

Farmers' Column.



Give fools their gold & knives their power. Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall; Who sows a field or trains a flower. Or plants a tree, is more than all.

Farm Work for May.

May is a very busy month on the farm, and every hour of labor should be so planned as to tell most effectively. There is danger of haste, and of doing the work in an indifferent manner. The great error of leaving undone the things that should now be done, arises from want of a plan of operations. "As we sow, so shall we reap," and this is the mouth of sowing planting. Do everything in a thorough manner, and keep abreast with the demands of the season. Push the work and do not let the work push the farmer.

Corn Planting.—Over a large part of the country, this is the month for planting our leading grain crop. Many make the mistake of putting the corn into the ground before it is ready. Corn is a semi-tropical plant, and its grain should not be planted until the soil is warm and mellow. "Corn planting time" is when settled weather has come. There is no better guide than that used by the Indians, who put in their maize when the leaves of the oak are beginning to unfold. Some farmers watch the apple orchard, and plant when the blossoms appear. If the kernels are put into a cold soil, they either remain dormant or rot, and nothing is gained, while, should the germinating grain be overtaken by a cold spell, the field has to be replanted. The corn plant has only a short season for its growth, and requires the best provisions for reaching maturity before the frosts of autumn come. The corn ground should be well supplied with manure in an available form for the rapidly growing plant. This manure needs to be near the surface, and thoroughly mixed through the soil, that the many fine roots may find it readily. Those who have practiced putting a quantity of some quick acting compost or fertilizer in each hill, know the importance of having food for the corn plant close at hand. Much depends upon the quality of the seed, and therefore only the best kernels of the superior varieties should be used. It will pay to get seed that has been grown especially for that purpose, even though it costs much more than the common grain taken from the crib. To keep cows from pulling the young corn, the grain may be rolled in tar and afterwards in plaster. The tar can be most easily applied by mixing it with hot water, and stirring in the corn. Among the best of scare crows are those which make some sort of a motion and produce a noise. It is not best to use a gun unless fired without shot or ball. Crows do not deserve death, as they are the friends of the farmer for most of the year. They live largely upon cut-worms and other insects, and many times, when pulling a young corn plant, they are seeking the marauder that lies hidden at its base.

Meadows and Pastures.—The frosts of winter heave the soil and it is well to pass a roller over the meadows and pastures, to firm the surface and make it smooth for the mowing machine.—All stones loosened by the frosts must be removed; large ones, if not needed for building purposes, may be sunk out of reach of the plow. Meadows may be much injured by live stock running over them early in spring, when the ground is wet. Any grazing done at this time is at the expense of the hay crop. It is far better to keep the farm animals in the stables and yards until the pasture is able to furnish a full ration, or nearly so.—American Agriculturist.

Live Stock Notes. Cattle.—The change from dry fodder to succulent pasture food is a critical one, and all animals need more than ordinary care at this time. Young stock are especially subject to disease from over feeding on green grass, inducing black leg, black quarter, and other dangerous troubles. It is best to make the change gradual, by turning the calves out to grass for only a part of each day. In coming cows need to have their feed reduced before calving, to prevent garget. They should be kept from exposure to cold rains, and in a quiet place. A brush, well used, will go far towards giving the cattle smooth skins and a healthy condition.

Poultry.—Hens should already have given good returns in eggs for the attention paid them, and now the young chicks are coming forward. Pullets hatched this month should begin to lay early in the fall, and with a warm house, will continue giving eggs through the winter. Young chicks need to be kept clean and in a dry place. More the coops frequently. If in the garden, they will catch many insects that ought to be destroyed.—American Agriculturist.

Adversity borrows its sharpest sting from our impatience.

Transplanting Teeth.

"Do you ever transfer teeth from one person's jaw to another, doctor?" asked a New York reporter of a dentist.

"Yes, occasionally," was the reply. "I sometimes have a patient whose teeth are sound with the exception of one or two, and who will not be content with any artificial substitute. In such a case the thing is to find a person willing, for any reason, to part with a sound tooth corresponding in position and size. One of my cases was a young man from Princeton, a theological student, who had a badly decayed front incisor, and had a horror of false teeth. I went to half the offices in the city, but did not find any one who wanted such a tooth extracted. People care a great deal more for a front tooth for a back tooth?"

