Fall Pruning of Berry Bushes.

Raspberries and blackberries are considered by the majority of people to be the best small fruits we have for table use. Even when they are selling for double what they usually do, we see the poor as well as the rich buying them by the crate for preserving purposes. In order to keep all the raspberry and blackberry plants in this province bearing in good shape each year they must be properly pruned. You will hear people say, "What is the use of pruning, my plants bear every year?" That is not what we prune for; we prune to make the plants bear more every year and keep free from disease. It used to be the custom to do all this pruning in the spring, but there is a great rush of work at that season of the year and many times the pruning is only half done or not done at all. Also it is very hard to tell which canes are old and which are new in the spring of the year. The best and proper time to do the raspberry and blackberry pruning is during the latter part of August or first of September after all the crop of fruit has been harvested.

Raspberries and blackberries are fruits which grow wood the first year and then the second year this wood produces berries. So after the second year's growth of the cane is past, it is no good to the plant for fruit production. It should be removed at this time in order to give all the vitality of the plant to the fruit-bearing canes. When the canes are cut from the plants they should be piled in heaps and burned so as to destroy all insects and diseases on them. By doing this every fall you will keep your plot of raspberries or blackberries in a very healthy condition.

At the same time that the old canes are cut out the young canes and suckers should be thinned. In doing this thin out the weak canes and suckers, leaving the strong healthy ones for the next year's fruit crop. This gives the canes left more sunlight and a better chance to make a strong growth. To get a good crop of very fancy berries it would be best to thin the canes so that they are about six to eight inches apart.

Some people who want only enough raspberries for their own use have a system of pruning so as to extend the fruiting season from two to four weeks. It works out quite well on a small patch, but reduces the crop too much to be a profitable proposition for the commercial fruit grower. All the canes are cut back to within about one foot from the ground in the fall to cause the late fruiting the following year. The strength of the plant the following spring goes to the lower buds first and a long shoot is made before the flowers appear on the canes. By this late flowering process you can make your patch of berries bear for a long time during the summer. Prune part of the patch for a late crop and prune the rest as you would ordinarily, and your season of fresh raspberries will be several weeks longer than it would be under normal conditions.

Save Your Own Garden Seed.

Some of the garden seed now growing abundant in your garden will be needed next year when planting time comes. Better save a supply while you can. It is not hard to save seed and quite frequently the home-grown supply is better than any that can be bought from the seed man. Home-grown seeds are suited to local environment and the vigor and productiveness of the plants from which they are selected can be taken into consideration—which is an important point in selecting home-grown seed. Wait until the seed matures, then dry it thoroughly immediately after it has been harvested, put it in packages well labeled and store in a dry place where it can not be destroyed by insects, rats or mice.

Of course, it is a good thing to save garden seed. But carefully saved seed should be well labeled and stored to save confusion next spring. Cloth bags are the best containers for large seed and well sealed envelopes are satisfactory for smaller kinds. Every envelope or container should show the kind and varieties of seed, the date, including month and year when harvested, and the place where grown.

A single ear of sweet corn will furnish enough seed for a small garden. Think how easy it is to save the best ear you produced this year for planting next spring when seed may be hard to obtain. All that is required is to dry it thoroughly and store it where it will not be injured. But saving seed from the garden should not be limited to sweet corn. Seed from the best beans, peas, tomatoes and other vegetables should be selected this fall when they can be obtained easily and the supply is abundant.

Hints For Stockmen.

Warts can be removed with iodine and skunk-oil well mixed, one-eighth iodine, seven-eighths skunk-oil or glycerine.

For rinkworm on stock use strong iodine ointment. After scrubbing and cleansing the affected part apply ointment very other day. Cleanse and disinfect stalls.

When the sow's afterbirth is passed, it should be removed from the pen at once and buried or burned. There is good reason to believe that eating the afterbirth is often the beginning of the habit of eating pigs.

When pigs scour, cut down the sow's feed immediately. Give her fifteen to twenty grains of sulphate of iron (copperas) in her slop morning and evening, and if necessary increase the dose until results are obtained.

Purchased animals should never be allowed to mingle with other animals on the farm until they have been examined by a veterinarian. Efforts should be made to determine whether purchased animals have been tested for tuberculosis, contagious abortion and other infectious diseases.

When a cow milks a fine stream which is very hard to press out, we have found that the best way to overcome the difficulty is to put one or two calves with her to suck for a couple of months. After calves are weaned the cow will usually be found to milk a large stream and easily.

Henry's Oil Stick.

