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From foot to block a hog loses approximately one-sixth in weight, depending upon type, condition and feed.

While it takes a lot of them, the English sparrow makes an excellent poultry. Inductively, too, putting sparrows in pies is an aid in safeguarding other useful birds about one's premises.

Dynamite is a mighty good agency when used with caution in the clearing of stumps from land, but it has lately been demonstrated quite conclusively that it is a woefully inadequate means of settling disputes between capital and labor.

Some idea of the prolificacy of the rat is got from some figures that were kept in a campaign that was waged against them some time ago on an English estate of 2,000 acres. During a given period 21,981 rats were killed, but notwithstanding this killing there were plenty left to insure the propagation of the species.

The postoffice department at Washington seems to take an entirely reasonable and consistent attitude when it holds that persons of rural mail routes shall not be given service unless they show some inclination along the line of keeping the roads in passable condition, which the rural carriers have to traverse in getting to their places.

While the early genealogy of the rat is shrouded in some obscurity, the rodent seems to have originated in China. It is said to have made its first appearance in England in 1728, in Paris in 1759 and in California in 1849. It scatters the germs of bubonic plague, cholera, hookworm and pellagra and in spite of all the warfare waged against it multiplies prodigiously.

Whatever the size or shape of the hog house, provision should be made for letting in a generous amount of light. It is very desirable if the arrangement of windows can be such that light will shine on some portion of the floor of the structure during the greater part of the day. Sunlight is a first rate germ destroyer and is a great aid in keeping the hog house dry and sweet and healthful.

According to figures lately compiled Texas produces more turkeys than any other state in the Union. The high prices that have prevailed during the past two or three years have served to greatly increase the raising of these big birds. From some points in southwest and west Texas from 3,000 to 4,000 birds are shipped to northern and eastern points daily during November and December.

From the standpoint of the maintenance of soil fertility and this, after all, is the only true basis for determining whether a given type of agriculture is good or not—it can only be viewed as a misfortune when, as in the case just now, beef and pork are both so low that the feeder does not feel like running the risk of feeding them high priced corn, but instead markets his grain in the raw.

A fellow has a good prospect of grief and disappointment ahead when he swaps the old farm, whose productive capacity he is sure of, for a stock of merchandise, a hotel or livery barn of decidedly uncertain value and of the conduct of which he knows little or nothing. We have known of just such cases as this where in the windup the victims didn't own anything except their clothes and with so little credit left that they could scarce get trusted for a week's board.

One of the interesting as well as quite remarkable fruit records of 1911 was made by a 1,200 acre orchard of seven-year-old Elberta peach trees located in Pike county, Ark. The gross returns are placed at \$300,000 and expenses at \$100,000, leaving a net profit of \$200,000 from a tract of land that was bought for \$5 an acre eight or nine years ago. The tract in question was a cut over timber tract, the surface soil being gravelly loam and the subsoil a red clay. The season's output of fruit was 250 cars that averaged \$1,500 per car.

The other day a Minnesota farmer who for some time prior had not had any confidence in the stability or soundness of banks as places of safe deposit went upstairs in his house to get some \$1,800 which he had worked hard to accumulate and which he had concealed just beneath the floor. On removing the piece of floor he found not the bills that he had placed there in the past with such a feeling of security, but a nicely rounded bunch of greenish white fuzz and scraps including a 'crazy rat's' nest. This fellow has learned his lesson, but by mighty expensive instruction.

The calla lily is a favorite plant with many and reaches its highest perfection during the winter months when it has had a couple of months' rest during the summer and is put in a well drained pot and fertilized generously. While prepared fertilizers give good results, pulverized cow or sheep manure is excellent. A liquid made by soaking some of the fertilizer in water for a few hours should be applied at least once a week. The calla being a warm country plant should be given plenty of sunlight and should not be allowed to get a chill.

Statistics recently collected show the horse population of the world to be 211,000,000. Of this number there are 11,000,000 in Asia, 23,000,000 in North America and 45,000,000 in Europe.

