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Farm and Garden

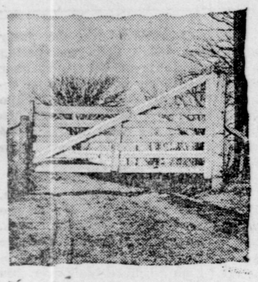
MAKING A FARM GATE.

Here's One That Has Been Found to Work Very Satisfactorily.

We have two wagon gates through which we must pass very often—often a dozen or more times every day—says a correspondent of Home and Farm. The boys live on one hill and the old folks on the other, and between the two places is a cow pasture three-quarters of a mile long, part woodland and part cleared land.

To get down and unfasten these gates at every such passing would be a great deal of trouble and in the run of a year would take time enough to do lots of other work. So it has been arranged to avoid this. Both gates are hung to open inward, so that a cow, horse or mule cannot push it open, and are hung so they will fall shut of their own accord. They are both light, one being made of three 1 by 4 bars, so they will not pound themselves to pieces.

It is no trouble at all to pass through, even with a led horse, and there is



GOOD FARM GATE.

great satisfaction in knowing that the gate will be sure to shut itself and require no further thought. But there is one difficulty which no doubt occurs to the reader's mind. Will not the wind blow it open and let stock into the cornfields? Yes, it will. And that is the point of this letter.

One of the gates has a woodland to protect it from such an occurrence. Only a very severe wind from the east will affect it in the least. Only since a strip was cut through for a telephone line has such a thing occurred at all.

The other one, however, is easily affected by a wind from the west, a body of woodland of very dense growth deflecting even a north wind against it. But we have solved even that problem with what we call a wind latch.

A piece of inch board 6 by 12 inches is trimmed to almost a feather at one end. A three-eighths inch hole is bored edgewise near the other end. A seven inch spike is put through and driven an inch into the post against which the gate strikes, near the top of the post, on the outside, so it hangs down clear of the barb wires of which the fence is made.

A piece of heavy wire three inches long is driven sidewise and on the west side, near the top of this board, or "wing," as we call it. A ring, or loop, is turned in the free end, from which a smaller wire extends downward to near the middle of the gate, where it connects with the latch proper.

This is a small rod, the size of a sixpenny nail, and it passes through a three-eighths inch hole, bored down grain through a six inch board. The west end is bent square to the north, and the wire from the wing is connected with it. The eastern end is bent directly downward. Now, when the wind blows hard enough to cause the gate to open it will raise the wing, and that will throw the eastern end of this rod so as to catch the gate.

Like nearly all our gates, this one is swung to a tree, with the upper hinge nine feet from the ground. The wind often causes this tree to sway back and forth, but this latch always catches the gate in spite of such.

GOOD FOR THE BOY.

The boy who has engaged in a corn contest, whether successfully or not, has gained practical training of farreaching value and lasting significance.

Good For Shelling Corn.

Any one can make and use this corn sheller, says the American Agriculturist, from which the picture and the description are taken. It is made of a piece of board six or eight inches long and about one and a half inches wide. At intervals of one-half or three-quarters of an inch notches are sawed on each edge and enlarged so as to take

HOMEMADE CORN SHELLER.

in a No. 10 or 11 wire. A hole is bored near each end and one end of a wire inserted and fastened.

Then the wire is wound as tightly as possible around the wood and fitted in the notches till the other end is reached, when the wire is passed through the other hole and fastened securely. All that is necessary is to rub this device over the corn and ears to loosen the grain.

Points For the Thinking Farmer.

Now is an excellent time to lay that concrete walk that you promised your wife to make last winter, when the mud was ankle deep. These are excellent months for odd jobs on the farm.

No kind of manure, either animal excrement or fertilizers, will take the place of good, thorough tillage. Plow the land at the right time and to the right depth, then work it down to a mellow seed bed with disk and roller, and harrow.

A brick wall or foundation, while substantial enough, looks rather old fashioned now. The concrete or cement block foundation is the modern type and, like most modern things, is an improvement over that which preceded it. A great thing about concrete is its permanence and cheapness.

CHEESECLOTH FOR TRUCK.

Better Than Glass as a Shelter For Growing Vegetables.

