

Agricultural

SPREAD MANURE AS SOON AS MADE.

It has been my usual practice to scatter manure as I haul it the year through, and I think I get better results by so doing in nearly every instance, writes G. W. Dewey. Some of my neighbours argue that it will wash away when spread in winter. I admit that some of the virtue washes out, but most of it is deposited over the surface of the ground before it has gone far, and is in just the proper condition to stimulate early growth when the ground thaws. The valuable elements of the manure should be in a liquid form and distributed over the surface of the ground. When the ground first thaws it is porous and saturated and will easily absorb the liquids of the manure as the water settles into the soil.

If the manure is put on in piles the ground will be settled before the frost is out of the manure sufficiently to spread. Then the manure lies up loose and the drying winds make it of little value, while if the manure be spread during fall and winter, before the snows and spring rains are over it is firmed down to the ground, does not dry out quickly and the mechanical effect of a mulch alone on the soil at that time of year is very important. If a piece of clay soil is fall plowed, then manure spread on a part of it in the winter, the uncovered ground will settle, erode and work up lumpy if not disked at just the proper time while the mulched portion will remain mellow and moist and continue in a finer state of tilth the season through.

The writer who objects to spreading on frozen ground must either suffer the objections named or leave the manure in the yard until the ground is settled in the spring and suffer a greater depletion of values by the spring rains on it while it is yet in the wrong place. Spring hauling of manure is damaging to the soil trampled over, and the manure is valuable only when plowed in at this time of year. My aim is to get as much on the land as a surface mulch as possible, and get it there as directly as possible after it is made. When I plow I turn in as much roughage as possible either dry or green to supply humus, which is a quality lacking in clayey soils more than most any other. If we had the virgin humus in our soil today we would be troubled very little with either drouths or soggy fields.

COMMERCIAL CULTURES UNNECESSARY.

The discovery of the important part played by various bacteria, in producing the flavor and aroma of butter has led to the introduction of what are known as commercial butter cultures, and dairymen have been led to hope that by the use of such cultures and of the process by pasteurizing, the quality of their butter might be materially improved. Recent trials indicate that cleanliness, the careful selection of milk, and close attention to details, promise to effect more in improving the flavor of our butter than pasteurizing and the use of commercial cultures.

With pasteurized cream, the acid-forming cultures were found to give slightly but distinctly better results than were obtained from unpasteurized cream ripened spontaneously, while non-acid forming cultures gave results, if anything, slightly inferior to those obtained by spontaneous ripening. With unpasteurized cream, as might have been expected, the results were less marked. A homemade starter, however carefully prepared from skim milk, was found to give as good if not better, results than the more expensive commercial cultures and this was true both with pasteurized and with raw cream. No distinctly beneficial results were observed from pasteurizing, although the experiments were not specially planned to test this point.

These results are similar to those recently published by the Wisconsin experiment station and the two taken together do not seem to indicate that, under present conditions, marked advantages are to be anticipated from the use of the commercial cultures. Trials were also made of heating milk to a temperature of about 165 degrees F. before separating, but without any marked effect on the flavoring of the resulting butter.

BEE KEEPING.

The main-spring of profitable bee-keeping in the way of money crops is strong colonies. This is the principal object the apiarist keeps in view from the time he begins work in early spring until the honey harvest opens. With strong colonies he is sure of good returns if the honey season is a good one, and it must be of very short duration if he does not get fair returns. Colonies of bees that are thus brought up to a high state of perfection will in two weeks of time during which there is a good honey flow, store quite a large amount of honey.

Stimulative feeding is the means by which colonies are made excessively strong, and almost every colony that is in fair condition and healthy in early spring can readily and rapidly be

brought up by thus feeding. In the first place colonies must have a good reserve store of honey in the hives, and at no time should they run short. They should be fed regularly, and must be to get the best results. Feeding should begin as soon as warm weather begins, and every day each colony is fed a small amount of sirup made from the best quality of sugar, the amount depending upon what they consume, and convert in brood. If fed too heavily, the combs will be filled up, and thus shut out the queen's egg depositing space. They will consume on an average for this purpose about half of a pint of sirup daily.

