

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.

The Farmers Most Active Enemy.

This destroyer of the farmer's hard earned savings is on every farm, in the houses, and never leaves us day or night summer or winter. It damages at mid night and destroys at noonday. The marks of its teeth may be seen on the pasture fence, it is wasting the barn silos, and pegging away at your sulky plow. Even iron and steel are not exempt from its ravages. The plow is brought in from the field bright with use; next week it needs several hours of work and worry to make it scour. You lend your new bright hand saw to a neighbor, who kindly leaves it lying on the grass a night or two, and its condition when returned mars its usefulness, and lessens your faith in human nature. A careless farmer leaves his new mower in the field, or the fence corner until next summer, by which time this fell destroyer has damaged it one-third its value. The sections are black with rust, the journals are all gummed, and the wood work is penetrated and weakened in every part.

Those who have read this far, will readily have recognized this enemy as rust, rot or decay, the most active promoter of which is oxygen. This invisible gas forms one fifth of the entire bulk of the air, and eight ninths of the weight of all the water on the globe. While of the greatest value in the economy of life, it is also a destructive agent of the most untiring kind. Yet its ravages are easily stopped in many instances. A thin covering of some oil will perfectly protect steel and iron from its action. A coat of paint good enough to keep water from soaking into wood, will protect it from decay almost indefinitely. In the far West, where building is somewhat more expensive than in the East farmers are disposed to leave their farm tools out of doors the year round. Such men are making a great mistake. If they are not able to afford shelter for their tools, they can buy a gallon of paint, which, if carefully applied to the wood work will go a long way toward protecting it from decay. It is certain that if the farmers of any State would expend one thousand dollars for paint next year for this purpose, they would save ten thousand more likely to be utterly lost. If any one thinks this is overstated, let him look around among his neighbors, and see the hundreds and hundreds of dollars worth of machinery that is going to ruin and decay from neglect, which a little paint would prevent. Here at least in the protection of farm implements a penny saved is as good as a penny earned.—Prof. S. R. Thompson, in American Agriculturist.

Putting Down Pork.

Mr. Stahl writes thus to the American Agriculturist: Pack closely in the barrel, first rubbing salt well into all exposed ends of bones, and sprinkle well between each layer, using no brine until forty-eight hours after, and then let the brine be strong enough to bear an egg. After six weeks take out the hams and bacon and hang it in the smoke house. When warm weather brings danger of flies, smoke a week with hickory chips, avoiding heating the air much. If one has a dark, close smoke house, as the writer has, the meat can hang in it all the summer; otherwise pack in boxes, putting layers of sweet dry hay between. Long experience has convinced me that this method of packing is preferable to the packing in dry salt or ashes.

Sausage Making.

The quality will depend largely upon the kind of meat or meats used.—Cutting or grinding fine is desirable, running twice or more through the machine unless it be a better one than most of those in use. It does not pay to use "skins"; to prepare the intestines thoroughly involves much labor and they add nothing to the substance or flavor. For early use, press the meat into cakes with the hands, and pack the rest in earthen jars, and make into cakes as wanted for frying. For long keeping, into summer if desired, make into suitable cakes and fry; pack into jars, and fill these with melted lard. The pieces can be taken out at any time and simply warmed thro'; they will be as sweet and fresh as when first prepared. Don't spoil sausage meat with spices or mint. Use salt and pepper moderately, leaving every one to apply these freely in eating, as individually desired.

Much lard is injured or spoiled by overheating and burning some portions; the smallest quantity scorched gives a bad flavor to the whole. A bucket of water in the rendering kettle prevents this, if the fire is kept too high from around the sides. The water is easily separated at the bottom if not slowly evaporated off during the rendering.

Shall We Meet Again.

