state was accomplished by the act approved June 16. The act also admits Arizona and New Mexico into the union as a single state, provided that a majority in each of the territories shall vote for joint statehood "and not otherwise."

After several years of effort on the part of the state department congress at this session passed an act reorganizing the consular service. The consular general and consuls are grouped by classes, and provision is made for an inspecting service consisting of five consuls general at large, with a salary of \$5,000 each. No officer in the consular service receiving more than \$1,000 is permitted to engage in business or practice law.

Outside the line of actual legislation, the present session will be historic through having authorized the investigation that has led to the railroad-coal exposures. Another resolution adopted by the senate will cause an investigation of the alleged grain trust and railroad-elevator combine in the west, that promises to be equally if not more sensational.

What Congress Has Spent. The following is given as practically an accurate statement of the disbursements authorized from the public treasury:

Table listing disbursements: Sundry civil, \$8,000,000; District of Columbia, \$2,500,000; Army, \$71,000,000; Navy, \$142,000,000; Postoffice, \$10,000,000; Military academy, \$2,000,000; Penitentiary, \$10,000,000; Permanent, \$7,000,000; Agricultural, \$2,000,000; Indian, \$9,000,000; Militia, \$1,000,000; Deficiency, \$15,000,000; General deficiency, \$11,500,000; Legislative, \$2,000,000; Miscellaneous, \$10,000,000; Total, \$373,000,000.

LEADING FEATURES OF THE THREE BIG BILLS

RAILROAD RATES.—GENERAL PROVISIONS.—The railroad rate bill requires all interstate carriers to make through routes and reasonable joint rates. It makes oil pipe line companies, express companies, and sleeping car companies, and all carriers subject to the law. Railroads are forbidden from engaging in any other business than transportation. All rates are excluded from this prohibition.

vided by the house, the bill as finally passed authorizes the preparation of laws for such a vessel to be submitted to congress. The naval act of this year makes small provision otherwise for the increase of the navy.

A bill was passed defining hazing and providing for the punishment of midshipmen guilty of the offense. General legislation during this session included an act prohibiting interstate commerce in spurious or falsely stamped articles made of gold or silver alloy, an act providing for the marking of the graves of Confederate soldiers and sailors and an act providing for the disposition of the five civilized tribes of Indians.

The principal legislation affecting the Philippines was an act postponing the operation of the coastwise laws until April 11, 1909; another re-issuing the Philippines tariff, and a third authorizing the purchase of coal claims by the secretary of war. An important measure to cattle interests is that changing the 25-hour law so that cattle may be kept in cars 36 hours without unloading.

Among the important measures that have failed the immigration bill failed first consideration. It failed because a conference committee was not appointed to settle the disagreement between the two houses. After a spirited fight in the house, in which Speaker Cannon participated, the immigration bill, originally a senate measure, was passed, with a substitute for the "educational test," which required immigrants to possess the ability to read English or some other language. The house substituted a section providing for a commission to investigate the subject of immigration.

The bill to prevent contributions by corporations to campaign funds was started in the house. It was forced through the senate by the indefatigable efforts of Senator Tillman. The house leaders refused to let it come up there, although it is understood the Democratic charge that the Republicans want to lay it over until after the congressional elections, in order to get one more chance at the corporation barrel.

The Philippine tariff bill is still another notable failure. It was one of the features of the original administration programme, was whipped through the house after a celebrated fight with the insurgents, and eventually landed in the seclusion of a senate committee-room. It has been allowed to be forgotten for the present.

The immunity bill, designed to prevent the recurrence of fiascos such as attended the prosecution of the Chicago beef cases, passed the house and in amended form was reported favorably from the senate committee on judiciary. Ever since then efforts to get it up have failed owing to the objection of some senator or other.

It has been a hard session for treaties. The Santo Domingo convention, much desired by the administration, has been kept down by the hostile minority in the senate. No action has been taken either on the Isle of Pines or Algebras treaties.

Fate of Labor Bills. Bills, most of which were demanded by the leaders of organized labor, have met their fate as follows: 1. The anti-injunction bill—dead in the judiciary committee. 2. The eight-hour bill, reported from the committee on labor, but not acted upon.

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MONEY IN THE GARDEN.

