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CHESTERTOWN, MD., MAY 30, 1903

CARE OF THE PEACH ORCHARD

BENJAMIN F. RASH, KENT COUNTY, MD.

From The American Agriculturist.

I choose a plot of land that has not been planted in peach trees for at least 20 years. With me this is very important, especially so when the trees come into bearing. I can grow a tree on any ordinary loam soil, even if the greater part of the humus or vitality is worked out of the soil. But I cannot grow fruit annually on such trees. I find I can grow the fruit only when everything is favorable. For example, if the orchard bears this year the next it will bloom and be loaded with fruit, and when the June drop gets through there is none left because the previous crop has taken out all the vitality of the tree. It takes from one to two years for the tree to recuperate, thus only growing fruit when everyone has a crop.

I always use a clover sod, manure and lime, plow in November, in which I at once set my trees. This system with me seems to insure a better stand and the tree will start growing earlier, for it is fully settled and is ready to start off growing. I always have a better stand in autumn planting. Out of 2000 trees there was only a loss of six trees. I set the trees 20 by 20 feet. On our land we cauld not plant closer. If I were to plant on stony and hilly land, I would set them 16 by 16 feet. Pruning the young trees I cut the tops off about 2 feet above ground in the spring.

I do no more pruning until the following spring, at which time I form the tree by leaving on three or four branches, not over four. I try not to have these limbs form a crotch, but leave them scattered as near as possible, thus making the tree stronger and not as liable to split when loaded with fruit. I aim to leave the branches as near the ground above where it is budded as possible, after cutting off a foot of the top that I left on when I first topped them. Third pruning is done in March, prunning off all branches that have a tendency to grow inward for at least 12 to 18 inches from the crotch and cut back the top on many limbs that have a tendency to grow upward, ahead of others. Thus I make the top as level as possible.

By the above method of pruning I have an orchard low to the ground, making it easy to spray and gather the fruit, the tree opening when bearing its fruit, thus letting in sunshine and air to color and ripen it. I do little pruning after this, taking off only the dead branches and heading back occasionally those varieties that have a tendency to grow too high. I cultivate between the trees the first two years with tomatoes and plow down the vines as soon as I am through picking, while they are green. This means a little extra expense, for just at this time we are very busy with other crops. The third year I sow in clover and let it remain until the following spring; just before it is in full bloom I plow down this growth, roll and harrow throughly, then reharrow at least every eight or ten days until about July 15.

I sow no more clover while the trees are in active bearing. When the orchard is about ready to be taken out I sow clover again. I find clover in an active bearing orchard fires the trees, or in other words causes the foliage to turn yellow. I use kainit, broadcast, yearly after the first crop of fruit, at the rate of 400 pounds per acre, with wood ashes at the base of the tree occasionally. I now plow, since there is no green soiling to turn under, just as soon as the ground will do to plow in March or early April, before vegetation starts and while the roots are dormant. I plow 3 to 4 inches deep and then continue to harrow and cultivate until July. I continue annually this method of culture as long as the orchard is in bearing.

SPEAKING of the fruit prospects in Delaware, former Superintendent Isaac N. Mills, of the Delaware Railroad, says: "There is likely to be a good crop both of peaches and pears. But great faith cannot be put in peaches until the latter part of next month, when the June drop will be past. The early frost did not do much damage to the peach buds."

THE fishermen of the Delaware Bay have found a 'Klondyke.' The shad fishermen have practically abandoned the business and gone to catching sturgeon, although the shad fishing season lasts until June 10. A few days ago two shad fishermen were surprised to run across a school of sturgeon. They immediately prepared to "boat" all of these mammoth fish they could catch and then spent two days in mid-stream. They caught twenty-eight sturgeon in two days, and realized from them $1.400. One monster fish brought them $90.

If you want to get a good position next winter, enter Goldey College now. Write for the catalogue.

SHOULD KISSES BE PAID FOR?

CHESTERTOWN, MD., May 19, 1903.

MESSRS. EDITORS: As a frequenter of Dewey Park and in behalf of the young men who will visit Tolchester, Betterton and Rock Hall the coming summer I wish to add my approval of the following letter which I clipped from the Baltimore Sun and ask your co-operation in carrying out the request therein:

Messrs. Editors: The young men of Montgomery county wish to raise their voices in protest against the action of the jury that gave Miss Frances Pettit, of New York State, a verdict for $3,000 in payment for 1,236 kisses bestowed upon her lover, Mr. James P. Tittemore. We will admit that a kiss is worth $2,43, and at times they seem to be worth many times that figure, but we contend that the lady in the case derives as much benefit from this popular pastime as the man and, therefore, the cash value is evenly balanced. If she does not enjoy the proceeding, she would keep at a safe distance from the gentleman and have a hatpin handy with which to curb his propensities, or she should name her price in the beginning, so that he would not go beyond his means. It is an admitted fact that if the average man were required to hand out $2.43 each time he indulged in this pleasant recreation he would be a bankrupt in less than a week. When it becomes customary to exchange kisses for cold cash at the rate of $29 a dozen, we should be compelled to revive the ancient game of "holding hands" or something equally as dull and uninteresting.

We guggest that the jury might have intended the $3,000 verdict as a fine for neglect of duty. In that case Mr. Tittemore got his just deserts and deserves no sympathy. And if Miss Pettit's kisses were as choice as she claimed and he took only one in four days, he is certainly entitled to the distinction of being the slowest slow man on this planet or any other planet.

We trust you will use your influence to discourage the nefarious practise of selling kisses, so that nothing of the kind may ever occur in old Maryland to cast a shadow on her unblemished reputation.

THE County Commissioners of Wicomico Thursday, after a hearing which lasted all day, unanimously refused to grant any license for the sale of intoxicating liquors in Salisbury Election District. By this action, the city of Salisbury is without a saloon, and must remain so indefinitely. The applications refused were those of Messrs. Bradley & Turner, O. J. Schneck, Isaac S. Brewington and S. Ulman & Brother, the only ones that as yet have been filed for a license in this District.

THE rate for hacks for funerals in Baltimore, has been advanced to that of the Sunday rate, $4, to take effect on and after June 1. The action was taken at the last meeting of the Hack Owners, Association.

A prominent undertaker who was seen yesterday in regard to the raise stated that it was caused by the increased cost of livery and other supplies. As examples he said that two years ago straw cost $6 to $8, a ton, and now costs $11 to $12. Hay, then $14, now costs $22, and oats, then 25 cents a bushel, now costs 43 cents. The new rate will apply to hacks for funerals, and will not affect the prevailing rates of hacks for marriages and other purposes.

YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE TAKING when you take **Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic** because the formula is plainly printed on every bottle showing that it is simply Iron and Quinine in tasteless form. No Cure, No Pay.

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NOTE: Have done so for twenty seven years. Sales: Tens of millions of gallons; painted nearly two million houses under guarantee to repaint if not satisfactory: The paint wears for periods up to eighteen years. Linseed Oil must be added to the paint. (done in two minutes). Actual cost then about $1.25 a gallon. Samples free. Sold by our Agents.

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WALTER W. NEEDLES
se p20. Chestertown, Md.

Time For All Things

TRUE ENOUGH, "we are all creatures of circumstances."

Only a fortnight since we needed a Coal or Wood Stove and fuel to keep us warm; but May has come and all is changed. Yesterday our streets aud fields were covered with snow and sleet. To-day vegetation greets the eye everywhere, reminding us that we will soon need the following from

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WILLIAM A. BELL,
mh8-2m. Chestertown, Md.

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