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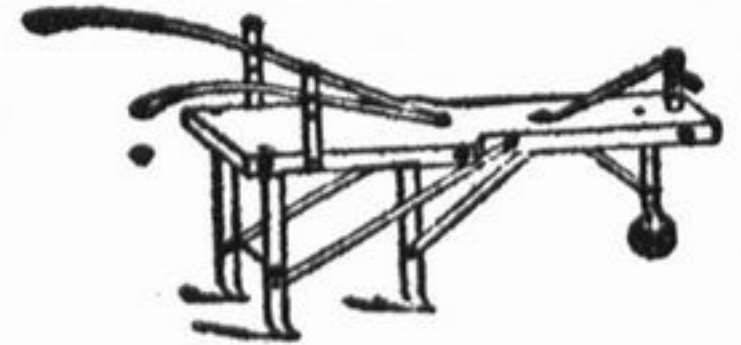


Homemade Ditch Digger.

A complete homemade ditch digger may be made by following the description here given.

The bed piece, five and a half inches long, is cut out of a hard plank two and a half inches thick, bolted at each end and in the middle to prevent splitting. The rear half is nine inches wide and the front half six inches wide.

The diggers are made of steel bars two and a half inches wide, three-quarters of an inch thick and twenty-four inches long. They are fastened to the plank by a right angle turn and bolted. The two rear diggers are held firmly by a rod with nuts inside and out, the points being spread out so that the bed piece can easily drop into the space when the ditch is two feet or more in depth. The front digger is the same size, but set in the middle. All are held firmly by brace rods and sharpened like the flat end of a pickax. A wheel is set under the front end to steady the movement and is braced



THE DIGGER EQUIPPED.

backward. An adjustable draw iron is placed above, through which the rod may pass at any height suited to the depth of the ditch.

The handles are also adjustable, raising them as the digger drops lower.

In hard subsoils one will save the cost of this simple device in digging seventy-five rods of ditch. In our hardpan sections of the east, which always need drainage, one does not feel encouraged to dig ditches with pick and shovel when more than half the energy is required to loosen the dirt. With this machine the toughest subsoil when dry handles as rapidly as loose sand.

Keeping Cream Sweet.

The first step in keeping cream sweet is to keep it as clean as possible. Clean cream cannot be produced by filthy methods of milking nor by handling the cream or milk in unclean utensils. Milk cans, strainers and pails should be thoroughly scalded in hot water and dried and exposed to the sunlight and pure air.

The next step is to remove the animal heat from the cream as soon as possible after separating. Run the cream from the separator into a convenient utensil for cooling. A 3 or 5 gallon shotgun can is most convenient. Cool the cream in well water by stirring. In a few minutes it can be reduced to the temperature of the water. After the cream is cooled it can be added to the cream contained in the supply can used in delivering cream to the station. The cream supply can, while being filled and held for delivery, should be kept in water at as near the temperature of freshly pumped water as possible. The average temperature of well water in Kansas is about 56 degrees. With it cream can easily be held at 58 or 60 degrees, and at this temperature will remain sweet for delivery in good shape at the station.—Kansas Farmer.

Weed Seeds in Manure.

It is well known that there is considerable risk of introducing new weeds by the purchase of manure and hay and other feeding stuffs. E. I. Oswald, of the Maryland Experiment Station, undertook to obtain more definite information on this point, especially as regards dissemination through manure, by studying the effect of the fermentation of manure handled in different ways and of passing through the digestive systems of animals on the vitality of various seeds, including seeds of about fifty of the worst weeds found in Maryland.

In experiments in which the manure remained for six months in a barnyard heap and for a short while in piles, as when shipped in carload lots from cities, it was found that in the first case there was no danger, and in the second case little danger of distributing live weed seeds.

A Fruit Tree Disease Fahn.

The latest fake practiced on farmers is done by a man who visits the place and claims that he has been sent out by the State to examine fruit tree diseases, says an exchange. The fellow will go over the orchard and mark all trees which he claims are affected. Shortly after his visit a confederate will appear and say that he has a preparation which will cure the disease for which the tree is condemned and will contract to inject a fluid into the roots for a certain price. Both men are swindlers and should be run off the place with a shotgun. The only man empowered to inspect orchards are the county inspectors, who are known to most fruit growers.

