

## HINTS FOR THE FARMER.

### A GARDEN FRIEND.

Not always do we know our friends. They come at unlooked for times, in unthought of places, and in unwelcome disguises. The farmer kills the robin which seeks for insects among his sprouting corn, the amateur floriculturist destroys the lady bug which tries to keep her plants free from aphids, and in the same way many gardeners wage war against the batrachian hermits that seek to do them good. To kill a toad was once considered a virtue; he would bite, bewitch, cover you with warts; he was venomous, spiteful, and had long and fearfully sharp teeth; he would lurk in dark and out-of-the-way places, and would spring out at you with the fury of a mad dog. No wonder he was harried and killed by the superstitious, who regarded their superstitions as knowledge.

But with other progress came a more just conception of the batrachian's usefulness. It was discovered that he had no teeth, that he subsisted entirely upon the insect enemies of the garden, that instead of being spiteful he was shy and gentle, coming out mainly at night to do his foraging. Enlightened gardeners began to welcome and protect him as a benefactor, until now in France and England he has grown to have a market value. Even more than the birds is he the gardener's friend, for he exacts no heavy toll of fruit for his services.

The toad propagates in the same way as the frog, depositing its spawn in the shallow ditches and puddles of rain water early in the spring. The eggs differ from those of the frog being deposited in long, rope-like masses instead of in patches. After being thus deposited, the hatching process is the same as in the case of the frog, and the same is essentially true in the development of the tadpole into the perfect toad. As the spawn is usually placed in the first convenient shallow water, which is apt to be some roadside ditch or rain puddle that soon dries up, very few of the tadpoles ever reach perfect toadhood. In these little rain puddles they can be seen about the first of June by the million, and would soon overrun the land, were it not for the drying up of the ponds and the greediness with which the farm poultry and many of the birds gobble them up. When, however, the embryo toads pass successfully into the mature state, he differs entirely from the frog in one particular—he is not amphibious, but exclusively an air-breathing creature.

### HEN MANURE.

An exchange says that an analysis of hen manure and well-rotted barnyard manure show that a ton of the hen manure contains more than eight times as much phosphoric acid, four times as much potash and six times as much nitrogen as the barnyard manure. Omitting small fractions the hen manure is a fertilizer with nearly 2-1/2 per cent phosphoric acid, two per cent, potash and 3-1/2 per cent nitrogen, and should be worth as these elements are figured about \$12.30 per ton, as compared with the cost of raw materials to make a fertilizer of the same strength.

But we have heard farmers and gardeners who had tried it assert that they wanted no more of it on their land. This may have been because it contained so much nitrogen of which their fields, long manured with horse manure, did not stand in need. It may have been because it was so dry that its strength was not imparted to the soil until the winter's rains had thoroughly soaked it or from its not being well adapted to the crop it was used on.

We have composted or mixed it with loam or sand, referring the sand, and received good results from it in a garden on poor soil and as a topdressing on grass, and we have added it to the barnyard manure when it was thrown over in the spring, and thought the manure much richer for its use; and this also we have thought the best way to use the contents of vaults and cess pools, allowing the whole heap to heat and ferment together, but not allowing ammonia to escape. We think the poultry keeper who has land in grass or in cultivation will find that the manure the hens make is of considerable importance as an addition to the income from them.

### ORCHARD NOTES.

The pruning and spraying of fruit trees are two points in orchard culture that are closely related. Especially is this true in the case of the apple. Moisture, it has been found, is favorable to the development of the apple scab fungus, and if the trees are a tangled mass of branches, they are longer drying out, and not only shelter is given to the fungi, but their growth is encouraged and each tree becomes a distributing center of some disease. It is next to impossible to spray such trees to advantage, as it is as difficult for the remedies to gain an entrance, as it is for the light and air. The head of the tree should be open, so that all parts may be reached easily with the spray.

