

## FOR THE FARMER.

### CROP SUGGESTIONS.

Never—no, never consign your farm produce to strangers. The prospect of big prices does not amount to much if the returns fail to come to hand in the end.

The information is given that "buckwheat should not precede either corn or wheat. It makes the soil too light and porous for wheat, and corn never does well after buckwheat."

An orchard which is so large that manure cannot be had with which to fertilize it is seldom a profitable part of the farm. It pays to raise only so many trees as one can raise well.

It is said "if rye is kept closely grazed and no seed is allowed to form, its roots will live several years and form a turf, the young leaves of which are eagerly eaten by all kinds of stock."

Insects will now multiply very rapidly, and only vigorous work will keep them down. Encourage the birds, use plenty of Paris green, kill all the moths possible, and examine for the pests daily.

All plants are benefited by the hoe or cultivator, especially in a dry season. The frequent stirring of the soil keeps the surface in condition to get the full benefit of the air, dew and rains.

Bran is highly recommended as a manure for potatoes. It is stated to be cheap for this purpose at \$15 per ton, while damaged bran, which can often be got for \$5 per ton, is as good as the best.

Cultivation hastens the maturity of the crops, and causes a marked increase in the yield. It destroys the weeds, and tends to get the soil in good condition for sowing when the hoed crop has

It is not considered good farming to follow a grain crop with any other crop excepting grass sown without grain. For this purpose the land should be made ready this month, though the grass is not to be sown until later.

Western farmers long ago learned the lesson that should have impressed itself upon Eastern stock raisers, by discriminating between native stock and grade Shorthorns. And western farmers are consequently far ahead in the way of improved stock.

According to the *American Naturalist*, a hybrid has been formed between the common and the "Darwin" potato, from the southern part of South America. It is believed that the new potato will not be subject to the rot or other attacks of parasitic fungi.

As soon as pastures fail, some provision should be made for extra feed, as the milk yield once decreased is not brought quite up to the old standard even with the best of feeding. Whatever diminishes the yield even for a day becomes thus an injury during the entire season.

Good crops of beets may be grown on any land and in suitable till for corn. Drilled in rows two feet and eight or ten inches apart, much work may be done by horse hoes. But the thinning must be done by the hand hoe, and unless properly attended to in time the beet crop will not amount to much.

English farmers are finding that they obtain better results from the use of phosphates on turnips than any other crop. But English summers are very wet and this helps to dissolve the mineral fertilizer. Our summers are not so well adapted to root growing as are those of England, nor will phosphate do much good here on any crop after the moist weather of spring has passed or until fall rains.

The adage concerning "too much of a good thing" applies to manure as well as every thing else. It is possible to make soil too fertile for the small grains, although it is not often that a farmer has enough manure to enrich all his land to this extent. As manure is often thrown in heaps and left for days or weeks before spreading, it is almost impossible to prevent the places where these heaps lay from being too rich for grain. The best way to dispose of manure is to spread it evenly on the land as drawn from the barnyard.

The earliest soiling crop after rye will usually be oats or barley, sown as soon as the ground is fit to work. For this purpose thicker seeding is advisable than when a crop of grain is expected. Three bushels of either grain will be better than less. The cutting may begin as soon as large enough to take a swath. The very earliest cutting will sprout and make a good second growth. That which is cut just as the head begins to form will sprout very little. Successive sowings will keep a good supply until corn can be grown large enough for fodder.

### FARM GLEANINGS.

It will be a good plan, to put a few cedar cuttings, such as hedge clippings, in hens' nests. Vermin do not like cedar.

Parties raising large quantities of chickens will find it a great advantage to use a bone mill and mix fresh ground bone meal with their food two or three times a week.

When the fruit of strawberries is off, the mulch should be removed and old manure forked in around the plants. All runners also should be cut off, unless new plants are needed.

It is better to feed a small amount of grain on pasture, and this will ripen the growth as fast as made. The grain is all well expended, and will pay a better profit than the same amount fed in the fall.

The practice of furnishing at least one meal of cooked grain and vegetables to fowls daily, is now much more generally in vogue in this country among fanciers and breeders than it formerly was.