With prime milk sells worth all the way from \$7 to \$12 a gallon it is not surprising that a good many boys and men have their tops out and make regular trips of inspection during the winter months.

Some six months before the child is old enough to be affected by evil influences of whatever kind is the time to begin his instruction in morals, and with most kids of average intelligence and perception this is while they are still at breast or bottle.

It's a pretty good citizen that never makes a kick when he comes to pay his taxes. However, assessors and treasurers are but human, and it is a good plan to look into the charges which a fellow has to pay for living in a civilized and orderly society.

One who keeps close tabs on the butter situation states that within the past few weeks thousands of tons of this commodity, bought during the summer of 1910 and held through the disastrous slump which came a few months later, have been put on the market at prices ranging from 25 to 30 cents or about 5 cents below the price paid for western extras.

That the average flock of hens do not have the dust bath privileges that they would like is plainly indicated in the avidity with which they get on to a pile of ashes or pick out a dry spot of mellow earth in some sheltered spot most any time during the winter months. This dust bath is one luxury the hens should not be denied, is easily provided and will do much toward keeping them free from vermin.

President Taft helped stow away a fifty dollar prize pie that was presented to him by a lady friend eighty-four years old. This is how it was made: Two plates of apples cut in squares, half a pound of sugar, a pint of water and a teaspoonful of grated nutmeg. The crust of this prize winning culinary creation was made of two pounds of flour, a pound of butter and half a pound of lard. Do you notice that shortening?

That there is still a good sized nigger in the wood pile somewhere in the transit of apples between producer and consumer is shown in the prices paid for apples the past season—in some cases as low as 27 cents a bushel—and the price now being paid by the chap who eats 'em—from 3 to 5 cents apiece. Any one who will locate this Ethiopean and chase him out of the wood pile will confer a favor on his fellows.

While the usual time for using the King road drag is just following rains during the open weather of the spring, summer or fall, there is no time when better work can be done with one of these drags than during pleasant winter weather when there is no snow on the ground and when the surface of the dirt roads has been softened and mellowed by warm weather. Especially is such work with the road drag to be urged when the roads froze up rough and rutty.

It will be a very natural mistake for the farmer in the northern part of the corn belt to make this year to select larger ears of corn for seed than will mature in an average season. The past season was one of unusual length between frosts, there being 105 days instead of 120 days, as is often the case. This made possible the ripening of huge, deepkerneled ears, seed from which it would be decidedly unsafe to use next year for any considerable portion of the field crop.

Catalpa seeds for spring planting may be kept through the winter nicely by mixing with sand, putting in a box and burying just below the surface in a dry place until spring. In the preparing of nuts for seed it is well to reproduce in a general way the conditions which are to be found during the winter months in the wood lot where nut trees grow—a covering to take the place of leaves and yet sufficient exposure so that they will be subject to frost, but not to alternate thawing and freezing, as would be the case where the nuts are entirely exposed.

There may be some readers of these notes that do not know how to best prepare the grapefruit for the table. While the fruit may be cut in halves, the seeds removed and served at once with plenty of sugar, a much more satisfactory way is to prepare them the night before. After cutting them at right angles to the seed axle the central seed core should be removed by snipping the tough membranes or walls with a sharp pair of scissors. The membranes should also be cut where they join the rind. Two or three table-spoonfuls of sugar should then be put in the center and scattered over the cut surface. By morning the fruit will be properly sweetened and most appetizing.