One of the unhandy things about driving "the universay car" is that it is often necessary to get down under it with a pair of pliers in order to ascertain whether or not there is sufficient cylinder oil. A broom stick cut off so that it is about thirty inches long can be made to do this job easily if a slot is cut in the end. This slot must be cut wide enough so that the turning part of the petcock will fit into it. By using this stick it is a very easy matter to stoop over at the side of the machine and trp the petcocks to see whether enough oil is on hand. This simple device obviates the necessity of getting under the machine with the pliers and makes it unnecessary to be so careful about getting one's clothes dirty.—I. J. Mathews.

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The Stars.

Oh, many the stars of the sky—
A million, or maybe more,
When they twinkle at night on high
I try to number them o'er;
But before I can get very far
I am lost in the Milky Way;
And before I could count every star
I think 'twould be almost day.

Often I've wished I could hold
Just one little star in my hand,
And find if it's made of gold
And how its twinkles are planned.
I've seen them fall from the sky;
One night there were almost ten,
But none of them fell near by,
And I never saw them again.

But here is a star that the sea
Has playfully cost on the sand;
The waters have brought it to me,
And I pick it up in my hand.
Perhaps it has fallen to-day,—
There are stars by day, I am told,—
But its twinkles, where are they?
And I do not find any gold!

The things of the sea and the sky,
How little we know what they are!
And whether far off or near by,
A wonderful thing is a star!
But whether they twinkle or fall,
Or drift to the shore of the sea,
We know that the Maker of all
Is the Maker of you and me.

You pay the same war tax on a pound of cheap, poor tea that you pay on Red Rose. In other words you pay 10¢ war tax on a cheap tea which will make perhaps 150 cups to the pound and you pay the same 10¢ tax on a pound of Red Rose which easily makes about 250 cups.

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CRATE FATTENING POULTRY

Practical experience has shown that crate fattening is not only the most satisfactory but the most economical method of finishing poultry for market. The saving in the amount of feed required to produce each pound of gain is a great object these days, and the feeder is enabled by this method to observe to better advantage the progress being made by the various fowls. He can fatten the fowls in shorter time, thus causing them to attain their maximum weight and having them ready for sale with less expense for labor and feed.

The fattening crate which we have had greatest success with is six feet long, twenty inches high, sixteen inches wide. It is divided into three equal parts by means of two tight wooden partitions. The material used in the frame is two inches wide by seven-eighths inch thick. The frame is covered with slats which run lengthwise on the top, back and bottom and vertical on the front and are made of material seven-eighths of an inch wide, and five-eighths thick.

The slats are placed two inches apart on the top and front, one and one-half on the back, and from one-half to three-fourths on the bottom. Care is taken to have the outer slats on the bottom at least half an inch from the frame in order to provide for cleaning. The top slats are cut through at each partition and connected by two-inch strips, nailed underneath. By hinging these strips to the rear frame piece, three doors are made. A light V-shaped trough two and a half inches wide is placed in front of each crate, and is carried on two brackets nailed to the ends of the crate. The bottom of this is four inches above the bottom of the crate, and the upper inside edge two inches from the front of the crate.

In crate feeding the best results can be secured only from the use of strong, healthy, vigorous stock, of the general-purpose breeds, and the greatest gains are obtained on birds that weigh from three and a half to four and a half pounds when they are ready to be placed in the crates. They should have attained this weight in from four to five months. Leghorns, Hamburgs, and other light weight stock do not make suitable stock for the crate feeding method. All birds should be thoroughly dusted with insect powder, or common yellow sulphur before being placed in the crates, and again at the end of the first week.

The object in crate feeding is not only to increase the amount of fat and lean meat on the body, but also to soften the tissues and muscles that have been hardened through constant exercise on free range. The duration of the feeding period varies from fourteen to twenty-one days, depending entirely upon the thriftiness of the birds. Some birds, given judicious feeding and good care continue to make satisfactory gains for even longer periods than three weeks.

Birds placed in the crates with crops full should not be fed for the first twelve or eighteen hours in order that they may become more quickly accustomed to the change in diet. Many feeders practice giving three light feeds per day for the first three days, then two feeds a day for the remainder of the fattening period. The birds should not be given more feed at one time than they will eat up clean in twenty minutes. After this the troughs should be taken away or tuned upside down in the supports, so that nothing is left to be picked at between meals.

The following five meal mixtures, in the order of their merit, have been found satisfactory for crate feeding. It should be remembered that ground corn fed in excess will produce yellow flesh of inferior quality, and that ground peas impart a hardness of flesh: 1. Two parts of finely ground oats, one part ground buckwheat, one part cornmeal. 2. Equal parts finely ground oats, buckwheat and barley. 3. Equal parts finely ground oats, barley and shorts. 4. Two parts finely ground oats, one part of cornmeal, one part shorts. 5. Two parts barley, two parts low-grade flour or shorts, one part of wheat bran. The husks should be sifted from the oats, barley or buckwheat.

