AGRICULTURAL.

Suppress the Weeds.

At this time of the year, in the pressure of saving the fall crops of fruits and roots, people are very apt to neglect the weeds in their gardens and fields. No one driving through the country in almost any direction can fail to notice the great increase of persistent weeds during the past few years. White or oxeye daisy, wild carrot, Canada thistle, golden-rod and similar weeds are covering the whole country rapidly, except where they are fought and destroyed whenever they show themselves. They are carried by the railroads into every part of the country, in hay, straw, grain and nursery stock; are scattered along the sides of the railroads, and no one caring about it, they are left to grow undisturbed until suddenly the neighboring farmers see, when too late, that an enemy has possession of their fields, and it must be dislodged at any cost, or the crops will be reduced in yield. During the past few years there has been a great depression in agriculture and farmers, feeling assured that their crops would hardly pay expenses, did as little work as possible, and the weeds were suffered to spread almost unchecked. When it hardly paid to harvest, a crop there was no apparent money return in going over the fields after harvest, until the ground froze up, to kill the weeds as they appeared. So they were left to fill the ground with their seeds, and thus entail great additional labor in cultivation of succeeding crops for many years to come. If the land is manured for a crop, this adds to the vigor of the weeds as well as of the crop. Vineyards and hoed crops of all kinds cannot be cultivated throughout the whole season without more or less injury to the crop, and so the weeds are left to grow and ripen their seeds. In the pastures the Canada thistles, golden-rod, milk weed and daisy are usually permitted to grow unchecked by any attempt at anything more than mowing them over during the season.

There is here and there a farm which seems almost entirely free from these weeds. Yet the owner will tell you that he does not spend much time in fighting them. After harvest, when his stubble fields are grown up to ragweed, etc., he goes over them with a mowing machine set high and the weeds get such a set-back that they do not recover in time to ripen seed. The vineyard and garden are plowed shallow with a gang-plow, burying all the weeds without injury to the roots of the vines and bushes. Golden-rod, Canada thistle and wild carrots can be killed by the use of a gang-plow, cutaway harrow, or scarifying cultivator, weekly through the season for two successive years. Enriching the ground well and seeding down heavily to clover will kill ragweed, pigeon grass, sorrel and similar weeds, which are literally smothered by the clover. In any case the rule should be never to let a weed go to seed on the farm. This will soon eradicate the annual weeds and prevent the spread of the perennials. Canada thistles, milk-weed, golden-rod and some other weeds spread as much, or even more, by underground runners as by seeds. In fact the Canada thistle seldom produces perfect seeds but the underground stems will run 10 to 20 feet in a single season. The only way to kill such weeds is to prevent their breathing. If a leaf is never allowed to show above ground more than a few hours, and the stems are then cut just below the surface of the soil, this class of weeds can be killed in one year. Snapdragon, or butter-and-eggs, can also be killed in the same way, although this weed does not spread so rapidly as the others and is therefore not so troublesome. The garden should be hoed out as often as once in two weeks until winter, as this will prevent any of the amaranths, purslane, pigweeds and other annuals from ripening seeds to give future trouble.

Care of Swine.

In reading what is requisite in the care of swine, one might at first be led to suppose that the task is a very onerous one, but really the matter is a very simple one in point of practice. It consists more in thought, care and good judgment than in any hard or expensive work. Select for the mother of your pigs a well-formed pig, with good lung and heart development and keep it in a thriving condition. This is about all there is of it. Let her get fairly matured before setting her to the task of breeding. Select the offspring of known good sires and dams and do not breed the sow too young. Old sows, as a rule, make the best mothers. A writer for the *Western Agriculturist* hits about right, as follows: "Constitution and early developing is another requisite, as a sow with a weak constitution and also the slow-maturing sow is the mother of slow-maturing pigs. Pigs as a rule take their form from their sire and their feeding qualities from their dam. To keep sows and young pigs in a thrifty condition some skimmed milk, ground oats and shorts slops would be fed for the first few days, when a little corn or cornmeal may be fed; care should be taken not to overfeed the sow. When pigs are old enough to eat and drink for themselves they should be fed at a separate trough, which can best be done by making a yard and having a little door left open so that the pigs can pass in and out at will. Now the feed may be increased, as the appetite and growth of pigs demands; also let them have the run of a clover field or wood pasture, so that they may get sufficient exercise so necessary to promote health and growth of bone and muscle. Pure water should at all times be furnished in troughs unless a stream or tile ditch can be had; care must be taken to have it free from dirt and filth."

