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The Agriculturist.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO LITERATURE, AGRICULTURE, AND NEWS.

ANDREW LIPSETT, Publisher.

AGRICULTURE THE TRUE BASIS OF A NATION'S WEALTH.

ANDREW ARCHER, Editor.

VOL. II.

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NO. 15

Agriculture.

Kingsclear.

A Kingsclear correspondent writes us:--

The crops at Kingsclear are looking well. Although some were late in consequence of the wet weather, they have improved very fast since the change of the last few weeks.

Wheat, in general, appears to be good, owing to the amount of pains the farmers have taken with it.

Oats and Buckwheat are, on the whole, good. A great amount of turnips have been sown, for the purpose of stall feeding cattle.

Some are looking well, others the flies have attacked and are in a weak condition. Grass promises to be better than last season. Potatoes are fair, but the bug has made its appearance.

We also hear of New Maryland and other parts of the county. Unless active measures are promptly made to rid the country of such a pest, the loss in years to come will be serious.

Every farmer, where the bug has made its appearance, should strive to destroy it either by Paris green or by hand picking. Unless steps are taken, similar to those, in a few years they will become so numerous that it will be impossible to raise potatoes.

Some of the farmers of Kingsclear are endeavoring to keep it down, and have met with good success so far. The amount of land planted with potatoes this season is greater than ever before and the prospect for their sale is good owing to the failure of the potato in the West.

There are a variety of crops raised on the farm, and especially in the garden, which, however rich the soil, are all the better for a little well-digested compost in the hill.

In all districts where manure must be used, more or less, for all crops, this is well understood. Hence the large amounts of commercial fertilizers bought each year.

As a rule, in all the newer sections of the country, the farmer having virgin land cannot spend time to make compost. The more thickly a country becomes settled, and the greater the diversity of the crops raised, the greater the necessity of manure.

The making of compost for special application next follows. The crops to which compost is especially valuable are those raised in hills and drills, such as sorghum, potatoes, corn, etc.

Strong commercial fertilizers, as guano, must not be allowed to come directly in contact with the seed. It is apt to kill. Farm composts, however, may be applied directly in the hill or drill, and immediately in contact with the seed.

Compost is simply any vegetable or animal substance reduced to a homogeneous mass by being thoroughly rotted and mixed with earthy or mineral substances, as soda, loam, muck, peat, ashes, salt, gypsum, etc.

To make it, it is simply necessary to prepare a peice of ground so that liquid constituents may not escape. Into this, any trash, weeds, litter, strong earth, all the wash of the house, and if possible the drainings of the barnyard, if any, may be carried; also any dead matter that may accumulate.

To insure uniform moisture, it is well to have a hogshead tank in the bottom of the heap, connected with a pump for throwing the liquid back upon the pile from time to time.

When the whole is sufficiently decayed so it may be broken up, turn and mix all thoroughly, and so proceed until the whole becomes a uniform and homogeneous mould. In this condition from a double handful to a small shovelful to the hill, according to the nature of the plants, will force vegetation in its earlier stages wonderfully.

For garden work, especially, it will be invaluable, either applied to the hills or drills, or scattered broadcast over the surface and raked or harrowed in.

It acts as a divisor and disintegrator of the soil, and decays less quickly than more porous soils. Hence again the value of compost in all clayey soils in assisting plants while yet they are young, and especially so to the gardener.

We have heretofore shown that in the case of clayey garden soils both wood and coal ashes were especially valuable as disintegrators. Coal ashes contain but little mineral value, it consists principally in its mechanical action in disintegrating the particles of soil, rendering them as sand would, light and porous.

Coal ashes may be applied to such soils, or occasionally until they form about one-quarter of the soil, to the depth to which it is worked. For sandy soils coal ashes should not be used. A better application would be to use from twenty to forty loads per acre of thoroughly frost-weathered dry clay.

With this twenty or thirty bushels of lime and the same of ashes, and four hundred pounds of salt per acre will also be found valuable.

Injurious Insects. It is now the season when the insects which prey on fruit trees are most destructive, and require the closest attention. "Eternal vigilance" will be the "price" of successful contention with these tiny foes.

