#### FARM.

Permanence of Manures.

Sir Jon R Lawes tells us, in your col umns, that the fertility abstracted by crops cannot be restored to the soil, plants may be nourished by fertilizers. To such of us as were educated to believe that, to good soils at least, the manures became integral and homogeneous with them, and that the amalgamation was permanent, this was a surprise, but it was reserved for the author of "Gardening for Profit" and "How the Farm Pays" to give us a real shock. quote from page 113\* of the first-named book:

"We believe the common practice of topdressing asparagus beds in fall to be a very wasteful one, in districts where it is not necessary to provide against severe freezing, for as the plant is then dormant, the juices of the manure are either evaporated or else washed down by rains, below the roots of the plant. \* \* \* All our practice, correborated by direct experiment, has convinced me beyond all doubt that manures, either liquid or solid, organic or inorganic, are unprofitably employed when applied to plants in the dormant state."

In "How the Farm Pays" we are told, p. 13: "It is a delusive belief that manuring or tillage, no matter how good, will ever bring a poor, thin soil, into permanent fertility, unless the application of manure is penetrate."

Piedmont, Va. difference in the length of time that soils whether it is natural or artificial. will hold the fertilizing parts of manures. Cast-iron rules cannot be established from trials alone on either kind of soils. Onsandy and gravelly soils, the value had disappeared long before the exact "two years" had passed; and on strong, clayey loams they lasted more than twice that length of time. On the last-named soils, careful experiment has given a much heavier return for manure applied in autumn or early winter, while plants were dormant, than in the succeeding spring, for instead of being washed away, the absorbent character of the soil held it, while time was allowed for it to become well diffused among the particles. Different results and different conclusions may be drawn from unlike soils, and where, inrate of a hundred tons or more. The "inevitable force" of the statements given in the preceding quotations is therefore entirely dissipated by a wider series of experiments.-ED.

# PLANT A FEW SHRUBS.

wood without its underbrush.

berry, several kinds, including the purple- will prove that I am correct. leaved, which is an ornament in itself; the Not until the farmers will combine to improved.

# BURNT EARTH FOR GARDENS.

The early practice of manufacturing charcoal, in the days when forests were abundant, left fertile spots of ground wherever the piles or pits had been made. These spots were noted for their luxuriant crops of wheat and corn for many years after wards; and the European practice of paring and burning has been quite successful in the few instances where it has been adopted in this country, especially on heavy or clayey soils. We have found in past years much benefit in its use to garden crops; dry sods, during a season of drouth, mixed with brush and other rubbish, answering the purpose after slow combustion We cbmade the analyses, that the amount of soluble matter in the soil was increased from 3 to 10 per cent. by the burning, with an inmade.

# FARROW COWS' MILK.

buttermilk. In discussing the subject with | tional thing.

Mrs. Reynolds, I find that she learned some years ago that the cream of farrow cows will not come to butter as soon as that of new milch cows, and that it passes off in the buttermilk. As we have always had but little farrow cows' milk, or those that have given milk for six months or more, she has always mixed the two and let the cream go with the buttermilk, then let it rise as all cream will, and skim it off and use it for cooking. It is much less work than to keep the cream and milk separate. In this way there is but little waste. In a dairy of a large number of old milkers, it would pay to keep the milk separated. E. REYNOLDS, Fond du Lac County, Wis.

The origin of coloring butter is found in fresh pasture grasses of June. As to the origin of the practice of coloring cheese, we suspect "no teller" can find it out. It ceronly imparts a creamy tint. Possibly somebody thought it made the cheese look more buttery; but how any body can see a suggestion of butter in the bricky-red color too often given to cheese, is beyond our compreand the tendency toward paler cheese looks as if it would "come to this complexion at