Grain or Butter?

Every dairy butter maker whose product is known to be of uniform good quality can now easily contract all of their surplus at 25 cents per pound the year round. And yet the quality designated as "common country butter" nearly always sells below that price and during four or five summer months goes as low as 12 cents. Why—why will its makers be content to follow methods that spell positive loss? Who can and will answer this question?—The Ruralist.

Peaches that Stand Hot.

Peaches are more liable to rot in damp and muggy weather than when cool and dry. Some varieties are more subject to rot than others. That all varieties with fuzz on them are

less liable to rot than the smoother varieties does not agree with my experience.

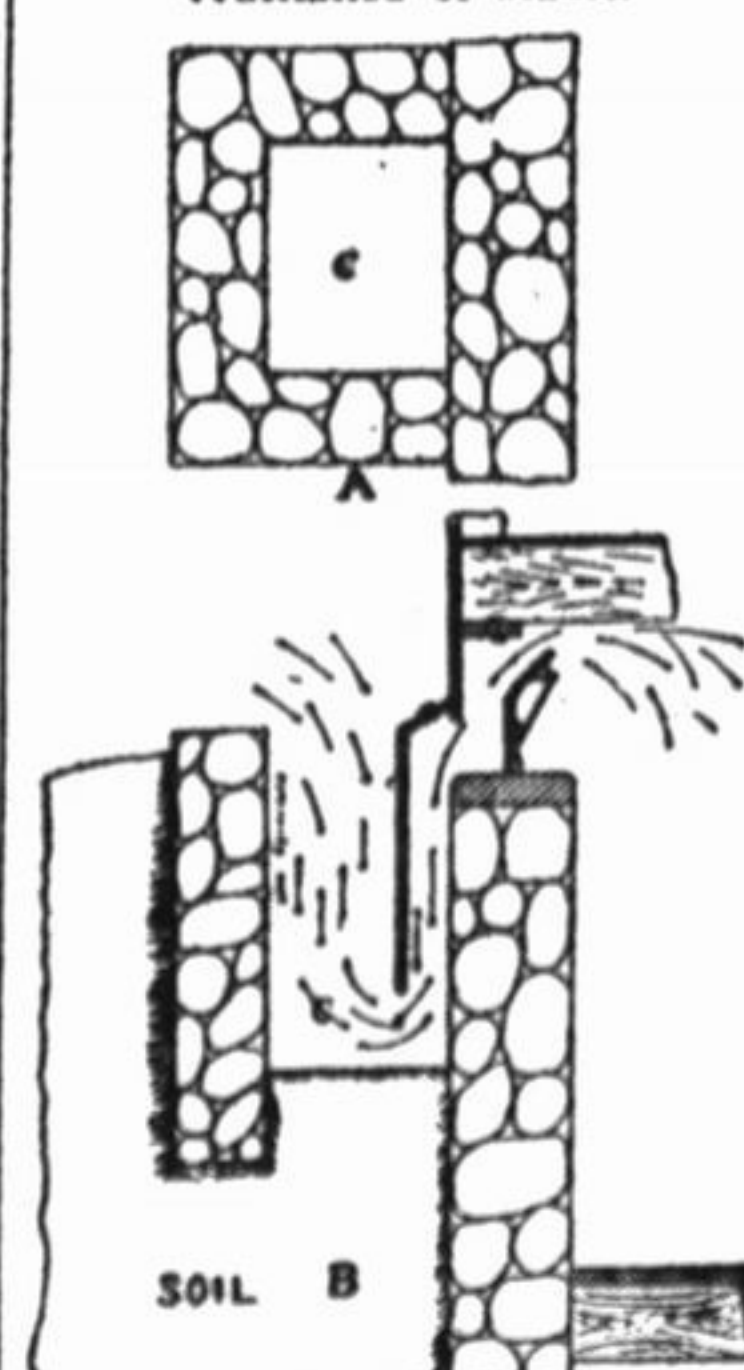
Neither can correct conclusion be drawn from one or two season's experience, for soil, location, fertilization and culture also are factors in the rot problem. Fruit on a rankly-grown tree is much more subject to rot than on one more moderately grown. Yet I think the weather has more to do with it than any one factor. One year all our early peaches were quite subject to rot, while the next year there was very little rot. Yet with unfavorable weather Champions were practically a total loss, Crosby, stump and late varieties practically free. I do not think the matter of fuzz vs. rot worth considering as a factor in settling an orchard, except people do not wish to buy fuzz.

