CAUSES OF POOR CROPS.

Poor crops are bound to come at one time er another on almost every farm. Sometimes they are the result of natural causes and sometimes they are not. Pr natural causes, we mean the elements and atmospheric conditions, as for instance, when there has been too much heat or too much cold. It is, of course, beyond the power of the ly taking from twenty to thirty minfarmer to control such conditions. It frequently happens however, that even with a favorable season, a poor crop is in cold water, work dasher again, rinse great suddenness. gathered, but such a result can be butter twice in this way, take out in swoided. A few of the causes which butter bowl and salt, using one ounce to gested in case.

Improper cultivation: To enable a supply of food in the soil, or that which work over then, using ladle until evhas been artificially supplied, the soil ery drop of water is thoroughly workshould be brought to the most perfect physical condition. If the latter be too compact, it becomes impervious to both | thoroughly washed and aired. When air and water, and thus deprives the jar is full, wring a piece of clean white plant of at least a large part of the available plant food. Accordingly, if and put a piece of clean, dry, white the soil itself be in a clodded or lumpy | cloth over this and spread over thickly condition, the plant rootlets are retarded in their growth and a reduction in the yield will be the inevitable consequence. Proper draining and a en and eight months and had it just as thorough working of the soil will go far toward putting it in good shape. done in this way. Wash, scald and An occasional dose of lime will also thoroughly dry churn and butter bowl greatly improve tthe mechanical con- before putting away. dition of the soil. If the latter should be too heavy, the lime will lighten it; if it be too light, the lime will make it more compact, or sweeten it if it be

Experience has shown that it is poor policy to grow the same crop on the same soil year after year, and every farmer should therefore select a rotation suitable to his particular soil. As a general rule, however, the farmer will find it to his advantage to include some leguminous crop like clover or peas in his rotation, which have the faculty of absorbing the nitrogen from the air and thus adding to the soil's natual supply of plant food. Ill-balanced fertilizers: The plant

must be fed and must be fed properly. If given too much of one kind of food and not enough of another, nature's balance is disturbed, and an unhealthy plant results. The three plant food ingredients which are the first to become exhausted in the soil and which must be supplied in the form of fertilizers, are nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid. When applied in the correct proportions, and in a proper manner, they will nourish any plant and cause an increased yield. If the nitrogen is supplied through clover or peas the expense of this costly ingredient of plant food can be saved and it remains only for the farmer to set about putting in the necessary quantities of potash and phosphates; these he can determine by a little practical experimenting. By putting different quan- The Tendency Is To Quite Friendly Inter tities on different parts of the field, he can soon ascertain what would be the limit of profitable applications.

Time for application: Often the entire success of a crop is dependent upon the time of applying the fertilizers; especially is this the case during a dry Plants can drink but they cannot eat. Hence, fertilizers when to a liquid condition, before they can be absorbed by the growing crop; if therefore, fertilizers are put on just state and the plant is thus deprived of that nourishment at the time when it is so essential to give it a good start. On the other hand, if the fertilizers are put on several weeks before planting time they have a better opportunity to disseminate through the soil and are ready for the plants when the plants are ready for them.

Method of application: This will

depend to some extent upon the crop to be grown and the previous treatment of the soil. If it is intended to sow clover, following on with some sale erop, the economical plan would be to put all the potash and phosphate on the clover, and depend on the latter to furnish the nitrogen; then the whole mass could be turned under the following spring. Such an arrangement would insure a good supply of plant food and organic matter for the sucseeding crop. If, however, it is intended to fertilize some sale crop direct it would be best to put on the mineral tertilizer referred to some time before planting time and harrow them into the soil. These fertilizers will not leach out of the soil. The nitrates on the other hand, are soluble materials and unless taken up by the plants at once they are apt to leach out of the soil and be lost. It pays best, therefore, to put on the nitrogen as a top dressing at planting time. In the case of small grain, it is well to apply the nitrogen in broken doses at successive periods of plant growth.

BUTTER MAKING ON THE FARM.