The family garden usually pays a greater profit on the labor bestowed in it than any other portion of the farm, even when managed by the old-fashioned method of small plots and beds and hand cultivation. This being the case, it surely can be made to pay a much greater ratio of profit by planning to plant every thing possible in long rows far enough apart to as to work them with a horse and cultivator, thus greatly relieving your own muscles.

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When poultry are confined during the summer to yards of varying dimensions, there must be a certain amount of shade provided in order to keep them in the best condition. The shade of a building for a portion of the day is all right, although the shade of bushes or trees is more desirable. If the poultry yard is located where it is not possible to obtain shade in the manner indicated, it is a good plan to either train vines over a portion of the poultry fence on the sunny side.

SUMMER SHADE FOR POULTRY.

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It is a question with gardeners whether it pays to stake tomatoes or let them grow their natural way upon the ground. I have tried nearly all ways, and unless I am growing only a few plants for home use, I prefer simply to trim the vines of some of the leaves and let them alone, but if one wishes to grow some fancy fruit it is best to trellis or stake.

My method of staking is simple, easy and not expensive. I set a post at each end of every row of plants, and then stretch a No. 12. I then trim off all the lower leaves of the plants and tie it to the lat.

GARDEN NOTES.

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Some men spend time and money to keep a horse in good trim and looking neat so it may take the premium at the county fair, but they never have any time to look after the welfare of their boys and girls. Does it seem to you that this is right?

One great advantage which sheep husbandry offers over other lines of stock raising is the small amount of labor required in the care of sheep. When we are striving for decreased cost of production this saving of labor is no small item.

For next year's fruiting, grow the canes for this especial purpose, retaining about one-fourth as many canes as usual and then treat the same as above; picking, handling, trapping and packing the same as the strawberry. Fine clusters and branches where they can be retained should be shipped as clusters after washing.

A writer says do not change breeds every time you hear of a new one. There is a good breed for every thing, all have good points and bad points. If you look close enough. When you get a breed that most suits you, breed it until it comes up to your ideal.

SPROUTS.

In setting arbor vitae for a hedge let them be small, and set them about two or three feet apart. Keep them well headed and trimmed low until the bottom is well filled, or they will never look well afterward. If kept free from grass and occasionally mowed there is no reason why they should not last lifetime.

If you can get your strawberry plants now, taking them up from the old beds with a ball of earth, you can have a good crop next June, for they will make almost as good a start as pot-grown ones. Of course, after they are started much depends upon the care and nourishment you give them.

To prevent the evils of excessive pruning, commence when the trees are young to rub off superfluous buds and to cut off the small twigs. Constantly keep the form and growth under control. There will then be no check to either vigor or fruitfulness.

Mulch the young orchard with straw after having the soil in good condition. This will protect the roots during the winter. If fruit is given special care from the planting to the gathering and marketing it always brings the best price.

Where trees do not make a satisfactory growth it denotes lack of plant food, or too much water in the soil.

THIRSTY BEES.

Just at this time when every bee counts in keeping up the heat of the hive and in caring for the young brood it is important that a suitable watering place should be provided in order that no more of the hold-over workers shall be lost in drinking at ditches and troughs than can be helped. A simple watering arrangement and one that will serve the purpose of providing the bees a permanent place which they will patronize quite regularly in a short time is made with a box or table. Tack on a piece of burlap or coarse canvas with a barrel or keg located at the upper edge. The barrel should be kept filled with fresh water and covered while the water trickles out of a small gimlet hole near the bottom and spreads slowly across the table through the meshes of the goods. This forms an ideal foothold for the bees while they sip the water without danger of drowning or being disturbed.

Bees do not swarm every year, but only such years as give a bountiful supply of honey. It seems by natural instinct they can, at least to some extent, foretell the season. It requires a good honey flow to induce them to swarm, and in this they seldom make a mistake. We have very frequently noticed that when little or no attempt is made to swarm, and also at a time of a very good honey flow, that it followed a poor honey season. On the other hand, when it seemed that all energy was bent in the direction of swarming, a large crop of honey was the result. Bees often make all preparations for swarming, and the swarm is due to come off, but they failed to come, and swarming was given up for the time being, the surplus queens or queen cells being destroyed.

It is a good plan to have a box of salt and ashes—half and half—placed where the hogs can run to it and eat what they want. This mixture acts as a tonic, avoids constipation, and is all the medicine a hog will need, if he has good pure water to drink, all the feed he will need, and a clean dry place in which to sleep. There is no more reason why a hog should be everlastingly drugged with medicine than there is for a person to be taking medicine all the time. Sanitation is better than drugs for hogs.