MARKETING FRUIT IN OHIO. The marketing end is just as important a part of the fruit growing business as any step which precedes it and is receiving much attention just now. In way of solving this problem the plan that has been evolved by the peach growers in the district adjacent to Port Clinton, O., is interesting and may be of value to fruit growers elsewhere. Briefly, the plan referred to is a disposal of the fruit at auction sales, which are held in the home markets. While two successful co-operative marketing companies had been in operation for about twenty years, the auction plan was not inaugurated until six years ago. At that time any peach grower not a member of either company was likely to fall a victim to the commission men who often got these growers to consign their fruit. Since the auction plan has become established the buyers have been compelled to buy outright. As fast as the fruit is picked it is sorted into three grades and taken in baskets to the auction station and sold to the highest bidder. Thereupon the grower is given a slip stating the number of baskets of each grade and the price of each

and next receives in exchange for this a check on the local bank. There is no uncertainty about this plan, no delays, no telegrams stating "stuff not as represented" or anything of the kind. Now and then the grower receives less under this plan than he would by consigning to reliable houses, but he runs no risk, and the money is in his pocket on the spot and a good sound.

A HERD OF WILD HORSES.

In the rugged and forbidding valleys of Okanogan county, Wash., which lies north of the big bend in the Columbia river, range today a most interesting group of some 5,000 wild horses. These are said to be the many descendants of horses of good breeding and a much larger size that were brought west at the time of the gold discoveries in the fifties and sixties. These animals average about 700 pounds in weight, are remarkably swift and sure of foot, much like the highbred chest, and up to the present time have resisted practically all attempts at taming and bringing under domestication, being wild and shrewd no regard for their own lives when attempts have been made to subdue them. An interesting trait noticed in the stallions of this wild herd is their persistent attempts to enter to this wild life mares grazing on the nearest ranges. In many cases these efforts have been successful, with the result that more than one ranchman has unwillingly furnished new blood for this wild herd. However, a railroad is soon to run into the heart of the country ranged by these wild horses, and it is not likely they will long survive this encroachment of civilization.

REPAIRING TREE DAMAGE.

Doubtless more than one reader of these notes who has lately set out small fruit trees will find before spring that some of the trees have been girdled by mice or rabbits unless measures have been taken to protect the trunk. One of the best safeguards against damage by mice is a removal of all grass and weeds from about the trunk over a radius of two or three feet, for mice rarely do damage unless there is a shelter of some kind close to the trunk. In case damage is done, and the discovery of this should not be left until spring, it may be in part overcome by giving the wound a coat of linseed oil or white lead and tarring on a poultice of moist clay or cow manure. If the tree is entirely or almost girdled it will be advisable in the long run to take it out in the spring or at once if conditions permit and set a new one in its place. With apple trees bridge or strip grafting may be done in cases where the girdling is complete, but one must be quite expert at such work to insure success.

IS BEARING FRUIT.

For the year ending Nov. 1 Iowa produced 2,783,684 pounds more butter than for the preceding year. In accounting for this increase Dairy Commissioner Barney attributes no small part of the gain to the work done by lectures and demonstrations on the dairy specialties that were run over the main railroad lines of the state last winter. In these lectures emphasis was laid upon the need of testing each member of the herd for butter fat production, the importance of and what constitutes a proper ration and the necessity of grading up the dairy herd by the use of a first class sire. Much of this better dairy gospel work has been done in several of the states, and the practical good that has resulted it would be difficult to measure.

ABOUT CROWN GALL.

Crown gall is a disease of fruit trees that in some sections is causing a good deal of trouble. It is a fungous disease that makes its appearance in an enlargement and fibrous or hairy growth at the crown of the root. While many trees affected with the disease do not die, many others are practically ruined. The damage from crown gall may be reduced somewhat by a drawing of the base of the tree and adjacent roots with Bordeaux mixture, but this only helps and does not repair damage. It has been found that the disease is contagious, may be carried from one tree to another with hoe or cultivator shovel and that it is not safe to set new trees in soil from which diseased trees have been removed.

Parables of 1912. And then lay aside your horn, There's not a soul in ten short days Will know that you were born.

The man who advertises With a short and sudden jerk, Is the one who blames the editor Because it doesn't work.

But the man who gets the business, And who makes his business pay, Is the fellow with the adlet That you read from day to day.

We can help you toot your trumpet, We can bring the people in, We can help you build your business, Are you ready to begin?

Moral—He who toots his little trumpet Can withstand a sudden shock, For like the man in Scripture, He builds his business on a rock.

