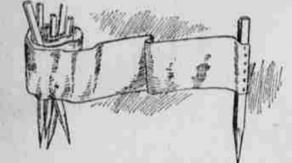


## FACTS FOR FARMERS.

### HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS FOR THE AGRICULTURISTS.

Several Devices Which Will Prove Savers of Time and Money—Now Look After the Roads—Remember that Onions Are Hardy.

**Device for Blanching Celery.**  
The "new celery culture" does away, to a certain extent, with artificial blanching, but many people do not follow this method of close planting, while, moreover, some sorts of celery will not blanch, even with close planting, unless banked by earth, boards, or something of the sort. Earth is



objectionable in many cases, while the use of boards is expensive and cumbersome if one's celery rows are somewhat extensive. The accompanying illustration shows a device that may be found useful. The cheapest of cotton cloth is bought and torn into strips of the required width, when it may be hemmed upon a sewing machine. The whole, when dipped into a ten-cent package of black dye, is ready to be tacked upon slender sticks, sharpened at one end. It is a simple and very easy matter then to place these strips of cloth along the sides of the celery rows, turning at the end and going back upon the other side of the row. Sufficient shade may perhaps be afforded in most cases without dyeing the white cloth.—Orange Judd Farmer.

**Farmer Boys and Their Fathers.**  
All farmers' boys cannot take a course at the agricultural college, but if the fathers of these boys do their duty, many of them will be able to take a scarcely less valuable course of study at home.

The wide diffusion of agricultural knowledge by means of bulletins, books, and the agricultural press, and the influences of Granges, Alliances, and similar organizations, has produced a large number of intelligent farmers. They know not only the art of farming but the science that underlies it. Let them establish a college at home and train their own sons.

That the boys are not trained to follow the calling of their fathers, and made to feel a deep interest in it, is due largely to thoughtlessness and carelessness on the parts of parents.

The boy is made acquainted only with the rough side of the business. He is given duties to perform with no explanation of the why and the wherefore. He feeds the stock so much of this and of that, but is not told of the mysteries of digestion, nor why it is better to feed one ration rather than another. He is left in the dark on the subject of the nutritive value of foods, and sees no reason for the care he is required to exercise in feeding.

If it appears to the boys as a wearisome, humdrum business, the father is probably at fault. "All work and no play makes Jack" a store clerk or a lawyer instead of a farmer.

It would be an advantage to the son and the father, too, for the son to have an insight into the business side of farming, for him to know all about the expenses and the income; the necessity for certain expenditures and for economy in other directions. He should be taught how to buy and how to sell. Many a boy has to learn all this after his father dies, and the responsibility is suddenly thrown on his shoulders.—Farm Journal.

**Improved Brace for Wire Fences.**

One trouble with wire fences is the liability of the wires to become loose, sagging down or losing their tension. This is mainly caused by the posts tipping or leaning toward the point of the greatest strain and which is not fully overcome by the common plan of placing a brace against the top end of the post, the other end being imbedded in the ground. This lower end is subject to the action of frost, decay, and the liability of the stone or other substance against which it rests to become displaced. By the plan shown herewith



SECURE WIRE FENCE BRACE.

this trouble is obviated and a firm anchorage secured. The two end posts are connected at the top by a strip or pole a, two two by three-inch strips in m are nailed in the form an X to the top and bottom of the posts; they are also firmly connected together at the center by bolts or spikes. This plan answers equally well for ends of fences or the center of a long line. In the latter case it equalizes the strain from both directions.—Orange Judd Farmer.

