

FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN
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CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED



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FIGHTING THE PLUM CURCULIO.

The chief enemy of the plum family is the curculio, one of a large family of beetles and weevils which makes a small, crescent shaped incision in the green plum when it is about as large as a pea and in this lays its egg. Here the little worm hatches and works toward the middle until maturity. Since the exterior wound makes the fruit defective, whether the worm survives or not, and the curculio does not in the process eat the flesh of the plum, the ordinary poison sprays, effective in the case of leaf eating worms and insects, are of little use. The method usually followed by plum raisers and one feasible for a few trees is to sew together sufficient white sheeting to equal the area of the fruit bearing portion of the tree, leaving a slit in it from one edge to the middle to allow for the trunk. This should be spread beneath the tree, and each morning during the period when the curculio is at work the trunk should be given repeated jar-rings, which dislodge the beetles and cause them to fall to the sheet below. Being sluggish in the cool of the morning, they may be gathered and doused in kerosene or burned. Where the number of trees to be treated is larger, time may be saved by fastening the sheet on a circular and broadly funnel shaped frame mounted on wheels, so fixed as to permit of opening and closing on one side to admit the trunk. With such a contrivance a large number of trees may be gone over in a comparatively short time.

BRACE 'EM UP.

A good turn may be done orchard trees which show signs of splitting down the trunk by boring a hole with a three-sixteenth inch augur just below the point where the trunk divides and at right angles to the crack and inserting a bolt of the desired length and the size mentioned and screwing things up tight with a good sized washer at both ends. The thread end of the bolt should extend through the tree far enough to accommodate the washer and just catch the bur, which will make the bolt about the right length when the bur is screwed tight. The ends of the bolt will heal over in two or three years and the tree be as good as ever and proof against many a windstorm which it would not otherwise weather. The same plan, using a five-sixteenth or half inch bolt, works nicely on large shade trees.

THE CORN ROOT LOUSE.

The corn root louse is recognized as one of the worst enemies of the corn plant. Of themselves they could do but little damage, but it seems that they are used as "dairy cows" by a variety of ants, which place them on or near the roots of the corn plant and at intervals, by pressing the backs of the lice, extract from them a honeydew. One of the most effective methods of coping with this louse problem is to give the field in which the corn is to be grown thorough plowing and harrowing before the seed is sown and frequent cultivation during the growing season. In this way the nests of the ants are broken up and their operations in herding and placing their "dairy cows" greatly interfered with. In handling this, as a number of other problems, a system of crop rotation is a great help.

A COMMENDABLE CHARITY.

Acting on the sensible theory that the best way to aid the poor of the large cities is to give them an opportunity to help themselves, a benevolent organization in Chicago has purchased 120 acres of land near that city which it has allotted to 150 needy families, who are to plant and tend the garden stuff which it will grow, a small sum to be paid the board for the use of the land. An expert gardener has been hired to superintend the garden operations, look after the tools, etc. The families who take advantage of this opportunity will not only have something with which to stock their larders next winter, but will have had the advantage of sunshine and fresh air while at work, which should be a powerful factor in uplifting them.

GOVERNMENT WHITEWASH.

The whitewash which the government recommends for the interior of cow barns is made according to the following recipe: Take half a bushel of unslaked lime, slake with boiling water and cover during the process to keep in steam. Strain through a fine sieve or strainer and add to it a peck of salt previously dissolved in warm water. Add three pounds of ground rice boiled to a thin paste, stirring in while hot. Add five gallons of hot water to the mixture, stir well and let stand for a few days, covered as nearly airtight as possible. When ready to use the wash may be colored by adding ochre, lampblack or bluing to suit.

Last year there were produced in the United States 28,822,062 barrels of salt, weighing 280 pounds each and valued at \$7,553,682.

Eight glasses of water taken just before retiring is said to be the best method for curing a cold. The writer has not tried this, but has heard it recommended as cheap and perfectly harmless.

A characteristic which seems to distinguish the tiller of the soil from those engaged in many other pursuits is his willingness and even eagerness to share good things which he discovers with his fellows.

The prevailing price of milk in England is 8 cents a quart, the English quart being one and a quarter times the size of our measure. On the basis of the difference in the value of a penny in the two countries the price for an American quart in terms of our money would be about 13 cents.

The world standing of a nation is quite accurately measured by the economic status of its rural population—the class which tills its fields and raises the products which sustain its life. It is because of this that a country like France is more powerful than India or the United States than Russia.

