

Practical Talks and Plain Precepts for Farmers.

Edited for the Farmer readers of the MONITOR by an Anna... Valley Agriculturist

POTATO CULTURE.

We are giving in this issue the results of the careful experiments performed at Cornell Agricultural Station, to show how much our farmers can do by neglecting to keep the cultivator going, during the growing season, among their potato and root crops. More than this, the bulletin throws out some valuable hints as to the care given in selection and preparation of such, as well as of the land, and is indeed worth a careful reading by our 100,000-acre farmers.

Many experiments have been conducted by different experiment stations to determine the fertilizers best adapted to potatoes, various varieties have been tested, but comparatively little work has been done to determine the possibility of making available the potential plant food already in the soil and determine the effects of extra good tillage upon crop production. That the average yield of potatoes in New York is below what it should be, as shown by the last United States Census report, in which the yield is given as 68 bushels per acre, is a fact that is most favorable year for potatoes, the average yield for the state was about 122 bushels per acre. We have determined the effects of tillage upon crop production the following experiment was planned:

The land selected for the work was a gravelly soil which had been subjected to a regular four-year rotation consisting of wheat, clover corn and oats. In 1894 the land was planted to corn. This corn was fertilized with barn manure applied during the fall and winter of 1893-4 at the rate of about 10 tons per acre. The spring of 1895 there were measured out 16 one-twentieth acre plots and a portion of these plots was selected as experimental plots upon which to conduct an experiment in potato culture as follows: All plots were plowed late in the fall of 1894 after the corn had been removed. In the spring all plots were gangplowed about May 1st, and the ground thoroughly harrowed, mowed and furrowed with a double moldboard plow and planted to potatoes May 3rd. It should be remembered that the ground was a loose, open soil, and that before planting it was most thoroughly fitted. No amount of after tillage can ever make reparation for the failure to fit the ground properly before planting.

been in timothy and clover the previous year. The soil was a clay loam and during the cultivation of 1895-6 was given a light top-dressing of barn manure. In the spring the coarse material was raked off with a horse rake, and the land was fitted and planted to the Rural New Yorker No. 2 potatoes. This acre received six cultivations and gave a yield of 314 bushels.

From these results we are led to conclude that in potato raising the matter of tillage is too often neglected. The results obtained two years in succession with any application of fertilizer show that the average yield of New York state is far below what it should be. The soil on which these experiments were conducted was a gravelly soil, and the results show that the amount of potential plant-food contained in an acre to the depth of eight inches:

Phosphoric acid, 4,219 lbs. Nitrogen, 3,053 lbs. Potash, 4,627 lbs. An analysis of the soil from the plots from which the potatoes were grown shows the following amounts of potential plant-food per acre to the depth of one foot:

to this work is one having many small teeth so that it will leave the soil comparatively level. The practice of cultivating potatoes once or twice and then finishing with a heavy plow, riding the soil or hilling the potatoes, is admirably adapted to hasten evaporation of the moisture and to produce a meagre crop of large percentage of which is small and unmarketable.

With an abundance of plant food and moisture for complete growth, another requisite is a healthy foliage, and to secure this requires careful attention. The earliest pest in the season of 1896 was the little flea beetle which made their appearance June 6. They work up the leaf and so puncture it, and its vitality is injured and it is unable longer to properly perform its functions. A thorough spraying with Bordeaux mixture put an end to their depredations. The potato beetle made their appearance in large numbers about June 23. The second spraying with Bordeaux mixture and Paris green, four to six ounces of the Paris green to 40 gallons of the Bordeaux mixture. This was put on most thoroughly by means of a force pump. Bordeaux mixture served to prevent the potato beetle from multiplying and destroyed the beetles. A third spraying was given July 16, the materials used being the same as in the previous one. The late blight was almost entirely prevented and the Paris green served the purpose of keeping the beetles in check. On one plot, sprayed with the Bordeaux mixture but, the vines did not grow so well as those on plots that had been thoroughly by means of a force pump. The period of growth would have been lessened, the foliage would have been unhealthy, due to the attacks of the flea beetle, and the potato beetle would have so destroyed the foliage that the manufacture of starch would have been partially developed and inferior in quality, and instead of having only ten bushels of small ones, there would have been a hundred bushels of large ones, the quality of small ones would probably have been greatly increased, but the potato, except early varieties, in this latitude, needs the full season for its perfect development. It must be kept growing from start to finish and he who plants late to avoid the beetle is diminishing the yield and is not over what it would be were he to plant early, and then by spraying and by frequent tillage keep the plants healthy, growing condition until the potatoes are fully matured.

