

On the Farm.

THE FAMILY ASPARAGUS BED.

Asparagus is one of the most delicious as well as the most healthful of vegetables, and should have a place in every garden, large or small. It is very tenacious of life and will stand almost any amount of neglect, but at the same time there is nothing which responds so readily to good culture.

When a bed is once started it is good for a lifetime. In fact it will not come into full usefulness until it is five or six years old. This should be remembered when selecting the location. The bed should be so placed that it will not interfere with the cultivation of other crops, but at the same time it should be in such shape that it can be given good culture and kept free from weeds. The most convenient method for the farmer gardener is to set the plants in long rows so that they can be worked with the horse.

A moderately light soil is preferable, but any good garden soil will answer. Put on all the well-rotted manure you can plow under, and work the soil fine to a depth of eight or ten inches. If the soil is well prepared on the start it will require less work to keep it in good condition. Plants one or two years old should be used, never those taken from an old bed. Set the plants 18 inches apart in the row, and the rows three feet apart. This may seem like considerable room, but it will be found sufficiently close, for the roots will entirely fill the soil in a few years. Make the holes large, so that the roots can be spread out in their natural position. Set the plants so that the crowns will be from five to eight inches below the surface, according to the character of the soil. The heavier the soil the less covering they should have. Cover only a few inches deep at first, firming the soil well about the roots, and allowing the remainder to be worked in by the subsequent cultivation.

Give thorough cultivation during the growing season, and in the fall cut the tops and burn them on the ground to destroy the seed, which, if allowed to grow, will make a mess of young plants—the worst kind of weed in an asparagus bed. The following spring put on a good coating of fine manure and spade it in with a spading fork as early as the ground will work well. In spading, care should be taken not to injure the crowns of the plants. This treatment should be repeated each succeeding year. If the plants have made a good, strong growth the first season, they may be cut a few times the following spring, but it is better to let them grow two years before cutting, that they may become well established and have a good, strong root system. In cutting, use a sharp knife and sever the stalk a couple of inches below the surface of the soil. Always cut everything clean, even though it is not fit for use, because when a few stalks are allowed to grow up the plant will cease to throw out new shoots.

For the first few years the bed should not be cut for more than three or four weeks, but after the plants have become strong and the crowns large, the cutting may be continued until the middle or last of June without injury. Then allow the tops to grow and assimilate food to be stored up in the roots for the succeeding crops. Fifty or 100 plants, if well cared for, will after three years' growth produce all the asparagus an ordinary family can use. It comes early in the season, when everyone is hungry for something green. It is very easily prepared. The stalks are in the best condition for use when they are from three to five inches high. When they get too old they become tough and woody. They will be tender when cooked if they will snap readily when bent.

LOOK AFTER THE HORSES.

Horses that have been idle all winter need looking after rather more than those who have been kept steady at work. It will be best when plowing and harrowing commences, to not set the horses too hard at first; commence with them gradually, giving light work at first, and gradually increasing so that they may be gradually hardened to it. Be careful of their shoulders; it is best to wash the shoulders in strong salt water two or three times a day, as this will help to harden.

Some oats should be given when it is possible, as they possess the elements needed for the growth of bone and muscle. During the winter, at rest, comparatively more corn than oats should compose the ration, but in spring, when at work, it will be best to gradually change and feed more oats and less corn.

Have good fitting collars and harness and keep them clean, this will help materially in preventing galled shoulders.

See that the teams are well mated as to gait and strength. A quick moving horse and one that is intensely slow make a very uncomfortable team to drive, while as good work with a harrow, plow or cultivator cannot be done. What may be a comparatively easy task for one may keep another in a hard strain all of the time, and this

is not advisable. If there is a difference in the strength, make a difference in the double tree to make this up, so that each animal will pull his part of the load according to his strength. Because horses are cheap it is no reason why they should be abused. Good grooming, good feeding and good care will enable them to do more work and yet keep in a better condition. But to secure the best results it will be best to commence in good season, as it is much easier to keep in a good condition than to let run down and then attempt to feed up, especially after hard work has begun.