The most destructive, and require the closest attention. "Eternal vigilance" will be the "price" of successful contention with these tiny foes. The tent caterpillar and the canker worm prey on the foliage of apple and cherry trees.

The apple worm moth lays its eggs on the calyx of the young fruit, and the grub, as soon as it is hatched, cuts its way to the core, causing the fruit to ripen prematurely.

In some instances the worm continues in the fruit without causing any apparent damage, and it is only when the apple is being eaten or cut up that the unwelcome tenant makes its appearance.

The Spitzentzger seems to be a particular favorite with this destructive insect, for we find a great many of the moths may be got rid of by building fires in the orchard at night. They will be attracted by the light, fly into the blaze and be destroyed.

Some persons place a lamp in the centre of a tub of water; the light attracts the moths, they fly against the lamp, fall into the water and are drowned.

The gooseberry and currant caterpillars begin their work of destruction as soon as the leaves are fully developed. The gooseberry caterpillar is the larva of a species of saw-fly which lays its eggs on the ribs on the back of the leaves, and as soon as the young worms are hatched they commence preying on the leaves, eating their way into them.

Their presence may be detected by the appearance of numerous small holes, like pin holes, in the leaf, and as a whole brood are, at this early stage, confined to one leaf, they can be easily destroyed by picking off the leaf and tramping on it.

Bark lice are very injurious to fruit trees, as they find shelter under the bark, through the crevices of which they prey on the sap, and injure the vigor of the trees. They may be destroyed by a wash of whale oil soap suds, or a solution of potash.

Common soap suds have been used against them with success. The stems of all fruit trees cannot be too frequently washed, as by this means old dead bark, which affords a hiding place to many noxious insects, will be removed, as well as the moss and fungi which absorb the juices and consequently hasten the decay of the tree.

The flea-bede known as the black-bug or turnip-fly, is very destructive to the seed leaves of turnips, cabbages, cauliflower, radishes, melons, cucumbers, &c. It is identical, or nearly so, with the turnip-fly (*Melipha nemora*) of Europe, which commits such depredations on the turnip fields of Great Britain and Ireland, France and Germany.

These flea beetles lie torpid during the winter in heaps of rubbish, under stones and clefts of the bark of trees, and in chinks of walls. They lay their eggs in the spring on the leaves of the plants on which they feed, and as soon as they are hatched the young bugs burrow into the leaves, feeding on them, and forming in them little cells, in which they undergo their transformations.

Several broods are produced during the summer, so there is a constant succession of these pests all through the season. A solution of lime has been found very useful in preventing the ravages of these insects, but a better plan is the pulverization of the soil, in order to close up all chinks where they can hide, and the application of abundance of well rotted manure, to force the plants into the rough leaves, as when they reach this stage of growth, the bugs leave them to seek tenderer food. Chickens are very efficient destroyers of these insects.—*Western Rural.*

For a magnetic ointment take lead, raisins cut in pieces, and fine cut tobacco, equal weights of each. Simmer well together, then strain and press from the dregs.

Save Absorbents for the Farm

It is a good time now, while the weather is comparatively dry, to collect and lay up dry soil to use in the stables for absorbing the urine which would otherwise be partially or wholly wasted.

Loam, dry muck, sand or sawdust may each be used with advantage for taking up and holding the liquid excrements of the stable. That substance will be the best which can be obtained most readily.

Sawdust near mills, muck from the low meadows, and loam or sand from the fields will each be preferred by different farmers, according to the circumstances surrounding them.

In these sections of the country where grain raising is carried on as a leading business the straw is used as an absorbent quite freely by the farmers. We have seen it spread over cattle yards to the depth of a foot or more in some sections of Vermont and Canada, and such practice is highly commendable where straw is abundant, but in dairy districts the farmer often finds it far more profitable to use his grain straw for feeding purposes.

Muck from the swamp makes an excellent absorbent for the stables, hog pens and cattle yards, but it should be dug out and exposed to the action of the weather at least a year before being used.

Wet muck fresh from the swamp is not so absorbent at all, and some kinds may be really injurious to the land if applied in the crude state as it comes fresh from the bogs.

Any farm soil, if tolerably free from stones, will make a good absorbent for the stable and barn yards.

