

How to Make the Loose Rock Work for You.

Mr. French Suggests a Good Way in Which These Farm Annoyances May be Converted Into Farm Utilities.

Messrs. Editors: The fall is a splendid time to make repairs and clear up things on the stock farm. In fact, any time of the year is a first-rate time for the cleaning-up business.

Good Time to Get the Rocks Out.

The fall season is generally dry and large loads of rock, etc., may be moved without doing damage to teams, wagons or land. I have been around among the farmers of our territory a good deal during the past three years and have noticed that on the farms of Piedmont and Western North Carolina especially, loose rocks are very plentiful and the getting rid of them is quite a problem. So in this talk we want to tell our people of several uses to which we have put these broken rocks whereby they are now working for us, where formerly we worked for them. But first let me tell you of an easy way to pick these loose rocks off the fields. Picking up rocks by hand is very injurious to the average man's spinal column, you know. If you don't know, just try it for a day and then you will know. So a number of years ago we

went to using the long handle five tine manure fork for handling all small-sized rocks, and it is a great help; try it.

Are Your Farm Roads Good?

Have you any low wet places in your farm roads where, during the winter and spring, the wagons will bury themselves to the axle? We had such a place two years ago, but in the fall of that year we began to haul rock on to that road, using the dump-cart for the purpose. Last fall we finished the strip and now have thirty rods of road on which the rock is from one to two feet deep, rolled down hard and covered with a sprinkle of gravel. We will never get lost in the mud on that piece again, and it is certainly a great pleasure to be able to load the manure right over that bad place with two tons, where the empty wagon made a fair load before the work was done. We were obliged to get rid of the rocks some way, so why not make permanent improvements of them and have them out of our way forever?

A. L. FRENCH.
R. F. D. 2, Byrdville, Va.

How to Make a Concrete Water Trough.

Mr. French Tells How to Make a Watering Trough That Doesn't Have to Be Made Over—A Big One That Cost Less than \$3 in Money and Less Than Two Hours of Time.

Messrs. Editors: Nearly every farmer has to have some sort of a water trough. Some will construct them of plank, others will chop out a log, while a few will take the horses to a mud-hole and avoid all trouble. Now, if you have never used a concrete water trough, you don't know what a great improvement it is over other sorts. But you say at once, "That's all right for the fancy farmer, but I have to make my living farming." Well, so do I. And that is exactly why I can't be forever doing things over and over; must have time to work at farming.

However, a cement water trough is not as expensive as it looks by a good deal. That solid substantial appearance and everlasting quality are two of the things the farmer can get with a very small outlay of cash when he once knows how to do the work.

Here is how we made ours four years ago this fall. We had about half a load of good coarse creek sand left over from another job we had been at. The man was hauling rock again that day so we had him to dump a cart load near where we wanted our trough to be. We fixed up a mortar box three feet by four, put in this two buckets of sand and one of best Portland cement, then more sand and cement, until there was about six bushels of the pile. We then shoveled this over four times so the sand and cement was very thoroughly mixed. The next move was to make two boxes 24 inches high—one three feet by seven feet, the other two feet by six feet—both inside measure. Neither box had any bottom. The first was set right on top of the ground where we wished our trough to be located and the other set inside of the first, so there was a six-inch space all around between the two boxes. Now we sprinkled about a bushel of the cement and sand so it was wet, but not dripping, mixing it well while sprinkling. Spread this between the two boxes, then pounded down all the rocks into the cement that we could and still have the concrete cover all

This made about six inches deep of concrete in our space.

We then got an old piece of one-half inch iron rod, about twenty feet long, bent it the shape our trough was to be and laid it in on top of the concrete already in; mixed some more concrete, dumped it in, pounded in more rock until the space was full to the top of the boxes. We went to shucking corn then and forgot all about the water trough, except that we sprinkled it once in a while when passing that way with the water bucket. After about four days we took out the inside box (made so it would come apart easily), dumped a couple of bushels of wet cement in the bottom of the enclosure, pounded in a lot more rock, troweled off the entire inside smooth, and our trough was done at a cost of \$2.80 cash and one hour and forty minutes' time.

We turned the water in after three days, and it has been in use ever since. We left the outer box in place for about two weeks so the stock would not disturb the concrete until it was thoroughly hard. Try one of them.
A. L. FRENCH.
R. F. D. 2, Byrdville, Va.

Alfalfa Among Peach Trees.

Messrs. Editors: I have planted my patch of alfalfa. It is up from 1 to 3 inches, and barring the dry weather is doing well. It is on old ground rich from an old garden, and I will cover it with fine stable manure later.

I am seeking to demonstrate a theory which is that a swath 6 to 8 feet wide between my peach rows will not only give me a hay crop, but the excess of nitrogen drawn from the air will prove of advantage to the roots of the 4 and 5-year-old peach trees, planted 18 feet apart. It is too big a subject to go into in detail, but if I prove my theory, I will have doubled the value of the ground.
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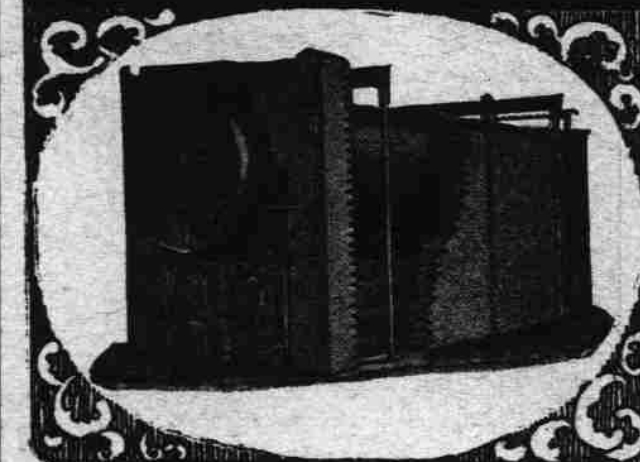
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BY

Charles William Burkett

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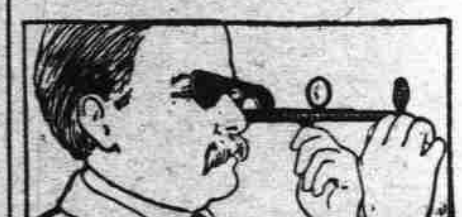
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