In regard to hardness of bud, a good frost peach well grown will stand more cold than any other peach tree we ever had on our grounds. And varieties of the frost type (if I may call them so), Crosby, Pratt's, Hill's Chill, etc., are more hardy in bud than many other varieties, especially of the Crawford class, but with the varieties of the Chinese type, which bear young and have a hardy bud, what little hardness, if any, the fuzzy varieties possess above them is much more than offset by their fallings.—H. Mead, Massachusetts.

Red Clover vs. Alfalfa.

Some of the old-time dairymen are coming around to the belief that red clover such as was grown around Denver twenty-five or thirty years ago, is better forage for the production of milk than is alfalfa as grown nowadays. Certain it is that we are not now getting the quality of milk that was produced a quarter of a century ago, when nearly everybody had a little patch of clover. It was quite natural, however, that we should have exchanged the old friend for the new, for the reason that red clover is biennial in its habit of growth and under the most ideal conditions will not furnish more than two cuttings of hay in a season. On the other hand, alfalfa is a perennial plant, and when once established will continue to produce four and frequently five crops in a season for several years in succession, and this is why our dairymen have clung to it through all these years like a pup to a root. We are loth to concede that red clover is the better forage in the production of milk, but it does look that way, and we know farmers in different parts of the State who are taking up its culture quite extensively.—Denver Field and Farm.

Ventilation of Stables.



This diagram shows method of constructing a fresh air intake where the soil comes to or near the top of wall as found in many bank barns. An excavation is necessary and a retaining wall is built around the open space marked C.

Gasoline vs. a Hired Man.

I kept track of our gasoline engine. I then threw it out for three weeks. It pumped water to the house and to the barn, separated the cream of twenty cows and churned and worked all the butter on 5 gallons of gasoline at 15 cents a gallon. It saw the wood and works the corn-shredder and makes itself generally more useful in its way than the average hired man and at a small fraction of his cost.

Then, the barn is a great comfort. There's a cement basement under the stable—the only one of its kind in this part of the State. The manure falls through traps in the stable floor and is preserved intact and put out on the land at least four times a year. That's another thing that gives us no end of advantage over our neighbors. They pile their fertilizer in their barnyard and let the best part of it bleach and drain and wash away without returning it to the soil which absolutely demerits it.

We have 150 acres of level, black soil that plows like soft putty. Besides corn, oats and wheat, we raise hay, flax and enough vegetables for our own use. But we have found that we can make far more money from our pure bred cows than directly from the soil.—Success.

Cabbage Worms.

The common cabbage worm is among the best known of all garden pests, both as a larva and in the adult stage, when it becomes the common spotted, white cabbage butterfly. The young plants should be sprayed with arsenate of lead, 1 ounce to a gallon of water, and the foliage kept covered until they begin to head up. Water heated to 130 degree Fahrenheit will destroy all worms which it hits, without injury to the plants.

To Guard Against Cut Worms.

Tar paper placed around cabbage and tomato plants will keep off cut worms. Insert the paper in the ground, making a circle about 4 inches in diameter and 3 inches deep.

JUDGE CLARKSON FOUND.

Lawyer Discovered Making Buttons at Sabula, Iowa.

Former Judge Joseph B. Clarkson, Jr., of Kenosha, Wis., who strangely disappeared from his home on the night of July 13 last, was found Friday at Sabula, Ia., working in a button factory, under the name of John Paul. He returned to his home with Detective John J. Burns of Kenosha.

The finding of the man, while clearing the question of his whereabouts, has deepened the mystery of the mental process that caused him to forget his identity, forsake his home and wander about the country in search of work as a common laborer.

Perhaps the most puzzling feature of the case is that Judge Clarkson visited the same places that he visited eighteen years ago, after he had disappeared from his home in Omaha, Neb., and worked his way through the farms and towns of Iowa, under the assumed name of Doolittle. He had even applied for work at the very farm where he had been given employment as a straggler almost two decades ago.

