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## FARM AND GARDEN.

### MATTERS OF INTEREST TO AGRICULTURISTS.

Some Up-to-date Hints About Cultivation of the Soil and Yields Thereof—Horticulture, Viticulture and Floriculture.

#### Notes on Iowa Experiments.

At the Iowa Agricultural College, located at Ames, Iowa, there have been carried on for a number of years interesting experiments with field crops. One cannot help wondering what would result if the common farmers of the country went to work in as systematic a manner as do the men at these colleges. The volume of agricultural products turned out would be immensely increased.

About 50 varieties of corn were tried in 1898 and in 1899. In 1900 the nineteen best varieties were selected for field work. Five of the best varieties yielded from 90.9 to 100.3 bushels per acre, while the poorest of them yielded 52.5 bushels per acre. Yet this latter yield is far ahead of the average yield of corn in the United States or in Iowa. It is interesting in this connection to note the annual yields of corn in bushels in the state of Iowa. They were as follows: 1891, 36.7; 1892, 28.3; 1893, 33.9; 1894, 15; 1895, 35.1; 1896, 39; 1897, 29; 1898, 35; 1899, 31; 1900, 38. Yet at the experiment station of that same state the lowest yield was more than 13 bushels better than the best average for the years quoted. This shows what method will do. It illustrates the truth that if a man knows what he should know about the cause and effect of cultivation, the conservation of fertility and the result of methods of culture he can be reasonably certain of having a good crop almost any year.

The average results at the station for two years gave 71.9 bushels per acre with deep cultivation, and 82.4 with shallow cultivation. This bears out the opinions expressed by so many readers of the Farmers' Review that deep cultivation is harmful for corn, and that shallow cultivation is the only kind that should be given it. The difference of 11 bushels per acre, as shown here, is very marked.

Sorghum was sown under the best of conditions and gave 29 tons of green feed per acre, equal to 12 tons of sorghum hay. After the barley was harvested in July sorghum was sown and by September 20 was well headed and stood 7 feet high. It yielded 21 tons to the acre and was cured into 7 tons of sorghum hay. This illustrates the ease with which an added supply of winter forage may be obtained after the grain crops are gathered.

Their experiences in growing rape were no less striking. Rape sown May 24 and harvested September 10, gave 21 tons of green feed to the acre. Still better results were obtained when six pecks of oats and one pound of rape seed were sown together in the spring. A 60-bushel oat crop was obtained and 18 tons of rape. This was in 1899. On the following year the same combination was again tried on upland and lowland. On the lowland the rape grew so rank that the oats were entirely smothered out, but on the upland a good crop of each was harvested.

#### Restoring Lost Fertility.

From the Farmers' Review: A question has been asked as to the quickest method of restoring fertility to an exhausted soil. The answer will depend on the kind of a soil and what it lacks. Most exhausted soils are such because they lack humus more than anything else. This exhaustion of humus has been caused by long and improper cropping. What is the best method depends on circumstances. Barnyard manure, being a complete fertilizer and furnishing a large amount of mature vegetable matter, will give humus after it is decayed. It is therefore a good thing to apply, the only drawback being that it sometimes cannot be procured in necessary quantities.

The sowing of cow peas is a good and cheap method for some soils, if the soils are in localities where cow peas will grow. Bone meal, phosphate and nitrate of soda are also good fertilizers on some soils for some crops. Each particular case must be treated in a manner peculiar to itself, depending on location, kind of soil, how it has been cropped in the past and what is intended to be grown on it in the future.—E. A. Riehl, Madison county, Illinois.

#### Would Not Plow Hay Marshes.

From the Farmers' Review: When more than fifty years ago, my father went from Western New York, to look over Southern and Central Michigan, he returned saying that about one-third of the country was waste land, owing to the many marshes, large and small. Now for about thirty years I have been having active experience in handling this land, and have now

In this time I have paid not less than five hundred dollars tax for township ditches, and have spent as much more in reclaiming some of this land. As a result, I have dried out a good many small "cat holes," as we call them here, and am now in full use for cropping purposes of a few tracts containing one to three acres, once boggy, worthless swamp land.

It should be said that in this country we have three distinct kinds of muck land: One kind is springy and is always soft and miry, summer and winter. This land is productive when once dried out, but most efforts to drain it have proved dismal failures. Within two miles of my home are several tracts of two to ten acres, which have been ditched with great expense, and have produced a few crops of potatoes, cabbages, onions and celery, but the cost of keeping the ditches in working order was too great, and some wet season has "swamped" them, so that now, their last condition is worse than the first; they are covered with bogs and the coarsest, most worthless grass.