To commence, have all milking utenalls thoroughly clean, do not use soap. Rinse all milk and cream cans with wipe, and set out of doors to air uncovered. says a writer.

a cool place immediately after strain- course of history, it is in the develop- smaller craft that came in our way. ing let it stand twenty-four hours in warm weather, and forty-eight in cool. of mind.-London Spectator

temperature about 70 degrees. Stir WAL cream thoroughly each time you skim skimmed twelve hours before churning in warm weather and twenty-four in cool weather; do not let cream stand too long before churning. Churn at least three times a week in warm weather and twice in cool. Scald and rinse utes. When butter is there, work dasher back and forth a few minutes to gather a pound of butter, a little more if butbutter well in the water drain water off, and set butter away to be worked ed out. Then make into prints or pack in stone jar that has been used for cloth out of cold water, and put over butter, sprinkle some salt over this, with salt, then tie a piece of cloth over ing. all, or better yet, paste a piece of thick paper over all, so as to exclude all air. I have kept butter in this way for sevsweet and nice as when first made, and think any person can do the same, if

PLANTS AND MOISTURE.

Although strawberry plants will not thrive where the soil is permanently wet, they do require abundant moisture both during the growing and fruiting seasons. The non-observance of this requirement is the occasion of heavy losses. In the first place, the ground for strawberries is often left until planting time before plowing, and breaks up in clods, occasioning much labor in preparation with harrow and roller. Although it may be possible to tion for planting the water which has been lost cannot be restored, and weeks may elapse before sufficient rain falls to keep the plants alive.

1,500 barrels of water per acre may escape from unplowed ground in one week in excess of the quantity which will pass off from an equal area which of warfare. has been plowed early and harrowed at frequent intervals. Moreover, the ground which has been plowed late will continue to dry out during the essential, in order to retain soil moisture, even though planting may be de-

FEELING IN BRITISH POLITICS.

course With Rivals.

We do not deny, of course, the presence of some exceptions to the rule of personal friendliness owing to political differences. The reign of George III., during which, as we have said, a foolish attempt was made to turn applied to the soil, must first pass in- back the hands of the clock, furnishes | fleets, in spite of the treaty of 1841, en- ation, of 107 wars which he has inwas the rupture between Burke and at planting time, and a season of dry Fox, the former of whom forgot for a weather follows, they are prevented time the very doctrines he had preach the English and French fleets entered as long as possible, the actual admistion he had asked him by a simple ye Pitt and Fox certainly had no love for one another, but difference of temperament had as much to do with ning was certainly hated by the obscurantist Tories of the Castlereagh type. The relations between Disraeli and Mr. Gladstone were perhaps more formal and distant than between any rival Celtic element in Mr. Gladstone's nature being antipathetic to the Semite character.

er exceptions to the rule, we may say that the tendency in England is to main to the more secondary issues. We asked for can scarcely conceive here of the bitter spirit of personal animosity which Bismarck assumed to Lasker of Windthorst, which Gambetta assumed to Mc-Mahon, or which the Republican Deputies in the Italian Chambers assume to Signor Crispi. On the Continent the gulf is so deep and wide that the sincere Republican holds the Monarchist as a bad man defending a bad cause—a cause morally rotten—and the feeling is reciprocated on the other side. It all has its roots in history, and will, therefore, endure. It might be supposed that the explanation was racial, but that is scarcely so. For cosmopolitan, men of English descent were as fiercely opposed on the slavery conceivable that personal hatred might arise in England if there were a cause

Warning is Very Seldom Given - The Powers Generally Begin Fighting With

TO HOSTILITIES.

out a Formal Declaration. The feeling that Great Britain is on

the eve of something more serious than thermometer, have cream at churning frontier wars in Africa and India is and the reason for this sudden move point. Churn until butter comes, usual- gaining ground somewhat, and a recent was that memorable meeting of Napolarticle in the London Daily Mail comes as a reminder that the great wars of world between them, and as a prelimbutter, let buttermilk run off and put recent times have broken out with inary, to compel Denmark, in company The writer says: When the commit-

contribute to ill success are mentioned ter is to be packed. Work salt thor- ing the channel tunnel scheme, some below and a possible remedy is sug- oughly in and wash again, working years since, a prominent member asked: "Is it possible that war could be vious notice that a quarrel was impending?"

no other use but butter, and also been | tively inquired into by the War Office, a period extending over 170 years, only and then not by an intimation from one case could be found in which the Uncle Sam, but by means of despatches attacking nations lodged formal warn-

BEFORE COMMENCING HOSTILI-TIES.

