

Organize and Educate.

A PULL ALTOGETHER.

Let us make the matter of selecting our office holders a business affair. Investigate carefully the character and qualifications of the different nominees in the various parties for the different offices. This will let us vote for the interest of home and its tolling occupants in field and workshop. If we farmers and laboring people would only stand together and vote together, trusts and all unholy combinations could be humbled.

Many members of the grange are nominated for the legislature in Pa., and personally I expect to vote for just as many of my brother grangers as I can. Other things being equal, I believe in standing by each other, and usually without regard to party. The candidates in my county that are members of our order (and there are many of them and in all parties) are worthy of the confidence of voters. For the encouragement of patrons in other counties I will say that Crawford will be represented in the senate by a worthy and active member of our order. All three of our present members of the house are practical farmers. Patrons and heavy taxpayers. As we in the grange are of all political faiths and the order does not favor any single party at the expense of another, so these men represent different political views. The grange has need to enter the next legislature to secure some needed legislation, and it is important that we have men there who will be good helpers and workers. Commence right now to help secure this legislation in the interests of agriculture and labor by striving to elect the right kind of men.

Having elected farmers and Patrons as such, the next step is for them to organize a farmers' caucus or union, invite the petitioners for legislation of any kind affecting the interests of farm or rural affairs to present their claims before this union, then after the petitioners have stated their case and withdrawn, unite and vote solidly as farmers for what is best for the farm or rural home. That plan is being adopted in several states and is the only way to secure work that counts.—[Master W. F. Hill, Pa. State Grange.]

The Most Successful Farmer in this section is James Galbraith. The secrets of his success are, the unity of the family and thoroughness in all branches of work. Four stalwart sons and one daughter, with the farmer and his wife, do the most of the work themselves, and so save the expense of hired help. Mr. Galbraith says, "If my boys had not stuck to me, I never could have paid for the farm, but now we are in comfortable circumstances and making money." The farm is known as one of the cleanest in the locality, having been broken from the prairie by the owner, who has always carefully guarded it against the introduction of foul seed. The soil is kept in the best possible condition and seeding goes as soon in spring as climatic conditions allow. The farm is known in Manitoba, rain came in torrents and heavy winds beat into hundreds of stacks, ruining thousands of bushels of grain; but Galbraith's stacks, built by himself and eldest son, turned out at threshing in Oct. as dry as when built, the wheat classed as No. 1 hard and of course commanded the highest price. His horses and cattle are of the best and kept in first-class condition. The poultry is the special charge and pride of the wife, and besides supplying the house with abundance of fresh eggs and fowls, adds materially to the financial income. Dairying, being considered woman's work has been but light, as the masculine element predominates in the family, but the usual thoroughness prevails here as elsewhere.—[A. Berken, Manitoba Reader.]

Nearly 1200 free rural mail delivery routes were in operation June 1 last and petitions were on file for over 2000 more. Who says farmers do not want Uncle Sam to deliver mail to the farmers' home.

Horticultural Matters.

CUCUMBER PESTS.

Beetle and blight are two of the worst enemies of the crop. The beetle has a yellow collar and black stripes on the wing covers and feeds on melons, squashes and pumpkins also. Plow out and destroy all cucumber and squash vines as soon as the crop is off to destroy any larvae that may then be in the roots. Planting an excess of seed, to distribute the injury, is a common practice, as is also the system of strutting the seed in pots, boxes, or sods, and transferring the plants to the field after they are well established. A free use of tobacco dust, lime or land plaster about the bases of the young plants is often recommended.

In large fields "driving" is sometimes practiced. Before the middle of the day some sow air-slaked lime with the wind, and this seems sufficient to drive most of the insects to the leeward. The planting of a few large hills of squashes among cucumbers, as traps, is sometimes recommended since the insects seem specially partial to the squash. Spray with bordeaux mixture and paris green, being careful to reach the underside of the leaves. Mildew or blight may be prevented by spraying once every 1 day with bordeaux mixture. Sprayed plants should remain healthy and produce fruit four weeks after unsprayed plants in the same field lose foliage and cease to produce fruit. Repeat the spraying every 10 days until frost comes.

