

FARM AND GARDEN

INDOOR WINTER WORK.

A Potato Planter—Cost \$1.50 and Three Days' Time—How It Operates.

The potato planter shown in the cut for three years, says a Rural New Yorker correspondent. It cost me \$1.50 and three days' time and works as satisfactorily as a \$50 or \$60 machine.

Old mowing machine frame and wheels from the fence corner of one neighbor, a spring seat, a lifting lever and several old castings from a discarded binder of another, a pair of hillers from an old wooden frame, five tooth cultivator, a new shovel plow front from the store, some nails, bolts and a little old lumber were the materials.

The wheels are placed as far apart as I desired the rows of potatoes to be, so as to use the wheel mark for a guide, avoiding the use of a marker.

HOMEMADE POTATO PLANTER.

The shovel plow is bolted to a solid 3 by 3 piece about two feet long, the other end of which is placed solidly against the under side of the tongue and hinged so that it can be raised and lowered by a lever which the point is attached by a chain. The lever is shown just in front of the wheel and near the wheel.

The operator sits at his ease on the spring seat, picking up the potatoes and dropping them at regular intervals into the spout. I find it works better to take only one piece in the hand at a time, dropping in the spout with one hand while reaching after a seed piece with the other.

The front end of the frame to which the covers are attached is hinged to the two rear upright pieces which support the box. A lever is beside the seat to raise and lower the covers at the end of the rows. The cover frames should be hung low at the front end, and the hillers must be set just the right distance apart and at just the right angle.

A little trouble arose at first in this respect. One seed piece when dropped would stop just where it first touched the ground and the next one might roll or jump ahead a foot or more, thus making them lie at unequal distances when dropped evenly in point of time.

A man to drive the team and to raise and lower the plow at the ends, another man to feed the machine and operate the lever which controls the covers and a team which walks not too rapidly can mark, furrow, drop and cover five or six acres in a day.

Automatic Rabbit Trap.

The sketch of an automatic rabbit trap is furnished to the Iowa Homestead by a correspondent, who says:

A RABBIT TRAP.

"It is a rapid thing gun and catches both going and coming and always sets itself. A hole should be dug in the ground to receive a box or barrel and deep enough so the top is just even with the surface of the ground. The trap is then placed on the box with the fall doors directly over it. Cover the sides of the box on each side of the trap and throw a few weeds or brush over it, all leaving the ends of the trap uncovered, and your work is complete. No bait is required. The rabbits are attracted by the brush heap, and when once they see the opening and try to pass through it and are trapped. To make the trap take two boards 1 by 8 3/4 or four feet long, for the sides and two boards 1 by 4 1/2 feet long, for the top and bottom. The top and sides should be nailed together first, then saw the bottom board, leaving the fall doors each about a foot long. Do not saw square across, but leave a bevel, so that the doors will catch when they fall back in place."

FOOT ROT.

Divergent Views on the Theory of Contagiousness.

All sorts of arguments have been adduced as to the infectiousness of foot rot, one authority in his day declaring that a meadow reproduced it after seven years, in which no sheep had been pastured there.

Professor Dick was one of the first prominent veterinarians to arrive at the opinion that it was not contagious. The theory of contagiousness did not seem to him necessary to account for foot rot, as he and others pointed out that the sheep is by nature an inhabitant of dry, hilly countries and its removal to moist, fat meadow lands deprives it of that pressure and wear and tear which is necessary to form the hard hoof of the mountain sheep, the goat and the pony, and without wear or proper pressure the feet would accumulate and retain moisture, and it is this moisture that produces decomposition of imperfectly formed horn.

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FRUIT FLOWERS

WESTERN BEAUTY APPLE.

Properly the Grosh and Also Known as Big Rambo, Ohio Beauty, Etc. In regard to an apple which is locally known in Pennsylvania as English Rambo, H. E. Van Deman says in Rural New Yorker: It is properly called Grosh, although it is much more generally known as Western Beauty and in some degree as Big Rambo, Ohio Beauty, Musgrove and a few other synonyms.

English Rambo I have never heard applied to it. That is one of the synonyms of Domine. It is not strange that it is called Big Rambo, for the hub of the tree is much like that of the true Rambo, and the fruit is somewhat similar in shape, color, flavor and season, but is very much larger. It is an apple of most excellent qualities of both tree and fruit and is well worthy of being in the grosh.

The stalks near the door of the hayloft driveway and in winter cut the stalks with a fodder cutter and feed in the barn. Found for pound, the cut corn fodder gives us better returns in the milk than the best hay.

In many instances corn is hauled from the field unhusked, stacked in a sheltered place and husked after the rush of fall work is over. In this way the field is cleared before frost, allowing it to be run through with the sod cutter or plow.

When corn has been shocked without tying into bundles, a good way to load is to lean a wide board against the rack and one end at the burts of the shock to be loaded. Have a strong rope with a sling at one end to draw around the head of the shock. The man on the load, aided by the one on the ground at the start, can easily slide up a large shock. A smooth, wide hard wood board is the best. Those who have not tried this will be surprised what an amount can be handled in this way.

