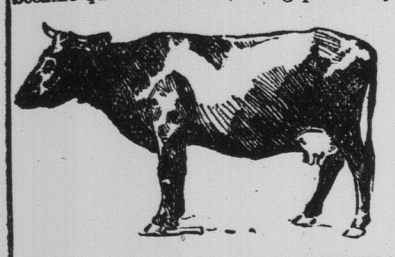


HARDY CATTLE.

French-Canadians That Have Been Bred for 200 Years.

J. A. Couture, Quebec, writing in The American Agriculturist, says: Very early in the history of America, some time before 1665, a number of small, black or brown cattle were introduced into what are now the Canadian provinces. They came from France and were strictly dairy animals, resembling the Jerseys in a general way. These cattle were not allowed to cross with other breeds, and for over 200 years were kept very pure and took the name of French-Canadian. They became quite numerous, being peculiarly



FRENCH-CANADIAN COW 14, DE BERTHIAUX.

adapted to conditions in Canada. In 35 counties in Quebec practically no other cattle are kept. The cows are small, weighing on an average 700 to 800 pounds, and are of extremely kind temper. They are the easiest kept of all breeds of cattle, and also the hardiest. They are free from tuberculosis. Their tests are large, consequently they are easily milked. In color they are solid black, or black with yellow strip on back and around muzzle, or brown with black points, or solid fawn.

As milkers they are the best cows of any of the breeds in Canada for the average farmer. They will not give the large quantities of milk yielded by the Holsteins or even some Ayrshires in one day, or one week, but they will give a good quantity daily from calf to calf, and the total for the year will be surprising, usually larger than that given by other breeds. The difference in their favor will be still more evident when the cost of keeping is considered.

The French-Canadian cattle are endowed with a strong constitution; there is no tuberculosis with them, except when they take it from other breeds. They are very hardy and thrive where other cattle will starve. In Quebec until a few years ago the cattle were kept on the poorest feeding.

SOW CLOVER.

Advice That Comes From the Results of Successful Experience.

The splendid crop of clover harvested in all the eastern provinces last year must have proved of great value in feeding of stock this winter, since there is no fodder crop grown in this country which so fully meets the needs of the animal economy, being more nutritive and balanced ration than any other. Large areas of clover sod were doubtless plowed down last fall in preparation for the year's crop of grain, roots and corn, and will tell mightily for good as a fertilizing agency and in supplying the necessary vegetable matter which will improve the mechanical condition of the land, enabling it to retain moisture and to keep the land from running together and baking from the action of the sun after heavy rains, as all clay soils especially are liable to do. The clover plant stores up in its tissues large supplies of nitrogen, one of the most valuable and expensive fertilizers gathered from the air, and thus cheaply provides one of the most essential fertilizing agencies for the development of most farm crops, while the roots penetrate deeply into the subsoil and bring from these depths the additional stores of plant food. Clover when fed to stock goes back upon the land in the form of rich manure to recruit its fertility, and thus leaves it in about the good condition as it found it, while the returns from the stock fed, in the form of beef, butter, cheese, bacon, mutton and wool, will prove as satisfactory, taking one year with another, as any of the products of the farm. Experiments conducted at the Central Experimental Farm last year showed that the weight of clover leaves, stems and roots produced by a ton of October from seed sown with a grain crop in April ran from six to eight tons per acre, and chemical analyses have proven that each ton of this material adds to the soil almost as much hydrogen as a ton and a half tons of barnyard manure. It has also been demonstrated that land on which clover has thus been grown has given from five to ten bushels per acre more than similar soil where no clover was sown, the treatment being the same. The low price of clover seed at the present time may well be taken advantage of by farmers, and liberal sowing should be the rule. It will pay well to sow clover with all grain crops, even if it has to be plowed down next fall, since the clover seed can be sown with the grain without extra labor, and the cost of growing it is only that of the seed, which at present prices is only about 75 cents per acre. It will furnish some pasture for stock, and will more than pay for itself as a fertilizer when plowed down. We are aware of the discouragements met with in some districts from repeated failures to secure a crop of seeds, but the doctrine of "anal perseverence" is in this matter a safe one to follow, and the only safe one, for we cannot afford to give it up, and we all know that pleasant surprises sometimes await us, when the heart of the farmer is gladdened by the bloom of the clover and its sweet fragrance. It is a harbinger of good times, an omen of health and thriftiness in the farm stock, and of a profitable increase in the quantity and improvement in the quality of the products of the farm. Therefore we feel safe in urging the admonition to sow clover and keep on sowing it.—London Farmer's Advocate.

