AGRICULTURAL.

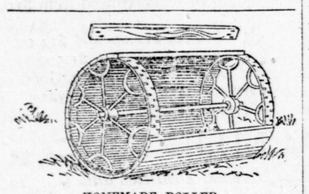
TOPICS OF INTEREST RELATIVE TO FARM AND GARDEN.

CONTAGIOUS CATARRH IN HENS.

Domestic fowls have two diseases of a diphtheritic nature, according to a report of M. Gallez to the Belgian Academy of Medicine. One is a contagious catarrh, called also morve or fowlglanders, which is very contagious and fatal to hens and may give diphtheria to human beings. The other, though called fowl diphtheria, has nothing save the name in common with human diphtheria.

MAKING A FARM ROLLER.

The roller ought to be more commonly used on the farm in fining the soil for a seedbed, as well as in packing down the soil about the seed when sown. A roller may be made by covering old mowing machine wheels in the manner suggested in the sketch, the narrow strips of plank having



HOMEMADE ROLLER.

slots cut in them to fit projections on the wheels. When the strips are in place, shrink an iron hoop around each end. Old wagon tires are useful for this purpose. The ends may be boarded up to keep out the dirt. Beveling each strip makes a neater job, but this is not essential.—American Agriculturist.

RAISING HOGS IN CONNECTION WITH FRUIT.

For the past five years we have raised hogs on the vineyard, and the results have been very successful, so much so that we consider the raising of hogs one of the essential characteristics embodied in the fruit and farming industries, writes L. D. Chittenden, of Kings County, California. Hogs that get the necessary care and attention cannot fail to be profitable, but to a greater extent if a farmer would watch the hog market as carefully as he does that of grain, or green and dried fruit. Our hogs always have the best care, and receive as much attention as our pruning or cultivation. Breeding, raising and marketing are the three important features of success.

Our choice of hogs to breed is the Poland-China or the Berkshire, or a cross between the two is also advantageous. The Poland-China produces very fine pigs, while the Berkshires seem to take better care of their young, and naturally a cross develops more profitable results. In the raising of hogs one has first to consider what time of the year he is better able to give young pigs his best care, as it is our experience that the correct foundation of a hog is made during the first six or eight weeks after it is born, and our method is of course in keeping with our crops.

Pigs that are born about September 1 have a good start on grapes, which make an excellent food, being healthful, strengthening and fattening. They are then fed on pumpkins and corn, followed by artichokes, and in the spring fattened on grain, and are ready for market about June 1. On the other hand, pigs born about February 1 have also a good start on corn harvested the previous fall, then artichokes, continued with grain during the summer, and fattened in the fall on grapes, to be ready for market about the end of the year.

We have always tried to avoid carrying a large stock of heavy fat hogs during the summer, as they are less able to stand the very warm weather, and are more subject to cholera or any disease that may invade your territory. We have always been very fortunate in preserving good health among our hogs, and if one would take the proper precaution, there would be considerable less danger of cholera, which we are satisfied is often caused from impure water and stale food. In the spring hogs need a blood purifier. Small quantities of sulphur mixed with their food will give tone to them and restore a fine, bright, healthy appearance. During the summer it may also be well to give them very small doses of carbolic acid if you think they show signs of being sick.

Keep well posted as to the demand for hogs, also the amount of corn, grain, alfalfa, etc., being cultivated and harvested for feed, as sometimes it pays to hold over for a week or two, and don't sell until you are satisfied that the market is at its best for you, considering your own circumstances as well as other conditions.

A COVERED BARNYARD.

The value of a covered barnyard is too apparent to need extended argument to prove its worth upon the farm. With it as a factor in farm management, it is possible to keep the manure from leaching, even in the slightest degree, and keep it also from that bane of most manure heaps, "fire-fanging." With the covered barnyard all the manure can be wheeled out daily, kept covered with litter, and kept so closely packed by the running of cattle upon it that too rapid heating is not at all possible. In the covered yard there is, moreover, always a chance for the stock to exercise and secure fresh air, without exposure to storms or cold winds. There is another use also to which the covered yard may be put, in some localities, at least. Sheep that lamb in spring—not in the winter—do not require exceptionally warm quarters during cold weather. As a matter of fact, many sheep raisers are of the opinion that clothed with a thick fleece of wool as they are, sheep do better in cool quarters. With a covered barnyard, inclosed on all sides except the south, in many parts of the country sheep should certainly be wintered in the



A COVERED BARNYARD.

yard, and fed in racks at the sides. In this way an increased amount of stock could be kept on many farms.