The past summer, for the first time, I tried cheesecloth shelters in our kitchen garden, says a Country Gentleman writer. Next summer I am going to have more vegetables under cheesecloth, for it is great stuff. Some old boards were lying round—half-inch lumber about eight inches wide. I cut them up into pieces fifteen inches long. Four of these pieces nailed together made a square frame—a box without top or bottom. Over the top I tacked a piece of cheesecloth. There was lumber for only twenty-four of them, and I put eight over some cucumber plants started in the house, eight over watermelons and eight over muskmelons. Results were most definite. We had cucumbers from the sheltered vines two weeks earlier than usual and watermelons as big as cocoanuts before plants that were set in the open had formed fruit. The white shelter has a forcing effect and yet permits hardy growth. Cloth has an advantage over glass in that it lets in moisture. It is also a protection against bugs.

When the vines under cloth outgrew the frames I removed them. Just then I was nursing along a dozen eggplants. With bugs, dry weather and other disadvantages, it seemed as if they would not live. Twelve of the frames were clapped over these plants, and in two days the effect could be seen in whole, healthy green leaves. Then some brussels sprouts came for transplanting in July, when the sky was like brass. I put them right out as soon as received, with a cheesecloth frame over each, and they grew as if they had been transplanted in a week of rain.

Cheesecloth is cheap. If you buy a bolt of it, about seventy-five yards, it costs about 2½ cents a yard. The coarse, unbleached variety a yard wide is what you want.

CLOVER FOR THE SOIL.

It Will Make Poor Land Richer and Can Be Grown Easily.

The trouble with soils when they cease to produce as they did when new is not that the elements of plant food are actually exhausted from the soil, but the necessary forces for the liberation are exhausted. One of these forces is bacteria. It is estimated that in the common soil there are 150 million bacteria to the ounce. These bacteria must have humus (decayed vegetable matter) for their food; then they will liberate food for the growth of plants.

The supply of humus, the supply of nitrogen, the physical condition of the soil, the penetration, aeration and porosity of the subsoil, can be established by the growth of sweet clover at a cheapness that is startling. Nor is it a hard plant to grow. It is one of the hardiest of the leguminous plants. It seems to establish itself on old, wornout soils where other legumes will not grow at all and where field crops grow so poorly as not to pay. Owing to these characteristics and to the fact that its bacteria are capable of living and prospering on the roots of alfalfa, it is perhaps the best possible plant with which to precede alfalfa in sections where there is difficulty in securing a successful growth of that plant.—Kansas Industrialist.

BY A WISE FARMER.

That was a wise remark made by a speaker in a farmers' institute when he said that "good farm judgment consisted largely in understanding principles and their working, and as good an understanding of conditions to know if the principles will apply."

THE DOG ON THE FARM.

Get a Good One and Train Him Properly Is an Excellent Rule.

Every farmer should have a dog. A well trained dog, no one will dispute, is the most companionable of all animals and a labor saver to the farmer, says a correspondent of the Orange Judd Farmer. Systematic instruction should be used in drilling the mind and body of the animal to bring out the intelligence required. A well trained, well treated and good tempered dog is one of the most agreeable creatures to have about the farm.

It is a paying investment to the owner to take pains in training a dog. In the house he should be taught thorough cleanliness, and when once this is established the animal is miserable un

SCOTCH SHEEP DOGS.

less it can get out of doors when nature demands it. When the dog is young, say two or three months old, he should be fed in small quantities. Never permit him to eat to his own satisfaction, because the ultimate result will be a very sick and unhappy little puppy. It is well to give him his last meal about two hours before he is shut up for the night.

Cornmeal mixed with water, a very little salt and a handful of finely chopped liver or meat thrown in, the whole baked in a cake and when cold broken in bits and fed to the dog makes a very good supper. A great many people insist on giving their pets bread and milk for the evening meal, but this is not a very desirable diet if the dog is to be shut up in the house all night.

There are a great number of tricks which may be taught a dog, but the farm dog should not necessarily be taught tricks. He should be taught sensible things.

A great many, and I may say nearly 90 per cent of the dog owners of the present day, allow their dogs to run recklessly about through their neighbors' gardens, crops, etc. This is a very injudicious piece of business. It not only brings about a hard feeling, but is absolutely uncalled for.

Untreated Alfalfa Is Best.

The results of five years' tests indicate that for fattening hogs the way to feed alfalfa most satisfactorily is to feed it without grinding or chopping. This method has given faster and cheaper gains than feeding a like amount of chopped or ground alfalfa or a larger percentage of either.—Nebraska Experiment Station.

The Scrap Book

The Saint In the Cave.

The elder Vernet was once employed to paint a landscape with a cave and St. Jerome the principal elements therein. Accordingly, Vernet did the work as per specification, as he thought, with St. Jerome at the entrance of the cave. When the picture was delivered, however, the purchaser, who understood nothing of perspective, said:

"The landscape and the cave are well done, but the saint is not in the cave."

