AGRICULTURAL.

A Farm Ballad.

When I start my plow a runnin' in the black and meller ground
And the land is growin' smaller that my horses tramps around;
When the white-oak buds are openin' and grass a-growin' green,
Makes a feller think of summer as he gazes on the scene:
When the chipmunk runs and chatters 'cause the plough his den 'as torn,
An' the crows are loudly scoldin' 'bout the plantin' of the corn;
When the bluebird hollers out a rail and stairs to build a nest,
Then I think that that's the time o' year I kind o' like the best;
But it's mighty nice, I tell you, when the summer time is here,
With the wheat a growin' yeller and the harvest drawin' near;
With the timothy in blossom and the hayin' just at hand,
An' the mother quail a-callin' to her peepin' little band.
Oh, I like to watch the woolly clouds a-floatin' far away
As I'm ridin' on the mower or rakin' up the hay.
Then I somehow seem acquainted with each bird or bumblebee,
An' I think the golden summer is the time o' year for me.

The Management of Fruit Trees.

BY WM. SAUNDERS.

It is understood that the processes generally included in the term "cultivation," such as plowing, harrowing, etc., are all favorable to the encouragement of growth in plants, and when applied to fruit trees the usual result of increased vigor will be produced. But it is also well understood that the greatest vigor of growth is not always combined with the greatest productiveness of fruit; on the contrary, it is a recognized fact that a tree can not display unusually great vigor of growth and at the same time be correspondingly fruitful. On the other hand, it is common knowledge that trees growing in poor soil, and without receiving cultivation of any kind, will not long continue to maintain sufficient vitality to enable them to produce perfect fruit, nor, indeed, fruit of any quality. When young trees are planted in ordinary good soil, and afterwards receive good care, so far as cultivating, stirring and manuring the soil is concerned, they usually make strong growths. It is well to encourage this luxuriance at this stage of their existence, the only precaution being to guard against an immature condition of wood when frosts occur.

Mistakes are sometimes made, in climates where the season of active growth is comparatively short, in stimulating the plants to such a degree that the wood fails to ripen thoroughly and the young shoots are destroyed by frosts while in an immature state, giving rise to various diseases, such as yellows in the peach, etc. When the trees reach the fruit-bearing size, but give no evidence of fruit-bearing disposition, it may be assumed that their barrenness is owing to excessive growth, and it will therefore be in order to adopt some means of checking the growth, and, as a consequence, induce the tree to bear fruit. Various measures may be pursued to effect this object, but perhaps there is none so simple and so easily applied as that of laying the orchard in grass. The absence of all culture will speedily cause the formation of fruit buds and satisfactory crops of fruit, and so long as this continues no change need be made; but if the trees become weak, from over bearing or from want of nourishment, top dressing of manure will again renew their vigor; and, further, if the trees appear stunted and do not respond to surface stimulants, the grass may be plowed under and a system of thorough culture inaugurated and kept up so long as observation determines that it is best practice to follow. The condition of the trees will therefore be the best evidence as to whether the orchard should be cultivated or kept in grass. Each orchard will answer the question for itself. It is not a question as to advisability of establishing a system based upon either expedient, although it is usually and erroneously submitted in that shape.

PRUNING.

Pruning is an operation of vast importance in the management of trees, and the principles upon which it is founded must be clearly understood before complete success in fruit culture can be attained. Plants left to nature maintain a well-balanced reciprocal action between their branches and roots; and every branch, bud or leaf that is removed must exercise an influence either injurious or beneficial, and no one should attempt to remove branches unless they foresee the effects and influence of such removals. The time of pruning, whether during the summer or during winter, will depend upon the object to be attained; a brief consideration of plant growth will assist us in determining this question. When a seed is deposited in a suitable germinating medium, its first effort is to send a root downwards into the earth, and then push a shoot upwards in the air. The seed contains within itself all the nutriment necessary for this process; but as soon as the young plant is so far formed, its mode of existence is changed, and it becomes dependent upon the soil and atmosphere for future support. The elementary substances absorbed by the roots undergo decomposition through the influence of the leaves, and the material is thus prepared for further root growth and extension. The roots have no inherent power of extension, but are dependent upon the health and action of the foliage; and although in germination the roots are first formed, their growth is due to the action of the foliage of the plant thas produced the seed from which they emitted. It is, therefore, apparent that the increase in size of the plant, the quality and quantity of its secretions, and the extension of its roots are all dependent upon the healthy action of the leaves.

