

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER.

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GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1897.

NO. 18.

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ROAD SUGGESTIONS.

INFORMATION AS TO BUILDING AND REPAIRING.

Valuable Hints on the Construction and Repair of Highways—Size and Quality of Stone—The Best Foundation—Use of the Roller and Its Weight.

The annual report of Henry I. Budd, commissioner of public roads in New Jersey, is a document of general importance, inasmuch as New Jersey is credited to be the model state in road building.

One of the most interesting and valuable chapters in the report is that of "Instructions to freeholders, engineers, supervisors and others interested in building and repairing roads," made necessary by the frequent change in these officials. Some of the suggestions are:

"The hardest and toughest stone or rock procurable at a reasonable cost should be selected.

"All stone should be as near cubical as possible, and none should be over 1 1/2 inches each way in diameter.

"The earthen base should be thoroughly drained, the water taken out and kept out, then rolled until the roller ceases to make any impression on it and made to conform to the same curvatures



A NEW JERSEY ROAD. (From Good Roads.)

as the finished roadbed. There is no better base than dry, firm earth, not even a telford foundation. The metal should be spread at a uniform depth over the whole surface, then partially consolidated by rolling, then thoroughly watered before the roller, which wetting causes the pieces to glide more readily together and to be more firmly bonded without crushing.

"Any depressions caused by rolling to be remedied by picking up with a pick and adding sufficient stone to bring the surface up to the proper level. For this purpose an mauling and telford roller, a steam roller of 10 or 12 tons weight is best suited and most economical.

"For gravel or earth roads a horse roller of from six to ten tons is sufficient. If the road is well rolled and compacted, the bed will be impervious to water, and the earth below will then be so dry it will not freeze, uplift and disintegrate the bed. Dry stone, gravel or earth does not readily compact. Therefore in the spring, after the frost is well out and the ground is moist, the whole surface should be rolled with a heavy roller.

"There is nothing which gives better returns for the money invested than free application of the roller to the surface.

"During the dry season the roads should be frequently watered or covered with a slight coat of loamy gravel.

"In short, a perfectly good road must have a firm and yielding foundation, good drainage, a hard and compact surface free from all ruts, hollows or depressions, the surface neither too flat to allow water to stand nor too convex to be inconvenient to the traffic, and free from loose stones."

"To make a good road," Commissioner Budd says, "is one thing; to keep it in good repair is quite another. The fine roads of Europe are the result of a splendid repair system, where every defect is remedied before it has time to cause serious damage to the highway."

The lesson that has come out of the six years' experience is that any kind of earth, well drained and rolled, is the very best foundation for stone or other material. "Eight inches, properly laid and rolled upon a solid earth foundation, will sustain as heavy a load without depressing as 18 inches. The experience of the northern counties is that 4 inches of macadam on a well drained surface answers most of their requirements, and 8 inches is the maximum they require. In the middle counties they will have no greater depth than 8 inches. But in the lower counties, where the soil is drier and presents the most desirable foundation, they insist on roads 10 to 14 inches in depth, making the cost so great that taxpayers are appalled."

NEW ENGLAND ROADS.

Massachusetts and Connecticut Making Rapid Progress.

The progress made in the last year in Massachusetts and Connecticut is most encouraging. In the former state an appropriation of \$900,000 was provided a year ago, and in 1896 the number of miles of road built by the state advanced from 89 to 180, the work being done in many different localities, for the sake of bringing its advantages before the eyes of a large number of the people. An appropriation of a like amount will be sought this year. There is a strong feeling in favor of continuing the policy entered on three or four years ago, and a number of "through routes" are contemplated in various directions.

Connecticut proceeds in a much more modest way, its annual appropriation being limited to \$75,000. In the two years since the state undertook the work and appointed a highway commission, however, the counties have contributed the same amount as the state, and more than \$600,000 has been raised by the towns for road improvement.

