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Office—First door east of the Durham Pharmacy, Calder's Block. Residence—First door west of the Post Office, Durham.

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JOHN QUEEN, ORCHARDVILLE, has resumed his old business, and is prepared to loan any amount of money on real estate. Old mortgages paid off on the most liberal terms. Fire and Life Insurance effected in the best Stock Companies at lowest rates. Correspondence to Orchardville P. O., or a call solicited.

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A general financial business transacted. Office next door to Standard Bank, Durham.

HIS PREFERENCE. Mrs. Goodenough—New, Johnnie, won't you sit down and tell me why your papa whipped you? Johnnie—No, ma'am; I'd rather stand and say nothin'.

AGRICULTURAL

AT THE OLD FARM.

A scent of hay, A cattle call A whirl of wings, And peace o'er all. At the old farm.

My mother's song At break of morn' A robin's lay, The breakfast horn. At the old farm.

A running brook, A meadow sweet, A laughing boy With naked feet. At the old farm.

A leafy wood Adown the glen, Remote from sight And sound of men. At the old farm.

The kitchen's glow In hearth-fire's cheer, A dreamy tale, A smile, a tear. At the old farm.

A downy bed The attic in, And boyhood's sleep, No fear, no sin. At the old farm.

NUT GROVES.

More interest should be taken in nut-bearing trees, and a grove of this character should be started on every farm. There is a general opinion that they are slow of growth and that it will seldom pay to set them out. This is a mistake, and if pains be given as to culture and the soil is fertile the rate of growth is quite rapid, even in the case of the oak, and good results can be obtained from acorns if they are properly planted and cared for. Rapid growth does not depend so much on variety as upon supplied conditions, such as subsoiling before planting, applications of manure, and after-culture until the roots become sufficiently established to draw well from the soil and be independent of surface conditions. For success in the line indicated by our correspondent's inquiry we would advise deep plowing this fall and making the grove strip a long one. The nuts should be taken fresh from the hull when ripe and placed in shallow trays of sand in the proportion of not over one-third nuts to two-thirds sand. This should be slightly dampened with water so as to be in an average state of moisture, or about as the soil is when in a condition for the best growth of vegetation. The peach or pear boxes found at the stores may be used for the trays, which it is best to keep covered with wire netting to prevent mice getting in. They should be placed on the floor of a camp cave and covered with moist earth until the ground begins to freeze up for winter. Then remove them and bury outdoors a little deeper than the boxes, say five or six inches, cover with fresh earth, and top out the mound with a foot of well moistened straw. This latter point is important, as the straw next the ground should not dry out and let the frost get into the boxes and freeze the nuts all winter.

As soon as the frost is out of the boxes in the spring, generally the latter part of March, and when the surface of the plowed plot is dry, with the frost showing at a depth of about four inches, plant the nuts in rows four inches deep and eight feet apart, six to eight nuts to the hill, sticking a small stake beside each hill. Eight or ten days after the nuts have germinated and thrown up shoots, take a rake and remove the dirt from the starting shoot, letting the heat of the sun nearer the germinating nut, and later when the shoots have a good start, draw the earth in around them. After the seedlings show that they are well established, pull out by the roots and destroy all but the best and most vigorous in the hill. We would advise planting the entire plot to soft maple seedlings when the usual planting time arrives in April or May to create a shade as speedily as possible. After these are planted high culture and plenty of manure worked into the soil will be sure to produce a thrifty growth. The soft maples should be allowed to grow for several years to provide forest conditions. They will be beneficial to the nut seedlings because of their shade, and as the maples are shallow rooting when young they will in no way interfere with them. When the nut trees reach the proper size the maples can be thinned and finally removed from the body of the grove; but since hickory trees are subject to borers it would be well to have a strip of maples along the south line of the nut grove. This will throw shade in the grove and on the stems of the nut trees, and, since borers do little or no damage in the shade, will operate as a preventive of these pests. We would also advise the planting of chestnut groves, the nuts being treated in the manner outlined above. There are many chestnut groves in bearing in the West and a nut grove of hickory or sweet chestnuts is possible on any farm. As a general rule trees will grow faster if allowed to remain where the nut is planted, but with the chestnut this does not make so much difference, for it is set back very little by transplanting if the new location given it is made quite rich. However, it is best usually to transplant only one-year seedlings, as they recover quickest from the shock. Walnuts can also be treated in a manner similar to that just described. It is possible to plant nuts outdoors just

as they fall, but they need very deep covering to keep them from being injured by the heated surface soil drying the shell and possibly preventing successful germination. Difficulties in this direction can be overcome by deeply covering the nuts in the fall, and in the spring the soil can be temporarily removed over the seed until the shoots rise above the surface.