Be Your Own Chemist.—A Mo subscriber writes F & H describing his soil and asks what kind of berries to plant. I am no chemist and unable to analyze soil if sent to me. The grower is more able to analyze his soil than the chemist. My advice is to plant say five or more varieties of plants such as is wanted and test them. In a few years one can tell the varieties best adapted to his soil. It is advisable to test the ground before planting largely. A mistake in fruit planting is a mistake for years, while in grain only one year. The ripening season can be lengthened 8 to 15 days for strawberries and 30 days in blackberries by planting early ripening varieties on a sandy southern slope. Late varieties on a northern slope, of black, heavy soil will prolong the season.—[Jacob Faith, Vernon Co. Mo.]

The Apple Tree Borer cannot be destroyed by an insecticide when once well within the trunk of the tree. Neither is there any way to capture the beetle or poison it before it lays its eggs. The best way to keep borers out of trees is to protect with wire mosquito netting for 15 to 24 in from the ground. Insert the netting 1 or 2 in in the soil around the trunk; hold the netting at least 1/4 in from the trunk all the way round and place cotton or newspaper between trunk and top of wire. This will keep the beetle from crawling under or over the netting or laying eggs through it. If in the tree, cut them out with a sharp knife.—[Prof J. R. Smith, N. J. Exper. Sta.]

Celery Rust may be prevented or greatly checked by the use of ammoniacal copper carbonate. Place 1 oz copper carbonate in just enough ammonia water to dissolve it and dilute to 9 gals with water. Bordeaux mixture is equally as effective.

The Raspberry Meeting of the Grand River valley (Mich) hort. soc. held July 6 at the home of C. A. Garfield, decided that any soil that would raise good corn is suitable for raspberries. In pinching or cutting young plants, if they are cut, plants are liable to be too long, thereby retarding growth after cutting. If pinched, attention is required while plants are tender to obtain better results. After preparing the soil by thorough cultivation, set the plants close deep. The first year only three canes should be allowed to grow, the second year four, and the third year five, a new bed being set out every 4 yrs to insure a constant supply. Cultivate to time of picking; this makes a few dirty berries but the better quality more than compensates for the loss. One great gain is in not letting weeds set too great headway. As to most profitable varieties, Culbert is

good, but throws out too many suckers; Loudan and Marlboro are very productive and of fine flavor. Of blacks, Gregg is most profitable. Mr. Garfield says wild berries of the north are covered with rust worse than any tame berries he had ever seen and wanted to know who had been able to cope successfully with this disease. Notwithstanding the dull business situation, prevailing prices were good.—[M. P. Sayers.]

Peas and Fertilizers.—Last spring I sowed peas in the orchard and stable manure was spread under the trees. Wherever a row of peas crossed the area fertilized, the crop was fully three times greater. There were more pods and they were larger and better filled.—[C. E. Flint, Whatcomb Co. Wash.]

Hurrah for McKinley. for this strawberry, which was introduced by Ellwanger & Barry, is one of the best sorts, being remarkable for size, shape, color and quality. Berries are large, roundish, crimson, firm and of fine quality. Plants are vigorous, healthy and great yielders. Season medium to late. This variety is all right for the home garden or for market culture.

Bean Growers should harvest their crop at least expense. Where there is a good-sized acreage, this can be done by means of a bean picker, sorter and cleaner. Machines of this kind are on the market guaranteed to pick, clean and separate from 150 to 300 bu beans per day according to quality. These machines take out stones, sticks, dirt, split and broken beans, as well as 50 to 90 per cent of the beans injured by storm or weather. These machines pick and clean from 50,000 to 75,000 bu of beans without repairs, while some machines have cleaned over 100,000 bu. A machine is calculated to save from \$20 to 30 on each carload of beans picked, as in most cases they have passed for hand-picked beans.

It is a Good Practice for every grower of small fruits to do some experimenting with varieties, in order to be alert in the search for that one which will yield better returns than any previously grown. Be convinced that a variety has been thoroughly tested and faithfully reported before buying plants.—[Prof G. C. Butz.]

Sackel Peas, or any other summer sort, should not be left on the trees too long. Pick a little green and they will ripen nicely.—[D. D. Denise, N. J.]

Protecting Vines from Insects.—Where vines are troubled by insects, it is a good plan to make a mortar of coal oil and dust and surround each hill with a ring of it. The vine with this sort of a barrier will not be molested.—[J. L. Irwin, Nemaha Co. Kan.]