It is a fact, however, that most farmers will hardly be induced to cover their yards because of the expense—the idea of "roofing all outdoors" not appealing to them as profitable, though they may be willing to concede the advantages of the covered yard. A plan is presented herewith that does away with some of these objections, for the addition to the barn, which is shown in the cut, secures a covered yard as an incident in the securing of other barn and stock accommodations. The addition shown is virtually two wings to the barn, with a roof spanning both, the roof space being utilized as storage for hay, grain or other crops, this loft opening directly into the second floor of the barn. The wings may be used for the keeping of any kind of stock—hens, pigs, calves, colts or sheep. With such an addition to a barn, not only will the covered yard, with all its advantages, be secured, but accommodations will also be secured that will enable one to have all the farm stock gathered into one place, under one roof, virtually. This will be found a great labor saving arrangement, and the covered yard thus secured will be adjacent to all the stock quarters, and so at once accessible to all the stock. A tight board fence could be built along the front if desired, which would still further protect the yard from wind. At either extremity of this fence should be a gate, so that a farm team could be driven in on one side, loaded with manure, and driven out on the other side, thus giving an easy turn. This addition can be built out to any length desired, though it is to be remembered that the longer it is, the darker it will be far within the yard, a matter that will afford no trouble with a yard of medium size.—New York Tribune.

SIGNS OF SWARMING.

In answer to the question "How do you tell when bees are going to swarm" the editor of the Stockman says: You can't tell. At least there is no rule by which you can always be sure about it. There are some things, however, which it may be useful for you to know. You need not look for swarms until the bees get to gathering honey lively. There may be an occasional case in which a very strong colony may swarm during fruit bloom, but they rarely do. The bulk of the swarming in the North takes place during what is called the white honey harvest, that is while clover and linden are in bloom. That means beginning somewhere in June and ending in July. Sometimes swarming is all over by the Fourth of July, and sometimes not till a month later. Rarely what are called buckwheat swarms may occur latter still.

Some count on "hanging out" as a sign of swarming. A great mass of bees covers all the front of the hive, and they appear to be doing nothing but just waiting to swarm. Maybe that is what they are doing, and maybe not. Sometimes they cluster in that way on the outside of the hive for no other reason than that it is more comfortable there than in the warm, crowded hive.

If the bees of other hives are doing nothing then there is no use paying any attention to their hanging out, for a colony is not likely to swarm when there is no honey to be gathered in the field. But if during a very busy time a colony all at once seems to stop work and hang out while other colonies keep right at work, then it may mean something, but often a colony will swarm without a single bee ever hanging out. It is more or less a question of the size of the hive, intensity of heat and that sort of thing. The swarm that issues first in the season is called "prime" or "first" swarm. After swarms may issue, and as to these you can be more sure. By the way, the old queen goes with the first swarm, but a young queen with an after swarm. You may look for a second swarm about eight days after the first swarm has issued. Maybe a little before or after, but that is another story.

There is a way in which you can tell something about the intention of the bees by looking inside of a hive with movable combs. Take out the frames and see if there are any queen cells present. These are usually on the edges of the comb or in other places where there is room for them, and if any of them are sealed over you may look for a swarm right away. A sealed queen cell looks not unlike a peanut, and you are not unlikely to mistake it for anything else. But sometimes the bees give up swarming and destroy their queen cells if the weather turns too bad or if honey stops yielding. If you find queen cells started with nothing but eggs in them look out for swarming within ten days or so.

A fat muskrat was in the habit of entering the cellar of W. C. Bahr, of East Marion, N. Y., and gorging itself with spring vegetables. The farmer lay in ambush one night, and with a pitchfork closed the career of the plunderer.

90 MEN WALLED UP

Crushed and Entombed By a Mine Caving In.

A TERRIFIC EXPLOSION.

No Hope of Finding the Victims Alive—Engaged in the Work of Propping Up a Dangerous Roof When the Crash Came.

While ninety miners were at work in the Red Ash vein of the Twin Shat, at Pittston, about three o'clock in the morning, the roof caved in, and it is believed that all of the men perished. About forty of the imprisoned men were English-speaking miners, the others foreigners.

The men were at work propping up the roof when the fall occurred. The alarm was immediately given by the ringing of the fire bells, and rescuers were put to work without delay.

More than two-thirds of the victims were married men and leave families. Among them were Acting Mayor Langan, who was inside superintendent of the mine and J. H. Lynott, a ward councilman.

