

## DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

### HOUSEHOLD AND AGRICULTURAL TOPICS DISCUSSED.

A Budget of Useful Information Relating to the Farm, Orchard, Stable, Parlor and Kitchen.

#### Timber for Farm Use.

About this time of the year we hear that the month of July, or the summer months, is the proper time for cutting timber to last well, and to do the most service. Now, my experience, covering more than thirty years, cutting large quantities of all the varieties of wood and timber, has proved that the spring and summer months are the poorest of the year for cutting timber to last. Other operators of experience in my neighborhood have avoided cutting ship timber and other hard wood timbers as much as possible during the spring and summer months. They have considered December and January to be the best months for cutting, although experience proves that October, November, and February will answer very well. Timber should always be cut while in a dormant state, both for wood and for manufacturing purposes.

This has been proved by cutting hard wood and timber and allowing the same to lay over for a year or two. I have always found the summer-cut timber to decay much the quicker of the two. Farmers would find it to their advantage to cut their fencing stuff and draw it in early winter to the place where wanted. Their teams are strong and can draw more at that season of the year than in the hot days of spring. Again, by this method they will have better material, and also hasten their spring work.

It is a popular belief that posts set in the ground will last longer than when set in the ground. Such is not the fact. Both the butts and tops of the trees are the poorest to last in the ground. The former is open-grained and spongy, while the latter is the last grown and the most sappy, hence quickest to decay. To prove this, set the first post butt down and the second post top down. The first will rot in the ground first, but with the second the upper end will rot first.

The proper way is to cut off two or three feet of the butt, and then set the posts butt down, or else set the first cut with the top down and the rest butt down. When cutting small trees for fence stakes, I set the first cut butt down to the ground, and find they last longer than any other way.

Some scientists claim that if posts are set butt down that the sap cells will be brought into action, and apply to posts with moisture. This argument does not convince me, for I can hardly believe that a section of a dead tree, without root or branch, can perform the functions of a live tree.

In order to prove the truth and fallacy of the above, I set out an experiment. When they had been set several years I dug them late in the fall, after the winter season was over, also in the spring near the ground, and midway between the ground and the top. I found that the posts set butt down to the ground, always finding them rotting at the top. The posts set butt down should have their posts cut at the time herein described, and season them thoroughly before setting. My experience for many years shows me that posts cut and set in a green state never season or dry through; and the first change is towards rot. —Joseph Barnard, in American Cultivator.

**Agicultural Items.**  
SOAPDRES should be added to the manure heap. Never waste soap. Later in the season some may be applied to asparagus and celery with advantage.

MANURE that is "fire-fanging" (as it will sometimes do when the heap is very large) should be turned over, as the heating process, if allowed to continue, may cause a loss of ammonia.

THERE is not one crop grown that requires hilling up, and the hilling up is best for all; while deep planting provides depth of soil without the injurious piling up of the soil in ridges.

THE crops grown should be in accordance with the demand of your nearest market, but this rule does not apply where articles can be shipped to market at a low cost. The markets should be carefully observed and prices noted.

PROFESSOR Storer says that many farmers in New England have found that mixtures of bone meal and wood ashes serve them an excellent purpose when used as substitutes for barn-yard manure. On good land apply 600 pounds of bone meal and twenty bushels of unleached ashes.

ALL plants and trees consume water in large quantities. Sir John Lawes discovered that an acre of barley will take 1,094 tons of water in two days. Trees and plants are composed more largely of water than any other substance. The branch of a tree will lose nine-tenths of its weight by drying.

A GALLON of coal tar costs very little, but it is very useful to have around the farm. It makes an excellent grease for wooden axles; a little of it rubbed on a trough in which salt is given to the sheep, will preserve them from the gnawing which lays its eggs in the sheep's noses and causes "grub in the head"; a little of it stirred with fresh cow dung and applied to young apple trees will repel the hateful borer and deter rabbits from eating the bark.