Colonies that are thus fed will increase to more than double the numbers of those not fed. When feeding is thus begun it must be kept up or the colony is in danger of starving if feeding is stopped, from the fact that the large amount of bees and brood already in the combs will soon consume all the reserve stores in the hive, and starvation must follow. Frequently in spring time bees are able to gather some honey from blossoms sometime before the principal honey flow begins, so that feeding may not be kept up during any time they can gather honey from flowers, but as soon as the natural flow ceases the feeding must commence, and thus continued up to the honey harvest. In using the common frame hives, it is necessary to use two stories with two full sets of brood combs to attain the best results in strength of colonies, and at the beginning of the honey harvest remove the upper one and in its place add the surplus honey boxes.

SORT THE EGGS.

When the egg drawer is filled with eggs it requires but a glance to notice the great dissimilarity of sizes and shapes. While they are in the drawer they can be easily compared and the extremely small and large ones can be removed. Endeavor to have the eggs used for hatching as nearly uniform in size and shape as possible.

A TALE OF THE SEA.

How a Flock of Birds Rescued Sailors From Desperate Flight.

The stanch British steamer Kensington, arrived at Philadelphia the other day, with a cargo of sugar from Sourabaya, Java, and her captain, John Langwill, unfolded to a reporter a story of the trip which it is safe to say has not a duplicate in maritime annals. Tales of the sea have been written of ship and crews owing their salvation to various causes, but surely no one ever heard of a crew owing their lives to the intervention of birds.

The steamer was about five days out from Sourabaya, which was left on September 10. She was ploughing her way through the Indian Ocean. It was terribly hot. Capt. Langwill declares he never knew it to be better. The cargo of sugar was in baskets, of which there were 12,823, each basket being about five feet high. It was coarse, brown sugar, and as soon as it began to feel the effects of the sun's turnace rays it emitted an odour that resembled that which comes from a candy manufactory.

Just then the vessel's prow turned into a vast field of seaweed, a growth peculiar to that portion of the Indian ocean, and then began the crew's troubles. These weeds extended for miles. Far as the eye could reach nothing else was visible. They covered completely the whole ocean's surface. These weeds were the home of the peculiarly large and voracious species of the dragon fly. The steamer was no sooner in their midst than, attracted by the savoury fumes of the sugar, they swarmed upon the decks in millions. They covered everything.

THOUSANDS OF THEM penetrated the hold and feasted upon the sugar. Thousands were on the decks, seeking to get below. Then these got savage. A sugar laden vessel was something they did not strike every day. Big enough to do mischief, they got savage and attacked the crew. Capt. Langwill had just thirty-two men, and they had the battle of their lives. The flies could not be driven off. Beaten by the crew they only returned in greater numbers and renewed the attack. Their bites were something awful. Captain Langwill said, and it was not long before the body of each man of the crew was a mass of blood. This terrible pest of flies lasted for five days. How much longer it would have continued Captain Langwill could not say, but when hope had died in the breasts of the crew, and they were thinking of giving up a hopeless fight, a strange event occurred.

Far up in the sky the desperate sailors saw a flock of birds wheeling and circling. They were a mighty army of batwain's birds, the deadly foe of the dragon fly of the Indian ocean. Upon the pest these birds chiefly subsist. They had evidently scented their ancient enemy, and just as they swooped down. These birds of the sea resemble a dove, but are many times larger. They have long tails and sharp beaks. There were hundreds of them.

Down they came upon the ship's decks. Against the crew's timely rescuers the flies had no chance. They were eaten by the batwain's as quickly as a flock of barnyard fowl dispose of their daily meal of corn, and soon there were not enough of the flies to cause further trouble.

When thirty days out from Sourabaya the Kensington entered the Suez canal. After that the voyage was uneventful to this port, but from skipper down to cabin boy all bear traces of the terrible experience of the vicious dragon fly.

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.

The Bank of Hamilton has opened an office at Vancouver.