HOW TO GROW CHERRIES.

Cherries thrive in a variety of soils but attain their highest development in one that is light and loamy. It must retain considerable moisture, but never be sour. If the land is too wet it must be drained and on light dry knolls, otherwise favorable to cherry culture, the moisture holding capacity of the soil may be increased by the addition of vegetable matter and judicious surface cultivation. The turning under of crimson clover, or a crop of similar character is highly beneficial. The best results are obtained from orchards situated on a western or northwestern slope, as the blooming period is retarded in spring and the danger of frosts greatly lessened. A depression is not desirable, as frost is liable to occur there when it would not on higher ground. Where the country is naturally level, a slight elevation is preferable, since it insures air drainage and good circulation. The sour varieties of cherries seem to thrive better on lower levels than the sweet kinds. The distance apart for planting trees will depend almost wholly upon the manner of growth. Some trees may attain a height of 40 to 50 ft and be wide spreading. These should stand not less than 30 ft apart.

The highest success in cherry growing cannot be attained without thorough cultivation during the early life of the orchard and also later while fruit is being matured. There is no objection to growing small fruits or some other crop requiring frequent cultivation between the rows of cherry trees for a few years, provided the land is good and contains enough plant food to keep the trees in vigorous condition. The sweet cherry is a coarse feeder and will thrive on less applied fertilizer than the other kinds. G. Harold Powell, Bulletin 35, Delaware experiment station. When the land is too rich or too much fertilizer is added, the energy of the tree is apt to be devoted too largely to wood growth. An abundance of moisture is essential for cherry trees during the bearing season, especially just before and during the ripening process, consequently it is advisable with a bearing orchard to plow early in spring and follow with light cultivations every ten days or whenever the rain becomes scarce. On the first or middle of July, the condition of the soil can be greatly improved in its water holding capacity by turning under annual crops of crimson clover or some other nitrogenous cover crop. In order to secure this crop sow at the last cultivation 10 or 12 lbs. of crimson clover seed per acre. It is very essential to retain the moisture in the soil in the spring by early plowing and by quite frequent culture. If the trees make too vigorous a growth seed down one year to rye or buckwheat.

The most profitable sour cherries are the Montmorency and Early Richmond and these varieties can be grown in nearly all the orchard fruit regions. The following sweet varieties have been grown with more or less success: Black Tartarian, Robert's Red Heart, Napoleon, Windsor and Dikeman. For this same region, the following may be added for family use: Black Eagle, Mezel, Gov Wood, Coe's Transparent, Knight's Early Black, Yellow Spanish and Louis Philippe.

WATER COWS OFTEN IN WINTER.

To get the best results from cows they must be kept comfortable night and day. It is not necessary to have expensive stables or barns, but their quarters must be warm, well lighted and ventilated. Feed a well balanced ration of roughage and grain. Very few realize the necessity of furnishing plenty of water. As a rule cows in winter quarters get no succulent food. Dry hay, corn fodder and dry grain are their daily ration. A few dairymen water their cows twice a day and a much smaller number have water in the stables. A cow will thrive much better, will drink more and give more milk from the same food if allowed to drink in a warm, comfortable place.