yearly continued; for no ordinary amount in the fact that Jersey butter, as a rule, has type for general purposes. A Nova Scotia provinces, should be made as cheap a port of manuring or cultivation will maintain the both a high color and a high flavor. The farmer, who thinks for himself, gave his ex- as possible; and in this connection ( would fertility of any soil over two years, as it will flavor of Jersey butter was at first objected perience as a breeder of trotting horses on a lalso express my conviction that Quebec then either have been taken up by the crops to by some as too high and too rank; and small scale. He bought several mares at a should be made the point of departure for growing on it, or else have been washed probably many still object to it on these cost of \$1,200, and bred them to standard the shortest passages across the Atlantic down below the depth at which the roots grounds. But nevertheless, the ersey has stallions, standing at moderate fees. The from America to England for Canadian So that the plant food hauled on to the color of the products of other hards, save \$500. The next was a filly sold when under largement of existing canals, the shipping soil as a substitute for fertility abstracted | those from the Channel Islands high enough | 3 years for \$400, and the next a yearling, | interest claiming that they should be widened will only stay there "two years!" It mere without a resort to artificial means to highten soid at \$300. None of these colts were and deepened at the expense of the country can you explain away the inevitable force ence to the Jersey hue, and the butter of ordinary farm work and more than paid for Dominion revenue) to the tune of many milof these statements to such of us as are till- other breeds has suffered because of assumed | themselves in labor. Their produce unsold | lions more. This, I consider unnecessary ing lands whose fertility has, to say the defective color, though it might not in the would bring \$2,000 under the hammer. at present; our farm products have little least, "not been maintained?"-X. Y. Z. least lack in point of flavor. A good deal Now, if it will pay the farmer of Nova use for the canals, the railways being the Limited conclusions are often drawn from | Consequently the expert butter-maker has | against him, to raise trotters, it will pay the | events the St. Lawrence canal should not local experiments, and rules intended for added to his other accomplishments that of farmer in any other section. The man who be enlarged at present unless the traffic is universal application based on peculiar and expert coloring in imitation of the natural feels dissatisfied with results has himself to made to bear the cost. There are other re not widely varied trials. From the many Jersey tint-all because high colour is called | blame. No man who breeds right, no mat- formers-I don't speak of politicians-who experiments which we have made in many | for, not only at fairs, but by consumers gen- | ter whether his operations embrace one or a | want all the tolls removed from the canals | years, on light, sandy, gravelly, and some erally. The colour is always considered by hundred mares, can fail to make a profit of what would be termed hungry soils, on the buyer. But he is not deceived. He one hand, and heavy, strong and clayey knows when butter is colored and when it land on the other, we have found a great is not; but if the hue is right, he cares not

### "Remody for Hard Times."

This is the heading of an article by C. A Russell, in the Farmer of Dec. 10th. While it is a good sensible article and shows thought, I do not think the writer gives a good "ren edy for hard times." The Mr. T. mentioned in the article says "cultivate brains." As the children say when playing hide and seek, Mr. T. is the warmest, (meaning he is closer to the hidden article) but neither has given the "remedy for hard times." Nail makers, barbed wire makers, and manufacturers of all'the machinery that the farmer uses combine. Every farmer who makes any pretense to reading knows stead of the moderate application of manure how things are arranged by every calling, for farm crops, it is applied annually at the trade and profession, except the farmers. They co-operate and agree to produce only enough to insure only a good profit on their investment and labor. The various trades formed "syndicates" and cornered things. The new name is now a trust; everything from a paper of pins to a self-binder, that is used by the farmer, also, coal oil, tea, coffee, Planting-time will soon be here, and be- sugar, yarn, clothing, etc., will soon be consides the trees of which we spoke last week, trolled by "trusts." The farmers of the the shrubs should not be forgotten. A gar- United States can send every trust company den or yard without its shrubs is like a or syndicate where the "woodbine twineth," by forming the "boss trust," and resolving Here is a list which are hardy, easily ob- to produce only so much wheat, corn, oats, tained, and flower at different seasons of the hay, hogs, cattle, horses, mules, potatoes, Summer: Flowering Almond, leaves similar etc., as will pay a good profit on the capital to the peach, flowers in masses before the and labor. This and this only is the "remeleaves in early Spring, 4 to 6 teet high. Ber- dy for hard times." One year's experiment