Back-Furrowing Pays.

In plowing clay lands nearly all the advantage of underdraining can be obtained by back-furrowing into narrow beds, and by leaving a strip two or three feet wide between the beds unplowed. It practically does away with the trouble of gullying by heavy rains, as there are two channels instead of one to carry off the water. No perceptible difference can be seen in the dual furrows after being put in with modern improved implements, and there is a saving of four furrows in plowing each land or bed—two in the middle of the bed and two at the dead furrow. The great advantage of back-furrowing over level culture when plowing is done in the fall is that very often crops can be sown several weeks earlier, making a fine crop and a good catch of grass, when later sowing would fail.—Prairie Farmer.

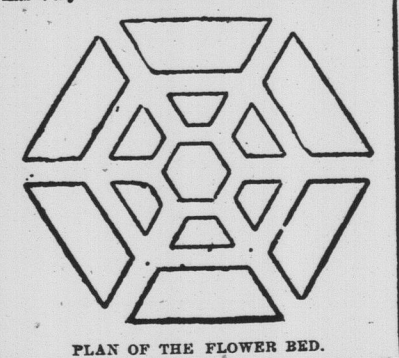
THE FLOWER GARDEN.

A Plan for an Artistic Flower Bed—Some Hints as to How Properly to Water the Garden.

Many believe that it does no good to water the flower garden. As usually done it is worse than useless, says S. E. Cadwallader in Orange Judd Farmer. In wallowing, soak the ground for a depth of a foot or do not attempt anything, for wetting only the top results in drawing the fine feeding roots of the plants to the surface, where the hot wind and sun soon dry them out. Do not water until obliged to do so, but keep the surface of the soil loose and mellow and thus prevent the moisture already in the soil from evaporating. Of course, sweet peas and other moisture-loving plants must be watered long before the others, but a great many times it would not be necessary to water at all if the soil were kept in the right condition. Never water the seed bed before the young plants start unless you cover the bed with a cloth to keep the earth from forming a hard crust. It is unwise to sprinkle the seed bed every day, as many do. If the soil be dust dry, water after sowing the seeds or before, then spread a cloth over the ground, keeping it there until the young plants start. Uncover at night at first or on a cloudy day.

During a protracted drouth, one must water. Do it thoroughly. A good plan for those who have no windmill, force pump and hose, but must carry the water in pails, is to make holes two feet or more deep with a crowbar, work the bar back and forth and make the holes several inches in diameter at the top. Make these holes all around among the flowers. In watering, fill the holes, but do not pour any water on the surface of the soil. Keep filling up the holes until you are sure that the earth around the roots of the plants is soaked. Or make little ditches between the rows of plants and run the water in these. When water is poured on the surface it makes a ground hard and the hoe should be used or the moisture soon evaporates. But the most serious objection is that water enough is not supplied.

