AGRICULTURAL.

TOPICS OF INTEREST RELATIVE TO FARM AND GARDEN.

LOW TOPS FOR FRUIT TREES.

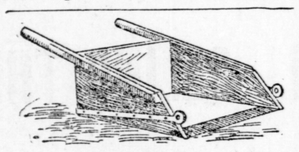
In setting out fruit trees this spring leave the lower branches or better still have three or four single buds on opposite sides of the tree from which new branches may be grown. Head the trees low. The trees are less liable to be injured by storms. The fruit is more easily gathered and the low top helps to shelter the surface soil, holding the snow on the ground under it, and thus prolonging the life of the tree, besides increasing its vigor and productiveness. The high-headed fruit tree is a relic of the days when horses and cattle were turned into orchards and the trees had to be pruned high to escape injury from them.--Boston Cultivator.

TO TREAT A CRACKED HOOF.

A crack extending from the top of the hoof of a horse down the side should be treated in this way. A V-shaped cut should be made from the top of the hoof at the coronet down to the horn, about one inch, meeting at the crack. If possible, a wire should be passed through the edges of the crack and drawn tight, so as to close the opening as much as possible. The horn above the V-shaped mark should be rasped thin and a bandage kept over it always wet with water. As the crack goes down the new horn above will be closed, and in time the new growth will reach to the bottom, leaving a solid hoof. It is exceedingly injurious to the hoof to apply tar to it, as is often done. The tar contains an acid, which damages the horn, while it hardens the hoof and prevents the absorption of water, which the horn needs to preserve its elasticity and tenacity.--New York Times.

HOME MADE EARTH SCRAPER.

Iron shovels or scrapers for removing earth are somewhat expensive. A good substitute can be made at home, after the plan shown in the accompanying illustration. It should be of hard wood, and the edge in front should be covered with sheet iron, after which an old piece of crosscut saw may be



EARTH SCRAPER.

fastened beneath the edge and turned up at the sides, as shown in the sketch. The iron straps to which the chain is attached should go around the back as well as the sides of the scraper, to give strength. Such an implement is exceedingly handy on the farm for leveling off ridges and filling depressions, and for scraping up into heaps the manure that becomes scattered over the barnyard.—American Agriculturist.

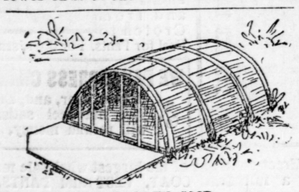
FEEDING CATTLE.

It was said many centuries ago that the feeding of cattle was the most important part of agriculture. This is as true to-day as it was in that ancient time. And the question might well be asked by every farmer of himself, Has this important work of the farm been improved to the same extent as other work has been, or has not this been far too much neglected? It is true beyond question that to a very great extent our cattle to-day are fed much the same way as animals were centuries ago--that is, by grazing. The average amount of land needed now to support one cow is five acres for the summer feeding alone, when it is quite an easy matter to feed one on less than one acre. Indeed, it is very sure that one cow may now be supported as well as is consistent with the advanced condition of agriculture, and that is in the very best and most productive manner, for a whole year on the produce of a single acre of land.

Thousands of farmers are doing this by the aid of soiling summer crops and the silo for winter feeding. These farmers are not complaining of hard times. They are producing from their land five times as much as ever before, at a cost of not more than twice the former expense. The profits of their enterprise are therefore amply satisfactory. Others must do the same; fertilize the soil; double the yield; lessen the expenses; and thus actually add to the profit, even in these times of low values.

AN EXCELLENT CHICKEN COOP.

A half of a sugar barrel, or two-thirds of an ordinary flour barrel, cut in the manner shown in the cut, makes an excellent chicken coop. One end is left in and nailed tightly to the staves before sawing. A narrow strip is nailed to the other end to hold the staves and hoops in place, and to receive the lower ends of the slats. The board in



A CHICKEN COOP.

front can be hinged to this strip if desired. If one or two hoops on either side be left two or three inches long, the ends can be sharpened and forced into the ground when placing the coop in position. This will prevent animals or the wind overturning it. The coop has no bottom and can be moved to a new bit of greensward every day or two. To keep the whole coop from spreading pass wires round the whole, along the centre of the middle two hoops, then underneath to the other side, twisting the ends of the wires when they are brought together.—New York Tribune.

ARTIFICIAL MANURES.