The third kind of soil is found in our "marshes," which are generally cut for hay. Many efforts to plow these and seed to tame grasses have been made, but with poor success. Timothy and red-top soon run out, and the tendency is for a poorer, coarser quality of grass to take their place. I believe the best way to use this land is to sow at times seed of tame grasses and harrow the sod over, so that a better quality of hay can be cut on these natural meadows; but I think the original sod should not be destroyed by the plow. I prize the hay from this land very much for some uses, as I have written you before. All my attempts to reclaim the springy land first mentioned, have been failures. I am well acquainted with the celery lands of Kalamazoo and other places which are of a similar character, but these are only kept in use by an extensive system of open ditches, which control the outflow of the springs and fit the land for these special crops. For this class of land the best way is to get it and keep it in grass. For this purpose it is very valuable, especially during our dry summers. Stock will feed on these spots day after day, while upland is dry and barren in the hot months.

I would summarize by saying that in a general way for farmers the best use to make of all springy and swamp land as distinct from marsh meadows is to use them for pasture, and for pasture only, never disturbing the original sod, but introducing tame grasses as fast as possible. If I had adopted this principle twenty-five years ago it would have saved me great expense and disappointment.—S. W. Gibson, Eaton County, Michigan.

#### Science in Tree Setting.

From the Farmers' Review: My article in the December 11 issue of the Farmers' Review should have read, on the matter of setting trees in February, "in the line of the sun in February at one o'clock," or it might have been better to have said "to set our apple trees on the line of the sun's shadow, north and south, at one o'clock in February." My reasons for this are these: If a tree is set up perpendicular and it is barked or injured by the sun, it will invariably be found injured on the side facing half-past one o'clock. This never varies, not even as much as our time pieces vary. We find these dead spots on the sunny side of many of our trees that face the sun at all hours from eight a. m. to five p. m. If a tree leans from any point of the compass from the sun from eight to five it will be injured where it leans from the sun the most direct, and no injury will be found where the tree is leaning to the sun. For this reason you will see the great importance of the admonition I have so often repeated in my articles relative to setting and training a tree to grow to and not from the sun here in the northwest.

East of Chicago this precaution is not necessary, but north and west of Chicago it is an imperative necessity. I have seen trees seriously injured in Michigan from sun scald, but never in the middle or in the New England states. But here in the northwest it is thought by many of our best observing orchardists to have been the cause of more injury to our bearing trees than all other causes. It does not injure our trees under seven years old as much as it does those from seven to twenty. After fifteen or twenty they are either ready to die or else have been so grown as to protect themselves and protect one another.—Edson Gaylord, Floyd County, Iowa.

#### Growing Potatoes in Illinois.

From the Farmers' Review: In this county (Champaign) potatoes are no more profitable to grow than corn, and not one farmer in one hundred grows potatoes for market. To get the best results with potatoes it is necessary that the soil be rich. Deep fall plowing gives the best results here. The planting should be done as early in the spring as possible. The after culture must be very thorough. I would rather grow potatoes than corn.—L. S. Spencer, Champaign County, Illinois.

#### The Fruits a Farmer Can Raise.

From Farmers' Review: What fruit can a farmer raise for his own use with the least trouble? I would say apples, pears, cherries, for long-lived trees; peach and plum, particularly; Wild Goose, Abundance, Fool's Pride (for pie), Lombard and Burbank plums for quick results in tree fruits. Quinces of the orange variety are easily grown and the trees are productive. He can grow the Houghton, Downing, Pearl and Red Jacket gooseberries, and for currants, Fay, Pomona, Red Cross and White Grape. Among the blackberries I would name Snyder, Stone's Hardy and Erie. Among the blackcap raspberries he will find Kansas, Gregg and Columbian of value; for reds I recommend Loudon and Scarlet Gems.

Strawberries are very productive but need a great deal of care and culture to give good results. Huckleberries and barberries (an excellent substitute for cranberries) are very productive here, even under neglect. No plant will do well and raise itself; the better culture, the better results.

The Farmers' Review has asked the question, "How shall we encourage the raising of fruit on the farm?" I answer (a) By citing the experience of many successful growers in all sections, having them tell how they accomplished these results; (b) by teaching through farm papers practical plant physiology, as well as some of the simple facts of culture, also pointing out the diseases and how to cope against them; (c) by encouraging the planting of varieties of known merit, leaving experiments with new and fancy sorts to our experiment stations; (d) since fruit growing pays better than anything else on the farm, farmers should be encouraged to make it a department of their vocation, the same as poultry or stock.