The great advantage of growing strawberries in hills, carefully removing all runners as they form, is in the production of larger berries, with better color and quality, which will secure a finer trade. But of course this is only possible where a comparatively few plants are raised.

Do not allow a weed to mature seed; if you do, there will be trouble for the strawberry plants and disappointment for yourself. Set plants any time in spring, summer or fall, but May or Sept are perhaps the best months.—[A. N. Springer, Tipton Co. Ind.]

Of Interest to Grain Growers and hay makers is the fact that Walter A. Wood Co. of Hoosick Falls, N. Y., manufacturers of harvesters, binders, reapers, mowers, rakes, tedders, etc., will push their business as never before. Having repurchased patents and business rights sold to the Wood Harvester Co. of Minn., including the territory west of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, our readers will find an inspection of this old and reliable firm's machinery to their advantage. Made of the very best material, by skilled workmen and of the most approved and simple construction, the Wood Co. machines are in general use in all states and provinces. Extra parts of every kind and type of machine which it has manufactured during the past 30 yrs can be secured. The beautifully illustrated catalog of this enterprising firm will be sent free to F & H readers who write to them for it.

Experience with Hired Help.

[From Front Page.]

an extra good man I pay him a little more than we agreed on, and by doing this I get an extra amount of work out of him. A bad master makes bad help and a good master will oftentimes make a good servant out of an ordinary man; when he sees that you have an interest in his welfare he will double his exertions for you.—[E. H. Winslow, Georgia.]

We treat him as one of the family, show him that we appreciate his good qualities by doing slight favors for him. When he does extra work I give him an evening off or show my appreciation in some way. I have had several young men work for me three years; then I buy them a team and tools and they go to farming for themselves and some of them now have farms of their own. I never had a man leave my employ to work anywhere else for wages. [C. L. Hadley, Illinois.]

When I am tired I say to my hired man, "Let's sit down and rest," and if hungry we go in and have a luncheon and my wife makes us a glass of lemonade or some other good drink. We always quit work so as to get the chores all done by 6 o'clock, and my hired man is always asked to take a seat with my family in the sitting room at prayers and in the evening also.—[C. A. Patten, Vermont.]

Have breakfast ready in season and well prepared. See that your man has a watch and tell him to be at the house and team out, ready for dinner at 12 or better still 11:30. Now don't be afraid he will eat too much and see that the dining room is cool and clean. Let him rest at the table a little after dinner. In the evening talk of the farm work, getting his ideas and experience, keeping him interested in his work. Don't be afraid to ask him in the parlor if you have company and music. After being there all summer don't dock him because he went to the fair one day.—[Mrs A. J. Kennedy.]

ATTRACTIVE.

A hired man does not like to be fed on salt pork and plain potatoes all summer. A change like beef, chickens or shortcake, with strawberries or raspberries doesn't go badly. I do not try to do all there is in one day, but aim to stop work when it comes time, and do not rise before 4 in the morning. I always have some of the best news and story papers at hand where they can be enjoyed by the men, and a pretty girl in the house helps a little, too. Sometimes a young man has a horse that I pasture for him, and from Saturday evening till Monday morning he has to himself, though the men like the surroundings well enough so that I do not have to do the chores alone very often. I always pay the ruling wages, and can agree with the men on the price to pay. I have never had any trouble with getting help.—[E. M. S., Michigan.]

WANTED. A MAN.

"Have you had good success in getting and keeping men on the farm?" In getting? No, sir! And of course, did not wish to keep, and there's no "secret" about that. To secure competent help is the most troublesome and vexatious thing I have met with. I resigned my church and moved to the farm two years ago this coming fall. I selected and brought with me a young man whom I engaged by the year at \$14 and board, washing and mending. I was glad to get rid of him before his time was out. He said he worked only for the money, which I fully believed, as he took little interest in my business, was very slow, slack and careless, and often out late nights, unfitted for work next day. I hired a man for the winter, older, but with about the same result. Then I thought I would try a foreigner, with no associations here, and hired with the understanding he was to go ahead taking care off my hands generally. He is about like the rest.

So, at 65 years of age, with a man paid monthly \$30, board and washing, and treated as one of the family, I am left to rise first, build my fire, do all feeding of cows, young stock and hogs, besides other chores, while he simply curries and takes care of three horses. He usually milks three or four cows while I am milking five, I drive

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