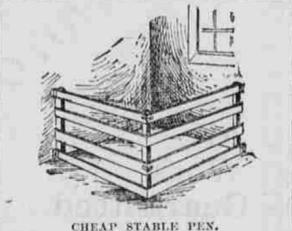
**Blackberries and Raspberries.**  
At the late meeting of the Ohio Horticultural Society, Prof. Green, of the State Experiment Station, in a report on new fruits, stated that El Dorado promised to take a place among standard varieties of blackberries. It has endured a temperature of 12 degrees below zero, and is certainly harder than Lawton or Erie, which it nearly equals in size of berry, and probably as hardy as Snyder or Ancient Briton. Of large-fruited berries, Minnesota is about the hardest. Among raspberries, the variety Ebony bears black berries, which present a beautiful appearance in the basket. It is of medium size and season. Eureka com-

mences to ripen early, and bears very late, covering the entire season of Palmer and Gregg, and yielding about as much as both together. The Gault seems to be an exception to the so-called ever-bearing varieties, which are generally worthless, in that it is vigorous and exceedingly productive. The main crop begins to ripen with the Gregg. The berries are large and firm, and the plant bears through a very long season.

**The Farmer's Aviary.**  
"Counting out the good birds do," said a fruit-grower at a Chester County institute, "their music is worth all the berries and cherries they eat, and more. I say to the robins and bluebirds, and the catbirds and finches, draw up and help yourselves, and even the crows know my whistle, and come down to it. Every year the robins and the catbirds build around our house, and in the same old places. And you should hear the catbirds sing. But you will never hear them unless you take care of them and make them feel at home. The influence of this bird life upon our farm has told upon every member of my family, and I say to you, farmers, protect the birds. Tempt them to your trees, and then protect them."—Philadelphia Ledger.

**Effects of Creameries.**  
The establishment of creameries has done much to enlighten the farmers. They have been compelled to give some consideration to the breeds of cattle, to use better implements in the dairy, and to produce better butter in order to compete for the highest prices. Those who patronize the creameries have lessened their labor, and combined several other pursuits with the keeping of good cows. On farms where formerly only milk and butter were sold there is now a diversity of crops, and varied products are shipped to market.

**A Quick Made Stable Pen.**  
It frequently happens that one desires to make use, for an emergency, of a stall or pen in the stable which is not at hand, and for which there may not be convenient room as a permanent structure. Our illustration shows how such a pen may be made in a moment's time, in a corner that ordinarily may be used for other purposes. Two gates are made and hinged against the walls in the manner shown. Ordinarily they are folded back snugly against either wall, but when a pen or "box stall" is suddenly needed the two ends are swung together and locked with



CHEAP STABLE PEN.

hooks, and the needed accommodation is secured. Such gates should have slats quite near together, and should be of good height to accommodate both large and small animals.—Orange Judd Farmer.

**Good Trees to Start With.**  
One of the drawbacks to fruit growing is the fact that farmers economize at the beginning. They buy from tree peddlers and do not find out that their trees are of worthless varieties until they begin to bear, but as several years will then have been lost the mischief cannot be repaired, and work must be done over again. Do not buy trees from any but known and reliable nurserymen, and do not refuse choice trees because the prices are apparently high. Be sure of good trees first and then begin the economy afterward.

**Alfalfa and Potatoes.**  
"As a renovator and enricher of the soil" alfalfa is said to be equal, if not superior, to red clover, but is hard to plow up and very difficult to eradicate. Attention is called to the fact that the finest and most perfect of the famous Colorado potatoes are grown after alfalfa, and a rotation including it is being rapidly adopted in that potato country.

**Notes.**  
The National Nurseryman suggests that originators turn their attention toward the improvement of the blackberry and raspberry in the line of reducing the size of the seeds.

A heavy application of ground-bone will produce excellent results for several years, for the reason that the bone gives off its particles slowly, and is not dissolved for several seasons.

Hot beds for early plants may be prepared, and the manure put in later. Save fresh horse manure that is free from litter, keeping it in a cool place, so that it will not begin to heat until wanted for use.

By clearing out underbrush and refuse, not only from the fences and other places but where piles have accumulated in the forest, there will be less liability of forest fires. Green trees do not take fire quickly. It is the dry material that causes the damage.

Where the best crops are produced weeds never gain a foothold, and never have a chance to grow. This law is universal. Weeds do little injury to good farms, and on the contrary good farming exterminates weeds. This fundamental truth should be taken into consideration whenever the country becomes agitated over some new weed.