#### THE DAIRY.

Points on Cheese Making.  
On the farm the character of the crops raised is largely gaged by the efficiency of the utensils and tools used in their cultivation. When we regard cheese making the same rule holds good. To produce marketable stock at a profit to the manufacturer the plant must be judiciously and conveniently equipped. Coming from the West some years ago, and visiting a number of factories in central New York, I was surprised to find the meagre and primitive equipment of many of them. I found old copper boiler vats in use that had seen service over twenty-five years, and they were so patched and soldered and rust eaten that heat could be generated in them only with difficulty. Evidence of two decades ago still linger in many cheese factories hereabout, and the only way improved utensils creep in is the collapse of time-worn tools, it having then reached a point of actual necessity.

Factory owners should possess a full complement of modern improved cheese utensils, but in many cases does these exist encouragement for them to do so? A man who contrives a score of factories can in the face of the present low prices for manufacture still glean a liberal income in the aggregate. With the manufacturer who is his own proprietor and makes the case is radically different. What with old established factories, new creameries and milk-shipping

depoets competition is very strong, and a premium is often paid on individual dairies merely to secure their milk for manufacture.

I am personally cognizant of one case where a far larger amount is paid for the patronage of one dairy than the manufacturer could secure back again by making up the milk. In other words, the dairyman gets his milk manufactured for nothing, and receives a handsome present besides. This may be an extreme instance, but it illustrates how far rivalry and under-cutting will carry some men. There are, however, a class of manufacturers who are seriously affected by such a procedure. Their means are limited, and their factories are their sole business dependence. Cheese and butter-making is their profession, and their plants are their breadwinners. They cannot afford to make gifts to neighboring dairymen, in order to retain their patronage, and so more wealthy competitors distribute booties, and carry off the spoils. I know of men in this season who must be running their factories at a loss in consequence of this unequal contest. They must soon succumb to the pressure, and seek other business.

As to the best cheese tools, heat by steam, a boiler, if not an engine, is indispensable. Do not use the big vat, but rather two of medium capacity. I detest those great 600 and 700-gallon vats. Such a mass of milk as they will hold one cannot make up to advantage. From 300 to 400 gallons is a good capacity for a cheese vat. Have siphons of the largest size, so that you can draw off the whey with great speed, and secure the advantage of acid development in a dry rather than a wet curd. Many a day's make of cheese is spoiled by the slow escapement of whey from the curd. If you do not use power from the water wheel, use a double-gear curd milk mill that will run easily by hand. These old balance wheel mills are heavy, clumsy, and regular milk killers when it comes to cranking turning.

There is quite a knack in properly filling a coop with curd so that it will yield symmetrical cheese. The curd should be pressed in firmly with the hands, not left loose as it falls from the scoop. This stretches the bandage out to its full capacity, and the after-pressure of the screw will not rupture the curd. The heat ring is obtained by pressing the cheese when the curd is warm, which is also the time when they should be extracted. Aim by every possible effort to make uniform cheese, so that the product of one day cannot be distinguished from the make of another. This is conclusive evidence of a good cheese maker. —George E. Newell, in American Cultivator.

#### THE POULTRY-YARD.

Profit in Poultry.  
It is by no means difficult to make a profit of \$2 to \$5 per head from a flock of well selected poultry by good management, writes Henry Stewart, of Macon County, N. C., to the Practical Farmer. Eight dozen eggs and a brood hen, which reared to the age of 4 months, will do this in any locality near a market where fresh eggs and good chickens are salable. At 15 cents per dozen for the eggs, \$1.20 will be made and this will pay all expenses for food. Sixty pounds of meat at 12 cents per pound comes to \$7.20, and this is a quite possible income where there is a market, and has been made by a good many persons without any unusual expense. The main point is to save all the young chicks and get as many in a brood as possible. An average of ten chicks to a brood is easily made by having suitable arrangements. Early chicks are the most profitable, and to have these requires a little extra warmth at first. A separate apartment for the setting-hens is indispensable, and this may be made at the southeast end of the poultry house, and provided with double hotbed sash on the east and south sides; the other sides and the roof being made tight by means of tarred paper lining. Here the portable nests are carried when the hens begin to brood. These nests consist of boxes sixteen inches each way, covered and open only in the front, where a bar four inches wide is fixed across at the bottom, so that the hen may step easily into her nest. A barred door is fixed to the top in the front which may be let down and fastened. These nests are used for the laying hens and are moved with the hen to the glazed room when required. The nest boxes are opened every morning and the hens let out for food and water put in the house. In thirty minutes the hens are put back on their feet if they have not gone on them, and the doors are let down. As soon as the chicks begin to appear, the first are taken from the hen and put into a brooder to be kept warm until the others are out of the shells. The brooder is a box the same size as the nests with a glass door in the front. A slatted shelf is fitted across the middle on which a folded newspaper is laid. Under this is a tin box to hold hot water, by which the heat is kept at 80 or 90 degrees. All a young chick wants for twenty-four or thirty-six days after hatching is warmth, which makes it strong and lively. A supply of food and water is given to the chicks while they are in the brooder. The nest boxes may be used for coops and when the whole brood is out they are put under the hen at night and then left for her care. The floor of the brooding house is kept clean and sanded, and the chicks run there and feed until strong enough to put out of doors in larger coops. In this way an average of ten chicks per hen has been raised from a flock of over fifty hens and \$7 per hen has been made above all expenses. This is a business which can be left to the young folks of the farm who should have one-half the profit for themselves, to be disposed of as they please. The profit of the hens is by no means the most valuable. Under good domestic training the young people may be taught habits of industry, regularity, patience, economy and thrift, and in a few years their savings will amount to a very pleasant sum of money, which will be a nest egg for their own future success in life.

