

vents the contents falling out in front, while the potatoes, or other roots, thoroughly separated from all soil, are discharged in a row at the rear, or may be gathered in a special receptacle. A side shield prevents loose soil being thrown over lifted potatoes or standing rows."

Plant Native Trees.

The season of the year when trees are planted has again returned. Nearly every one who possesses a plot of ground should set out a few trees. What shall these be? We strongly urge the planting of our native trees. They are beautiful, healthful, enduring and valuable. These trees can be secured with little trouble in our forests, and, if taken up with care, and good fibrous roots, will grow as well as the trees secured at the nursery, with this advantage, that they will probably be more hardy. Care should be taken to select strong, vigorous trees, not stunted old trees, which can be commonly told by the unthrifty condition of the bark. These one should not be dug until the leaves have fallen, though it is a good plan to make a trip to the forests before the leaves fall, as the trees can then be more easily recognized. Trees grow more readily when planted in the autumn than when planted in the spring. Plant currants, gooseberries, and the red raspberries in the autumn, as they start very early in the spring. Evergreen trees should be transplanted in the spring at the time when they form new rootlets rapidly.

HOW TO PLANT.

After the tree is dug, the roots and rootlets should never become dry. Dig with as many roots as possible and plant as soon as possible after digging. Make a thin mud of rich earth, into which dip the roots before planting, and trees will generally grow. Do not put manure in the hole, but throw the surface earth back into the hole first. Fill the hole so that the earth comes into close contact with the roots. Leave no air spaces about the roots. Do not plant a tree much deeper than it stood in the nursery. For fruit trees, throw a lot of bones into the hole.

WHERE TO PLANT.

Along all the highways, a row on each side. Everywhere about house and barn, but not so close to the buildings as to produce a hurtful dampness. Plant in every field on the farm to produce needed shade for the stock. Plant all the "waste places" on the farm and make them to "blossom." Plant "wind-breaks" about the house and where they are needed on the farm.

Neglected Poultry.

There is no rural industry so much neglected in this country as the raising of poultry. Fowls are left to roost in trees, in cattle sheds, barns and every place where they can get a foothold. No separate place is thought necessary as they are looked upon as freebooters, or a sort

of necessary evil only fit for women and children to attend to. They therefore defile the feed, and destroy more than they are worth, and it is not uncommon to see machinery, wagons, buggies, etc., so foul that they have to be cleaned whenever they are used. The kinds generally kept are the "dung hill," made up of all grades, shades and sizes, the average weight being from three to four pounds, and having no distinctive qualities as good table fowls or prolific layers. From continual in-breeding on the same stock, and from starvation and exposure, they become no better than wild fowls and not worth raising. In the winter they are often found in a most pitiable plight, with feet frozen to stumps, and combs and wattles dropping off with frost. The consequence is that in winter, when eggs sell readily for twenty-five cents a dozen, the hens don't lay. I saw a farmer lately sell a wagon load of this stock for thirty-five cents a pair, and it was all that they were worth. Yet this man honestly believed in the old barnyard stock, and would keep no other because they were "so hardy and would live where a thorough-bred would starve." Where the hens lay is half the time never known, and the eggs are brought in, in every stage of incubation, and sent to the store as sound, from under the barn, in the horse-manger, behind the hog-pen, in the fanning mill and every conceivable place. The majority of chickens hatched, therefore, come by chance; hens steal away and bring forth broods which, as a rule, have to scratch their own living, and but a small proportion live. I have known large farmers who did not raise a single bird during the year and then complained of bad luck. A portion of the chickens had died through want of proper coops, and another large part had fallen a prey to rats, which, in the summer months, when there is no grain in the barn, become fearfully destructive to young poultry. A rat will then attack and kill goslings in broad daylight, and carry off a chicken with the ease with which a fox will carry off a hen.

There is no use trying to raise poultry without proper houses for laying and hatching, sufficient food, care and attendance, in fact systematic rearing and feeding. With this, poultry is one of the best paying investments on the farm.—*Kid's Journal*.

Exports of live stock and dairy produce continue in the aggregate ahead of previous seasons, especially is this so in the case of cheese, the exports of which so far are close on five million dollars, a substantial increase over last year. Butter shipments are unimportant. The cattle trade has been disastrous as a whole to those engaged in shipping, but prices are now looking up and our shippers may yet recover some of their losses. The contradiction of the pleuro pneumonia rumors are a relief to all concerned. Such a disaster as that cabled would be quite as damaging to our exports as the McKinley tariff.

Agricultural Notes.

There is as much in planning as in doing farm work.

Nothing on a farm pays better than a good garden.

Hungarian grass or millet is the best crop to sow in the poultry yard.

The farmer who has advanced to the point of knowing what he is feeding to each animal will not long be satisfied with wasting good feed on inferior stock.

Always give an abundance of room for the storage of surplus honey. When bees fill all available space with honey they will make preparations to swarm.

From recent observations it is stated that there is reason for believing that fresh dirt thrown upon potato leaves when wet starts the mildew on the leaf, which later in the season results in blight.

Earth-worms, in dry weather, sometimes work their way through the soil to the well and fall in, thus contaminating the water to a certain extent. If possible the curbing of all wells should be cemented.

Wherever weeds grow luxuriantly the ground is usually fertile, and such ground should be made to produce some kind of crop. At this season millet or Hungarian grass should be sown on such land.

Education does more for a poor farmer than fertilizers. It grows better crops and breeds better stock. What many a poor farm, with its scrawny cattle and foul acres, wants is a heavy application of brains.

If you must, or think you must, feed corn to the horses during the winter, do not up on the practice in summer. Feeding a horse corn in summer is a good deal like building a fire in the parlor stove on the first of July.

There is never too much good butter on the market, but there is always a large supply of inferior butter. The prices are not regulated by the quantity so much as by the quality. Good butter sells at high prices at all seasons of the year.

BREACH OF PROMISE.—For nearly six hours had the Court been convulsed with the evidence given in a sensational action for breach of promise. The many ridiculous love-letters had been read, commented upon and heartily laughed at; counsel had spoken, the judge had summed up, and the jury had retired to consider their verdict. Well, gentlemen, said the foreman, how much shall we give this young man? "Look here," said one of the jurymen, "if I understand right, the plaintiff doesn't ask damages for blighted affections, or anything of that sort, but only wants to get back what he spent on presents, holiday trips, etc." "That is so," agreed the foreman. "Well, then, I vote we don't give him a penny," said the other, hastily. "If all the fun he had with that girl didn't cover the amount he expended it must have been his own fault. Gentlemen, I courted that girl once myself." Verdict for defendant.

We will send the CULTIVATOR three months on trial for 25 cents. Send in your quarters. Send NCW.