The spring rush of immigration has already begun at Winnipeg.

A syrup factory is to be started in Vancouver by eastern capitalists.

A dining-car chef named Cornell, whose home is in Quebec, suicided at Revelstoke, B.C.

It is reported at Halifax that a field of ice 300 miles long lies off the Newfoundland coast.

A new Knapp roller boat will probably be constructed in Toronto during the coming season.

It is stated that there are from 8,000 to 10,000 unvaccinated children in Quebec city at present.

The Grand Trunk ticket offices in Toronto and Hamilton are about to be moved to new quarters.

The peach growers in the Niagara district are greatly concerned for the safety of their orchards, owing to the recent severe weather.

The Hamilton Board of Trade will memorialize the Privy Council, protesting against railway discrimination favoring the Standard Oil Trust.

A large colony of settlers from Akra, North Dakota, propose moving their effects to Manitoba, to take up land near the east side of Lake Manitoba.

Mayor Payment, of Ottawa, refuses to ratify the purchase of the old Rideau rifle ranges for a park, upon the ground that it would be a waste of public money.

Mr. James Combes, M.L.A., for West Algona is endeavoring to secure the settlement of the third party of Doukhobors, expected in Canada in April, for the Kaministiquia district.

At Quebec all the men of the Royal Canadian Artillery are undergoing vaccination, and it is expected that the women and children on the strength of the permanent force will also be vaccinated.

President Graves, of the White Pass and Yukon Railway, states emphatically that the road will be built to Fort Selkirk, Yukon, and also to Atlin. He emphatically denies the report which had its origin in Seattle that operations would be abandoned.

The Wentworth County Council and Hamilton Markets Committee have arranged to reduce the fees for weighing hay from 25 to 15c, weighing horses and cattle 5c instead of 10c, and hogs and farm produce 15c instead of 25c.

GENERAL.

Henry Jones, "Cavendish," the authority on whist, is dead at London.

Emperor William will visit the Queen at Cowes, Isle of Wight, for a week, from July 29.

The cost of building in London has increased from 30 to 40 per cent. within ten years.

In the slums of Comberwell, London, a place was found where seven persons lived in one room.

The Queen has accepted a sample of Nyassaland coffee grown by the Zambesi Industrial Mission in British Central Africa.

A report is current in London that Sir William Van Horne is about to resign the Presidency of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Two thousand bales of cotton discharged at Genoa by the steamer Barbara, off West Hartlepool, have been destroyed by fire.

The Canadian High Commissioner in London is now receiving from 100 to 150 letters daily inquiring as to the conditions obtaining in Canada and its suitability as a field for emigration.

Barnum & Bailey's circus will not return to the United States, but will remain permanently in England. The firm will be converted into a limited liability company, with a capital of \$2,000,000.

Only one of Queen Victoria's twelve bridesmaids is still living. She is the Duchess of Cleveland. She had the double honor of assisting as trainbearer at the coronation as well as at the wedding.

A gentleman who does not wish his name made known has presented the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen with a steam hospital mission trawler, at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.

One of the largest bells of the Londonderry, Ireland, City Hall clock chime fell almost to the basement from its fitting in the tower, crashing through the ceiling of the Education Board's room. Fortunately no one was injured.

Some colliers out on strike near Burnley, Lancashire, have been fined for intimidating a non-striker. They met him as he was returning from work with a band, three of defendants having a drum, bagpipes and kettle-drum, and played him home.

J. Swift MacNeill, M. P. for Donegal, has created a sensation by moving an amendment to the address to the Throne, in which he argues that it is inconsistent with the dignity of public life, that Ministers of the Crown should hold directorships in companies. Forty-one directorships are now held among twenty-five Ministers of the Crown. He urges the Liberal party to go to the country on the cry "No guinea pigs in Government."

UNITED STATES.

Prof. George H. Stephens has pleaded guilty to setting fire to Lafayette College, Pennsylvania.

Smallpox is raging among the negroes and Indians of the Creek Nation district, Indian Territory.

