

**Smut of Grain.**

According to German publications, Dr. Oskar Brefeld, of Berlin, and Professor of Botany at Munster, has observed that the minute plants constituting the fungus disease of smut in grain send their fugitive filaments into the substance of the host supporting them. Therefore the fungus, he explains, consists of two portions, viz: the threads usually colorless and consequently not easily seen and the bodies known as spores, which are minute and spherical and in mass constitute the smut, as seen by the naked eye. These spores, then free from the grain or any other plant, are able to germinate and produce multitudes of sprout spores, which in time may reproduce themselves. This discovery was made by growing smut spores artificially in nutrient solutions and, it is said, upsets the theory that smut can live and grow only in plants known to be infested by them.

Dr. Brefeld found that the form of the smut fungus grown corresponded with the fungi found in fresh dung. This explains why fields spread with fresh dung were specially liable to attacks of smut. The spread of the smut was greatly increased by spreading the fresh dung on the earth. This influence of the dung was lost with age. Old rotted manure was not injurious. The inference drawn is that fresh dung should not be used on grain fields.

The above, should it be found true on American fields, would constitute a good reason why manure should be left in heaps to rot, instead of being hauled out and spread as soon as made, as is now the practice of many farmers. It is, however, worthy of inquiry, whether danger does not arise more from smut-infected provender consumed than from greenness of the manure. An American authority quotes Dr. Brefeld as saying that in nature the vitality of corn smut may be preserved indefinitely in the dung of animals that have eaten smutty corn, and it is ready to form mycelial tubes and enter the corn when the latter is planted in ground fertilized with such manure. According to the botanist of the Nebraska Experiment Station, smut spores may grow in manure and liquids in the barnyard for an indefinite period.

**Storing Sweet Potatoes.**

In housing sweet potatoes, all cut and bruised ones should be separated for hog feed or for immediate use, and the bank or potato house should not only be protected against freezing weather, but should be well ventilated. It is the opinion of many potato growers of experience that there is a time in the history of every crop when, if dug, there will be little or no loss from rotting, and that there is also a period when, if dug, all the ingenuity of man will fail to prevent heavy loss from rotting. Before digging, take up a potato here and there in the patch, cut them in pieces, and lay them away for twenty-four hours. If the cut surfaces show up black, don't dig. If the cut faces dry up white and sound, go ahead; they are all right. There is something in this, but just how much the Texas Farm and Ranch does not say, because it does not know. The points yet to be learned are whether these conditions are subject to change, whether they depend upon the degree of maturity, whether condition of soil, or any other circumstance; whether potatoes that are sure to rot if dug to day may be saved nice and sound if dug next week. These points are undecided. It would be well if our agricultural experiment station would make tests of these and other points in saving sweet potatoes.

**New Peaches Worthy of Trial.**

A Delaware grower of extended experience with peaches names the following as peaches worthy of trial. He says of the Elbera that, all things considered, it possesses more of the qualities necessary for the make-up of the best family market or shipping peach yet introduced. The globe is a large yellow fruit, with red cheeks, fine quality and shaped differently from all other peaches in having a depressed rather than a swollen point at the apex. John Hass is a free stone, good size, fully equal to the Mountain Rose in size and color; tree a good bearer. Peninsula Yellow will doubtless become a standard sort. The Whiteland is one third larger than Crawford's Late, quality superb, very high colored.

**People.**

Louis Kossuth is now in his 90th year.

The Kaiser is said to be a dismal failure as a dancer.

Jane Hading, the actress, always wears slippers and hose to match the color of her eyes.

Frank Morgan Brandt, the private secretary of the Prince of Wales, is visiting Philadelphia.

Rubinstein's mother has died at Odessa at the age of 86. She was her famous son's first teacher in music.

Gov. Steel says that the last rush of immigrants into Oklahoma brought the territory 20,000 new citizens.

Gov. Boies, of Iowa, is a native of New York. He started west for wealth with only a few cents in his pocket.

Dickens' favorite daughter, Mammie, is soon to contribute a series of papers on her father to one of the magazines.

One million nine hundred and twenty five thousand one hundred and thirty pilgrims visited the holy coat at Treves.

Sidney Dillon, the president of the Union Pacific railway, commenced as errand boy on the New York Central railway.

Stuart Robson, the actor, has just cleared \$20,000 by the sale of a city lot in Denver, for which a year ago he paid but \$6,000.

The new Lord Mayor of London, David Evans, is 42 years old, and is the youngest chief magistrate that the city has ever had.

Miss Florence Ward Howe, a daughter of Julia Ward Howe, will give a series of drawing-room lectures this winter in Boston.

Banker Eugene Kelly, who is worth \$25,000,000, earned his passage to this country by driving a jaunting car in his native place, County Tyrone, Ireland.

**Treatment of a Young Orchard.**

[M. B. A., New Hampshire.]

As soon as a young apple orchard is planted the question is presented whether the ground shall lie in its natural condition or be cultivated or may it be pastured. There are few or no cases where an orchard can be planted and left without care of any kind in which it will amount to anything. Grass and weeds growing unchecked in an orchard are not only unsightly in appearance but will be detrimental to the growth of young trees. Wherever the lay of the ground will admit of it I would always cultivate the soil of a young orchard for several years, as not only making a profitable use of it while it was in an otherwise unproductive state, but as actually beneficial to the trees. Enough manure should be applied each year to make good the loss caused by taking off a crop. Pasturing an orchard cannot be done at will except with animals whose habits do not lead them to injure the trees. This rules out horses entirely, for most horses when turned loose will injure apple trees of any size by barking them, and both horses and cattle would destroy young trees by continually browsing them. The same objection applies to sheep where they can reach the ends of the limbs, and where the pasturage is scant they are liable to gnaw the bark of young trees. On ground so rough that it cannot be both cultivated and fertilized, if set with apple trees, I would pasture it with hogs as the best thing that can be done with it while the trees are growing. In this country I would plant the trees in the spring, and the sooner they are transplanted after being taken from the nursery the better. I never could see how anything was to be gained by lifting young trees in the fall and heeling them in, as it is called, either in a cellar or elsewhere during the winter, and planting them.