"I understand you, sir," replied the obliging artist. "I will alter it." He therefore manipulated the shadows so that the saint seemed to sit farther in. The purchaser took the painting, but it again appeared to him that the saint was not in the cave.

Vernet then obliterated the figure and gave the picture to the purchaser, who now at last seemed perfectly satisfied. Whenever he showed the work to strangers he would remark:

"Here we have a picture by Vernet, with St. Jerome in the cave."

"But we cannot see the saint," visitors would object.

"Excuse me, gentlemen," the proud possessor would answer, "he is there, for I have seen him standing at the entrance and afterward farther back and am therefore quite sure that he is in it."

Opportunity.

They do me wrong who say I come no more
When once I knock and fail to find you in.
For every day I stand outside your door
And bid you wake and rise to fight and win.

Wail not for precious chances passed away;
Weep not for golden ages on the wane.
Each night I burn the records of the day;
At sunrise every soul is born again.

Laugh like a boy at splendors that have sped,
To vanished joys be blind and deaf and dumb.
My judgments seal the dead past with its dead,
But never bind a moment yet to come.
—Judge Walter Malone.

It Embarrassed Him.

Garland Du Pre, congressman from Louisiana and one of the youngest members of the house, says that he never was embarrassed but once in his life. This happened about two months after he had taken his seat in the house. There was an excursion of New Orleans Elks to Atlantic City, and while they made a short stay in Washington the congressman spent considerable time with them.

Among the features of the program was a ride through the residence section in "rubberneck wagons." Just as the vehicle containing Du Pre and some forty of his constituents was passing the Walsh mansion, one of the palaces of the city, the man with the megaphone broke forth:

"Gentlemen, upon your right you see the most beautiful private residence in Washington, the home of Congressman Garland Du Pre of Louisiana. He came here a poor boy. He has been here three months. What do you think of him?"—New York World.

Stories of H. J. Byron.

Many are the stories told of H. J. Byron, the well known dramatist. One day he was being worried by his coachman about a sick horse to which the man said a ball should be given. "Then, my good man, give him a ball if you like," said Byron wearily, "but don't ask too many people!"

At the time of his disastrous management of the Liverpool theaters an intimate friend who met him one day in the street was much struck with his greatly altered appearance and asked him sympathetically, "What's the matter, old fellow—liver?" "Yes, that's it," Byron answered languidly, "Liverpool!"

Spoiled by His Company.

Out of the crowd in the police court a man was placed before the judge.

"You are accused, sir," said the magistrate, "of being drunk and disorderly. Any defense?"

"I am a respectable man, sir," the prisoner answered, "and this would never have happened only I traveled from Pittsburgh to New York yesterday in bad company."

"What sort of bad company?" said the magistrate.

"Sons of Temperance, sir."

"Sons of Temperance! Why, they are the salt of the earth. I should think they'd be the best company a man like you could ask for."

"No, sir. Excuse me, sir. You're wrong," said the prisoner huskily. "You see, I'd brought a quart of whisky for the journey, and on account of the company I had to drink it all myself."

A Tonic For Her Guests.

Mrs. Blanc was giving a tea party on her yacht. The affair, for some reason, was dragging dreadfully. The guests talked of nothing but the weather, and even in this talk there would come long, deathly silences.

Suddenly Mrs. Blanc, losing her balance, fell heavily against her mother-

"I HAD TO DO SOMETHING."

in-law, who sat beside the low rail, and with a moaning cry the dear old lady went headforemost overboard. Of course she was rescued, but afterward Mr. Blanc took Mrs. Blanc privately to task.

"How clumsy you were," he said, "to knock mother into the water like that. I'm afraid she won't care to visit us again in a hurry. You really should be more careful."

"Now, George," said Mrs. Blanc, "be reasonable. I had to do something—I simply had to. Didn't you see how our party was dragging?"

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EAST BOUND				WEST BOUND	
†109 P. M.	*103 A. M.	‡101 A. M.		†106 A. M.	†102 P. M.
3.30	6.20	—	Lv BALTIMORE Ar	11.50	—
7.12	10.09	[illegible]	.....DENTON.....	8.17	5.26
8.33	11.48	10.35	Ar. LEWES Lv	6.50	3.50
P. M	A. M.	A. M		A. M.	P. M.

†Daily except Sunday. *Monday only. ‡Daily, except Sunday, and Monday

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