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Experimental.

[FOR THE FARMER AND MECHANIC.]

Agriculture in Portugal.

(BY A. V. DOCKERY.)

III.

The wines of Portugal form one of the chief articles of export, and vineyards the leading agricultural interest. The grape from which the port-wine is made, is not grown at or near Oporto, but up the river Douro, some eighty miles, the port-wine region begins and extends on either side about fifty miles further. There are four methods of cultivating the vine:

1st. After the picturesque manner of the ancient Romans, styled in French, "hautains," hanging in festoons from, or twining round poplars and oaks, planted for the purpose.

2nd. In the Alto-Douro, where the celebrated port-wine of commerce is chiefly manufactured, the vines are planted on terraces, and are never allowed to grow higher than three feet four inches. As the grapes ripen the vines are carefully tied to stakes, so that the fruit may be at least eight inches from the ground. The soil is turned three times per annum: first, in the autumn, to catch the winter rain; secondly, in March, to protect the roots from the sun; thirdly, when the fruit begins to ripen, to color. The turning refreshes the ground, and makes it less susceptible of the intense action of the sun, and the fruit ripens quicker if the turning is repeated, and is said to be of finer quality. The farmer, with basket in one hand and pruning knife in the other, prunes the vines, following strictly the favorite proverb that the "vines should be pruned immediately after the fruit is gathered."

3d. The vines are planted in rows about 8 inches apart. Little care is given to the pruning and rearing, so that when there is an abundance of fruit the grapes literally lie on the ground and imbibe a peculiar earthy taste.

4th. In villages, and near large towns, and in gardens, vines are trellised at the height of 8 to 10 feet from the ground. The vintage usually occurs in the month of September. The grapes are cut by women and children, and carried in large baskets to the warehouse or shed, where they are thrown into large stone troughs. About twenty-one baskets usually yield a pipe of wine (138 gallons), and the capacity of the troughs vary from 10 to 30 pipes. When the trough is filled, a gang of men jump in, and form a close line with each man's arms on the shoulder of the man in front, and advance and retire to the sound of music; when tired they feed and rest, another set taking their place. This operation continues 36 hours, when the grapes are fully crushed and fermentation commences. The must is then left to mature. If the must be green, in 36 to 48 hours it will become a perfect wine. When the wine is ready to be drawn off, the husks, seeds, stalks and impurities will form a thick incrustation on the surface, which crust, if left too long, opens, disperses, descends and completely disarranges the general mass. Hence the drawing off process is by no means an easy one.

If a rich wine is required, the fermentation is checked and brandy added. If a dry and pure wine is wanted, it is allowed to take its natural course, and a very small quantity of brandy will suffice to keep it in a sound and improving condition. Brandy is also at times floated on the surface of the wine to preserve it from the atmosphere. The wine is drawn off into casks to be left loosely bunged till the cold weather of November checks the fermentation, which continues after the wine has left the press. The wine then deposits some of the matter held by it in solution, or in suspension, and becomes clear. It is fit to drink as soon as it is clear, but goes on improving until the following autumn, beyond which time its preservation is doubtful, unless brandy be occasionally added.

THE PEASANTRY.—The condition of the peasants of Portugal is no doubt superior to that of the average land-workers throughout Europe. A conclusion upon this point, drawn from the appearance of the people themselves, can hardly be deceptive. Such an opinion would be supported by a closer examination into the system of wages, the amount and quality of food, and the social habits generally of the peasantry.

The food of the Portuguese laborer is coarse, but comparatively varied and abundant. The national mode of cooking is in a "broth," corresponding to the "pot au feu" of the French peasant, of which cabbage, beans, rice, beef, and bacon form the ingredients, according to means and circumstances.

Fish is consumed by the peasantry, to some extent, dried cod being a favorite and universal food with all classes. It is considerably dearer than beef, but having been deprived of its moisture and being in a concentrated form, is doubtless of very superior food value. The cod fish is imported partly from Norway, but chiefly from Newfoundland. Potatoes are seldom eaten by field laborers, and the universal bread-food is "brae," a strong, wholesome, and not unpalatable bread, composed of maize and rye.

BLACK CREEK, N. C.

April 20th, 1878.

Editor Farmer and Mechanic:

I would like to ask, through the columns of your valuable paper, what will make a cow give down her milk after the death of her calf. I have a very good cow which, since the death of her calf, refuses to give down her milk. We have resorted to petting, such as currying, rubbing, tapping her on the back, and feeding with good, palatable mashes. We have tried bathing the udder with salted, warm pot-liquor, and other warm applications, all to no effect.

