AGRICULTURAL.

TOPICS OF INTEREST RELATIVE TO FARM AND GARDEN.

NO GRASS FOR WORKING HORSES.

It is a great temptation to cut some grass to feed either green or partly dried to the horses that have to work hard every day on the farm. It should be resisted, for grass will surely induce derangement in the digestive organs, which will make the horses too weak to do effective work. After the plowing is finished many farmers think the hardest work is over, but a horse cultivating all day will need good dry hay and grain no less than when plowing. The step is quicker in cultivating than in plowing, and requires quite as much muscular exertion to keep at it all day.—Boston Cultivator.

TO PREVENT ROT IN BOARDS.

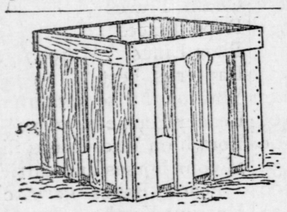
It is the alternate wetting and drying that rots wood. If the boards are kept wet all the time, or dry, they will not rot, at least if they are exposed to the air. There is such a thing as dry rot, when timber is always dry, but is not exposed to the air. This is due to the fermentation of the sap in the timber. There are several processes to prevent all kinds of rot in timber; one is to saturate it with lime water; another is to keep it painted, after well soaking it with oil or a priming coat, as it is called. When pots with plants are kept on wooden shelves it will tend to preserve them to set the pots on small bars of wood an inch thick, so as to leave an air space under them.

FEEDING WEAK EWES.

Weak ewes that have a short supply of milk for the lamb should be fed in the best manner. Pasture alone will not be sufficient, and some linseed and bran will be needed to add to the nutriment. The ewe is first to be supplied before the lamb can be nourished, and the lamb must be fed through the ewe in this way until it is able to eat sufficient for itself. It is a good plan to have a small enclosure in the pasture into which the lambs may creep but the ewes cannot, and in this to provide a feeding trough to be supplied with such a mixture as this: Ten pounds of linseed meal, twenty pounds of bran, twenty pounds of oats finely ground, four ounces of salt, two ounces of ground ginger, and the same of ground gentian root. Mix those thoroughly and give two ounces a day to each lamb to begin with, increasing gradually as the lambs grow. It will be a help to give half a pint of this to the ewes that are deficient in milk.—American Sheep Breeder.

AN IMPROVED POTATO CRATE.

The cut shows a crate with the slats all upright, obviating the use of corner supports, since in the case here illustrated the slats lap at the corners and thus nailed give great stiffness to the whole crate. The use of such crates for gathering potatoes, apples, etc., cannot be too highly commended. A lot of them can be made up—enough, at least, to make a wagon load—and load after load taken from the field with a single handling of the vegetables or fruit, which saves much



A USEFUL CRATE.

in time and also in the great lessening of bruises. This, in the case of apples, pears, etc., is an item of great importance, for the keeping qualities of fruit depend very largely on preventing bruises. The crates are made perfectly rectangular, so they can be piled up in a wagon box with great ease. The making of such crates as are here figured is a very simple matter. Where a large number are to be made, get the material sawed to the right dimensions at the mill. The proper lengths even of bottoms and slats can be sawed off at the mill, leaving only a bit of nailing together, and the cutting of a place for the hand on either side as shown. Such crates, with careful use, should last a dozen years.—New York Tribune.

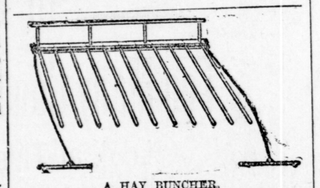
PRAISE FOR NEW STRAWBERRIES.

In regard to the strawberry seedlings of A. B. Howard, it gives me pleasure to say that I have never seen so many varieties together that show decided merit, even in the collection of 200 named varieties on the grounds of our Massachusetts agricultural college, writes Professor S. T. Maynard. Mr. Howard has shown especial skill in his work of cross fertilizing varieties, and his seedlings show that there is some decided assurance that the results from cross fertilizing varieties of decided character give much more promise than the chance, haphazard way of growing new seedlings, so much in practice.

It is difficult to describe the many varieties of marked merit Mr. Howard has on his place, without more careful and critical examination than the writer has had time to bestow upon them. But for quality, vigor of plant and form of berry, many are certainly unequalled by any of the named sorts. These seedlings are upon new land, and of course fruit with greater perfection than they would on old garden soil, but these conditions must be provided for the best results with any variety. The only question of uncertainty in regard to the value of these seedlings is what they may do in other localities and on different soil. These questions Mr. Howard will be able to answer after another year's trial, and we predict that among the 700 to 800 seedlings which he is fruiting, there will be found many that will prove more valuable than the standard market varieties now in cultivation.