PREPARE SUMMER FIREWOOD NOW.

A thing much neglected is providing the summer's fuel writes E. A. Miller. I have known quite well-to-do farmers stop in harvest or haying time to cut up a few sticks, just enough for the good woman to prepare the next meal with. Or worse let the girls or mother break up enough; the boys or the gentlemen are too badly needed in the hay or harvest field. Stay away from town these days and get your season's wood in the woodhouse where it will dry and be ready for use. Then when harvest is on hand the meals are ever ready and the boys can take a little rest at noon.

Remove from orchard and farm all old, broken down trees and fallen limbs. Burn all the rubbish, cut all that will make fuel ready for the stove. Even the small limbs if properly cut up and laid away will make splendid summer fuel and the best of kindling. All this gives to the place an air of neatness and adds dollars to the selling value.

PEAS FOR HOGS.

For a cheap feed, peas make a very good ration, and especially during the fall, when the hogs are able to harvest them for themselves. It would pay any farmer if he would plan for the coming season to sow a patch to peas, with the sole intention of turning the hogs in as soon as they were ripe and let the pigs do their own harvesting; they will do it thoroughly and well, and far cheaper than one can spend the time to gather and thresh them, or pile them in small stacks to throw over to the pigs, though the latter method is a very good way if the lot is not enclosed so that the herd can be given free access.

ABOUT KID GLOVES.

Economy in small things is often overlooked, and if only more consideration were given to this subject quite a considerable sum of money might be saved annually. The careless manner in which a very large number of ladies treat their gloves is an instance in point, and perhaps the following hints may serve to show how the reasonable care of kid gloves would result in a reduction of expenditure:

In the first place, it may be pointed out that rough handling is especially disastrous to kid gloves, and it very often happens that a new pair are split and ruined by jerking them on in a careless fashion. Always put on a new pair of kid gloves for the first time long enough before they are to be worn to allow of due deliberation in the task. When a pair of fine gloves are bought the purchaser should insist that they be fitted on in the shop; then if there are any flaws they will be detected before the gloves are paid for and taken away.

Cheap gloves are generally risky investments, but some of the best shops keep a fairly good line of gloves at low prices, which are worth buying for common wear. If strong and well made they will serve for shopping and morning walks, or for bad weather.

In putting on a glove be careful to get each finger straight. Coax each one on by rubbing gently with the thumb and first finger until the fingers are down to the very ends.

In taking the gloves off turn the wrist over the fingers and take hold of the ends of the fingers through the wrist. It wears a glove out badly to pull it off by catching hold of the finger tips. Pull the glove into shape and lay aside carefully. Silk should be kept to match each shade, and gloves should be mended as soon as a break appears, for the old proverb, "A stitch in time saves nine" is especially appropriate to these articles of attire. Glove mending is delicate work, which requires both skill and dexterity, and when well done pays admirably for the pains taken. Glove powder should form one of the adjuncts to every toilet table, and a pretty glove stretcher another.

French women set a good example, and have made quite an art of putting on gloves, and this is why a Parisienne's gloves last her four times as long as anybody else's.

Buttoning gloves should never be done in a hurry. The wrist should be carefully and gently pulled straight, and the buttons insinuated gently into the holes. Use a glove buttoner always; it ruins both the button holes and the finger tips to button them without.

After purchasing a new pair of gloves always sew the buttons on before wearing them. The annoyance of having the buttons drop off will then be avoided.

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

There are now over 250,000 words in the English language acknowledged by the best authorities, or about 70,000 more than in the German, French, Spanish and Italian combined.

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.

Brantford citizens are asking for a technical school.

The civic revenue of Montreal for 1898 is \$3,078,839, an increase of \$157,000 over 1897.

The only gin distillery in the Dominion is soon to be erected in the Province of Quebec.

Office hours in the Post Office Department at Ottawa have been extended to 5.30 o'clock.

The London City Council has passed a by-law to increase the number of liquor licenses from 34 to 36.