Analysis shows that a quart of milk contains as much nourishment, as a pound of veal or beef chuck, nine ounces of round steak, two pounds of codfish or two pounds and five ounces of solid oysters. This would seem to show that the milk drinkers have some pretty good arguments to justify their practice.

Thousands of tons of powdered milk are consumed yearly in Boston, the growth in the business being accompanied by a considerable falling off in the consumption of natural milk. Whatever may be said of the powdered milk product, it cannot be upbraided with having been kept too near the pump or diluted at the creek on the way to the creamery.

One of the recent introductions of new varieties of plant life by the department of agriculture has been a shipment of 140 tons of bamboo plants from Japan, which have been set out at the federal plant experiment station at Chico, Cal. They are to be cultivated here and later distributed to other sections where conditions seem to be favorable for their growth.

Buttermaking is to be recommended in preference to cheesemaking as a special phase of dairying in that when butter is sold only the fats and no protein elements are removed from the farm, the skim milk, containing the latter, being kept and fed to the farm animals. In the manufacture of cheese the reverse is the case, and this is true whether it be a full cream or skim milk product.

A breeder of blooded cattle whom we came across the other day in giving a description of a bunch of young bulls which he had for sale said that with the pedigree of each animal will be given a certificate of health, signed by a veterinarian, stating that the animal is free from tuberculosis infection. This is a sensible plan and one that should be universally adopted by breeders of full blooded stock, as they more than the scrubs seem to be subject to the disease.

The most effective blow can be dealt Canada thistles that may be on the place if they are allowed to grow and get well into blossom, but mowed down before any seeds develop. This takes them off guard, as it were, the plant being engaged in a supreme effort to reproduce itself and the root systems being taxed to furnish the necessary plant food for the process. Any shoots appearing after the patch is mowed should be dug out root and branch and burned.

Kansas has recently organized a state Audubon society, her residents, farmers and others having come to a realization of the value in dollars and cents of bird life to horticulture and agriculture and an appreciation of the need of protecting them from destruction in every way possible. Kansas is the thirty-seventh state to organize Audubon societies, while there are thirty-five which have adopted the model bird law recommended by the federal department of agriculture.

In some sections of the western and northwestern states where motor power for harvesting is furnished by gasoline tractors it has been found feasible to plow at the same time, the strip from which the grain is cut being turned over by the gang of six or eight plows attached behind, the bundles of grain being delivered on the plowed furrows outside the range of operations. The advantages of this plan are economy in operation, the killing of incipient weeds and a conserving of moisture, which in sections of short rainfall is an important consideration.

An agricultural journal which prides itself on the reliability of the firms whose advertisements appear in its columns not long ago carried an alluring advertisement of a "paint man" whose bonanza product by an analysis made by the South Dakota experiment station was found to contain about 30 per cent aqua pura, which a fellow can get cheap by working a pump handle. Either the editor of this publication doesn't consider the work of experiment stations practical and doesn't scan their bulletins very closely, or else the aqua pura chap has mended his ways.

The reason why so many men never get used to wearing their sets of false teeth is that they put them in their vest pocket at mealtime, under their pillow when asleep and most anywhere when at work.

The next worst thing to occupying a lot in the cemetery is for the boy from eight to sixteen to get snugged with the cigarette habit. Fact is, he is a more useful member of society in the former than in the latter capacity.

Instead of driving around a wagon or cart with milk in large cans, the Italian milk vender drives his flock of goats from house to house and milks as much as his patron may want. Milk delivered in this way has the merit of being fresh and undiluted.

Milk production is had at cheapest cost when pastures are flush in the early summer. The recognized best and cheapest substitute for pasture grass is ensilage. If this is to be taken advantage of the coming winter the plans for the silo should be looked up now.

Destructive processes are always much more rapid than constructive. This is why a profane, careless and brutal hired man can do more harm with a herd of dairy cows or the farm horses in six weeks than the owner or a careful man can offset in twice as many months.

The jungle fowl of Australia builds a nest that is in a class by itself. It is in the shape of a mound, being often 15 feet in height and 150 in circumference at the base. The nests are usually placed in secluded, sheltered spots and are built of leaves, grass and twigs woven together.

The man who has a bunch of dairy cows which he is not milking just for the fun of it and won't invest a dollar a year in some good dairy paper is a good deal like the small boy who thinks he can get an education without going to school. In both cases there is a lamentable failure in the adaptation of means to end.