When it is considered how essential the foliage is to the healthy development of the plant, we may well pause before infringing upon the reciprocal action nature has established between the roots and branches, for it is evident that every branch or leaf removed has an effect either for good or evil upon the plant. The correlative action between the leaves and roots being so intimately connected, it follows that any diminution of leaf growth during the period of active vegetation must retard root development. Hence it is an axiom, now becoming recognized, that summer pruning weakens growth, while winter pruning produces a contrary effect.

Summer pruning can be useful where wood growth is to be checked, and it will be repressed in proportion to the severity of the removal of the foliage. Fruit trees, when planted in a generous soil, frequently attain a luxuriance incompatible with a fruitful habit, and their flowering may be somewhat hastened by judicious pruning or pinching, so as to retard wood growth; but care must be exercised, and much observation and experience are requisite before the object can be safely attained.

Winter pruning invigorates wood growth. When a portion of the branches of a tree is removed after the fall of the leaves, the balance of growth is destroyed and the roots have the preponderance; the remaining buds will now shoot forth with increased vigor—an important consideration with trees or vines that have become weakened from overbearing or any other cause, imparting new vigor to weak and sickly plants. The time for winter pruning may be regulated by the condition of the plant; if pruned immediately after the leaves fall or ripen, the shoots will be stronger the succeeding season than they would be if the operation had been delayed until spring. This arises from the fact that during winter the plant still continues to absorb food by its roots, which is distributed over the branches; and as the principal flow of sap is always directed to the extreme points of shoots, the highest buds are most fully developed. If, therefore, pruning is delayed till spring, this accumulation is cut and thrown away, and to that extent the plant is weakened. Early winter pruning is eminently advantageous to native grapes. As the retained buds become charged with sap during winter, they start and advance rapidly—a matter of much moment where the summers are rather short for ripening the fruit and wood of these plants.

There is a tendency in many varieties of trees to form strong central growths at the expense of the side branches, more especially while the plants are young. Pruning these strong shoots in winter only increases the evil, unless summer pruning is attended to by pinching out the ends of every shoot before it gains sufficient headway to injure the growth of the lower branches. Strong growths should be pruned in summer and weak ones in winter. In the management of hedges, where uniformity of growth is all important, this rule should constantly be kept in view.

When the size of a tree is the only object sought, summer pruning should not be practiced. But it may be said that pruning of any kind is a negative operation, and probably it is within the limits of possibility that trees may be trained to any form and maintained in a fruitful condition without any instrumental pruning whatever, unless to remedy diseases and casualties. It is much easier, for instance, to rub off a bud in May than it is to cut out a branch in December; and if a judicious system of disbudding and pinching was strictly followed there would be no occasion for winter pruning; or, were it possible to place a tree in such a soil, and under such conditions that it would only make a moderate growth of well matured wood, little, if any, pruning would be required, But as all of these conditions are difficult to realize in happy combination, we have to resort to pruning, and a knowledge of the principles involved will materially assist the operator.

First of the Shows.

