

INTERESTING AGRICULTURAL FEATURES FOR OUR COUNTRY READERS

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF APPLE ORCHARDS AND THEIR CARE UP TO THE TENTH YEAR

Part I. The Commercial Orchard.
Part 2. The Family Orchard.
Part 3. Insect and Fungus Enemies of the Apple and Their Control.

THE COMMERCIAL ORCHARD (Continued)

PREPARATION FOR PLANTING.

The stock should be heeled in the field where it is to be planted and no account should be allowed to partially dry out at any time. Where the rows in the orchard are long the trees may be taken out at a time and placed in a large tub half filled with clay and water in such proportions as to form a thick sludge. This tub is then placed in a shallow trench and covered with a wet blanket. The trees may be planted at the same time, the trees being taken from the tub and placed in the ground as they are needed. When the trees are taken from the tub they should be heeled in, cut off all main roots and straggling roots and cut back all main roots to within five inches from the trunk. The clean cut surfaces will callous over better than ragged ones. The heads of the trees had better not be cut back until after planting and the man doing so will be dealt with later on.

PLANTING THE TREES.

In digging the holes place the rich top soil to one side and the under soil to the other side. The hole should be made large enough to receive the roots freely without cramping or bending their form about their natural position. Set the tree to the same depth as it stood in the nursery or an inch deeper. Fill in around the roots carefully and firmly with the soil. Set the tree as firm as a post but leave the surface filling of under soil light and loose. Where the head of a tree is unusually large, a strong, heavy, flat board may be used to press down the surface filling of under soil.

CONSERVING MOISTURE.

As the ground around the trees will be much exposed and solidified in the planting operation, a cultivator should be run over three foot strip on each side of the rows of trees; this will break up the crust and form an earth mulch. This should be done as often as necessary during the first month after planting. On hillsides where drying out is feared and where the soil is not practical, a mulch of five inches deep may be formed just around the trees of coarse manure, straw, grass, etc.

STAKING.

All trees or ones exposed to the action of strong winds should be protected from the staking. Drive two strong stakes firmly into the ground, one on each side of the tree about a foot from it, and fasten the tree between them with a band of straw, sacking or other soft material, so that it may be kept in an upright position without chafing.

THE FIRST PRUNING.

The necessity of pruning vigorously at the time of setting is generally a un-

The average net income per acre for the year 1910 was \$71.22, for the filled plot, \$110.43, a difference of \$39.21 in favor of the filled plot. An increase of 54 per cent. for the filled plot method of management. In general, Hedrick draws the following conclusions:

"Nearly all the plants which minister to the needs of man are improved by tillage. In the case of apple trees, the soil should be kept in a permanent state of tillage. It is, however, necessary to balance the loss which the soil has received in its removal from the nursery and to prevent drying out. At least one-half the previous year's growth should be removed. (See photograph.) In most cases it is best to cut back to outside buds. In the absence of any limbs suitable to form a top, the tree should be headed back to the trunk to the desired height, leaving the head. Aim to form the head of the tree from 24 to 30 inches from the ground—probably 30 inches is the better distance. A tree so formed may be considered low-headed, is less subject to damage at all seasons from winds, and is far more economical in the operations of pruning, spraying, thinning and picking. The objection that cultivation is made more difficult is hardly true as with proper training low headed trees develop spreading branches and by the use of modern orchard implements are as easily worked around as the old high headed trees. The object of pruning young trees is further discussed under a subsequent heading.

"While moisture is by no means the one factor to be considered in the cultivation of apple trees, the methods of management, it appears to be the chief one. There is nothing in this experiment to indicate that trees will become adapted to grass. The sodded trees began to show ill-effects the first year the orchard was laid down to grass and each subsequent year has seen greater injury."

"It will be noticed from this experiment, and it is backed by general experience, that the cost of the cost of summer ploughing is not so much as is generally supposed. Deep spring ploughing is generally preferable. While the objection that it is either impossible or harmful may hold true in orchards that have never been cultivated, it certainly does not hold true in orchards where deep ploughing is practiced from the start, as under this treatment large roots are not formed near the surface but grow deep in the soil. The plough, thus avoiding damage and giving better anchorage to the tree.

"After the ploughing, a strip three feet wide on each side of the trees for the first year should be kept pulverized and stirred once a week, or in dry weather, twice a week. The width of these strips should be increased each year so as to be 15 feet wider than the width of the top growth of the tree—so that the intercrop will not be feeding from the same ground as the apple trees. The trouble with the intercrop is that it is not a certain amount of length of time that the cultivation of these strips should continue is very important. The idea of the cultivation is to conserve the soil, and to keep the surface blanketed on the surface and to keep the trees growing vigorously. This it does by improving the physical condition of the soil, creating a soil that is not so dry, and rendering plant food more readily available.