**Railroad Talk.**

[Detroit Free Press.]

"You go to thunder," said a railroad conductor to his wife. "Very well, dear," she responded sweetly, "wait till the lightning express comes along."

**The First Step.**

Perhaps you are run down, can't eat, can't sleep, can't think, can't do anything to your satisfaction, and you wonder what ails you. You should heed the warning you are taking the first step into nervous prostration. You need a nerve tonic and in Electric Bitters you will find the exact remedy for restoring your nervous system to its normal, healthy condition. Surprising results follow the use of this great nerve tonic and alterative. Your appetite returns, good digestion is restored, and the liver and kidneys resume healthy action. Try a bottle. Price 50c. at T. C. Smith & Co.'s drug store.

**The Ocala Demands.**

A number of our readers have requested that we publish the Ocala (Alliance) demands in full. Here they are:

1a. We demand the abolition of national banks.

b. We demand that the government shall establish sub-treasuries or depositories in the several States, which shall loan money direct to the people at a low rate of interest, not to exceed two per cent. per annum, on non-perishable farm products, and also upon real estate, with proper limitations upon the quantity of land and amount of money.

c. We demand that the amount of the circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than \$50 per capita.

2. That We demand that congress shall pass such laws as will effectually prevent the dealing in futures of all agricultural and mechanical productions; providing a stringent system of procedure in trials that will secure the prompt conviction, and imposing such penalties as shall secure the most perfect compliance with the law.

3. We condemn the silver bill recently passed by congress, and demand in lieu thereof the free and unlimited coinage of silver.

4. We demand the passage of laws prohibiting alien ownership of land, and that congress take prompt action to devise some plan to obtain all lands now owned by aliens and foreign syndicates; and that all lands now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of such as is actually used and needed by them be reclaimed by the government, and held for actual settlers only.

5. Believing in the doctrine of equal rights to all and special privileges to none, we demand—

a. That our national legislation shall be so framed in the future as not to build up one industry at the expense of another.

b. We further demand a removal of the existing heavy tariff tax from the necessities of life, that the poor of our land must have.

c. We further demand a just and equitable system of graduated tax on incomes.

d. We believe that the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand that all national and State revenues shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government economically and honestly administered.

6. We demand the most rigid, honest and just state and national governmental control and supervision of the means of public communication and transportation, and if this control and supervision does not remove the abuse now existing, we demand the government ownership of such means of communication and transportation.

7. We demand that the congress of the United States submit an amendment to the constitution providing for the election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people of each State.

**"August Flower"**

What is It For?

This is the query perpetually on your little boy's lips. And he is no worse than the bigger, older, balder-headed boys. Life is an interrogation point. "What is it for?" we continually cry from the cradle to the grave. So with this little introductory sermon we turn and ask: "What is AUGUST FLOWER FOR?" As easily answered as asked: It is for Dyspepsia. It is a special remedy for the Stomach and Liver. Nothing more than this; but this brimful. We believe August Flower cures Dyspepsia. We know it will. We have reasons for knowing it. Twenty years ago it started in a small country town. To-day it has an honored place in every city and country store, possesses one of the largest manufacturing plants in the country and sells everywhere. Why is this? The reason is as simple as a child's thought. It is honest, does one thing, and does it right, along—it cures Dyspepsia.

G. G. GREEN, Sole Man'fr, Woodbury, N.J.

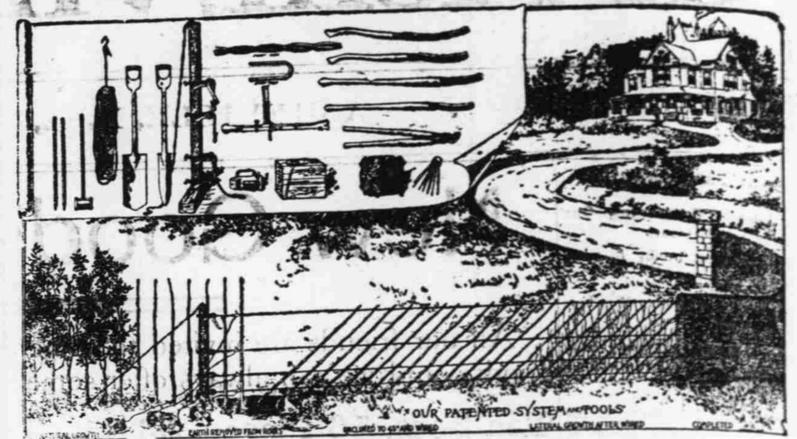
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References in all the States referred to given upon application. Correspondence solicited, all questions cheerfully answered by Mr. Sam Johnson, manager, at his office Street Railway Building, Asheville, N. C.

**NORTH CAROLINA ENDORSEMENTS.**

I have personally examined this fence in the State of Pennsylvania, where thousands of miles are in use, and can endorse all that is claimed for it. J. G. MARTIN, Asheville, N. C.

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