

FARMS AND FARMERS



Sowing Clover Seed.

White clover is not averse to growing frequently on the same soil, although that soil may have been but superficially plowed—a consequence, no doubt, of the plant being indigenous and growing spontaneously in this country. Some persons have, however, observed that on soils not very well adapted to its cultivation it thrives better when first introduced than after the land has borne it for a number of years. Red clover is not found to be injured when sown alternately with white clover. White clover is sown either on the autumnal sowing or among the spring grain, but the former position is better for it, because among the autumn grain it grows more quickly and affords good pasturage among the stubble. It is also spread over the autumnal sowings as soon as the frost is over; sometimes also sown before winter, or even while the ground is covered with snow, in order that it may more effectively be buried by the water formed when the snow melts, and may consequently germinate on the first return of spring. The smallness of the seed of white clover and the disposition of the plant to spread allow of its being sown much more thinly than red clover; a much smaller quantity of seed is therefore required for a given extent of ground, five pounds per acre being quite sufficient if the seed be uniformly scattered. The time for which white clover lasts depends upon the extent to which the soil is adapted to it. Sometimes it continues for three years only from the time of sowing and falls in the fourth. When fed off to excess by sheep it disappears sooner still, because these animals eat the stem even down to the roots, which they tear up. Nevertheless, it makes excellent sheep pasture, owing to its shorter growth, compared with the red variety.

Forced Rhubarb.

Rhubarb can be forced in a cellar, in a box, even in the kitchen or in well or poorly constructed forcing houses.

It is perhaps most common forced in low double spanned, roughly and cheaply constructed houses. An excavation two to three feet deep may be made and arched over with a roof of boards or logs, covered with hay, straw or fodder and the dirt of the excavation thrown over the entire roof. No particular facilities are necessary for ventilation. Unless in a severely cold winter, the house can be heated by use of ordinary heating stoves. In more expensive houses and in case of extreme cold a system of hot water or steam heating would undoubtedly be advisable.

Good, strong two, three or four year old plants are used in forcing. The plants to be used are dug in the fall and, with their adhering soil, left in the field and covered with enough soil to prevent drying out. It is best to leave them there until they have been frozen through. About January, earlier or later, as the case may be, the roots still retaining their soil are brought into the forcing house. They are set or packed close together on the moist dirt floor. Moist soil, preferably a rich one, is filled in about each plant, covering the crown slightly. After they are once thus packed in they may not need watering, but the roots and soil should not be allowed to become dry. Only strong, vigorous plants will produce the large, thick stalks eighteen to twenty inches high.—American Agriculturist.

Sheep Dip.

As a sheep dip, the following is recommended by a breeder: "Add forty pounds of soft soap to ten gallons of boiling water and, while boiling, add 1 pound of carbolic acid. This may then be thinned down with 100 gallons of cold water. This quantity is sufficient for dipping seventy-five sheep.

Subsoiling.

It is urged in favor of subsoiling that the land improves every year, although it may have been subsoiled but once. In viewing the effects it should be in the light of improvement and not recovery, as no injurious effects are noticed at any time. It is also claimed that if a narrow roller should follow the subsoil plow, so as to compact the soil after the subsoil plow has passed, the capacity to hold water would be greatly increased and the benefits of subsoiling be more immediate.

Growing Fruit.

Larger areas are annually being devoted to fruit. As the demand for fruit increases it is apparent that new fields are opening in those sections not adapted for special farming or stock raising. Stony hillsides that are now unprofitable can be made to blossom with each returning spring. The grape will grow on soils that refuse nourishment to cereal crops, and the blackberry is successfully grown on the lightest sands. With all the boast of favored sections, there is not a state that averages the net profit per acre that is possible with small fruits. Lands that will not grow a blade of grass pay the grower in pears, blackberries and raspberries, and the better qualities of soil produce the best of strawberries. If there is a failure in growing fruit, it is sometimes due to carelessness of the grower. Trees and vines, like anything else, must receive the care and attention of the grower, must be properly cultivated and pruned and the fruit judiciously prepared for market. The curculio must be fought, the borer killed and the miller and caterpillar destroyed. If the work is well done, and the grower is patient, his reward will surely come, for there is an excellent opportunity for enterprising fruit growers to increase their profits by producing fruit of the best quality. Low prices occur at times because the market is oversupplied with inferior fruit, but there is always a good demand for that which is choice, and at good prices.

Fresh Air for Poultry.