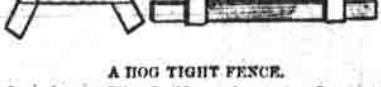
The men who would rather pay \$100 a year for shipping horses and repairing harness than \$10 a year for a good road are a small minority. The majority would be glad to see the money

FARM GARDEN

THE PORTABLE FENCE.

Fence Supported by Triangular Pieces—A Simple Post Arrangement.

A large proportion of the plans submitted to Rural New Yorker for portable fences covered the well known principle of panels of wood or wire supported by triangular pieces placed where the posts usually go. The cut here reproduced represents the ordinary fence of this



A GOOD TIGHT FENCE. The Indiana farmer who sent this plan claims that he can haul 40 rods of this fence at one load and put it up almost as fast as he can walk. This special fence is for hogs. One plank and a barbed wire higher will hold cattle.

Other plans submitted show fences the lower parts of the posts of which can be driven in like stakes, thus holding firmly.

The simplest post arrangement of all came from an Illinois man. A little study of the second cut will show you exactly how it works.

A big stake is driven so that the upright and lower piece can be spiked to it. Then a smaller stake is driven



through a wire loop so that it holds down the other end. The middle bar of each panel projects at one end. This end is placed along the upright, and then the "key" is driven down through the wire loop, holding the panel in place.

Manure For Asparagus.

What manures are best for asparagus where it is difficult to obtain stable manure is a question often asked. It is answered as follows in American Gardening:

"What manures are best to use depends in some measure on the condition of the soil itself. If the latter be loose and well filled with humus, we can well get along without stable manure and may put our sole reliance on fertilizers. But after that comes the question of the exact state of fertility of the soil. If there be plenty of potash already in the soil, a good superphosphate would probably give good results, and it may be used at the rate of from 250 pounds per acre upward. In most cases, however, we will have to use potash in some form if we desire the best results, and there is nothing better than wood ashes, or perhaps cottonseed hull ashes. If these cannot be had, muriate of potash may be used. Tobacco refuse would also be a good thing to supply the potash. Wood ashes may be used at the rate of 50 to 200 bushels per acre. If un-leached, we may add a few hundred pounds (and up to half a ton per acre) of bone. If leached, we simply give a double or treble dose of the ash."

The applications can be made at almost any time of the year. A few hundred pounds of nitrate of soda per acre might be scattered over the bed in early spring in order to push the early growth, and after the cutting season to help the plants to lay up a strong reserve store in their roots for next year's crop. We like to have the rows about five feet apart. It will do, however, if the plants stand 2 1/2 feet apart both ways, although even then we consider 3 1/2 or 4 feet better.

Manure For Stock Feeding.

If the ground can be well prepared early in the spring and the seed sown at that time, the chances for securing a good stand of beets are much greater than if the sowing be delayed until later. One serious difficulty in securing a good stand of the beets when sown later in the season is, according to a Rural New Yorker correspondent, that the young plants do not become established before the ground becomes so dry that they suffer, if they be not killed entirely from the drought. The Mammoth Long Red and the Yellow Oval have proved the most satisfactory with me. The Yellow Globe has not given so great a yield per acre as the varieties named. Mangels like a deep, rich loam that is quite warm and dry. A damp lowland will sometimes produce large yields of mangels of an inferior quality. A deep, rich loam in a high state of cultivation that is well drained is admirably suited for the cultivation of this crop.

Wheat by the Campbell Method.

"Raising wheat by the Campbell method—that is, by drilling and cultivating—saves a bushel or more per acre in seed, as one peck plants the acre, and five pecks or more are used when sown broadcast." This statement is made by The Trues Farm and Ranch, which also tells the following:

"A farmer of Joseph county, Indiana, on an acre in the Bruce bottom, drilled, and old wheat grows where it would well have been sold. It was the finest wheat ever seen, and it is a wonder that it should be so good. It is a wonder that it should be so good. It is a wonder that it should be so good."

Foreign Trade.

American hens can produce eggs as cheaply as any foreign hen which roasts, and there is no really good reason why they should not do business for our eggs in foreign lands. It is not a question of foreign high wages. This trade has been small only because we did not have enough to supply the home demand, or because the United States has been too busy to export.