That nation was France in 1870. The since March 4, 1846. practical importance of this is very great at the present time, unless the past is no longer to be taken as a preis, therefore, a matter of interest. it was always announced by heralds, and ample time was given for preparation. As the centuries rolled on, howconsideration, though neutral Powers were duly informed. For a long time the intention until the commencement of actual hostilities disclosed it. And war will open with far less warning how they have put such a soil into fairly good condi- than usually precedes a thunderstorm. There are many good reasons for this.

Swiftness of communication, destructiveness of modern artillery, ease of It has been shown that more than mobilization, the telegraph, and the great advantage of striking the first blow, have entirely altered the aspect

sent century commenced. There must be many people living able to recall season at a rate in excess of the early the reading of our declaration of war never, during his long experience, heard. It touched their hearts, and plowed. This shows plainly that against Russia from the steps of the plowing and frequent harrowing are Royal Exchange. That was a "de- fairs. At six o'clock that evening I came long after war had actually broken out, and it was not made at St. Petersburg but in London.

these: To begin with, Russia had

THE DISPUTE WITH TURKEY. about the "holy places" in Palestine and seized the Danubian principalities. On May 31, 1853, Russia issued the order to cross the River Pruth; on June 2 the English and French admirals were ordered to Besika Bay as a countermove; then some English and French warships were sent to Constantinople; on October 22 the English and French for the commencement, without declarsome instances, the most noted of which | tered the Dardanelles; on October 23 | vestigated, are most interesting. Turkey declared war against Russia; In forty-four of them the object was once engaged in a discussion with next Russia destroyed the Turkish fleet to gain time by suddenness of attack; dissenting minister, the former insist at Sinope; then, on January 4, 1854, in twelve, the desire was to postpone, ed on the latter answering the ques the Black Sea, and ordered the Russian sion of a state of hostility, or to throw or no, without any more circumlect ships to retire to Sebastopol; the Rus- on the other Power the responsibility; tion, asserting that every question sian Ambassador was next withdrawn in nine cases sudden attack was made could be replied to in that manner. from London; after that the French to anticipate designs of another Pows That reverend gentleman rose, and this as difference about policy. Can- and English Ambassadors left St. Pet- er, respecting which secret information in a quiet manner, said: Mr. Bradersburg, and it was not till March 28 had been received; sixteen were raids, laugh, will you allow me to ask you i that the Sergeant-at-Arms mounted reprisals, pressure, and other things question on those terms? the Royal Exchange steps and form- not wholly war; four were violations ally declared war. France, by the of neutral frontiers during the proway, did it a day sooner. Of course, gress of war; and in five the nation beating your wife? this declaration was, what declarations slipped into war by giving help to anleaders since the days of Pitt and Fox: always are now, a notice not to the other State. but here again temperament was a enemy but to the people, justifying the more powerful factor than opinion, the progressing war, and asking approval and help.

Some years before this England made war, on a very small scale, as abruptly But, allowing for all these and oth- as the flash of a meteor. Some time in any secret order, John? 1850 thriteen British war vessels sailed into the Bay of Salamis. No doubt we ret? quite friendly intercourse with rivals, had been pressing Greece to pay certain to assume that both sides are really moneys due but so ignorant was that at one on certain fundamental mat- country of the intentions of the Saters, and that differences relate in the lamis fleet that the King and Queen

A LIST OF THE OFFICERS.

in order to invite them to an entertainment, and the admiral actually paid a friendly visit. But next day he disclosed the fact that he had come to enforce the immediate settlement of our claim, and gave the Greek Government twenty-four hours in which to com-After that he proceeded to hostilities, laid an embargo on the Greek merchant vessels in the port, and seized many others on the high seas. Greece, of course, did not fight, but it was a much closer thing with France, for that country recalled her Ambassador from among our own kinsmen in the United as eager to give battle as the Ameri-London, and the French people were

cans appear to have been a couple of the play caused even the hardened question as rival parties in France are hotly fighting France, and negotiating she paints. On another occasion, 1804, we were cold water, wash thoroughly with opposed at this hour. No Republi- with Spain in the most friendly mancasionally, scald with boiling water and Summer and Lincoln were hated by provisioned in the latter country's Southerners; so that we see it is quite ports, when, without a word of warning, we captured four of her frigates, Strain milk very carefully and set in sufficient to bring it out. It is in the than 100 tons burden, and sank all seized all the merchant vessels of more ment of institutions, that we must find Another instance in which we swooped the words of a Danish writer, "The a week.