The time for pruning varies with

the climate, variety of fruit, and the object to be obtained. Trees that are perfectly hardy may be pruned at any time between the fall of the leaf in autumn and its reappearance in the spring. The peach is often pruned just before mid-summer; but most growers do the work as soon as the little peaches are large enough so they can know how many bid fair to come to maturity. In this way much of the work of thinning is avoided later on. The amount to prune should be determined by circumstances, but we feel safe in saying that more trees are pruned too little than too much.

If limbs have to be taken off, the cut should be pared perfectly smooth and covered with shellac or grafting wax. By careful pruning and training a tree may be made to grow in any form desired. The lower limbs should be the longest and largest on the tree. The tendency of growth is toward the top. If any of the upper limbs outstrip the lower, they should be cut back.

If care is used in timely pruning and spraying a much higher grade of fruit is obtained.

### UNRULY HOGS.

A correspondent gives the following on how to keep a roguish hog from rooting gates open: "Fasten a ring in the center of the nose, then fasten another ring in this one, and so on till you make a chain of rings nearly up to the ears. Then make a fork in the chain and put the last ring of each fork in each ear. Now, let me tell you how one man alone can do all this without catching or handling even the largest hog. I have a low stanchion made in the manger of my barn by sawing out a space large enough to work back and forth at top and stationary at bottom. Then at top fix a drop lever with several notches to fit over the top of this stanchion. Then fix a narrow shoot so you can force the hog to try to get through the hole in the manger. You can fasten the hog securely here so he will be perfectly quiet, and you can ring, blindfold or do anything else except drop him. To do that lay him on his back."

## DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

### What the Legislators of the Country are Doing at Ottawa.

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Mr. McDougall was informed by the Premier that the cost to the Dominion treasury of the prohibition plebiscite taken last year was \$180,604, with a few accounts still outstanding.

Mr. Kloefer was told by Sir Wilfrid Laurier that the total cost of the commission relating to affairs between Canada and the United States was \$3,350. One dinner was given by the Canadian Minister at Quebec at a cost of \$308, and Canada's share of the dinner at Washington was \$606. The amount allowed to Mr. John Charlton for living and travelling expenses was \$1,766. He received no personal indemnity.

Mr. Beattie was told by Dr. Borden that 30,000 rifles were sold by the Government during the year 1898 for 75 cents each. The price included a bayonet and 25 rounds of ammunition per rifle. They were sold by tender after being advertised in several newspapers, and the purchaser was Lieut.-Col. F. Cole, of Montreal.

Mr. Sifton, replying to Mr. Carscallen, said that the amount of his (Mr. Sifton's) travelling and living expenses, paid by the Government, since the first day of July, 1898, till the 28th of February, 1899, inclusive, was \$945, including \$25 for cab hire. The travelling and living expenses of his private secretary during the same period were \$412, including \$4.50 for cab hire. None of the expenses of servants or friends accompanying him were paid by the Government.

Mr. E. F. Clarke was told by Mr. Paterson that there had been eleven appointments to positions in the Toronto Custom-house since July 13th, 1896.

Mr. Foster was informed by Sir Richard Cartwright, that, as far as the Government could ascertain discriminatory duties were imposed by Germany upon the following Canadian products:—Barley, 13-10 cents per bushel 48 lbs; beans and peas, 33-10 cents per bushel 60 lbs.; oats, 4 2-5 cents per bushel 34 lbs.; rye and wheat, 9 7-10 cents per bushel 60 lbs.; butter, 9-10 cents per lb.

Mr. Kendry was informed by Mr. Blair that the land upon which a dam is being constructed at Nassau was purchased from the Bank of Commerce for \$20,000.

Mr. Clarke was told by Mr. Blair that the department could not find any record of any application for protection to Dunn avenue railway crossing in the city of Toronto.

Mr. Foster was informed by Mr. Sifton that a permit lawfully granted by the authorities of the North-West Territories authorized the holder to import liquor into the Yukon without any further sanction from the Minister of the Interior. To prevent the possible use of forged or fraudulent permits lists of the permits issued by the Government of the North-West Territories were forwarded to the officers of the North-West Mounted Police with instructions to recognize only those upon the list. Such lists comprised all the

permits of which the department had been advised.