common native makes a very pretty shrub. | limit preduction can a better state of things Clethra or White Alder, handsome white be hoped for, or better prices obtained for flowers from August to October. Dogwoods, the produce of the farm. Let the farmers several very fine shrubs, all worth growing. form a "trust" and resolve to plant half a Deutzias, the double white and double pink | crop for 1888, work half as many hours, of the D. crenata, D. scabra and D gracilis, raise half as many hogs, cattle, horses, etc., are all handsome. The upright Honey- and I have no fear for the result. The cry suckles, really charming, early Summer of hard times, and poor prices, will no more flowerers. The Forsythia, a golden stream | be heard in the land, so long as the farmer of flowers before the leaves put out at all. | will abide by the "trust." The farmer will The Hydrangea paniculata, a gorgeous mass | wear good clothes, his wife and family will of white in the late Summer months. The | vie with city people in wearing fine clothes, Mock Oranges-who does not like their de- the boys and girls be better educated, and licious fragrance? The Golden-flowered will not be so anxious to leave the farm, and Currant is another of those hardy, sweet- all classes will be bettered, for as the farscented Spring shrubs, different from almost mer prospers so prospers the world. Farany others: the Red-flowering is not quite | mers, let us form one grand boss trust and so hardy, nor is the charming Japan Quince, resolve to limit production in such a way as with its brilliant scarlet flowers. Sexeral of will cause coal oil and railroad tyrants, and the Rhus or Sumach family are pretty. The all other trusts, to wish they were never Smoke, or Fringe tree is an old favorite. born to worry and plunder the farmer, who The Rose of Sharon or Althea will not stand is the tax payer of the nation, and burdenthe extreme north climate, but in a tem- bearer of all other callings, trades and properate climate it is fully at home. The fessions, and the over-worked slave of all Spice-bush is also shy of the North, except | creation. Limiting production is the key to in well protected localities. This is really | Golconda's mines, beautiful country homes, true of many low-growing plants. Their and happy, prosperous families on every home is under the shelter of woods, and if farm. It is also the door to the settlement partly protected by trees, their chances are of the vexed "labor question." Let the farmers become prosperous as they should, ought, and can, if they will use brains, and labor riots, nihilism, communism, and all such products of an impoverished farming hero, goes shooting with a breech-loading people will vanish like mist before a north

# Concealing the Facts in Dakota.

(From the Chicago Herald's Special Blizzard Re-

Business has once more become paramount, and the boom which Dakota, right or wrong, has managed to keep up for a number of years past has set in again. Everybody in Dakota (with few exceptions) is now industriously engaged in singing the old, old tune of Dakota's prosperity, of Dakota's lovely serve a statement of Dr. Voelcker, who climate. The reason for this is, of course, self-evident. All the business men in Dakota, the representatives of the local press, and the officials of all grades are members of crease of available potash and phosphoric the conspiracy. For a conspiracy it is. The pend his signature at once. To the objecweid. Some other favorable changes were aim is to cloak over ghastly facts; to tion of the responsible officer that he knew smooth things up so as to rob criticism of its nothing about the estimates, the clerk resting; to try and not injure Dakota in the plied, "What of that? They require your lis those model creameries. They can also eyes of the unwary and to allure as many signature?" A great deal of Government help by circulating tracts on the subject, So violets gay may laugh at decay, with I notice an inquiry by James Hoyt, immigrants to its precincts as of yore. For business is done in the perfunctory written in a popular style, and by sending in reference to mixing the milk of far- all that, the bitter, deadly facts cannot be row cows with the milk of fresh cows. Mr. quite concealed. The bodies of some un-Hoyt was informed by a gentleman from lucky ones, who had wandered away in the Prevail-the Imperial House of Commons to Delaware county that the cream from the blinding, death-dealing ice storm, far, far milk of the farrow cows will not come to from home, are still found, even to-day. butter as soon as the cream of the new milch | And it is no use telling outsiders that this cows, and if mixed would run off in the kind of homicidal hurricane is an excep! Only women can do that and look as inno- stallions and bulls of the purest blood day the furnace is in the proper condition to

#### It Pays to Raise Trotters.

We quite agree with an American contemporary that there is as much profit in raising the trotter as in any other farm product, provided he is bred right. The highest prices cannot be realized for horses out of common mares, but a standard-bred animal is always in demand and pays a large stud duty at fees within the means of the average farmer. If it is within the means of farmers to keep one or two standard-bred

#### Germany's Future.

dangers, and the victories of the past have ing nothing of the movement to secure people could bow their necks so long to the by some of them." yoke of a military despotism or suffer so large a share of the fruits of science and pose? Would you discontinue or arrest ex industry to be offered in the temple of Mars. But a nation does not come to maturity in the love of freedom has hitherto yielded to this direction at least.' the love of country. Present indications point to another great struggle, more terrible perhaps than any that has preceded, upon her, her people may hope for a period to do something for the farmers of a practiof rest. The intense longing for relief from | cal kind. We have a Department of Agrithe present intolerable burdens, and for an | rule will then have opportunity to make that John Carling is bringing the departwar, constitutional freedom -replace a semi- get near the farmer, to make our agricultur military absolutism, and the united people al population see that the Dominion Governenter upon a career worthy of one of the | ment is really interested in the progress of the twentieth century of the Christian era.