If one has waste land that he does not care to cultivate, or if he has more than he can properly use by the ordinary method, it may not be a bad plan to set apart a small area in some out of the way corner to draw from for this purpose.

Plough the ground to kill vegetation and make it easy to shovel, then cultivate occasionally to dry the surface, when the top may be drawn as wanted, or a pile may be stored for use in wet weather.

Some years ago, we built a shed adjoining the cattle stable, for the express purpose of laying up dry soil or other material to be used as bedding and absorbent under the cattle, and although we find a pile of dirt a little hard on the wood work of the building, yet we are convinced that no investment we have ever made has paid a better per cent. on the outlay.

All the year through, from January to December, there is dry material at hand for taking up all the urine from the animals, much of which would be entirely lost under ordinary methods. We know the practice makes some extra work, but it is work that pays. It will not do for farmers to spend their hard earned dollars for purchasing fertilizers and freight; then mix across the country, while the liquids from their stables are soaking down into the soil beneath, or being washed by every rain into the street, or down some ravine, as is far too often the case.

These hot, sunny days are just the time for preparing dry material for the stables, and one should only need to be reminded of it to set about the work in good earnest.—*Ex.*

How to make Bees Pay.

We produce the following practical article, which appears in the *German-ton Telegraph*, from the pen of Mr. J. M. Hicks, an Indiana bee keeper: I will say to all who contemplate keeping bees for honey or for stock, I would recommend for use a good movable frame beehive, of which there seems to be many various kinds and styles, as well, I might say, many more that are wholly worthless having used twenty three different movable frame hives, all of which I laid aside some eight years ago, and am now using a hive that has no loose honey board or boxes to misplace before seeing your bees and brood, which is so often neglected and let go to ruin through utter negligence.

But since I have used the hive I have not lost a stock of bees with the moth, from the fact that I can open the brood out to full view and see each and every brood comb, take out every worm in three minutes and close up my bees ready for work. This advantage alone is worth to the bee-keeper at least the value of twenty five stands of bees in the old box. The value of time in attending bees is of no more consequence than most persons are aware of, as it too often takes up so much time in handling your bees that they get to fighting and robbing each other before you can replace all the rattletaps and close up your bees for business again.

But let me further say, if you have a hive and feel confident it possesses the proper proportions that go to make up a good beehive, I would not advise you to make any change, as here is where too many failures are made—in changing, and too many kinds of hives in our

apiaries which should be avoided. Therefore, I would say, never use but one style of hive and let that be a first class movable frame hive; and have all your frame hives made exact inside measure as your sample—all of which should be well made and painted with two good coats of paint and linseed oil.

This hive business is of more importance than most people think, and is too often overlooked by many who make their own hives, often, too, from lumber not as dry as it should be and of an inferior quality.

Now let me say, in conclusion, get the hive as above, and have all your bees transferred into the same; and do for justice's sake look after their interests once in a while, and your reward will be plenty of honey, as well as good strong stocks, with a good prolific queen in each hive, and you will have the gratification of having your bees pay you from 500 to 600 per cent.

Now is the time to feed your bees a small quantity of syrup in order to use them ready for swarming, which should always be done artificially.

Care of Farming Tools.

As a rule, the most skillful and thrifty farmer is the one who pays the strictest attention to the minor details of his business. Such a one is known by his efforts to save as well as to acquire, for he who neglects the lesser things will surely find large and constant drawbacks on his profits.

There are many farmers who in the course of a few years sustain as much loss or are put to as much trouble and expense in procuring tools, by their injury and decay on account of needless exposure, as from their actual wear on the farm. It is too often the case that the most expensive farm implements the plows, harrows, the horse-rake and even the mowing machine, instead of being carefully put under cover after having been used, are left exposed to the sun and rain.

And when their use for the year is over they are often left by the roadside to remain there for the winter, and not only these, but wagon wheels, sleds, carts and hay racks are often left scattered about the premises, out of the season of their use, where they soon rot and become worthless.

Such needless exposure of farm implements does more to weaken the wood, promote their decay and render new ones necessary, than all other wear upon the farm with careful protection from the weather when not in use. No farm implement or tool of any kind, should be left exposed to the sun or rain when not in use.