The two days agricultural show at Brandon Man., last week was a great success. There was an excellent display of horses and cattle. The Brandon experimental farm exhibited a superb lot of grains, fruit and flowers. On Wednesday evening Senator Boulton presided at a meeting under the auspices of the agricultural society, and Prof. Robertson, Dominion dairy commissioner, gave an address on "Agriculture in Canada and the Dominion Experimental Farms.' He recommended mixed farming to insure lasting prosperity and to fortify the position of Manitobans against the risk of depending upon one crop. On Thursday evening the annual convention of the Manitoba. Dairyman's Association assembled, Mr. S. A Basford, superintendent of the experimental farm, in the chair. Prof. Robertson delivered a lecture on the economical feeding of stock and dairying. He announced that he was accompanied by two experts in dairying, who will be left in Manitoba and the territories to hold meetings and give lessons in butter making and cheese making at some 50 places. He has issued circulars to farmers, in which he intimates that he has been directed by the Minister of Agriculture to do everything possible to improve the butter and cheese in Manitoba and the west. The crops on the experimental farm are heavy. Ladoga wheat already measures five feet. A Central Farmers' Institute for Manitoba was organized on Friday forenoon. The dairy commissioner agreed to attend a series of meetings during the winter to be arranged for by the Central institute. Manitobans are settling down to multiplying their sources of revenue and organizing to improve their methods of agriculture.

Milk For Hens.

A good profit would result from feeding the waste products, skim and buttermilk, to poultry rather than to hogs, says Webb Donnell in the *Practical Farmer*. For this purpose the hens should be kept for eggs rather than for market purposes, since, milk is one of the best egg foods that we have, and every particle of the milk would be utilized in the production of something that is always salable and always salable at a good profit—fresh eggs. A specialty should be made of supplying fresh eggs, for there is always a demand and good prices. One does not have to be near a large city in order to do this, since they can be sent quickly from long distances by express. To obtain high prices it is absolutely necessary that one gain a reputation for always supplying fresh eggs. It will not do to let in one stale egg among a thousand fresh ones. If a dealer in a large city can be absolutely certain of receiving at stated times a supply of perfectly fresh eggs from a customer it would be a matter of surprise to many to know what an advance over ordinary market rates he could afford and would be willing to pay.

A Substitute for Binding Twine.

An important exhibition of improved grain binding machines was made the other day on the farm of Dr. Foke, near Joliet Ill. The Walter A. Wood Co. operated two machines which are radical improvements over old methods for harvesting. One binder uses a straw band and the other binds with twine of prairie grass. Both machines were successfully operated for several hours. It is expected that the use of straw and grass for binding material will effect a revolution in the methods of harvesting grain, and will solve the problem of cheap twine for the farmers.

A Farmer's Wheat Corner.

Reports indicate that the Farmers' Alliance in the United States, who have made their headquarters at St. Paul, Minn., are determined to corner the wheat crop of that country by hook or crook. Eight hundred thousand copies of a circular have been sent out from St. Paul, in which the following statements are made: "The movement grows out of a general opposition to speculators and wheat gamblers. They have sold the crop, now we will see whether they can deliver the goods. December wheat has been sold by those speculators at 84 cents, and if they cannot fill the order when the time for delivery comes they will simply lose the margin. Until a few months ago no active co-operative steps had been taken to choke off this speculation. A few alliance men—leaders—considered the matter and resolved to act some months ago, but we had a traitor in our own camp, and our plans leaked out before they were fully matured. This urged us to greater secrecy, and while we were waiting for the crop to mature, when the time for action would be at hand, we were working over the details. The extremely short crop in foreign countries, coupled with the increased demand and the absolute certainty that vast quantities of American wheat will be required to fill foreign orders, makes this a peculiarly auspicious time to put our plan, which is a simple one, in operation. It is all involved in those three words, 'Hold your wheat.'" There is no doubt that the price of wheat is going to be very high, but this plan may turn out an over-reaching idea to send it up higher.

What we have said in the past about the heinousness of corners in the necessaries of life we repeat here. It matters not whether it is the original producers who form the trust or not, it is all wrong. It is our desire to see the farmer, above all others, prosperous, but we prefer to see such a thing brought about by natural means combined with industry and frugality. A wholesale corner like that proposed can and will have no permanent effect on prices. It may boost them for a time, but the collapse is bound to come and then there will be a right-down smash that will carry ruin in its wake to thousands. That is the story told of every wheat corner engineered by speculators and it will be true of this one, engineered by the Alliance, whose members are just as much speculators as old Hutchinson was at Chicago a few years ago when he promoted a wheat corner. He seemed to make much but he is now almost penniless. Wheat speculators and growers have the world to contend against and they want a free market to compete in and must have it.