One who has never experimented with watering plants during a severe drouth has very little idea how much moisture is



PLAN OF THE FLOWER BED.

necessary to thoroughly wet the earth all around the plant. It is useless to wet one little spot. The surrounding dry earth will soon absorb all the moisture. The watering illustration is a plan of one of my gardens. It is 30 feet in diameter and the walks are two feet wide. In watering it during a drouth I use a windmill as the power. There is a force pump at the well and hose enough to reach halfway to the garden, but having on hand several long wooden spouts I devised a way of running the water all the way to the garden. In each bed I make little channels for the water to run in and conduct it to the water to the plants. However, dry they may look when I begin watering, a few days after they look fresh and green and scarcely show dust except on the lower leaves. I am frequently asked if I think we can water good for plants. Yes, if they can get enough of it. That is the reason for watering. The larger beds require less water in the garden. They do not give enough of it. The water in our well is as cold as the average water in the hottest, driest time. The old notion that hard water is injurious to plants is not as usual. Just give enough when watering the garden without regard to its being hard or soft.

Kaulia Japonica Zebrina.

A very remarkable and beautiful variety of a gigantic Japanese grass, easy of culture and which forms elegant clumps on the lawn or in the flower garden. It will be seen by the illustration, the



KULALIA JAPONICA ZEBRINA.

variegation is formed by horizontal bands at regular intervals across the leaf. It is a hardy perennial.

Plowed Up a Stone Coffin.

At Birkin, near Ferrybridge, England, the other day a plow came into contact with a stone coffin covered with a stone lid and containing human bones. The coffin is seven feet six inches long, three feet wide, and the sides four to five inches thick. It weighs nearly two tons.

THE MANURE HEAP.

How to Increase It by Making Use of Swamp Deposits.

Those who study the reports of Frank T. Shutt, M.A., chemist for the Dominion Experimental Farms, will have noticed in former years' reports that many samples of swamp mud from mud from Prince Edward Island have been analyzed by that gentleman, the swamp mud being reported very valuable for manure when properly prepared, its chief value being humus and its contained nitrogen, the latter element being in a non-soluble form, which is not in a state available for plant food. As these samples of mud are from thickly populated, thriving districts, long distances apart, we have thought it advisable, says London Farmer's Advocate, to gather a little information from those in that province who have had practical experience in preparing these muds for use and have seen the increased crops from the use of this natural fertilizer.

There are many of our subscribers whose soil requirements need these facilities for making use of swamp deposits for increasing their manure heap, while for increasing their mud in the following statements:

From a very early period in the farming operations of that province, the practice has been to haul large quantities of swamp mud into the cattle yards, pig and sheep sheds, and all such places where cattle or other stock are kept loose, besides an extra thickness of the mud under the manure heap at the stable windows. The liquid drainage from the cattle manure is converted into a quickly-acting, rich fertilizer. On many farms hundreds of loads of manure are added to the season's supply in this way at a very small cost, the labor alone being an item of expense, for the stable manure would have otherwise been mainly lost.

In later years other practices have been followed. One way is to get out a number of loads of swamp mud in the winter into a convenient field. On top of the mud stable manure is piled in the proportion of one load of manure to two loads of mud. Before the regular spring work of planting and sowing begins, the entire pile is turned over by a moldboard, and being taken that a fair share of stable manure is covered by the mud. In a very few days active fermentation sets in, and by the time it is wanted the entire pile is one homogeneous mass of easily-handled manure, quite equal in effect in producing crops with an equal quantity of the best from the stables.

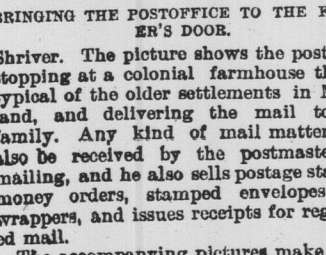
Other farmers use freshly-burned lime for composting with the mud. In this case half a bushel of lime is found sufficient for each one-horse load of mud in the pile, the summer or fall being the most suitable time for lime-composting. But the reason from this class of compost is very good; some badly-cropped farms, poor that renovating by keeping it in, and by the time it is wanted the entire pile is one homogeneous mass of easily-handled manure, quite equal in effect in producing crops with an equal quantity of the best from the stables.