Hand-feeding and tethering on the grass are good ways of bringing up a calf intended for the dairy. The more docile and affectionate it can be made, the more valuable it will prove to be as a cow.

Good pastures are so much cheaper than grain to raise stock that it is important to improve and preserve them. Improved stock and good grass will enrich the farmer; the state and the nation. Therefore, be sure to have good pastures.

As the Ox-eye daisy cannot be easily exterminated, especially in strong soil, manure heavily and seed to such grasses as you prefer or as the soil is adapted to and they will choke out the daisy so that its appearance will be subdued and humble, and only a small percent of the crop.

Another insect pest has appeared in Canada in the nature of a small worm, which secretes itself in the heads of clover, entirely destroying the stalk. The spread of the pest is so rapid that the clover crop throughout the country will be almost a total failure.

A good strong bushel basket in dexterous hands will battle the most savage hog, and I presume a wild boar would make but few attempts to master a man if he was caught head first in a basket, for at that instant he begins to retreat backwards, and would not be apt to charge many times.

In a rainy season grape-vines are almost certain to be attacked with mildew, which is itself nothing more than a fungus growth. The best treatment is the application of flowers of sulphur, and if the first appearance is watched for and a prompt use made of the remedy there is not much fear of harm being done.

As a general rule it is not best to get any sheep very fat unless preparing it for the butcher. For keeping over one year this high condition is an injury. It cannot be maintained without more care and skill than most farmers can give. If a ewe loses a lamb particular care should be taken not to overfeed her unless she is to be fattened and sold at once.

Pigs confined to their pens and not allowed access to fresh dirt, are apt to become injured by a strain across their backs, often losing the use of their hind legs. A little spirits of turpentine rubbed along the back bone will remedy the evil, at least temporarily. Turning out in the field unringed is the best cure, though an animal once affected is liable to a return of the attack.

### The Great Pyramid.

Mr. J. B. Bailey, of Reading, writes to the *St. James's Gazette* as follows with reference to the desirability of exploring the Great Pyramid: "Now that Great Britain is dominant at Cairo, would it not be a good plan to clear away the sand and rubbish from the base of the Great Pyramid, right down to its rocky foundation, and try to discover those vast corridors, halls, and temples, containing priceless curiosities and treasures with which tradition in all ages has credited the Great Pyramid? This wonderful building, of such exquisite workmanship, was erected many years before any of the other pyramids, which are only humble imitations, built by another nation, and also for other purposes; for neither King Cheops nor anybody else was ever interred beneath this mighty mass of stone. The smaller pyramids also exhibit neither the nicety of proportion nor the exactness of measurement, both of which characterize the first pyramid. From internal evidence it seems to have been built about the year 2170 B. C., a short time before the birth of Abraham, more than 4,000 years ago. This—one of the seven wonders of the world in the days of ancient Greece—is the only one of them all still in existence. The base of this building covers more than thirteen square acres of ground. Its four sides face exactly north, south, east and west. It is situated in the geographical centre of the land surface of the globe. It was originally 485 feet high, and each of its sides measures 762 feet. It is computed to contain 5,000,000 tons of hewn stones beautifully fitted together with a mere film of cement. And these immense blocks of stone must have been brought from quarries 500 miles distant from the site of the building. The present well-known King and Queen chambers, with the various passages, might also be thoroughly examined by means of the electric or lime lights. The Astronomer Royal of Scotland some years since closely and laboriously examined all that is at present known of the interior of this enormous building. He states that measurements in the chamber, etc., show the exact length of the cubic of the Bible—namely, twenty-five inches. The cubit was used in the building of Noah's Ark, Solomon's Temple, etc. He also maintains that the pyramid shows the distance of the sun from the earth to be 91,840,000 miles.

The vain, weak man sees a judge in every one, the proud strong man owns no judge but himself.