I have been asked this question, "How many farmers in your vicinity raise all the fruit their families can use?" In answer I will say less than one in ten; but in this respect conditions are very rapidly improving.—J. W. Griesemer, Tazewell County, Illinois.

#### Irrigation in the Humid States.

Dr. A. C. True, Director of the Office of Experiment Stations at Washington, says: During the past two years more miles of irrigation canal have been built and more money expended for pumping plants to furnish water for irrigation in the state of Louisiana than in any of the arid states. The application of irrigation to growing rice has raised the value of large areas of land from \$5 and \$10 an acre to \$50 or \$100 an acre, and promises to make the United States an exporting country so far as this product is concerned. At the request of those interested, Mr. Frank Bond, irrigation expert, has been detailed to aid in the solution of the problems created by this new form of agriculture along the Gulf coast, and Mr. George H. Keeney is making similar investigations along the Atlantic seaboard. In the Mississippi Valley provision for the experimental use of water in irrigation was begun in 1900 in Wisconsin under the direction of Prof. F. H. King, and in Missouri under the direction of Prof. H. J. Waters. The work in New Jersey, inaugurated the year previous, has been continued. The severe drought of 1901 has given a more than local interest to these efforts to provide a water supply, whenever needed, for the lands of the humid states. The director of the Missouri experiment station states that their irrigation experiments are being watched by the farmers of that state with more interest than any work previously attempted by that station.

#### Skim Milk in the Hog Ration.

At the Utah station some experiments made in feeding skim milk to hogs resulted in the following conclusions being drawn: Skim milk when fed in combination with grain makes a very valuable food for hogs at all periods of their growth, but particularly so during the earlier periods.

Skim milk and grain in combination make a much more economic ration for hogs than either milk alone or grain alone.

When fed in combination with grain, skim milk has 63 per cent greater feeding value than it has when fed alone.

The hogs fed on the milk and grain ration made much more rapid gains than either those fed on milk alone or grain alone.

When the skim milk and grain were fed in the proportion of three pounds or less of skim milk to one of grain, the return for the skim milk was greater than when a larger proportion was fed.

Hogs fed on milk alone gained very slowly and did not keep in good health; in some cases they were off their feed so frequently that a change of feed had to be made. The milk and grain fed hogs, however, without exception, kept in good health.

Young hogs fed on grain alone did not do well and appeared to make poor use of the food they ate.

## TALMAGE'S SERMON.

### DUTIES AND TRIALS OF THE DIFFERENT DECADES OF LIFE.

All the Years of Man Considered—Work of the Twenties and Thirties—Should Be Crowned with Splendid Reward in the Seventies.

(Copyright, 1902, Louis Kloppsch, N. Y.) Washington, Jan. 26.—From an unusual standpoint: Dr. Talmage in this discourse looks at the duties and trials which belong to the different decades of human life; text, Psalms xc, 10, "The days of our years are threescore years and ten."

The seventieth milestone of life is here planted as at the end of the journey. A few go beyond it. Multitudes never reach it. Whatever your age, I will to-day directly address you, and I shall speak to those who are in the twenties, the thirties, the forties, the fifties, the sixties, and to those who are in the seventies and beyond.

First, then, I accost those of you who are in the twenties. You are full of expectation. You are ambitious—that is, if you amount to anything—for some kind of success, commercial or mechanical or professional or literary or agricultural or social or moral. If I find some one in the twenties without any sort of ambition, I feel like saying, "My friend, you have got on the wrong planet. This is not the world for you. You are going to be in the way. Have you made your choice of poorhouses? You will never be able to pay for your cradle. Who is going to settle for your board? There is a mistake about the fact that you were born at all."

Some of the mightiest things for God and eternity have been done in the twenties. As long as you can put the figure 2 before the other figure that helps describe your age I have high hopes about you. Look out for that figure 2. Watch its continuance with as much earnestness as you ever watched anything that promised you salvation or threatened you demotion. What a critical time—the twenties! While they continue you decide your occupation and the principles by which you will be guided; you make your most abiding friendships; you arrange your home life; you fix your habits. Lord God Almighty, for Jesus Christ's sake, have mercy on all the men and women in the twenties!

Next I accost those in the thirties. You are at an age when you find what a tough thing it is to get recognized and established in your occupation or profession. In some respects the hardest decade of life is the thirties, because the results are generally so far behind the anticipations. Nine-tenths of the poetry of life has been knocked out of you since you came into the thirties. Men in the different professions and occupations saw that you were rising, and they must put an estoppel on you, or you might somehow stand in the way. They think you must be suppressed.