Jovernment of Deninal & Saw of lish ships of war on their coast without even the conjecture that they were to be employed against Denmark. The fresh cream in. Always have cream HOW MODERN NATIONS PROCEED island of Zealand was surrounded, the capital threatened, and the Danish territory violated, before the Court of London had made use of a single word to express the hostility of its feelings. In reality, England entertained no

DENMARK,

men, when they agreed to divide the when he found an opportunity to re with Sweden, and Portugal, to declare war against England. In self protection England hastened to upset their tee of the Board of Trade was consider- plans by seizing the powerful Danish

Dyer, historian, says: "Great Britain has always been accustomed to com- night, he was suddenly surrounded has mence hostilities without a declaration armed men, some on horseback and over. Let it stand twelve hours in declared against us, as we might say, of war." But all other countries do pregrowing crop to utilize the natural warm weather and about three in cool, out of a clear sky, without any pre- cisely the same. The United States, for instance, in 1812, declared war against tered in the moonlight, and the us by an act of Congress on June 18, man knew that he was at the mercy of but it had actually begun hostilities the The matter was then very exhaus- previous April by laying an embargo on all ships in American ports.

It was not until July 25 that we with the startling result that during learned what the state of affairs was; property to the gang. He gave them a sent by the schooner Mackerel from ed a gold chain from his neck, took the Halifax.

The United States war with Mexico, from his finger, and took from his likewise was not the subject of a formal declaration till May 13, although hostilities had been in progress clasped with silver. Not till all had

rule has been followed. In 1859, for might be spared. instance, France declared war against "Have you given us all?" demand. Austria by saying she took Austria's ed the robber chief. "All," replied the cedent. How are actually commences entry into Sardinian territory as an old man, and with this assurance he act of hostility; but the French troops was allowed to go on his way. were set in motion ten days before Away back in history, when folks took the Austrians committed this act. In things more leisurely than nowadays, 1866, again, we have Prince Frederick Charles saying to his Prussian troops: "Austria without declaring war, has violated the Silesian frontier. I might likewise, without declaration, have ever, the enemy did not receive so much crossed into Bohemia. But I have not done so. To-day, I have sent a public declaration, and to-day we enter the territory of the enemy." This now the custom has been to conceal was practically carrying out Baron Brunnow's advice: "The blow must be struck before it is announced." Every one remembers how the Greek

it is tolerably certain that the next began war a couple of years ago, and

wars, but its outset was so unexpected himself again in the midst of the robin England, at all events, that it ought | ber band. to stand as a perpetual warning to the composers of the Queen's Speech never he said, meekly. "Pardon me; it was to congratulate the country on the prospects of peace. Lord Granville to think." said, in the House of Lords, on July 11, Here is how some of the wars of pre- 1870, "I had the honor of receiving the ing gold. He did not guess that his seals of the Foreign Office last Wednesday. On the previous day the experi- those bad men the most eloquent lesenced Under-Secretary told me he had known so great a lull in foreign afclaration of war," no doubt, but it received a telegram informing me of the choice of Spain of Prince Leopold.' This was little short of a declaration of ly one man went and brought him war by Prussia. Anyhow, on July 19, back his purse, another , restored the The events preceding it were briefly France threw down the glove.

It may be taken as almost a certainty therefore, that the commencement of to mount. They then unitedly entreat the next war will be extraordinarily ed his blessing, and watched him slowly sudden and unexpected. It may be ride away. It was the triumph of good preceded by signs, but they will be most difficult to diagnose. And, in this connection, the

REASONS GIVEN BY COLONEL MAURICE

HE BELONGED TO ONE.

Mrs. Newlywed-Do you belong to Mr. Newlywed-Can you keep a sec-

Mrs. Newlywed-Yes. Mr. Newlywed-Then I do.

Mrs. De Shopper (breathlessly) Did I leave my purse here? I've lost it somewhere.

Clerk (who had worked an hour showng Mrs. De Shopper goods without being able to sell her anything) - "I will inquire, madam. Cash! Cash! Here a minute! Did any of you boys find an empty purse anywhere around here this morning?

PRESERVING HER COMPLEXION.

