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SETTING FRUIT TREES.

Since trees in crooked rows are unsightly and make trouble in plowing and cultivation of any crop put in rows it is just as well to set them straight. While there is more than one way of doing this, there is no better method than the running of three rows of sighting stakes both ways across the area to be set. Of course if the tract is very large or the surface quite rolling more rows of stakes should be set. It is well to begin at one side, measuring off the distances for the stakes and at the same time sighting them, so that they will set true and straight. A row should then be run in the same way on one of the other sides at right angles to the one already set. Two rows should then be set near the middle of the tract parallel to the rows already set, and, lastly, two other rows should be run through on the two edges of the field not already staked. These last rows may be quickly set by sighting those already in. From this point on no measuring stick is needed, it being possible to quickly determine the location of all the rest of the trees to be set by sighting from the rows of stakes already placed. While the work of planting is expedited if two work together, one person can sight both ways alone and do very good work. Another aid in setting the trees true is a board about four inches wide and four feet long, in the middle of both ends of which notches have been cut about an inch square and a third cut in one edge at the middle and extending half an inch beyond the exact center of the board, so as to make an opening about an inch square at the center. A long straight stake should be used for the center—the one which will mark the location of the tree—while two pegs considerably shorter should be used for the ends.

When the tree stake has been properly set the board described should be slipped on to it so that the stake will be at the middle. The end pegs should then be put in the notches referred to, when the middle stake may be pulled and the board removed while the digging of the hole is in progress. When the hole is ready the frame should be adjusted over the end pegs and the tree held in place in the notch at the center of the board, where the long peg was. This equipment will work best if the three pegs used are rounded somewhat and are made a trifle less than an inch in diameter, so that they will not stick in the notches of the board. If this method is followed carefully straight trees can be set so true that a rifle ball shot from the end row would strike more than half of the trees.

A CORN BREEDING PLOT.

It would be well if every farmer who is seriously engaged in the growing of corn had a few acres of the best soil on the place as a corn breeding plot. On such a plot could be raised the seed needed for the general crop, while valuable tests in determining the productivity of various types of corn could be carried on and would not only give a new interest to the farm operations, but would have a direct bearing on the financial consideration. The field set apart for this purpose should be by itself and separated from the main field of corn by twenty or thirty rods, which would reduce to a minimum a pollination of the breeding plot from the main field. If it is desirable to produce seed of especial vigor by cross, rather than self fertilization of the stalks in the breeding plot, this may be done by detasseling alternate rows and selecting the seed for the ensuing year from those stalks from which the blossoms (stamens) have been removed. Another instructive experiment is planting a given number of hills with kernels from several desirable types of ears, the seed from each ear being in a row by itself. When the corn from such ear rows is measured at harvest time a good idea is obtainable of the vigor and productivity—and this means real value—of given types as well as varieties of corn.

A NEW POTATO DISEASE.

As if it were not enough for the "murphy" rasher to contend with scab and bugs and blight and commission men, a new disease, the potato wart, a fungous disease which causes unsightly warts and in severe attacks completely destroys the crop, has lately attracted much interest. It was discovered in Hungary a number of years ago, is prevalent in many sections of England, has been carried to Newfoundland, and the chances are that it will spread to Ireland and this country unless the greatest precautions are taken. Once the fungus gets into the soil it is impossible to grow a crop of potatoes for several years. It is introduced from section to section by using affected seed, and it is in this respect that great caution should be exercised.

MARK TWAIN'S WIT.

How the Famous Author Got Even With a Neighbor.

While it had been known for some time that Samuel L. Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, was in poor health, his return from Bermuda recently in such a serious condition came as a great shock to the country, almost everybody having read and enjoyed his works. His books have made the whole world laugh.

Probably no other author has been the subject of so many anecdotes as Twain, many of them bringing out that great wit and humor for which he became famous. Some years ago the humorist asked a neighbor if he might read a set of his books. The neighbor replied ungraciously that he was welcome to read them in his library, but he had a rule never to let



SAMUEL L. CLEMENS.

a book leave the house. Some weeks later the same neighbor sent over to ask for the loan of his lawn mower.

"I should be very glad to lend you my lawn mower," said Mark Twain, "but since I make it a rule never to let it leave my lawn you will be obliged to use it there."

In his lecturing days Mark Twain reached a small eastern town one afternoon and went to a barber's to be shaved.

"You are a stranger in town, sir?"

"Yes; I'm a stranger here," was the reply.

"We're having a good lecture here tonight, sir," said the barber—"a Mark Twain lecture. Are you going to it?"

"Yes; I think I will," said Mr. Clemens.

"Then, sir, you'll have to stand."

"Dear me," Mr. Clemens exclaimed.

"It seems as if I always do have to stand when I hear that man Twain lecture!"

One day Twain was talking about the famous robbery in his beautiful country house.

"Had I been living in Hartford," he said whimsically, "some of my Hartford friends would certainly have accused me of robbing myself. They had a poor opinion of me in that town."

"Marshall Jewett, the ex-governor, used to take up the collection in our Hartford church. They never asked me to take it up. I fretted a good deal over this matter."

"See here, Jewett," I said one day, "they let you take up the collection every Sunday, but they would never let me do it."

"Oh, yes, they would," said Jewett—"that is, with a bell punch such as the horse car conductors use."

Beware of Ointments for Catarrh That Contain Mercury

As mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the damage they will do is ten fold to the good you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, contains no mercury and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catarrh Cure be sure you get the genuine. It is taken internally and made in Toledo, Ohio, by F. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonials free. Sold by all druggists. Price 75c per bottle. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

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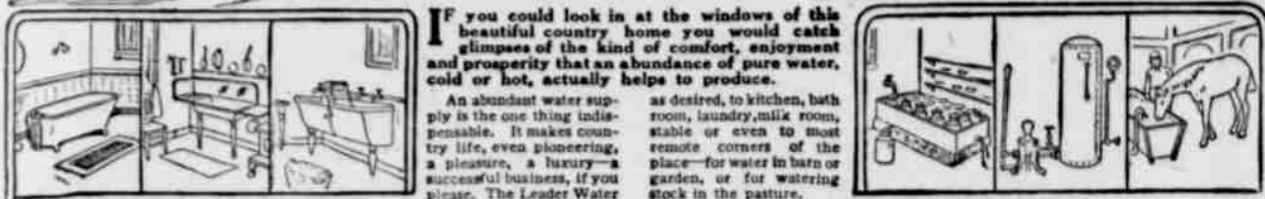
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