We are told that for more than 40 years farmers in that province have obtained almost magical results from applications of lime, either as freshly-burned lime, or as a mud lime, as found in some oyster or mussel-shell mud. Some of the gentlemen from the Dominion Experimental Farms have been invited to a public meeting, when speaking of the shell muds, remarked, "I have seen the muds, but I have not seen the results of their use in using it." But the chemist, Frank T. Shutt, M.A., did not talk or write that mud, reserving his opinion until he had taken up by the postal authorities at Washington City, and this traveling postoffice began its service on Easter Monday, April 8, 1899, in charge of Mr.

BETTER RURAL MAIL SERVICE.

How the Problem is Solved by the "Traveling Postoffice."

This is the first "postoffice on wheels" established in the world. The idea was originated by Edwin W. Shriver of Westminster, Md., last summer, when he took up by the postal authorities at Washington City, and this traveling postoffice began its service on Easter Monday, April 8, 1899, in charge of Mr.



BRINGING THE POSTOFFICE TO THE FARMER'S DOOR.

Shriver. The picture shows the postoffice stopping at a colonial farmhouse that is typical of the older settlements in Maryland, and delivering the mail to the family. Any kind of mail matter will also be received by the postmaster for the traveling postoffice, and in charge of a bonded postal clerk, starts from Westminster (Md.) postoffice at 7 o'clock each morning (Sundays and legal holidays excepted), and follows a prescribed route. The service began April 8, 1899, and it takes eight hours for the wagon to cover its 80-mile route. There are 858 families on this route, "of whom 200 will this day receive mail from the wagon," writes Edwin W. Shriver, the postal clerk and originator of the plan, on April 15. He adds: "I am already handling an average of 400 pieces of mail daily and expect the quantity will increase as people use the mails more freely when the postoffice is brought to their door. Letters are found in nearly every collection box on every trip."—Orange Judd Farmer.

Nicholas Hoffman of White township, Indiana County, Pa., a few days ago obtained a verdict of \$975 against the township for injuries received by being thrown from the wagon a piece of bad stone. The road was seven feet wide, but large rocks projected from either side a short distance apart. In trying to avoid one of these, Hoffman drove over the other and was thrown from his wagon.

JACKETS AND CAPES.

Prevailing Fashions in Out of Door Apparel.

Jackets and capes are both worn and will continue to be worn for some time. The jacket does not replace the cape, because each has its different uses. The cape is for general wear; the jacket accompanies more elaborate toilets. Short capes of silk, satin, embroidery, lace, chiffon and guipure are seen in all varieties and colors and are lavishly trimmed. The more extravagant ones have often a hat and parasol to match.

The ornamentation of cloth capes consists principally of applications and insertions of cloth and straps, pipings and folds of cloth or satin. White predominates among these trimmings, with attractive results. Two or more shades of the same color are also employed and are always pleasing—for example, dark brown, light brown and beige or dark gray and light gray. As for embroidery upon cloth, it is quieter and less elaborate



YOUNG GIRL'S COSTUME.

than it was last year and is used alone or in combination with lines of stitching or bands of contrasting colors. The belt of the picture shows a charming costume for a girl from 14 to 16 years old. It is of silver gray satin cloth, the skirt having two short circular ruffles around the foot, bordered with stitching. The open coat, which has a short basque, is made with large horizontal stitched plaits and has a row of large pearl buttons on each side of the front. The circular pelerine is bordered with stitching, and there are attached cuffs at the wrists of the light sleeves. The chemise is of white satin, the cravat of white lace, and a plain linen collar is worn. The hat of gray straw is trimmed with a drapery of white tulle and a fan of lace.

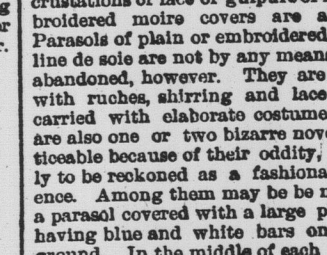
PARASOLS.