One of the best devices made for watering cows in the stable consists of a V-shaped trough running the whole length of the stable, immediately over the manger and about three and one-half feet above the bottom. It is thus out of the way of cows and attendants. The water can easily be led from a tank or pump directly into the trough. It is necessary that the cow, in addition to the water needed for rumination and digestion have enough to put 87 per cent. into the milk she gives. A cow weighing 1,000 lbs. in full milk should have about 12 gallons of water a day. And if so much water be taken at one time during very cold weather the cow receives a great chill from which it will take hours to recover. Besides, it makes the food in her stomach so liquid that it cannot be raised for rumination. Of course nature soon takes out the surplus but the process continues and the contents become dry and solid. Watered frequently, the same lot of cows will give from 10 to even as much as 20 per cent. more milk on the same food. No one who keeps cows for profit can ignore such a result. It will require considerable work to attend properly to all details in a well managed dairy, but they must be looked after if success is to be attained.

PLANK FRAMING FOR BARN.

It is customary in framing barns and other heavy farm buildings to use much

heavier timbers than are necessary. This is really true, notwithstanding frequent collapses from storms, overloaded mows, etc. The trouble is that the framing is often ill adapted to resist the strains acting on it. We know of one farmer who put 2x12 inch joists on 12 inch centers, 14 ft. span, under a cow stable and in a few months it began to settle, then collapsed. The joists had been cut down 6 inches to let in a trench 4 ft. from one bearing which had been notched up 6 inches into a sleeper. The joists split. Had they been properly cut they would have been there yet.

The ultimate strength of a timber is that of its weakest part. A 6x8 inch post notched to receive a 4-inch brace is weakened almost half. Heavy timbers are used to allow free cutting and notching with safety. Another point is to have the strongest direction of the timber coincident with the greatest stress. A 2x8 inch joist has the same wood in it as a 4x4 inch and is four times as strong. It will bear just 16 times the weight with the narrow side up as with the wide side up. Bearing these facts in mind it is practicable to build a 40x60 barn with a plank frame throughout, but it must be a balloon frame with box sills and built-up posts. It must have inside bearing partitions and be tied across the plates with built-up timber tie beams or rods and bracing done the same as any ordinary balloon bracing. All notching, mortising, etc., should be avoided. Probably no suitable plan could be drawn for any specific case without a knowledge of how many and what kind of cattle are to be housed, capacity of mows, bins, etc.

GRAINS OF GOLD.

Next to excellence is the appreciation of it.—Thackeray. The secret of success is constancy of purpose.—Disraeli. A good conscience is a continual Christmas.—Franklin. Poverty wants some things, luxury many, avarice, all things.—Cowley. The best teachers of humanity are the lives of great men.—Fowler. Life is not so short but there is always time for courtesy.—Emerson. The future destiny of the child is always the work of the mother.—Bonaparte. The secret of making one's self tire-some is, not to know when to stop.—Voltaire. The readiest and surest way to get rid of censure is to correct ourselves.—Demosthenes. All false practices and affectations are more odious than any want or defect of knowledge can be.—Sprat. You have not fulfilled every duty unless you have fulfilled that of being cheerful and pleasant.—C. Buxton. A sound discretion is not so much indicated by never making a mistake as by never repeating it.—Bovee. No man can be provident of his time, who is not prudent in the choice of his company.—Jeremy Taylor. No soul is desolate, as long as there is a human being for whom it

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The Chronicle Contains . .

Each week an epitome of the world's news, articles on the household and farm, and serials by the most popular authors. Its Local News is Complete and market reports accurate.

can feel trust and reverence.—George Eliot.

I know of no manner of speaking so offensive as that of giving praise and closing it with an exception.—Steele.

Common sense is the knack of seeing things as they are, and doing things as they ought to be done.—C. E. Stowe.

Choose always the way that seems the best, however rough it may be; custom will soon render it easy and agreeable.—Fythnagoras.

What are the aims which are at the same time duties? They are the perfecting of ourselves and the happiness of others.—Kant.

Contentment is a pearl of great price, and whoever procures it at the expense of ten thousand desires, makes a wise and happy purchase.—Balguy.

Consider how much more you often suffer from your anger and grief than from those very things for which you are angry and grieved.—Marcus Antonius.

Cash System

Adopted by

N., G. & J. McKechnie.

We beg to inform our customers and the public generally that we have adopted the Cash System, which means Cash or its Equivalent, and that our motto will be "Large Sales and Small Profits."

We take this opportunity of thanking our customers for past patronage, and we are convinced that the new system will merit a continuance of the same.

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