

**The Farm.**

**Onions for Poultry Foods.**

There is no vegetable that grows of more value to the poultryman than the onion. Doubtless it was one of the foods of the fowl in its natural state, as it is found growing wild in several parts of the world. In Illinois and Missouri we have found it, both in the woods and prairies, with sprouts short and crisp early in the spring, that would lengthen and toughen as the season advanced or bear a small seedling union or "button" late in the fall. We never tried planting any of the "button" onions of the wild variety, but doubtless if we had they would have produced the same class—smaller in size, perhaps—of onions that the "sets" of the cultivated sorts do today. Be that as it may, the onion of commerce is a valuable addition to the list of vegetables that are considered good for fowls. At this season of the year, when the fowls are ran down by the heat of the autumn and the strain of moulting, the onion will be found a first-class tonic. Where there is bowel trouble, with greenish droppings, and dysentery, onions cut up tolerably fine and fed as often as three times a week will prove of great benefit, and where the chickens have had access to any unclean food and become affected by it, such as decaying animal matter, which leads to limberneck or old-time chicken cholera, sometimes the feeding of onions will be found beneficial; although when a chicken gets a good chance at such stuff, and gets a big dose of it, it is about as good as gone. Precaution should be taken to have nothing of the kind on the premises. Onions boiled in the warm mash for the hens is good, and by invigorating and stimulating them causes them to pay better. In fact, onions as a tonic and food is one of the simple provisions of nature that any one can keep handy at a small cost. Don't fail to include them in your poultry bill of fare two or three times a week, and of fere if the chickens appear debilitated.—Poultry Journal.

**Two Crops on the Same Ground.**

A method of intensive culture which has made some money for me is to plough a plot of ground in the fall and manure it heavily during the winter, then harrow it in the spring, as soon as I can work the ground, and with one-horse corn-planter plant the earliest varieties of peas in rows two and one-half feet apart. I cultivate the peas with a horse and cultivator until some time in May, when I plant early corn with the corn-planter between every second row of the peas, leaving the alternate rows vacant, from which to pick the peas. The peas are marketed the last of June, when the vines are removed from ground. By this time the corn will have made quite a large growth, and the space between the rows can be cultivated and set to celery, cabbages, turnips, or potted strawberry plants; or Hubbard squash can be planted in the corn rows the last of May, and the vines will occupy the ground between the rows of corn after the peas have been removed. Another profitable combination of crops is to grow early bunch onions from sets, and follow them with a second crop of celery, cabbages or cauliflowers.

What to plant and how to plant depend on one's soil and market. I realize that if I describe methods of culture which are a success under certain conditions, others will try them where the conditions are not the same and fail to get good results.

The amateur in gardening should be satisfied to go slow, and not plant extensively until he has gained experience by planting small plots. In market gardening, as in other occupations, it is the trained workman who is the "hustler" that "gets there."—(W. H. Jenkins, in Vick's Magazine.)

**Cost of Standard Chemical.**

To supply potash I use nothing but muriate of potash. It is the cheapest form, I believe, in which we can buy this plant-food in concentrated form. It usually can

be had at about \$40 or \$45 a ton. This brings the cost of pure potash (as oxide) down to about four cents a pound. In the general run of commercial fertilizer L have to pay not less than six cents a pound for it. For my supply of phosphoric acid I almost exclusively look to dissolved South Carolina rock. In this form it is just as soluble and just as effective in every way as I can buy it in dissolved animal bone or in any other superphosphate. The ton of dissolved rock analyzing about 15 per cent of soluble phosphoric acid can be bought at from \$7 to \$10, so that a pound of acid in this form costs only about two and three-fourth cents. In the general run of commercial fertilizers I more usually pay five cents and over than less for it. The question of quantity is another problem which each grower must solve for himself. There is seldom need of going to the extreme in this business. If we apply 200 to 500 pounds of dissolved rock and 150 to 200 pounds of muriate of potash to the acre on soils needing both phosphoric acid and potash, we do all that can be expected to repay us in favorable returns.—T. Greiner, in Farm and Fireside.

**Oyster Shell Roads.**

Macadam laid down the principle that road material should possess the quality of cohesiveness and be so liad as to amalgamate and form a roof to the road-bed impervious to water. Oyster shells fulfill these conditions perfectly.

In a recent article in Mr. D. F. Magee's series on good roads he says: "Oyster shells are soft and yielding to pressure, crumbling to small pieces even under the weight of one's foot and crushing into dust under the iron hoofs of horses and the weight of loaded wagons. They seem to be little more than pure lime and of the consistency of hard chalk, and our softest stone has fivefold the power of resistance to force or pressure, but I know from experience and extensive observation there is no material that will make a handsomer or smoother road, and in wearing qualities and endurance it is fully up to the average of stone used under the same conditions. "Here is the solution of the oyster shell problem, as we would say, in an oyster shell: Oyster shells, when pounded fine by weight of wheels and horses' feet, weld and fuse together like so much molten metal, and thus, like a cast iron shield, at once shed off the falling rain, and, forming into a solid mass, it literally polishes" like ivory under the tires and makes a perfect road without any other rolling than that of the traveling teams.

The permission to United States fishing vessels to enter ports on the Atlantic coast of Canada for the purchase of bait, ice, seines and lines, and all other supplies and outfits, the trans-shipment of catch and shipping of crews, has been renewed by order-in-council. Licenses cost \$1 50 per ton registered tonnage.

Matheson, labor representative, introduced a bill in the British Columbia Legislature on Tuesday to declare null and void contracts entered into before their arrival in the Province made with persons in other parts of Canada, as well as with persons in foreign countries. The bill was read a second time without a division.

A Cairo despatch of Jan. 18 says: The whole remaining force of Ahmed Fedil, the only unconquered Deyish chieftain, numbering about 2,000 men, has surrendered to the British gunboat Metommeh, on the Blue Nile. Fedil escaped in a southerly direction.

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