Oh, the thirties! Joseph stood before Pharaoh at thirty; David was thirty years old when he began to reign; the height of Solomon's temple was thirty cubits; Christ entered upon his active ministry at thirty years of age; Judas sold him for thirty pieces of silver. Oh, the thirties! What a word suggestive of triumph or disaster!

Next I accost the forties. Yours is the decade of discovery. I do not mean the discovery of the outside, but the discovery of yourself. No man knows himself until he is forty. By that time he has learned what he can do or what he cannot do. He thought he had commercial genius enough to become a millionaire, but now he is satisfied to make a comfortable living. He thought he had rhetorical power that would bring him into the United States senate; now he is content if he can successfully argue a common case before a petit jury. He thought he had medical skill that would make him a Mott or a Grosse or a Willard Parker, or a Sims; now he finds his sphere is that of a family physician, prescribing for the ordinary ailments that afflict our race. He is half way through life's journey and he is in a position to look backward or forward. He has more good sense than he ever had. He knows human nature, for he has been cheated often enough to see the bad side of it, and he has met so many gracious and kindly and splendid souls he also knows the good side of it.

My sermon next accosts the fifties. How queer it looks when in writing your age you make the first of the two figures a 5. This is the decade which shows what the other decades have been. If a young man has sown wild oats and he has lived to this time, he reaps the harvest of it in the fifties, or if by necessity he was compelled to overtoll in honest directions he is called to settle up with exacting nature sometime during the fifties. Sciatism and rheumatism and neuralgia and

hafr begins to whiten and, although he may have worn spectacles before, now he asks the optician for No. 14 or No. 12 or No. 10. When he gets a cough and is almost cured, he hacks and clears his throat a good while afterward.

O ye who are in the fifties, think of it! A half century of blessings to be thankful for and a half century subtracted from an existence which, in the most marked cases of longevity, hardly ever reaches a whole century. By this time you ought to be eminent for piety. You have been in so many battles you ought to be a brave soldier. You have made so many voyages you ought to be a good sailor. So long protected and blessed, you ought to have a soul full of doxology.

In Bible times in Canaan every fifty years was by God's command a year of jubilee. The people did not work that year. If property had by misfortune gone out of one's possession, on the fiftieth year it came back to him. If he had fooled it away, it was returned without a farthing to pay. If a man had been enslaved, he was in that year emancipated. A trumpet was sounded loud and clear and long, and it was the trumpet of jubilee. They shook hands, they laughed, they congratulated. What a time it was, that fiftieth year! And if under the old dispensation it was such a glad time, under our new and more glorious dispensation let all who have come to the fifties hear the trumpet of jubilee that I now blow.

My sermon next accosts the sixties. The beginning of that decade is more startling than any other. In his chronological journey the man rides rather smoothly over the figures 2 and 3 and 4 and 5, but the figure 6 gives him a big jolt. He says: "It cannot be that I am sixty. Let me examine the old family record. I guess they made a mistake. They got my name down wrong in the roll of births." But no, the older brothers or sisters remember the time of his advent, and there is some relative a year older and another relative a year younger, and, sure enough, the fact is established beyond all dispute.

Sixty! Now your great danger is the temptation to fold up your faculties and quit. You will feel a tendency to reminiscence. If you do not look out, you will bring almost everything with the words, "When I was a boy." But you ought to make the sixties more memorable for God and the truth than the fifties or the forties or the thirties. You ought to do more during the next ten years than you did in any thirty years of your life because of all the experience you have had. You have committed enough mistakes in life to make you wise above your juniors. Now, under the accumulated light of your past experimenting, go to work for God as never before. When a man in the sixties folds up his energy and feels he has done enough, it is the devil of indolence to which he is surrendering, and God generally takes the man at his word and lets him die right away.

My subject next accosts those in the seventies and beyond. My word to them is congratulation. You have got nearly if not quite through. You have safely crossed the sea of life and are about to enter the harbor. You have fought at Gettysburg, and the war is over—here and there a skirmish with the remaining sin of your own heart and the sin of the world, but I guess you are about done. There may be some work for you yet on a small or large scale. Bismarck of Germany vigorous in the eighties. The prime minister of England strong at seventy-two. Haydn composing his oratorio, "The Creation," at seventy years of age. Noah Webster, after making his world renowned dictionary, hard at work until eighty-five years old. Rev. Daniel Waldö praying in his pulpit at one hundred years of age. Humboldt producing the immortal "Cosmos" at seventy-six years. William Blake at sixty-seven learning Italian so as to read Dante in the original. John Wesley stirring great audiences at eighty-five. William C. Bryant, without spectacles, reading in my house "Thanatopsis" at eighty-three years of age. Christian men and women in all departments serving God after becoming septuagenarians and octogenarians and nonagenarians prove that there are possibilities of work for the aged, but I think you who are passed the seventies are near being through.

