

FOR THE FARMER.

Treatment of Fruit Trees and Vines Subject to Fungus Diseases.

Such diseases as black knot, grape rot, etc., are due to the presence of a vegetable parasite (a fungus growth), which is the product of millions of invisible seeds, known as spores, which ripen on the trees and are blown in every direction by the winds. The difficulty of preventing the disease is the danger in using adequate remedies, some of which are injurious to the trees. The plum must battle not only with the parasitic enemy, but with the curculio as well, and these two difficulties have rendered plum growing very unprofitable in some sections. It is claimed that the outer texture of the bark of the German prune, Pond's seedling and Imperial gage plums render those varieties somewhat exempt from the attacks of black knot, but the well-known Damson, one of the most valuable of plums, is nearly always attacked.

UNITED ACTION NECESSARY.

While the farmer and fruit-grower should use all precaution to prevent the spread of black knot, yet he can do but little alone. To make plum-growing profitable there must be united action on the part of all fruit-growers in a neighborhood be cut away, but every portion of it should be consigned to the flames and a careful watch kept over the trees in order to guard against a reappearance of the parasite, the spores of which can only be destroyed by an entire season's work. Experienced fruit-growers claim that the black knot can be effectually destroyed in two years if the fruit-growers will unite for that purpose.

TREATING THE SOIL.

The spores are in the soil, and can be destroyed early in the season with the use of germicides. The experiments made on the black rot of grapes demonstrate that where measures have been taken to prevent the loss of the crop they have been effective, and the first work performed is the sprinkling of the soil with Bordeaux mixture, which is repeated every two weeks throughout the season. Treatment of trees and vines must be made also, but the beginning is with the soil, where the spores have spent the winter. Nor should the precaution cease on the harvesting of the crop, for the use of germicides should continue late in the season, while all diseased wood and fruit should be consumed. The liberal application of lime to the soil also largely assists in destroying the spores, but such a remedy should not be wholly relied upon.

Farm Notes.

E. W. Reid, in the Ohio Farmer, says a pear tree which blooms, but bears no fruit, is making too much root growth, and recommends digging a trench eighteen inches deep below the circumference of the first limbs, filling it half full of compost manure, and returning the soil on top. This will check root growth and start the tree to bearing.

The Mirror and Farmer says: "Dairying means seven days work every week, but possibly the seventh may be done by a substitute or a drafted man." Yes, but the substitute or drafted man usually thinks the same way, and we found, as a rule, that Sunday was the hardest day of all in the milk business. The latter business approaches slavery very closely.

It was found at the Wisconsin Station that pigs fed corn alone began at the end of thirteen weeks feeding to fail in appetite. These pigs were ten weeks old when the feeding commenced. On this ration they became excessively fat, and were dwarfed in growth. On account of improper development it was with difficulty that they could get to their feeding troughs.

If your cows are doing well on the feed they are getting do not change it every time you read what some other dairyman as fed to his cows. The latter possibly require a change of food, but experience has shown that cows, like human beings, become accustomed to certain foods and do well on them. A cow that becomes dainty about her food has very likely been overfed.

The secret of success in the poultry yard is not in hatching but in feeding. How to raise the broods is a problem of mag-

nitude, and for this no fixed rule can be applied. Here the breeder, who has clung to one variety year after year, will be best prepared for the work, because he will best appreciate the conditions as well as wants of the flock. We must reach below the surface and measure the controlling influences.

"Experiments have been made recently in the White House lot by Gardener Brown," said Col. Ernst, Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds, "with a view to ascertaining some method by which wild garlic, a pest in lawns and in parks, can be removed. Carbolic acid has been used with gratifying results, and it has been demonstrated that it will promptly and permanently destroy the roots of this bane of the gardeners. Owing to the fact that the season is pretty well advanced, and that moving will shortly be in order, it is not likely that the acid will be used in the principal parks of the capital this year, but next year he will start in early to destroy the wild garlic. Fluid acid is poured on the bulbous-shaped roots and they immediately die under its powerful burning influence."

Maj. Finger's Letter.

There are many school histories now used in the State which, in my judgment, are not proper books to be used in our schools. I have examined many school histories written by Northern authors since the war and before the war, and I have not found even one that did not do injustice to the South, either by positively false statements or by omissions. For instance, the last copy of Barnes' History that I examined contained no account of the battle of King's Mountain except a FEW LINES IN A FOOT NOTE—nothing at all in the TEXT OF THE BOOK about this very important battle. I do not think that you will find any histories of Northern authorship that are at all free from such omissions and that do not in this way fail to give credit to the South for the part she performed in securing our independence. Not only so, but when they come to the late war they are particularly unjust and most of them teach that the Southern people who were in and supported the Confederate armies were rebels or traitors. It is to my mind simply remarkable that such books are tolerated in our schools by teachers, public or private, or by their patrons. Holmes' and Stephens' Histories are on our State list of text-books, and it seems to me they ought to be used to the exclusion of such books as I have alluded to. Teachers and school boards have it in their power to do much to have history correctly written, by refusing to use books that do injustice to the South. It seems that fathers and mothers concern themselves but little as to the character of the histories their children use. As a rule they are content to allow the teachers and school boards to select the books without any examination or criticism on their part. This being so, the greater is the responsibility upon teachers and boards.

