Farmers' Column.

Give fools their gold & knaves 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.

Running on One Crop.

It is satisfactory to know that farmers have of recent years grown wiser from experience, in not running their heads against stone walls, by rushing largely into growing a single crop because here and there one has realized large profits from some new and particular crop which has just been introduced and for which there is a demand at high prices. This has led many into appropriating the greater part of their land to the same crop, when, a failure following or the demand for the product falling off, they will meet with a serious loss. We have known many who have literally been ruined by entering largely into new things, merely on the reports received from a distance, which had no foundation in fact, or from the swindling advertisements of sharpers, who have scattered far and wide villainous reports of enormous sums made from the cultivation of some new crops, the seeds, or bulbs, or tubers or plants of which they have largely imported from Europe, Asia, or Africa, specially adapted to American soil and climate. Our advice, which has been urged upon farmers over and over again, has been, first to avoid all these high sounding swindles from which great fortunes are to be realized in a year or two; and second, to avoid the growing of special crops to be cultivated to the exclusion of the general and accepted crops of the times, however inviting they may be, and to go on with their routine mixed crops, investing only lightly in new and promising things in order that if one or two failed others will be successful, and thus always be provided against misfortune. It is far better, in fact, that we should prosecute mixed husbandry, for the reason that though we may not make as much profit as from a happy hit of some special crop, yet we shall be realizing, though possibly slower, yet with far greater certainty and satisfaction, moderate and steady profits.

Speculating in farming is like speculating in anything else—one may be very fortunate now and then; but in the long run we are sure to come out the "little end of the horn," and instead of possessing a fortune will find ourselves impoverished, with a growing family upon our hands, and be forced to look about to discover some way to raise the means by which we may be able—perhaps with a poor chance of success—to start afresh in middle age, when by careful management we should have laid up sufficient to insure us at least a moderate competency when old age shall make it necessary for us to retire from the active labors of life.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

Manure for the Irish Potato.

Stable manure has been much used by Virginia farmers for the Irish potato, and many, no doubt, regard it as the one perfect and complete manure for this crop. It is excellent for the purpose beyond a doubt, as are also other forms of domestic animal manure. But the farmer can hardly afford to take this manure for the purpose, and we hold that no animal manure is exactly suitable for the potato. Of course a plant must partake, to some extent, of the nature it imbibes, and if the food is filth the plant cannot escape contamination. This being the case, it is worth while in a sanitary point of view, to pay same attention to the nature of the plant food of the crops upon which we ourselves feed.

Now, not only can the farmer find better use for his animal manure than to employ them in the production of potatoes, but he can get a cheaper one from his woods, and, with the aid of a little superphosphate to quicken action, an equally effective one as to results. Well rotted litter, such as may be scraped up off any farm, has been found excellent for the potato, used in conjuction with super-phosphate. The latter alone will not act near as well as it does when litter is also applied. The potato is a crop that absolutely seems to demand some coarse material in the ridge for the potatoe to grow in. There is no doubt that it is because it keeps the ridge mellow, and it gives the tubers room to grow. A very light sprinkle of the phosphate, with plenty of rich pine straw mould, will produce as good a crop of potatoes as a full application of stable manure.

The litter should be at at least half rotted, and the entire trench made for planting the sets should be filled with it. The sets may be dropped first, the litter put upon them and the superphosphate applied on top the mould. Or the plan may be reversed by putting the super phosphate first, the litter upon that and the potato above all.

A piece of land planted thus to potatoes in March or April, and the crop removed in July could afford a most desirable preparation for a turnip patch next fall. It would be fine for winter cabbages or collards also, the latter crop (much neglected) that ought to be planted largely for ewes, milch cows, &c., in winter.

We advocate this cheap manure for the potato. Let the stable and stock pen manures be spread over the wheat, clover and oat patches early in the spring, or applied to the corn land, trucks, &c. It will pay better, thus rotten pine straw and good commercial fertilizer in small quantity will do for the potato especially in the interior, where none is raised for market.