THE BUNCHER—A HELP IN HAYING.

A simple hay buncher is illustrated herewith. By means of a rope about twelve feet long, attach a horse at each end of the buncher and drag it lengthwise of the windrow until full. Then turn the horses and draw it back until clear. Ordinarily four bunches



A HAY BUNCHER.

will make a fair sized load, which may be pitched in half the time required to pitch on a load from small tumbles. Many barns are so situated that a large part of the hay may be economically drawn by the buncher alone; and, in some instances, by means of an inclined plane and pulleys to reverse the line of direction, it may be drawn into the gable end of the barn. Even when used for field work alone, the buncher will amply repay its cost in a single season.

Any farmer can easily make one of these bunchers. For teeth, tough, straight-grained pieces of hard wood must be used. They should be two inches square, and eight feet long, and planed to a rather blunt point at one end. Place the square end between two planks, and at right angles to them, as shown in the cut, and securely fasten them together by means of two bolts through each tooth. The planks should be eight inches wide and from twelve to sixteen feet long, and the teeth should be about eight inches apart, though for very coarse hay twice or even three times that distance may answer. Next mortise four holes, each two inches square, through the planks. One should be at each end and the others between and in exact line. Insert in each and fasten in place, a piece of hard wood similar to that of which the teeth are made, but only two feet long. Now fasten to the tops of these stakes another piece, similar in size, but long enough to connect all of them, and the buncher is finished, although it will add materially to its strength if the blacksmith fasten an iron brace to each post.—New England Homestead.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

The calves that are fed milk need water as well this hot weather.

A head shade for the horses and some leaves in the driver's hat these hot days are the proper things to have.

A whole cow in Clay County, Kansas, must be worth a good deal of money. The tail of one chewed off by a dog the other day cost the owner of the dog $27.50.

Dehorned cattle look better, feed better, ship better, are better behaved and sell better than cattle with horns. If you can't breed 'em without horns take the horns off after breeding.

When prosperity comes again there will be a better demand in this country for good horses than there has ever been. The demand in the past for thoroughbred horses, brisk as it was, was after all in a sense limited.

Farmers should give careful attention to the selection of the breeding stock. The best parentage through three successive generations will show wonderful improvement. Start aright and proceed in this course, all along, and success should follow.

Let every stockman take courage this season. It is the "off-times" when one can confidently expect an improvement. The young stock now ought to grow into something of good value in the future if breed and feed are up to the right standard.

If ever care should be given the cans used to carry the milk to the factory it is now. Look out for yellow scum that will gather in the seams and under the shoulder that makes the neck. Even if the cans are steamed it is well to look in other places once in a while.

Many hogs are starved into eating old stuff actually hurtful in its character. Half-decomposed food can do no animal good; so-called slops should be sweet at least. Purify the pails often, and give the swine clean, nutritious food, and they will leave many unhealthy articles they now eat.

Any one unacquainted with the trend of affairs in hog and pork matters knows that the cotton growers are buying more breeding stock and less pork. This means for a time a good trade for the breeders at good prices, and it also means a serious curtailment of the demand for cured meats that will be felt by the feeder.

When it dawns on the mind of the thinking farmer that there is more in the pig than in the older animal, and that the younger he feeds him the greater the return for food consumed, he is in a frame to think favorably of growing fall pigs. If they are not grown, the sows must be carried at a steady expense, without an adequate return.

The breeder should have a type of the animal he wishes to produce always fixed in his mind, and this type should ever be before him when looking at his breeding cows, and he should have each cow approach that type as nearly as possible, remembering that "like begets like," with the tendency to go the wrong way always in the ascendency.

TOWN DESTROYED.

Two Thousand People at Ontonagon Lose Everything.

HARDLY A HOUSE LEFT.

Business Houses, Residences, and Factories Wiped Out by Fire—Loss Estimated at $1,500,000—Communication Cut Off.

Ontonagon, Mich., was destroyed by fire. Of the city of about 2,000 population hardly a house is left standing. Among the property destroyed is the extensive plant of the Diamond Match Company and 60,000,000 feet of lumber in their yards. Conservative estimates place the loss at $1,500,000. No lives were lost.

The fire had been burning in the woods southwest of the city for two weeks. It was nearly out when a southwest gale swept it upon the town. At noon it was seen that the city was doomed. A message was sent to Supt. Minturn, of the St. Paul Railroad, at Green Bay, asking for a train to take the people away.