Raising Early Lambs.

This is profitable if special care is bestowed upon the flock all winter. To have ewes drop lambs in March and April rams should be turned with them in late October and early November. They should be well fed during this time—indeed, we don't know when the time is that they should not be well fed. Prof. E. W. Stewart recommends the following mixture: 3 lb. bran, 1 lb. oats and 1-2 lbs. oil meal. Give 3-4 lbs. of this mixture to each ewe per day in troughs. This will begin the preparation of the ewe, physically, to bear strong lambs. This mixture, he says: "Will probably have a greater influence on the progeny than a like amount given afterward. This may be continued one month. At the same time the ewes to drop lambs in late March or early April should have, on pasture, half pound of wheat bran per day. This will be well paid for in the result. These ewes should be fed for one month after service, three quarters of a pound of the mixture first mentioned." When brought to the barn the following is recommended: Three pounds of wheat bran, one pound of oats, half a pound of shelled corn. Feed to each ewe per day one pound of this mixture. This will give a quite sufficient proportion of corn before the lamps are dropped. This grain, with what upland hay they will eat will keep them in good condition and cause them to bring strong healthy lambs. No oil meal should be fed to ewes after they have been with the ram one month. After the ewes have dropped their lambs the conbination of food given may be as follows: 2 lb. of wheat bran, 1 lb. of oats, 1 lb. of corn meal and 1 lb. linseed meal. This is merely a combination of food. Give at first 1 lb. of this mixture to each ewe per day, and after 10 days add ¼ lb., and at the end of the next 10 days add another ¼ lb. One month after dropping the lamb let the ration be 1 ¾ lbs. of the mixture per day, given in two feeds, and this will probably be sufficient until the lamb reaches market age. But if it should appear to be insufficient to support large and rapidly-growing lambs, let it be increased to 2 lb. per day, given in two feeds, and let the lambs eat with their dams."

Autumn Care of Roses.

A very successful rose-grower tells his experience in a recent issue of the *American Garden* as follows:

Roses have many enemies, but it is not nearly so difficult to succeed with them as many flower-lovers suppose. Most insect pests yield to sprinklings of hellebore in water, or kerosene emulsion. Rose bugs are not very troublesome on a clay soil, and such a soil is well adapted to their needs. We never take our roses from the ground to protect them, having learned that it can be done much more effectually where they stand. What is called an "open" winter is much more severe upon roses than is steady cold, even though it be below zero. Our method of protection for winter is to draw the earth up around the base of the plant for perhaps six inches. A quantity of leaves is then put over it, and the whole is covered with bagasse, the refuse from an amber cane mill. Evergreen boughs are equally good over the leaves, and I have no doubt but that corn stalks might answer if there was no grain to draw mice.

There is a Perle des Jardins in our collection which is eight or nine years old, which has several times frozen off to the earth, but it always sprouts again and has never failed to yield a generous number of roses every season. The old Caroline Marinesse failed to come up at all one summer and we thought it entirely dead, but the next season it sent up a few shoots, and it is strong and vigorous now. It is not safe to remove all the covering from the bushes at once in spring, as a cold, dry wind does them as much injury as a freeze. We throw coarse litter from the top, remove the leaves and throw back the litter, leaving it till the branches have time to dry off and harden. Then all the covering is removed, the bushes are pruned, the earth levelled and cultivated and a generous coating of stable manure is worked into the soil.

Roses should not covered until the approach of real winter. On that last day when the ground freezes a little all day put them into their winter overcoats, and the chances are that their sleep will be sweet and their awakening joyous. We rarely lose more than one bush in a dozen, and that is not discouraging. There are four roses in our garden which are sure to be replaced whenever one is lost. These are the Princess Vera, Safrano, Papa Gontier and Catherine Mermet. Safrano is the least hardy of the four. Princess Vera and Catherine Mermet have exquisite buds, and are very full and perfect when fully opened. Papa Gontier and Safrano have long, lovely buds, but the opened rose is semi-double. La France does not do well in our clay loam, and Madame Louis Henry, though exquisite, is but a shy bloomer. Roses are not greatly injured by light frosts, and the ever-bloomer will yield a handful of buds almost until snow flies.