To-day the udder is a little feverish and is very hard, and I have some fears of her drying up or being injured. A suggestion from any one will be appreciated.

Very respectfully,

A. G. P.

MAKING BEEF TEA WITHOUT HEAT.—A way to make beef tea is to use no heat whatever, except that generated by the thawing of ice—the change of water from a solid to a liquid form. This is done by filling a deep dish with dice-like pieces of beef, and then piling cracked ice on top. The result, in an hour or two, is a certain amount of juice in the bottom of the dish, that is really an ice cold beef tea. The beef is just as much deprived of its juices and changed in its character as if submitted to a steaming or even a stewing process. No more nutriment is left in the fibre of the beef than when the juices are extracted by heat.

We learn that the Masonic fraternity of our town contemplate inviting our popular Congressman, Hon. A. M. Waddell, to deliver an address here on St. John's day. Our farmers are in the best of spirits. We are glad to learn that the corn crop of this county is more forward than it has been for years, and the indications are that a larger area of this cereal has been planted than ever before known in Carteret. —Beaufort Atlantic.

An Enjoyable Wedding.

At Megessa, about two miles beyond Dymond City, on the Jamesville and Washington Railroad, in Martin county, the home of Mr. A. Fisher, on Wednesday, the 10th of April, 1878, about the hour of 12 o'clock, m., in the Friends Meeting House, took place the marriage of Mr. Charles Grimshaw, son of Fred'k and Harriet Grimshaw, of London, England, to Anna Jane Fisher, the daughter of Mr. A. Fisher, of Megessa. On the arrival of our party (being a little behind time), we found the parties already quietly sitting in the Chapel. The bride and groom seated on one side, with the father and mother of the bride on the other, facing the congregation. After remaining so for a few moments, a prayer was offered up by one of the Friends, in which the blessing of God was implored to rest upon the happy couple. The bride and groom then arose, taking each other by the right hand, when the groom commenced by saying: Friends, I take Anna Jane Fisher to be my wife, promising, with Divine assistance, to be unto her a loving, faithful husband, until death shall separate us; and was followed by the bride repeating the same. They were then seated, and both signed the marriage certificate, which was handsomely but plainly gotten up on parchment, after the old style, which was also signed by the father and mother, and other members of the family. Mr. A. Fisher then arose and explained the manner of the marriage: stating that it was a religious contract, &c., exhorting an obedience to God in all things, &c., with forcible and well-timed remarks, which, we think, must have made a very deep impression upon the minds of many present. He afterward read the certificate, and then invited any Friend present who felt called upon to speak, when he was followed by a lady member of the Society of Friends from Piney Wood meeting, sent as a delegate to witness the ceremony, who, for earnestness and simplicity in manners (which is one of their leading characteristics) we have never seen excelled. She closed her remarks with an earnest invoking of Heavenly blessings upon all present. The bridal party then withdrew, when, on invitation, a number of our party (we among the number) went forward and signed the marriage certificate, as witnesses to the ceremony. Here we would like to notice the dress, which, for simplicity and neatness, was without fault; the bride wearing a dove-colored silk skirt, plainly made with basque, a white swiss hat neatly adorned with flowing veil. The groom wore a suit of black. The mother and married sister wearing dresses of the same kind and style as the bride, while all of the unmarried sisters wore white dresses, with white swiss hats, and sat opposite the bride and groom.

The crowd then withdrew to the residence of Mr. Fisher, where they partook of one of the most bountifully and well supplied dinners we have ever seen.

To lay the present railroads of America with a double track of rails weighing seventy pounds to the yard, would require between 15,000,000 and 18,000,000 tons of steel rails, representing at present prices a capital of \$126,000,000.

A project is on foot to construct a ship canal 17 miles long, between Chesapeake and Delaware bays, shortening the distance from Baltimore to New York and Europe some 225 miles. The estimated cost of the enterprise is \$8,000,000.

The Bureau of engraving and printing at Washington has resumed the printing of one and two dollar greenbacks and the treasury department will now put those denominations in circulation in proportions they were issued prior to last June.

According to David A. Wells, the English vessels which carry American goods to countries south of us charge from \$12 to \$20 more per ton on the same than they do on English goods. Is not this of itself sufficient reason for the establishment of American lines? But how can they compete with the subsidized English lines unless the Government comes to the rescue? —American Manufacturer.