These proportions should be measured by weight and mixed to a thin porridge with thick sour milk, or buttermilk. On the average ten pounds of meal requires from fifteen to seventeen pounds of milk. If the fowls appear constipated at any time, carefully mix and dissolve a small quantity of Epsom salts in one feed, add a little charcoal to one feed. Give grit and green food twice a week. All food should be mixed twelve hours before feeding and a very small quantity of fine table salt added, not more than one-quarter of one per cent. Before being killed the fowls should be starved for twenty-four hours, water only being given.—E. W. Gage.

The Dairy

A few simple rules observed before and after birth will eliminate danger either to the cow or her offspring. The feeding of some concentrates—cottonseed meal, bran, or linseed meal—a few weeks before the cow is due to freshen is helpful both to the mother and her offspring. Dry feeding probably has clogged the eliminative organs—the bowels, the kidneys, and the skin.

To a great extent these concentrated feeds will correct this condition. Cottonseed meal should not be given to those cows that are exceptionally heavy milkers, because it increases the flow of milk and might cause milk fever. It is a good plan to give to heavy milkers a medium to small dose of Epsom salts—8 to 12 ounces dissolved in water—two to three days apart, just before the cow is expected to freshen. This will help keep down the congestion.

Exposure to cold, rains, and strong winds has the effect of driving the blood of the animal from the surface to the internal organs, which frequently results in diseases of various kinds.

The cow should be isolated a few days before the calf is expected. This will prevent any possible injury or worry either to her or her offspring. She should also be kept out of reach of hogs. At this period cows become cross, and they should be handled carefully in order to prevent danger to strangers or owners.

If a cow does not clean properly within ten or twelve hours, artificial means should be taken immediately, because the prolongation of this condition is likely to injure delicate organs and impair her as a breeding animal. If the membrane does not come with the calf or soon afterward, the cow should be given at least one pound of Epsom salts dissolved in lukewarm water. This is for a cow weighing 900 pounds. The dose must be increased according to the weight of the cow above 900 pounds.

Calves should be protected from the weather and insanitary surroundings. The cow should be milked four to ten hours after calving. This will allow the calf plenty of the first milk. Subsequently the cow should be milked regularly.

Mothers and daughters of all ages are cordially invited to write to this department. Initials only will be published with each question and its answer as a means of identification, but full name and address must be given in each letter. Write on one side of paper only. Answers will be mailed direct if stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed.

Address all correspondence for this department to Mrs. Helen Law, 235 Woodbine Ave., Toronto.

Nut-Brown Maid: What to make for your "hope chest"? First on the list comes bed-linen. This includes sheets, pillow-cases, mattress pads, quilts, blankets and counterpanes. For table-linen you will want both long and short table-cloths; a silence cloth (to use under a table-cloth); napkins—both dinner and luncheon or breakfast size, and the smaller size when serving refreshments; carving cloths, doilies and centrepieces. As table-linen is almost prohibitive in price, many housekeepers are dispensing with the table-cloths, setting their table with doilies instead. You will want face towels, bath towels and wash-cloths. While for the kitchen you will need hand towels, glass and tea towels, dish-cloths, covers for the ironing-board, iron and pot holders. A goodly supply of dusters and house or scrub-cloths should not be overlooked, and a few good stout bags for odds and ends should find a place in the new home. A bag of outing flannel large enough to cover a broom will come in nicely when you wish to brush down your walls. Covers for bureaus and for tables may be added, and as many aprons as you have time to make. Your lingerie also goes into the chest, and if the chest is one of those well-made cedar ones, you will be proud of it and its contents.

Student: 1. The period known as the Middle Ages ran approximately from the destruction of the Roman Empire to the revival of learning, from 500 to 1500 A.D. 2. A little lemon juice on the hands will counteract the effect of hot soapy water.

Slim-Purse: To entertain friends without much expense why not have a Poverty Party? Write the invitations on scraps of brown paper, using a heavy pencil, and if possible have them delivered by a messenger "all tattered and torn" and as forlorn looking as possible. Decorate your rooms with corn-stalks, wild flowers and grasses, and illuminate them by means of lanterns and candles. Refreshments should consist of brown bread and cottage-cheese sandwiches, potato salad, apple turnovers, coffee in tincups, gingerbread and cookies. Dispense with the table-cloth and use paper napkins. Give prizes for the most poverty-stricken costume and for the best hard-luck story.

Rose: When a bride and bridegroom are married in travelling suits it is usual to have a maid of honor or a bridesmaid and a best man. These wear suits also, but a larger number of attendants is not customary and would not be correct.

The Sunday School

INTERNATIONAL LESSON
SEPTEMBER 15

Lesson XI. Winning The World To Christ—Matt. 5. 13-16; 28. 18-20; Acts 16. 6-10. Golden Text, Mark 16. 15.

