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On the Farm.

PASSING OF THE SLOP BARREL.

No doubt there are many farmers' wives who would be glad to have the barrel not only passing but gone, and with it the unpleasant smell that too often belongs to it, also the swarms of flies that are always about it in the summer season. We have had the usual slop barrel experience that belongs to the farmer who grows hogs and tries to make the best out of them, writes John M. Jamison. We have worked with slop in buckets and in barrels, both stationary and on wheels and in tubs put down in sawdust to protect them against winter freezing. We remember paying \$10 for a barrel cart, that we used for a time, and that is now stored in a shed loft. Now we see wagons sold at sales at that price that are fairly good. We have gradually come to the conclusion that there is a great deal of muscle and time wasted on the pig in the way of slop preparation. We have seen slop barrels of all sorts—except clean ones; have seen them buried full length in the ground and part of their length, as suited the fancy of the owner. We have seen them not far from the kitchen door or near the pig pen, as seemed most convenient to the owner. The meanest ones we ever saw as regards contents were hauled from the back yard of a noted hotel to the neighboring fair ground that their contents might be fed to hogs on exhibition. Worms were making a strong effort to consume their contents. Had we known how or thought it possible, from that day we would have eliminated the slop barrel from our pig growing ever afterward; as it was made a greater effort in the direction of cleanliness. Farmers do not have or keep a slop barrel, or two or three of them, about their premises because they regard them as an ornament, but because they think them a necessity if they would have their hogs thrive. This is the way we used to think about it but for two years or more past we have thought differently. Our studies as to the needs of the pig to make him thrive best, and our aversion to the work that comes in when manipulating the slop barrel and buckets, caused us to discard the barrels, and we have had no occasion to return to them. For two or three winters we placed a tub or barrel in sawdust to keep from feeding the hogs frozen slop. Notwithstanding reasonable care in the matter we think the pigs seldom had their slop at the same temperature three feeds in succession. Sometimes it would be too warm and again too cool but never frozen. It must be remembered that the pig must eat without asking questions or discard his ration together. He cannot temper to his liking as the owner can his soup. The most practical argument in favor of slop is that the pig relishes dampened food more than dry. It is very doubtful whether the soaking in water renders it more digestible. In the great corn belt we do not believe any farmer can afford to grind corn to make slop. Granting this we are brought to the mill products for slop making. Now if we can dampen them without passing them through the slop barrel we save one handling, and if we can get water in cold weather for this purpose we save work and fuel. By this we save the annoyance of heating water on the kitchen stove to the relief of the housewife. We accomplished this winter and summer by pumping water directly from the well to moisten the ground food with. Often the pig often that we can arrange that will so nearly gives the pigs their moistened food at the same temperature the year around. Put the dry food in the troughs and pour over it about the same volume of water pumped from the well and the thing is done and the slop barrel is out of count entirely. We find they eat this moistened food as readily as the thin slop that most always is dipped from the barrel. We are certain it goes to the spot quicker, and is perfectly safe in recommon ing our pan. They relish the food moistened with water direct from the well because it is cool in summer and in winter it is warmer than the temperature of the atmosphere about them.

PRUNING FRUIT TREES.

Begin early in the life of the tree to shape it. A young tree should consist of a central leader with the main branches distributed evenly about it, forming a well-balanced head. On no account should a tree be set with a decided fork in the trunk. The point at which a limb should be removed is just at the upper part of the shoulder which will be at the base of each limb where it joins the main trunk. If we cut closely, the size of the wound is increased without to any appreciable extent decreasing the size of the stub. If the cutting is further from the tree, the scar is still the same size and a long stub is left over which it will take the tree years to grow.

If possible, avoid removing large limbs and the best way to do this is to begin when the tree is young and prune it systematically and carefully. If it is necessary to remove a large limb, use a saw, cutting in a short distance from the bottom first, then saw down from above, and the limb can be removed without fear of splitting off below. Large wounds should be smoothed over with a knife, then covered with gum shellac dissolved in alcohol.