Presumption cannot boast of a pedigree.

THE Superior Drills and the Dairy Maid Separators sold by P. T. Bennett, of Skyeview, are the best now made on the market.

DOLLY MADISON Shoes have an individuality of their own. STYLE 08820 GUN METAL CALF. The new fall boot \$3.00. BABYLON & LIPPY CO., Westminster, Md.

A Few Suggestions For... NEW YEAR! This is the headquarters for New Year goods. As all our goods have the lasting qualities they will be a constant reminder of the giver. Below are a few suggestions for both the country and the town folk: For the husband: Shot Gun, Revolver, Hunting Coat, Tools, Match Safe, Razor, Dinner Pail, Safety Razor, Razor Strops, Butcher Knives. For the wife: Bread Maker, Scissors, Oil Heater, Asbestos Sad Irons, Washing Machine, Food Cutter, Enamelware, Roaster, Ice Cream Freezer, Knives and Forks. For the boy: Pocket Knife, Air Rifle, Ice Skates, Hunting Coat, Steel Traps, Boy's Ax, Drinking Cup, Ice Creepers, Game Bag, Shells. For the girl: Spoons, Stove, Scissors, Roller Skates, Drinking Cups, Ice Skates, Skate Sharpeners. D. S. GEHR, THE HARDWARE MAN ON THE CORNER, WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND.

Foley's Honey and Tar. Will cure a cough or cold no matter how severe and prevent pneumonia and consumption. A Guarantee. This is to certify that all druggists are authorized to refund your money if Foley's Honey and Tar fails to cure your cough or cold. Contains no opiates. The genuine is in a yellow package. FOR SALE BY ALL DRUGGISTS

USEFUL NEW YEAR GIFTS. If you desire to give something useful and practical for New Year Gifts let it be Shoes, Hats, Caps, Gloves, Suspenders, Hosiery, Neckwear, Handkerchiefs, Underwear, Dress Suit Cases, etc. We have the finest selection of Neckwear, Suspenders, and Hosiery we have ever shown, put up in Holiday Boxes. Come in and look them over. Rubbers of every description at rock bottom prices. A beautiful 1912 Calendar will be given away to all our customers making a purchase of \$1.00 or more. None to children. WM. C. DEVILBISS, 22 W. MAIN STREET, WESTMINSTER, MD.

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THOMAS & CO., Bankers, Brokers and Real Estate Loans and Collections. FOR SALE. Small Farm, on pike near Westchester. Good buildings, fruit and vegetable ground, and good buildings. Over \$3,000 worth of work per year. Farm of 90 acres, good buildings, pike, good soil, fruit and water, etc. can be bought at a bargain to quick buyer. An excellent farm of 122 acres near Windsor, on Stans Creek. Good buildings and fine land. Fruit Farm, 86 acres, excellent improvements, 600 apple trees, 10 year old, in fine condition. Other farms, town properties, etc. Write or call for full particulars. Dec 22

Fine Carroll Co. Farm. I am instructed to sell a fine farm of 219 Acres located near Taneytown. Excellent land in fine condition. 200 acres cleared. Well watered; good fence; fine orchards; good stone residence; large barn and other outbuildings. This is an opportunity seldom offered to acquire a good farm in that section. For price and particulars apply to J. LELAND HANNA, 822 Equitable Building, Baltimore, Md. Oct 5 1911

FOR SALE. Two houses and lots situated in Fairville, near Springfield Hospital; good water in the yard; garden fenced, all in good condition. Apply to W. J. WOLBERT, Woodbine, Md. nov 3

NOW LISTEN! Having installed a Pneumatic Tool Plant at my new place of business opposite Court street, I am now better able to serve my patrons at short notice. Come and inspect my plant and for yourself. The only one of its kind in the county. I also carry one of the largest stocks of GRANITE MONUMENTS & HEADSTONES in the county to select from. Give a call. Yours for business, JOS. L. MATHIAS, Westminster, C. & P. Phone 127. Jan 15

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