

PRACTICAL FARMING

A Convenient Garden House.

The illustration herewith presents a new idea in the line of garden conveniences—a convenience, however, that will be appreciated when located alongside of one's garden, if gardening is made a feature of a prominence whatever. A small and inexpensive house close to the garden will be very



A GARDEN TOOL AND STORAGE HOUSE.

useful on many occasions and for numerous purposes. Here can be placed the garden cart or barrow, the hoes, rakes, shovels, and the forks that are continually needed. Here can be placed the commercial fertilizer to be used as needed, and in the upper part can be stored the plant protectors, bean poles and other sticks and stakes that are needed by the gardener. But of special value will such a building be at harvest time, especially if one makes a business of producing a large quantity of any one fruit or vegetable. It then becomes a sorting house where the crop can be carried and prepared for market or storage. One whole side should consist of two doors arranged to open in two ways—in the ordinary way for general use, and into hooks and rings at the top so that the doors may be unhooked at the sides and raised on two poles to make an awning before the house. Here, then, is an admirable place for the sorting and boxing of strawberries and other small fruits, green peas, snap beans and other garden stuff. Such a building should be made small, and so light that it can be readily moved if desired. A small window in either end will give all the light needed. In fact windows are hardly a necessity, as when the building is used the large doors will be open.

Seasonable Weed Killing.

The weed question resolves itself into a few distinct points, attention to which will save a world of wasted toil. In the first place a farmer must find out how to do the work at wholesale. Manual labor can never cope with such a herculean task. We must find some way to kill by the acre, and to do this successfully we must get firm hold of the first principles of plant life. Many farmers who have reaped one crop, of which a third was weeds, deliberately start in the fall to plow under all the ride seeds which were shed by the weed crop. That seed is simply embalmed when thus buried under a few inches of soil, and though a portion may decay, enough will remain sound to supply a heavy growth the next time they are brought near the surface, where air and moisture and warmth combined are sure to cause free germination; and after that buried seed has supplied two or three years' weeds from the one year's crop of weeds, there will still remain enough to keep up the supply. Old lands are, as a rule, fairly saturated with seeds, and thus buried and embalmed, no one can tell how far back. If I find foul seeds on the toy I want to keep them there, and coax them to germinate as early as possible. To harrow early in the fall means to kill such seeds by the million. If harrowed early in spring so many more will start into active life that most of these seeds will have been got rid of. If plowed a fortnight after the spring harrowing, and promptly double harrowed, the genial breath of spring will call thousands of the seeds so turned up to germinate. Then in ten days seed the land to barley, or some hard crop, and the harrow will kill millions that the former harrowing started into life. To harrow every ten days will kill more weeds for less outlay than any other method; for every round kills one set and starts another to be killed in the same way. A good crop of late-sown barley will choke down most of the seeds started by the last harrowing, and pay for most of the work so far laid out on that field.

But much land is infested with weeds that spread under the surface by creeping root stalks and above ground by seed. Canada thistle, quack grass, and most of the natural grasses of America are spread in both of these ways. Repeated surface harrowing in dealing with annual weeds will break up such creeping root stalks and multiply them indefinitely, every fragment starting a new plant. To attempt collecting such roots by harrowing and gathering off would be an endless task. But we know that a plant in the active stages of its existence must die if prevented from forming green leaves for a proper length of time, therefore, to deal most successfully with quack grass or thistles we would tackle them in their most active stages of growth. A farmer who, by summer following, had spread quack grass over hundreds of acres of rich prairie land, asked me what he should do to clear it off. I advised to plow six inches deep in the latter part of May, and sow barley on top. The effect was almost miraculous. The grass roots got sick for want of air and food normally taken in by the leaves. It was like taking a fish out of water. The rapid growth of the barley on top did its own share of the work, and the land remained clean.