The cow can overload on most anything that is not in itself injurious and not have her digestive apparatus put out of whack. Not so with the horse, which often gets out of condition simply by the continuance of a hearty working ration into a comparatively short period of idleness. This difference suggests the wisdom of exercising an expectant oversight in the case of the horse.

An interesting illustration of what may be done in the line of plant development and breeding is found in the case of sugar beets, whose sugar content has been increased from 8 or 10 to as high as 20 per cent. Where a business is made of raising the seed all of the beets intended for seed are given the sugar test, and only those found to possess a high per cent are used in seed production.

A tendency which is bound to affect not only future wheat prices, but even more vitally the agricultural welfare of sections at present growing this staple, is noticeable in a material reduction of acreage in the wheat growing sections and the substitution of other crops in rotation which do not mean so heavy a pull on the fertility of the soil. With an ever increasing number of mouths to feed this means of necessity higher breadstuffs, but it also means a better type of agriculture where the change is effected.

A good many dairy states might well follow the example of Kansas, which has inaugurated a vigorous campaign against tuberculosis. An appropriation by the state legislature is to be used for the purpose, and the plan is to have all dairy herds in the state examined during the next two years. As fast as herds are examined all infected animals will be tagged on the ear with aluminum buttons, which means that the owner must either kill the animal or ship it to market at once for immediate slaughter.

Owing to the generally recognized truth that the average man will not work as well for another as he will for himself, he should aim as soon as possible to own the land which he works. On the other hand, many men owing to lack of ability to plan and manage never do so well when working for themselves as when under the supervision of another. In such cases one does better to continue in the employment of another, making his service as effective as possible, that he may get the best return possible for it.

Reliable makes of gasoline engines are coming more and more into favor as a substitute for windmill and tread power on the farm. Not only are they not at the mercy of windstorms, but they do not peter out in periods of calm. An additional advantage is that they can be moved from place to place and used for a variety of purposes. The oil consumption of a five or six horsepower machine should not exceed 50 cents per day of ten hours' continuous running. For farm uses the oil or air cooled cylinder machines are preferable in that there is no danger of a freeze up of the cylinder jacket in cold weather. A few additional dollars invested in the purchase of a first class engine in the long run effects a considerable saving in repairs and lessens the tax on a fellow's nerves and religion.

J. E. Trigg

FOURTH OF JULY MUSE



FREEDOM.

Here in the forest now,
As on that old July
When first our fathers took the vow,
The bluebird, stained with earth and sky,
Shouts from a blowing bough
In green aerial freedom, wild and high,
And now, as then, the bobolink
Out on the uncertain brink
Of the swaying, swaying wings,
Loosing his song out link by golden link,
While over the wood his proclamation
A daring boast that would unkingdom
Kings!

Even so the wild birds sang on bough and
wall
That day the bell of Independence hail
Thundered upon the world the word of
man,
The word God uttered when the world be-
gan,
That day when liberty began to be
And mighty hopes were out on land and
sea,
But Freedom calls her conscripts now, as
then:
It is an endless battle to be free,
As the old dangers lessen from the skies
New dangers rise.
Down the long centuries eternally,
Again, again, will rise Thermopylae;
Again, again, a new Leonidas
Must hold for God the imperiled pass.
As the long ages run
New Lexington will rise on Lexington
And many a valorous Warren fall
Upon the imperiled wall.

Man is the conscript of an endless quest,
A long divine adventure without rest,
A holy war, a battle yet unwon
When he shall climb beyond the burnt
out sun.
Each hard earned freedom withers to a
bond,
Freedom forever is beyond—beyond!
—Edwin Markham in Independent.

July 4.

Spread your bunting; hang your wreaths;
Let your banners be unfurled,
Shout until the welkin seethes
All about the defended world,
Get your old time speeches out,
Cheer until you split the skies,
But be careful while you shout
Of your eyes.

Drag the ancient cannon forth,
Load it to the muzzle's brim,
Let the east, south, west and north
Echo with its boom-blam-bim!
Let the crackers hiss and spit,
Rocket sticks come down kerplunk,
But be careful how you sit
On the punk.

Let the Roman candles flare
All the darkened heavens through,
Let the mortars fill the air
Full of stars red, white and blue,
Let the fluent red lights flow,
Dimming both the moon and sun,
But be careful how you blow
Down your gun.