Chief of Police Horsey of Kingston will resign about the 1st of May owing to failing health.

There is a possibility of serious trouble in the Atlin district, B.C., between Canadian and American miners.

Two starch factories are to be opened at Ste. Luce, Quebec, this spring, the centre of the potato growing district.

Peterboro' is offering very liberal inducements to the Thomas Organ Co., of Woodstock, to locate in the former town.

The British Columbia Legislature has memorialized the Federal Parliament to increase the per capita tax upon Chinese to \$500.

Nova Scotia's timber law will be revised. Instead of granting timber lands in fee simple hereafter they will be granted in leases of 20 years at 50¢ per acre.

The Montreal Bar Association has decided to take steps in an endeavor to stop companies and individuals collecting money. It is claimed that such collections usurp the function of the legal profession.

It is believed in Kingston that Reginald Hooper, now serving a life sentence for the murder of his wife, will be pardoned on the ground of good conduct and the doubtful circumstances of the crime.

Six regularly ordained elders of the Mormon Church are quietly living in Winnipeg, making preparations for a vigorous missionary effort, with a view to converting people to the doctrines of their church.

Mr. Martin P. Connolly of Quebec has purchased by tender from the Government the output of binder twine from the Kingston Penitentiary for the current year. The Ontario Binder Twine Company will handle the output.

Admiral Beaumont is the newly appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Squadron, with headquarters at Esquimaux. He succeeds Admiral Paliser. Two modern cruisers will be added to the squadron at an early date.

Hon. J. H. Ross, of the Northwest Territorial Government, Hon. David Laird, Indian Commissioner, and Mr. J. A. J. McKenna, of the Indian Department, will leave Edmonton about May 24th to negotiate a treaty with the Indians north of the Athabasca River, and extending from the Rocky Mountains to the Hudson Bay.

The Nova Scotia Legislature has appointed a committee to enquire into the fisheries of the province. It is proposed to establish cold storage stations at convenient points along the coasts where bait would be preserved, so that fishermen might always be able to obtain a supply.

The Canadian Pacific Railway has installed an ingenious system of air-motors at Toronto Junction yards by which the locomotives are coaled up; their sand domes replenished, their fire boxes cleaned out, and the ashes carried away. The whole operation, which formerly took at least half an hour, is performed in less than three minutes.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Lord Rosebery has been elected president of the Eighty Club, in succession to Gladstone.

It is estimated that the British Government will have to face a deficit of £1,500,000 in the year's accounts.

The bill raising the age at which a child may leave school, from 11 to 13 years, was given its second reading in the British House of Commons.

The British Government is awaiting an official report upon the shooting of the three Englishmen at Manila before asking the United States Government for compensation.

The bill giving the London Board of Trade five years within which to compel British railways to adopt automatic couplings was introduced in the British House of Commons on Tuesday.

The British House of Commons adopted a resolution declaring that the Government should endeavor to remember the growing employment of foreigners in the British mercantile service.

The London, Eng., Times thinks the British Columbia Legislation excluding United Statesers from the Atlin mining district is a policy which will meet with but little sympathy in England.

UNITED STATES.

Railways in Wyoming are blocked with snow.

It is again reported that Archbishop Ireland will be made a cardinal.

The American Senate has passed the bill appropriating \$20,000,000 for payment to Spain, without a dissenting voice.

Buffalo people state confidently that the trolley lines in the vicinity will

soon be all run by Niagara Falls power.

Mary E. Prouty, a widow, jumped to her death from the fifth storey window during a fire at New York on Tuesday.

Fire at Wichita, Kansas, destroyed the large smoke-house of the Jacob Dole Packing Co. and contents, including 60,000 pounds of meat.

Buffalo is to have a pan-American Exposition in 1901, at which New York State will erect a \$300,000 building, to be open seven days in the week.

A favourable report on the proposed constitutional amendment prohibiting polygamists from being elected to Congress has been made to the House.