"How do you manage the transplanting?" "Well, I have both parties to the operation in the operating room at the same time. The tooth to be transferred is drawn, and, if perfectly sound, is immediately placed in the cavity from which the decayed one has just been taken. Of course, no time is lost, though a tooth will retain its vitality for some time after being taken out. Sometimes the tooth to be transferred is found to be slightly decayed when it is extracted, in which case we carefully fill it before putting in the mouth of its new owner."

"Is it easy to find persons who will part with their teeth?" "Yes, for a sufficient consideration. There are always men to be found who, never having lain awake with the thought of a tooth, care more for a \$10 bill than for a good tooth. A man who wants a tooth, and wants it badly enough to pay for it, can always find one for sale by going on the docks among the longshoremen, or wherever there are a large number of laborers employed. In one case that I know of a young man parted with two perfectly sound front teeth for \$3 each."

"Brevity is the Soul of Wit"

The following amusing story was told by Franklin, ought to be read and acted upon by all correspondents communicating their thoughts to the newspaper press: A young man, commencing business, proposed to paint over his shop window "John Thompson, Hatter, makes and sells hats for ready money," to which was added the sign of a hat. One friend suggested that, as he made and sold hats, and word "hatter" was unnecessary. It was therefore struck out and the sign remained "John Thompson, makes and sells hats for ready money." Another friend advised him to omit the phrase "for ready money," as there would occur occasions for selling on credit; and so the sign read: "John Thompson makes and sells hats." It was then hinted that the buyer of the hat did not care who made it, and, that the sign, would be better if it read: "John Thompson sells hats." But another amendment was in store still, for a critic pointed out the uselessness of the phrase "sells hats," for said he, "no one would suppose that the hats were to be given away for nothing." Thus at this aspiring tradesman commenced business, like many worthy successors, under the modest sign of "John Thompson."

All About a Line Fence.

Hazard and Sherman live next to one another at Newport, Rhode Island and for the past day or two, the crowd in front of their houses has been so great that the policemen have been compelled to keep the walks clear. Hazard wants to pull down a line fence and Sherman keeps him away with a hose. The other morning Hazard was trying it, and Sherman was playing lustily on him from the hose, when he threw a brick at Sherman, but missed. Hazard was dragged to the station house, and Sherman left the field of battle for an hour. When he returned he found the fence torn away. His hose kept Hazard at bay while an employe rebuilt the fence. Hazard was arrested for trespass and locked up in jail. In an hour's time he procured bail, got out a warrant for Sherman's arrest and was on the field of battle, in time to see the sheriff take Sherman, but before Hazard could get fairly at work again, Sherman was out on bail. Sherman guards his fence so that no one disturbs it. Hazard has hired a man who promise to have the fence down.

A Cool Way.

A saloon-keeper has a cool way of turning drunken men out of his bar room. When one of them gets fairly asleep, he drops pumpled ice down his back. As it descends, he straightens his spine up; that makes it drop down a little further. As it gets toward the small of the back, he looks every much surprised, and opens his eyes wide, which previously he could not open himself, or anyone for him. He looks at three or four places around, and seeing everybody looking at him, and feeling a little cold and queer, he rises right up and walks out of the front door. It never fails. A similar use of ice may account for the quantities of ice charged for in the contingent expenses of Congress. If so, it doesn't seem to do as much good as the saloon keeper thinks it will; but perhaps nothing will start a Congressman when he is fairly done up."

Made Then Even.

"Arrested for carrying a pistol, was he?" asked a magistrate of an officer, referring to a gentleman who had just been arraigned. "Let's see the pistol." The weapon was produced and handed to the judge, who examined it and asked: "Where did you get it?" "Bought it at a hardware store." "What did it cost?" "Fifteen dollars." "Fine implement. How'll you swap?" and the judge drew out a pistol and handed it to the prisoner. "Take \$10 to boot." "All right," "I'll find you \$10. That makes us even."

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