

* The Farm. *

Farm Water Supply.

The question of a water supply is an important one. Water may be far from pure and healthful and still look and taste well when freshly drawn. Many wells, on account of their location, are little better than cesspools for the drainage from house and barn. It is safe to regard old wells with suspicion if they are located near buildings. This is particularly true if the wells are shallow. All the water that finds its way into wells passes through surface soil, and if the soil through which any given well obtains its supply of water is saturated with organic matter from kitchen waste or human or animal excrement, the organic matter finds its way into the well and contaminates the water. If the amount of contamination is slight and considerable water is drawn from the well, it may not be a very serious matter. There is a very simple method that is also very satisfactory by which the purity of the water may be tested. Partially fill a perfectly clean bottle with the water to be tested, cork it tightly and set in a warm place. If it remains clear and free from disagreeable odors it cannot contain much organic matter. The old wells on many farms may be regarded in the nature of an incumbrance. If every man that sells a farm would reserve the well and remove it with the personal property it would often be fortunate for his successor. It has always remained where it was first located. Successive owners have rearranged the buildings, but never disturbed the well. What was once a good location may now be a very poor one.—Dr. F. L. Russell, in Massachusetts Ploughman.

Raise More Sheep.

It is a fact that we should all fully understand that the falling off in price of wool and mutton has not been any more marked than that of wheat or any other of our farm products, and we can make as much clear cash from sheep today as we can from anything we may raise, and some of our best writers on the subject, such as Professor Shaw, feel safe in advising the farmers to increase their flocks at once. The almost incalculable injury that thoughtless men can inflict on the people by misrepresentation can be seen in this case. Of one thing we may be quite sure, there are millions of people who would be glad to eat mutton every day who do not now ever taste it, because they have not the wherewith to buy it, and they do not wear warm all-wool clothes and big overcoats for the same reason. In the changes that are to be made on the Northwestern farms this spring, I think sheep should form an important part. We may not make much out of them, but what can we make any profit out of at this time? I also feel pretty sure that sheep raising will grow more remunerative with each year for several seasons to come.—Farm, Stock and Home.

An Experiment With Apples.

S. D. Willard, at the meeting of the Ohio State Horticultural Society, spoke of an interesting experiment tried at Geneva last year. An orchard of Greening, Baldwin, and Hubbardston apples was thinned on some of the rows so that an apple was left every four inches, and on others so that there was only an apple for every six inches. On the tree where no thinning whatever was done the apples were small and hardly colored; the apples on the trees thinned to four inches apart, were colored well and of fair size, but no buds formed for the next season. On trees thinned to fruit six inches apart the apples were large and so finely colored as to attract the attention of passers on the road several rods away. Besides this there were well-grown fruit-buds for next year, so that, if nothing prevents, the trees will bear two seasons in succession.

Controlling Your Market.

If you are already producing more than you can sell, cut down your force and produce less with less expense, until you produce only profitable crops. It may be that some other crop would pay better for you than the one you are now growing. Each one must determine that. Not all sections demand the same. Choose always what is demanded. One may not be able to sell vegetables in summer, when he might in winter. Act accordingly. Or he could sell strawberries when he could not beans. Grow berries. Or extra early peas will sell, and not late ones; or very late and not medium ones. Your course is clear; only keep your eyes open for facts and hints. No one crop will still pay everywhere, but every crop will still pay somewhere. Look sharp to your location and choose wisely for yourself.—J. A. Holmes in Practical Farmer.

Potatoes Under Glass.

William Derby, of Revere, reports his usual success with extra early potatoes the last season. He had six or seven acres, for which the seed was sprouted under glass as described in a former article. These potatoes were ready for market two weeks earlier than others.

A Pennsylvania farmer goes a step further than Mr. Derby, and grows potatoes wholly under glass, maturing them in time to compete with the new potatoes from the south. These tubers from indoors were sold for the same price per half-peck as he afterward obtained per bushel for these grown out of doors.

Greenhouse culture for potatoes is practiced quite extensively in England, where an early maturing kidney potato is used. Some of our enterprising gardeners should procure specimens of these potatoes and make experiments.—Massachusetts Ploughman.

Automatic Farming Machine.

Considerable interest having been aroused among the farming population of the country as to the possibilities of the automatic farming machine which a Montreal company is seeking to place upon the market, a Witness reporter called upon Mr. A. A. Barnhart, to ascertain from him when he thinks the machine will be ready for introduction, and something of the saving in cost of production and increase expected from this style of cultivation.

'I would say to those interested,' said Mr. Barnhart, 'that I will have a machine at work in Manitoba first during the spring and early summer, exhibiting it throughout that province. That will be the great field for it at the start. After demonstrating the principle to the satisfaction of experts, I shall probably show the machine in Ontario and Quebec in the fall. The intention is then to form companies in each province for the manufacture of the machines and the putting of them on the market.'

'In regard to the principles of the machine, everyone knows the advantages of the spade husbandry employed by this machine as against the ordinary plough, and the large increase in crops that follow. The machine being built in such form as to attach any and all the implements necessary for any and all kinds of agricultural work, with the one light engine, doing away with horses and laborers to a great degree, and doing a large area in a day, will reduce actual cost from present principles many times over.'

'It is not our intention to ask farmers to purchase the machine, as, owing to the large area which one is capable of cultivating the smallest size six hundred acres a season—hardly an individual farmer would want or could use one. The intention there is for companies to work the ground

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This wondrous remedy of nature should be used at once if satisfactory and immediate results are desired. Do not allow your run-down, nervous system to lead you to the very brink of the grave in springtime.

Putting off will only complicate your troubles, and deeper misery will be yours. Use Paine's Celery Compound and you are assured of perfect action of the heart, stomach, kidneys and liver, and sweet sleep will be your life blessing.

Get "Paine's," the kind that cures. Remember that there are miserable imitations—celery preparations that are worthless and dangerous as well. Ask your dealer for "Paine's" and take no other, if you seek for life and health.

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for the farmer at a fixed price per acre, thus doing away with the need of a farmer going into debt for a machine or spending any money in machinery whatever. The payment for cultivation will be taken out of the crop at the end of the season, on much the same principle as threshing is paid for now. It is expected that these companies can cultivate the ground for at least half the present cost to the farmer, besides greatly increasing his crop by superior cultivation. 'I fully expect,' said Mr. Barnhart, 'that the increase in the crop from this superior cultivation will pay the amount that the farmer will be charged by these companies.'

'There seems to be a need, Mr. Barnhart, for better draining on the farms; can you speak as to this?'

'On blue clay land, to get good returns it must be well drained. If well drained and the subsoil well broken, clay is really the best land that can be had. In conjunction with this machine I have a ditching attachment with which I expect to be able to do ditching three and one-half feet deep at a cost to the farmer of about twenty-five cents per hundred feet. This will enable farmers in blue clay sections to get their land into first-class shape, and reap the benefit of its superior qualities at a low cost.'

'I hope,' said Mr. Barnhart, in conclusion, 'to be fully able to demonstrate the practicability of this machine during the coming season, and satisfy the wide-spread interest that has been aroused as to its possibilities.'—Montreal Witness.