The Three Gallon Business Again.

It is understood here that the Commissioner of Internal Revenue has rescinded the order, originally promulgated last July requiring the surveys of open furnace distilleries in this district to be increased from two and one-half gallons, as it stood under Collector Craige, to three gallons, for every bushel of grain mashed. The order was represented as a harsh one, impossible of compliance, and Mr. Mason suspended its enforcement till he could be satisfied by actual tests as to whether 80 per cent. of three gallons to the bushel could be made by these small distillers. It appears that he is now satisfied such increased yield cannot be made, and assessment against distillers will hereafter be made on the basis of 80 per cent. of two and one-half gallons to the bushel. Assessments made on three gallons are to be stricken off without filling claims for abatement and new surveys are to be made on the basis heretofore in vogue here.

This will be welcome news to the "small fry" who work the branches; how it is with the steam distillers we are not informed, but we have not heard that the new order applies to them. It is supposed by the revenue men that the result of the order will be a large increase in the number of open fire distilleries in the district.—Statesville Landmark.

The Sub-Treasury Plan.

The bill introduced in the Senate by Mr. Vance and in the House by Mr. Pickler for the relief of the agricultural distress is worthy of some attention from the general public as being an expression of the convictions of the Farmer's Alliance, an organization that has recently attained large proportions in the West and South. The feature of the bill is "the sub-treasury plan." This "plan," which, according to the Washington National Economist, is the creation of the Alliance, embodies principles with which the silver kings have made the country tolerably familiar. The silver men have long been asking Congress to take their silver, store it, and issue therefor certificates of deposit, which shall circulate as money. The certificates were to be to the full value of the silver. Indeed, they were to be for 100 cents for pieces of silver called dollars, worth intrinsically not over 73 cents. The Alliance sub-treasury plan is more modest. It proposes, in brief, that the federal government shall build fire proof warehouses in the various agricultural counties throughout the Union in which farm products may be stored. Upon the storage of any given quantity of produce in such warehouses full legal-tender money is to be advanced upon it by the government to the extent of 80 per cent. of its value. The rate of interest to be received by the government for these advances is to be 1 per cent. The remaining 20 per cent. of the estimated value of the farmer's crop is to be represented by a certificate showing the date of storing, cost of service, amount, value, etc. The advantages of such an arrangement, from the point of view of the Alliance are numerous and solid. It would enable the farmers to establish prices instead of speculators. Consumers and manufacturers would buy certificates as they needed commodities. The market would acquire equilibrium, and the vast fluctuations in the value of farm products would cease. In any case the farmer would pay less heavily than at present for financial accommodation. His market would be near at hand. If the valuer of produce should be an ambitious person, appointed from the locality he is to serve, it is hardly open to doubt that the government quotation of wheat would be an improvement upon that of the New York or Chicago market. The question in each case would be not what the pauper Hindoo can afford to sell for at Liverpool, but what "ought" to be the value of the product of the free American citizen who has political duties to perform and a family to support in a decent manner. If the employees of the government at Washington and elsewhere get full wages for eight hours' work, much more, it is held, should the farmer, the most useful element of our population, be assured a proper return for his protracted term of toil. Such are some of the considerations that may be urged in behalf of "the sub-treasury plan," and they may be conceded to be fully as weighty as those upon which the farmer has been compelled for years by the tariff to contribute to maintain high profits for manufacturing capitalists. Undoubtedly the capital in land is as much entitled to protection as capital in iron-making, weaving, spinning, etc. The farmers' best friend must entertain some doubt, however, as to the practical efficiency of the "plan." The valuation of crops would open the door to fraud very wide. When the crops were deposited, as proposed, and certificates issued, what if the syndicate or syndicates should buy them all up? Would not the arrangement supply new facilities for the creation of dangerous monopolies on a gigantic scale? The farmer sells his crops low now, not for love of the middleman, but for want of cash. Would he not, for like reason, be compelled to sell his certificates for a song and be content with 80 per cent. of the value of his crop? These are some of the practical questions the scheme suggests. As respects the constitutional and other principles involved, the defenders of the plan can say this much, at least—that it is fully as legitimate as the protective tariff subsidies, and other like iniquities now favored by a great party.—Baltimore Sun.

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