

the seed of each hill when planted, not scarcely ever makes its appearance in the crop, this preserving it well even after being stored.

THE LARCH.

One of the most durable kinds of wood is that of the larch tree. The tree grows, in abundance and to perfection, on the sandy coasts of the Baltic. There the Romans became acquainted with it during their Germanic wars, and so highly did they value it, that they transported it, at immense expense, across the Alps, down to the River Po, and thence to Rome. Vitruvius praises it much as a building timber, and Plinius declares it to be the best of all resinous kinds of wood. The great floating palace which the Emperor Trajan built for a summer residence on Lake Nervo was made partly of cypress and partly of larch, and when, after the lapse of fourteen centuries, the palace was discovered on the bottom of the sea, and raised from the mud in which it lay imbedded, all those parts of it which were of larch were found to be perfectly sound. In the English marine the larch was introduced in 1800, from the Scotch forests of the Duke of Athol, and the frigate *Athol*, built in 1890, is still in active service and in excellent condition.

FARMERS SHOULD KEEP ACCOUNTS.

The close of the year is the time to post books and square accounts. Every shrewd business man is careful to do this in order to ascertain the state of his affairs, and whether profit or loss has resulted from the year's transactions. And what the merchant, manufacturer or other business man does in this regard should be done by the agriculturist. As a rule, the farmer who keeps an account of all his transactions is successful in his operations. He not only knows the exact state of his financial affairs, but is fully advised as to the condition and value of his crops, live stock, and farm implements and machinery. By carefully noting down the cost of each crop and the receipts therefrom, he is enabled to decide as to the profit or loss, and to ascertain where he has made mistakes in judgment or management.

ACTION OF LIME ON THE SOIL.

Lime, as it comes from the kiln, is known as caustic or quicklime, the heat having expelled the carbonic acid gas of the carbonate of lime or limestone. Upon exposure to the air and moisture this caustic lime absorbs water and carbonic acid gas, and again returns to the carbonate. During this reversion it decomposes vegetable matter, and sets the elements of plant food free. It is in this power to prepare food for the growing crop from the vegetable matter in the soil that the chief value of lime resides. The greater the percentage of lime that is in the caustic state, the more valuable it is for this work. The quicker the lime can be applied after burning, the better.—*American Agriculturist.*

IMPROVING LAND.

I have a farm which by hard work I have brought to such a state of cultivation that I have been offered \$400 an acre for it. But I have done this by underdraining, subsoil ploughing, and raising clover and ploughing it in. The best of these is the deep tillage, which breaks the soil into small particles and gives the air thorough access to it.—*Cor.*

SALT AS A MANURE.

The Massachusetts Agricultural Society concludes that salt, as a manure, has the property of hastening the maturing of all grain crops; that

wheat on salted land will ripen six to ten days earlier than on unsalted land, all other conditions being equal; that it increases the yield from twenty-five to fifty per cent.; that it stiffens the straw and prevents rust and smut; that it checks, if it does not entirely prevent, the ravages of the chinch bug. The quantity used may be from 150 to 800 pounds per acre, but the greater quantity is the better.—*Western Farmer.*

THE FARMER'S WIFE.

Up with the birds in the early morning—
The dewdrop glows like a precious gem;
Beautiful tints in the skies are dawning,
But she has not a moment to look at them.
The men are wanting their breakfast early;
She must not linger, she must not wait;
For words that are sharp and looks that are surly
Are what men give when meals are late.

Oh, glorious colour the clouds are turning,
If she could but look over hills and trees!
But here are the dishes, and here is the churning—
Those things must always yield to these.
The world is filled with the wine of beauty,
If she could but pause and drink it in;
But pleasure, she says, must wait for duty—
Neglected work is committed sin.

The day grows hot and her hand grows weary;
Oh, for an hour to cool her head,
Out with the birds in the wind so cheery!
But she must get dinner and bake the bread.
The busy men in the hay-field working,
If they saw her sitting with idle hand,
Would think her lazy and call it shirking,
And she never could make them understand.

They do not know that the heart within her
Hungers for beauty and things sublime;
They only know that they want their dinner,
Plenty of it, and just "on time."
And after the sweeping and churning and baking,
And dinner dishes are all put by,
She sits and sews, though her head is aching,
Till time for supper and "chores" draws nigh.