(To be continued.)

THE ORCHARD RECORD BOOK.

It is both interesting and important to keep a proper record of the orchard. Such a record will not only bring out many points of great interest concerning the different varieties, but it is not essential in least very conducive to a better understanding of the requirements of trees and to a high measure of success in apple growing.

The labels should be removed after planting and plain made as shown in plate in which every tree is recorded at a definite number. This plan may be attached inside the cover of a strong, well-made notebook, and then a certain amount of space in the book accorded to each number and notes made on the condition of the tree throughout the year. Notes under the heading of character of the winter, character of the spring, summer, and fall; spring care of orchards, when commenced and what done—same for summer and fall; opening of first leaf, when set, blossoms; dates of full bloom and total blossom fall; notes on fruit, setting, cover crops, intercrop, insect, and fungus pests; spraying, fruit yields, etc., should be made. If underdrains have been laid there whereabouts should be marked on the plan. The trouble in the keeping of such a record will be more than amply repaid by the better understanding thus obtained as to the best possible treatment of the orchard.

CULTIVATION OF THE ORCHARD UP TO THE TENTH YEAR.

The growth of the young trees must be allowed to proceed vigorously and without interruption from the time of planting and the future success of the orchard depends upon the extent to which this principle is carried out. Except in extreme cases where cultivation is impossible, it is not only essential that the trees receive thorough cultivation during the greater part of the first year, but that Professor Hedrick conducted careful experiments in New York state to determine what the comparative effects of tillage and soil are to the apple. He says: "The average cost per acre for the two methods of management, not including harvesting, was \$17.92 for the sod, and \$24.47 for tillage, giving a difference of \$6.55 in favor of sod.

STOCK

RAISE FALL FOALS

Business principles applied to dairying have led to a large development of winter dairying in Canada. At this season of the year farmers are not only busy with their stock and to realize proportionately better results. We believe that more could be accomplished along this line if the farmer would only consider the credit account of his own farm. The extra labor and expense. The raising of fall foals would often help to solve this problem. On our only farm at the New Brunswick Agricultural College we keep a few brood mares and we usually plan to have some colts dropped in the spring and others to be raised in the fall. This is always available for the rush of spring

COST OF HORSE LABOR

Facts and Figures That Will Interest All Farmers.
The tradition that "it doesn't cost anything to keep a horse, when you live on a farm," is rudely shattered in Bulletin No. 15, by Prof. Thomas P. Cooper, just issued by the Extension Division of the Minnesota College of Agriculture. The writer shows that it is not only a matter of cost, but also a matter of time. The length of time that the cultivation of these strips should continue is very important. The idea of the cultivation is to conserve the soil, and to keep the surface blanketed on the surface and to keep the trees growing vigorously. This it does by improving the physical condition of the soil, creating a soil that is not so dry, and rendering plant food more readily available.

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and summer work and they pay for themselves in winter by the foals they raise. A fall foal will not be as large the following December as will the four or five months older spring colt, but there will not be as much difference as you might weight draft mare that was foaled in the spring seven years ago. She weighed as yearling, in the latter part of the fall, 1,200 pounds. A year ago last September she had a foal that is now sixteen months of age, and he weighed at the latter part of the fall 1,160 pounds, i. e., within a very few pounds of the weight of his dam at the same time. So far as weight is concerned, the advantage in breeders should have been in favor of the dam.

This fall raised colt was well cared for during the winter, i. e., his dam received good clover hay and sufficient oats and bran to keep her in good condition. She was fed on a mixture of clover hay and oats, and he weighed at the latter part of the fall 1,160 pounds, i. e., within a very few pounds of the weight of his dam at the same time. So far as weight is concerned, the advantage in breeders should have been in favor of the dam.

The items of use of depreciation of harness, shoeing and miscellaneous expenses add an average of about \$2.87 annually, and bring the total cost on the \$150 average annual up to \$28.87, without any reference to the cost of feed and labor expended in spring the farmer's resources. These items, based on accounts with 100 horses kept in different parts of Minnesota, averages \$34.84 per horse, the value of the horse being \$100.00. These items, based on accounts with 100 horses kept in different parts of Minnesota, averages \$34.84 per horse, the value of the horse being \$100.00.

Even at the lower figure, however, it will be seen that to say four horses on the farm, the expense entailed reaches the very respectable sum of \$340 a year. On the work-horse on the average farm, the farmer spends about 1,000 hours in a year, it is seen that the cost of horse labor, with the low-priced animals used as the basis of Prof. Cooper's figures, is 85 cents per day of ten hours.