### Hudson Bay Exploration.

The return of the Alert to St. Johns, worse battered in the ice around Cape Best than by her long voyage of the year previous in much higher latitudes when searching for GREENLY, has a bearing upon the so-called Hudson Bay grain route. The famous and hitherto fortunate Arctic steamer left Halifax toward the end of May to relieve the stations established in Hudson Bay last summer, and perhaps to find new ones. She also hoped to examine and survey some of the harbors in the Bay, to make surveys of the Straits, to take magnetic observations, to place beacons for the benefit of mariners on dangerous points, and to gather information about the resources of the shores of the Bay. This programme has been sadly interfered with. The Alert got caught in the ice in June, before reaching any station, and was imprisoned for twenty-one days. When freed at last, on the 8th of July, in a damaged condition, she turned back to St. Johns.

While the immediate purpose of this voyage was to relieve certain stations, it was expected to throw much light on the question whether Hudson Straits can be safely navigated by steamships, so as to secure a short commercial route from the Northwest Territory to Europe. This is a question of interest not only to Canada but to the north-western parts of the United States. For a vast grain-growing area of both countries, such a route would shorten rail transportation from five hundred to a thousand miles. There is a corporation called the Winnipeg and Hudson Bay Railway and Navigation Company, and the Manitobans have urged that the Dominion Government should aid it; but thus far the Government has wisely limited itself to making expenditures to test the navigation of the Bay and Straits. Last year the explorations for this purpose were made by Lieut. GORDON, who had charge of the Alert on her late voyage. He left half a dozen parties of observation to pass the winter on different parts of the Straits, and one at Fort Churchill.

Churchill would probably be chosen as the Hudson Bay terminus of the railway, should it be built. This point, it is true, is much further north than Port Nelson, and the latter would also require about fifty miles less of rail from Lake Winnipeg. But whereas Churchill has a good harbor, Port Nelson has not; and the success of the project depends wholly on a connection with large ocean-going steamships. It was, therefore, understood that the Alert, on her late trip, should go to Churchill, and that there Dr. Bell, a member of the expedition, should leave the ship, and, if he could find means of doing so, make his way overland to Winnipeg by some route other than those already explored.

Yet the key to the whole question has all along been the navigability of the Straits. It was known that the bay, a vast inland sea a thousand miles long by over five hundred wide, was always more or less navigable, and it was generally thought that the Straits could be counted on to remain open three or four months in each year, or long enough to get out the crops. Besides, on old charts, made a generation ago, a channel has been marked as existing between Mosquito Bay and the Bay of Hope's Advance, running parallel to the Straits. Although there is no record that any one ever passed through this channel, Lieut. GORDON intended to find out whether it existed or not. Had it been discovered, it might have proved a great aid to the project of commercial navigation.

No sooner had the Alert got out of the Gulf of St. Lawrence than she encountered loose ice, and then skirted an enormous belt of ice from 40 to 100 miles broad, along the entire coast of Labrador up to Cape Chudleigh, which is at the southern entrance of Hudson Straits. Just beyond this point, and on the Labrador coast, was the nearest of the six stations to be relieved, in Nachvak Bay, on the Labrador shore. This was to have been abandoned, and the observers brought away; but pack ice thirty-five miles wide prevented any approach. Soon after the Alert was imprisoned, and, in a furious current, or tide, she was so damaged as to lose her stem sheathing and also parts of the stem itself.

It is understood that she will return to the Straits and resume her attempt to enter as soon as her repairs are completed. The observers who passed last winter along the Bay received a promise that they would be relieved by others for the winter to come. Most probably the Alert will find a passage open on her return.

Popinjay says that he wishes he could induce his wife to try the early-closing movement on her mouth.

Falsehood is in a hurry; it may be at any moment detected and punished. Truth is calm, serene, its judgment is on high; its King cometh out of the chambers of eternity.

Faith without works is like a bird without wings; though she may hop with her companions on the earth, yet she will never fly with them to heaven; but when both are joined together, then doth thy soul mount up to her eternal rest.

The maelstrom attracts more notice than the quiet fountain; a comet draws more attention than the steady star. But it is better to be the fountain than the maelstrom, and star than comet, following out the sphere and orbit of quiet usefulness in which God places us.

### HONEY BEES AND WOLVES.

Troubles of the Early Settlers in the Indian Country.

