

The Farm.

The Farmer's Home Garden.

"Does it pay for a farmer to take the time to make a vegetable garden and home orchard and care for the same in a proper manner?"

To above query we would positively, emphatically and unequivocally answer—yes! yes!! yes!!!

We have been engaged in farming for upward of thirty years. During that time we have succeeded in raising a family of ten children that for physical ability, robust health and rugged constitutions cannot be excelled anywhere within the bounds of Uncle Sam's vast domain.

We are aware that readers of this article may imagine that this is merely the opinion of a fond and doting parent, and that—of course—it should be "taken with a pinch of salt," and all due allowance be made therefor; but let that be as it may, we have been repeatedly asked by friends, neighbors and acquaintances how it was that we had such a robust and healthy family.

Our answers differed somewhat with the occasion. Sometimes we would tell them that it was in the "breed," naturally "improved stock," you know. At another time it would be owing to their being "toughened," together with a careful avoidance of anything and everything bearing even the slightest resemblance to "pampering." Again it was owing to a plain, simple, wholesome, economical and exceptionally healthy diet of fruits and vegetables, raised right at home, on the farm, where they were furnished in variety around; always fresh, ripened on the vine or tree, right where they grew, and without a grain of colic or an ounce of cholera morbus in a whole year's eating.

"Does it pay? Why, of course it does. Is health worth anything? Why of course it is.

A simple diet of vegetables and fruits in variety, together with the other products of the farm, as milk and butter, eggs and poultry, etc., etc., to the end of a long chapter, will tend, to a greater extent than anything and everything else, toward the maintenance of a robust health that could hardly be expected in towns and cities where the freshest possible obtainable products of the farm, garden and orchard are stale, unwholesome and comparatively unhealthy?

The "essentials" of life are largely the product of the field. Does it pay to raise them at home where practicable? Of course it does.

The "luxuries" of life are largely the product of the garden and orchard. Does it pay to raise them at home? It undoubtedly does. It does not pay to deprive ourselves and our families of them when they are so easily and cheaply obtained.

It may not pay to plant them unless your mind is fully made up to "take the necessary time and trouble to care for them in a proper manner," but where this is done there is not an acre to be found on the farm that will pay so great a dividend, that will yield so great a profit in actual dollars and cents (though not a fraction of it be sold) and that will give as great an amount of satisfaction and unalloyed enjoyment to the square inch as will the vegetable garden, the orchard and the flower garden.

Let us try to excel in all three.—(J. H. Turner, in Farm, Field and Fireside.

Pruning the Peach Tree.

The popular notion in reference to pruning peach trees is to cut off or shorten the last season's growth each year; practically this plan requires great labor without securing the best results. Peach trees that have been planted three or four years, and have made a fair growth, have a few leading branches, more vigorous than the smaller ones, and extending furthest from the trunk. These leading branches should be cut back enough to include those of an inch, more or less, in diameter, and as these branches have received a stronger flow of sap, the smaller ones are comparatively weak; but this manner of pruning

will check the flow of sap to the main branches, now shortened in, and give increased vigor and strength to the smaller ones, and at the same time serve to a better and more uniform shape to the top.

This sort of pruning will not be required annually, but its benefits will be greatest if done at once after the trees have borne a crop of fruit, as it tends greatly to restore the vigor of the trees which have become somewhat exhausted by the crop. This pruning is best done late in winter or early in spring before growth begins.

Peach trees should be liberally fertilized, and probably nothing can be used for this purpose better than ground bones and potash, about equal quantity of each, the latter most conveniently in the form of muriate of potash.—(Country Gentleman.

An Uncertain Venture.

Ginseng has not proven a successful venture in cultivation. Many more failures are reported than otherwise. Primarily the reason seems to be that there is deviation from the very obstinate natural habits of the plant. It will not grow in sunshine, nor in dry places. Shade and constant moisture it must have. The seeds are rather difficult to get, but if orders are made in the fall, when the seeds first ripen, they may be procured, and if planted in some damp, shaded section of woodland, fenced off from cattle and poultry, will germinate. But no forcing, no coaxing will cause them to sprout before the second year. Experts say eighteen months is the length of time they remain in the soil. They ought to be planted two inches deep and only in leaf mould. The first year's growth will be slow, afterward increasing in vigor.—(Wisconsin Agriculturist.

News has been received at Seattle of an atrocious murder done at Valdes, Prince William Sound, on January 2. The men murdered were N. A. Call, of Worthington, Minn., and Wm. A. Lee, of Lowell, Mass. Milton Billmore Tanner, a Montana cowboy, was their slayer. He was hanged the following morning. All belonged to a party en route to the Klondike.

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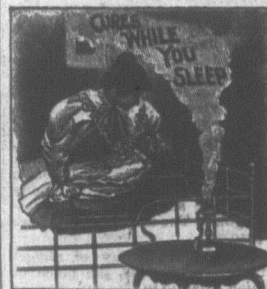
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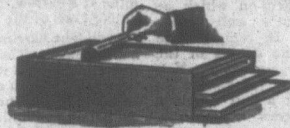
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