

Farm and Home.

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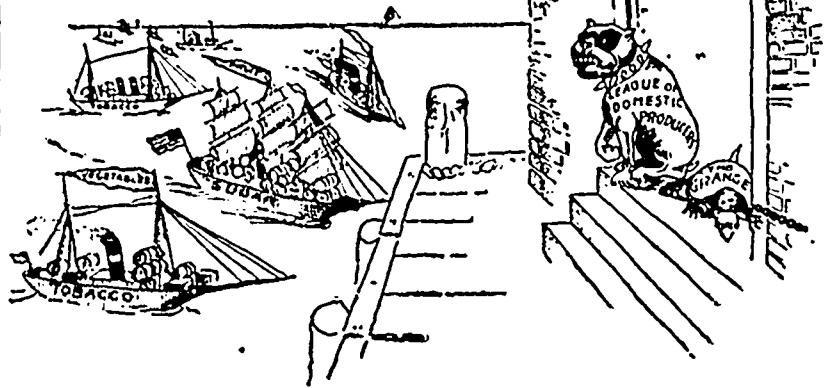
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All Around the Farm.

IMPROVING SEED CORN.

In the animal kingdom the crossing of different strains or breeds is beneficial in that it breaks up the type and causes variation in the individuals. It is then easy by proper selection to establish a strain or possibly a breed that shall be especially adapted to the existing conditions of that part of the country. This is none the less true in the case of plants, especially those of long cultivation, as wheat, corn, oats, etc. The benefits are practically the same as in the case of animals. Variation is set up, the blood is invigorated and the crop resulting from this crossed seed is larger oftentimes by a third than the crop from the uncrossed seed. It is with many no longer an experiment, but a well-established method by which new and better varieties are built up.

Plant two rows with seed different from the rest, but maturing about the same time. When the tassels begin to appear, pull or cut them out before they ripen. Usually three trips through the field will suffice. When the corn is well matured gather separately and select the best ears for next year's planting. Detasselling is necessary in order to prevent the two rows from fertilizing themselves. In other words, it insures that every ear obtained from the said two rows will be a cross between the two kinds of corn. A marked increase in next season's yield will be noticed, but to note the difference carefully a portion of the field next year should be planted to this crossed corn and the rest to the uncrossed corn which was grown alongside the crossed corn. In this way any difference in yield can probably be attributed to the crossing if both have had the same cultivation, etc. It will not do to plant an early maturing variety with a late one un-



The Farmer's Faithful Watch Dogs.

less the early one be planted some days later. The two rows could easily be left until the proper time arrived. The two kinds of corn must tassle about the same time if a good result is to follow.—[Prof J. M. Westgate, Kan Exper Sta.]

TREATMENT OF POTATO SCAB.

The use of corrosive sublimate to kill the germs of potato scab is now conceded to be the most effectual remedy for this increasing menace to the potato industry. The germs live over on the tubers and in the soil. The treatment reaches only those on the tubers and there is no practical remedy for treating those in the soil. It is thought a slightly acid soil is not conducive to their growth, and the use of lime and ashes which sweeten the soil should be avoided for 1 or 2 yrs before planting. The affected tubers should not be fed to stock unless the germs are killed by cooking, as they will be sown in the manure. Treated seed should be placed in clean crates or may become inoculated after soaking.

Two ounces corrosive sublimate to each 15 gals of water is sufficient, and the seed should be soaked for an hour. The solution is good for use until all is taken up by the stock or becomes dirty. One can soak as many bushels as he has gallons of water. We buy a new tight barrel for 10c and burn it when done treating seed. While it will not injure one's hands, it is a rank poison to stock, and none of it should be left around. A post and balance pole to raise the bag out of the barrel or the barrel set in the ground will make the operation much easier. I put a bushel or more into a bran sack and lower it into the barrel, after an hour the bag is raised to the top and allowed to drain. Then the stock is spread out to dry and can be cut for seed while the next batch is soaking. I would not soak much before planting and bury all treated pieces not used.—[C. E. Chapman, Tompkins Co, N Y.]

BEST CORN FOR SILO PURPOSES.

Large, late maturing sorts. Plant 20 in apart and drill 6 to 10 in apart in the row. The same variety is not adapted to all sections. The best should produce the largest growth of glazed ears by early Sept. Evergreen sweet is popular in Wyoming Co, N Y.—[Subscriber.]

Large southern corn in drills 12 to 16 in apart and rows 3½ ft. running east and west, as it shades the ground better when large.—[William Howes, S D.] I plant large and late ordinary field corn and cut at the usual time of shocking. Have used sorghum cane mixed with corn. Shall try red kafir corn this year.—[G. P. Jones, Lyon Co, Kan.]

Pride of the North corn grows large and makes good ensilage in Allegany Co, N Y.

Clark's Early Mastodon is a very

large yellow dent and ripens here.—[Norman Hatch, Wis.]

Eight to 10 qts Leaming drilled in rows 3 to 3½ ft apart will produce stalks with 1 or 2 ears each which should be cut as the ear begins to glaze. 2½ tons of such ensilage is worth as much as 2½ tons of timothy hay and some claim to have produced it at \$1 per ton.—[James Miller & Son, Yates Co, N Y.]

White Dent Eureka is the heaviest yielder, but Evergreen sweet corn gives better satisfaction.—[J. E. Peirce, Mass.]