When found, Judge Clarkson was busily engaged in cutting buttons, and he had been so employed since July 20. He suddenly came to his senses when informed that he was Judge Clarkson, and said that he was happy that he had been found.

FARMERS WIVES GET DIAMONDS.

Prosperity of West Produces Scarcity of Precious Stones.

The prosperity of the Western farmer has depleted the stocks of diamonds in Maiden Lane, in New York, and the importing houses there hurried their buyers across the ocean to purchase new supplies. Dealers say that the lethargy which began in the jewelry trade two years ago has been followed of late by so great an increase in business that the trade is taken by surprise and that even the largest dealers are finding it difficult to fill orders for the higher grades of perfect stones. Although \$5,000,000 worth of gems were imported into this country last month, a quantity five times greater than the same month last year, the dealers have been unable to fill orders. They say that the orders from the Middle West and Northwest are the most urgent, and as those regions are reporting record-breaking crops, the importers are of the opinion that the jewels, or at least many of them, are going to the farmers' wives.

DECIDES 30,000 LAND SUITS.

Judge Rules Against Government in Indian Cases in Oklahoma.

Federal Judge Ralph E. Campbell in Muskogee, Okla., sustained the demurrers of defendants in 30,000 Indian land alienation suits brought by the government. The actions by the government were ordered dismissed. The court held that the titles obtained from the Indians before the act removing restrictions went into effect are good. The alienation suits were brought by the government in the interests of the members of the Five Civilized Tribes. It is estimated that about 2,000,000 acres of land were involved. The defendants in the suits, who claimed title to the land by reason of purchase from the Indians, are scattered throughout the United States and some reside in Scotland and Mexico.

GETS CASH; KILLED BY POSSE.

Bandit Robs Cashier at White Bear, Minn.—Two Dead in Battle Later.

An unidentified man entered the First State Bank in White Bear, Minn., Thursday and, pointing a revolver at the head of Cashier Alfred Auger, demanded that all the money in the bank be handed over. There was only \$600 on hand, which Auger gave up. The robber then backed out of the door and fled. In a short time half the population of the village, armed with shotguns and other weapons, was on the trail of the bandit. The robber was run to cover and a fight followed in which two men were killed. It is reported that the robber, whose name was Robert Kohl, and a boy named Nathan Lammers, were killed. Several others were wounded.

CROWD SEES LAND DRAWING.

Come d'Alene Lottery for Homesteads Operated by F. S. at Spokane.

Although the crowds of land seekers were not so large as during the filing of applications for registration on the Couer d'Alene, Spokane and Flathead reservations, several thousand people were present Monday when the drawing began. Each of the 105,000 persons who applied for Couer d'Alene lands has one chance in 232; of the 100,000 applicants for Spokane lands, one in 400 may win, and of the 87,000 for Flathead land one in fifteen has a chance.

COL. ALBERT A. POPE DEAD.

Founder of Bicycle Industry Had Been Sinking Since Last May.

Colonel Albert A. Pope, founder of the bicycle industry, died Tuesday afternoon at his summer home in Cohasset, Mass., where he has been sinking since last May. The colonel, worn by the financial difficulties of his corporation and by his efforts to extricate the company, collapsed both mentally and physically.

Woman of 70 Dies in Fire.

Mrs. James Henster, 70 years old, was suffocated by smoke at the home of her son-in-law, Thomas H. Marney, in Philadelphia, during a fire in the upper part of the house.

Bay State Man Heads Mint.

President Taft sent to the Senate the nomination of A. Platt Andrew, of Massachusetts, to be director of the mint to succeed Frank A. Leach, who resigned some time ago to become president of the People's Water Company, of Oakland, Cal. The nomination was confirmed.

Six Hurt in Freight Crash.

Six persons were injured in the collision of a Baltimore & Ohio freight train and a yard engine just east of Chicago Junction, O., during a fog.

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The Call of the Coast

Not since the World's Fair at Chicago has there been such an almost universal interest in any travel attraction as in the

Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition

at Seattle. The whole country is talking about it and that wonderful north-western country, with its magnificent resources of ranch and orchard, mine and forest and almost unlimited natural water power, not to mention the fine scenery, all of which are just beginning to be generally known and appreciated.

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