Mr. Howman, principal of a dairy school in Gloucester, England, in the course of talks supporting chemicals, stated in relation to farmyard manure that "Farmyard manure has two functions to perform—first, to provide the food of plants in a form that is most suitable for absorption by them, and second, it acts mechanically on the soil. It keeps the soil in a more open condition, admitting air, and making the soil work, and it provides the vegetable matter which is so important an element in keeping land in condition and enabling it to retain moisture. In this way the indirect value of farmyard manure is probably greater than the manufactured value. But if we judge of it by the standard set up of supplying the requirements of plants in nitrogen, phosphate of lime and potash, we find it is deficient in these particulars, as it only contains them in very small quantities, and they are not present in the proportion in which plants require them. It is true that farmyard manure lasts for a long time in the soil and adds to its condition, because of this fact—it is so slowly soluble. But in these days, when the necessity presses upon farmers to get as quick a return out of the soil as possibly can be got out of it, there is something else to consider besides storing up fertility that will only come into profitable use after some years: you want to have that fertility immediately available for use by the crops, and the Rothamsted experiments have shown that it is highly doubtful whether even the soil benefits to anything like a commensurate extent by the application of large quantities of farmyard manure, taking into account the cost of carting and damage done to fields, etc., that it does by chemicals."—Farmer and Mirror.

THE FUTURE OF THE HORSE.

There is a class of writers that are determined to attend the funeral of the horse interests whether or not. The horse with them is to become absolete in consequence of the bicycle, electricity, etc. This sort of argument looks well and may appear conclusive on paper. But bicycles or electricity will not draw the plow or do the farm work that horses are now used for doing. Nor will they do the practical work for which horses are used in the cities and towns. Every farm will always have its horses. The streets of every city will always be crowded with horses. On what lines have the bicycles and electricity taken the places of horses? On street cars and for drawing purposes. That this makes a considerable hole in the demand we admit, but so far as the street cars are concerned, they never made a demand for a class of horses that were purposely bred for the purpose. The street car horses were usually good horses, but they were scrub horses. As to the bicycle taking the place of the driving horse, this sort of demand was never as dependable as that for the work horse was. There is room in this country to-day for 10,000,000 first-class horses, and the demand will make itself felt more and more when times become better, until it is supplied. There are 2,000,000 farms on which there should be better horses and on which the farmers will eventually see that a good team means money in their pockets. There is a "slew" of good-for-nothing horses in the cities and towns, too, and replacing them with better horses, would mean that the work of teams would be more quickly, more easily and consequently more profitably done, and some time, in the natural progress of things, they will be replaced. It is nonsense to talk about the bicycle or electricity making the horse useless. They can do nothing of the kind.—The Silver Knight.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Bee keeping is a poor man's business, and the poorer he is the less excuse he can find for not having plenty of honey for himself and family to eat. Bees are no respecters of persons; they will work as well for a peasant as for a prince.

It has often been said that the dairy business was the last to feel the influence of depressions in business, and the first to respond to its revival. Just why this may have been the case is quite hard to explain, but we are well aware that it has been the case in the past.

Great strides are being made toward educating the owners of cows in the theory and practice of correct feeding, as well as in the skill and science of breeding, the results of which are continually manifested in the class of butter breeds of cattle offered for sale by practical diarymen.

It is notably the case with dairymen to complain that cows are not paying simply because they are not giving over the same large profits they had done in previous years. While this is no criterion of the real basis of prosperity, it is no doubt a feature of very great disappointment to hundreds of dairymen with large capital invested in that business.

Guinea fowls are quite useful where there are many enemies to poultry, such as hawks, snakes, and rats, for they are ever on the alert to detect danger and give the alarm quickly, and in such shrill and constant tones that the enemy generally leaves before the owner comes upon the scene with his gun. The flesh is relished by many for its gamey flavor, while their eggs, though small, are exceedingly rich, and the number they lay fully makes up for the lack of size.

Don't Stop Tobacco.

HOW TO CURE YOURSELF WHILE USING IT.

The tobacco habit grows on a man until his nervous system is seriously affected, impairing health, comfort and happiness. To quit suddenly is too severe a shock to the nervous system, as tobacco to an inveterate user becomes a stimulant that his system continually craves. "Baco-Curo" is a scientific cure for the tobacco habit, in all its forms, carefully compounded after the formula of an eminent Berlin physician who has used it in his private practice since 1872, without a failure. It is purely vegetable and guaranteed perfectly harmless. You can use all the tobacco you want while taking "Baco-Curo." It will notify you when to stop. We give a written guarantee to cure permanently any case with three boxes, or refund the money with ten per cent. interest. "Baco Curo" is not a substitute, but a scientific cure, that cures without the aid of will power and with no inconvenience. It leaves the system as pure and free from nicotine as the day you took your first chew or smoke.

Cured by Bacco-Curo and Gained Thirty Pounds.

From hundreds of testimonials, the originals of which are on file open to inspection, the following is presented:

Clayton, Nevada Co., Ark., Jan. 29, 1895.