The United States Senate has passed a bill creating the office of admiral of the navy for Rear Admiral Dewey.

John A. McMurtry, the millionaire railroad contractor, is dead at his home in Denver of blood poisoning induced by an abscess.

A Chippewa Falls despatch says Sever Forcier, 100 years of age and the pioneer settler of Northern Wisconsin, is dead. He was born in Montreal. At Sneedville, Ark., on Monday night, the home of Charles Bannister, a farmer, was destroyed by fire. Three children, aged 7, 9 and 12, were burned to death in the flames.

The celebration of the Chinese New Year in San Francisco on Friday resulted in a tragedy. A fire which started from the explosion of fire crackers caused the death of one Chinaman, who was in an opium stupor. Three others were so badly burned that they may not recover.

A settlement has been reached whereby the Central Pacific Railroad will pay off its debt of \$58,000,000, to the United States Government in semi-annual 3 per cent. notes, the last expiring 10 years from date. These notes will be secured by a deposit of Central Pacific 4 per cent. bonds.

Senator Sullivan has introduced a bill in the New York Legislature amending the penal code by abolishing the death sentence for murder and providing that a person convicted of murder in the first degree shall be imprisoned for life, and that the sentence for murder in the second degree shall be thirty years.

GENERAL.

A crisis has arrived in the Austrian cycle trade, caused by over production. Germany is in a similar state.

France is seeking a palace sufficiently magnificent to entertain her expected royal guests in 1900.

Special police on petroleum cycles are to be told off in future to cope with the excessive speed of auto cars in Paris.

Citizens of Stockholm have subscribed \$20,000 towards fitting out an expedition to search for Andrea, the Arctic traveller.

The French army has made such progress that it is reported in Berlin military circles to be on the same level with the German army.

French officials boast that they will sweep the British fleet from the Mediterranean, and troops are being poured into Tunis, Corsica and Algeria.

A new bill-posting machine, which sticks bills on walls even as high as fifty feet, without the use of ladder or paste pot, is now doing successful work in Paris.

A report has reached official circles at Peking that an assassin was despatched to Japan, to take the life of the Emperor of Japan. A thorough investigation has been ordered.

Many fishing boats and coasters have been lost along the French coast, contiguous to Brest. Twenty-five fishermen belonging to Audierne, in Finister, on the Bay of Aude, have been drowned.

Eighteen singing societies, representing 2,780 singers, have already responded to the Kaiser's call for a congress of singers of the Fatherland to convene in Cassel next May. His Majesty will distribute several handsome prizes.

French troops are being concentrated at Tunis, and increased activity prevails in the naval yards at Toulon, in anticipation that France will be at war with Great Britain within two years. This idea being persistently preached in official circles.

One of the best and most efficient men of the detective force of Havana was shot and killed Saturday night while attempting to arrest a negro. The detective's companion killed the negro after a violent affray, in which several persons were wounded.

ROYAL HEADGEAR.

The coronet of a Duke consists of alternate crosses and leaves, the leaves being a representation of the leaves of the parsley plant. The Princes of the blood royal also wear a similar crown. The state headgear of a Marquis consists of a diadem surrounded by flowers and pearls placed alternately. An Earl, however, has neither flowers nor leaves surmounting his circlet, but only points rising each with a pearl on the top. A Viscount has neither flowers nor points, but only the plain circlet adorned with pearls, which, regardless of number, are placed on the crown itself. A Baron has only six pearls on the golden border, not raised, to distinguish him from an Earl, and the number of pearls render his diadem distinct from that of a Viscount.

A REMARKABLE WILL.

The outer uniformity about wills in general, both as to parchment and penmanship, makes all the more noteworthy the last testament, now at Somerset House, of the late Sir George Parker, whose daughter has just died at Falmouth. Sir George, who lost his life at Cawnpore during the Mutiny, had only a tiny scrap of paper on which to write his will, and when it was made it was carried through the lines by a native, who concealed it in his ear. Fragile as it is, it will doubtless outlast as a curiosity at Somerset House, and almost as a bit of national history, many a bulky MS. enrolled on material prepared to defy the decay of years.