#### THE ORCHARD.

A New Era of Fruit-Growing.  
It cannot be expected in the conditions which now prevail throughout the country, whereby crops of good fruit can only be obtained with unremitting care and a large amount of skill, that the relative number of fruit-growers will remain as large as it has been; only those who combine intelligence, energy and industry will succeed, others will find it unprofitable. And, again, it is but reasonable to suppose that good fruit of certain kinds will command a higher price than ever before. All the rots, blights, rusts, mildews, and scabs which are so injurious to fruits and fruit trees are fungi, and the germination of their spores is greatly favored by excessive moisture, and it is but reasonable to conclude, as observations also shows that dry lands are more fruitful from their ravages, while moist, undrained lands are their most favor-

able breeding grounds. The proper preparation of fruit grounds by under-drainage has never had the attention given to it that its merits demand, and fruit-growers must fortify themselves on this point.

In regard to the equipments for spraying, quite a number of pumps and other apparatus are in the market, and the announcement is made that the government has been engaged with the problem of designing an effective and cheap portable apparatus for small pieces—an instrument on which there will be no patent, and which, therefore, can be manufactured anywhere. For large orchards and vineyards casks or reservoirs of considerable capacity must be employed, which shall be drawn by horses.

Spraying both for insects and fungi will be practiced on a much larger scale this year than ever before, and the results will be looked for with great interest. The results of the numerous trials last year have settled conclusively the general value of the operation, but undoubtedly this year's experience will make clear many points and details upon which there remain still some obscurity and doubt.

Fruit culture is evidently now entering upon a new era, and the fruit-grower of the future must be intelligent and watchful, and prompt to meet any emergencies in his work, and the rewards of his labor will, no doubt, increase in comparison with the greater difficulties encountered. Improved methods in fruit-growing are sure to give better results. —Vick's Magazine.

#### THE HOUSEHOLD.

##### Too Much Shade.

Houses in places otherwise unexceptionable are often so closely overhung with trees as to be in a state of humidity, by preventing a free circulation of air, and by obstructing free admission of the sun's rays. Trees growing against the walls of houses, and shrubs in confined places near dwellings, are injurious also, as favoring humidity; at a proper distance, on the other hand, trees are favorable to health. On this principle, says Dr. James Clark, it may be understood how the inhabitants of one house suffer from rheumatism, headache, dyspepsia, nervous affections, and other consequences of living in a confined, humid atmosphere, while their nearest neighbors, whose houses are otherwise situated, enjoy good health; and even how one side of a large building, fully exposed to the sun, may be healthy, while the other side, overlooking damp, shaded courts or gardens, is unhealthy. Humid, confined situations, subject to great alternations of temperature between day and night, are the most dangerous of all the physical causes of disease, and humidity in general is the most injurious to human life. Dryness, with a free circulation of air, and a full exposure to the sun, are the material things to be attended to in choosing a residence. —Medical Classics.