The following is one of the most brilliant paragraphs ever written by the lamented George D. Prentice:—"The fiat of death is inexorable. There is no appeal for relief from that great law which dooms us to dust. We flourish and fade as the leaves of the forest and the flowers that bloom, wither and fade in a day have no firmer hold upon life than the mightiest monarch that ever shook the earth with his footsteps. Generations of men will appear and disappear as the grass, with the multitude that throng the world to-day will disappear as footsteps on the shore. Men seldom think of the great death until the shadow falls across their own pathway hiding from their eyes the faces of loved ones whose living smiles were the sunlight of their existence. Death is the antagonist of life, and the thought of the tomb is the skeleton of all feasts. We do not want to go thro' the dark valley, although its dark passage may lead to paradise; we do not want to go down into damp graves, even with princes for bed fellows. In the beautiful drama of Ion the hope of immortality, so eloquently uttered by the death devoted Greek, finds deep response in every thoughtful soul.—When about to yield his life a sacrifice to fate, his Clematis asks if they will meet again; to which he responds: I have asked that dreadful question of the hills that look eternal, of the clear streams that flow forever, of stars among those fields of azure my raised spirits have waked in glory. All are dumb. But as I gaze upon thy living face, I feel that there is something in love that mantles through its beauty that cannot wholly perish. We shall meet again, Clematis."

Didn't Hit Him.

A tough old debtor in a town across the Hudson entered a grocery the other morning, and stood for a long time looking at an exhibition plug of tobacco. The grocer felt certain that the old man wanted credit, and he determined to head him off. He therefore observed: "I have to sell that tobacco for cash down!" "You do, eh?" "Yes, sir. Tobacco is cash on the nail." "How's sugar?" "That's cash." "Tea and coffee?" "Cash and cash." Soap, molasses, candles, kerosene, butter, potatoes, rice flour, hams, starch—every one are spot cash. The old man stood and looked over the stock for five minutes, and then heaved a long drawn sigh as he replied: "Well, Mr. Waters, that don't hit me worth a cent. I want to get trust for three dozen clotheings!"

He Was the Fool.

"I don't understand why women dress that way," said a man pointing to a lady who passed along the streets before him. "I don't either," remarked a bystander. "That woman," continued the first speaker, "is dressed ridiculously. Her husband must be a fool." "I know he is," said the other. "Do you know him?" "Oh, yes. I'm the blamed fool myself."

Knowledge in a Nutshell.

A cubit is two feet. A pace is three feet. A fathom is six feet. A span is 10 1/2 inches. A palm is three inches. A league is three miles. A great cubit is 11 feet. There are 3,720 langages. Oats, 35 pounds per bushel. Bran, 35 pounds per bushel. Barley, 48 pounds per bushel. A day's journey 32 1/2 miles. Sound moves 743 miles per hour. A square mile contains 740 acres. A storm blows 37 miles per hour. Course salt, 35 pounds per bushel. A tub of water weighs 84 pounds. Buckwheat, 52 pounds per bushel. The average of human life is thirty-one years. A barrel of rice weighs 600 pounds. A barrel of pork weighs 300 pounds. An acre contains 4,360 square yards. Slow rivers flow five miles per hour. A firkin of butter weighs fifty-six pounds. Timothy seed forty-five pounds per bushel. A hand (horse measure) is four inches. A hurricane moves eighty miles per hour. A rifle ball moves at the rate of 1000 miles per hour. Rapid rivers flow seven miles per hour. The first lucifer match was made in 1829. Electricity moves 228,000 miles per hour. A mile is 5,280 feet, or 1,760 yards in length.

The Danger of Cold Baths.

The great mistake that is usually committed in regard to cold baths is the error of never varying the temperature of the water from that of the surrounding air. In very cold weather the bath, even when exposed over night in the bedroom, will often be lower than 45°, and where water is brought straight from the main or well it may be even 10° or 15° lower. Only the strongest constitutions can derive benefit from the shock produced by the application of a liquid 60° to 70° colder than the body to its surface, and it is very questionable if it ever is attended with permanently good results. Reaction may be afterwards complete, but there is always a risk of sudden danger from the condition of the body being temporarily such as to prevent reaction. In such cases very serious accidents are possible, and a late instance of death may, perhaps, be regarded as an example in point. A temperature of from 40° to 50° is quite cold enough for any person to submit himself to; this allows of a difference of between 40° to 50° in the heat of the body and that of the bath—ample sufficient to produce all the benefits desirable from it—and it would be well for all if these extremes were never exceeded.

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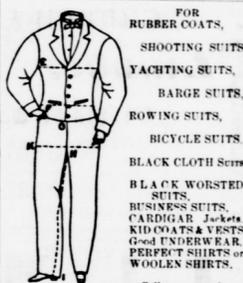
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