The poultry manager of the Canada experiment station, A. G. Gilbert, has recently published a summary of extended experiments in poultry feeding and breeding from which the following notes are taken. Hens kept in cold quarters and fed heavily produced eggs with strong germs which hatched well. On the other hand, poultry kept in artificially warmed houses laid eggs with weak germs which hatched weak chickens. The "results were considered in favor of fresh air and plenty of it even if it was cold." In a study of the duration of fertilization after the removal of the male bird, records were kept of the number of eggs which hatched or which were shown to be fertile. The last trace of fertility was noticed eleven days after separation. The unfertilized eggs had superior keeping qualities so the author recommends that as a rule male birds should not be kept with hens depended upon for market eggs. Experience showed that where there is a variety in rations and care in them, and sufficient floor space, there is little likelihood of egg eating or feather picking. Steamed lawn clippings were fed to the station poultry three or four times a week and eaten with evident relish. Clover leaves treated in the same way were also much liked.

Study the Cow's Needs.

Each individual in the herd should be studied and given the care that she requires for best production, says Farm Journal.

Two sisters stood side by side in a herd. One required bulky, light food to cause her to do her best. The other required more concentrated food with less bulk.

No herd of cows can ever be really profitable unless they receive just this careful attention.

Breed Is Not Only Factor.

When one sees a great milk and butter record of a herd of cows of a given breed he must not conclude that all he has to do to achieve similar success is to buy a herd of that breed. He must remember that the cows must have the individuality of the record makers, and that he must possess the skill for management that the owner of the record makers does. Breed is only one of many factors that make for success.

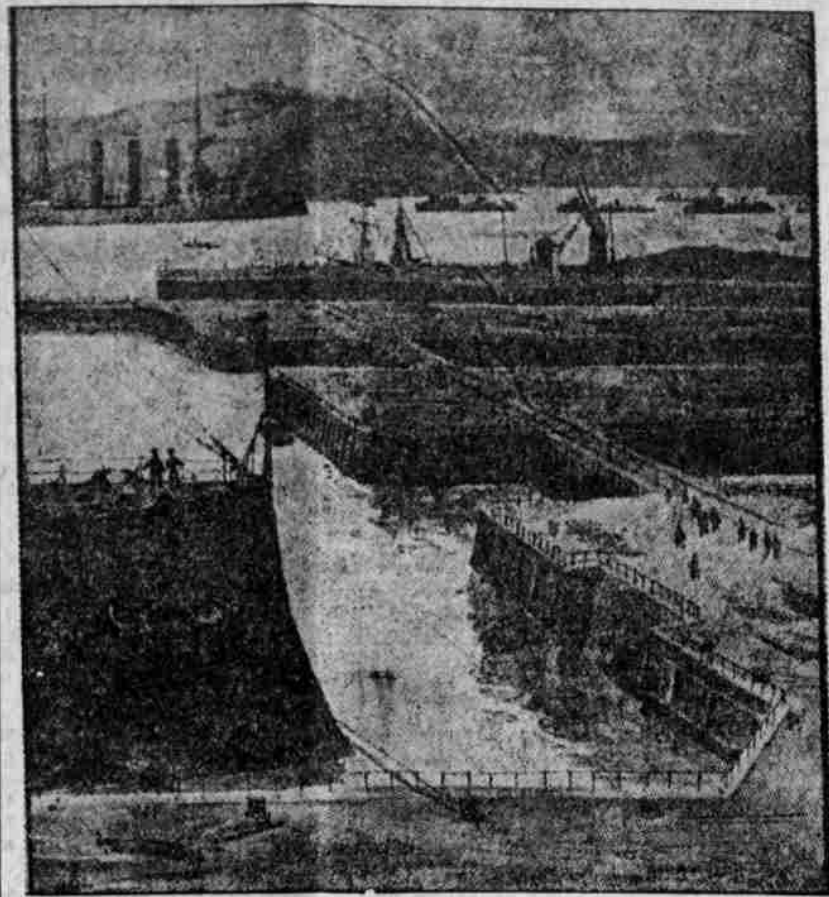
Controlling Growth of Cabbages.

Some gardeners practice a method of stopping the bursting of too rapidly growing cabbage heads. The idea is to check the root growth, which is sending too much sap into the head. Either some of the roots are cut away or else the roots are somewhat loosened by pulling the cabbage partly out of the ground. Either plan will check growth sufficiently to save the cabbage.

Luxuries of the Farm.

The annual products of dairying, of fruit and vegetable raising and of poultry keeping aggregated nearly \$2,000,000,000 in farmers' hands in 1905, or three-tenths of the gross value of all farm products, and these particular products belong to the class of those for which there is a tendency of demand to be greater than supply. In the case of none of these products is there a desired quantity satisfactory in quality obtainable by consumers at moderate prices.

