Potatoes and their Culture.

Essay read by Mr. Ewing of Dayton, Ohio, before the Montgomery County Horticul-tural Society at their December meeting. My way of cultivating the potato is (1) to plough the ground deep and then thoroughly pulverize it, make it as mellaw as possible; Then mark it both ways 3 feet wide, and 3 or 4 inches deep; take good sized potatoes and cut the seed and off, for we do not want all the eyes that are on this end of the potatoe; cut them in pieces, so as not to have more than two eyes to each piece. Often one stalk (or vine) will produce more markatable potatoes than three or six vines may produce more tubers in weight than one, but their value will not be as much, because the most of them will be too small for market. After cutting them properly drop

two pieces in eacu hill. I have always advocated shallow planting, for the reason that large potatoes are never found deep in the ground, but are usually near the surface. The ground having been plowed deep, the rootlets will penetrate down and draw the nourment they need.

As soon as the potatoes come through the ground, cultivate them. I use three shovel plows. Cover them all up. This strengthens the plants and leaves the ground fresh in the hill, so that any grass or weeds that may have started will be covered up. By the time we cultivate again the vine will be high enough to make the soil meet in cultivating, thus avoiding the necessity of using the hote. The ground should be stirred once each week until the new potatoes are formed and set. There is no danger of cultivating too deep until the tubers begin to form; the drier the season the deeper cultivate and the oftener. The soil in dry weather cannot be stirred too often. After the tubers are formed I prefer not to cultivate too deep nor too close to the hill, thereby destroying the little rootlets that run out from the vines to collect the nourishment the plant needs. With soil adapted to growing this vegetable I see no reason why it cannot be made one of the most profitable crops that a farmer

complished.

thus far, the Maine Farmer says: "It has forced other labor organizations to recognize in it the greatest factor in the solution of the labor question, and taught the people that organization must be met with organization. It forced legislation against excessive railroad charges, and caused even Congress itself to pause and inquire into many of the abuses complained of. More than this, it has awakened the horny-handed tifler of the soil and had trees of proven varieties. Such will be them study their own profession more and found advertised in the B. R. ENERPRISE. better: also questions of political commy. Establishing an orchard is too important And add to these the fact that it has taken our women and made them, in the grange, at least, the equal of men, and taught them much that has aided them in | wasted; while a planting of choice, selecmaking home more pleasant, and lighten- ted fruit trees, is an investment that will ed their cares and their burdens, and giv- ultimately return a large income to the en to farm life more pleasure, more enjoyment, and more social culture."

The Garden.

Although too soon to begin gardening it is not too e. rly in the season to begin to make arrangements for spring work in the garden. Every family should have a good, well enriched vegetable garden, and while maturing a plan for the garden the yard about the front of the house should receive a share of that attention. Roses and shrubbery should be planted, walks laid out and beds of annuals made to give beauty and a home-like appearance to the place. Every farm house, it matters not how humble, in these mountains should have, as an adjunct to neatly cared for flower garden or yard in front and on the wings and vegetable garden in rear, a dezen colonies of bees, not kept in unsightly log gums, but in painted frame hives, that the owner could examine at any hour of the day and see what his bees lacked, or required to keep them in such condition as to insure him a profit of several dollars on every hive.

But let us go back to the vegetable garden. To have early vegetables a hotbed should be provided in which tomato, egg plant, radish, lettuce and other early vegetable plants could be started.

A cheap cover for a hot-bed may be made in he following manner. The American Poultry Yard says:

Glazed muslin is now being used quite extensively in certain localities by fowl raisers. Cheap, stout muslin is employed for the purpose. This is first stretched on light trames of any desired size. It is then coated with a preparation made as follows: Heat one gallon of linseed oil over the fire and dissolve in it one quarter pound of resin; when taken from the fire add one quarter pound sugar of lead. This is sufficient to give thirty square yards of canvass two coats. It may be applied with a whitewash brush. Some apply the blue glass theory to poultry, or all of these grasses, or any other grass and before the muslin is put upon the the dairyman may faucy is best for his frames it is washed in blue water or blue is added to the preparation.

Muslin prepared as above is perfectly air and water proof. When the blue is added light passing through it is wonderfully soft and pleasant. It answers admirably for the sunny side of poultry houses in place of glass; indeed, in some respects it is to be preferred. For raising winter season, cauvassing for subscribers winter and early spring chickens it is very to the Blue Ridge Enterprise. Persons storms. As a covering for hot beds ENTERPRISE.

nothing can excel it. Plants grown under t have a fine dark green color.

HORTICULTURAL.

Plant an Orchard.

"And Noah began to be a husbandman and he plauted a vineyard."

ing, or being a husbandman, was to set about forming an orchard. Being in a good grape country, and the grape being about the best of the fruits as they were found in a state of nature, Noah selected the vine. We advise all to imitate Noah so far as planting, and begin at once to plant an orchard. The range of fruits being much larger to choose from than Noah had, no one need be confined to one or two varieties, but plant several kinds of fruit as well as a number of varieties of the same fruit, beginning with the apple. Pears, quinces and plums should be remembered in this planting. An orchard of choice varieties of apples is the next thing in value to an orange grove, and will require far less care and expense in growing. Many of the famous Michigan, New York and Connecticut apple orchards often yield their owners \$50 an acre and apwards clear profit in a season. An apple orchard while growing need not tax which had failed were almost uniformily the time and resources of the owner to the exclusion of other work. He can raise vegetables, hay, grain, etc., and carry on general farming while his trees are adding yearly to the value of his place, The that educational and social features of the few trials that have been made with choice Order should strengthened and advanced. uing to bear having pruduced some of the Chautauqua course should be prepared The damson grows here in perfection and there is every reason to believe that the choicest varieties of the plum would find the soil and climate exactly suited to its development. Oregon is said to be a far better plum growing country than Califor via, and the climate of Oregon and the Blue Ridge of North Carolina is very similar, like causes producing a like effect. of the Pacific Ocean, and the climate is west Blue Ridge country is acted upon in literature .- Farmers Advance. What the Grange has Ac- the same manner by the Gulf Stream