POULTRY HOUSES.

Suggestions From the Department of Agriculture.

In the chapter upon the construction of the poultry house Professor Watson of the department of agriculture, Washington, suggests: "As poultry keeping is wholly a business of details, the economy of labor in performing the necessary work is of great importance. Buildings not conveniently located and arranged become expensive on account of unnecessary labor. As it is necessary to visit poultry houses several times each day in the year, convenience is of more importance than in case of any other farm building. The operations must be performed frequently, so that any little inconvenience in the arrangements of the buildings will cause not only extra expense in the care, but in many cases a greater or less neglect of operations that ought to be gone through with carefully each day."

The poultry house, he says, "should have a good roof," another thing we all know, adding that we had possibly not given thought enough to, "with high walls more or less impervious to moisture and cold." The walls he recommends can be made of small field stone.

"For the colder latitudes," he says, "a house with hollow or double side walls is to be preferred on many accounts, although a solid wall may prove quite satisfactory, particularly if the building is in the hands of a skilled poultryman, as imperfect buildings and appliances, when under the management of skilled and experienced men, are not the hindrances that they would be to the amateur. Buildings with hollow side walls are warmer in winter and cooler in summer, with less frost in severe weather and less resulting moisture when the temperature moderates sufficiently to melt the frost from the walls and roof of the house.

"A cheap, efficient house for latitudes south of New York," he adds, "may be made of two thicknesses of rough inch lumber for the side and end walls. This siding should be put on vertically, with a good quality of tarred building paper between. In constructing a building of this kind it is usually best to nail on the inner layer of boards first, then put on the outside of this layer the building paper in such a manner that the whole surface is covered. Where the edges of the paper meet, a liberal lap should be given, the object being to prevent as far as possible drafts of air in severe weather. Nail the second thickness of boards on the building paper so as to break joints in the two boardings. In selecting lumber for siding it is best to choose boards of a uniform width to facilitate the breaking of joints.

"In constructing a roof for a house in the colder latitudes one must either feel the inside with some material to exclude drafts or place the roof boards close together and cover thoroughly with tarred paper before shingling. The ordinary shingle roof is too open for windy weather when the mercury is at or below the zero mark. The fowls will endure severe weather without suffering from frost, cold or wet, but they will not endure drafts of air. Hens will lay well during the winter months, if the house is warm enough so that the single comb varieties do not suffer from frost bite, but whenever the drafts or wattle are frozen the loss in decreased egg production cannot but be serious."

POULTRY TRICKS.

How Show Birds Are Handled and Cared For.

Old timers who remember the cockpit as a flourishing institution know that the handlers, in preparing a gamecock for a battle, would make the bird fierce and courageous by daily drills, so cleverly conducted that the feathered champion would fancy itself a real victor. The method was to face the bird and push at it with the hand, meanwhile clucking to arouse the chattering to anger, and also to throw it upward, an hour at a time, to strengthen the wings and legs. Properly trained, the fowl becomes all whipcord and has no fear of anything that walks or flies. There is as much handling of show birds, but on the reverse principle. The birds are made tame and gentle and are taught to walk in a style that will bring out their good points. They are tamed under the heel to make them hold their heads up jauntily, the comb is usually held in tin helmets to keep the edges unbroken and upright, and the feathers are treated in diverse ways to bring out the gloss and full beauty of plumage.

Poultry judges have a standard of perfection to which the prize birds must conform in head, legs, body, comb, wattle and color, and so closely is the plumage considered that, as the fanciers say, they "must breed to a feather."

To pass the scrutiny successfully some exhibitors have been known to pull false feathers and insert missing ones, to defile the plumage by artifice, and also to split feathers, all practices forbidden by the show rules, the comb is usually held in tin helmets to keep the edges unbroken and upright, and the feathers are treated in diverse ways to bring out the gloss and full beauty of plumage.

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Very truly,
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