What to do with "Labby."

In view of the possibility of a Liberal victory at the approaching elections for the English House of Commons, one of the minor, but not least interesting questions to be solved will be what to do with Mr. Labouchere—"Labby," to quote his more universally used cognomen. There is no doubt that he is in the House of Commons and out of it one of the most active agents of Liberalism, and Conservative authorities, for purposes of their own easily recognizable, take it as a matter of course that when Mr. Gladstone forms his Ministry some place must be found for the guerilla chief. That such speculation should form part of the ordinary political conversation of the day would, ten years ago, have seemed impossible. Mr. Labouchere has for a quarter of a century filled a peculiar and increasingly prominent place in English life. But only within the last two or three years has he come to be regarded in a serious light as a politician. From his earliest boyhood he has been connected with public affairs. He entered the diplomatic service during the Crimean War, a youth of twenty-three. He managed to see a good deal of life, and must have brought his immediate superiors into keen sympathy with the frame of mind described in Ecclesiastes "when the grasshopper shall be a burden." After ten years' experience of diplomatic life he retired. But the memories of the period dwell with him, and furnish him in Committee of Supply on the Civil Service estimates with many quaint if occasionally apocryphal stories and illustrations.

There never was a good war nor a bad peace.—[Franklin.

John Bull was always an adept at diplomacy. His latest success in this direction has been in connection with the acquisition of Manipur. Though not formally annexing the country, a collateral relative of the ex-Maharajah, under five years of age, has been selected for the throne, and a British Resident, under the orders of the Viceregal Government at Calcutta, is to administer the country during his long minority. Whether the infant Maharajah Chura Chund will ever obtain an opportunity to show the extent to which he has profited by the unique opportunities for political education promised to him by "The London Times" is extremely doubtful, and it is far more probable that long before he attains his majority he will have shared the fate of the ex-Maharajah Dhuleep Singh, and that Manipur will have become as completely part and parcel of British India as the Punjaub.

THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILROAD.

It is to be Vigorously Pushed—Half of it Already Surveyed.

The Government of the Czar is pushing forward the work on the Siberian railroad with all possible speed. It announced early this year that all of the available money to be derived from this year's budget would be devoted to this work. The road will be twice as long as any of the American transcontinental lines. The Government has ceased to carry on other public works and railways. These enterprises must for some time be conducted by private companies without State aid.

The Government has resolved to open the road to traffic in 1895. Many engineers, however, are doubtful that this can be done, and some of them say ten or twelve years will elapse before the road is in operation. It is probable, also, that the total failure of the crops in large districts of Russia and the necessity for Government aid may interfere with the progress of the railroad enterprise.

Why is the Russian Government in such a hurry to build this great railroad? As a matter of fact, the Czar is afraid that the Chinese have designs on the rich and fertile valley of the Ussuri, which forms the eastern boundary between Manchuria and the Russian Territory. His agents at Pekin reported late last year that the Chinese Government, influenced by certain Western powers, intended to build a railroad from Pekin to the Amour, through Manchuria; that much of the route had already been surveyed by English engineers, and that China's object was to better establish her authority over Manchuria, and also to enable her to advantageously defend it in case of war. Work on this railroad has actually begun, though its southern terminus is to be Tientsin instead of Pekin. If China has trouble with Russia such a railroad would also enable her to threaten and perhaps to cut off the Ussuri province from the rest of Siberia.

The importance of building the Siberian railroad is a question upon which public men of all shades of opinion in Russia are united. In a letter written by Minister de Giers early this year that statesman quoted the opinion of the Minister of War that in the event of hostilities with China it would be very difficult to defend the Amour district. De Giers endorsed this view, and added that if the Chinese at any time entertain hostile intentions against Russia the possessions of Russia in eastern Siberia, cut off as they now are seven months in every year, would be in an exceedingly precarious position. The immediate reason for building the the railroad, therefore, is a political one; but there are many who believe that the line is vastly more important in a commercial than in a political sense.