Fortunately there is no talk of our farmers entering into this unholy Western alliance, and if they remain mum the result of the movement will be that they will profit by the temporary rise in prices that will be created and by the diversion of the foreign market from the United States to Canada. But they must be cautious to be in out of the rain when the storm comes, as come it surely will when the Alliance finds that England, the great consumer, will not, and does not need to 'pay the cornerers' prices.

Free Schools in England.

Half a century of progress in popular education in England has culminated in free public schools. The development has been slow and English conservatism has resisted the demand to the last, but it could not prevent the working out of a natural process of evolution. Fifty years ago the first grant in aid of elementary education was made by Parliament. From that beginning of $30,000 a year there has been a steady increase until, under the elementary education act, passed by the House of Lords last Friday, and now a law, $10,000,000 annually will be appropriated. For thirty years the development was comparatively slight and scattered. Then came the great act, carried through in 1870, by the late Mr. Forster, which gave the government systematic control of public instruction. Unsectarian schools were provided and attendance was made compulsory on all children between five and thirteen years of age, and every parish was compelled to provide sufficient accommodations for its children. This was a great gain over all former educational laws in England, but it still required a fee to be taken from every scholar, only allowing local school boards to remit it in special cases where extreme poverty would justify it. The law of 1870 has remained practically intact for twenty years, and this new act changes it only by abolishing the fee system, except in a few special cases. The English school becomes free, and, as it was already in many cases unsectarian, it must now soon become entirely so. The day of the church school is nearly over in England. Liberty of conscience, freedom of development, and modern progress unite to decree its downfall, and the end is at best only a matter of a few years. Under the new law Parliament makes a "fee grant" of $2.50 annually for each child in attendance at the schools and the total thus required will hardly be under $10,000,000, and is likely to reach a much higher figure in a few years. The result is the completion of the system of free education inaugurated in Scotland two years ago so far as the island of Great Britain is concerned.

The latest reports from St. Maude, near Vincennes, France, show that in a railway collision on Sunday 49 persons were killed and 100 injured.

The Pope has approved the exhibition of the Holy Coat at Treves, and has sanctioned the forgiveness of sins of the pilgrims who travel thither.

The importation of Canadian cattle to supply the district around Edinburgh, Scotland, has been begun. The first importation was landed at Leith on the 10th inst., when 267 animals reached there by the steamship Fremona from Montreal. Permission to land cattle at Leith has only recently been accorded by the British Minister of Agriculture, the district having previously been supplied by the shipments to Aberdeen and Dundee. Arrangements are being made at Leith to handle a large trade in imported cattle, and it is a significant instance of the growth of this business between Canada and the Motherland that the Scotch demand should have justified the establishment of a new depot.

A Warm Day.

The best method to resolve doubt into certainty, if any such doubt exists as to the efficacy of St. Jacobs Oil, is to use it and be convinced. A warm day is a good day for experiment upon any form of pain and for such, St. Jacobs Oil has no equal.

TIT-BITS.

The Value of Citizenship.

Cassidy (to his brother Tim, just landed)—That's the Coort-house. We'll dhrop in and yez can take take out your first citizen's paper.

Tim—An' is there anything to pay?

Cassidy—A thrifle—about twinty cints; but sure, 'tis a good invistmint. In foive years it'll pay yez two dollars annu'lly at iv'ry eliction.

Flies.

"There are no flies on me," said the boarding house steak.

"No," replied the boarding house butter, "flies would starve to death while they were trying to get their teeth through you."

"But look at the flies on you!" retorted the steak. "Why don't you run away from them? I'm sure you are strong enough."

Looked Suspicious.

Squire—Morning, Uncle Rufus. See you've got new neighbors moving in over there. What are they like?"

Uncle Rufus—Cain't always judge by de appearance, Squiah, but dey hes two monst'ous big featheh beds foh niggahs w'at don't keep fowls.