To mow thistles in full growth, and repeat the dose in about six weeks, then turn under a good straight furrow, and then cultivating on top to keep green leaves from forming, if they do spring up, is another application of the same principle. Work spent trying to kill either annual or perennial weeds in their dormant stages, is almost labor lost. One of the richest crops of annual weeds I ever saw was produced in the following way: A farmer owning good land had by repeated crops of wheat on fall plowing got his land saturated with foul seeds and wanted to clean it by summer following; but instead of harrowing close after the plow so as to save all the moisture and form a fine, damp mold in which to start the seeds, he plowed the whole and then harrowed the dried-out land. Scarcely a weed came for lack of moisture enough to induce germination, and the good work done on that dried-out surface provided a first rate seed bed for them next spring. They grew much faster than the wheat, and so, for lack of previous sound thinking, my hard-working friend had rank weeds where he ought to have had choice wheat. In weed killing

more than anything else correct thinking is indispensable to profitable working. Accurate ideas about plant growth are the soundest guides to success.

The Outlet to Underdrains.

The most important part of an underdrain is the outlet, and just as the snow melts this should be examined and all sediment and other accumulations cleared away. If the outlet be located where stock is allowed to run, the chances are that some of the stones or tiles have become displaced by the tramping of stock in search of water. These should be replaced even if several feet of the outlet must be removed for that purpose. A flat stone or piece of plank or slab should be placed over the drain and the whole covered with soil a foot deep. If the open ditch or creek into which the drain discharges has become filled up, it should be cleaned so that the water may not back up into the drain; and this work is very important and should not be neglected.

Repairing Fences.

There is a great deal of work that can be done on a farm to good advantage after farm work proper is finished. There is no better time in the year to put the fences in good shape than when the ground is frozen. It is easy to get about the fields with material, and the work has just exercise enough to make it pleasant. A fence that is gone over every year seldom needs a great deal of repairing. Yearly attention keeps it in good condition, but neglect it for a few years, and it will require as much labor to put it in good trim as it takes to build a new fence.

Poultry Pointers.

Half starved hens never lay in winter. Lessen the expense as much as possible. Keep the laying hens from getting too fat.

Don't expect poultry to thrive in damp quarters.

Lime is a good material to sprinkle in the dust-bath.

Fowls should be so gentle that you can catch one anywhere.

Meat scraps in the soft feed twice a week will help along the egg product.

Wrap every fowl for a private customer in a pure white table napkin and let the buyer remove it and return with the pay.

The indestructible stoneware drinking fountains are as good as any kind we have seen and have the advantage of being cheap.

Even if you know your eggs are fresh do not take them to a customer with the shells dirty. It does not help to inspire confidence in their quality.

Put bones in the stove and allow them to burn white, when they can be easily pulverized. Mix this with corn meal and feed twice a day to the fowls.

Don't market dirty eggs. It takes but little time to wash those that have become soiled, and when clean they will look so much better and will sell so much more readily.

Left over cabbage and celery plants, and garden stuff generally, should go to the shut-in poultry. They are useful meat and egg producers, and should never be washed.

The sugar beet is valuable for fowls as well as sugar making. Served raw through the summer, it is very acceptable to a flock that cannot range and find green food for themselves.

Whole wheat is better for fowls than corn. It does not make them so fat, and, considering the number of eggs which can be procured by using it, is altogether a more economical food.

On all farms large amounts of grain, grass seeds and other foods find their way into the barnyard there to rot. The sharp eye of the hens discover this loss, and save it to owners by producing eggs.

To get away from the exclusive corn diet, lay in a supply of wheat, oats, barley, middlings and bran. By having them on hand you will readily get in the habit of using them, and your profit will be better for so doing than if you stick to corn all the time.

The man who is not willing to turn out early to feed the flock must not expect to pocket large returns. It is the early riser who gets the eggs. If the fowls are obliged to wait for their breakfast, after they are up, it is bound to have a bad effect on the egg supply.

To utilize the feathers of ducks, chickens and turkeys generally thrown aside as refuse, trim and plume from the stump, inclose them in a light bag, rub the whole as if washing clothes, and you will secure a perfectly uniform and light down, excellent for quilting coverlets and not a few other purposes.