In a general way, summer pruning promotes fruitfulness, while if wood

growth is desired, prune in winter. The explanation of this is that great growth and great fruitfulness do not go together. A plant must reach a certain degree of maturity before it will produce fruit and an abundance of plant food at the time the buds are forming is desirable for the best results. Now if by summer pruning part of the branch is removed, the growth is checked and as the part removed lessens the demand for plant food, it can be devoted to the production of fruit buds. If the tree is allowed to go into winter quarters undisturbed at the end of the season, the roots and tops are in a sort of equilibrium or balance each other. Now if during the dormant period a considerable part of the top is cut off, a strong pressure of sap is brought to bear on the remaining buds and a greater supply of nourishment is furnished for growth of each. The result is that a large growth of wood results, and when the time comes the following season for the formation of fruit buds, plant food is not abundant and few blossoms are produced.

AN EFFECTIVE FIRE KINDLER.

Kindling with kerosene, though almost universal when it comes to starting the kitchen fire on a winter's morning, is a dangerous operation as generally done. No farmer or his son, of course the wife or daughter never has this cold and disagreeable task to perform, can be blamed for wishing to abridge this uncomfortable duty. If he will try the following plan he will find it a success. He neither spills oil on stove and floor, carries oil in the dishes to season the breakfast later on, and last but not least, does not blow up the stove or set the house on fire.

Take a tin can one with a cover so that the oil will not evaporate, and fill about two-thirds full of oil and set in some handy place out of the way. At night put two or three cobs in the can and leave to soak. When the fire is to be started, take the cobs and put on the grate of the stove, piling the kindling and fuel over them. Then touch a match to them and your fire is going full blast. Always have some cobs in the can. If for any reason it is desirable to have a fire on short notice, your kindling is always ready.

MODERATE APPLICATION OF MANURES.

A very common mistake in applying farmyard manure is to give a small part of the farm a very heavy coating and leave the remainder without any. There are several good reasons why such a practice should not be followed. If the manure has been properly cared for there is no need of such heavy applications to supply sufficient plant food for the crops, and when heavy manuring is practiced a large part of the farm is neglected while a small part receives much more than it requires. The practice is similar to starving the greater number of a herd of cattle and giving the few remaining animals far more than they can eat. Very heavy manuring is wasteful—On tario experiment station. It is frequently claimed that if the first crop does not require the plant food applied, the next crop will be all the better off. It is true that the heavier the application the greater the residue left over for succeeding crops, but it does not follow that there is no waste of plant food under heavy manuring. There is danger that some of the excessive plant food may be leached out of the soil and lost in the drainage water when the land is not under crop. In all fertile soils there is always a considerable loss of nitrates from a soil in the drainage water, and it is not difficult to understand that the greater the excess of soluble plant food in the soil the greater the loss in the drainage water. Some loss is sure to occur, but an effort should be made to make the loss as small as possible; and moderation in applying manure is one step in this direction.

EX - REEVE CRAGG

A Prominent Dresden Citizen Tells an Interesting Story.

How Dodd's Kidney Pills Cured Him of Rheumatism and Gout, After the Best Doctors and Many Medicines Had Failed.

Dresden, Dec. 12.—This town boasts a peculiarity of which its people may well be proud, as it proves beyond dispute, that they possess that desirable attribute, common sense, in no small degree. That peculiarity is the remarkable decrease in the number of cases of Rheumatism during the last few years.

Eight years ago, Dresden was afflicted by that curse of modern civilization, Rheumatism, to a great extent, as any other place of its size in the Dominion. To-day such a complaint is practically unknown here.

A clue to the means by which this desirable condition has been brought about may be found in the following statement, given for publication by W. G. Cragg, Esq., ex-reeve of the town, and one of our most prominent merchants.

"For eight years I was a martyr to Rheumatism, of the inflammatory type, and during that period, my suffering beggared description. To add to my misery I was attacked by Gout. The best doctors failed to benefit me, and no good was done by the many patent medicines I used.

"At times I could not get about at all, and at the best, it was a severe task for me to make my way about my store.