Frequently Had More Than an Eye on Him

Mrs. Carcow (to daughter): "Maude, my dear, you should often have an eye on the rich Mr. Tarbox, and see that that minx May Totten don't get him away from you."

Little Brother (who is very observing): "Oh, Maude often does better than that, ma, for she has her whole body on Mr. Tarbox's."

Of Course Not.

Mrs Newma—Oh, I wish you could see Mrs. Winkler's baby. It's perfectly lovely! Such a delicate, sweet little creature as it is! It's a perfect little cherub, with the loveliest eyes, the sweetest little mouth the cunningest little nose, and eyes of heavenly blue. It looks as if it had just dropped from heaven and every tiny feature had been fashioned by the angels."

Mr. Newma—It is as nice as our baby?

Mrs. Newma—Mercy! no, not half.

It Was a Trade.

He had a basket of eggs on his arm as he went into the building looking for "the man that writ out weddin' licenses."

"I'm from Stony Point and I want a weddin' license," he said to the clerk at the desk. "Is this the place?"

The clerk said it was.

"Might a knowed it," he continued; "fer the feller at the door told me it was. But I've got doubts about what you city fellers tells a stranger when he ain't got no proofs."

"Do you want a license?' asked the clerk.

"You bet I do, and I want it for myself, too I ain't bashful I ain't. A feller hain't got no right to be that has been courtin' a gal fer two year like I've been doin'. How much air they?"

"One dollar."

"Goramity, Gosh! They ain't that much air they? They was that last year, and I've been readin' as how the McKinley bill had brought down prices on all the necessaries of life. Ain't that so?"

"It hasn't got around here yet," explained the clerk.

"Well I've got to have her, dollar er no dollar, but young feller, I've got seven dozen eggs here worth fifteen cents a dozen. Right fresh out of the hens, too. Can't you take it out in trade and let me have the five cents over in cash to buy some red streaked and striped candy fer the gal? Tain't much, young feller, and if you ever come up on Stony, durn my cats if I don't board yer a week fer nothin'. Is she a swap with a nickel to boot fer the weddin' present?"

Ten minutes later he went out chuckling, with the license in the basket where the eggs had been.—[Detroit Free Press.

The Irish Widow.

"Did ye see me Toozy's noo hat, Oi wondher, Mrs. McGlaggerty?"

"Oi saw that she had a noo hat, but Oi didn't uxackly see id, Mrs. Magoogin."

"Thin ye mist a great dail, Mrs. McGlaggerty."

"How is that, Mrs. Magoogin?"

"Oh, but id's out av soight, woman. Id's foonier than a box av moonkeys, Mrs. McGlaggerty."

"Throth 'n' thin id musht be very foony, Mrs. Magoogin."

"An' so id is, Mrs. McGlaggerty," said the widow, puckering up her lips for the explanation that tollowed. "It's fwhat they calls a pancake hat—wan av thim things that luks loike a shtove led clapped an the tap av the head wid a bound av gozmer shtook an wan soide an' a little shtralleken av a ribbon toied round about the top av id. Upon me wurrud there's not that hoight av a crown to id," measuring the sixteenth of on inch on her thumb nail, "an' id luks for all the wurruld loike wan av Barnim s big elephints war usin' id fur a pianny shtool ur a matthrass. Begorries id was roightly named, fur aff id isn't as flat as a pancake Oi'll laive ye ait me, Mrs. McGlaggerty, an' divil the kick Oi'll make. 'Fwhere in th' name av all that's harrible did ye get that thing, Toozy, me darlint?' sez Oi, fwhin she brought it home. "Oi bought id, mimmaw,' sez she—she always sez mimmaw, bekase it sounds so hoigh chooned, d'ye moind, Mrs. McGlaggerty. 'Bought it?' sez Oi. 'Yis, an' ped noinety-foor cents fur id,' sez she. 'Fwhy didn't ye pay the full dollar an' get a little more hat,' sez Oi, 'fur that's nothin' but a laif,' sez Oi, 'an' a danged main an' maisly laif at that, too," sez Oi. "It's th' shtoyle, mammaw,' sez she, an' that was all th' ushcuse she had to offer fur wearin' id. Oi'd gev a good dail to see me Ditch son-in-law's mother dead, Mrs. McGlaggerty, but upon me sowl Oi wouldn't wear that pancake hat to her funeril, not aff id was to kape her aloive tin hundred year, Mrs. McGlaggerty. The cart-fwheel hat was bad enoof, God knows, an' th' hoigh Thtoifle tower hat was a soight, an' th' little Mickeens av bonnits that was no bigger nur poshtage shtamps war curassities, but the pancake hat takes the bakery an' th' oice craim salyunes, too, me frind. Th' head is no place fur pancakes; they belongs in th' shtomick They war invented to ait an' not to wear. Oi'm mixin' the batther fur some now, Mrs. McGlaggerty!"