The operator who sent the message was driven away from his instrument by the burning of the building. A train was ordered there from Pori, twenty-six miles south. The train reached Ontonagon and took a load of people to Rockland, ten miles away. It left again for Ontonagon for another load, and nothing has been heard from there.

At 5 o'clock the flames had swept through the main part of the city, destroying all the business houses, many residences, the match company's mills, the water works, electric light plant, courthouse, jail, etc. The flames then worked up the river to the rest of the city.

ABOUT NOTED PEOPLE.

In his new book Harold Frederic will deal exclusively with English people and subjects.

The Rev. A. M. Clark said in a lecture in San Francisco the other evening that Gregory VII was the father of modern liberty.

It is rumored that no less than three prominent authors are engaged upon lives of Christ—Hall Caine, S. R. Crockett and Ian Maclaren.

Pierre Lourderoau, who is 92 years old, and who lives in Paris, is the last survivor of the men who fought in the July revolution in 1830.

The Rev. Henry Victor Morgan, of Alameda, Cal., is building a church with his own hands, assisted by some members of his congregation.

The Princess of Wales has among her numberless treasures a very costly and beautiful ostrich screen given to her by Sir John Willoughby.

Max Nordau's handwriting is almost microscopical. His book, "Parodoxes," a printed volume of 414 pages, was written on sixty-five sheets of paper.

News comes from Japan that Lafcadio Hearn has become totally blind and has been obliged to give up his professorspip in the Imperial University of Japan.

The North British Railway has in its service an engineer named James Henderson, aged 78, who, during fifty years of service, has never had an accident happen to his train.

Laurier, the new Canadian Premier, might have made a fortune and a reputation at the bar, but he rarely goes into court. He is poor, and it is said that if he were to die now his estate would not amount to more than $2000. He is considered the most pleasing orator in Canada and gained great fame by the first speech he made when he took his seat in the House of Commons.

STEAMER SUNK BY AN ICEBERG.

Crew Put Out in Life-boats and Are Rescued by the Steamer Circassia.

The steamer Circassia, of the Anchor Line, had a story to tell on her arrival at Quarantine, New York, of picking up a captain and his twenty-two men on the high seas from three open boats.

It was Captain Burnside and the crew of the British tramp steamer Moldavia, bound from Cardiff for Halifax, with coal, who were rescued by the timely approach of the Circassia. During the dense fog that hung over the sea on last Wednesday the Moldavia ran into a huge iceberg and stove her port bows so badly that she began to fill rapidly. Captain Burnside ordered the lifeboats provisioned and cleared away, and the steamer was abandoned, and shortly afterward sank.

The lifeboats kept together and watched for a passing vessel, and thirty-five hours later the Circassia's lights were seen approaching. Blue lights were at once shown by the occupants of the life-boats, and the Circassia altered her course. The davit tackles were lowered and as each life-boat approached she was hooked on and raised bodily, occupants and all, to the deck of the Circassia.

MAY BREAK OFF RELATIONS.

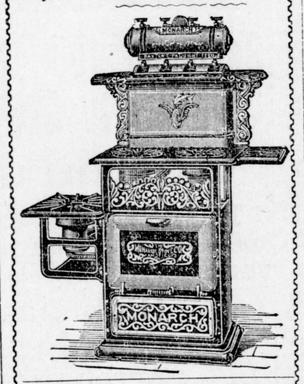
Threatened Diplomatic Rupture Between Brazil and Italy.

It is rumored in Rio Janeiro that the entire Italian Legation will be withdrawn, in consequence of the recent political conflicts in Sao Paulo between the Italians and the Brazilians. The Italian Minister is still waiting for instructions from Rome as to his course of action.

The bust of Madame Calve, which is executed by the Countess Fedore Gleichen, is said to bear a wonderful resemblance to the gifted artiste.

The bones of aged persons having more lime in them than those of young people, are therefore more brittle.

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Directions for above uses printed plainly in German and English upon each can label.

Remember, all we ask is that you go to your Grocer, purchase one can Eagle Lye or Potash for 10 cents and convince yourself of the merits of these goods. One can Eagle Powdered Lye or Potash does the work of 20 pounds washing soda, or any other soap powder offered upon the market.

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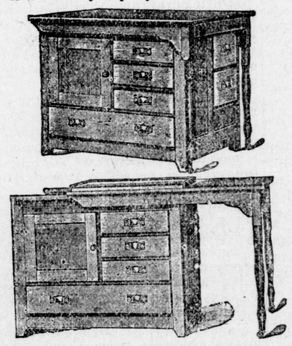
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