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FARM AND GARDEN

DWARF APPLES.
G. T. Powell of Columbia County, N. Y., has been conducting some interesting experiments on the value of dwarf apple trees in business orchards. It is the idea of Mr. Powell that trees of a low habit of growth will be required more and more because of the need of convenience for spraying and harvesting. The scale insects make it almost impossible to thoroughly treat large trees, and the cost of labor makes a saving at harvesting time of great importance.

Two styles of dwarf trees are under trial. The so-called Paradise is very dwarf and is short lived. The Doucin stock is half dwarf, making trees sixteen to eighteen feet high, and promises good results in commercial orcharding. The trees are planted two or three inches below the union of stock and top. In Mr. Powell's orchard the trees of Paradise stock are set as fillers between those of the larger dwarf kind. The rows in the orchard are twenty feet apart and the trees ten in a row. The wide spaces between the rows allow plenty of room for cultivation by horsepower, while the trees in the rows will be thinned out as soon as they become crowded. The dwarf trees give fruit in a few years from planting, and the amount gradually increases. The small dwarf kind lasts six to eight years and the semi-dwarfs for about twenty years. For dwarf trees the Spitzenberg, Jonathan and McIntosh are found successful. They produce fruit of very fine appearance and quality, suitable for packing in boxes for the choicest trade. For the half dwarfs the Northern Spy, Roxbury Russet, Twenty Ounce, Astrakhan, Baldwin and Greening are satisfactory.

The dwarf trees must receive good culture, with plenty of plant food and careful cultivation. The soil is plowed and harrowed in the Spring and is kept in a cover crop of clover during the summer. Scale and other insects are easily treated in the dwarf orchards. The idea appears so promising to Mr. Powell that he is pruning his larger trees on the dwarf plan, cutting back the tops of the standard trees in order to raise them to spread out and to remove the high parts of the tree, which make so much difficulty in spraying old trees.—Weekly Witness.

CARE OF BROOD SOWS.
Corn alone fed to the brood sow carrying a litter is almost sure to cause bad results; the pigs will be jarred very weak, with hardly vitality enough to even hunt for their dinner; and it is quite likely to produce a feverish condition in the sow, with a tendency for her to destroy her pigs. One other very necessary thing in the successful handling of brood sows is that they must absolutely have abundant exercise for the best results. With the above combination of feed for a regular ration and with plenty of exercise one may be sure of good results at farrowing time, and that the youngsters will be strong enough to meet every little trouble that comes along during their first few weeks of pig-hood. There is still another matter in the care of the sows, and especially of the sow with a litter—an absolutely dry bed, warm if in winter but always dry. Keep this clean, dry and well disinfected with an occasional spraying of the animals with crude petroleum or some other of the many disinfectants, and you will avoid that pest too often found—the hog louse.—Colman's Rural World.

CULLING OUT.
It doesn't pay to carry culls any longer than it takes to determine that they are culls. Prices are better for old stock now than they will be later on, and the birds that are not good layers or breeders should be promptly marketed. Close culling pays not only because it raises the standard of the flock, but also because it saves feed and house room that may more profitably be spent on good fowls.

Remember, in this connection, that roosters do not lay. Keep enough to insure fertility, but no more. Surplus males only serve to make constant strife and require extra feed and house room without paying any profits. If the eggs are not to be used for hatching it is unnecessary to have any males at all. The hens will lay just as well and the eggs will keep better. These are not theories, but proven facts. The male has no influence over egg-production.—Epitomist.

TRAINING THE COLT.
The task of training any colt, if properly managed, is a lengthy one. Lessons must be repeated time after time, in order to make sure that the colt is learning, and after having been taught, to make sure that the colt has not forgotten.

It is a wise precaution to always hitch the colt with a good old traveling horse. The colt is thus apt to acquire the same gait. After the colt has been driven a few times, so that it seems to know what is required of it, then it should be driven every day.—W. G. P., in American Cultivator.

DO CHICKENS PAY?
We heard a farmer say the other day that he had a great notion to quit raising chickens, as he could buy his poultry meat and eggs for less than they were now costing. It is doubtful if this man or any other farmer would stand by such a statement if it came to a test, so it will be well to sound a note of warning against "knocking" poultry raising on the farm.

The man who stops to think knows that he would not buy one-fourth the amount of poultry and eggs he uses so liberally on his table if he had to go down in his pocket for ready cash every time instead of simply going into his own poultry yard. Besides, it is not pleasant to be constantly paying out cash for products decidedly inferior to those that could be produced on one's farm. The buyer has not the advantage of ample selection and certain quality like the producer has.