The three leading advantages in the Southern iron districts are: Abundance of cheap and good material, reliable labor, cheap manufacture and ready access to outside markets. These conditions of success together savor a large and steady development of the metallurgical industries of the South. With out the advantage of cheap transportation, however, natural advantages would count for little there or elsewhere.

A GREAT STRIKE.

Six Million Spindles in Idleness.

LONDON, April 17.—The notices of a reduction in the wages of cotton operatives in Lancashire expire to-day and to-morrow. The refusal of the masters at Manchester yesterday to agree to a five per cent. reduction and their resolution that if a strike occurs at any of the mills where notice has been given of the ten per cent. reduction, the remainder of the trade shall lock out at the earliest possible moment, leaves little hope of averting a struggle which will involve the stoppage of two hundred thousand looms and six million spindles, and render idle no less than one hundred and twenty thousand work people. The Council of the Operative Spinners, after their interview with the masters yesterday, resolved to recommend the members of the association to accept the proposed reduction for the present, and call a representative meeting of spinners for Sunday to decide upon a future course. The operatives at Accrington and district, Church, Harwood, Enfield and Preston are willing to accept reduced wages and reduced time, but there is no hope of the masters accepting such a proposal. The Blackburn and Burnley operatives resist uncompromisingly; consequently to-night, in all probability, will begin the most gigantic strike and lockout that has ever occurred in the county of Lancaster. Instructions have been issued to the operatives by committees in the various trades as to how to proceed. Where no notices are posted they will go on working. Where notices are posted they will respectfully request the masters to remove them. If this request is refused, they will leave work quietly, as on Saturday night. The operatives are particularly enjoined to encourage no rioting or misbehavior anywhere. Looms are not affected by the strike will subscribe three pence per week for the strikers. The Oldham district is not yet affected directly, but owing to the intimate business relations between Oldham and Blackburn, short time, if not a stoppage, will be necessitated in many of the Oldham mills.

A Manchester correspondent telegraphs that the total number of looms in the strike district, is 212,000 out of a total of 470,000 in the kingdom. The determination of the operatives and the unanimity of the employers will not be fully tested until Tuesday next, when all the notices will have expired.

P. S.—The "strike" has begun.

A YOUNG GIRL ACQUITTED OF MURDER.—Near Columbia, S. C., last November, a colored man named Samuel Henry made some improper proposals to Miss Sallie Pauline Wood, an estimable young lady, which being promptly refused, he attempted by violence to effect his object, when the girl, suddenly escaping from Henry's grasp, secured a pistol and shot him dead. A Columbia dispatch states that the trial of Miss Wood, who was arraigned on the charge of murder, resulted on Tuesday of last week in a verdict of acquittal. The girl was but eighteen years of age, and an orphan.

The U. S. Senate has voted to repeal the bankrupt act with the following amendment:

"Provided, however, That such repeal shall in no manner invalidate or affect any case in bankruptcy, instituted and pending in any Court prior to the day when this act shall take effect; but as to all pending cases, and all future proceedings therein, the acts hereby repealed shall continue in full force and effect until the same shall be fully disposed of, in the same manner as if said act had not been repealed."

Thus it will be seen that those who contemplate going into bankruptcy, should file their petitions before the act passes the House.

The road from Oxford to Henderson can be graded at a very small cost. There are now twelve hundred convicts in the penitentiary or at work on roads in the State. One hundred convicts can grade the road in ten months. If application be made to the next Legislature, and made early, this necessary force can be obtained.

Dr. C. P. Peace, of Granville, has a sampler, such as school girls used to manufacture, which was worked in 1728—one hundred and fifty years ago—by his great great grandmother, Elizabeth Durant, a daughter of George Durant, of Durant's Neck, in Perquimans co.

Mrs. H. J. Robards has a bed quilt which is composed of 4,944 hexagons, and another ready for putting together which will contain a larger number of pieces. Bishop Atkinson, at his last visitation, confirmed seven candidates. —Free Lance.

Of Interest to our Farmers.

Our friend Dr. A. R. Ledoux, Director of Agricultural Experiment Station, State University, writes us that "there is a matter of great importance to the farmers of our State, to which I would respectfully call your attention, and through your columns the attention of our people and their representatives in Washington. Mr. William Faris, of Brooklyn, N. Y., was the first to call my attention to the matter, and since learning what is on foot I have become thoroughly aroused to the importance of prompt action.