About two weeks ago the surveyors reported to General Superintendent Law that the mine was "squeezing," and that unless steps were immediately taken to timber it a cave-in or fall might be looked for. Superintendent Law lost no time, but at once put a number of timberman at work to brace the falling roof. The "squeeze" continued, however, and the situation became alarming. In the afternoon a slight fall occurred, and the men who were at work had to retreat before it. A consultation of mine officials was then held, and it was decided that heroic measures would have to be resorted to to prevent heavy damage to the mine.

Inside Superintendent Langan gave instructions that the most experienced miners should be secured, and that the party would go down the mine at seven o'clock. Expert timbermen put in an appearance at that hour and were soon lowered into the workings. They made their way to Red Ash vein, fifteen hundred feet above the slope. The work of propping proceeded rapidly untill eleven o'clock, when another fall occurred. It made a low, rumbling noise, and the flying coal and debris drove the men back.

Then the "squeeze" ceased again, and the men thought it safe to resume work. They labored on until twenty minutes after three o'clock, when, so it is presumed, the roof fell in without warning, making a tremendous crash.

It is supposed, however, that the men were not all together, but some near the slope, and these probably ran up the incline when the fall occurred.

It was at first supposed that the men might have escaped being caught in the fall, and that they were imprisoned behind the debris, but it now seems certain that the falling rock and coal filled up the slope and gangways, and cut off all escape.

Superintendent Lathrop, of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company, who is an authority, says it may be ten days before the bodies are reached, as they are under a heavy fall.

The alarm was first given by Watercarrier John Sheridan, who, with William Rechard and Thomas Gill, were the only ones to escape of the whole party who entered the mine. He was on his way up the slope to get some fresh water for the men, and, when about one hundred feet from the foot of the shaft, was knocked down by the concussion. He was badly cut and burned by flying coal and rock. He lay unconscious for ten minutes, and then came up the shaft.

VENEZUELA ACTS PROMPTLY.

Crown Surveyor Harrison, of British Guiana, Released.

The latest complication in the Venezuelan question has been promptly settled through the friendly intervention of the United States. Mr. Andrade, the Venezuelan Minister, called at the State Department and handed to Mr. Olney a copy of a telegram he had just received from Mr. Rojas, the Venezuelan Minister of Foreign Affairs, stating that Mr. Harrison, the crown surveyor of British Guiana, who, with his party, had been placed in arrest by Venezuelan officials had been promptly released

It is undoubtedly true that the prompt action of the Venezuelan government was in a measure due to Mr. Olney's intercession through our Minister at Caracas and it is believed that the main issue between Great Britain and Venezuela will be even more easy of settlement now that the latter government has been so prompt to disavow the act of the sub-commissary.

Minister Andrade says that the Cuyuni River has been the provisional boundary, and has never before been crossed by the British. In all the encroachments made on Venezuelan territory the right of Venezuela to all territory on the left bank of the Cuyuni has been respected by the British. Posts have been erected by the Venezuelans on the left bank, and by the British on the right bank, and while the country on the right bank is in dispute, that on the left has never been disputed until Harrison attempted to cross the river against the protest of the Venezuelan authorities.

SIX PERSONS DROWNED.

A Sailing Yacht Capsized in Shawano Lake During a Gale.

By the upsetting of a sailing yacht in Shawano Lake, Wis., six people of a party of nine were drowned.

The unfortunate people were on their way to the north shore of the lake for a few days' outing, and left Cecil at 5 o'clock in the evening. After sailing in a fresh breeze for two hours the wind suddenly shifted and became stronger and the yacht was capsized before she could be brought about. As the boat went over Mr. Drackery grabbed his child and he and Mr. Risum managed to cling to the vessel until rescued five hours later.

WHY NOT BUY THE BEST?



Children's Carriages

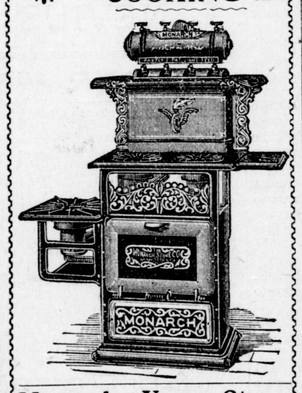
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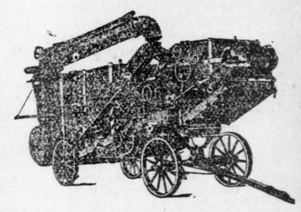
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