Then again, in this payment of money must be added, the trouble of going after the poultry products, which would sometimes amount to more than the cost of the products themselves. Very often the farmer is too busy to go to the city at all, when there are extra hands to feed, who expect (and should have) round and boiled chicken and eggs in abundance. What if such large quantities had to be purchased in the open market? As it is, they cost so little that the farmer always is, and can well afford to be, very liberal in the use he and his good wife makes of them. The trouble is that very few farmers appreciate what their fowls really mean to them. They also fail to keep accounts. It is only the city man who appreciates the invaluable pleasure of strictly fresh eggs and milk and tender chicken meat.—Epitomist.

FOUNDATION STOCK.
When a man buys his foundation stock and gives it intelligent care, he has a reasonable assurance of success in producing the same kind of hogs; but no breeder should be satisfied with producing just as good stock as he started with. It should be his hope and ambition to produce something better and he has more than a reasonable assurance that with good judgment and intelligent care he shall be able to do this.—Farmers' Home Journal.

PRESERVE THE MILK.
Milk should be removed from the stable and strained as fast as it is drawn from the cows for some reason may have fallen in it and this should be removed before it becomes soured and thoroughly mixed with the milk. Great caution should be observed in caring for the clothes used for strainers, for they are in many instances responsible for the loss of a number of cans of milk, besides being a source of danger to those who consume the milk.—Farmers' Home Journal.

Smoking Is It?
An Irish soldier on sentry duty had orders to allow no one to smoke near his post. An officer with a lighted cigar approached, whereupon Pat boldly challenged him and ordered him to put it out at once. The officer, with a gesture of disgust, threw away his cigar, but no sooner was his back turned than Pat picked it up and quietly retired to the sentry box. The officer, happening to look around, observed a beautiful cloud of smoke issuing from the box. He at once challenged Pat for smoking on duty. "Smoking, is it, sorr? Bedad, and I'm only keeping it fit to show to the corporal when he comes, as evidence agin you."

FARM NOTES.
No cow should be allowed to be in a herd unless her work entitles her to it.

No farmer should lay claims to being intelligent as long as he permits the good cows in his herd to pay the feed bill for the poor ones.

The best bred hog of the best breed in the world cannot give his owner something for nothing.

If necessary to wean the pigs, shut the sows up and give the pigs the run of good pasture.

A well-grown hog can never be stunted. You can never feed economically after that.

The experiment stations declare that 100 pounds of ground corn and cob just as far as the same weight of pure corn meal, the cob giving it more bulk, and rendering it easier digested.

Shredded corn fodder makes good feed, good bedding and good manure. Shred when perfectly dry and store under a rats-proof roof, in not too great bulk, and it will keep all right.

Hogs can not be well kept on slop and milk alone, but these go a long way in furnishing them food. A pig is a difficult animal to raise in a healthy condition, but proper management will bring it through all right. It can not be well dispensed with when there are hogs on the place.

Pigs farrowed in March will overtake the fall pigs in growth, if they are kept under shelter and in a warm place. By giving them extra care they will get a good start and grow rapidly until ready for market.

State 19 Years Old.
The State of Washington recently celebrated the nineteenth anniversary of its admission to the Union. In an address the president of the State Historical Society brought out the fact that the great Northwest has never been under the domination of any foreign power. Said he: "All other portions of the United States have at one time or other been ruled by one of the European countries. You, as children of the great State of Washington, may be proud of the fact that you live in the only place in the United States that has always been American territory, and over which no other flag, save the Stars and Stripes, has ever floated."

A substitute for marble which answers many of its purposes satisfactorily is made of waste slag from blast furnaces and lime, pulverized, compressed and then treated with calcium acid.

ROAD IMPROVEMENT METHODS.

State Engineer Points Out Defects in Present System and Names Practical Remedies.

Illinois has a highway commission consisting of the president of the state university and two practical farmers. Their work is endorsed by the Illinois Farmers' Institute. Mr. A. N. Johnson of Springfield, state highway engineer employed by this commission, in his address to the institute at Peoria expressed the following ideas:

The State is divided into about 1,500 townships and townships, each acting independent of the other in road improvement. With no definite system and the road commissioner's office changing hands frequently, not more than half of the five millions of dollars spent annually on the 95,000 miles of road is spent to advantage.

Bridges Too Costly.
Over two million dollars per year are spent in bridge construction. The method of letting contracts is cumbersome and unbusinesslike, and lack of skilled supervision is very apparent. A serious fact is that public safety is concerned in this work. The taxpayers have given large sums of money for bridges and have secured, in general, structures wholly inadequate for the purpose and very often at far too high a cost. Safe and economical bridges cannot be secured, as a rule, under the present system.

State Supervision Needed.
The State should have a closer relation with the road and bridge construction that the taxpayers may secure better results for the money spent. The State highway commission was created to demonstrate to the taxpayers throughout the State that a very great improvement of the roads and bridges was possible without increasing the taxes, providing the people were willing to adopt new methods of construction and different ways of spending the road money.

