

**Stacking Hay on the Prairie.**

Winter is the time to prepare for summer, and as many of the most extensive hay makers like to know which are the best appliances for labor saving, we have procured the accompanying cut of the wire cable hay device from J. E. Porter, of Ottawa, Ill., U. S. The illustration conveys more than a page of descriptive matter.

If any of you contemplate using such a device, we would advise you to get your timber cut this winter, so as to be prepared by the time you want to use them. The timber required is four poles 20 feet long or 4 x 4; or good scantling of that length. For cost of wire and particulars write to the manufacturer.

**Improved Farming Necessary.**

The following we extract from the report of the West Middlesex Agricultural Society:

Your Directors feel that they would be remiss in the discharge of their duty did they allow this opportunity to pass without pointing out some of the things that in their judgment would better the condition of the farming community in particular and the whole country at large.

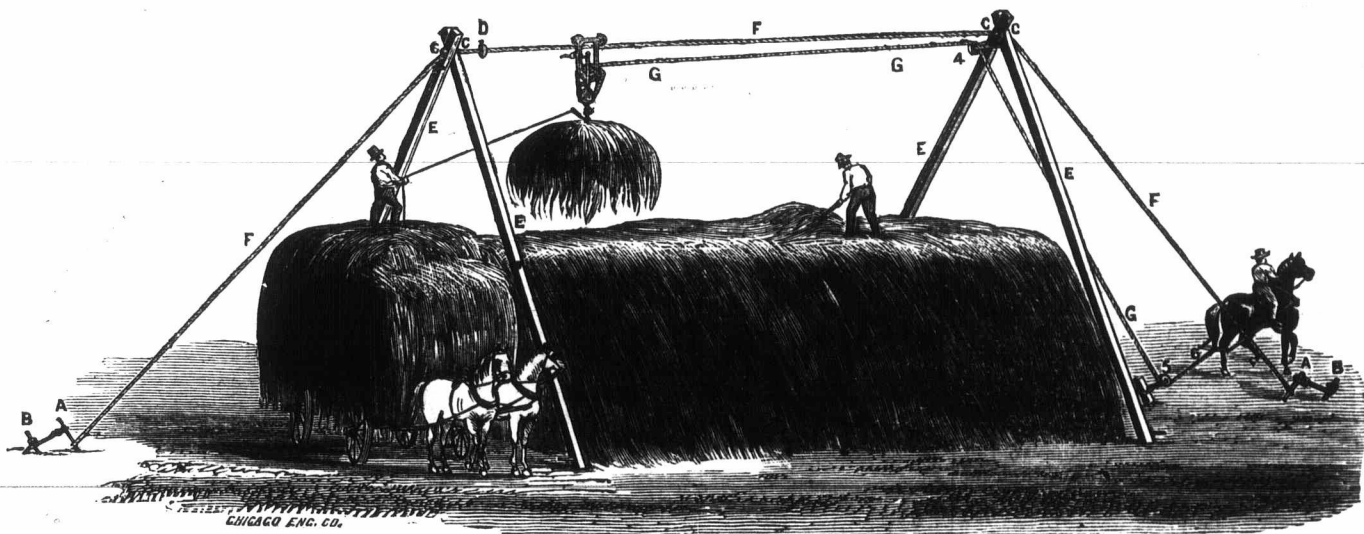
**Garden and Orchard.****Strawberries.**

We extract the following remarks from an article by E. P. Roe, in Scribner's Magazine. Mr. Roe is a well known pomologist and a good authority on small fruits:

I am satisfied that the method best adapted to our eastern and western conditions is what is termed the "narrow row system." The plants are set one foot from each other in line, and not allowed to make a single runner. In good soil they will touch each other after one year's growth, and make a continuous bushy row. The spaces between the rows may be two and a half to three feet. Through these spaces the cultivator can be run as often as you please, and the ground can be thus kept clean, mellow and moist. The soil can be worked—not deeply of course—within an inch or two of the plants, and thus but little space is left for hand-weeding. I have found this latter task best accomplished by a simple tool made of a fork-tine. This can be thrust deeply between the plants without disturbing many roots, and the most stubborn weed can be pried out. Under this system the ground is occupied to the fullest extent that is profitable. The berries are exposed to light and air on either side and mulch can be

