

# Farm and Home.

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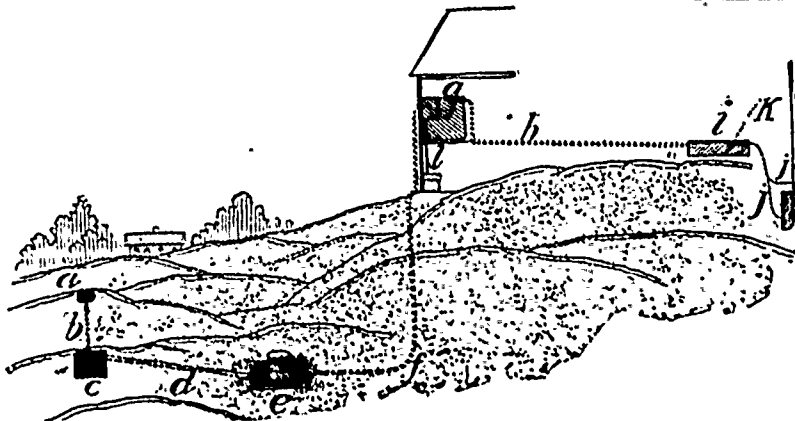
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## All Around the Farm.

### POINTS FROM A POTATO EXPERT.

WHO HAS RAISED 900 BUSHELS PER ACRE AT A COST OF NINE CENTS PER BUSHEL.

The yield of potatoes in New York state is about 70 bu p a. The principal reason for this low yield is because so much ground is planted which is not adapted to potato growing. The planter is handicapped from the start; the wise man makes his soil favorable to its growth, artificially if not so naturally. In its wild state the potato is found growing on the mountain side in some fertile deposit of accumulated humus.

Potatoes thrive in a deep, cool, dark-colored and humus laden soil, moderately rich in nitrogen for best development. A fall plowed sod, cross plowed in spring, which has had a light coating of horse manure, after six or seven harrowings, makes a fine seed bed. A gravel loam is better than clay, which can be lightened and made better by mixing in straw applied in winter. The potato should be planted deep; I furrow out with a one-horse plow. If commercial fertilizers are used in small quantities, say 200 lbs. scatter them in the bottom of the trench and mix well by running a cultivator, narrowed up, lengthwise of the row. If much larger amounts are used, sow broadcast with grain drill. After trenching with plow, cross harrow once with a smoothing harrow and partially fill the trench. You then have 4 in left and 1 have a fine, soft, manure laden seed bed. If very stony, omit harrowing and set cultivator a little wider.

The future profit of a plant depends largely on the amount of available plant food it finds the first few weeks of its life. It is better to furnish this than to hoe. The longer a plant is in coming up, the stronger, larger, blacker and more vigorous will be the sprout, if not planted beyond its limits, and I always plant 4 in or more. The roots are attached to the sprout and the longer it is in coming to the surface the longer will be the roots when the leaf unfolds and begins to call for support. The seed piece furnishes nourishment up to this time, and should be large enough to give ample food. Deep planted potatoes do not come up under three weeks and are out of the way of harrow and bugs. They all stand drouth better, are less troubled by rot and are not sunburned without hilling.

On some rich, fine soils one eye will do, but in usual field culture three or four is better, and a chunky, fair-sized piece will stand "grief" much better. Rows 30 to 36 in apart and 14 to 18 in between hills, with one piece to the hill, will give largest yields. The foliage should cover the ground to shade it by midsummer. We step on the piece when dropped and cross harrow once to cover. In a few days harrow again to kill weed seed and cover more. Harrow five or more times before they come up. When 2 in high use smoothing harrow. Once a week use weeder till 10 in high; then use cultivator, which shall not run more than 2 in deep, after each rain, so no crust will form; as long as one can get between the rows, without injuring the foliage. For the treatment of scab see F. & H. March 1.

For bugs, flea beetles and blight, put paris green at the rate of 1 lb to 50 gals bordeaux mixture in atomizer and spray to kill bugs. This will drive off the flea beetles, which do more harm than usually supposed, and aids in preventing blight. It is now claimed that the copper stimulates growth also, but

I do not see how it can. The leaves are the essential parts of the whole plant, but few look at it in that light and let bugs eat them half up before "doing a thing to it." Nearly all of the bulk of the potato comes from the air through the leaf, and when the tuber is forming the larger part of the growth is made in the last few weeks. If the leaves are eaten, injured and blighted, they cannot furnish starch fast enough and the tubers will be small. We do no hilling up; one cannot without cutting off roots, drying out the soil and letting in the heat, to injure the quality. With good, thorough preparation, good care, mostly horse power, and a good yielding variety, one should not fail to get far above the average yield.—[C. E. Chapman, Tompkins Co, N. Y.]