Designing and Inspection of Bridges.
Provision should be made for the systematic designing and inspection of all bridges throughout the State. Such a plan would be best carried out through the co-operation of county engineers to have immediate charge of all bridge construction under the general supervision of the State highway commission, whose approval on all plans should be secured before a given structure could be contracted for or erected.

State to Lead Heavy Rollers.
The heavy road roller is of quite as much value and use in the construction of good earth roads as in making macadam roads, and it would seem proper for the State to furnish a suitable number of these heavy rollers for use in the different parts of the State so that the people could see its advantages by a practical object lesson.

Successful Object Lesson.
But the best earth roads are often found inadequate for the heaviest traveled highways. Practical experience has shown that the best method of treating the roads is to surface them with broken stone or gravel. A very economical plan has been put in operation for constructing object lesson roads of crushed rock in those sections of the State where there is no rock or gravel and the people have had no chance to see how such a road wears. The convicts prepare the crushed rock without adding to the cost of keeping them. This does not interfere with any existing industries, but rather creates an industry and demand for free labor. The results for two years have seemed in every way practical and successful. When any considerable system of road building is considered it would be out of the question for the State to prepare enough material for such general distribution.

County Meetings of Road Officials.
It would be entirely practical for the State to have a law passed by which the township and county road and bridge officials should meet in joint session once or twice a year for discussion of their problems. The dates could be so arranged that the State Highway Commission should furnish a speaker for each meeting to discuss with the local officials certain technical features of road and bridge work. The benefit to the taxpayer from such a plan is too evident to need further comment.

Township Road Superintendent.
Another advantage would be for each township to have a road superintendent in immediate charge of all work and to report thereon to the commissioners, who should not be expected to give any of their time to the details of road construction, and would need to meet but a few times a year merely to transact the general business of the office. These commissioners would draw much less money, and men of larger business affairs could be secured as commissioners.

Build Stone Roads Near Cities.
It is an established fact from the experience of many communities that a system of good roads leading from the larger cities aids materially in the development of that section. Some way should be provided by which the communities desiring to do so should undertake the development of the roads in their vicinity. The political boundaries now prevent co-operation between cities and the outlying districts. Possibly some arrangement could be made for road improvement districts somewhat similar to drainage districts to be formed at the option of the people, and provision might be made for the State to assist such districts.—Illinois Farmers' Institute, per ARTHUR J. BILL.

A woman will tell her neighbors that her husband is the best man in the world, and then abuse him by the hour in private.

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FRIDAY—LUCKY OR UNLUCKY?

Great Events Which Have Occurred on That Day.

On Friday, Aug. 21, 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed on his great voyage of discovery, the Baltimore Sun says. On Friday, Oct. 12, 1492, he first discovered land. On Friday, Jan. 4, 1493, he sailed on his return to Spain, which, if he had not reached in safety, the happy result would never have been known which led to the settlement of this vast continent. On Friday, March 15, 1493, he arrived at Palos in safety. On Friday, Nov. 22, 1493, he arrived at Hispaniola, on his second voyage to America. On Friday, June 13, 1494, he, though unknown to himself, discovered the continent of America. It was on Friday that Henry VII. of England gave to John Cabot his commission, which led to the discovery of North America. This is the first American state paper in England. On Friday, Sept. 7, 1565, Melendez founded St. Augustine, the oldest town in the United States by more than forty years. On Friday, Nov. 10, 1620, the Mayflower, with the pilgrims, made the harbor of Provincetown, and on the same day they signed that august compact, the forerunner of our present glorious constitution. On Friday, Dec. 22, 1620, the pilgrims made their final landing at Plymouth Rock. On Friday, Feb. 22, George Washington, the father of American freedom, was born. On Friday, June 16, Brinker Hill was seized and fortified. On Friday, Oct. 7, 1777 the surrender of Saratoga was made which had such power and influence in inducing France to declare for our cause. On Friday, Oct. 19, 1781, the surrender at Yorktown, the crowning glory of the American arms, occurred. On Friday, July 7, 1776, the motion in Congress was made by John Adams, seconded by Richard Henry Lee, that the United States colonies were, and of right ought to be, free and independent.

Just One Day.

It ought not to be hard to live well one day. Anyone should be able to carry his burden, or fight his battle, or endure his sorrow, or stand at his post, or do his work, for just one day. Anyone should be able to remember God and keep his heart open toward heaven, and to remember others in need and suffering about him, and keep his hand stretched out in helpfulness for just one day. Yet that is all there is to do. We never have more than one day to live. We have no to-morrows. God never gives us years, or even weeks; He gives us only days. If we live each day well all our life will, in the end, be radiant and beautiful.

A slip of the tongue is worse than a slip of the foot.

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