# Nero's Eye-Glass.

a lion carved with eyes of emeralds so bright duction of cattle disease into Canada and said that lapidaries who cut emeralds have manifesting a lively interest in their home good eye sight because the hue of the stone work. There are the dairy interests. refreshes the eye. The Orientals believe | See how high our Canadian cheese and averts disaster. It was ground and development of sales over there. Two taken as a medicine in doses of six grains men of enterprise, Messrs. McPherson and as a care for various disorders. At the con- Ballantyne, have done more for the cheese quest of Peru the Spaniards captured interest than all other agencies combined hundred-weights of emeralds; and one Why have our exports of butter to England dedicated to the goddess Esmeralda was the fallen off so miserably? Because we are negsize of an ostrich egg. Cortez gave his bride | lecting the art of butter making and losing a large emerald carved like a rose, which | millions every year by this neglect. An roused the queen's envy and lost him the enormous quantity of bad butter is made, court favor.

# But, Is Webster Right?

In Helen Gray Cone's story of "Hercules: a Hero," in the Century for March, one of the leading characters, who is by no means a gun; and his unlettered host is made to speak of it as a "britch-loader." This mode of indicating the pronunciation implies that the author of the story thinks that breech is not correctly pronounced with the short sound of i-britch; but Webster says that

Although Lord Charles Beresford's moneeded in the management of the British his experience as junior Lord of the Admiralty, and the reform will surely come. According to Sir Charles, a clerk brought him very much surprised when he refused to apway assumed by the clerk to be all right, but reform is needed wherever such notions the contrary notwithstanding.

occupy two seats in a crowded horse-car. in districts needing improvement, to buy for a zero day, but when you strike a zero cent as a lily-of-the-valley all the while.

#### PROMOTING AGRICULTURE

the Improvement of Ontario Butter.

A reporter called upon Mr. George Luidlaw recently, to lask his opinion as to the best methods to be adopted to improve agriculture and enhance the value of the English military authorities to have profit. There is in nearly every county of the the Canadian farmer's produces. Mr. Laid-Dominion, where agriculture is carried on, law has mixed with our Ontario farmers one or two standard-bred stallions doing during the greater part of his life, and is regarded by them as having their interests at heart. Hence the interview.