Experiments conducted at the Alabama Experiment Station with Ragl millet, Eleusine coracana, and Kodo millet, a species of Paspalum, both obtained from the Madras Presidency, seem to prove that these plants will make good pasture crops for cows and other stock, and also be profitable hay-producing plants in the Southern States.



## HOUSEHOLD DEPARTMENT

**The Growing Uses of Borax.**  
Sprinkle places infested by ants with borax and you will soon be rid of them. Blankets and furs put away well sprinkled with borax and done up airtight will never be troubled with moths. A little borax put in the water before washing red or red-embroidered tablecloths and napkins will prevent their fading. Ringworms will yield to borax treatment. Apply a strong solution of borax three times a day; also dust on the dry powder very often.

Silver spoons and forks in daily use may be kept bright by leaving them in strong borax water for several hours. The water should be boiling when they are put in.

Put a teaspoonful of borax in your rinsing water; it will whiten the clothes and also remove the yellow cast on garments that have been laid aside for two or three years.

One of the best things to cleanse the scalp thoroughly is to dissolve one-half teaspoonful of borax in a quart of water and apply it, rubbing it in well. Rinse thoroughly in clear water.

For washing fine, nice flannels nothing will cause them to look so nice as borax in the water, a teaspoonful of borax to a pail of water being the right proportion. Always wash baby's little flannel skirts, shirts, etc., in this.

Always wash baby's mouth and gums every morning with water in which you have put a pinch of borax. It keeps the mouth fresh and sweet, and prevents that uncomfortable affliction, a sore mouth, with which so many poor babies are troubled when their mouths are not kept perfectly clean.

Borax water is excellent for sponging either silk or wool goods that are not soiled enough to need washing. In washing cashmere or wool goods, put a little borax in the water. This will cleanse them much more easily and better, without injury to the colors. Do not rub them on a board, but use the hands, and throw on a line without wringing. Press them on the wrong side, and they will look almost like new.—Good Housekeeping.

### To Choose Meat.

**Venison**—The choice of venison should be regulated by the appearance of the fat, which, when the venison is young, looks bright, thick, clear and close. It first changes toward the blanches. To ascertain whether it is sweet run a knife into that part; if tainted, it will have a rank smell.

**Beef**—True, well-fed beef will exhibit an open grain of deep coral red, and the fat will appear of a healthy, oily smoothness, rather inclining to white than yellow; the suet firm and white. Yellow fat is a test of meat of an inferior quality. Heifer beef is but little inferior to ox beef; the lean is of a closer grain, the red paler, and the fat whiter.

**Veal**—Where you observe the kidney surrounded with fat you may be sure the meat is of good quality. The whitest is not the best veal. There is a vein in the shoulder very perceptible, and its color indicates the freshness of the meat; if a bright red or bluish recently killed; if any green or yellow spots are visible it is stale.

**Pork**—In young pork the lean where pinched will break; the thickness and toughness of the flesh shows it to be old. In fresh pork the rind is firm, smooth, a clear color, and the fat set. When stale it is clammy and flabby. Measly pork may be detected by the kernels in the fat, and should not be eaten.

**Lamb** should be eaten very fresh. In the forequarter the vein in the neck being any other color than blue betrays it to be stale. In the hindquarter try the kidney with your nose; the faintness of the smell will prove it to be stale.

**Mutton**—The best is of a fine grain, a bright color, the fat firm and white. It is better for being full grown.

**A Fever Bath.**  
A doctor recommends the following device for giving fever patients a bath. An India-rubber blanket or sheet is passed under the patient in bed, and the corners raised so as to make a dish into which the water of a suitable temperature is poured. A makeshift shower bath can also be given in the same way by means of a watering pot with a rose on the spout. The bath can be emptied again with a syphon, sponge, or cup, and the rubber cloth withdrawn without incommoding the sufferer.

**Home Hints.**  
Heat the knife before cutting warm bread or cake.

To restore gilt frames, rub with a sponge moistened with turpentine.

A French physician reports a case of hiccough successfully treated by taking snuff until sneezing was provoked.