##### The Prevention of Sunstroke.

The following hints for the prevention of sunstroke are given by Dr. Edwin C. Mann, of New York City, in an article upon this subject in one of the medical journals: "To avoid sunstroke exercise is excessively hot weather should be very moderate; the clothing should be thin and loose, and an abundance of cold water should be drunk. Workmen and soldiers should understand that so long as they come to perspire while working or marching in the hot sun, they are in danger of sunstroke, and they should immediately drink freely and copiously, to afford matter for cutaneous transpiration; keep the skin and clothing wet with water. Drinking water may be obtained by carrying a tin of water with them. Besides the cessation of perspiration, the pupils are apt to be contracted and there is a frequency of micturition. If there is marked exhaustion with a weak pulse, resulting from the cold water application, we should administer stimulants. The free use of water, however, both externally and internally, by those exposed to the direct rays of the sun, is the best prophylactic against sunstroke, and laborers and soldiers and others who adopt this measure, washing their hands and faces with water, and drinking copiously of water every time they come within reach of it, will generally enjoy perfect immunity from sunstroke. Straw hats should be worn, ventilated at the top, and the crown of the hat filled with green spongy material. It is better to wear thin flannel shirts in order not to check perspiration. We may expose ourselves for a long time in the hot sun and work or sleep in a heated room and enjoy perfect immunity from sunstroke if we keep our skin and clothing wet with water."

##### Hints to Housekeepers.

FASTEN one of the cheap, three-fold towel racks securely to the kitchen wall, near the stove, and it will serve to hang your jelly-bag, which should be provided with four loops of string, two in one of the usual strings. Slip the two loops opposite each other on the outer arms of the rack, and the alternate ones on the middle arm. You will find it far more convenient than tying the bag to the back or legs of chairs.

TO WASH dishes quickly: Dippan nearly full hot water, and a white cloth, for drying, may be placed on the table at one side. Wash dishes quickly and turn upon the towel to drain. Dry knives, forks and spoons, wash and wipe pans, etc. Pour out the water, spread wiping towel over the dishes and leave them. After a while you may set them as if you like, and the water was warm and clean, they will be dry and shining.

#### THE KITCHEN.

**Cream Cookies.**  
One cup of maple sugar, one cup sour cream, one teaspoonful of soda, a little nutmeg, one teaspoonful caraway and flour to make a stiff batter, roll thin and cut; bake in a quick oven.

**Potato Soup.**  
Four large potatoes, one onion; boil in two quarts of water until soft. Press through a sieve, and add one pint of sweet milk, one tablespoonful of butter, a little salt and pepper. Let it boil up and serve.

**Apple Pudding.**  
Cut good, tart cooking apples into slices, after they are pared and cored, and lay them into a buttered baking dish in alternate layers with dried bread crumbs. Sprinkle each layer thickly with sugar and lightly with cinnamon, and let the top layer be bread crumbs, melt an ounce of butter and pour over the pudding. Bake till the apples are done. This receipt may be varied by using apples for the top layer, and covering the pudding, just after taking from the oven, with a meringue made by beating the whites of three eggs to a froth, with two tablespoonfuls of granulated sugar and the juice of half a lemon. Return it to the oven long enough to brown the egg to acquire the desired firmness.

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The senatorial caucus Monday night is the most talked of topic around the capitol just now. The action in changing the proposed "previous question" rule so as to permit limit of debate "after a reasonable time" is regarded as favorable to the opponents of the federal election bill. The republicans who are opposed to the election bill and to the proposed change of rules are in the minority and cannot successfully make a direct fight in the caucus, but they gain time by every delay secured, and the modification of the rule gives quite a wide range for construction. The adoption of a rule providing that after a "reasonable time for debate" a motion may be made to fix a time for the vote leaves room for independent action of individual senators as to what is a "reasonable time." What is a reasonable time for the consideration of one bill may not be a reasonable time for the discussion of another more important measure. A prominent republican senator said to-day that he thought six weeks would be a reasonable time for the discussion of the tariff bill. Certainly that much time might be spent in the consideration of that bill and much yet remains to be said on that subject. The democrats would probably demand that much time if there were no such thing as a federal election bill. A reasonable time being consumed in the debate of this bill and of the appropriation bills might not leave much time for the consideration of the election bill. Therefore, the adoption of a rule for the previous question, "after a reasonable time," may not help the federal election bill much. The caucus on Monday night, however, developed that the two elements in the senate, those in favor of first passing a tariff bill and those in favor of first passing a federal election bill, had looked hither and thither for a common ground as the victors. This is pleasing to the McKinley crowd, and consequently displeasing to the Reed faction. The speaker thinks a federal election law a necessity if the tariff bill is sacrificed, while Mr. McKinley and his friends think the tariff bill is of paramount importance.