"You ask me," said Mr. Luidlaw, "what mares that can earn their keep, it will pay is the best thing to be done to promot; the well to raise colts from them. The first cost farming interests of Ontario. I suppose you for the Government to take their place and of such mares is the most important item to mean in a public way-that is, what can the farmer of limited means, but as it costs | legislation or the Government do? Before we no more to keep a well-bred mare than one discuss that let me point out what the Govthe golden hue of butter made from the of common stock, and as their produce by ernment and Parliament are asked to do in standard stallions bring higher prices, the various other directions at the present modifference is largely in favor of the better ment. It seems to me that extraordinary bred horse. It is not incumbent upon the pressure is being brought to bear on the Govtainly is not suggested by nature, which farmer to develop his stock for speed pur- ernment to expend public money in every poses. He can leave that part of the horse's direction-except for the advantage of the education to those who make a business of farmers. Let us look at some of these proit, and who will pay him a good price on posed expenditures. Montreal wants a ship the strength of pedigree alone. Aside from | channel debt of two millions assumed by the the utility of the trotter as a speed horse, Government, so that the interest the Harhension. We much prefer the natural color, he is the best for light general work that bor Commissioners are paying on it may go to the farmer can make use of. His endur- local harbor improvements. I am free to say ance, nerve and sprightly movements make | that Montreal, as the great port of shipment him of value if he never goes off the farm. for Canadian produce to Europe and the en-An additional cause for high coloring lies | Weight for weight he is the superior of any | trepot of Canadian imports for these upper set the standard for color, and seldom is the first colt sold was 23 months old and brought | travel. Then there is a pressure for the enof injustice has probably resulted from this. Scotia, where the climate advantages are principal means of transportation. At all and all the shipping dues of every kind removed from the St. Lawrence, from the head | Or dream'd where Severn rolls his volumed of the lakes to the sea, and more expense thrown upon the country, including the Perhaps it would hardly be venturing farmers generally-and this is done to cheap. into the domain of prophesy to predict for en the cost of United States Northwest prothe Germany of the coming generation a ducts on their way to England to compete yet grander destiny than that which has with Canadian products. Then we have been achieved by those who are now pass- the great scheme of the Trent Valley canal, ing off the stage. To all human seeming that is wholly uncalled for, and would cost the nation has been in training for a nobler ten million dollars before it could be comcareer than the race of glory which she has | pleted, and when completed there will be so triumphantly run. The stern military nothing for it to do. These are only a few training which has made Germany a nation of the schemes involving many millions that of soldiers; the conflicts, the hardships, the are being pressed on the Government-saydeveloped conscious power and strong self few millions more of public expenditure in reliance. Her excellent if not unique syst- Manitoba. There are in these heavy burem of schools and colleges have made her dens for the farmers, however much the people also a race of scholars. The great shipping interest, which is small compared wonder has been in the past how such a to the farming interest, may be benefited

"Well, Mr. Laidlaw, what do you propenditures?"

"I think the country should have a day. Much has been yielded to stern breathing time after the great expenditure With quenchless courage and unflinching necessity in the past. Security against on railways, canals, public buildings and foes on either hand had to be provided, and other things. We ought to call a halt in Redeem'd he, day by day, the unwilling soil.

"But what about the farmers' interest?"

"Well, when you arrest for a time this great expenditure you do well for the farmers in the near future. When Germany has wno bear the brunt of taxation, no matter emerged triumphant from this, as it can in what form it reaches them. Now if I had scarcely be doubted she will if it is forced | the ear of the Government I would urge them | culture at Ottawa, but most of the time the ample measure of genuine freedom and self- title has been a misnomer. Iam glad to see The flowers of June smiled on his marriage be hoped, take precedence of the arts of What the Government wants all round is to greatest nations in Exrope in the dawn of agriculture. A bold policy in this direction They lived to bless the author of their birth, is absolutely needed and would be popular. And, by their deeds, renew'd his honest The Dominion Government is now interesting itself in experimental farms, testing seed grain and so forth. Of course, the Pliny relates that a tomb at Cyprus bore | Government looks well after the non-introthey frightened away the fish in the sea. sees that our cattle interests in England are was supposed good for the sight, and it is it would get still nearer to the farmers by that wearing an emerald imparts courage stands in England and the enormous Yes! full of years, beloved on every hand, and this has almost destroyed the demand abroad. Now this must be changed, and the Government can do much to put our butter interest on a first-class basis. After the Danish war with Germany, when Denmark was almost ruined financially, and the people had to cast around for a way to increase their resources, active measures were taken to increase the value of their butter product; new methods of butter making were urged upon the people; new inventions were tried; the practical people over there took hold of the subject with intelligence, and to-day Danish butter is almost universally good and the best in the world. In England they have their model farms and splendid dairies among the nobility, but tion declaring that an entire reform was Danish butter is now in consumption in palaces, castles and other aristocratic resid-Naval service was defeated in the House of ences there, bringing great prices. I maintain Not of themselves did the violets die; souls Commons, he proved his point by relating our Canadian Government should take hold of this butter question with a will; establish | Sweetly the vio ets lived their lives, contentfirst-class model creameries, schools of instruction for the fathers, wives and daugh- Who helpless were made to blossom and the Naval estimates to sign, and seemed ters, if necessary, and give many who do not see the newspapers ocular demonstration of the right way to make butter. Or, let them | Since not your winter yourselves ye brought, spend some money to help the agricultural societies throughout the Dominion to estab- Right, too, alas! that souls should sleepout lecturers on this subject and on stock- So keep your spring while ye may, ye souls ; breeding. I think, too, that the Government should aid agricultural societies to purchase thorough-bred stock, giving assistance, under

suited to the wants of the country and make ice cream in it.