They Are Gayly Colored and Richly Embroidered.

Parasols are this year less dainty than they have been in previous years, but are no less costly and elaborate, for frills are no more expensive than the rich applications and embroideries now employed. The covering is usually of silk or satin, plainly stretched, but covered with intricate designs of lace or guipure or lace. Embroidered motifs covers are also seen. Parasols of plain or embroidered mousseline de soie are not by any means entirely discarded, however. They are trimmed with ribbons, shirring and lace and are carried with elaborate costumes. There are also one or two black ones, which are made of their old style, but hardy to be reckoned as a fashionable influence. Among them may be mentioned a parasol covered with a large shawl silk, having blue and white bars on a straw ground. In the middle of each square is

FANCY VEST.

A chon of white mousseline de soie with a gold button in the center. Another novelty is the circular covering, which is in one piece instead of being cut in breadths with a seam down each rib. Among plain parasols are solid colors in rose, cherry, blue, lilac and green, very attractive stripes in black or color and white and small plaids. The last are also employed for sun umbrellas, which are seen in the usual reds, blues and browns, besides, with cases to match. Natural wood handles, stained green or black, are favorites.



TAFETTA GOWN.

After these tints beige, gray, blue and violet claim fashionable attention, and the violet tones are innumerable from the deep Russian shade to lavender and a pale pinkish lilac. Reds and greens are also seen in new shades and will possess some effective gowns.

Satin de bengale, a new fabric, is having a decided vogue for entire costumes and for elegant boleros and is displacing taffeta, as it lends itself more kindly to the tucks, puffs and shirring demanded by fashion. Taffeta is not abandoned, however, and has been brought out in wider widths and new designs.

The chon shows a costume of sky blue and white glace taffeta. The plain skirt is covered over the hips with guipure embroidered with silver, which extends downward in long points. The tight bodice has a horizontal drapery in front bordered with a band of embroidered guipure and gathered at the right side under a chon. Outside the revers is a ruffle of white mousseline de soie, and the collar is also of mousseline de soie. The cravat of black velvet is fastened by an ornate or colored velvet is fastened by an ornate

MENTAL BRICK.

MENTAL BRICK.

SUMMER FASHIONS.

White Promises to Be the Leading Favorite.

White continues to enjoy great consideration in the fashionable world. Aside from the white wash costumes prepared for summer, toilets of white cloth, wool or silk are well represented. The revers and pocket flaps of jackets of light or dark cloth are also frequently white, white gloves retain their vogue and white trimmings in the form of folds, pipings and applications are lavishly used. White shirt waists promise to predominate over all others during the summer, and although there are many comparatively



CALLING COSTUME.

plain ones of lawn or pique there are some which are shirt waists only in shape, being sometimes simply a mass of open embroidery in contiguous bands or separated by lines of lace insertion. A favorite means of introducing a touch of white into the costume is to wear a plastron of white silk, cloth or guipure under an open fronted bodice.

Two shades of the same color are now often combined, and when the plastron is not white it is frequently another tone of the color of the gown. Dark and light shades of brown, green and blue are thus used, also gray and black. Gray and white are always a peculiarly refined and pleasing conjunction, especially when the gray is of a medium or light tone.

The gown illustrated is of bright red cloth. The skirt is cut with a redingote effect, having a circular flounce which is extended to form a tablier. The redingote portion is bordered with black embroidery. The bodice consists of three superimposed layers, each embroidered with black and having a plastron also embroidered with black. The sleeves have black embroidery at the elbow and wrist. The belt of black satin is fastened with a gold buckle, and jet buttons ornament the bodice. The cravat is of white tulle with black satin lines secured by a gold buckle. The toque of embroidered black straw has a spray of red azaleas at the side.

NEW MATERIALS.

Light Goods and Light Colors For Warm Weather.