Mr. Perkins' Candidacy.  
Our correspondent has heard many kind expressions of opinion by Iowans in and about the capitol on the nomination by the republicans of the Eleventh district of Geo. D. Perkins, of the Sioux City Journal, as the representative in the Fifty-second congress for that district. One Iowa member submitted to a small interview. He said of the nomination of Mr. Perkins: "It is a wise and splendid selection. Mr. Perkins is a leading factor in the politics of Iowa and deserves recognition by the people in the northwestern part of the state. He has done much in many ways for the party, who will be his colleagues in the next house. Of course, Mr. Struble, the present incumbent, will be missed very much. He has been an indefatigable worker and is very popular with all the members of the house."

"Do you think there will be any other changes in the present Iowa delegation?"  
"That I am unable to say. Mr. Henderson, of the Third district, has been re-nominated, and he will be sure to return. Mr. Kerr, of the Fifth district, I understand, is not seeking another re-nomination. It is said that Mr. Struble has a brother in that district who would like to come to congress and is in a fair way to receive the nomination."

"Of course you expect to come back?"  
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The New Treasury Notes.  
The president and Secretary Windom have approved the designs of the new treasury notes provided by the new silver bill. The designs were recently prepared at the bureau of engraving and printing in anticipation of the passage of the bill. The notes will be of eight different denominations as follows: One, two, five, ten, twenty, fifty, one hundred and one thousand dollars. While each note has a distinctive design outside of its value designation they will all resemble in form and general characteristic the present legal tender note. A new feature of the notes intended to prevent raising or alteration is the printing of their value in big black letters across the back. The notes will differ from all previous issues in bearing the words "United States of America," instead of simply "United States." The portraits to be displayed on the different notes, so far as selected, are as follows: Ex-Secretary Stanton on the ones, Gen. Thomas on the fives, Gen. Sheridan on the tens, Admiral Farragut on the one hundreds and Gen. Meade on the one thousands. While the pictures for the two, twenty and fifty-dollar notes have not yet been decided upon, it is probable they will contain portraits of Gen. McPherson, Ex-President William Henry Harrison, and Ex-Secretary Morrill, respectively.

Thought It Inconsistent.  
Ex-Mayor J. A. Johnson, of Fargo, N. D., who was in the city the first of the week, in an interview concerning Dakota politics, had this to say: "The republicans are sure to carry North Dakota this fall. The farmers' alliance will not out much of a figure. I don't suppose the lottery will put in an appearance again. As a matter of policy I was in favor of the lottery; it would have helped our state expenses. To me the spectacle of the boards of trade in the northwest protesting against it was remarkable. You never heard of any one being ruined by buying lottery tickets, but you have heard of hundreds being ruined by the demoralizing influence of board of trade gambling."

Like Patriotic Ceremony.  
"Why would it not be a good thing," queried a prominent naval officer the other day, "to infuse a little color and life into the practical existence of us Americans? What do I mean? Well, I refer to one phase of which a little has been said and written of late. Why not inaugurate a custom such as this: Every Saturday afternoon let the Marine band close its concerts in the white house grounds by playing a national air, such as 'Hail Columbia,'

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## THE WOES OF FARMERS

### NORTH DAKOTA FARMERS IN A SAD PLIGHT.

At Present in the Clutches of an Elevator Trust—Growers Will Have to Dispose of Their Crops at Prices the Buyer Chooses to Offer.

It will be a startling piece of news to the wheat growers of North Dakota to find out on the eve of harvest that no elevator in the state will store grain this year. The radical change in the handling of the crop has been kept as secret as possible. It was determined upon, it is said, soon after the law was passed this year which makes all public elevators and warehouses pay an annual license of \$250 per 1,000 bushel capacity. Nine-tenths of the crop of the state has been heretofore bought by the elevator companies upon Duluth and Minneapolis quotations. A farmer could store his grain in these elevators for fifteen days for nothing and keep it in store as long as he desired to pay a small fee therefor. Now the elevators will refuse this on the ground that they are not public elevators, and the farmer, who is mortgaged to the ears, will this year be compelled to sell his crop at whatever price the company chooses to allow him. In most cases this will leave him penniless for the winter.