The following foods contain all the elements which exist in eggs. Oats, wheat, barley, corn, bran, linseed, hemp seed, rape seed, crushed bones, mustard seed, green cabbage and clover, and a reasonable supply of all these, varied more or less, with the aid of crushed limestone and gypsum, would afford every element called for to produce a constant supply of eggs. A large quantity of broken fresh bones is one of the most important aids.

How He Sold Them.

Lady of the House—"I don't need any of your burglar alarms."

Agent—"That's just what the lady next door said."

Lady of the House—"Said what?"

Agent—"That it was no use of me calling here, as you wouldn't need any, because you had nothing to steal. I—"

Lady of the House (gritting her teeth)—"Give me three."

Repartee.

Smartie—"Which would you rather be the fool you look, or the fool you are?"

Quietie—"Really, I am so dissatisfied with myself, don't you know, that I'd rather be the simple idiot you are."

Every water save that of springs contains animal life, but it is not necessarily injurious to health on that account.

Things made wholly or in part of clay and baked, which are opaque, are called pottery; those which are semi-transparent are porcelain.

SWINDLERS IN HIGH LIFE,

WITH CLAIMS OF LINEAGE TO ENT-RAP THE TURF HUNTERS.

Credulous Tadies who Deeply Love a Lord and Pay the Price for His Acquaintance—The Gay Prince of Loos-Corswarem.

The race of notorious, almost illustrious and historical, adventurers, swindlers, and charlatans is not, and never will be, extinct. The unscrupulous financier like Law, the mysterious personality like the Chevalier d'Eon, the seer and hypnotizer like Cagliostro, have engendered a numerous posterity. But however plausible, there has laid over on them the vague stigma of suspicion, the shadow of an obscure past, of a precarious present. It remained for the latter end of the nineteenth century to produce a man who, belonging to one of the most ancient families of Europe, bearing a name that makes him the peer of princes, has yet been convicted and exposed as the fallen creature the French call an escroc and the English a swindler.

The Prince of Loos-Corswarem is a member of a Flemish family, whose origin authentically dates from the year 1080, who received the dukedom in 1734, and whose chief became Prince of Rheina-Waldeck, with the title of Serene Highness, in 1803.

This adventurer of high lineage made many dupes in Paris, Belgium, Monte Carlo, and Nice milking his victims of over half a million of francs in a very short time. Strangely enough they were not all foreigners, flattered in their snobbish vanity by association with a man of title and ready to oblige him with large sums; but even in Brussels, where the Loos Corswarem resides where they possess hereditary property, and where it was easy to make inquiries. They

AT LAST DISCOVERED

that this particular member of the family was a black sheep, but several simple bourgeois of the city had advanced him money on being told by him that he was about to marry the wealthy Princess Demidoff. He not only promised them large profits on the completion of his marriage but assured them that they would be invited to the ceremony and subsequently to his intimacy.

Some years back the Prince lived unostentatiously, and even shabbily, in a small street branching from the Rue du Quatre Septembre in Paris and endeavoring in vain, in spite of his assurance and audacity, to raise the slightest loan; the Jews fought shy on information gained of former shabby and unremunerative transactions. His untrustworthiness had become a recognized fact in all the capitals of Europe, and he wisely retired into obscurity till his escapades were forgotten. At a propitious moment, quite lately, he emerged from his retirement, publicly announced his engagement to a woman of wealth and position, and incurred liabilities which he was completely incapable of meeting. It is rumored, if not positively known, that an English lady residing in London is among his chief creditors, having advanced him money and valuable to a large amount.

Before Prince de Loos another adventurer duped society with considerable success. After the Franco-German war a man

SUDDENLY MADE HIS APPEARANCE

in Paris calling himself Prince Scanderbeg, declaring that he had come to establish his claim to the throne of Albania with the addition of Mesopotamia and other provinces. It was no slight presumption or easy task to prove descent from Scanderbeg, for the Christian hero lived at the time of the capture of Constantinople by the Turks and died in 1467 at Lissa while negotiating an alliance with the Venetians against the Turks.