If your bureau drawers move in and out with difficulty, rub soap over their edges. If that does not remedy the trouble use sandpaper.

If brooms are dipped in hot suds once a week they will become very tough, will not cut the carpet, will last longer, and always sweep like a new broom.

It is claimed by an excellent authority that a little nutmeg grated into such vegetables as spinach, carrots, and string beans is a great addition to the flavor.

## MRS. M'KINLEY STRICKEN.

**The Mother of the President Suffers a Stroke of Paralysis.**  
CANTON, Ohio, Dec. 3.—At an early hour yesterday morning Mrs. Nancy Allison McKinley, the venerable mother of the President, was stricken with paralysis and her death is believed to be only a question of a short time. Not since Mrs. McKinley was stricken has there been a favorable feature in her condition.

CANTON, Ohio, Dec. 4.—At 8:55 o'clock the President reached Canton, and found that his mother was still alive.



**MRS. NANCY ALLISON M'KINLEY.**  
but was sinking steadily, and was near the end of life.

Upon his arrival at the home of his mother President McKinley entered the sick room and knelt by the bedside.

As the President knelt at his mother's bedside his sister Helen announced his arrival by saying: "Here, mother, is William. If you recognize him hold up your hand." Mrs. McKinley did raise her left hand slightly, and the family believe it was in recognition of her son. He grasped her hand fondly and says he seemed to feel a slight pressure from the mother's effort to return his greeting.

### CRISPI TO BE TRIED.

**Ex-Premier of Italy Must Answer to Serious Charges.**

ROME, Dec. 4.—Yesterday the chamber of deputies appointed a commission of five to inquire into the charges against Signor Francesco Crispi, former premier, in connection with the Bank of Naples scandals and the alleged liberal traffic in decorations.

The special commission was appointed after an impressive speech by Signor Crispi, in which he declared that he desired the most ample and complete discussion of the whole question, and did not dread the light, which, he said, could reveal nothing against him.

"I am the victim of calumny," he asserted, "and should have brought suit against my calumniators if the matter had not been referred to the chamber."

### REVIEW OF TRADE.

**Business Somewhat More Animated, Due to Cold Weather.**

New York, Dec. 4.—Bradstreet's says: "General trade throughout the country has presented rather more animation, owing to cold weather and the approaching holidays. While clothing, dry goods, hats, shoes, notions, hardware and fancy groceries have been in a little better demand from both jobbers and at retail in the region tributary to Chicago, St. Louis, Omaha, St. Joseph, St. Paul and Kansas City, the tendency of business has been to slacken. This is noticeable in iron and steel, and in further depression in cotton goods, print cloths having made a new low record in price. The monthly report of failures shows defaulted liabilities of \$11,610,195 in November, against \$12,709,846 last year."

### KANSAS IS SHAKEN.

**Many Sections of the State Visited by an Earthquake.**

WICHITA, Kan., Dec. 3.—An earthquake visited all of South Central Kansas and Northern Oklahoma between 12:30 and 1:10 yesterday morning moving from north to south. At some points it was quite violent, but so far as known no damage was done.

Hundreds of people in all of the towns of the shaken section were awakened by the vibrations, and many of them were frightened and rushed from the upper rooms of their homes, but returned to sleep later, when the vibration was not repeated.

At Wellington and Hunnswell the shock was quite severe and much plastering was shaken from the ceilings of houses, while considerable chinaware was broken and other minor damage was done.

### BLAMES IT ON THE GIRL.

**Iowa Man Tells How Love for His Sweetheart Led Him Into Crime.**

WATERLOO, Iowa, Dec. 4.—William Kern has made a confession implicating his sweetheart, Delilah Fales, in the murder of Jerome Kern, and has confessed himself to have been her willing accomplice. Such was the strength of his fascination for the woman who tempted him, however, that when she unfolded to him the details of a plot to slay both his parents, take possession of their little property and get married, he consented to assist in the slaughter and the burning of the bodies.