Her boys at school must look like others,
She says, as she patches their frocks and hose:
For the world is quick to censure mothers
For the least neglect of children's clothes.
Her husband comes from the field of labour;
He gives no praise to his weary wife;
She's done no more than has her neighbour;
'Tis the lot of all in country life.

But after the strife and weary tussle
With life is done, and she lies at rest,
The nation's brain and heart and muscle—
Her sons and daughters—shall call her blest.
And I think the sweetest joys of heaven,
And the rarest bliss of eternal life,
And the fairest crown of all will be given
Unto the wayworn farmer's wife.

MANURE.

Remember that the manure should be forked over occasionally to make it fine. If it is heating, then muck or loam should be mixed with it to absorb the ammonia which is formed during the process of decomposition. Sprinkling the manure pile with ground plaster is advisable. The plaster will absorb any ammonia that escapes from the pile, and save it for the use of growing plants. Ammonia is too valuable an element of plant food to allow it to be wasted. Again, upon some lands plaster is an excellent fertilizer.

Do not forget that leached wood ashes makes one of the most valuable special manures. The house that has a great pile of ashes about it has an owner that does not know his business.

"My idea of good farming," says a writer in the *American Rural Home*, "is deep ploughing, thorough cultivation, a judicious rotation of crops, plenty of clover and sowed corn, with stock enough to eat all the fodder and coarse grain raised on the farm. Manure made of straw alone is not very valuable, but with the addition of corn meal, bran and oats, it will make the crops grow. I do not design to sell any grain from my farm but wheat and beans, until it is fed to stock and made into meat. I prefer to buy bran by the ton, thus enriching the manure pile and giving increased fertility to our fields."

CREAM.

A DOLLAR spent in the tavern, if put into seed, would yield a better dividend.

ALMOST anybody can run into debt, but nearly everybody has to crawl out of it.

LAZINESS is the landlord here; he leads his servants around with nose-rings.

To repent without mending one's ways is to pump out the ship without stopping the leak.

RIFLES and breech-loading guns are not of as much service in raising wheat as a plough.

THE first element to success in farming is to lay in a stock of elbow grease. It tells well at harvest time.

DOLLAR bills do not grow on bushes, and it is a precarious existence looking for them on the streets of a city.

THE fewer friends one has the better. In good times they make use of you; in bad, you can't make use of them.

FIFTY years is a long wait for the golden wedding, but it is an 18-carat argument in favour of early marriages.

WHEN inclined to grumble, turn a spadeful of earth instead, and you will soon have to hire help to carry your bank book.

SOME men start west with two shooting irons and one plough. Reverse the proportion, and the result will be satisfactory.

YOU cannot cultivate a prairie farm by starting a costermonger's stand in Winnipeg. It has been tried, and the result is a failure.

WHEN your seed is sown, don't sit around waiting for it to grow. It will attend to that part of the business without supervision.

IN this country dollars grow on the end of wheat stalks. You have to break the soil to sow the seed before the dollars appear on the stalks.

A VERMONT man, who wanted to smoke out a woodchuck, burned over an acre of ground and destroyed fifteen rods of fence. The woodchuck escaped.

AN exchange devotes three-quarters of a column on "When to Cut Timothy." The best advice on the subject can be given in a few words, viz., cut him when he is broke.

THE mummies are not surprised at the disturbance in Egypt. They do not know what it is all about, however, and in that respect they resemble a number of fresher people who do not claim to be mummies.

"Yes, sir," says the proud and happy inventor, "I've struck upon the biggest idea of the century—watches for the blind, so that they can tell the time of day." "Capital idea, indeed! I see—you can fix the dial with luminous paint, eh?"

"A YOUNG NATURALIST" writes us to learn how he can catch a live wasp for scientific purposes without injuring it? Right by the tail, son; right by the tip end of the tail. Squeeze hard. The wasp won't mind it a particle, and if it seems to be injured any that you can see, send us the bill, and we'll pay for a new wasp.—*Reading Times.*

The following memorandum was picked up in a dry goods store in Troy the other day. We give it verbatim: father fetch from troy: one box off acksil greece; seven yards off yallar caliker fore libbie a dress; five yard overball stof blew; one box shenks Pills from Hocombs; ten pounds Cotton battin; twelve yards Caliker for gran mas dress; one and one-half yards buf ribbin; one and one-half yards blew the same kind; tow lenthls Stov pipe; two nuttmeggs; four pounds ten penny nales; two kandil molds; ten Ponds Brown Shugar; one Pare Gum Shoes for Katie. —*Buffalo Express.*