How is it that your friend, Miss Serely, sheds no tears? he asked at the theater where the pathetic portions of rounders to weep. Sh-h-h! answered his fair companion

STRUCK IT RICH. I see Plimley's wife has a new seal-

HOSTILE FEELINGS TOWARDS

NOT YET DECLARED IT.

among the few completely declared with excitement and fear, he found

LOST AND FOUND.

skin coat. Yes, he's had a streak of luck. How was that?

- ou mout 2 SAKE How Good Old John Kant Got Even Will, Band of Robbers.

One of the most convincing sermon ever known was preached by a may who, at the moment, had no though of preaching. Very little was said,and that little was in fear and trembling The "sermon" was really more in deed than in word; but it struck home,

John Kant, a professor and doctor of divinity of Cracow, was an old may visit his native country of Silesia li was a dangerous journey, and a great undertaking for one of his years. His way lay through the gloomy for

ests of Poland. One evening, while seeing a place in which to spend the some on foot. Knives and swords glit. a band of robbers.

Frightened and confused, he alight. ed from his horse and offered all his purse filled with silver coins, unclassgold lace from his cap, drew a ring pocket a book of prayer, which was been given up, and his horse had been On the Continent the same kind of led away, did Kant beg that his life

GLAD TO ESCAPE

With his life, he hurried onward, but when well out of sight of the robbers his hand touched something hard in the hem of his robe. His heart gave a throb of joy. The hard substance was his gold, sewn into the lining of his dress for safety. In his fear and confusion he had forgotten it. Now he would not be obliged to beg

his way. Was it a providence? He was in the act of giving thanks for his good fortune, when he remembered what he had said to the robber

chief. He had told the man what was

not true, and he must correct the er-

Comfort and safety were forgotten The Franco-German war figures as the old man hurried back. Trembling

> "I have told you what was not true," unintentional. Was too terrified to

> With this he held forth the glittercandor and humility were teaching son of righteousness they had ever surprised them into something like shame, if not contrition.

To the old man's astonishment, nobody offered to take his gold. Present book of prayer, while still another led his horse toward him and helped him

John Kant was only a sincere and faithful follower of Him to V. hon truth was native, and uprightness the very life of His heart.

POSER FOR BRADLAUGH

When the late Mr. Bradlaugh was

Certainly, said Bradlaugh. Then, may I ask, have you given up

This was a poser, for if answered by yes, it would imply he had previously beaten her, and if by no, that he continued to do so

MARRYING A STICK.

That is a curious custom they have in some of the South Sea islands, said Mr. Wallace, of marrying a girl to a tree or some inanimate object, which is supposed to act as a sort of scapegoat for the short-comings of the real live husband.

It is not unusual, said Mrs. Wallace, for women in this country to be married to a stick.

But Mr. Wallace, with the calm superiority of the masculine mind, refused to deem it a personal matter.

HE GAVE HER AWAY.

The blushing bride-elect was rehearsing the ceremony about to take place. Of course you will give me away, papa? she said.

I am afraid I have done it already, Caroline, replied the old gentleman, nervously. I told your Herbert this morning you had a disposition just like your mother's.

AMBER FOR PIPES

Valuable discoveries of amber have recently been made in British Columbia, which it is claimed will be able to supply the pipemakers of the world with amber for another hundred years.

Dixon-I don't believe it's true that the explanation of these rival attitudes down like a wolf was in 1807, when, in he took out an accident policy for \$50 not? Dixon—Because I never got my share.

Diceks and th There are quently put "Can you te stickler for "What kind Apparent til time or stan these kinds others. It is generacions. of our sover

the subject of these kin pressing imp ists. In one Paris a litti a burning-g a manner th cannon as it of course, is apparent no ingly impru through Par catch the 1 watch by th ed to be in when he re that the sta the gun by an hour, an whilst towa the beginning find himself machines 1 time were

time, that i tself, as by time about But when r watches wer seen that at there was a the sun dia the clock-th the apparent cross the the same, w clock was, sould be ma

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BIT A simple ture childre ing their n with quassis dry. When reminder to there are n tips, a very

which is int ed over then the finger e fails as it s end ought t til the prop

THE Updyke is ted chap. So ? Yes. For Jammer's p ped on Miss ped in the

of ruffle of I see. He by some ex Not muc

Peared.