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New Zealand as a Looker. New Zealand leads the world in the matter of what would call socialistic reforms, and what others would call "phantom" by means of the New York News gives the following account of some New Zealand legislation:

The strike question has been settled in New Zealand. Rather far away, it is not phenomenal, by means of the New York News gives the following account of some New Zealand legislation:

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The Household. The Girl on the Farm. Many girls find farm life dull and do not take the interest they should in the work. Now, they should have an interest on the farm. Let them have a share of the income from the dairy produce for their own use and disposal.

NOTICE. Never allow a third person to interfere with your privacy. Beware of the cunning young lady who would say to you: "If I were in your place I would not allow him to do this or do that."

TO LET. Steps the Cough and Works of the Cold. Laxative Bromo-Quinine Tablets cure a cold in one day. No other remedy.

The following incident shows how a Western States reporter contrived to extract hundreds of such interesting subjects as a railway accident: "Speaking about the sociability of railway travelers," said the country crutches and a watch pocket over his eye. I never got so well acquainted with the passengers on a train as I did the other day on a Milwaukee & St. Paul railway. We were going at the rate of about thirty miles an hour when another train from the other direction telegraphed us. We were all thrown into each other's society and brought into immediate social contact, so to speak.

Boiling a Potato. We often hear the remark that some would-be cook "cannot boil potatoes." The truth is, few cooks prepare this dish properly, and the result is a soggy, unwholesome, and unpalatable potato. The girl who understands science knows that the potato does not boil, but is steamed by the heat conveyed by this medium cooks the starch and softens the cellulose of the potato. Physics has taught her that, under ordinary pressure, water never becomes any warmer than the boiling point (212 deg. Fahrenheit, 500 deg. Centigrade) is reached; therefore, she allows the water to remain at boiling temperature until the heat has penetrated and cooked the vegetable. She then removes the water and cooks the potato in its own steam.

THE OLD LADY AND THE INCUBATOR. An old lady visiting an exhibition went to see some incubators which were of show and, comparing the expense of keeping fowls, said that if they were cheaper she would buy an incubator. After she had asked various questions the gentleman in attendance proceeded to show her the drawers in which were deposited the eggs in different stages. On those the old lady looked in astonishment. "What?" she exclaimed indignantly. "Do you use eggs?" "Certainly," was the attendant's astonished answer. "Well," said the old lady, "I consider a perfect swindle to pick the pockets of honest, hardworking folks by selling them those fancy, fancy incubators, and hatch chickens with eggs! I can do it myself!" -Lodon Globe.

THE GIRL ON THE FARM. Many girls find farm life dull and do not take the interest they should in the work. Now, they should have an interest on the farm. Let them have a share of the income from the dairy produce for their own use and disposal. This will give them something to work for and will stimulate the country fish endeavors. Many farmers take pride in having the very best stock and crops and try to beautify their farms. Now in the house the girls could take just as much pride in reaching the height of excellence, and the dairy especially is where they will find scope for their energies. How delighted they will be to see their father and mother and the cream being changed by the process of churning, into butter, and then worked into rolls or packed ready for the market or home consumption. This is a part of farm life that is so interesting and so profitable to be able to do, and it is certainly a part of her education. Thus we see that while an intellectual education is good for the farmer's daughter, the domestic education is just as necessary.

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