Flint and Evergreen sweet or dent and sweet corn of such varieties as will surely mature ears in this climate are best.—[O. T. Denison, Mason City, Ia.]

Blount's Prolific, cob and butts both small. Best ears kept for seed. Sow sorghum, 1 bu p a, on well prepared soil same as wheat. In case of drouth it is excellent to mix with corn in silage, as more juicy when corn is too dry.—[John Irwin, Culpeper Co, Va.]

For ensilage I prefer Boone County White and Dodgson's Prolific White, a stalk every 6 to 18 inches in rows 3 to 3½ ft apart.—[T. Hanning, Ill.]

MANURE FOR GRASS LAND.

I believe in using barnyard manure, if possible, when seeding down. I should harrow the manure in and the young grass will be enabled to get a portion of it the same autumn and will make a vigorous growth and go through the winter in good condition. The first year of growth the grass will need no fertilizer. The second year I would begin to use commercial fertilizers, and would apply 150 lbs nitrate of soda p a. Grass is a crop which is made or unmade between April 15 and June 15. It is a thorough lover of nitrogen. Nitrate of soda furnishes nitrogen in a very available form. Nitrate of soda applied early in spring will give the grass food so that by June 15 we may expect a very much larger growth than if we depended upon stable manure applied the year previous. For the next 2 or 3 yrs, before the land was plowed, I would fertilize as follows: Nitrate of soda 150 to 200 lbs, acid phosphate 200 lbs and muriate of potash 150 lbs. Such a mixture costs about \$7. I am sure the grass crop can be very materially increased and the fertility kept up by the above method. If one has plenty of stable manure it may be well to top-dress the grass each autumn rather than buy the fertilizers.—[Dr J. B. Lindsey.]

SEASONABLE GARDEN WORK.

The farmer who expects to get good work out of his team next spring should take them in from the straw stack and feed on oats. The farmer him if would not be in shape to follow the plow if he was fed on a diet of p into skins all winter.—[Frank Hunt, Cal.]

To use only mineral fertilizers such as acid phosphate or acid phosphate and potash, on very poor land is almost like throwing money away.

Old horseshoes can be used in posts to slide small pole bars in; it's easier

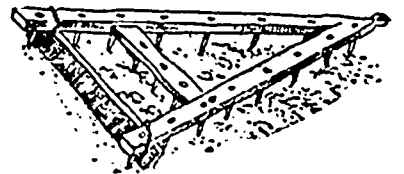
to drive them in than to chop holes. Horseshoes also make good hooks for hitching posts. A worn-out ax struck in a block of wood so, or well for an anvil to clinch nails, etc.

But few have any idea as to the markets opened by the mining operations in the cold northwest, where no crops can be raised. Fifteen carloads canned fruit were sent there by one Ontario firm last fall.

I like F & H the best of any farm paper I ever read; it advocates the farmer's needs.—[J. J. McDermet, Fulton Co, Ill.]

When Logging Down Hill, select a stump 10 inches in diameter, 2 ft high and in line with the road, at top of hill. Hew the bark and make smooth. Take a rope 1 to 1½ inches in diameter and as long as may be required. Fasten one end to the sled, having first taken the precaution to bind the load securely. Have the rope neatly coiled and laid on the upper side of the stump. Let an assistant take the rope in hand and make a couple of turns with it around the stump. When the teamster starts the horses the assistant plays out the rope as may be needed. If the load moves too fast make another turn of rope around the stump. If the team has trouble in drawing, throw off one or more turns.—[C. O. Ormsbee, Washington Co, Vt.]

Handy Clod Crusher and Leveler—One who has not tried it would be surprised to find how much execution the device shown in the cut will accomplish.



Insert a narrow plank in front of the rear teeth of an A harrow, and the land will be harrowed, the lumps crushed and the surface leveled at one operation. One can also, by stepping on and off the crosspiece, drag earth from knolls and deposit it in depressions, thus grading the land very nicely.

The Irish Cobbler Potato is extra early and brings a high price. Tubers are creamy white, eyes strong and well-developed and but slightly indented. Each tuber is marked with the small white specks peculiar to the very earliest class, Ohio Junior, Early Market and Six Weeks. It is the only variety I know of earlier than the Early Ohio. [A. G. Aldridge, Ontario Co, N Y.]

To Make a Smokehouse fire-proof as far as the stove ashes are concerned is not necessarily an expensive job; all

that is required is to lay up a row of brick across one end, also 2 or 3 ft back upon each side, connecting the sides with a row across the building, making it at least 2 ft high. As those who have a smokehouse use it nearly every year, that part can also be made safe from fire by

the little arch built at the point shown in the illustration. The whole is laid up in mortar, and to add strength to the structure an iron rod or bar may be placed across the center of the bin and firmly imbedded in the mortar, two or three rows of bricks from the top. Of course the rear of the arch is also bricked up. In most cases less than 250 brick will be all that is required.

WANTED, AGENTS.

We want at least one good agent at every postoffice where we are not at present represented, to solicit subscriptions to FARM AND HOME. This is a rare opportunity for men and women out of employment, and even for enterprising boys and girls who wish to engage in profitable work through the fall and winter months. If you can canvass all of the time or part of the time and would make money easily and quickly, send at once for our new terms to agents and complete premium list, which we send free on request.

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