### EARLY SPRING POINTERS.

The farmer who did not select his seed at harvest or threshing time may have nothing left by this time but second quality. If you are one of these you had better look sharp, for "what a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Don't devote your life to raising scrub stock and second quality produce. The demand for such is limited and the market overstocked.

Clean up that patch of weeds this spring. It may be the richest part of your farm.

Now is the time to repair and paint your wagons and farm machinery and put everything in readiness for the spring rush.

This is the time to plan for an up-to-date kitchen garden. Have plenty of all the good things on the table for 1900. Try a few of the newer vegetables. You may find some extra good ones.

Get your hotbeds going and have some early radish, lettuce, onions, etc. These are pleasant remedies than you can get at the apothecary's and much more effectual.

Use a little phosphate to hurry along the garden truck. It makes a man feel just a little bit proud of himself to have these things a few days ahead of his neighbors.—[A. R. Day, Carleton Co, N. B.]

### HYDRAULIC RAMS ON THE FARM.

In a country where the land is rolling, springs are generally numerous, and many have a location adapted to the use of a hydraulic ram to furnish water for house and barn. To those who have a spring within 1000 ft of house or barn, a ram is the most economical and most satisfactory means of obtaining a water supply for farm use. A hydraulic plant, properly installed, will run night and day indefinitely. I know of one that has been running 47 years, another has been running 15 years without any attention or expense whatever since the first cost.

Many have a spring which affords sufficient water to run a ram, but do not know it. A spring running 5 or 6 qts per minute will force 3 to 4 bbls water per day to a height of 35 to 40 ft, with a fall of 3 to 4 ft from spring to ram pit. With such a small stream an automatic regulator on feed pipe is necessary. A stronger stream and greater fall will give more water, of course, but 6 qts of water with 3 1/2 ft fall will supply a small farm.

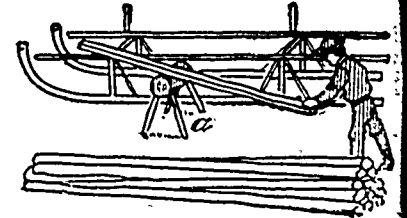
I installed a plant last fall, according to accompanying illustration, and it is satisfactory in every way. The spring is at a; b is 1 in galvanized iron pipe, 25 ft from spring to feed box, c; d is 3/4 in lead feed pipe with screen muzzle to ram in pit c, and f is 1/2 in lead

pipe 400 ft long, through which the water is forced to a height of 45 ft to a 60 gal galvanized iron tank, g, in second story of kitchen. The tank has a small compartment (shown by dotted lines), which holds 10 gals. The water from it is used for drinking and cooking, and is drawn back through pipe f by spigot over sink in kitchen. When the small compartment fills with water it overflows into large compartment of tank, which in turn overflows through pipe h to tank i, which is buried 3 ft under ground on high side of bank barn and is drawn as wanted in stables, or at water trough under overshoot of barn through pipes j j. When barn tank is full, it overflows into an old well through pipe k.

The 3/4 in pipe, l, with hose-bibb spigot over sink in kitchen, is to draw water from large compartment of tank for washing, etc. We take water from this tank for hot water tank in kitchen and for bath room. We water 23 head of stock from barn tank and have water going to waste into the old well. Though we have had zero weather this winter we have not had a frozen pipe and the water for stock has never been below 45 degrees.—[O. A. Treadway, Harford Co, Md.]

### LOADING A SLED OR WAGON.

By the method illustrated herewith one man can load rails or logs on a sled or wagon without assistance. The



LOADING MADE EASY.

device, a, is a "horse" 2 ft long, round or square, and about 6 in through. It has four legs of proper length to make it high enough to suit the sled or wagon.—[J. G. Allhouse, Armstrong Co, Pa.]

**The History of Pioneer Farming** in the United States in the various localities at different periods has been so uniform that it might be written as a single chapter which would tell the story of the Genesee valley, the valley of the Susquehanna, the table land of Maryland and Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota, the two Dakotas, and lastly the Pacific slope. The single crop system, the abundant faith in the inexhaustible fertility of the soil, dreams of wealth, prosperity and luxury, seldom realized, a gradual diminution of yield, deterioration in quality, multiplication of weed and insect pests, until the net returns per acre fell below the cost of production.—[Pres C. L. Smith, Minn Dairy-men's Ass'n.]

**The Miller's Toll Again.**—G. S. Wilson of Dade Co, Mo. wants to know where our wheat goes to of late years. He says Mo farmers get 30 to 33 lbs flour and 10 lbs bran for a bushel of wheat. We here, after hauling over 5 miles, get from 30 to 32 lbs flour for the best wheat and no bran. Where does it go?—[L. J. Helstrom, Macon, Kan.]

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