**Driven to Suicide by Drink.**

SALINA, Kan., Dec. 3.—Joshua Morris, proprietor of the Elmo hotel here, committed suicide by taking morphine. Business troubles and drink are said to be the cause. He came here several months ago from Girard, Kan. He leaves a wife and four children.

**Paddy Shea Bound Over for Murder.**

WICHITA, Kan., Dec. 3.—At his preliminary trial here, Paddy Shea, the pugilist, was bound over to the district court for the shooting of Ed Dawson, November 14, and his bond raised to \$2,000.

## CONDENSED NEWS.

The Carter court-martial will be opened at Savannah, Ga., January 5, by General Otis.

Secretary Gage decided that sugar from The Netherlands is subject to a discriminating duty.

D. K. Bruce of Mississippi has been appointed register of the treasury to succeed Tillman.

It is said that Mgr. Schroeder's retirement from the Catholic university has been approved by the pope.

The government will qualify as a bidder for the Kansas Pacific, unless the Reorganization Committee makes a satisfactory guarantee.

The M. S. U. Tigers cleared \$600 for the season.

The Sedalia Woolen Mills have been compelled to close on account of the scarcity of wool.

Four leading railroads running into Chicago have united the auditing departments of their offices.

W. Scott Kimes, a pardoned murderer of Parkersburg, W. Va., has become violently insane.

In a street fight at Nashville, Ark., W. W. Millwee shot and killed Dr. Smith and fatally wounded J. J. Smith, a brother of the dead man. All were prominent citizens.

President McKinley will be the orator of the day at the Ohio Wesleyan commencement exercises at Delaware, Ohio, next June.

The Interstate Association of Live Stock Sanitary boards has asked the Agricultural department to move the southern fever quarantine line farther north.

General Otis will preside at the court-martial to try Captain O. M. Carter for fraud in connection with government work at Savannah, Ga.

W. D. Chipley of Florida, who was a candidate recently for United States Senator, died in Washington.

The North Atlantic squadron will spend the winter in the Gulf of Mexico, with Key West as headquarters.

The naval board estimates that the construction of a government armor plant will cost about \$3,750,000.

Statistician Hyde says that the system of crop reporting is very crude. He makes several recommendations.

Consul Smith at Victoria says that Canada will try to force Klondikers, by tariff duties, to buy their supplies in that country.

Mr. McKinley was offended by his pastor's Thanksgiving sermon and probably will not attend the Metropolitan Methodist church often.

Assistant Postmaster General Heath has made it an offense punishable by dismissal for a letter carrier to work more than eight hours a day.

An explosion of fire damp in a Bavarian mine killed 35 and injured 45 men.

Minister to Turkey Angell is pushing American claims for indemnity for the pillaging of American missions.

A \$11,000,000 coal combine is proposed at Pittsburg, Pa.

Kentucky distillers are planning to limit whisky production.

Seth Low is out for Republican nomination for governor of New York.

Justice Field, just retired, served forty-four years on the supreme bench.

The F. O. Sawyer & Co. paper factory in St. Louis burned. Loss, \$100,000.

The E. J. Lobdell bicycle rim factory at Marietta, O., burned. Loss, \$50,000.

Detroit chamber of commerce building sold at auction for \$122,050, half its value.

An ex-policeman of Montevideo attempted to assassinate President Cuestas.

The cruiser Amphion is supposed to have found \$30,000,000 on Cocos Island.

Olneyville, R. I., mills have voluntarily advanced wages 20 per cent to the 1894 scale.

President Cuestas of Uruguay made re-election certain by expelling his principal opponent.

Sibyl Sanderson, the opera singer, has been married to Antonio Terry, a millionaire sugar planter.

The estate of John E. Liggett, the St. Louis tobacconist, is valued at \$7,500,000. His widow is eccentric.

Ex-President Spaulding of the Globe Savings bank, Chicago, gets an indeterminate prison sentence.

Major Woodson, agent of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians, says the Indian mother-in-law is a bad egg.

Ex-Superintendent Mallahan of the Nebraska state reform school at Kearney is short \$6,000 in his accounts.