Said the penurious railroad director: 'What's the use of compelling us to put up all these signs, 'Railroad Crossing.' Can't any fool see that it is? And if he can't, won't he find it out when he gets hit by the train?'

The Benefit of Good Roads.

There is nothing new in the following remarks, made by the Hon. Wm. Walter Phelps, at the annual meeting of the New Jersey State Agricultural Association, but the subject is one of which "line upon line and precept upon precept" are useful and even necessary. "Making good roads and spending money judiciously but liberally to make them so is good policy for farmers everywhere. It saves the team, the wear and the tear of the wagon, and aids not only in transportations but in other operations of the farm, in nearly all of which transportation is an important factor. But the good road is especially important to our fortunes as Jersey farmers. We have a right to consider among the probable gains of our future the probability of great and rapid increase in the value of our land. Young men and old, weary of city life, in all seasons of the year, spend their holidays exploring in our State; they swarm upon our hill tops, and straggle into our deep valleys, intelligent and youthful explorers. The first thing they notice is the highways. How can they help it! It is the path by which they come. It is the last they notice. How can they help it. It is the path by which they return. The condition of that highway fixes their choice to purchase or to seek elsewhere.

"We must spend some money on our roads as the surest way of increasing the market value of our lands. Bad roads must go

"Nor need we pause because the amount is small—perhaps limited to the meagre sum that the district has for a century expended each year on what it calls 'keeping up'—only we must change the fashion of the expenditure. We will not keep up the roads; we will not plow and scrape to the middle of the road the same dirt which nature will more surely, but certainly wash back to the sides. Let such improvement cease; let us expend the appropriation in making one piece of complete and permanent roadway. The condition of the whole road would not under neglect be much worse. The people among whom I live have adopted this modern practice after many wasted years, and, as a result, Eaglewood, already boasts miles of park drives which are an asset adding immensety to the value of the town.

How to Disappoint a Balky Horse.

A farmer recently broke his horse of a balky freak in a very quiet, and as he claims, not a cruel manner.—His horse is in excellent flesh, and shows no signs of neglect on the part of his master. He drove him, attached to a rack wagon, to the wood lot for a small load of wood. The animal would not pull a pound He did not beat him with a club, but tied him to a tree and "let him stand." He went to the lot at sunset end asked him to draw, but he would not straighten a tug. "I made up my mind," said the farmer, when that horse went to the barn he would take that load of wood. The night was not cold. I went to the, barn, got blankets and covered the horse warm, and he stood until morning. Then he refused to draw. At noon I went down and he was probably hungry and lonesome. He drew that load of wood the first time I asked him. I raturned and got another load before I fed him I then rewarded him with a good dinner, and he devoured it eagerly. I have drawn several loads since. Once he refused to draw, but as soon as he saw me start for the house he started after me with the load. A horse becomes lonesome and discontented when left alone, as much so as a person, and I claim this method, if rightly used, is far less cruel and is better for both horse and man than to beat the animal with a club."

Blinders.

One of the most unaccountable of follies is that of compelling horses to wear blinders. They are the cause of more run-aways and other accidents than all the railroads in the country. Men and horses are always more scared at noises they cannot account for than at anything else. Allow a horse to see everything about him and he soon loses his timidity. Blinders are liable to impair the eye-sight, by keeping the air from the eyes and by shortening the vision. Horses are constantly being struck by objects that they would avoid if opportunity were given them to do so. Hardly a day passes in the crowded streets of the city that we do not see horses wounded by some passing vehicle that they were unable to see until approached too near to be avoided. A correspondent in one of our agricultural exchanges speaking on this subject, says: "I drove a horse for two years who was never safe, and at times was almost unmanageable from fear. I took off his blinders and used an open bridle for two years more, during which time a child could drive him safely; indeed a lad of ten years now owns him and uses him exclusively. Were he to put blinders on him again he would be unmanageable.

Hatch Early.