Col. Hughes was informed by Dr. Borden that the Fenian raid medals might be expected some time in the summer. The prospects were that a long-service medal would be issued to the Canadian militia, but until actually granted, he could not say what the conditions would be.

#### SECOND READINGS.

The following private bills received a second reading:—  
An Act to incorporate the Canadian Yukon Railway Company.—Mr. Morrison.

Respecting the British Yukon Mining, Trading, and Transportation Company, and to change its name to the British Yukon Railway Company.—Mr. Fraser, Guysborough.

To incorporate the Russell, Dundas, and Grenville Counties Railway Company.—Mr. Edwards.

To authorize the amalgamation of the Erie and Huron Railway Company and the Lake Erie and Detroit River Railway Company.—Mr. McGregor.

Mr. Richardson moved the second reading of his bill respecting the attachment of salaries of public officers and employees of the Government. He explained that the object was to place Government employees on the same footing as other citizens by rendering their salaries subject to attachment.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier asked that the debate be adjourned until the Minister of Justice be consulted. He sympathized with the object of the bill. Civil servants should pay their debts the same as others, but the bill, if passed, should be subject to certain restrictions as to the percentage of a man's salary which could be attached each month. The debate was adjourned.

Mr. Sproule moved the second reading of his bill to amend the Criminal Code, 1892, with respect to combinations in restraint of trade, so as to make the bill more stringent. The Act as it now stands makes it an offence to combine to restrain trade "unduly and unreasonably," the words quoted having been inserted by the Senate. Mr. Sproule contends that the effect of these words is to render the Act practically useless. He read a considerable amount of evidence in support of this contention, more especially in connection with the leather business. He wanted the words "unduly and unreasonably" struck out.

Mr. Holmes said that the petition tanners in the country outside the combiners in the country outside the combiners.

Mr. Craig said that the so-called leather combine merely gave a rebate of five per cent. to customers who dealt with them steadily for six months. The object was not to raise prices, but only to retain their trade, which was threatened by a gigantic combine of sole leather manufacturers in the United States.

The bill received a second reading.

Mr. Bertram moved the second reading of his bill to amend the Trade Mark and Design Act. He explained it was a bill to allow workmen's unions to adopt a label and register it. So far as he could learn, no manufacturers had any objection to the bill. This bill was rejected by the Senate last year, but he hoped that with a year's experience they would have changed their minds.

The bill was read a second time.

YUKON TERRITORY ACT.

Mr. McInnes introduced a bill to amend the Yukon Territory Act. He explained that the object was to provide a speedy appeal when parties were dissatisfied with the decision of the mining recorder or Gold Commissioner.

#### NEW CINDERELLA PARTIES.

London society has been amusing itself with Cinderella parties. The Cinderella party is not the usually accepted variety by that name where the guests are bound to say "Good-night" just at the stroke of midnight. That sort of entertainment has proved itself almost impossible except among the youngest set, for where guests do not arrive until the unholy hour of eleven or thereabout it is hard to have a cast iron rule concerning their departure.

This Cinderella party owes its name to the chief source of amusement—namely, the wooden shoe which is furnished by the Oriental store, and which in its primitive condition is used by the Eastern woman in going to her bath. The shoes is sometimes highly ornamented with painting, gilding, etc., and the trick is to find a foot that will exactly fit its rather unusual proportions.

The masculine sex is not debarred from this form of entertainment, as the Committee of Arbitration and Final Court of Appeal are formed of the male members of the entertainment, and on them devolves the tremendous task of deciding when fair ones disagree. The wooden shoe, so familiar to frequenters of Oriental bric-a-brac shops, is narrow and quite long, and the foot on which it is tried must not protrude an infinitesimal portion of an inch over the edge. Opportunities for dainty foot gear, for limitless discussions and coquettish attitudes are innumerable, and are usually made the most of. On the hostess devolves the pleasure of providing a suitable gift for the fortunate possessor of the prize foot and the fortunate Cinderella gives the shoe as a souvenir to some member of the committee.