Those not wanted during the winter should be put away in a dry place during that season, and so with sleds and sleds and other winter implements, during the summer.

The damage to farm tools by the weather though the principal one, is not the only reason why they should be kept housed, for scattered about the premises or drawn up in battle array by the roadside, they are an intolerable nuisance, not only to the owner of the premises, but to the travelling public. They frighten horses and oftentimes are placed so near the highway as to interfere with travel.

Wherever these sights meet the eye of the traveller, and they are not so uncommon as many may think, they proclaim more loudly than words, that idleness and untruth are the leading characteristics of the owner of the premises.

Natural Characteristics or Tendencies of Cows. We find in cows two distinct and directly opposite tendencies. One of these is the secreting and laying on of flesh and fat; the other is the secretion of milk, and the consequent taking off of both flesh and fat. I affirm it as a cardinal principle in my philosophy that the secretion of milk, both in quantity and yield and duration of flow, depends altogether upon the constitutional tendency of the animal, and not upon the size of the stomach, the amount of blood or the shape of the escutechon.

A cow may have a large stomach and be a poor milker; she may have a great amount of blood, a large escutechon, and still be a small milker. The constituents of the blood may be absorbed by other glands than the mammary. I have heard the disciples of the Gueson system, members of this board, declare that the system is equally applicable to the selection of milkers or feeders.

Gentlemen, how can this be? Directly opposite natures or tendencies recognizable by the same sign! The proposition seems strangely paradoxical. The cow that is the largest, and the longest milked, will, if turned dry, prove the quickest and the best feeder. If this is true, she can as readily change her nature as the chameleon his color. But it cannot be true. As before stated, the power of an organ depends upon its size and its activity. The mammary glands, stimulated to action for a long time,

and the sebaceous or fat secreting follicles and glands correspondingly dormant, it cannot be possible that the sudden and forced cessation of action of the former in the animal economy would be the signal for the springing into healthy and vigorous action of the latter.

Sheep and Fertility.

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman*, writing on "Sheep as promoters of fertility," says:—"On a farm of 160 acres any farmer can raise more grain and keep up his farm in better condition with 150 sheep, than without them. In that branch of farming, it is unnecessary to burn much straw. Sheep will clear the farm of foul herbage, reduce his clover to manure and leave as much fertility on the land as they take off while running in the fields.

In winter the straw can be worked into manure, which is of most importance for absorbing the liquid manure that would otherwise flow into low places around the yards, and be partially lost. All the weeds, and the best of the straw, will be converted into the best of manure, to be returned to the fields to keep up the fertility, instead of being blown away in ashes. Then again, yards and stables well littered with dry straw afford much comfort to the stock.

With the above number of sheep and eight or ten cattle, with the necessary teams and usual number of swine, a farmer can put out 400 or 450 loads of manure each year. This, with the droppings of the stock in summer, together with the clover that can be sowed with the grain and turned under, will keep a farm in a good state of cultivation. In seasons when there is an unusual growth of straw, the surplus, or a certain proportion, can be threshed in the field and thinly scattered on the poorest portions of alkali having a good effect. This is much better and cheaper than rotting it down without the use of stock."

Growing English Ivy.

I have heard people complain that they could not keep English ivy, because they grew so slowly, and that they could not afford to wait for a small vine to grow to any considerable size. While visiting my old home, the past summer, I made many calls, and among them one upon a lady who is noted throughout the village for the beauty of her vines. I never saw any more lovely. Though comparatively young plants, they were stately, while the leaves were of that glossy green which is seldom seen outside the greenhouse. I asked her, after having admired the plants sufficiently, "What is the secret of your success?" She assured me that it was no secret, adding, "I put a piece of beefsteak at the roots every spring and fall, and this is the result."