Cotton cloth manufacturers of Fall River, Mass., representing interests worth \$40,000,000, have decided to advance the wages of nearly 30,000 operatives 12 1/2 per cent. There is no condition attached. The new rate will go into effect on April 3rd.

The people of Maryland have presented Rear-Admiral Schley with a medal of gold and diamonds at Baltimore, as a token of their esteem and heartfelt appreciation of his services in the late war. Schley is a native of the State.

Ohio State authorities have taken action to oust the Pennsylvania Railway Co. and the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railway Co. from the State for violating their franchises by forming themselves with other roads into a pool to fix passenger rates.

Col. King, of Brooklyn, was awarded \$2,000 damages against the Pullman Car Co. for ejection from a sleeper. It seems his ticket to New York from Baltimore read via the B. & O., while his sleeper ticket was good only over the Pennsylvania. The incident happened nearly a year ago.

GENERAL.

A man named Kohn has just died at Vienna at the reputed age of 112 years.

The Cubans at Santiago are following the Filipinos in their hostility towards the United States.

The Senate at Madrid overwhelmingly decided on an investigation into the conduct of the recent war.

A naval scandal has been unearthed at Sebastopol in connection with the supply of fuel to Russian warships.

Eight of the crew of a British boat, belonging to the torpedo boat destroyer Bruiser, are reported to have been drowned off the coast of Asia Minor.

The Board of Health of the City of Mexico reports that there are more than 35,000 cases of grip in that city. The disease is proving fatal to many of the poorer people.

Students of nearly all the colleges and schools in St. Petersburg are on strike, as a protest against the conduct of the police, who used whips to disperse the students recently.

Gen. Rappi, the Swedish Minister of War, absent-mindedly came to a council meeting at Stockholm with a silk hat surmounting his general's uniform. For this breach of etiquette the King has sent him to prison for three days.

CHARLES V. OF SPAIN.

His Death Brought on By Rehearsing His Own Funeral.

Emperor Charles V. of Spain brought about his death by rehearsing his own funeral. For the last two years of his life after resigning the scepter of Spain and the Netherlands to his son Philip, in 1556, Charles retired to the monastery of Yuste, in Estremadura, and there lived a cloister life in close intercourse with the monks, devoting much time to religious exercises. During this period, prompted it may be by the example of Cardinal de la Marck, who for several years before his death, in 1538, had annually rehearsed his own obsequies, the Emperor, in the summer of 1558, formed the resolution to celebrate his own funeral before he died. The priests assured him—that the superstitious element in his character readily inclined him to believe—that the act would surely merit and win divine favor. Accordingly, on August 31st of that year, the grim farce was carried out with the most elaborate ceremonial. The imperial domestics marched with black tapers in their hands, and the Emperor, clad in sable weeds, himself followed wearing his shroud. While the solemn mass for the dead was being sung before the high altar in the cathedral Charles gave up his taper to the priest, signifying thereby his resignation of life, and was solemnly laid in his coffin. The ceremony closed with sprinkling holy water on his body; then, all the attendants retiring, the doors were shut, and Charles rose from his narrow bed and withdrew to his private apartment. The damping of the grave cloths induced a chill, which, added no doubt by the mental depression caused by the gressome ceremony, induced a fever which ended in his death three weeks later.

CURIOUS ACCIDENT.

Two angry sparrows were chasing each other through a suburb of Berlin, when one of them, in its haste, flew into a woman's face. Its sharp beak penetrated her eye and destroyed the sight.

Captain John H. Surratt, whose mother was hanged for the murder of President Lincoln, is a trusted employe of a Baltimore steamship line, though still out on \$25,000 bail as the result of a jury's disagreement in his own trial, which lasted 104 days in 1867.

The late Dr. Henry Harris, of Ash-tabula, O., was the oldest living underground railroad man in the country. He was the associate of Joshua Giddings, Senator Ben Wade, and other Free Soilers, and personally assisted in the escape of hundreds of negroes.

WHAT UNCLE SAM IS AT.

