FARMING INTERESTS . . DISCUSSED.

Asparagus Crates — Does It Pay to Plant! Other Interesting Subjects.

STILL POND, May 30th, 1895.

The Still Pond Farmers' Club held its regular meeting today, at the residence of Mr. James S. Harris. The weather was extremely warm, so the morning session was held under the trees in the lawn. After being called to order by the president, the minutes were read and approved, and questions were then declared in order.

The first question was: Has the giftcrate purchased by the asparagus growers suited them?

Mr. James S. Harris said that he was very well pleased with it. It held two dozen bunches of grass tightly, and that was the way he wanted it held. W. D. Pennington said that he had a crate made by T. J. Shallcross that he liked much better, as it was deep and held longer grass than the crate referred to by Mr. Harris. A general discussion as to the value of long and short grass followed, and it seemed to be the unanimous opinion of the growers that the long brought the most money, and that the crate furnished by Captain Emory should be at least 1½ inches deeper to suit this neighborhood. Otherwise the crate met with their approbation.

The next question was: What has been the experience of the growers in regard to fertilizers on asparagus?

Mr. George W. Rodenhiser thought a specially prepared fertilizer which he had applied had done more harm than good. He was an advocate of manure. Mr. W. D. Pennington thought an application of 400 or 500 pounds of fertilizer followed by an application of manure had been of great value to his bed, as it gave him early cutting, when the price was good. He applied it as soon as he was done cutting and doubled it up in the fall.

It was then asked will it pay to plant asparagus, and if it is best to buy crowns or sow seed?

They were slow to answer this question. One thought present prices were below the cost of production, and an increase in production would insure lower prices still. In answer to the second part, he would say, sow the seed, as the planter would then be able to discard all inferior crown and plant only the best. Several said if they had not patches already they believed that they would plant from two to five acres, but they were not very enthusiastic over it.

The next question was: How should it be planted? One grower said the best paying patch he knew was planted in hills 4x4 feet, but that rows six feet apart had some advantages that were not to be disregarded. It also gave room to put on plenty of dirt. Another grower stated that no renter could profitably grow it; that it costs 2 cents to cut and bunch it, and when it brings less than 5 cents, which is frequent, he gets left.

It was also inquired, What proportion of the farm could be planted in asparagus and tilled, cut and marketed with the usnal amount of help kept thereon?

This was not answered, as all the growers were of the opinion that extra help was necessary, or one or the other would be neglected. Asparagus was one of those things like time and tide, which waiteth not. Further inquiry brought out the fact that the beetle, which has been so very destructive in the past, had not made its appearance so far this year, and the growers congratulated themselves and hoped that he was *nix nil nit*, and several other things no more forever.

Paper wrappers for fancy fruit was the next theme for discussion.

Many handsome samples were shown, but the general opinion was that unless fancy prices prevailed they were useless. Perhaps some one will try a few peaches and see if it will work, but they are better adapted for pears and oranges. The dinner hour having arrived the club took a recess.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

After the president had called the meeting to order, the minutes were read and approved. The host then made a short address, in which he said that it gave him great pleasure to welcome the club at his home, especially on this day, as it was the anniversary of its reorganization, which had been effected at this place just six years ago, and he congratulated the club on the fact that its meetings had been held without a break for that length of time. He was glad, too, that the members took such an active interest as had made this record possible. He was impressed with the fact that the meetings were not only becoming more interesting to the members, but that others were becoming more interested in its proceedings as the years come and go.

The secretary then read a communication from Capt. McDade in regard to the steamer Perryville. The committee then made its report, and presented catalogues and prices of various styles of packages. On motion of Mr. Harris, the chair then appointed a committee of five to visit the Maryland Experiment Station and report at the September meeting of the club.

On motion, the ladies were appointed a committee to consider the advisability of holding a picnic. They reported in favor of holding a picnic on the lawn of Joseph W. Harper, on the 18th of July, which was adopted.

Questions were then in order. The first was: Why does our country-cured pork get rusty? No one told why, but they said the way to prevent it was to wash it off and rub it with borax when you hung it up. It was claimed that this would also discourage skippers.

The next question was: Which is the more important period in the life of a farmer's wife, when she has a cook or when she has'nt? They were not able to decide between them.

The next was: What is the most enjoyable period of a woman's? The only answer to this was from a man, who said when the cook comes back.

The regular question was then taken up and discussed at length. It was the opinion of the majority of the speakers that the area of distribution of our fruit had increased faster than the production.

A final question was then put: How does the propects for the next five years compare with the realities of the last five to the agriculturist? This was discussed all around, and the prospect shone like the full moon on a clear night.

The club then selected the question: Is there any kind of tree fruit that promises to be as profitable as the departing peach? for discussion at the next meeting, which will be held at the home of Mr. W. D. Pennington, on the last Thursday in September.

The club then adjourned.

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What's the use in growlin' 'bout the weather, day or night?
We'll all get home together if the heart is beatin' right!
So, never mind the blizzard—there is still a brighter sky,
And we'll strike a warmer climate, and we'll get there by and by!

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No religious act should ever be performed in a way to make the world think that serving God is hard work.

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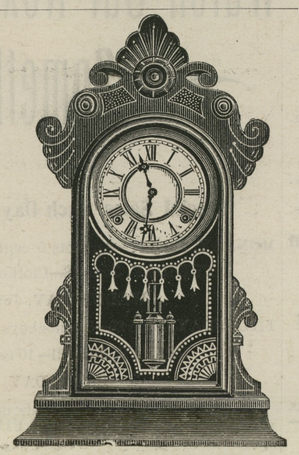

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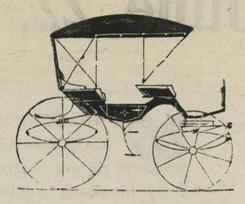

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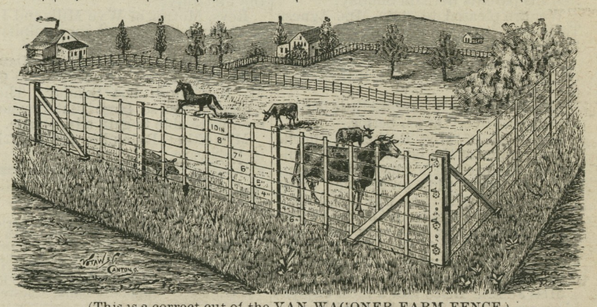

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