"Hearing that Dodd's Kidney Pills had cured a Dresden lady of Rheumatism, I decided to try the medicine. Imagine my delighted surprise when I found myself growing better after having taken half-a-dozen doses. I used six boxes of the pills and am now as sound and well as ever I was. Dodd's Kidney Pills cured me. This I am ready and willing to swear to.

"Dodd's Kidney Pills are the surest, quickest and best cure for Rheumatism ever known. They never fail. And they cost only fifty cents a box, at all drug stores.

Rheumatism

You May Be Relieved of the Pains and Aches of This Disease.

The way is plain; it is no experiment; thousands have been cured and say they now have no symptoms of this disease. Hood's Sarsaparilla is the medicine they took and it is the medicine you should take if you wish to be cured. Hood's Sarsaparilla cures rheumatism where other medicines fail because it neutralizes the acid in the blood and thus removes the cause of the disease. Give it a fair and faithful trial and you may depend upon a complete and permanent cure.

Remember
Hood's Sarsaparilla
Canada's Greatest Medicine. Sold by all
Leaders in Medicine. Price \$1.

Hood's Pills All cures, mild, effective.
All dealers, 25c.

ESCAPING FROM SIBERIA.

Helpless Convicts Are Secretly Helped by Kind Villagers.

Those subjects of the tsar who are sent to Siberian prisons for a real or fancied offense against the social laws of the political decrees of the power that is, know that they will be harshly treated; but in no part of the dreary country is imprisonment so cruel as in the Kara prison, where the convicts work in the mines.

Attempts to escape are a common occurrence all over the country, but the number of convicts who make a dash for liberty from the Kara mines is far greater than from any other prison.

The miserable creatures who endeavor to elude the iron grasp of the tsar's officials prefer the spring for their attempt. There is more chance of reaching the outer world, or crossing the many miles of desolate territory that separate them from a place of safety, in the early months of the year; but they cannot always choose their own time, and in the very depth of the Siberian winter the desperate men made the struggle for freedom, preferring the rigors of night tramping in the coldest season to the miseries of the prison.

How do these men find their way? They know the direction in which safety lies, and they tramp onward until they reach some spot where they are safe. That spot may be far away from the town at which they imagined they would arrive, but what of that? They are free, that is the all-important matter.

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About twenty new books are published daily in Great Britain.

Remember

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Obstinacy and vengefulness in opinion are the surest proofs of stupidity.—Barlow.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD'S LAND.

Land which the Duke of Bedford pronounced as impossible to convert into really satisfactory pastures, except, perhaps, at prohibitive cost, was partly treated with Albert's Thomas-Phosphate Powder, and Dr. Fream reporting on it last year concludes as follows:—"The portion of the field bordering on the road was occupied with exceedingly poor herbage, moss was plentiful, and there was an abundance of hawkweed, both of which are indicative of poverty of the soil. The inner part of the field, where Thomas-Phosphate Powder had been applied, had obviously benefited from the dressing, the herbage was greener and fresher and had been more closely grazed. In addition there was a marked development of clover and other leguminous plants. Hence, as a result of the dressing, it may be concluded that the condition of the soil was undergoing improvement, and that the gradual accumulation of nitrogen by the leguminous species will lead ultimately to the production of better and more valuable herbage.

The true grandeur of humanity is in moral elevation, sustained, enlightened and decorated by the intellect of man.—C. Sumner.

HOW'S THIS?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

We the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last fifteen years and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by their firm.

W. & T. WALKER, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.; WALKER, KINNAN & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75c. per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

A SHARP POINTNER.

Say, Bessie, dear, couldn't you quietly induce your father to get his shoes in style?

Why?

So that the next time I'm invited out that way it won't be with a razor toe.

A Corn Photographed by X Rays

Shows a small hard kernel, covered by layers of hard skin. Thin dry corn causes keen pain. The only sure means of extracting it, without pain, in a day, is Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor. Sure. Yes! Painless? Yes. Cheap. Yes indeed! Try it.

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ENTHUSIASTIC ENDORSEMENT.

Willie Wiffles—What do you think of Santa Claus?
Tommy Taddells—He's a good thing. Push him along.

Novelty is the great parent of pleasure.—South.

W. P. C. 950

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