The whole of the route has been mapped out, but only one-half of it has been properly surveyed. The other half has been partially examined, and a fresh party of engineers was recently sent from St. Petersburg to carry on the work. The surveyed portions are not continuous, but embrace long stretches of the road on different parts of the route. About 2,500 miles of the road have been fully surveyed. The longest completed stretch of the surveys is on the central portion of the route, where, across the vast plains of Siberia, few engineering difficulties are encountered. About 1,200 miles of this part of the route have been surveyed, and nearly 700 miles of the route directly east of Baikal Lake have been completely laid out. About 200 miles, also, of the extreme eastern end of the route have been surveyed. The extreme western end of it, between the eastern slopes of the Ural Mountains and the Obi River, is still unsurveyed, and the total length of the line which has not yet been staked out is about 2,400 miles.

The Government intends to transform the Port of Vladivostock, which is the eastern terminus of the line, into a first-class fortress and to provide it with a harbor for the use of the Russian Pacific fleet. It intends to make it a second Sebastopol. From this port fast cruisers will issue to harass the ships and commerce of any nation with which Russia may be at war. The fortifications are now rapidly building, and, when completed, the port will be practically impregnable. The Government has supplied the authorities of the town with ice breakers, and so the port will be open all the year round.

The cost of the whole line, including bridges, rolling stock, rails, stations and platforms, is estimated at $175,000,000. Many prominent Russians think that although the motive in pushing forward the road is political, the line will prove ultimately of far more importance from a commercial point of view. They speak of the vast mineral resources of central and eastern Siberia, which, even now, in their almost undeveloped and unaccessible condition, yield large returns, and ask what may not be expected when a railroad opens up the country, and proper machinery can be taken in to work the mines. They also point to the vast tracts of land in western Siberia, and also in the Amour and Ussuri provinces in eastern Siberia, where the soil is very rich, and is undoubtedly well adapted for colonization.

It is an interesting fact that before the Government set seriously to work to build this road it inquired into the economic condition of Canada and the Northwest provinces before and after the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railroad. This inquiry led the Government to believe that the line would eventually pay, as, in their opinion, the conditions in Siberia are more favorable than those in Canada. They anticipate, of course, a deficit for a period of years, and, according to the best estimates they have been able to make, the line will at first need to be supported by an annual subsidy of at least $1,000,000. The annual expenses, including interest at four per cent. on the enormous capital invested, have been estimated at $17,405,000.

Estimates have been made of the revenue likely to be delivered from the carrying trade. The revenue expected from the carriage of tea is about $6,000,000; that from the carriage of other goods is estimated at about $6,500,000, while the Government expects to make a saving in the conveyance of criminals and exiles, officials and stores, of about $1,000,000 a year. It is estimated further that the iron and copper works near the Urals will bring to the railroad about 23,000 tons of freight annually, and that to this mining district, with a present population which does not exceed 100,000, will be attracted a large immigration, for it will be possible to work many mines and washings which are now abandoned.

Agriculture will be benefited almost as much as the mining industry. In the district between Chelabinsk and Troitak, south of the proposed route, there is a population numbering 300,000, all engaged in agriculture and cattle breeding. This enormous district embraces 25,000 000 acres of arable land, of which now only nine per cent. is cultivated. There is no doubt that the construction of the western part of the line will develop an immense area of agricultural lands.

FAMINE THREATENS CHINA.

Swarms of Locusts Eating up Every Green Thing.

In addition to the cholera plague now devastating China, famine seem to be staring the people in the face throughout the larger part of the empire. This probability of famine is caused by the serious ravages and destruction caused by the immense swarms of locusts, which eat up every green thing growing. Steamers coming from the interior river ports report passing through swarm upon swarm of these insects, which obstruct the view so that at times even the sun is hidden from sight.

The effect of a visit of these pests is simply appalling. The entire expanse of fertile country, which at this season of the year usually wears such a green appearance, is almost rendered like a desert. The rice and corn appear to be utterly destroyed, and of the grass (the sole dependence of the cattle and sheep) not a vestige remains after a swarm passes over it.