There has always been a charm about the story of Cinderella which no amount of matured intellect is able to destroy. The prince and the slipper have formed the basis of many a girlish dream, and society, always amiable to pretty fables has taken this fact into consideration, apparently, in providing the latest form of entertainment for its votaries.

## THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL.

### THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

#### CANADA.

Sir William Van Horne has gone to the Pacific Coast.

Work has commenced on the new Canadian Pacific station at Woodstock.

Under the new C.P.R. time card the trip from Winnipeg to the Pacific coast will be covered in 54 hours.

Efforts are being made in Chatham to establish a pork-packing establishment on a co-operative basis.

A special train bearing 132 people and 21 cars of effects from North Dakota, passed through Moose Jaw the other day, bound for Leduc, Alberta.

John Davenport, a Vancouver foundry workman, had a close call on Monday, when he fell into a vat of boiling asphalt and then jumped into Burrard Inlet to cool. He will recover.

The much-talked-of deal by which a New York syndicate is to obtain control of the Hamilton Street Railway, and is to build the projected electric railways to Caledonia and Guelph, is said to be nearing consummation.

It is stated that the terms of the amalgamation of the Hamilton Street Railway Company and the Ontario Rolling Mills Company have been agreed upon, and that a new company with a capital of \$2,000,000, will take over the smelting works.

Reports from the Niagara fruit district are bright. There was no premature development of buds this year, and the late spring is favorable to a full crop. Only Crawford peaches affected by the frost, and still will yield a large crop.

The American collector of customs at Skagway, being at variance with the Canadian authorities at the boundary line in regard to how far his jurisdiction extends, refuses absolutely to allow any liquor to leave Skagway bonded warehouse, in consequence of which a great quantity is now stored there, and there is a regular liquor famine at Yukon points. Smugglers are reaping a rich harvest.

Scandals in the Montreal water-works are being probed. There have been immense purchases of needless material, which have been wasted. Pipes and other material had consequently accumulated at various points, and in great quantity, and had lain there for years. Appliances purchased as far back as 20 years ago, and never used, had been found lying to-day just where they were thrown at the time.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

Lord Aberdeen has suggested that colonial life Peers be appointed.

Sir Rose Lambert Price, Bart., an English soldier and author, is dead.

It is now stated that Hooley, the bankrupt promoter, will be prosecuted.

The Bishop of London has started an agitation against Sunday newspapers.

It is reported that John Morley intends moving in the British House of Commons the rejection of the grant of \$150,000, which it is proposed to vote to General Lord Kitchener.

A Liverpool shipping firm has arranged to sell ten small steamships to German firms, who are endeavoring to drive out the American line by leasing all available ships for the American trade.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain has written to the Newfoundland Customs Department requesting information upon matters concerning smuggling from St. Pierre to Newfoundland and Canada. The Colonial Secretary's enquiry seems to indicate that the report of the Royal Commission upon the French shore question is not likely to be presented to Parliament for some weeks yet.

#### UNITED STATES.

The bubonic plague is causing many deaths in Formosa.

By the burning of the Orphans' Home at Berne, Ind., three of the inmates lost their lives.

Wm. Braden, charged with murder, was shot to death in his cell by a mob at Clinton, Ark., on Wednesday.

Twenty-six per cent., of the acreage of winter wheat sown in Kansas is a failure, because of the severe winter.

The United States cruiser Chicago started from New York on her long voyage to South Africa on Wednesday morning.

Buffalo grain men believe there is little danger of any of Buffalo's grain trade being diverted to the St. Lawrence route, as reported.

Thomas B. Reed, it is said, may give up the Speakership, and his seat in Congress entirely, and settle down as a resident of New York city.

Fourteen thousand regulars are to be sent to reinforce General Otis at Manila, as soon as the necessary transportation can be arranged.

Smallpox has increased in Cleveland to such an extent that the health department officials confess themselves unable to cope with it under the present conditions.

Dr. Connell will, it is reported probably decline the offer of the pastorate of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church, New York, with a salary of \$10,000 and a manse.

Washington's fire chief has inaugurated a new system, giving bicycles to one or more firemen of each company, to respond to local alarms, pre-

ceding their companies with fire extinguishers.