"While we are discussing the tax on tobacco a bill is about to be reported in Congress which will work material injury to the agriculture of the South. We are constantly urging our people to make their own fertilizers, and have told them what to use in their home manufactures.

The Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, in bill No. 4,106, entitled, "A bill to impose duties on foreign imports, to promote trade and commerce, to reduce taxation, and for other purposes," have inserted a clause on page 50, lines 118, 719 levying a duty on nitrate of soda and muriate of potash. Both these chemicals are used in enormous quantities by our farmers. If Congress must put a tax upon our imports let our representatives see to it that articles so essential to the farmer as nitrate of soda and muriate of potash be placed on the free list. Let them make it up in some other way.

"Nine-tenths of the proposed tax would come out of the pockets of our farmers.

"Our agriculture is already sufficiently burdened by taxes direct and indirect. Save us from this new imposition, gentlemen at Washington!"

Nitrate of Soda and Muriate of Potash are now extensively used in this country to mix with fertilizing compounds. Nitrate of Soda promotes the growth of all cultivated plants, and is largely used in the domestic formulas of our Agriculturists.

Potash is a substance most essential for all cultivated plants. Its market price is already so high that it is seldom applied directly to the soil.

These bodies are among the most valuable of all fertilizing substances and an increase in their price would be a serious injury to all engaged in agriculture.

Special fertilizers are being used more and more as farmers become convinced that it is cheaper to manure the plant than the land.

Nitrate of Soda and Muriate of Potash are the cheapest sources from which Nitrogen and Potash can be had where these substances have to be bought, and their uses are increasing every day in North Carolina.

We trust that our members of Congress will give some attention to matter, and see that no more burdens are put on our already heavily taxed farmers. Dr. Ledoux is evidently the right man in the right place, and we believe that the agricultural interest of the State could not be in better hands. —Raleigh Observer.

Tobacco.

The land should be thoroughly prepared for this crop now, and all the stable manure applied to the land which can be procured, if not done previously. If commercial fertilizers are to be used, let them be gotten ready and applied a short time before planting. In previous numbers of this journal will be found many practical and excellent articles on the cultivation and management of this important crop, which adds so much to the revenue of the people, and from which so much is unjustly and injuriously wrung from an impoverished people by the tax collectors of the United States Government. We trust the time will come when the people of the Western States will unite with those of the South, and end the dominion of "New England," which, in this matter of taxation, has been so long riding the South with "boot and spur." The crop should be small, and an effort be made to produce only tobacco of the best quality. We suppose a small crop will be planted this year, in view of the small prices. —Farmer and Planter.

The first shipment of early garden peas from this section was made by our townsman Harry P. Dortch, Esq., on Tuesday of last week, to be followed by another heavy shipment to-morrow. Mr. Arnold Borden also expects to make a large shipment to-morrow. The strawberry season is also opening, and ere another week our truckers will be high up in the shipping business. —Messenger.

Portions of a human body (a female) have been found five miles from Dallas, Gaston county. A probable murder.

Josh Boston, colored, aged seventeen, took his own life with a pistol, at Morganton. His father had recently hanged himself.

The value of foreign exports from Wilmington for the month of March foot up \$426,881. The collections from all sources amounted to \$2,318,54, of which \$339.30 was in coin.

J. M. Carter, on trial in Stanly county for the murder of John Bird in December last, was convicted of manslaughter, and sentenced to the penitentiary for five years.

John Johnson, a colored boy of 15, was committed to Cherokee county jail on the night of the 2nd inst., charged with assault to rape Mary Allman, a white girl aged 14.

There is a mine in Dakota named in honor of May Shober, daughter of Hon. Francis E. Shober of North Carolina, who married Miss May Wheat, daughter of Rev. Dr. Wheat, formerly of the University of North Carolina.

"When Tom Sizc cut his throat recently in North Carolina, the coroner thought it was suicide, but the jury said that was impossible, and brought in a verdict of "Tomicide." —Richmond State.

This State-ment is a in-jury-us large-size lie!

Our Princeton friends announce a "social hop," to be given at McKinn's hall, Thursday evening, 25th inst., and a fine time is anticipated. Messrs. J. W. Perry and J. D. Atkinson are the managers, and will spare no pains to make the occasion pleasant and enjoyable. We are requested to state that free accommodation will be furnished the ladies at Mrs. J. W. Perry's. —Messenger.

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Jan 17-1878