The new Parisian Scanderbeg, without hesitation or embarrassment, produced documents which he showed to whoever was anxious to inspect them, with deeds and parchments which it was impossible to decipher or authenticate, but which were extremely impressive in their appearance of antiquity. However, he neglected to assume the patronymic of his supposed ancestors and to style himself George Castriot. The romance of his story, his picturesque exterior, the secret hope of benefiting eventually by his success, allured a number of people, some belonging to the highest classes of society. The future ruler of Albania and Mesopotamia was lavish of his favors, nominated future Ministers and Chamberlains, and distributed countless orders and ribbons in exchange for solid financial support. But one day the police thought fit to interfere, and without waiting to face official investigations the sovereign in partibus promptly and unheroically vanished, forgetting to pay his debts.

Inferior in ability and less audacious in their conceptions were Mme. Apparuti, whose royal robes were sold the other day at public auction; the notorious Mayrena, styling himself King of Sedang; Orelie L. King of Araucania; Jules Gros, President of Comani, and a few others selecting the same lines.

The adventurer, who played his part with the greatest perfection, was an escaped convict, who, under the first empire, contrived to pass into Spain, where he remained some time in concealment. Presently he ingratiated himself with a refugee nobleman, became his confidential servant, and acquired a thorough knowledge of all the details of his past life. Served by a certain physical resemblance to his master, he learned every trick of manner and speech, and, when quite perfect, murdered his benefactor, avoided arrest, and returned to France possessed of the papers, and assumed the name and

TITLE OF HIS VICTIM.

At the fall of the empire he made capital of his fidelity to the legitimate monarchy obtained a high command in the Gardes du Corps, and became a friend of the Duc de Berry, till one day, having reached the zenith of his popularity and feeling assured against detection, he accidentally brushed up against an old fellow convict near the Louvre. The man recognized him and addressed him by his real name. The adventurer, unabashed, raised his whip upon the ex-convict to chastise him for his insolence. The man, who might have been bribed to keep silence, was so incensed at this treatment that he forthwith denounced his old companion of infamy and accused him of being a Galerien, a thief and a murderer. As a great number of honorable persons would have been compromised in a public trial, the affair which caused a profound sensation in Paris, was hushed up and the man was made to disappear before the inevitable exposure.

In the beginning of this century those who have lived in Italy could remember a sensational story respecting a little Copt, educated at the College of the Propaganda in Rome, who eventually succeeded in passing himself off as the son of a grand seigneur of his nation and was elected Patriarch of the Copts and sent to Alexandria in that capacity. There some people of the lower orders identified him as the son of a very common date seller, and the authorities being appealed to the true facts were elicited. The Patriarch was ignominiously brought back to Rome relieved of his ecclesiastical dignities, imprisoned in the Castle San Angelo for a time, and then liberated and sent adrift.

The last addition to the long roll of imposters is a woman, formerly an opera singer who married a millionaire and contrived to ruin him in three years. He was found mysteriously murdered at Algiers. With the remnants of his fortune bequeathed to the widow, but wholly inadequate to satisfy her extravagance, she affected to have inherited an immense fortune, and with unparallelled audacity bought houses on credit giving as reference a notary who was her accomplice, and who in consideration of a share in the profits guaranteed her solvability. As soon as she held the title deeds she sold the houses for cash and disappeared leaving the old owners and new proprietors to fight it out among themselves.

ALWAYS SUPERBLY AT TIERED

and wearing costly jewelry. Mme. Moulin found no difficulty in running up large bills at the best shops in Paris, frequently changing her address and eluding payment. At last she was arrested, and four hundred charges were brought against her, thus interting with her last purchase of a house on her usual system. The sums that she has swindled—or at least those that are now known—already amount to two millions of francs.

