

Agricultural.

Lime as a Fertilizer.

Just now, there seems to be a new awakening among our farmers in regard to the use of lime as a fertilizer. And many of them, we have no doubt, in their enthusiasm over the glowing accounts of the encouraging results from its application, will be inclined to run into excesses and make mistakes which they will have to deplore. The truth derivable thus far from intelligent observation and experience seems to be, that while lime is valuable as a fertilizer on certain kinds of soil it is of no perceivable value for others of a different texture. Sometimes it depends upon the kind of lime applied, whether stone or oyster shell, and at what period after plowing. Sometimes a soil may already contain enough lime for all the needs of vegetation, and hence an excess would be of no benefit and only time and money lost in applying. One thing is certain and cannot be controverted—that lime is not of itself a fertilizer as is animal manure or bone meal, or the like. It must be considered as largely a disintegrator in its effects and applied accordingly. To apply it to starved and worn-out land, which has been depleted of all its humus or vegetable matter by successive croppings gives, as a rule, no profitable result, although Mr. Parquhar, in his admirable contribution says the best effect he has ever seen from it has been from such land. If the soil is of vegetable matter lime will hasten its decomposition and make it ready to be absorbed for vegetable life. It is a solvent of some mineral substances which would otherwise continue dormant and useless for plant food, as, for instance, the silicate of potash is made to give up its potash and so contribute to the fertility of the earth around it. As more of an agent than for the proper and necessary assimilation of plant food than as a direct fertilizer lime must be considered. And we would advise all new enthusiasts to go cautiously into its employment as a fertilizer. Make a few careful experiments under different and varying conditions and learn practically what can be done advantageously. Then, if results are favorable and larger ventures seem to be justifiable, go ahead.—American Farmer.

Fair Trade is the English name for Protection.

The agitation for tariff revision, either up or down, is not confined to this country; but, to a greater or less degree, is a disturbing factor in all the great nations. "Fair Trade" versus "Free Trade," is every day becoming a more important point in British politics. Probably a majority of the Conservatives are, certainly a considerable minority of the Liberals are, in favor of it. The support of it is extending from the country into the cities—from the agricultural to the manufacturing classes. Spain, Italy, Austria and Belgium have lately increased their duties on a considerable number of foreign imports—chiefly those the exclusion of which would most benefit farmers and stock-raisers. Germany and Russia have been steadily increasing their tariffs on foreign importations, and are now threatening heavier import duties. France and the other European powers show a similar tendency, but to a lesser extent, France having already gone as far in this direction as her artisan classes are likely to tolerate. While the desire to increase their insufficient revenue and to protect their agricultural classes from foreign competition induces other nations to increase their duties on foreign importations, the desire to decrease our superabundant revenue and a belief that farmers can shift for themselves in any event, lead to a new impetus to an opposite policy in this country.—Rural New Yorker.

Cleaning Greasy Machinery.

"For cleaning greasy machinery," says the Milling Engineer, "nothing can be found that is more useful than steam. A steam hose attached to the boiler can be made to do better work in a few minutes than any one is able to do in hours of close application. The principal advantages of steam are, that it will penetrate where an instrument will not enter, and where anything else would be ineffectual to accomplish the desired result."

Journal boxes with oil collars will get filthy in time, and are difficult to clean in the ordinary way; but if they can be removed, or are in a favorable place, so that steam can be used, it is veritable play-work to rid them of any adhering substance. What is especially satisfactory in the use of steam, is that it does not add to the filth. Water and oil spread the foul matter, and thus make more work.

It matters not how journal boxes are kept clean, everybody will admit that they should not be allowed to get dirty. They are sure to heat and give trouble, if not cleaned and cared for. Often the oil tanks are never emptied and the residuum removed, and as the pumps draw the oil from the bottom, the machinery is being daily lubricated with impure oil.

The oil tank should have a thorough cleaning before new oil is again pumped into it. This is easily enough if the oil is removed, the tank inverted and the steam nozzle applied to the mouth of tank. This method of cleaning beats dipping the filth out with waste. So many opportunities will present themselves when steam will be a valued help in cleaning machinery, if one happens to think of it.

From Western Tobacco Journal.

The Future Prosperity of the Tobacco Producers in Their Own Hands.

One of the speakers at the Tobacco Fair lately held at Danville, Virginia, was Captain R. B. Davis, of Catawba county, North Carolina. Mr. Davis is a practical and successful planter, and eminently qualified to speak on the subject, and we take pleasure in copying the following utterances of his at Danville. Taking as his subject: "How shall tobacco planters dominate the tobacco markets, and become masters and not slaves of the situation?" he said:

The problem is one that farmers, and farmers only, can solve. The disasters of the past three years have borne down the people, and tobacco has been dragged in the gutter. Let the responsibility for such a condition of things be placed where it belongs. The farmers have been perhaps the greatest, certainly the most numerous, sufferers.