The new materials are all light in weight not merely because they are meant for warm weather wear, but because increasing amount of tissue used in skirts makes it necessary to diminish heaviness as much as possible. Thin cloths with a glow are favorites and are much used in decided colors and pale tones. Be- ginning with the tints verging on white, there are chink, putty, pale suede, peach shades, which are at the very head and front of fashion and are sufficiently delicate and unobtrusive to please the most expensive fancy. Fineness and lightness of weight, and the result is charming.



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FASHION HINTS.

The Preferred Mode in Stationery and Minor Matters.

Mourning toilets should always be simple. Flat trimmings are preferable, and for jewelry dull jet or black wood is alone allowed. A line of white may be worn at the throat and wrists and inside the edge of the bonnet.

Some years ago black hats were almost universally worn, accompanying even the lightest gowns, but this season there is a change, and it is not possible to have millinery too gay in color. Pale gray hats with gray trimming and white hats with white trimming will go well with any toilet, but decided colors are apt to be inconvenient for a woman who cannot afford a variety of different hats.

Most stationery now has a cipher. The cipher is small, at the top or left hand upper corner of the sheet. Light, soft greens, blues, lavenders and grays being favorite tints for paper, the cipher is usually white, and there is often a white border. Light rose pink stationery with the



CLOTH TOLLET.

same white trimmings is also seen, but is less elegant. There is white sealing wax for use with these papers, and the cipher is repeated upon the seal.

The gown illustrated is a double skirt of pearl gray cloth, over which is a tulle of pearl gray cloth pointed in front and at the back and bordered with applications of gray velvet. The bodice, which fits tightly behind, is slightly gathered at the waist in front and is cut away to show a glimpse of the bodice and white satin decorated with silver buttons. The top of the bodice is edged with gray velvet applications, and the sleeves are covered with the same ornamentation. The gray velvet belt is fastened by a silver buckle. The hat of pearl gray straw is trimmed with a drapery of gray tulle and white feathers.

VARIOUS NOTES.

Silks For Bodices and Spring Ne- cessary and Gloves.

The new taffetas have white or black stripes or dots on a colored ground, and these stripes and dots are of velvet, chenille or satin and are an attractive novelty.

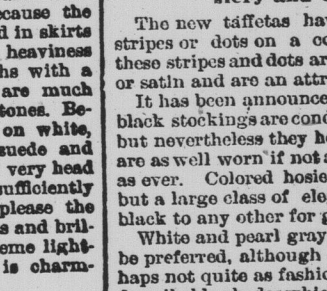
It has been announced many times that black stockings are condemned by fashion, but nevertheless they hold their own and are as well worn if not as universally worn as ever. Colored hosiery is much used, but a large class of elegant women prefer black to any other for general wear.

White and pearl gray gloves continue to be preferred, although dead white is perhaps not quite as fashionable as those in- describable shades which have the effect of white, but are yet bordered with a tinge of color. A suspicion of suede or fawn or drab is rather more pleasing than absolute chalky colorlessness. The stitching may be dark or light, according to taste. In fancy shades of light yellow appear to predominate. Glace gloves continue to be preferred to suede, perhaps because light tints being fashionable, glace silk is more convenient. White or pearl suede gloves

EVENING GOWN.

could not be worn in the street more than once without becoming soiled to the degree of unsightliness.

The illustration given today shows a ball costume of mauve silk. The trained skirt has five narrow plaits around the foot. The long tunic, which is rounded in front and at the back, is bordered by a deep flounce of white lace headed by a garland of wallflowers in front and by a little ruche of silk behind. The lace flounce is carried up the left side of the tunic in coquilles. The tight bodice is draped as one side and has a brooch of lace at the throat which is a continuation of the lace border which surrounds the round décolletage. The plastron is covered with little plaits of mauve silk. The bertha is headed by a fold of mauve velvet, which forms a knot on the right shoulder, and a garland of wallflowers is carried from the left shoulder to the waist in front. The mauve velvet belt is fastened by a jeweled buckle.



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