to produce the best animals for exportation. In England they are certain of want-Mr. George Laidlaw Interviewed-A Plea for | ing a large number of horses for cavalry purposes; information on this subject should be circulated broadcast showing the class of animal that is required; and in this connection the Government could use its influence with purchasing agents located in the principle centres in Canada. In a hundred ways the Government can assist the farmer, and I think it is now the farmer's turn. For it is always well to keep in mind that here in Canada the social and aristocratic forces which have kept agriculture to the front in England, are wanting, and it is but right supply the stimulus that is needed to deepen the interest in agricultural pursuits and secure the needed improvements. The shipping interest, the manufacturing interest, the fishing interest, the railway interest, the workingmen's interest, the commercial interest generally, have all been pretty well looked after, and they can afford to stand aside for a time while the greatest interest of all, the farming interest, which is the basis of the country's prosperity, receives some consideration. Don't you think so?"

"Would it cost much, Mr. Laidlaw?" "I think that if the Government would spend a half a million or a million in this way they would find it the best investment the country ever made. The interest on a million would be only \$40,000 a year. And you know a half million or a million goes a short way in railway subsidizing or canal

construction,"

"What do you estimate would be the result of your recommendations, if carried out, in regard to the butter product?"

. "I believe it would result in a saving to Ontario alone of at least four millions of dollars a year, besides the incidental improvement of agriculture which would necessarily ly filters through it, by gravity! Now, it. At fairs, the judges have given prefer handled for speed. The mares were used for the follow. Is this not a matter worthy the consideration of the members of our Parliament, representing agricultural constituencies, as well as the Government?"

> An Epitaph on an Early Settler. Tread softly, stranger ! reverently draw near The vanguard of a nation slumbers here.

Perchance he wandered once by Yarrow's

May hap his infant gaze first saw the light, Nigh lerdly Snowdon's heaven ambition'd

Or thrill'd his boyish heart, in bygone

Neath the sad tones of Erin's mournful lays. Amidst the crowded marts of Old World

He yearned to live a nobler, purer life.

Brave heart, beyond Atlantic's sullen roar, He sought a home on this wild western shore, In peril's midst he built his log hut rude, And lived, his one companion—solitude.

Yet not his only one, where'er he trod, In childlike faith he walk'd with God.

His stalwart might, and keen, unerring aim, Taught lurking savages to dread his name.

Primeval gloom, beneath his sturdy blows, Beam'd forth in glebes that blossom'd as the

And years roll'd by. Europe her exiles

Around him grew a thriving settlement. But 'tis not good for man to live alone, He woo'd and won a maiden for his own.

itself felt. The arts of peace will, it may ment nearer to the farmer than ever before. And thrice ten years he tasted wedded bliss. His children, born 'neath Freedom's own

Were cradled in the land of Liberty.

His neighbors loved the kindly, honest way, Of one whose yea was Yea, whose nay was

And gid dispute arise, his word alone Nero wore an eyeglass of emerald which not sacrificed. That is right. But I wish Was jury, judge, and verdict blent in one. Dark day that saw, and gloomier hearts

> The father of the settlement is dead. His spirit left them for the Better Land.

Tread softly, stranger! reverently draw near. The vanguard of a nation slumbers here. HEREWARD K. COCKIN.

# The Violets.

Snow in the air, and snow on the fields, and snow, cold snow, on the hill. Calmly the lillies are sleeping yet, and violets sleeping still.

Time ye were waked, 'tis time ye were stirred; we wait your promise of May, And the modest sheen of your purple and green thrusting the snow away.

Yet shall the violets wake, I know, and earth shall be glad once more; But, oh! for a spring to revisit the souls

whose springtime once is o'er. Never a flower or a bud for them, but only a wintry glow;

But only to sit with hopeless eyes and gaze in vain at the snow. Violets nursed by Spring's soft hand, then

of themselves decay.

ed in sun and in rain. fade sweetly shall blossom again.

violets! rightly ye wake.

souls which their winter make. many a spring time in store.

once passed it shall come no more. Whenever it is warm enough to open the Don't try, if you are an ordinary man, to certain conditions of co operation, to societies | windows the furnace sends up sufficient heat