ENGLAND'S NEW \$20,000,000 HOSPITAL FOR DAMAGED WARSHIPS.



ENTRANCE LOCK TO NEW NAVAL DOCKS AT DEVONPORT.

England's new naval works here shown have made Devonport the best equipped and largest war port in the world. They include a fine tidal basin, with an entrance direct from the Humber, and a closed basin, which has been provided with an entrance from the Humber, which can be used for dry docking men of war. Devonport has now three new docks, which can take even the biggest men of war, apart from the entrance lock. It need hardly be pointed out that the final issue of naval warfare depends to a considerable extent on the rapidity with which the opposing nations can refit and replace on the active list battle ships and other war vessels damaged by the enemy. Thus the north extension of the dockyard at Devonport, which was opened by the Prince of Wales recently, must be reckoned among England's most valuable naval assets. The closed basin has an area of thirty-five acres; the extension covers nearly 120 acres. The total cost of the new work was about £4,500,000.

Conquest of the Great American Desert

The great Roosevelt dam in Arizona is nearing completion. Within a few months this colossal bar of masonry will choke the gap between the mountains, and the city bearing the President's name, 284 feet below its crest, will gradually be engulfed by the rush of waters which will, when the huge reservoir is filled, form the largest artificial lake in the world. More than 200,000 acres of fertile farm land will spread out below the lake to replace what is now a desolate desert; thousands of families will prosper in the midst of plenty, on soil which hitherto supported no living thing but sagebrush and lizards, and generations of happy Americans will bless the reclamation act which enabled the engineers to work such wonders in the "land that God forgot."

While the government is doing the work the homesteader will, in time, pay back to the government every cent that has been expended for him, but the payments will be extended over a period of years and he will be charged no interest. As soon as the irrigation works are completed and the precious water is available for the use of the farmers the land benefited must begin to make returns, and it is expected that ten annual installments from each water user will settle the bill.

The irrigation funds given into the hands of the reclamation service by Congress come first from the sale of public lands in the arid States, but after the various projects become operative the annual repayment installments will continue the maintenance and the construction of new water plants.

There are twenty-five great irrigation projects now under construction, and when these are developed to their full extent it is estimated that no less than 3,138,000 acres of desert will be reclaimed. Add to these thirteen other projects which are now being held in abeyance pending the completion of some of the first twenty-five, which will reclaim 3,270,000 acres more, and we have a grand total of 6,468,000 acres of waste changed as if by magic to a garden for gods and men.

The twenty-five engineering projects now under construction will cost \$60,000,000 when completed, and will reclaim an area of land equal to the crop acreage of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Florida, but incomparably more fertile than those States. All told, it is estimated, the newly created farm area will add \$232,600,000 to the taxable value of the States, and will furnish homes for 80,000 families on farms and in villages and towns. The work of the reclamation service has been in progress only five years, and early in 1908 the greatest project of the list, the Roosevelt dam, will be completed. About all that is known of the Roose-

velt dam in the east is that it is a barrier thrown across the Salt River Canyon in Arizona. Some have heard that the town of Roosevelt, in the valley that is to become the bed of the great artificial lake, was built there only to be destroyed when its usefulness ended, and that where now are schools and stores and homes in a few months will be found nothing but the element in which fishes dwelt and which the desert needs so much. This is literally true. As soon as the dam is finished the residents of the town will move their belongings, even to the houses in which they live, to other parts and the powerful gates of steel will let the waters in. Within a few weeks there will be more than 200 feet depth of water above the dam and the newest form of blue upon the map of the United States, the latest lake, will stretch its length of twenty-five miles up-stream and its breadth of two miles between the giant notch that separates the hills.

Different Out There.

The owner of the ranch in one of the arid regions of the great West was entertaining an Eastern relative. He showed him over his broad acres, spoke of the difficulties that had been overcome in making the desert blossom as the rose, and outlined his plans for the future.

"But is it possible," asked the visitor, "to make more than a bare living on such land and in such a climate as this?"

"It is. I have made considerably more than a bare living on this land."

"I am glad to hear it, Cyrus. Then you have something laid by for a rainy day, have you?"

"Not exactly," rejoined the host, with a laugh. "On the contrary, with the help of an occasional rainy day I have managed to lay something by for the dry days."

Agricultural Axioms.

There's such a thing as planting too deep—specially when you're planting the seeds of dissension among your neighbors.

God may temper the wind to the shorn lamb all right, but that ain't a-going to put the feller what lost the fleece in any better temper.