Catarrh

Is a constitutional and not a local disease, and therefore it cannot be cured by local applications. It requires a constitutional remedy like Hood's Sarsaparilla, which, working through the blood, effects a permanent cure of catarrh by eradicating the impurity which causes and promotes the disease. Thousands of people testify to the success of Hood's Sarsaparilla as a remedy for catarrh when other preparations had failed. Hood's Sarsaparilla also builds up the whole system, and makes you feel renewed in health.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Sold by all druggists. $1; six for $5. Prepared only by C. I. HOOD & CO., Apothecaries, Lowell, Mass.

100 Doses One Dollar

The most momentous event of the last week in England was unquestionably Mr. Balfour's announcement in the House of Commons that the Government would at the beginning of the next session introduce a bill providing local government for Ireland, and based, broadly speaking, upon the principles and lines of the Scotch and English Local Government bills. Both Mr. Healy and Mr. Parnell—irreconcilable upon every other point—have already announced their intention of cordially supporting a bill of this kind, which is destined to confer upon Ireland the same local government privileges and rights as those conceded to Scotch and English communities. It carries in its train most of the benefits which the Irish hoped to derive from Home Rule, and, this being the case, the Gladstonian press has announced that the Opposition will offer no resistance to the measure. There is every prospect of the latter being carried therefore almost unanimously.

"German Syrup"

Asthma.

"I have been a great sufferer from Asthma and severe Colds every Winter, and last Fall my friends as well as myself thought because of my feeble condition, and great distress from constant coughing, and inability to raise any of the accumulated matter from my lungs, that my time was close at hand. When nearly worn out for want of sleep and rest, a friend recommended me to try thy valuable medicine, Boschee's German Syrup. I am confident it saved my life. Almost the first dose gave me great relief and a gentle refreshing sleep, such as I had not had for weeks. My cough began immediately to loosen and pass away, and I found myself rapidly gaining in health and weight. I am pleased to inform thee—unsolicited—that I am in excellent health and do certainly attribute it to thy Boschee's German Syrup. C. B. STICKNEY, Picton, Ontario."

Gentle, Refreshing Sleep.

A steamer which arrived in London from Auckland brought a cargo consisting of 40,000 sheep and 2,000 beeves, all dressed and frozen. This is the largest single cargo of dressed meat that has ever been brought to England.

The latest fad in Seattle, Wash., is paper hats for ladies. They are made in various styles, and being usually pretty and showy and costing only a few cents each, are apt to become quite popular.

A Saratoga letter tells of a woman there whose hair has turned within a year from gray to black—its original color. She is 70 years old, and her hair has been gray since early in the '70's.

A portable boat has been devised by Colonel Apostoloff of the Russian army, "which may be constructed instantly by making a framework with the lances of the Cossacks and covering with a tarred cloth. Two boats are capable of carrying 36 men with their baggage and arms."

THE GREAT REMEDY FOR PAIN.

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RHEUMATISM, Neuralgia, Sciatica, Lumbago, Backache, Headache, Toothache, Sore Throat, Frost Bites, Sprains, Bruises, Burns, Etc.

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