A variety of suggestions are made, looking to a reduction of this heavy drain on the farmer's resources. These include: (1) The use of more brood mares on the farm; (2) A better distribution of horse labor throughout the year, by diversified farming; (3) Reducing the number of work-horses on the farm; (4) More economical methods of feeding; (5) The use of small farms, of machinery requiring less fuel; (6) Reducing the number of foals to be raised; (7) Reducing the number of foals to be raised; (8) Reducing the number of foals to be raised.

GENERAL

SOIL MOISTURE

Practices That Will Aid in Its Conservation.
There are certain principles generally followed, such as fall plowing and the manuring of the soil of vegetable matter, which aid in conserving soil moisture. In doing so these generally accepted ideas, we often get questions regarding the advisability of such practices, owing to the unfavorable results secured by someone who has apparently followed these generally accepted methods. It is not unusual to get reports of poor results from fields that have been manured with coarse manure. Likewise, soil land, which often gives poorer results than apparently less desirable soil, while in some instances spring plowing seems to give better results than fall plowing. These apparently contradictory results are due, it seems to me, to the lack of a clear understanding of the natural movements of soil moisture. Quite often the soil moisture that naturally exists in the soil is lost by failure to cultivate the land early in the spring and thus conserve the moisture that exists in the soil. On our only farm at the New Brunswick Agricultural College we keep a few brood mares and we usually plan to have some colts dropped in the spring and others to be raised in the fall. This is always available for the rush of spring

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POULTRY

BROODER CHICKS

Experience of a Beginner in the Poultry Business.

I believe in brooders for chickens. Allow me to give you some of my experience with them.
I put 48 chicks in a brooder this spring, and as the eggs were mostly infertile, or with weak germs, the chicks could hardly be expected to be of the most vigorous description. However, I have now had in the brooder about four weeks, and out of the original number I have lost only two, not counting three that were worried by dogs. Of these two, I have now had one 75 cent chick, and about five and the other was "banded legged" when taken out of the incubator. At another time I have 75 chicks, about five hens, and the other was "banded legged" when taken out of the incubator. At another time I have 75 chicks, about five hens, and the other was "banded legged" when taken out of the incubator.

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CASTORIA

Bought, and which has been borne the signature of his name since his infancy, no one to deceive you in this, and "Just-as-good" are but a and endanger the health of experience against Experiments.

CASTORIA

stitute for Castor Oil, Pare-Syrups. It is Pleasant. It Morphine nor other Narcotic Analgesic. It Destroys Worms in Cures Diarrhoea and Wind Troubles, cures Constipation, relieves the Food, regulates the healthy and natural sleep, the Mother's Friend.

CASTORIA ALWAYS

Signature of *W. D. Hoagland*
Always Bought
Over 30 Years.

MS OF PROSE

in Defence
of J. Butler
ation of his administration at New Orleans of representatives, April 29, 1871.)

MS OF PROSE

small amounts of money and property once for all answer: I claim to have care of nearly three millions of dollars. I the books of my department, and reported accounts have been for nine years open to investigation, as I ever have done. All of which my subordinate officers must have by them can easily be found, as of course I into a starving city, in a disgraceful sanitary

MS OF PROSE

habitants under my care. I must provide by large expenditures, and determined bear the burden. I sent to the treasury of dollars. I paid for many thousands of United States for protection and support. I of representatives, April 29, 1871.)

MS OF PROSE

on proper financial and operating basis the workmen connected therewith would be infinitely more prosperous if they would settle down and make their homes in such locality.

MS OF PROSE

A plot of ground and an ordinary dwelling cost not cost much more than the cost of moving three or four times consequent thereon. The best citizens in every community are those who have an aim in life and who are not having a struggle in their country, whether it be their native country or one of their adoption.

MS OF PROSE

The steamer is really the old Aurora built over, but never recognized her in the Grand Manan. Twenty thousand dollars have been spent on her, and she has been practically rebuilt. The repair work was done in Liverpool (N. S.) With her new boilers she is a splendid and seaworthy boat. Her accommodations are first class, and Captain J. A. Ingersoll and this enterprising concern are to be congratulated on their step forward.

MS OF PROSE

Hats of brocade, satin, silk and taffeta are veiled with net, gold, silver or bronze gauze with great success.

MS OF PROSE

When winter is at an end, and the feeling dour and gloom. Any man who isn't dead, feels inclined to whoop and shout, feels like punching someone's nose here!

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