But does not the odor of the beef annoy you? "It never has, and why should it? Won't people fill the pots half full of stable richness, and never think of offensive odor?" On my return to Worcester I put some steak, a piece perhaps two inches square, under the roots of the ivy, and in a week or two it began to run, and has grown very rapidly ever since. Now, perhaps other decaying matter would do as well, but I can truly recommend the steak as having been tried. Many say too much richness will kill the plant, but, from experience that vines, all kinds of ivies, air plants and Madeciras can not have too much. Use mixed dressing, such as has been made ready for the garden, two-thirds of this and one of common earth, and your vines will grow rank and beautiful, astonishing you with large leaves and stout stems.—*American Cultivator.*

EQUINE SARCOTIC.—A pleasant story has just come to us from the Cape of Good Hope. In Grant-Roinet, as in all the old Dutch towns in the colony, there is, in the centre of the place, a large market square where the farmers, traders and others, arriving with their produce at any hour of the day or night, may "out span" the oxen or horses from their wagons, as is the wont of African travellers to do, until the eight o'clock morning market auction. An old horse belonging to one of these parties had wandered about in search of grass and water—vainly, no doubt, for it was during the severe drought from which the country is but now recovering. Coming to the great bare market place, and finding a knot of men talking there, he singled out one of them, and pulled him by the sleeve with his teeth. The man, thinking the horse might possibly bite, repulsed him, but as it was not very roughly done he returned to the charge, with the same reception; but he was a persevering animal, and practically demonstrated

the axiom that "perseverance gains the day," for upon his taking the chosen sleeve for the third time between his teeth, the owner awoke to the idea that a deed of kindness might be required of him; so putting his hand upon the horse's neck he said, "All right, old fellow; march on!" The horse at once led the way to a pump at the further side of the square. Some colored servants were lounging about the spot. One of them, at the bidding of the white man, filled a bucket with water. Three times was the bucket replenished and emptied before the "great thirst" was assuaged, and then the grateful brute spoke his thanks to his white friend by rubbing his nose gently against his arm, after which he walked off with a great sigh of relief.—*Nature.*

It must be confessed the "life and death" process referred to does not carry conviction on its face though it has received some amount of corroboration in England. A contemporary says:—"A practice similar to that suggested by Signor Rotura has for the last four or five years been in operation upon a farm in Derbyshire. A medical gentleman, residing at Sudbury, near Derby, who is also a farmer and a great pig fancier, when run short of provisions for his porcine herd, administers a dose of chloroform, which places the pigs in an unconscious condition, for periods ranging from a week to ten days. This method is adopted for economical reasons, but the operator affirms that his pigs, while unconscious, so far from losing flesh, exhibit a marked improvement in that respect when the effect of the chloroform has passed away." When it is added that Messrs. Bell & Coleman, of Glasgow, have succeeded in making a mechanical refrigerator which practically produces low temperature in sea-going vessels without the aid of ice or chemical agents, it will be seen that it is just possible the home producer of meat may have to face a livelier foreign competition than he has even yet encountered. The opening up of an extensive meat traffic with Queensland and the other Australian Colonies depends in great measure on the success that may attend the Bell-Coleman apparatus.—*N. B. Agriculturist.*

QUALITY OF EGGS.—Many suppose that because an egg is an egg, there is no difference in the quality. What a mistake! There is just as much difference in the strength and richness of eggs as there is between poor and tender beef. Take hens that are kept in an almost starving condition, and their eggs will be poor and weak. When poured from the shell they appear small and flat. But take the same hens and feed them as they should be fed, and the eggs, when emptied from the shell, will be large and round! Every practical house-keeper knows this! Not only so, but if you would raise good sized, plump and healthy chickens, you must feed the hens which lay eggs on good sound healthy, nutritious food. Take weak or poor eggs and set them, and a few, no doubt, will hatch; but the chicks will be weak and feeble, and therefore the liable to pine away and die, and what few do live never amount to much. But take good strong, rich eggs, and nine out of every ten will hatch, and the chicks be strong and healthy, and near as liable to disease; and if from any cause you should fail to feed them, their vigorous vitality will enable them to run about in search of something to appease their appetites.