A man whom it would be a libel to rank with any of the above who certainly made for himself an extraordinary position in English society, considering that when he first appeared in London no one could with any certainty say who and what he was, introduced himself as Count Teraschowsky, commonly called by his intimates "Sherry and Whiskey." He was a delightful companion and a good talker. The Prince of Wales took a great fancy to him, and the world following suit he became an undoubted social success. To the astonishment of every one he was found dead one morning in his chambers, after having attended two fashionable entertainments the night before. If the Count committed suicide, which seemed probable, he could not have been prompted to the act by financial difficulties, for he left behind him £60,000 in ready money and no debts of any consequence. The Prince of Wales, who was in Paris at the time, was deeply affected when he heard of the event, but to this day the mystery of Teraschowsky's antecedents and origin has not been elucidated.

A good presence, cleverness, coolness, a profound indifference to and contempt of mankind, unbounded pluck, and the readiness of wit which is never at fault, coupled with an incontestable dose of physical courage, are the qualities indispensable to the man who assumes the perilous part of adventurer and who stakes his whole on the success of the wildest and most presumptuous scheme for making dupes.

John Bull in South America.

The news which reached us last week from Bluefields, on the Mosquito coast in Nicaragua, although coming from an American source, would go to prove that the British are determined to hold their own down there, notwithstanding the frantic screaming of the Yankee Eagle. As the Empire points out, there is no official report that the British went ashore for any other purpose than to protect the lives of the inhabitants of Bluefields, and this at the request of the consuls stationed there. What irresponsible Americans writing to papers may say is of little consequence, for diplomatic complications, if such should arise, are not settled by the press. All through these Spanish republics, the people of which are not cowards, whatever their defects may be, blustering Americans can be found, but their opinions count for little and they are not looked upon with the same respect as Englishmen, because the latter are not to be trifled with. Take the case of McGee, who is associated with C. P. Huntington in railway enterprises in Spanish America, and who controls many of the iron piers along the coast. He was an attaché of the British consulate in Salvador, and had a misunderstanding with the commandant at one of the ports, a very important personage. This official called McGee a liar, whereupon the latter knocked him down. He was arrested and sentenced to fifty lashes, one each to be laid on by fifty soldiers. McGee was cruelly beaten. He appealed to his consulate for redress and shortly afterwards a British war vessel appeared at Acajula with a demand that not only an ample apology be given by the authorities to McGee, but that he be paid \$1,000 for every blow dealt him. The apology was given at once, but the money payment being tardy the war vessel shotted her guns and word was sent that if the money was not paid within twenty-four hours the town would be laid in ruins. The money was immediately paid, and by investing in coffee fields and iron piers, McGee became very wealthy and now lives at ease in Paris. Had he been an American he would have had to take the beating without redress, for the States care little for the safety of its citizens abroad. But these tatterdemalion republics know that the British are not to be ill-used in any way.

If the British have taken possession of Corn Island it is for the purpose of controlling the projected canal, and they will control it if ever it be built. The American company has failed to carry out its agreement with Nicaragua and that agreement must fall. Warner Miller has intimated as much. Talk of the application of the Monroe Doctrine is nonsense. The British can enter into any arrangement they please with Nicaragua, and evidently they have reached some understanding which warrants them in keeping on the coast.

The man who hath no music in his soul, and is not moved with concord of sweet sounds, is fit for treason, stratagems and spoils.—Shakespeare.

Eating contests are a feature of the religion of the South Sea Islanders. They hoop themselves like barrels to keep from bursting.

IRRIGATION.

The Subject of Irrigation of Great Interest to Western Canada.