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One great advantage which sheep husbandry offers over other lines of stock raising is the small amount of labor required in the care of sheep. When we are striving for decreased cost of production this saving of labor is no small item.

Mulch the horses when plowing or cultivating around trees. Yes, and don't forget to pad the outer end of each whiffletree. But if a tree is accidentally "barked" bandage the wound with cow manure and burlap.

When the hot summer days come be sure to provide shade for your yarded chicks. They will sicken and die if exposed all day to the hot sun. Also see that they have plenty of fresh drinking water.

DAIRY DOINGS.

Exquisite cleanliness is absolutely necessary in every part of the dairy, and not on "the outside of the cup" only.

The dairyman has just as many perplexing problems to solve as the man of affairs in the city. Brains and brawn are absolutely necessary to make dairyming a success.

Many farmers regard dairyming a side issue and are unwilling to provide modern machinery to lessen the labors of the housemother, who struggles with the time honored but tiresome ways of long ago.

A "dairy" dream of the future is one that shows a United States "gauger" stationed at each large dairy (by the time they all will be large), whose business it will be to test the output, saddle it with a certificate, put a price upon it and send it to market.

It is claimed for St. Lawrence county, New York, that more milk is produced in the county than any other in the United States. The cheese output in 1904 was 13,777,899 pounds, and butter output, 8,025,206 pounds. Together with what milk and cream was shipped out this would mean a total production of \$22,696,977 pounds of milk. In round numbers the dairy income of the county in 1903 was \$3,250,000.

In speaking of the wealth of Holland, Prof. H. H. Dean said: "It is one of the wealthiest countries according to population of any in the world. Now how have they made this money? How have they been able to produce the marvelous wealth which has accrued to that very small country? They have made it out of agriculture and the particular branch of agriculture which they have given special attention to is that of keeping cows and the production of dairy goods.

HORTICULTURAL NOTES.

Prune the orchard now and cut out useless branches. Leave more limbs that will give symmetry to the tree. How is your woodpile, is it low down? The old dead apple trees cut up will replenish it, and now is the time.

The tree that blew over is not worth pushing up, for it will blow over again. Make firewood of it and plant a new one in its place.

Sweden has a law requiring the planter of two trees for every one cut down. Why wouldn't that be a good idea in this country? If the cellar is warm, look out for rotting apples. Do not keep the cellar shut up tight, open it at night and let in the air, and close it on warm days in the morning.

Plant memorial trees on the birthdays of your children and they will always have a monument. Of course if the birthday comes in midwinter, better wait until spring to plant.

It is interesting to note how well trees remember good care that they have received the previous season. Really a large share of the thrift of a tree depends upon the store of nourishment and vitality laid up the year before.

Wrap long stemmed rose bushes with dry straw or gunny sack. The object is not to prevent freezing, but to guard against alternate thawing and freezing out to moderate sudden changes in weather.

HOG NOTES.

Keeping the hog house clean keeps disease away. Pure water adds greatly to the growth and health of hogs. For brood sows, select only the thriestest and best from a drove.

Clover or alfalfa pasture is a good thing to tie to in raising pigs. Try it. Oats make a good feed for fattening hogs. It will balance the ration when fed with corn.

The annual production of swine in the United States is estimated at 47,000,000 head. The ideal sow for a mother is not lazy, restful and quiet in her disposition, still a good mother.

Study your conditions and select the breed that will nearest meet those conditions and then stick to the breed. Ancestry counts for much in selecting breeding hogs and sows. Individuality, however, must not be lost sight of.

The banking institution of the farms of the corn belt is the hog pen. Not a month of the year passes but what it can be drawn upon. Don't make the mistake of trying to carry pigs through the summer on pasture alone. Give a small ration of grain daily while grazing.

NOVICES AND INCUBATORS.

Recently a gentleman said that he had a mortgage on a farm and was inclined to buy a number of incubators and put them on the farm in charge of his brother. He thought he could thus build up a good poultry business. His idea seemed to be that all he had to do was to put the money into the work and it would run itself. On inquiry, it was found that he knew nothing at all about poultry culture. The writer advised him to go slow, as there is no branch of farming that does not have to be learned. It is not for the benefit of poultry science to have men rush into poultry raising in this way. They must approach the business from a proper standpoint to make a success of it.