In startling inventions France has resolved not to be far behind the enterprising Yankee; for we have this week a letter in the *Times*, from Mr. J. S. Cockledge, describing ploughing by electricity in France! One of Mr. Howard's double-furrow ploughs has been used at Sernaise-les-Bains (Marne), in experiments with electricity as a motive power, and these are said to have resulted in a complete success. "The plough," says Mr. Cockledge, "worked steadily and completely to the satisfaction of all present. A gentleman whom I have known for many years, M. Gourguillon, of Vitry-le-Francois, who saw the experiment, speaks of it in the most assuring terms. He says the motion is conveyed to a drum from the electric machine and thence by a coil of wire to the plough. There was no stoppage of any kind, but the plough did its work steadily, about 8 in. deep. The inventor is a M. Felix, owner of a large sugar manufactory at Sernaise-les-Bains. It may be many years before this can be brought into profitable practical use, but if it can, what a revolution it will accomplish!"—*English Paper.*

DUCKS MORE PROFITABLE THAN CHICKENS.—The saying often applied to young ducks, that "they eat more than they are worth," may be a very unjust one. Several years ago we were speaking with a woman who raised yearly large numbers of ducks and chickens. Regarding the comparative amount of food consumed to bring them to full growth, she stated that "ducks eat less in proportion to their growth than chickens." Our readers may be surprised at this, but upon giving the matter a little thought they will understand the reason. It is because the ducks reach maturity sooner than the chickens, and of course the longer it takes to bring a creature to maturity, the greater the expense, not only of food, but of time and trouble. Experiment has demonstrated the fact that, with the same quantity of food and care, the ducks, in ninety days from the shell, may be made to weigh nine or ten pounds per pair.—*Exchange.*

THE TALLOW TREE.—The tallow tree of China gives rise to a vast trade in the northern part of that empire, and has been introduced into India. It grows with great luxuriance in the northwestern provinces and the Punjab. There are tens of thousands of trees in the government plantations, from which tons of seeds are available for distribution. Dr. Jameson prepared from the seed one hundred pounds of tallow, and sent fifty pounds to the Punjab railway, in order to have its properties as an oil for railway-wheels tested. For burning, the tallow is excellent; it gives a clear, bright, and inodorous flame.

A correspondent of the *Indiana Farmer*, who has had considerable experience with the potato bug, says he kills potato bugs as follows: "I get good Paris green and pour about a quart of water into a swill-pail, and then stir it thoroughly a table-spoonful of the poison. Then I fill up the pail with water and use at once. A small bunch of hay tied on a short stick, with a bunch of hay out square off, making a small wisp brush, is as good as anything to sprinkle the vines with. Three applications, at intervals of one or two days, will kill all the bugs."

A WARNING TO HAYMAKERS.—A distressing accident occurred at New Brighton, Beaver County, Pa., the other day. As Mr. James Risinger was cutting hay with a mower in a field near his house, he heard the cry of a child near him, and looking around, he saw his three-year-old son, with both legs cut off midway between ankle and knee. They had crawled into the grass in some way unknown to his parents, and had been cut down, and at last accounts was not expected to recover.

Dr. J. Milner Fothergill, an eminent London practitioner, expresses the opinion that there is a decided opening in the English markets for American cream. He is sure it could be sold at remunerative prices, and that all difficulties in its transportation in a sweet condition could be overcome. Dr. Fothergill says cream with stewed fruits would be a much more palatable food than cod liver oil for invalids, to say nothing of those who would take it from choice.

Potatoes cut to single eyes, it is said, and planted on land that is sufficiently fertile, will produce a greater crop, according to the amount of seed planted, than in any mode of field practice. But unless the land is quite rich the sprouts will look very feeble when they first appear above ground, except those which start near the butt end of the potato.

A practical farmer tells how to keep the bowels of a horse loose in winter as follows: "At each feeding give them about a quart of middlings of shorts of wheat, as well as what grain and hay he will eat. This has been used for five years, and has never failed in effect."

Throughout France, gardening is practically taught in the primary and elementary schools. There are at present 25,000 of these schools, each of which has a garden attached to it, and is under the care of a master capable of imparting a knowledge of the principles of horticulture.

A Georgia farmer uses a novel fertilizer. He kills snakes, lays them in the furrow, and then plants corn with them. These snakes are made to produce corn, which produces whiskey, which in turn produces snakes again.

RAISED MUFFINS.—One quart milk, four eggs, one small teaspoon yeast, butter size of an egg, flour to make a thin batter; in the morning add one-half teaspoon soda if the dough is turned. This rule makes three dozen muffins.

of all descriptions EXECUTED ON MODERATE TERMS

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