The country looks mighty pretty in the spring to city folks, but it looks pretty tough sometimes to the man who is just starting to put in a crop on credit on rented land with a colicky mule.

Some farmers get up so early in the morning that they burn out more oil than the extra time's worth.

It's all right to soak your seed sometimes, but it doesn't pay to soak your plow animal for supplies at the store. —Florida Times-Union.

The Camel's Foot.

The camel's foot is a soft cushion peculiarly well adapted to the stones and gravel over which it is constantly walking. During a single journey through the Sahara horses have worn out three sets of shoes, while the camel's feet are not even sore.

The yoke of parental authority never rests very heavy on the child which is "reasoned with" a great deal.

BEAUTY OF GROWING FLAX.

Fields Are Blue With Flowers Where Linen Is to Be Made.

There is nothing prettier than a field of Irish flax in full bloom. The stems are about thirty inches high. They are slender and of a pale green.

On each stem is a flower in an exquisite tone of blue; something between a cornflower and a forget-me-not. The little flower is not of a robust constitution. The petals soon fall and then a seed pod forms which, when given time to do so, produces quantities of what is called linseed ("ibin" is the Celtic name for flax). But when the flax is grown for the manufacture of linen it is pulled up before the seed has had time to mature.

After having been exposed to the air for a few days the flax is laid in water and during the fortnight that this process lasts the odious smell with which it fills the offended air is of a remarkably powerful character.

As the local guide says: "Shure, it's just the flax fermentin'. It's a powerful smell intirely, but there's no danger in it, glory be to God."

The soaking makes it easy to separate the straw from the fiber by bruising it between rollers and then suspending it through an opening in the top of a machine in which a horizontal shaft with wooden blades revolves at the rate of 250 times a minute. Parted forever are the fiber, flax and the straw, now torn.

Next comes the spinning into yarn, done in immense mills, and after that the yarn is woven into the fabric itself. Finally comes the bleaching, when the linen is laid out on the green field to be whitened by rain and sun and wind.

These long strips of snowy whiteness on the green turf surprise the stranger. He thinks it some sort of top dressing, spread upon the land to fertilize it. Belfast is the center of the linen trade.

ALIMONY PAID IN PENNIES.

Trick Sometimes Resorted To in Order to Cause a Creditor Trouble.

As a rule nobody will refuse any kind of good money in payment of a debt, though there are some kinds more convenient than others. Pennies are legal tender, but it would take a quart of them to pay a bill of any considerable size. It sometimes happens that just to be disobliging and to cause the creditor inconvenience the debtor pays in pennies.

Such a case happened in Flatbush, L. I., the other day, where a husband had been directed by the court to pay \$4 a week for the support of his wife and to pay it to the clerk of the court. In order to make both as much trouble as possible he brought in the \$4 in pennies and they were accepted, though as a matter of fact pennies are not legal tender to that amount. The minor coins of the United States are determined by statute to be "a 5-cent piece." A United States statute says: "The minor coins of the United States shall be of legal tender at their nominal value for any amount not exceeding 25 cents in any one payment."

The creditor can take them by the carload if he wishes, but refusing to take them in sums over 25 cents at a time will not enable the creditor to set up the claim of a tender, nor will it invalidate the creditor's right to collect. These tactics are seldom resorted to and only to create inconvenience. The United States statutes are not much studied by laymen, and so this point is not generally understood. Of the minor coins only the 5-cent piece, or nickel, as it is commonly called, and the penny, are in any considerable circulation. The 3-cent piece has gone out of use, is seldom seen and is not much missed. It has gone the way of the 2-cent piece and the copper penny.

Demonstrated.

That baggage-handlers on the railroads are justly called "baggage-smashers" is the obvious inference from a story printed in the Washington Star. In Washington one day a distinguished French visitor to this country pointed out to one of these men a rather frail gripsack.

"Is that strong enough," he asked, "to go in the baggage car?"

"I'll see," said the man. He lifted the grip high above his head and threw it on the platform with all his might.

"That," he said, "is what she'll get in Philadelphia."

He took it up again and banged it against the side of a car four or five times.

"That is what she'll get in Chicago," he went on.

He tossed it high in the air, and on its descent jumped on it. This broke the lock open, so that the contents were scattered over the platform.

"And that's what she'll get in Sioux City," he concluded.

"You'd better take her in the Pullman with you, boss," he added, graciously, "if you're going further than Sioux City."

The average woman seems to think she is responsible for all her husband's joys, but that all his sorrows are due to his own foolish actions.