Roar, rejoice and speechify,
Go through all the bag of tricks
With which now we glorify
Heroes of old seventy-six,
But no matter what your glee
Mid the roar of bursting bombs,
Careful, oh, most careful be
Of your thumbs!

Liberty a blessing is
Worthy to be glorified,
Worthy of the fiery whiz-blast
Of a nation full of pride,
But it seems a bauble vain,
Empty, useless thing of chance,
When there follows in its train
An ambulance!
—John Kendrick Bangs.

The Song of the Firecracker.

With a fizz! and a boom! and a bang!
With a bang! and a boom! and a fizz!
Oh, this is the song the firecracker sang
With the boom! and the bang! and the fizz:
"From the farthest of faraway lands,
From the land of the rice and bamboo,
By the cunning Chinese with his dextrous
hands
We are molded and fashioned for you,
Without our explosion and noise?
"Would it seem like the Fourth of July
Without our explosion and noise?
Oh, the men on parade march quietly by,
But the crackers belong to the boys!
"There's no need for the sun to arouse
All the world on this Fourth of July,
For we're up and we're off, though the
grown folk may drowse,
We wake the whole land when we try,
With a fizz! and a boom! and a bang!
To the very last sizzle and sizz!
Oh, these are the words that the fire-
cracker sang,
"Hurrah for the Fourth of July!"
—St. Nicholas

BECAUSE IT'S THE FOURTH.

Gez whiz!
What a great big man Uncle Sam is!
And what
A lot
He has done
Since he was begun!
And why?
Because it was on the Fourth of July
That he began
His plan
Of stepping out
Without a doubt
That if he waded right in
He'd win!
And, by zucks, so far,
Hasn't he got that?
And that ain't all,
He ain't small
At all,
And all
Of the western terrestrial ball
That ain't otherwise engaged he
Will look after 'em?
Add some that is—
As, for instance, that Spanish biz,
And why?
Because it's the Fourth of July,
The greatest day
On earth! And, say,
When Freedom leads the way
She waves
The Fourth of July at slaves,
And they shake off the shackles then
And become men!
And why?
Because it's the Fourth of July!
Gez whiz,
What a great day it is!
Sizz!
Fizz!
Whizz!
What a glory day it is!
Let the cannon roar
From ship and shore,
Let the eagle scream
By lake and stream,
Let us march with a tread
That will wake the dead,
Let the bands play
All day
And sweep the sky
With the flags on hand!
And why?
Because it's the Fourth of July!
Gez whiz,
What a tremendous, stupendous,
Perpetual, perennial, pyrotechnical,
Indestructible,
Indecrutable, immitable, incandes-
cent, ebullient
And enthusiastic day it is!
And why?
Because it's the Fourth of July!
—W. J. Lampton.

Bang Day Is Here.

Wille has just lost a thumb and one ear.
Bang! Bang!
Cheer for the blessing of liberty, cheer!
Bang! Bang!
Bring the rusty gun out; let the loud can-
non roar.
Make the day that we celebrate bloody
once more.
Let us all be more foolish than ever before.
Bang! Bang!
Mabel henceforth will be shy of an eye.
Bang! Bang!
Shout freedom forever, her standard set
high.
Bang! Bang!
Let all the world know that we kneel to
no foe.
Let the heavens be rent by the sounds
from below.
Baby's fingers are gone—never mind; let
them go.
Bang! Bang!
The dead and the wounded are strewn
through the land.
Bang! Bang!
Hurrah! There goes Johnny's poor little
left hand!
Bang! Bang!
Fling out the gay banners to wave in the
air.
Shoot off the loud cracker 'neath grand-
mother's chair.
The kitchen's on fire, but let us not care.
Bang! Bang!
—Chicago Record-Herald.

Little Willie on the Fourth.

He was all here in the morning
When forth from his home he set out,
Safeguarded by many a warning
Which he is forgetting, no doubt,
His state of completeness was pleasant
When for fireworks he started to roam.
This is the question at present:
How much of him's coming back home?
Will there be fingers found missing?
Will he have all of his toes?
His mouth, is it still straight for kissing?
Has he altered the shape of his nose?
Is a moment for waiting and guessing.
Are we victors or are we bereft?
This is the question that's pressing;
How much of dear Willie is left?

An inclination to be constipated is a common symptom of the American people. This is due to indigestion, and indigestion comes from indiscretion of diet. Let foods be daily eaten like

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