**Pruning Orchards.**

The New York Times says the present is a good time for pruning orchards. This work is often done, apparently, for no other purpose than to do some perfunctory work in hashing up the trees. Trees should be pruned and thinned out, and so, with axe in hand, the owner goes over them and butchers them miserably. The rough wounds inflicted do not heal, but rot begins, and in a short time the trees are useless, if not dead. How rare it is to come across a good-looking old orchard, venerable with age, but yet trim, neat, and sound in limb and trunk. Fruit-trees exist in Europe that are historical in their age, and in this country there are trees from which the old Indian tribes gathered fruit before they were crowded from the banks of the beautiful Delaware. But now, an orchard 30 years old is a ruin, and unless trees are planted every few years a farmer must buy his fruit. Much of this is due to the rough pruning the trees undergo, and more to the continual cropping of the orchards. Perhaps something of it is owing to the root grafting, which does not seem to produce long-lived trees, top-grafted trees seeming to be more vigorous than others. But bad pruning has much to answer for. One cannot prune by system. Every tree must be studied separately and in regard to some definite principles. For instance, pruning is intended to relieve the tree of useless or superabundant wood; to take away less important branches that crowd and press upon



STACKING HAY ON THE PRAIRIE.

1st. Better cultivation of the soil, plowing less and seeding down more to clover.

2nd. More thorough drainage.

3rd. Getting and keeping a better quality of stock, keeping fewer of them and keeping them better, so that more ready sales and better profits may be secured.

4th. Following a mixed husbandry instead of making a specialty of any one thing, so that we shall not be so dependent on the price of any one commodity.

5th. Taking some good agricultural paper, so that we may have the experience of others engaged in similar pursuits, and thereby be better prepared to go intelligently to work to secure the best possible results.

Little has been known of the history of the mite which causes the widespread disease called pear-leaf blister; but Prof. T. J. Burrill, who first discovered the mite in this country, believed it to be identical with that of Europe, and to have been imported. They have but four feet, but Prof. Burrill is convinced that they are matured and not larva, as other entomologists have held. They are peach-colored, slow-moving, and only 1-200 of an inch long, but dozens and sometimes scores are found in a single leaf-spot. They pass with difficulty in autumn from the leaves, and pass the winter in the leaf-scales of the buds. The remedy, he thinks, is to cut back and burn all the one-year old wood of affected trees, and to destroy in spring every young shoot that seems to be attacked.

applied with the least degree of trouble. The feeding ground or the roots can be kept mellow by horse-power; if irrigation is adopted the spaces between the rows form the natural channels for the water. Chief of all, it is the most successful way of fighting the white grub. These enemies are not found scattered evenly through the soil, but abound in patches. Here they can be dug out if not too numerous, and the plants allowed to run and fill up the gaps. To all intents and purposes the narrow-row system is hill culture with the evils of the latter subtracted. Even where it is not carried out accurately, and many plants take root in the rows, most of them will become large, strong and productive under the hasty culture which destroys the greater number of the side-runners.

**FRUIT GROWING IN ARGENTEUILL.**—There is a wide extent of land in this county that is unfit for cultivation with the plough on account of its rockiness. A very great proportion of such land might be made productive by turning it into an orchard. To attain this desirable end a fruit-growers' association is necessary to inculcate correct ideas with regard to the best sorts of fruit to plant. Small fruit of all kinds succeed everywhere in the county. Currants, gooseberries, raspberries and strawberries in the gardens, as well as blackberries and cranberries in the swamps, and nothing is wanting but the attention of landowners and others to be turned to the subject to make the county one of the principal fruit centres of Canada.

In Goodneston Park, Kent, England, is a Cedar of Lebanon with a spread of branch 100 ft. in diameter, and maples and sycamores of 120 ft. each.

others; to reduce the quantity of bearing wood, and so preserve the vitality and balance of the tree; lastly, to remove disfigured, blighted and diseased wood. Now, with these rules in mind, let one examine carefully each tree before he cuts away a twig, and note where and what he should cut away, and then mind how he cuts.

**Implements.**—No axe should be used about a tree except to cut it down when it cumbers the ground. A sharp, fine-toothed, long, narrow-bladed saw is the proper pruning implement. A sharp knife with a curving blade that makes a draw cut, and a pot of shellac varnish, should go with the saw. Everything that is removed should be cut close to the main wood, trimmed smoothly with the knife, and the wound covered with the varnish. The varnish is shellac dissolved in alcohol. This leaves a water and air proof covering over the wound. The work may be begun now and continued as opportunity offers. There need be no hurry. Young trees should be put in training now for future pruning. Three or four main limbs only should be left, so as to balance the head. All in-growing shoots should be removed close to the main branch, so that no bud is left to sprout. Each main side-limb may fork into two or three sub-branches, spreading fan-like around the central limb, if there is one. The sub-branches should be encouraged to start low, so that a low, round, compact, spreading head may be produced; much may be done in forming the head by tying down or hanging weights upon limbs that are inclined to wander the way they should not go, so that when they are old they will not depart from it. "As the twig is bent the tree is inclined," and a piece of hemp twist will soon bring a crooked young tree into a regular and quite handsome form.