ITEMS OF INTEREST ABOUT THE BUSY YANKEE.

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

The House Military Affairs Committee has made a favourable report on the bill providing that half of the nurses employed in the army hospitals shall be women graduates of colleges.

N. B. Scott, the new Senator from West Virginia, made his fortune, like Senator Turner, of Washington, in mining. He was born in a log cabin, and was left an orphan while still a small boy.

Rev. Father Carroll, of Jersey City, is not satisfied with things in his parish. There are not enough marriages to suit him, and courtships are too long. He recently gave his congregation a lecture.

Representative Norton, of Ohio, is piloting about Washington a young visitor and admirer, Walter H. Koch, an eleven-year-old newsboy of Laure, O., who saved money from his business just for this trip.

The House of Representatives of Alabama, has, without a dissenting vote, adopted a resolution that the national flag be hoisted over every school house in the State, and be kept floating there forever.

Governor J. G. Brady, of Alaska, was once a homeless boy in New York. He was sent to an Iowa farmer by the Children's Aid Society, which later assisted him through college. He first went to Alaska as a missionary.

Judge William Butler of Philadelphia, who has resigned from the bench of the United States District Court, learned the trade of a printer in the office of the West Chester, Pa., Village Record. Among the other boys in the office at the same time was Bayard Taylor.

Mrs. G. C. Smith and Miss Emma C. Smith, wife and daughter of Col. Geo. Smith, U.S.A., purchasing quartermaster at St. Louis, have left St. Louis, Mo., for San Francisco, en route to Manila, where Miss Smith will be married to Lieut. Pegram Whitworth, U.S.A., who is on the staff of General McArthur.

The chief signal officer of the American army has just completed a new department cipher, which will effect a considerable saving in cable tolls in communicating with distant stations where cable rates are high. It is an arbitrary word cipher, in which a single word stands for a long phrase or even for a full sentence.

A Kansas paper notes the difference between the charity of Helen Gould and that of John D. Rockefeller. The fares on the Missouri Pacific are not advanced every time Miss Gould makes a contribution to a worthy cause, while users of coal oil and gasoline always know when Rockefeller is about to endow a church or a college.

C. M. O'Leary, of Seattle, writes from Dawson that he discovered December 8, on his claim on Hunter Creek the tusk of a mastodon. The tusk was imbedded in snow and ice 30 feet deep. It was nine feet long, 26 inches in circumference and weighed about 500 pounds. He will ship the fossil to the city museum of this city.

Mrs. Arminta Obanion, an old coloured woman who died at New Richmond, Ohio, the other day, was a servant in the household of Jesse Grant, father of U. S. Grant, and rocked the latter to sleep on many occasions. She also at one time was employed by Jas. G. Birney, the abolitionist, and was present when a mob destroyed the Philanthropic office.

In the House the other day a favourable report was made on the bill which passed the Senate to grant a pension to General John M. Palmer, of Illinois, but the amount was cut down from \$100 to \$50 per month. This was done not in any spirit of unkindness to General Palmer, but because he himself intimated to friends his unwillingness to accept more than \$50 per month.

Some time ago charges were filed at the State Department that the American Consul at Jerusalem had persecuted and oppressed the Jews in that city. These charges were preferred by a community at that place known as "The Americans." The State Department caused a thorough and impartial investigation to be made and as a result it was found the charges were without foundation.

The sudden death of ex-Attorney-General Garland recalls the fact that about two months ago he said to ex-Judge Henry W. Scott, in the United States Supreme Court: "It has been over forty years since I argued my first case. Nothing would please me better when my time comes to die than to be stricken right here, in this court room, in the midst of an argument. That would be a fitting climax to my career."

Representative Taylor, of Ohio, is taking an interest in the affairs of the letter carriers of the country and is endeavouring to have their pay increased. The lowest salary received by a mail carrier under the present law is \$500 per annum. Mr. Taylor introduced a bill which provides that the lowest salary paid the carriers will be \$600 for the first year's service, \$800 for the second year, and \$1,000 for the third year.