To make matters still worse, the astrologers and local spies tell the common people that the visitation of the locusts is Heaven's way of expressing its wrath against the present ruling dynasty in China, and that so long as they willingly submit to be governed by their present rulers each year Heaven will send a scourge equally dreadful. The peasants readily believe this, and the cry of rebellion and overthrow of the present dynasty and the establishment of one of real Chinese, as the astrologers claim Heaven wishes, is fast gaining recruits throughout the devastated districts.

Should the effects of the locusts be as bad as reported, then the famine will be very general throughout Central China, and in case of a rebellion the entire populace in the famine districts would probably engage in it, on one side or the other, and the results would be too horrible to anticipate.

How to Select a Turkey.

In this country only is the turkey found in a wild state. It is very fitting, therefore, that in the Thanksgiving dinner it should be the principal dish, writes Maria Parloa in her department in The Ladies' Home Journal. The turkey must be wisely chosen, well cooked and properly served. It should be short and plump, the meat white, with some fat, the legs black and smooth; and if there be spurs they should be short. The end of the breastbone should be flexible, more like gristle than bone. A turkey that is long in proportion to its size, and has dark or bluish flesh, may be tender, but certainly will not be finely flavored and juicy. A dry-picked turkey will be found to have a much better flavor than a scalded one. All poultry that is dry-picked costs a few cents a pound more than the scalded, but it is well worth the extra price.

Archdeacon Wolfe, of Fokhien, China, has an eye to economy even in the outlay for missionary effort. He writes that the chief food of the people is the sweet potato, cut into slices, dried in the sun, and sold at the rate of 130 pounds for fifty cents. "I have known families of four," writes the Archdeacon, "who lived upon this food exclusively at a cost of less than $2 a month," and then the thrifty Archdeacon asks: "If missionaries would be willing to live on this food what a great saving it would make in missionary expenditure." The reduction in cost would be very considerable indeed, but the heroism required to subsist on such diet might also reduce the number of volunteers for such a trial.

The territory that Russia covets most in India lies within Kashgar, and is separated from Cashmere by a range of mountains. Cashmere is not one of the most undisturbed of East Indian provinces, and Russian intrigue could cause much trouble. Kashgar belongs to China, however, and any power which attempts to wrest a portion of a well-recognized Chinese province from that Empire will find that it has a greater task than it anticipated. The Chinese have quelled revolt after revolt in Kashgar, and that with apparent ease, and they have rolled back the Russians themselves out of the province of Kuldja.

The chances for a bloody outbreak in Central America appear to be very good. There are schemes and counter-schemes on the part of would be dictators that bid fair to create bloodshed in that troubled region before long. And yet, were all dispatches relative to Central American affairs, coming by way of St. Louis, to be credited, revolutions and interstate wars in Central America, already of too frequent occurrence, would be more numerous. Reports of outbreaks have been repeatedly proved to be false, like those from the same source which asserted frequently during the last few months that a revolutionary movement was on the eve of breaking out in Guatemala against the Government of President Barillas. Now it is said, on the authority of a Mexican newspaper, that President Ezeta has asked the good offices of General Diaz's government to prevent a war between Salvador and Guatemala.

It is not easy, without further information, to see how the Artificial Rain Producing Company of Kansas can transact business very profitably. The object of the company is "to furnish water to the public by producing and increasing the fall of rain" by the Melbourne plan. Melbourne, the mysterious wizard, is to receive ten cents per acre from the company for all the land watered by him next summer. So far, all is perfectly clear and simple. Melbourne has simply to sit still and secluded for a few hours every day, and by next autumn he is certain of a fortune. But how is the company going to collect from its beneficiaries? The rain descends on the unjust as well as on the just, on the fields of debtors as well as on those of the rich. How can any one be made to pay for the magic shower? When it has once rained, the rain cannot be wafted away again even by Melbourne. Unless this mysterious man can repeat again the miracle of Gideon's fleece, and make the rain fall only on the fields of subscribers to the company, we fear its stock will not be selling at par after Melbourne's first year's income has been paid.

TIT BITS.

Hoping For The Best.

Snobberly's rich uncle was very sick, so the doctor said to the nephew:

"Your uncle is much worse! You must be prepared for everything."