Frontier life was anything but pleasant or delightful to my elder sisters. But to me it was a paradise. I soon affiliated with the Indian boys and learned their language almost intuitively. The woods were full of game and I

#### COULD SHOOT THE BOW AND ARROW

With the best of them. The bee tree that we had saved from Kishawko's band we sawed off above and below the bees and the honey, moved it to and set it up near the house. In three years' time we had over fifty swarms and had supplied all the new comers who had by that time begun to settle about us. I have no doubt that tree or rather those bees were the progenitors of most swarms of bees now in Genesee County. I am of the opinion that that country came as near flowing in milk and honey in those days as any other. It was so abundant with us that my mother used to strain it into barrels. It would stand so long that it could be cut out like solid cheese. The wax we made into candles and used no other lights. The Indians kept no bees, but the woods were so full of trees full of honey that they had it in abundance and the wax they had for sale was an important item to the merchant.

#### HOW THE INDIANS FIND BEE TREES.

I have known an Indian boy to find twenty bee trees in a single day. His mode of hunting them was not like the white man's, who would first bait a stray bee with honey, then watch his flight until he is able to get a bee line to the tree. The Indian boy, more observant, has discovered the time at which the bees do their house-cleaning and will start out of a sunny morning when there is still snow on the ground and under any tree containing a swarm he is sure to see the signs of their industry—dead bees, moths and anything they can handle interfering with their ideas of neatness is tumbled out and may be readily seen upon the snow.

#### GAME AND WOLVES.

When we first settled at Grand Blanc the woods were full of desirable game, and were also overrun with wolves, which were not so desirable. We at considerable trouble and expense had brought with us a dozen fowls, and built of logs a house for them to roost in. Before they had become fairly reconciled to their new home there came a wolf, who in some way opened the door and killed all but one of the flock. We felt it a sad loss, and could see no way to utilize the one that revived. Finally the thought suggested itself to me that possibly the wolf might have been so well pleased with tame poultry as to induce him to come back for more. I cut a square hole through the logs of the hen house and set a steel trap where the wolf would put his foot in it if he came prospecting for more game. The second night after setting the trap we heard the rattling of the chain attached to it, and felt pretty sure of some satisfaction for the loss of our chickens.

I went out as soon as it was light and found an enormous wolf fast in the trap,

#### ENDEAVORING TO GNAW HIS OWN LEG

Off above the trap to free himself. As I approached him he gave up like a whipped cur and allowed me to knock him in the head. I divested him of his ears to present to the proper officer to entitle us to the bounty then being paid by the Territory of Michigan and by the country, each paying \$5 a head for the destruction of the pests. I then felt we had settled the account with wolf No. 1.

#### SHOOTING A WOLF.

Our next loss was a valuable hog we were depending upon to furnish us with a brood of pigs. We heard in broad daylight a terrific squealing coming from a field in front of the house, and on looking discovered an enormous wolf with his teeth fast in the throat of the hog. I happened to be the only one at the house that could use a gun, and the only gun charged was a little shot-gun loaded with bird shot. There was a tall fence between me and the wolf, and I went for him, but I am quite sure my hair was a little stiff. I banged away and peppered him with shot, and he left for the brush. The hog never got up. The wolf had cut her throat and she died. As we used the surviving chicken to get pay for our hens, so we did with the hog—set trap about her and got a pair of wolves and three foxes.

#### MAKING MONEY OUT OF WOLVES.

While I am upon the subject of wolves I am inclined to relate my first speculation or business venture. Three years after the foregoing occurrences my brother Rufus was married and the farm and effects were divided, creating two interests instead of one. It was winter and our cattle were feeding about a haystack put up in a log pen—the logs so far apart that a cow belonging to my brother got her horns fast and was hacked down by the herd and died. When alive she was worth about \$10. I wanted her for wolf bait and Rufus wanted her for the same purpose. I offered him \$15 for her and he finally accepted it.

I hitched a yoke of oxen to the cow's horns and suaked her about half a mile to the margin of a tamarack swamp, drove sharpened sticks through the carcass, fastening her firmly down, then set half a dozen or more traps on all sides of her. I went out the next morning, following the trail I had made and soon could see that my invitation had been accepted. As I approached the swamp

I heard the rattling of chains, the plink of steel traps and the cracking of brush in all directions. It seemed to me the swamp was full of wolves dragging traps. I found and killed five full-grown gray wolves whose scalps were worth \$50. Afterwards with the same bait I caught three more wolves, two foxes and a lynx. My first speculation was quite a snap considering that it had but a dead carcass for its basis.