The law was supposed to be a reasonable one, and was in the nature of a tax not so easy to evade, as the old tax law had proved, but the companies, in order to evade it, will resort to this sweeping change, which will bring unexpected misery on most of the wheat growers of the state, a class of men having from 50 to 500 acres in grain, which represents all they have in the world, and which now promises the first actual return for their labors in three years. By the plan of forcing private buyers out of the small stations and agreeing upon a price the principal elevators of the state will have, as in the past, absolute control of the enormous crop now out. This crop will be so large that the railroad commissioners have stated that all the railroads combined cannot furnish cars to move it one tenth as far as required. If the elevators decline to store it the confusion and dismay that will result will be something unprecedented.

#### AFTER EIGHTEEN YEARS.

##### A Convict at Chester Confesses to an Old Murder.

Penitentiary Commissioner J. J. Brown, of Vandalia, Ill., while on a recent visit to the southern Illinois penitentiary, at Chester, came in possession of the following interesting facts: There is a convict in the Chester penitentiary by the name of Davis, sentenced for ten years, from White county. Davis was the cell mate of one Charles Henderson, a former resident of this (Fayette) county, and well remembered by the people of Vandalia. Henderson is now serving a ten years' sentence from Christian county for an infamously crime. Some time ago he was taken sick in prison, and thinking he was going to die sought to release his conscience by relating to his cell mates the shocking details of a murder, most foul, committed in this county eighteen years ago, and confessing that he and his brothers were the murderers. The crime is well remembered, the victim being Frank Little, a young farmer residing in the northern part of this county.

Little and his two sisters lived together, and were known to be among the very best people of the neighborhood. The night of the murder Little was seated at an organ playing and singing, accompanied by his sisters, who stood by his side. A shot was fired through a window, and Little fell to the floor dead. Immediate steps were taken by the people of the neighborhood and officers to hunt down the murderer, but little or no clue could be obtained. Years passed, and still nothing developed which could possibly lead to the identification of the assassin, and as time fled the horrible event almost faded from the memories of our people.

Now, the circumstances of the occurrence are suddenly and unexpectedly revived under peculiar and surprising conditions, and there is yet a probability that the perpetrators may, after all, be brought to punishment for the crime of eighteen years ago. A barn of Campbell Nave, an uncle of the murdered man, living in the same neighborhood, was burned a short time after the murder, and Henderson also admits that he and his brother were guilty of this crime. His brother, he says, is now in Maine.

Charles Henderson has a uniformly bad record and is perfectly capable of such a crime as he confesses to. He is now serving his second term in the penitentiary. The first was for implication in the theft of a carload of cattle from J. M. Parke, of Vena, this county, which was brought to Vandalia and shipped to Chicago. His present sentence for ten years is for a crime committed at Taylorville during the campaign of 1888. A big political fight was in progress at that place, when Henderson, who was located there as a veterinary surgeon, sneaked around after dark and poisoned thirty or forty horses, from the effects of which several valuable animals died. He was arrested for the deed, and in a few days confessed to it.

The convict, Davis, to whom the confession was made, and who imparted the same to Warden Dowell, is a Kentuckian, an intelligent man, and bears the reputation among prison officials of being truthful.

#### THE MUTINOUS GRENADIERS.

##### Insubordinate British Soldiers to Be Transported.

The military authorities will not rescind the order of banishment for the insubordinate grenadiers. Many of the latter were drunk and disorderly on the streets Sunday. A mob in sympathy with them collected and riotous demonstrations were made. The grenadiers were desperate and declared they had rather go to prison than be sent abroad. A number have deserted and others have been spirited away. The government has hastened to action, and one company will be placed on board a transport sailing for the Bermudas. It is deemed expedient to send the battalion in the present subordinate condition to one country, but distribute it among stations far apart.

The easiest way to take a joke good-naturedly is to do it with the scissors. —St. Paul Post-Register.