The comparative statement of the government receipts and expenditures for November shows a deficit of \$8,092,483.

Martin Thorn was convicted of murder in the first degree in killing William Guldensuppe, his predecessor in the affections of Mrs. Augusta Nack, at Woodsie, L. I., on June 25.

Ex-Congressman E. M. Woomer is dead at Lebanon, Pa., aged 53, from Bright's disease.

A Union Pacific train ran from Cheyenne to Council Bluffs, 519 miles, in 359 minutes.

The British bark Cordillera foundered off Valparaiso and fourteen of her crew were drowned.

Wisconsin State Normal school at River Falls, Wis., burned; loss, \$75,000; insurance \$35,000.

Illinois Democrats are preparing to fight Tanner's redistricting scheme, either in the legislature or in the courts.

The steamer Nahaanta burned at Escanaba, Mich., damaging the ore docks and killing two sailors; loss \$300,000.

Gov. Pingree of Michigan proposes to break the asphalt combine by his Venezuela acquisition and make municipal asphalt paving plants possible.

## A Chilly Call.

The Editor—Take that chair, Miss Bostin. Miss Bostin (with a roll of manuscript)—Thank you. I will not take the chair, but I shall be glad to occupy it while I read you my poem on icicles.—Texas Siftings.

### Ovicular.



"Whad yo' doin' roun' hean, 'Rastus?"  
"Nuffin', sah."  
"Whar did dat chicken cum from?"  
"Whar did it cum from? Why, cum from a nig. Whar did yo' 'spose chickens cum from, anyhow?"  
—Judge.

### Decidedly Handicapped.

Aunt Nancy—Think of studin' to be a doctor, eh? Don't you do it. Young Man—Why not, aunty? Aunt Nancy—You can't git no practice till ye git married an' ye can't git married till ye git practice, that's why.—New York Weekly.

### Whistle vs. "Hey There."

No one but the man who has watched them knows how much faster a street car driver with a shrill nice whistle gets along than the street-car driver who only sings out, "Hey, there, Charley!"—Boston Globe.

### No Use to Him.

Tailor—Would you like to have me put one of my patent seamless pockets in your trousers, sir? You can't possibly lose any money from them. Customer—I guess you don't know that I am a married man.—Judge.

### Loose Watch.

Lightfingers—Wot are yeh readin' dat's ticklin' yeh so? Scatterer—Fashion news. It says dat watch-chains are no longer fashionable. We'd order live high dis season.—Judge.

### Hoop-La.



Wandering William (as he strips the line)—Never touched me! I tell yer what, dis 'ere ermine is a life-preserver!—Puck.

### A Reason for Mirth.

Jay Astorbilt (pathetically)—You think how many calls for money are made upon us poor millionaires! Young Hardup—Poor millionaires! Ha! ha! Jay Astorbilt—You can afford to laugh; you haven't a penny.—Puck.

### Shaved Heads.

In Scotland the monks shaved the whole of the fore part of the head from ear to ear. In the Andaman Islands every man shaves his head, or, rather, gets his wife to shave it for him.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

### A Local Touch.

Maggie Zeen—The writer of this story lives in New York. Helen English—How do you know? Maggie Zeen—The moment one of her characters gets excited he "tears up the street."—Puck.

### Some Consolation.

Maud—We can't wear our new hats to church in this rain, that's certain. Belle—No; but we can put them on and stand at the window. The people opposite are just coming out.—Puck.

### Delicate Distinctions.

Aunty—Why do you say "riding down hill"? The proper word is "coasting." Little Nephew—Well, but I don't ride in a very proper way. I go belly-bumpers.—Exchange.

### Her Profanity.

"George!" said Maud. "I am William," said William, sternly. "Oh, I know that, Willie," returned Maud; "I hurt my finger, and that was my little swear word."—Bazar.

### Farmer Josh's Mistake.



"Why, the luxury of them city chaps beats everything I ever see! Why, they've got girls in their offices that do nothin' else but play the pianer all day."—Judge.