How do you feel about it? You ought to be jubilant, because life is a tremendous struggle, and if you have got through respectably and usefully you ought to feel like people toward the close of a summer day seated on the rocks watching the sunset at Bar Harbor or Cape May or Lookout Mountain.

I am glad to say that most old Christians are cheerful. Daniel Webster visited John Adams a short time before his death and found him in very infirm health. He said to Mr. Adams: "I am glad to see you. I hope you are getting along pretty well." The reply was: "Ah, sir, quite the contrary. I find I am a poor tenant, occupying a house much shattered by time.

as near as I can make out, does not intend to make any repairs."

An aged woman sent to her physician and told him of her ailments and the doctor said: "What would you have me do, madam? I cannot make you young again." She replied: "I know that, doctor. What I want you to do is to help me to grow old a little longer." The young have their troubles before them; the old have their troubles behind them. You have got about all out of this earth that there is in it. Be glad that you, an aged servant of God, are going to try another life and amid better surroundings. Stop looking back and look ahead.

Oh, ye in the seventies and the eighties and the nineties, your best days are yet to come, your grandest associations are yet to be formed, your best eyesight is yet to be kindled, your best hearing is yet to be awakened, your greatest speed is yet to be traveled, your gladdest song is yet to be sung. The most of your friends have gone over the border, and you are going to join them very soon. They are waiting for you; they are watching the golden shore to see you land; they are watching the shining gate to see you come through; they are standing by the throne to see you mount. What a glad hour when you drop the staff and take the scepter, when you quit the stiffened joints and become an immortal athlete! But hear, hear; a remark pertinent to all people, whether in the twenties, the thirties, the forties, the fifties, the sixties, the seventies or beyond.

What we all need is to take the supernatural into our lives. Do not let us depend on brain and muscle and nerve. We want a mighty supply of the supernatural. We want with us a divine force mightier than the waters and the tempests, and when the Lord took two steps on bestormed Gallies, putting one foot on the winds and the other on the waves, he proved himself mightier than hurricane and billow. We want with us a divine force greater than the fires, and when the Lord cooled Nebuchadnezzar's furnace until Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego did not even have to fan themselves he proved himself mightier than the fire. We want a divine force stronger than the wild beast and when the Lord made Daniel a lion tamer he proved himself stronger than the wrath of the jungles.

There are so many diseases in the world we want with us a divine Physician capable of combating ailments, and our Lord when on earth showed what he could do with catalepsy and paralysis and ophthalmia and dementia. Oh, take this supernatural into all your lives! How to get it! Just as you get anything you want—by application.

A man got up in a New York prayer meeting and said: "God is my partner. I did business with him for twenty years and failed every two or three years. I have been doing business with him for twenty years and have not failed once." Oh, take the supernatural into all your affairs! I had such an evidence of the goodness of God in temporal things when I entered life, I must testify. Called to preach at lovely Belleville, in New Jersey, I entered upon my work. But there stood the empty parsonage, and not a cent had I with which to furnish it. After preaching three or four weeks the officers of my church asked me if I did not want to take two or three weeks' vacation. I said, "Yes," for I had preached about all I knew, but I feared they must be getting tired of me. When I returned to the village after the brief vacation, they handed me the key of the parsonage and asked me if I did not want to go and look at it. Not suspecting anything had happened, I put the key into the parsonage door and opened it, and there was the hall completely furnished with carpet and pictures and hat-rack, and I turned into the parlors and they were furnished—the softest sofas I ever sat on—and into the study, and I found it furnished with bookcases, and I went into the bedrooms, and they were furnished, and into the pantry, and that was furnished with every culinary article, and the spiceboxes were filled, and a flour barrel stood there ready to be opened, and I went down into the diningroom, and the table was set and beautifully furnished, and into the kitchen, and the stove was full of fuel, and a match lay on the top of the stove, and all I had to do in starting housekeeping was to strike the match. God inspired the whole thing, and if I ever doubt his goodness all up and down the world call me an ingrate. I testify that I have been in many tight places, and God always got me out, and he will get you out of the tight places.

But the most of you will never reach the eighties or the seventies or the sixties or the fifties or the forties. He who passes into the forties has gone far beyond the average of human life. Amid the uncertainties take God through Jesus Christ as your present and eternal safety. The longest life is only a small fragment of the great there.

The highest calls may come from the