FARMERS COLUMNITAD

OATHOLIC COLULES CORY

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According to the report of the Land Agent of the Northern Pacific Railway Company, the grasshoppers have not done as much damage to the wheat grown along the line as had been anticipated? The running as high as 20 bushels per acre, in others as Has Removed from 37 Bonaventhre Street, to ST average yield will vary in different counties, in some low as 10 bushels. In some places the grasshop. pers made a clean sweep, but this was exceptional, Oats and barley suffered the most. On the line of the St. Paul & Pacific, and thence to the southern line of Minnesota, the crop will be about half the usual one, but the Northern Minnesota the yield will be cut down only 20 per cent.

OIL FOR HARNESSES .- Harnesses, it is said, may be rendered impervious to water by thoroughly im pregnating them with a mixture made in the proportion of twenty one gallons of pure whale dil and fifteen to seventeen pound of india-rubber shreds. Heat these ingredients together at a temperature of 1940 to 2500, in order that the rubber may com pletely dissolve. Another preparation contains one gallon of alcohol, one and a half lbs of white turpentine, the same weight of gum shellac, and one gill of Venice turpentine. Let these stand by the stove until the gums are dissolved, then add one gill of sweet oil, and (if desired for the color) two ounces of lamp-black.

DRYING GREEN WOOD .- A new method for drying green wood in a very short time, consists in boiling it for some hours in water, and leaving it then to cool, by which the soluble substances are removed. It is then boiled in an aqueous solution of borax, by which the insoluble albumen of the wood is rendered soluble and escapes from the pores. The wood is then placed in drying chambers, heated by steam, and allowed to remain three days. Wood thus treated is more compact than it would be by years of ordinary exposure; it does not shrink or warp, aed is secure against decay; on account of its greater density it is more easily polished, and better fitted for articles of furniture and musical instruments.

POWDERED COAL FOR UNHEALTHY PLANTS .- In a communication, addressed to the Revue Horticole the writer states that he purchased a very fine rosebush. full of buds, and after anxiously waiting their ma-turing, was greatly disappointed; when this took place, to find the flowers small, insignificent in appearance, and of a dull, faded color. Incited by the suggestion of a friend, he then tried the experiment of filling in the top of the pot around the bush, to the depth of half an inch, with finely pulverized stone coal. In the course of a few days he was astonished at seeing the roses assume a beautiful red hue, as brilliant and lively as he could desire. He tried the same experiment upon a pot of petunias, and soon after all the pale and indefinite ones became of a bright red or lilac, and the white petunias were variegated with beautiful red stripes. Some of the lilac petunias became a fine dark blue. Other flowers experienced similar alterations; those of a yellow color alone remained insensible to the influence of the coal.

Fruit Trees.-It is truly wonderful how many fruit trees are planted compared with the kew which grow to perfection, and mostly for want of proper preparation of the soil, and careful treatment. It would be far better to plant a few trees only, and well, than to stud the ground with many trees, ill treated, which are sure to be an eyesore rather than a pleasure, or a profit. A tree needs proper food and training as well as an animal. It cannot thrive if stuck in a little hole in an unsuitable soil. The roots must have room to strike in a well prepared soil, and the tree must be well pruned, and protected from the ravages of insects as well as from the attacks of cattle otherwise it will be impossible to have trees pleasing to the sight, or profitable to the grower. In fact it is useless, and a waste of labor, to plant trees without providing for the necessary conditions of their growth. Practice has well established the fact that it would be far better to plant a few trees only, and to care them well than to plant many trees and treat them ill. A lot of straggling, starved, stunted, wild-looking, bark-broken, intect-caten, non-bearing, grass-bound fruit trees do not speak well for the thrift and intelligence of the owner. Such an owner will have planted for his heirs rather than himself, but even they will not have much worthy of his memory. What a contrast between such an orchard and one in the full vigor of health and fruitage. The one looks wretched; the other gives, pleasure and profit, so that it may be said of the orchard as well as anything else, that what is worth doing at all is worth doing well.—Pen and Plow.

PATCHING MEADOWS AND PASTURES.—Doubtless the best method of renovating unproductive meadows and pastures is to plough up the sod cultivate the land for a year or two and then seed down again. But there are some kinds of land on which this system cannot be made readily available without costing the farmer more than it is worth. To break up the sod of many hillsides as well as stony lands, would cause them a loss of fertility, by the washing away of the surface soil, and the owner would have to pay a larger sum then he could afford to get them seeded down again. It is under such circumstances that what we term the patching system of renovation can be practiced with the most beneficial results. It is, in brief, the renovating of large or small areas, which are becoming or have actually become unproductive. In strong, compact soils it is often the case, that the lowgrowing, hardy grasses crowd out the tall and slender but more valuable sorts, and the result is a light crop of hay, or too slow growing herbage, for a good pasture. In cases of a crowding out, or of such compact matting of roots, as to prevent a rapid growth of herbage, there is no better way to reme-dy the evil than to thoroughly out up the sward with a fine, sharp-toothed harrow, and at the same time scatter on seeds of other kinds of grasses. Bare places in the field, caused by the too near approach of rocks to the surface, or sandy and gravelly knolls, can be improved by spreading manure over them, or even fine rich soil from some swamp, woods or other natural deposit. A top-dressing of lime or plaster in spring will frequently prove to be an ex-cellent investment, repaying the cost of these ma-terials by an increase of herbage the first season. We know of several very old meadows the fertility of which has been kept up entirely by top-dressing and the occasional scattering of a little, fresh seed over the patches which showed signs of giving out. On some kinds of lands it is difficult to get what farmers call a "good catch" every time it becomes desirable to seed down, and in such cases there should be less haste to plow up when the grass begins to fall, especially as this can usually be avoided by practicing a system of top dressing with some kind of manure. If farmers would generally adopt some plan to make every square rod, of their land, whether under cultures or seeded down, produce a maximum yield of whatever crop it is occupied with, they would have less desire to enlarge their domain. We think there are few farmers who can truthfully say they make the most of their land.— N. Y. Sun.

JOHN

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