The farmers deluded themselves for a long time by supposing that all classes of tobacco men were conspiring against them. They thought dealers were making money by the depression of tobacco. On the other hand, dealers had deluded themselves by saying that the depression in tobacco was due to the mean quality of the production. He would not include the manufacturers, because none of their customers have complained of the mean crop. But the delusions are past. The farmer knows that the warehouseman loses half his commission when he gets only half price for tobacco, and the warehouseman knows the cry about mean crops is the merest gammon.

Tobacco is not low because it is mean, but mean because it is low. Tobacco is said to be a money crop, but is such in one sense only, and that is because it costs money to make it. It now takes two crops to make one, and it takes a good crop to make a good crop. The cry against mean tobacco began with the depression of the market. If the farmers haven't got the money, they can't make good tobacco.

In 1880 the crop was 465,000 hogsheads, manufactured 207,000 hogsheads, exported 227,000 hogsheads, surplus 26,000; 1881 crop, 450,900, manufactured 236,000, exported 230,000, deficit 10,000; 1882 crop, 513,000, surplus 46,000; 1883 crop, 451,000, deficit 6,000; 1884 crop, 541,800, surplus 80,000; 1885, 532,000, surplus 10,000. Leaving a total, sur-

plus of 146,000 hogsheads unconsumed. A similar condition of things existed, he said, in 1859-60, and it took four years of war to reduce the surplus. The over-production is somewhat diminished by the short crop of 1887, but on the other hand, the tobacco tax agitation was constantly adding to the depression. The farmers stand between two systems of taxation, the tariff tax and the excise tax. The tobacco tax must go.

Captain Davis begged the farmers, as a word of parting counsel, to reduce their crops and stop making common tobacco. When the farmers have reduced the supply below the demand, then will their deliverance come.

The above is pregnant with practical suggestions which tobacco growers would do well to ponder over.

A Big Swindle Choked.

The Agricultural Department at Washington, conceived the idea of making sugar from sorghum. Last year it made extensive and successful experiments in this direction at Fort Scott, Kansas. It employed a Mr. Swenson to aid in these experiments. Mr. Swenson at once saw the possibilities of this great industry and set about feathering his own little nest. He applied for and obtained patents on the process, and this, too while he was employed and paid by the government to do the work. Senator Plumb the other day introduced a resolution in the Senate, calling on Commissioner Colman for information, and the Commissioner made a reply which blocks this little game of swindling so nicely fixed up by Mr. Swenson. These experiments in sugar making are most likely to prove entirely successful, and when fully developed will be worth millions of dollars annually to our people. Mr. Swenson thought to form a little monopoly or trust or syndicate of his own and become one of the money lords at the expense of the farmers and other honest people. It is wise to watch government employes and agents.

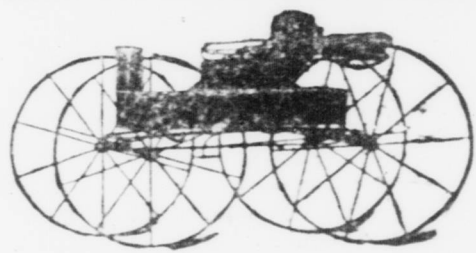
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Is more commonly known as Salt-Rheum. It is caused by impure blood, is accompanied with intense itching and burning sensations, and, unless properly treated, is likely to afflict its victim for years. If you are suffering from Eczema, or any other eruptive disease, take Ayer's Sarsaparilla. It has proved, in numberless instances, a complete cure for this disorder.

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A few weeks ago I was attacked with a severe and distressing form of Eczema. The eruptions spread very generally over my body, causing an intense itching and burning sensation, especially at night. With great faith in the virtues of Ayer's Sarsaparilla, I commenced taking it, and, after having used less than two bottles of this medicine, am entirely cured.—Henry K. Beardley, of the Hope "Nine," West Philadelphia, Pa.

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Ayer's Sarsaparilla,

sarsaparilla has entirely cured me of this troublesome humor.—Ellen Ashworth, Evanson, Wyoming Ter.
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If any one suffering from General Debility, Want of Appetite, Depression of Spirits, and Lassitude will use Ayer's Sarsaparilla, a cure will result therefrom. I have used it, and speak from experience.—F. O. Loring, Brockton, Mass.

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April 7th 1887—1y

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