Emperor William has sent to President McKinley a copy of an artistically executed memorial in connection with the consecration of the Church of Our Saviour at Jerusalem, which took place in October last. His letter is to "My great and good friend."

#### GENERAL.

Seven men were killed at Rosenthal Germany, by a boiler explosion.

A recent fire at Kakazuaka, China, destroyed more than 300 houses.

Four hundred student rioters have been arrested at St. Petersburg.

There is said to be a panic among the native banks at Shanghai, China.

Wholesale emigration is reported from eastern Galicia, due to famine and typhus.

The German navy will adopt the English Thornycroft system of water-tube boilers.

The German delegates to the disarmament conference are not acceptable to the Czar.

A general revolt against French misgovernment is reported on the east coast of Madagascar.

An earthquake has destroyed two villages in Argentina, killing a number of inhabitants.

The Roumanian and Servian Governments will erect a bridge over the Danube, near the Iron Gate.

A committee of wealthy Filipinos is moving to bring about peace between the Americans and their countrymen.

One of the Sultan's wives has eloped to Italy with an Englishman, and all the eunuchs are being flogged for it.

A St. Thomas, D.W.I., despatch says that 500 houses have been destroyed by fire at La Pointe, Island of Guadeloupe.

Japan has decided to grant subsidies to the two steamship companies now operating between the Orient and America.

Marconi, inventor of wireless telegraphy, says that vessels have been able to communicate with it at a distance of 80 miles.

During the election riots at Bilbao, Spain, 26 persons were wounded, and popular feeling runs high in Valencia and the surrounding districts.

It is now said that the court of Cassation will likely decide against revision in the Dreyfus case, and that the Government will then pardon the prisoner.

Late reports say that 14 white and 400 coloured men were drowned and 80 luggers and six schooners wrecked by the recent hurricane of North Queensland.

A technical committee, appointed by the Austrian War Office, has been making experiment with liquid air as an explosive. It is stated that the effect was extraordinary. The experiments were conducted in a quarry.

King George of Greece has set at rest all rumors concerning the matrimonial intentions of Prince George, high commissioner of the powers in Crete. He declares that his son, being orthodox, cannot marry his cousin, Princess Victoria of Wales.

#### EXHAUSTED ITALY.

Keeping Up a Large Army and Navy Has Ruined the Country.

Italy is a conspicuous example of the wasteful and exhausting policy of national armaments, against which the war has made a timely protest. It has forced its way into the circle of great European powers by making alliances with powerful states, and by maintaining a large standing army and a well-equipped navy. Its prestige has been won at high cost.

A generation has passed since Rome was occupied by Italian troops in the king's service, and Venetia was abandoned by Austria. During thirty years there has been no war in Europe in which Italian soldiers have been actively engaged, yet immense yearly sums have been expended on the army and navy. A few unimportant colonies have been established in Africa, and recently the government has entered the lists for future operations in China side by side with other European powers. There has been no adequate return for the exhausting burdens of militarism.

Every Italian town swarms with beggars. A large proportion of the population is without employment, and debased by extreme poverty. There are few prosperous industries.

The times are always bad. Whenever the piece of bread is raised by a short supply of the world's stock, of wheat, there is rioting in great cities like Milan. The crushing weight of taxation is felt everywhere. It is taking the breath of life from an impoverished and sullen nation.

Militarism has been a source of weakness and not of strength. The steamship of Cavour united the distracted Italian states by boldly bidding for a conspicuous place in European affairs. The tradition has been followed by his successors, but it has involved a barren policy of costly armaments out of all proportion to the resources of the nation. A revival of sterling common sense and a less ambitious national policy are needed to restore prosperity to a well-nigh despairing people.

#### VERY NATURAL.

A little boy and girl were standing at the bedside of a sick mother, who was administering words of caution to the pair. They were going out to tea, and the mother said, as she kissed her son: "Now, dear, mind and not be too bisterous. His little sister pensively remarked, as she said good-by: "Mustn't I be gisterous, mamma?"