#### DESTRUCTION TO MAN AND BEAST.

Wolves continued abundant and troublesome up to 1831. It was impossible to keep sheep and difficult to save our pigs. About this time small-pox prevailed among the Indians. When a case of this disease occurred the sick one would be left to his fate, while the well ones would flee to some other locality. The sick one, often exhausting the water left for him, would crawl down to the stream, die there and be eaten by the wolves. The wolves after this epidemic entirely disappeared. They were unquestionably poisoned by the food on which they fed.

### A Married Travelling Man.

The experiences of a merchant traveller are a good school for young men, as they are enabled to see much of life and acquire a degree of finish that travel and intercourse with all kinds of people can give. It is a good thing also for a certain proportion of married men (a small one it is to be hoped), who might better be away than at home a greater share of the time; those unfortunate grumblers are never satisfied with their homes; always domineering over their wife and scolding their children. Such men, when they do occasionally come home from the road, bring a reasonable amount of happiness, and if they don't stay too long, their visits are very welcome, for it is an exceedingly mean man—a brute, in fact—who ever loses the love of his wife and family entirely or in great part, providing the wife herself is not a poor apology of a woman, and the children "take after their mother." But to the married man who fondly loves his wife and family—to whom home is a heaven on earth—the constant and long-continued absences are very painful, and the lot a hard one. Such a man needs to be a good Christian, or he will sometimes almost curse his hard fate, or seek solace in questionable amusements. Following is a letter from a travelling man to his wife which will touch the hearts of many knights of the road, who will find the sentiments an echo of their own thoughts:—

PHILADELPHIA, Sep. 14, 1884.

*My Dear Wife*.—Another Sunday away from home—a hermit among thousands of people, all resting as God commanded, on the one day, and all happy with their loved ones, as He intended they should be. I walked by a lowly cottage this evening. The husband sat in the door smoking a clay pipe, with his children about his knee; the baby was in its mother's arms, covering its mouth over with dirty candy; they lived in poor quarters, knew little of the world but work every day of the week, and hard work too; they knew what a home was, and were happy. God never contemplated having travelling men. When He created man in the Garden of Eden He gave him a wife and an ideal home; but Satan came, with sin and sorrow, and the world was so lost to evil that God gave his only Son for its redemption, who was a traveller, and taught us that he who travels fills an emergency; and He gave us then for the first time in a travelling man, self-sacrifice, which none knows better than the traveller.

God never created anything on earth so nearly like Heaven as the Garden of Eden with the one man for the one woman; and do you know I think when we reach Heaven we will find over in one corner a colony of travelling men with their families living in joy and bliss in a perfect home, making up for that lost life which together on earth they were entitled to, for the years pass by so quickly, and it is so hard to grow old and know life has passed in a struggle for existence, and that when we are ready to leave the road and settle down with our loved ones, the Reaper is ready for us. And may God grant us yet on earth—and if not there, in Heaven—yet a life of love and comfort, a home where all is joy and peace, and a love in whose existence we can both live as God intended—one in heart, one in thankfulness, and one in the light of that love which passeth all understanding.

### German Criticism of the British Army.

The North German Gazette published an unusually complimentary article on the British army, based upon the most recent Blue book on the subject laid before parliament. It begins by giving an account of England's military strength, not forgetting to assign due credit to the auxiliary forces. It explains away the high percentage of desertions, and comments upon the abundant supply of recruits. Treating of the recent system of retaining as many old soldiers as possible with the colors, it ascribes to this, among other causes, "the cool and unflinching demeanor shown by the English battalions when face to face with the swarming forces of the Mahdi." It describes the tactical order and disciplined fire of the small body of Englishmen at Abu Klea as reflecting the highest credit on them. The article continues:—"A not less honorable success was that of the gallant General Earle at Dulka Island, when 2,300 English soldiers, after five hours hard fighting, drove 3,000 Arabs out of a strong and obstinately defended position. These are feats such as are by no means rare in England's military annals, and furnish good arguments for the supporters of the present system of enlistment."