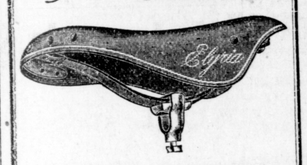
Eureka Chemical & Mfg. Co., La Crosse, Wis.—Gentlemen: For forty years I used tobacco in all its forms. For twenty-five years of that time I was a great sufferer from general debility and heart disease. For fifteen years I tried to quit but couldn't. I took various remedies, among others "No-To-Bac," "The Indian Tobacco antidote," "Double Chloride of Gold," etc., but none of them did me the least bit of good. Finally, however, I purchased a box of your "Baco-Curo" and it has entirely cured me of the habit in all its forms, and I have increased thirty pounds in weight and am relieved from all the numerous aches and pains of body and mind. I could write a quire of paper upon my changed feelings and condition.

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205 Pass	285 Mail.			240 Mail	294 Pass.
P. M.	A. M.			A. M.	P. M.
‖ 3 00	‖ 6 25		....Baltimore....	‖ 11 15	‖ 6 55
3 40	7 25		..Philadelphia..	10 46	5 52
5 45	9 38		Lv..Clayton..Ar	8 45	3 55
5 53	9 48	4.70	.....Kenton.....	8 37	‖ 3 46
f 6 03	f 9 57	9.58	.....Hartley.....	f 8 29	f 3 38
f 6 09	f 10 09	10.22	....Slaughters....	f 8 26	f 3 32
6 08	10 08	13.79	.....Marydel.....	8 10	3 26
f 6 14	f 10 16	16.76	....Henderson....	f 8 14	f 3 18
f 6 20	f 10 24	19.54	..Goldsborough..	f 8 08	f 3 11
6 29	10 34	23.88	Greensborough	7 59	3 00
6 38	10 44	28.08	..... Ridgely	7 50	2 48
6 47	‖ 10 54	32.38	...Queen Anne...	7 41	2 27
f 6 54	f 11 04	36.16	.....Cordova.....	f 7 34	f 2 27
f 7 00	f 11 12	39.05	.....Chapel.....	f 7 28	f 2 20
7 12	11 24	44.16	.....Easton.....	7 18	2 09
f 7 25	f 11 42	50.49	.....Trappe.....	f 7 05	f 1 49
‖ 7 35	‖ 11 53	51.19	Ar..Oxford..Lv	‖ 6 55	‖ 1 40
P. M.	A. M.			A. M.	P. M.

"f" Stops to leave or take passengers on notice to Conductor. ‖ Daily, except Sunday.

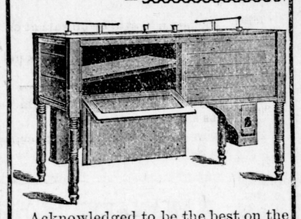
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Fast Line, Pittsburg (Dining Car) .. *12.25 p. m.
Chicago and St. Louis Express, Dining Car ..... *4.00 p. m.
Western Express ..... *8.50 p. m
South Western Express ..... *10.27 p. m.
Pacific Express West ..... *11.20 p. m
Harrisburg Express, *4.30 and *8.50 a.m., ‖4.40 p. m., and Mail ..... *7.00 a. m.
Niagara, Rochester and Kane Ex... *8.50 a. m.
Elmira and Renovo Express ..... ‖2.25 p. m.
Williamsport Express, ‖4.40 p. m.; Sundays ..... 4.30 p. m.
Rochester and Buffalo Express ..... †8.50 p. m.
Erie, Rochester and Buffalo Ex ..... *11.20 p. m.
Lock Haven Express ..... *4.30 a. m.
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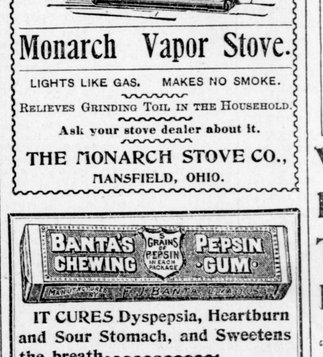
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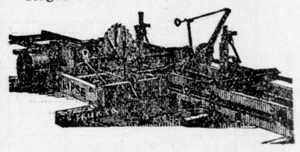
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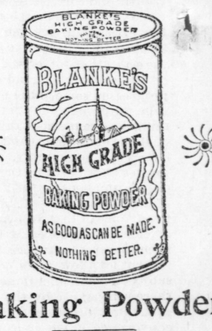
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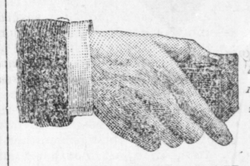
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