"I'll be glad to get half," replied Snobberly, who was thinking of the property.—[Siftings.

A Lively Trade.

Lawyer (to female witness)—What occupation did your husband follow?

Witness—He was a skipper.

Lawyer—Of a schooner?

Witness—No; of a bank. He skipped to Canada.—[Siftings.

Shocking Bad Taste.

"My dear, don't you intend to invite Mr. and Mrs. Green to your party?" asked Mr. Biller.

"Certainly not."

"Why not, my dear? They are good friends of ours."

"What if they are? I am going to invite Mr. and Mrs. Brown."

"Well, can't you invite the Greens as well?"

"Why, John Biller, you shock me with your taste. Brown and Green in my parlor together! Why next you'll be asking me to wear blue and yellow. I declare you men have no idea whatever of harmony."

Clear Proof.

"My wife is a singularly ingenious woman," remarked the married man.

"Indeed!" said the bachelor, with a languid effort at interest.

"Indeed, I assure you. It was only yesterday that she found a new place to hide my slippers."

Poetical.

Husband—Would I were in heaven.

Talkative Wife—That is unkind; I'm sure I make it as pleasant as possible for you.

Husband—Ah, but you know the poet says: "to die is landing on some silent shore."

Rural Simplicity.

Yesterday a newsboy passed down Broad way bawling out, "War in Europe!" A countryfied looking old gentleman adjusting a pair of specs, and placing his ancient umbrella between his knees, assumed an ungraceful position, and proceeded to go through that paper then and there on the sidewalk. After he had turned the paper inside out two or thee times, read it all over several times, he put it up and wiped his specs. Just then the same newsboy passed, bawling:

"All about the war in Europe!"

The old man captured him by the arm and said:

"Sonny, do you know how to read?"

"No sir; my father was too poor to send me to school," replied the boy, trembling with fear.

"So I thought. I just want to tell you, bubby, some wicked person has been taking advantage of your ignorance and deceived you. There is no war in Europe. You have been deceived," and he gave the poor boy a quarter to buy himself a spelling book.—[Siftings.

Is Dancing Sinful?

Parson Gridly is very much opposed to dancing. He said recently to a young lady of his congregation:

"Are you one of those giddy girls to whom dancing is a heavenly pastime?"

"No, I don't think dancing is perfectly heavenly," she replied, demurely.

"Ah, that's right."

"Dancing is not perfectly heavenly," continued the young lady; "for you see it comes to an end too soon, but it is very much like heaven as long as it lasts."

Truthful James.

Teacher: "Who helped you with this essay, James?" Pupil: "Nobody, sir." "Now tell me the truth! Did not your brother?" Pupil: "No, sir; he did it all himself."

She—You would be the last man in the world I'd fall in love with.

He—That's all I'd ask. I don't want you to love anybody after me.—[Siftings.

A Hint.

Scene—Botanic Gardens; Time—Saturday afternoon. He: "I should be awfully proud if I had such a little white hand as yours." She: "Well, it's funny you never asked for it before. I've two, you know, and might spare you one."

Total Abstinence Desired.

Captain Cruiser: "So your son is a little dissipated—eh?" Anxious mother: "Oh, very, captain, very! What can I do with him?" Captain Cruiser: "Leave him to me. We sail from Liverpool for San Francisco next week, and won't touch port for some weeks." Anxious mother: "But, captain, don't you think brandy or any other spirit is just as bad as port for my son?"

A Heartless Humorist.

"My dear hubby," said Mrs. Pipkins, "I would so like to attend that sale of China and bric-a-brac down town. I want to buy something pretty for your birthday. Can't you let me have a couple of twenties?"

"Katherine," said Mr. Pipkins, "you have already given me a most beautiful, fashionable, rare and expensive article in that line."

"Why, what do you mean?" asked his wife. "I only gave you an oat-meal bowl last Christmas, and it was not so very high priced."

"Oh, yes you have," replied Pipkins; "did you not give me yourself, and are you not my jolly K?"—[Siftings.

Too Much.

A thrill of mortifying pain
Darts through my large and lofty brain,
When some young lady thinks
That I can spend a futile night,
And play with infantile delight,
"Progressive Tiddledy Winks."