As spring-time has come again, bringing along the experience and wisdom of the past year to poultry breeders, we suggest to the thousands of farmers, cottagers and artisans scattered over our vast country, to improve their stock and rid themselves of the mongrels, or common fowls, kept by them for generations To procure from pure-bred stock to begin with, eggs, or some good birds for the same purpose, for a single trio will, in only one season, produce quite a flock of young chicks, enough to start a fair sized yard of pure breeds the next year. Early hatching is desirable, particularly with the large breeds, in order to enable them to make large and heavy birds by fall. They take longer time to mature, and they must be well developed before cold weather, or they will fail to meet our expectations in the show-room or in egg product. But, with the Leghorns, Hamburgs, Polish and such like small breeds, early hatching is not so especially desirable, as the weight of flesh is not so much an object. They being quick growing fowls, show precocity at a very early age if proper care, food and attention are given them right along.—*Poultry Monthly.*

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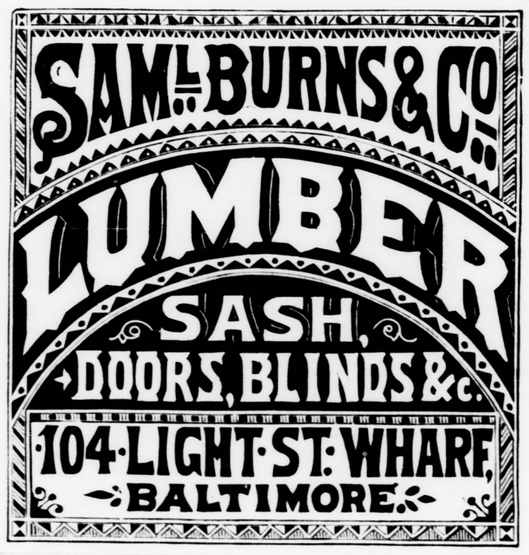

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accom. train.			mixed train.		
Leave Cox's	6 15	a.m	Cox's	1 15	p.m
Port Tobacco	6 21	"	Port Tobacco	1 26	"
La Plata	6 26	"	La Plata	1 40	"
White Plains	6 38	"	White Plains	1 53	"
Waldorf	6 45	"	Waldorf	2 20	"
Mattawoman	6 51	"	Mattawoman	2 30	"
Brandywine	6 58	"	Brandywine	2 50	"
Cheltenham	7 04	"	Cheltenham	3 07	"
Linden	7 08	"	Linden	3 15	"
Croome	7 15	"	Croome	3 35	"
Marlboro'	7 23	"	Marlboro'	3 50	"
Hill's	7 28	"	Hill's	4 00	"
Leeland	7 32	"	Leeland	4 10	"
Hall's	7 37	"	Hall's	4 25	"
Mullikin	7 41	"	Mullikin	4 30	"
Collington	7 49	"	Collington	4 45	"
Bowie	7 56	"	Bowie	5 20	"
Ar Wash'tn	8 40	"	Ar Wash'tn	6 55	"
" Baltimore	9 10	"	" Baltimore	6 30	"

LEAVE GOING SOUTH.

Baltimore	4 15	p m	Baltimore	7 00	a.m
Washington	4 40	"	Washington	6 50	"
Bowie	5 20	"	Bowie	8 10	"
Collington	5 28	"	Collington	8 30	"
Mullikin	5 36	"	Mullikin	8 45	"
Hall's	5 40	"	Hall's	8 58	"
Leeland	5 45	"	Leeland	9 05	"
Hill's	5 49	"	Hill's	9 17	"
Marlboro'	5 55	"	Marlboro'	9 25	"
Croome	6 04	"	Croome	9 42	"
Linden	6 11	"	Linden	10 00	"
Cheltenham	6 16	"	Cheltenham	10 04	"
Brandywine	6 23	"	Brandywine	10 25	"
Mattawoman	6 30	"	Mattawoman	10 40	"
Waldorf	6 37	"	Waldorf	10 55	"
White Plains	6 44	"	White Plains	11 10	"
La Plata	6 56	"	La Plata	11 35	"
Port Tobacco	7 01	"	Port Tobacco	11 43	"
Cox's	7 07	"	Cox's	12 01	"
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