Barrels or Boxes For Fruit? While the fruit box is used almost altogether for shipping California, Colorado and Oregon apples to our markets and for export as well as meets with the general approval of commission men and retailers, there seems to be an unwritten law among these men that the western apples and those others shall be packed in such manner, says a writer in Rural New Yorker.

"It is my firm belief, based on actual experience, that they are justified in discouraging the use of the box among eastern apple growers and shippers. As much money with less labor can be obtained by using a full size, nicely coopered barrel, neatly marked and stenciled, and perfect fruit. I have used both barrels and boxes and find the former altogether more satisfactory than the latter. I think, however, that the box may be used with profit for the quality berries, though it has been demonstrated to me this summer that the barrel is again foremost for style and for money."

Subsoiling and Drainage. A western correspondent who has tried an experiment with subsoiling, writes to The American Cultivator of his disappointment in the result. The first year turned out as he had expected, and the next year an increased crop.

But the next year when it was before, and he was completely discouraged. Undoubtedly, says The Cultivator, in this case the subsoil was a heavy clay, and when it had been broken up the pulverized soil a muddy clay, which, when dried out, was harder than it was originally. The lesson from this experience is plain. It does not pay to subsoil a heavy clay, and above all first making a way to dispose of the surplus water through underdrains.

On well drained land one through subsoiling never entirely loses its good effect.

What to Do With Cowpeas. Agrostologist J. G. Smith expresses the opinion that when cowpeas are grown for fertilizer it is best either to feed the vines and return the manure to the soil or to plow them under at once, instead of letting them stay on the ground all the winter. By so doing practice there is often a loss of two-thirds of the fertilizing value of the vines because of the leaching out of soluble fertilizers by the winter rains.

The feeding value is far greater than the fertilizing value, so that it is better to use them either green or as hay than to turn the crop under.

News and Notes. Excellent wheat, oats and barley have been grown this season in the Yukon region, near Dawson City, and it is claimed that the wheat has ripened from 10 to 20 days earlier than does in the Red river valley.

It seems to be pretty thoroughly settled by the scientists that beet sugar can never be profitably made on a small scale. It requires a costly extracting and refining plant. The best thing a farmer remote from a factory can do with a small lot of beets is to feed them to stock, and a very good thing this is too.

Under its offer of practical aid in forestry the department of agriculture now has applications for assistance on 1,500,000 acres of land and is already doing important work on two tracts of 40,000 and 98,000 acres respectively, in the Adirondacks.

A setting of lettuce under glass may be made the last of October or first of November, to be ready for the holidays, but usually the best market comes about the last of February. For this reason the ground as it is cleared of the holiday trade.

One Thousand Dollar Prize For an Apple. The Minnesota State Horticultural society offers a premium of \$1,000 for a seedling apple which shall be as hardy and as prolific a tree as the Duchess of Oldenburg, with fruit equal in size, quality and appearance to the Wealthy and keeping as well as Malinda. The awarding committee is Professor S. B. Green, J. M. Underwood, J. S. Harris, Clarence Wedge and A. K. Bush. The secretary, from whom all particulars of the competition can be learned, is A. W. Latham, 301 Kasota Block, Minneapolis, Minn.

Too Much Warmth. Too much warmth is infinitely more mischievous to a flock in the winter than too much cold. Instinct teaches sheep to protect themselves against cold in the winter by huddling together, but there is no way of escape against overheating by overcrowding.

Good Horses In Demand. The most salable animal at the present time is a mature horse—it does not matter whether he is a cart horse or a hunter so long as he is good of his kind—and the farmer who has any of such horses to spare is a fortunate individual, seeing that other kinds of stock, particularly store cattle and sheep, are making unremunerative prices owing to shortness of keep, total or partial failure of the turnip crop and the high price of feeding stuffs. Horses have mouths, too, but the trade for them is not crippled in the same way as it is for other kinds of stock.—London Live Stock Journal.

Laying Down Fruit Cases. "Most varieties of raspberries, blackberries and grapes need winter protection in this region. The cane or vines must be laid down and covered." In calling attention to this point a Colorado exchange says: "The usual way when covering raspberries and blackberries is to remove some of the earth on one side of the plants, then lay them carefully down and fasten them by driving down iron or wooden books over the canes and shoveling a few inches of soil over them. Some prefer straw or coarse manure for covering canes and vines, for it is more quickly put on and removed in the spring and makes a mulch and fertilizer for the plants in summer. Probably the simplest plan is to throw up a furrow or two on each side of the row with a breaking plow and complete the covering with shovels."

CORN FODDER.

Notions About Quick, Easy and Profitable Handling.

Corn is handled with more difficulty than most other farm crops, and any notion for making the task lighter are pretty sure to attract attention. A correspondent of The Orange Judd Farmer says: There are a great many devices of low rack so that the stalks may be carried in armfuls on them, but undoubtedly the quickest way is to tie the stalks into good bundles and have one man pitch and the other on the wagon. Then, in unloading, there is not that loss which occurs in a load of loose stalks.