WHAT UNCLE SAM IS AT.

ITEMS OF INTEREST ABOUT THE BUSY YANKEE.

Neighborly Interest in His Doings—Matters of Moment and Flirth Gathered from His Daily Record.

New York newsboys are not allowed to sell papers in front of the theatres of that city.

On his way to Washington from Springfield, Mass., Judge Connolly was in three railroad accidents.

Ali Ferrough Bey, the new Turkish Minister to Washington, is an enthusiastic amateur photographer.

Senator Hawley is one of the few members of the present Senate whose political prominence dates back to the civil war.

William M. Chase, the celebrated American artist, says he wanted to be a painter from boyhood, although he had to begin life as a clerk in a shoe store.

Three cents stolen from Mrs. George Burns, Chicago, was the cause of Geo. Darty being held to the Criminal Court in bonds of \$1,500.

New York's Board of Control attended the funeral of one of its members and sent in a bill of expense for \$9.00, suppers being one of the least items.

Leonard, J. G. Kuhlwein, chief gunner on the Olympia, during the battle of Manila, has returned to his home in Sag Harbour, L. I., after an absence of four years to see his son, who was born just before he left home in 1895.

A young soldier was ill in a New York hospital, but his parents could not afford to take a trip from their home in Kentucky to see their boy. However, Miss Helen Gould heard of the case, and supplied railroad tickets.

The postmastership of Pembroke, Me., is said to have been held by one family longer than that of any other town in the country. Wm. Kilby was appointed to the office in 1800, and his direct descendants have handled the mails of the little village ever since his retirement in 1840.

Hon. C. V. Chandler, of Macomb, Ill., has given to the county a soldiers' monument, to cost \$3,500. Mr. Chandler at a public meeting stated that his entire pension received from the Government on account of a gunshot wound at Chickamauga, was appropriated for that purpose.

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander White, both 80 years of age, were found lying dead in bed at their home near Sandwich, Illinois. They had not been seen about for a day or two, and one of the neighbours called. No response came to repeated knocking. Next day a second attempt was made and finally an entrance forced.

In the past few years New York has had five of her residents appointed Ambassadors. They are: Stewart L. Woodford, who went to Spain; Oscar Straus who is Minister to Turkey; Joseph H. Choate, who is Ambassador to England; Andrew D. White, who is at the court of Berlin; and Horace Porter, who is at Paris.

Ex-President Harrison was taking an evening walk in Indianapolis the other day when a woman called out that her house was being robbed. At the same time two men rushed out and sprang into a carriage. Mr. Harrison leaped into another carriage, pursued the fugitives, overtook them and captured one with his own hands.

Secretary Bliss in a communication to Congress recommends that the northern Cheyenne Indians be allowed to remain where they are and not be removed to the Crow reservation. The Crows are unwilling to receive them, claiming it would be a violation of the promises made by the Government and the Cheyennes are unwilling to move.

PEARLS OF TRUTH.

It is worse to apprehend than to suffer.—Brydner.

He who foresees calamities, suffers them twice over.—Porteus.

Men often make up in wrath what they want in reason.—Alger.

Benevolent feeling enables the most trifling actions.—Thackeray.

Have something to say; say it, and stop when done.—Tryon Edwards.

True blessedness consisteth in a good life and a happy death.—Solon.

Beware, so long as you live, of judging men by their outward appearance.—La Fontaine.

A fine person, or a graceful face are in vain without the grace of deportment.—Churchill.

The greatest pleasure I know is to do a good action by stealth, and to have it found out by accident.—Lamb.

There is no better ballast for keeping the mind steady on its keel and saving it from all risk of crankiness than business.—J. R. Lowell.

In the man whose childhood has known excesses and kindness, there is always a fiber of memory that can be touched to gentle issues.—George Eliot.

Weigh not so much what men assert as what the prove, Truth is simple and naked and needs not invention, to apparel her comeliness.—Sir P. Sidney.