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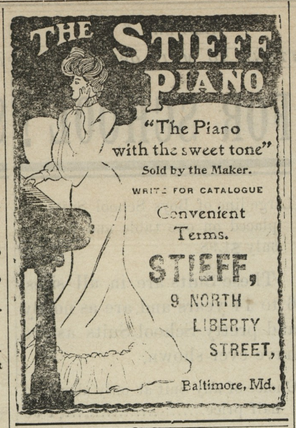

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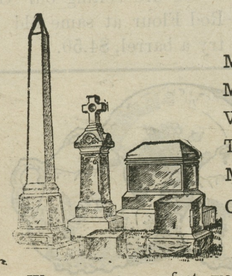

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HINTS FOR FARMERS

Spraying Potatoes.

A few years ago the process of applying a solution of paris green on a twenty acre field of potatoes with a hand sprinkler or a blow gun was a job to be dreaded and took a number of days. Now it is easily accomplished with a barrel sprayer on wheels automatically arranged so that the revolving wheels drive the force pump that is so adjusted that it sprays four rows at a time, while the farmer drives the team and rides on a comfortable seat. A forty acre field can be sprayed in a day, says a Maine correspondent of American Cultivator.

A large amount of bordeaux mixture is being used on the vines as a preventive against the blight or rust that occasionally appears on the vines early in the season, stopping further growth and rotting the tubers in the ground. This mixture is composed of lime and vitriol usually mixed with the paris green and applied in the same manner. Many of our best farmers have applied it for some years and have advocated its use, but until this season it has not been generally used. Many looked upon it with suspicion.

But facts are stubborn things. Last season where it was used the vines remained green until killed by the late autumn frosts. Other fields where it was not used the vines were blackened and dead early in the season and the yield not more than one-half or two-thirds as great as the adjoining fields where the mixture had been judiciously applied.

Liability of Farmer Employers.

An English farm laborer recently died from blood poisoning, and his widow brought suit for damages against his employer under the provisions of the workmen's compensation act. It was shown that the deceased had suffered an abrasion of the skin on the nape of the neck as the result of carrying heavy bags of fertilizer upon his shoulders, and the inflammation that followed developed into blood poisoning, the inference being that the wound was poisoned by the fertilizing material.

Although it did not appear that the employer had been unduly careless or that he had imposed unnecessary risk upon his employee, the court ordered him to pay £150 (nearly $750) to the widow and children of the deceased workman, and as an appeal was taken he was ordered to pay the widow £2 a month until the matter was settled. The case is of interest to farmers generally as showing the sweeping nature of a law that would seem at first thought to apply chiefly to factories and other lines of industrial effort far removed from the farm.—Rural New Yorker.

Growing Fence Posts.

Much interest is being manifested in the growing of timber trees on waste lands in various parts of the country. Many are recommending the catalpa as a rapid growing tree. It is a rapid growing tree, but in our experience the ravages of the catalpa caterpillar make its culture rather uncertain. This insect may not be plentiful in all parts of the country, but with us they defoliate the trees every summer and check the growth to such an extent as to make them worthless for posts. The best tree we have ever experimented with is the yellow locust, known as black locust in some sections. We have trees of this species which in seven years from the seed were plenty large enough to make good fence posts. Everybody knows the value of the locust for posts, for there is no wood which lasts longer in the ground. The trees can be thinned when large enough for vineyard stakes or other purposes, and a little later another thinning can be made for the manufacture of insulating pins for telegraph and telephone poles, for which this timber is almost exclusively used and the mills engaged in this manufacture are fast using up the natural growth of the locust in the mountains of the Appalachian system. The locust sprouts readily from the stump, and the plantation will rapidly renew itself if properly thinned.—Practical Farmer

Difficulties of Fruit Growing.

Fruit growing is now a perpetual warfare against insect pests and fungous diseases. Most of these trouble have been imported from older countries where they have prevailed for ages, until the people have nearly starved—in fact, have starved by thousands, because they lacked the knowledge or the energy to combat these enemies. Many of these enemies of the fruit growers have become naturalized and now destroy annually millions of dollars' worth of fruit. It will henceforth require an energetic use of such measures of protection as scientific investigation may approve in order that fruit growing may continue to be a profitable industry. We have this summer seen healthy looking Elbertas, Chinese clings and several other varieties of peaches where almost every peach rotted either before or immediately after ripening. These trees were not sprayed. This disease was brown rot. In the same orchard many peaches were spoiled by worms of several kinds. Neglected trees everywhere have suffered severely.—Farm and Ranch.

The Ox Team.

The ox team may be slow, but it discounts horses when hay is to be drawn from river meadows and low, miry places. On the old time farm a pair of good steers are still in order. They may never make a record for speed; but, on the other hand, they will not take the boys to the race track, with its sporty associations. And as to speed, the ox in his proper place, like the tortoise in the fable, often wins the contest by his strength, steadiness and fitness for special conditions.—American Cultivator.

FACTS

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A **Shoe Sale** with us doesn't mean an offering of heaps of any old factory's refuse of alluringly priced "gone by" styles and "use-to be" shapes. We don't conduct our business on that basis. Sometimes conditions enable us to give you our good shoes at less than usual prices Then we have a sale—such is the case now. We want to close out our present stock and get ready for Fall trade—we want to convert our shoes into money, even if we have to meet a loss in order to so. But we don't buy up job lots or odds and ends simply to make a great show of "cheapness." We want you to feel, when you come here, that you'll get

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