I cut my corn with a binder and do not unble the bundles at husking, but simply turn them around a few times. A table is used to lay the bundles on the rack and one end at the burts of the shock to be loaded. Have a strong rope with a sling at one end to draw around the head of the shock. The man on the load, aided by the one on the ground at the start, can easily slide up a large shock. A smooth, wide hard wood board is the best. Those who have not tried this will be surprised what an amount can be handled in this way.

When corn has been shocked without tying into bundles, a good way to load is to lean a wide board against the rack and one end at the burts of the shock to be loaded. Have a strong rope with a sling at one end to draw around the head of the shock. The man on the load, aided by the one on the ground at the start, can easily slide up a large shock. A smooth, wide hard wood board is the best. Those who have not tried this will be surprised what an amount can be handled in this way.

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ICE STORAGE.

A Makeshift Structure and a Simple, Inexpensive House.

"Do you say you are not able to build an icehouse?" You have plenty of rails. Just take them and build a double pen and fill in between with old straw, chaff, forest leaves or anything of like nature. Tramp it in solid; then take the old boards, fasten them on the inside of inner pen, vertically, no matter if they don't join up closely. Now put eight or ten inches of your packing material in the bottom, build



PERSPECTIVE OF ICEHOUSE.

your ice in a solid block on top of the ice, filling all crevices with pounded ice. If it is freezing weather, throw some water over each layer, and it will freeze and be united in a solid mass. Build your ice eight or ten inches from the sides of the pen, and as you build it up tramp in your packing material, whatever it may be. Build your ice as high as the pen. Now over all put plenty of sawdust, chaff or anything that will exclude the air, which is one of the principal factors in keeping ice. Now put up a few rafters made of poles, spike them to the top rail of the outer pen, allowing them to extend over a considerable distance. This will, after the roof is on, shade the walls somewhat and prevent the rain from reaching the ice. The roofing material may be of rough boards well nailed.

Now, according to an Ohio Farmer writer, you will be surprised if you do all this at the length of time you can keep ice, but if you wish a better house this can be built as follows: The first cut represents a more expensive house, with a vertical section and plan of foundation in the second cut. This is not a very expensive house and in the times of frost may be kept up with a very little cash outlay. The size of building is 14 feet over all. First lay a foundation of cobble or broken stone, and on this lay sill made of 2 by 8 joist spaced apart by spiking in four inch blocks at the place where studding is to be set, which are 2 by 8, using three on each side between the corner posts, which are formed of one 2 by 8 and two 2 by 6 scantlings. This gives a good chance to fasten the lining at the corners. The height of building being eight feet, use 2 by 8 short pieces cut between each studding for nail ties to fasten the siding. Line up inside horizontally, filling the space between the sawdust as usual, and the lining horizontal is sufficient bracing for a building of this size. The plate is of a single 2 by 8, spiked well on top of studding. The rafters

are 2 by 4, with short collar beam to every third set of rafters. The roof may be of any material suitable for the purpose, but the drawing shows a board roof. The ventilator is easily understood from the cuts. Two doors are used. The lower one is used to store away the ice and the upper one to throw in sawdust, which can be easily done from a wagon, as the height is only eight feet.

The Drift From Farm to City. New York city has an association of a number of prominent men and women who are endeavoring to solve the question "Why do so many persons leave the country and come to the city?" The New York Commercial Advertiser reports a conference held lately at which George T. Powell read a paper advocating the idea that "an imperfect knowledge of agriculture furnishes at least one reason for the drift cityward. About 25 people of note were appointed a committee on 'the promotion of agriculture.' Among the names were such familiar ones as Professor Walter A. Wyckoff of Princeton, Mrs. Ballington Booth, Professor L. P. Roberts, Mrs. Josephine Shaw Lovell, Abram S. Hewitt, William E. Dodge and R. Fulton Cutting.

Among other measures considered with the object of spreading agricultural knowledge was the establishment of a school of horticulture near New York city. Mr. Powell, who has been seeking information for four years past in regard to agricultural conditions in New York state, from farmers, merchants, bankers and manufacturers, says reports show a general equality about and more frequent sales of farms and indicate a revival of interest in land.

Best Varieties of Cabbage. The correspondent desiring the best variety of early cabbage for commercial purposes will sooner or later fall back on a good strain of Jersey Wakefield. If his trade calls for a small solid head, I know of no better variety than a selected strain of American grown Winningstadt, sown late, writes a Pennsylvania gardener to Rural New Yorker. While no rule of practice will be applicable or suitable for every locality or person, yet in my experience the plan of sowing the seed in the place to be occupied by the plants has much to commend it. Personally I prefer the Wakefield for early and Flat Dutch for late.

Whitening Peach Buds. Whitening the twigs and buds by spraying them with whitewash has been pronounced by some authorities, on account of its cheapness and beneficial effect, the most promising method of winter protection. At the Missouri station whitened buds bloom practically dormant until April, when unprotected buds swell perceptibly during warm days late in February and early in March. Whitened buds blossom three to six days later than unprotected buds. Eighty per cent of whitened buds passed the winter safely, when only 20 per cent of unwhitened buds passed the worst winters unharmed. The first spraying is best given on or just before the usual Thanksgiving cold snap.

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