whose warm vapor is wafted by the ocean

winds over the country till reaching the

crest of these mountains where frequent

showers are precipitated, causing the tem-

perature to be very uniform. In selecting

taken up with care. There are a great many poor seedling apples grown in this country,

apple trees, procure them from nurseries near home as possible, where choice varieties of fruit can be surely secured, and that are not worth as much as cabbages would be on the ground they cumber. Plant no more of this stuff, but get grafted

a work to be carelessly done. It is to last for many years; and a poor selection of fruit is worse than time and money j :dici- us owner.

THE DAIRY.

The Profit of Cows.

The Darlington (Wis.) Republican published the following statement made by the proprietor of a creamery of that

The total income from twenty-eight patrous was \$55,936 from 211 average cows, equal to \$26.50 per month for the average time, five months and twelve days. All farmers know that, with proper handling a cow will give a flow of milk eight months in the year, and many contend that a heifer, started right, will flow eleven months at five years old; call the season eight months, and we have as the butter product, \$38.96. Every calf dropped is worth \$5, the skim milk is worth at least three dollars. Here we have the average cow producing nearly forty-seven dollars a year. Is it any wonder that dairy farmers in New York, Pennsylvania and northern O'io, live in fine houses and have big barns? What our farmers want to do is to get rid of their poor cows, quit sowing oats and wheat, seed down, club together and buy a few Jersey bulls, and in five years the same condition of things will exist in Iowa, and every county will show cows, not equal to Jersey Queen, whose record is 778 pounds in one year, but good

enough to sell for a hundred dollars. Wuen dairying will pay in the Eastern and New England States on land worth one hundred dollars per acre, it will certainly pay on North Carolina mountain land that can be laid down in the best of grass for dairy cows, at a cost not to exceed ten to fifteen dollars an acre, including price of land and labor of fencing and clearing. The land can be taken in its present timbered state, fenced, deadened and sufficiently cleared to lay down in good orchard, herds, timothy, clover, any purpose. He may provide winter pasture or roots or both if he prefer. The summers are never too hot or winters too cold to obtain the most profitable results from the cows.

Good wages may be made during the useful, since, when put over the tops of willing to act as canvassers will receive coops and runs, it affords at once light, instructions and statement of terms by warmth, and complete protection from sending their address to the office of the

USEFUL RECIPES.

FLANNEL CARES .- One pint of milk, half a teaspoonful of salt, two teaspoonfuls of sugar, the yolks of two eggs, and flour (sifted) enough to make a thin batter just thick enough to bake on a griddle; when well beaten, add two teaspoonsful of good baking powder, mix thoroughly, and lastly, add the whites of two eggs beaten to a It seems that the first steps Noah took stiff froth; don't beat them in, but stir after coming out of the ark, towards farm- gently through the batter; bake at once.

APPLE FRITTERS .- Cut the apples into rounds as thin as possible, cut out the cores, pare away the skins, put them in a dish, pour over them a wineglassful of brandy, and sprinkle sugar and grated emon-rind over them; let them lie in this for an hour; half fill a good sized saucepan with clarified dripping; make it quite hot, and when it is still and a blue smoke rises from it, dip each slice separaely into the batter, take it out in a tablespoon, and dip it with the batter that is in the spoon with it into the boiling fat; turn it over lightly with a fork, and when the fritter is crisp and lightly brown it is done enough. Put on a paper to free from grease; sift white sugar on, and serve.

At the meeting of the Ohio State Grange, the Committee on Education submitted a report, showing that Granses destroyed by entertaining some selfish motive. Remarks followed, in which it was strongly urged that the old moneymaking ideas should be gotten rid of and pears here have proved entirely satisfac- It was recommended by the Committee tory, the young trees that are just begin- that a course of reading similar to the very finest specimens of pears last season. and adopted for the benefit of the members.

When the grange does not seem to take any interest in the literary studies, the lecturer should endeavor to gradually lead his members up to it. He should study out some point where he can show the practical advantage of knewledge to the farmer, and call the attention of his grange to it. Let them see its value, and they Oregon is tempered by the warm currants will gradually become interested. Interest them in agricultural literature and moist and mild in winter. The south they will soon develop an interest in all

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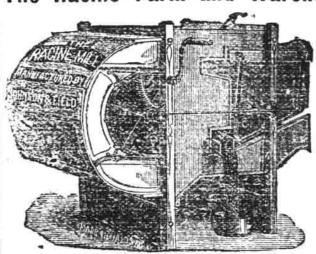
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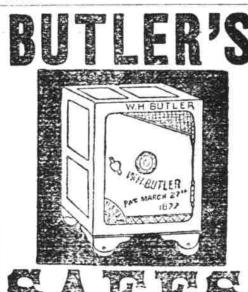
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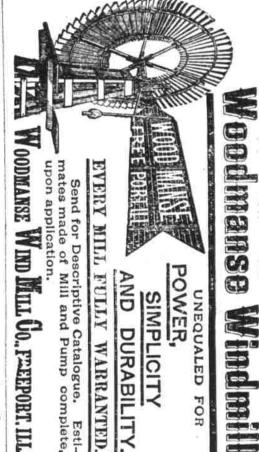
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