Irrigation conventions have become popular in the United States, but probably the first convention of this nature ever held in Canada was that which met at Calgary, Alberta, on March 8 and 9. In the United States irrigation has made great progress in a number of states. There is a vast area of territory both east and west of the Great Divide, which is not adapted to cultivation without irrigation. Large portions of the Pacific coast states require irrigation, the climate becoming arid as progress is made inland from the coast. The inland states of the Pacific slope are practically all in the arid belt. East of the great central chain of mountains there is also a vast area of the bordering states which are arid or partly arid. It will therefore be noted that in Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Nebraska, the two Dakotas, Kansas, New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma and Texas, there are areas of more or less magnitude which require irrigation. The central ones of this list of states and territories are practically all in the arid belt. The states and territories named comprise over half the total area of the United States, but large portions of some of the states mentioned cannot be classed as arid, such as the territory bordering on the Pacific coast, and the eastern portions of North and South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska, etc. With such a vast area of territory requiring irrigation, it is therefore not to be wondered at that the question of irrigation has taken a position of national importance in the neighboring republic. Wonderful results have already been accomplished in that country, in converting arid wastes into fruitful farms, and the desert has in reality been made to bloom as the rose. A great deal more yet remains to be accomplished, and the work of reclaiming the great American desert can only be limited by the quantity of water available for the purpose of irrigation. We noticed a statement in a reliable journal recently, that only about one-tenth of the arid region of the country (the United States) could ever be irrigated, owing to the lack of water or other difficulties. Be this as it may, the arid region is so great that the reclaiming of even one-tenth will add greatly to the agricultural area of the country.

In Canada it is only during the last two or three years that attention has been given to the question of irrigation. In fact, interest in the matter is only now beginning to be awakened. The Winnipeg Commercial has perhaps had as much to say upon the question as any other journal in the Dominion, and this journal was one of the first mediums through which attention has been drawn to the subject. Heretofore the need of irrigation has not been greatly felt in Canada. Our arid region is simply a continuation northward of the dry belt of the United States, but the area is much smaller in this country than in the republic. It comprises portions of the province of British Columbia and of the territories of Alberta and Assiniboia. In British Columbia some trifling irrigation work has been done by private parties, but no systematic effort has been made to reclaim the arid regions of the interior valleys, while in the coast districts there is no need of irrigation. In southern Alberta and western Assiniboia, there is a large area of excellent land which will never be valuable for cultivation without irrigation. It is open prairie land, with no obstructions to cultivation, and with a fine soil and climate, but without sufficient rainfall to make agriculture profitable. There is very little waste land, so far as the topography of the country is concerned, except the mountainous portion of Alberta. With a sufficient supply of moisture, this region would support a population of millions, dependent upon agriculture; but without water the population will be limited to those dependent upon such interests in stock-raising, mining, etc. Efforts have from time to time been made to interest the federal government in the question of irrigation for this region, but so far such efforts have not been very successful. The recent convention held at Calgary will perhaps result in drawing greater attention to the matter. The convention resolved that it would be advisable to have a general irrigation act passed, providing for the protection of water rights, and providing a plan whereby bonds could be issued for irrigation purposes. It was also decided that it would be a great advantage to have a government irrigation farm established.

A much more comprehensive scheme was also presented to the convention and adopted, to the effect that the boundary of the territory of Alberta should be extended eastward to take in the arid portion of Assiniboia territory, the territory thus formed to be erected into the province of Alberta. The advantage of a provincial government would enable the Alberta Government to undertake some plan of irrigation. It was resolved that the arid lands, which are now held by the federal government, should be handed over to the proposed provincial government, and thus become an asset of the latter government which would be available in providing funds for irrigation purposes. It was very reasonably pointed out that the lands are of little value now, and that if the proposed province could make them valuable it would be a wise thing to turn over the lands to the provincial government. The streams flowing in a general direction eastward from the mountains, it is claimed, afford means of irrigating the country as far eastward as Swift Current, in Assiniboia territory. The convention no doubt will have a good effect, and we may look in the future for important irrigation developments in the Northwest.

Let me have music dying and I seek no more delight.—Keats.

The soul of art best loved when love is by.—Rev. J. B. Brown.

Music washes away from the soul the dust of every day life.—Auerbach.

Music is the child of prayer, the companion of religion.—Chateaubriand.

Sweetest melodies are those that are by distance made more sweet.—Wordsworth.

Philip, the Duke of Burgundy, spent much time in contriving trap-doors in his house and grounds to souse unwary strangers in water beneath.

There were 11,435,487 barrels of salt produced in the United States in the year 1893, as against 11,785,754 barrels in 1892, a falling off of 350,267 barrels. Each barrel weighed 280 pounds, making a total of 3,201,301,660 pounds.