Matt. 5. 13-16

The "Sermon on the Mount," from which this selection is taken, has by some been called the "Magna Charta" of the kingdom of God, for it sets forth the fundamental principles of the kingdom.

Verse 13. Ye are the salt of the earth—What salt is to the mass of perishable foods so is the presence of the children of God in a sinful world. Salt is also essential to organized life, and gives taste to all that is insipid. The gospel alone can give zest and meaning to society. It is essential to the life of the world.

14. Ye are the light of the world. A city set on a hill—The beacon light is to guide men and save them from danger. The city is by some thought to be the city of Safed which occupies a noble summit to the northwest of the Sea of Galilee.

15. It shineth unto all that are in the house—The lamp stand in the Oriental house was obviously the proper place for the light. There is a fitness in having things so placed that they will serve the purpose designed for them. A lamp under a bushel is only a ridiculous perversion of the uses of a lamp. Put a lamp where it belongs.

16. Even so let your light shine before men—Let a Christian be placed so that he may show forth the graces of the Christian life to the best advantage so that all who come within the range of his influence shall benefit by his character. That they may see your good works, and glorify your Father—The good works are the fruits of the life. These men can see and appreciate. They are to turn men not to the disciple but to the Lord. It is the Pharisee who does his good works to be seen of men and to be admired of men, but the genuine disciple gives forth in his life the light of the glory of God.

Matt. 28. 18-20

These impressive words occur in the last interview of Jesus with his disciples. It is after his resurrection on a mountain in Galilee.

18. All authority hath been given unto me, in heaven and on earth—"All power" is the reading of the old version. The infallible King himself announces his eternal possession of the Kingdom—a fact recorded only by Matthew.

19. Make disciples of all the nations—This accords with the commission given in Acts—"witnesses to the uttermost parts of the earth." The implication is that they are to disciple all nations by instructing them. Baptizing them into the name—Jewish proselytes were baptized into the name of the Father. Jesus adds the name of the Son and the Holy Spirit. In the instance of baptism recorded in Acts 2. 38; 8. 16; 10. 48; 19. 5, the name of Jesus Christ (or the Lord Jesus) alone occurs in the baptismal formula, but the promise of the Holy Spirit is given (2. 38) or, the gift f the Holy Spirit follows the rite (8. 17) or precedes it (10. 44-47).

20. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you—The ideals of Jesus for the individual and for society—this is the core of the message, which meant "salvation" in its largest sense. We are slowly coming to get some glimpse of Jesus' meaning of the word which makes it mean infinitely more than the rescuing of a soul from punishment. It is rather the bringing of a man to his best in every part of his nature and bringing the world to the realization of God's will as the rule of the nations.

Acts 16. 6-10

This is taken from Paul's second missionary tour. In the first tour he had started out from Antioch in company with Barnabas, and after preaching in the Island of Cyprus they crossed over to the mainland of Asia Minor, preaching in the province of Galatia and establishing churches in various places. Returning to Jerusalem for a conference, they start out again from Antioch for a second tour. After visiting the churches established during the first tour they press on westward, coming finally to Troas, where Paul, ever dreaming of carrying the gospel to the distant parts, sees in a vision a man from Macedonia appealing for help. He interprets this vision as a positive call and immediately takes ship from Troas and in about three days sets foot upon European soil, beginning the proclamation of the good news at the Roman colony of Philippi. He was not the first Christian preacher in Europe, for already the gospel had reached Rome through the Christians who had by this time become scattered all over the empire.

Poultry

Geese as Crop Weeders.

The fact is well known that geese are the best grazers of all poultry kind. And of late years there is a growing tendency to make use of geese as weeders of crops, particularly cultivated crops at certain stages of growth, as corn, also fruit orchards.

Of course, geese do not take the place of the cultivation of crops. Their special help is in cleaning the weeds, grass, and insects from between the plants and in the hills, and destroying the grass and weeds missed by the cultivator. Rain or shine, wet or dry, Sunday and week day, the geese remain on the job.

Where tobacco and corn, are fairly well cultivated, from one to three geese to the acre will be sufficient; but when there is considerable pasturage around the field margins, three to five geese to the acre will thrive.

My geese keep practically free from disease and are not troubled by hawks or other poultry enemies or parasites. A flock of about 30 head is sufficient to keep our cultivated fields free of weeds. I have found no other fowls that realize me as much profit from the capital invested, and since the female geese continue productive as breeders for a dozen or more years the renewing of breeding stock is a small matter.

Another advantage over chickens and turkeys that strongly appeals to me is the short period that goslings require special care after hatching. After the first week they need but little attention, except one or two feeds of ground grain or mill feed, and a dry place in which to sleep. When two weeks old they can run in the fields with the old breeding geese, and one small feed of grain daily will keep them growing nicely.