

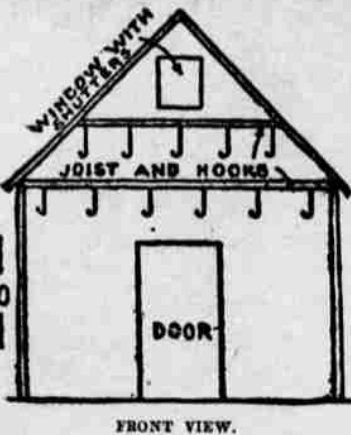


To Make Farm Smokehouse.
What I have found to be a good smokehouse for curing 75 to 100 hams should be about 12x14 feet. Build a good, strong frame and fill the space between the siding and ceiling with soft brick, writes A. C. Wharton in American Agriculturist. This will make your house cooler in summer and will keep the temperature more even in winter. Cover with shingles. A good solid clay floor will do very



well, but a tight plank floor is better, but best of all is a good concrete floor. In the center of the floor there should be a firebox built of brick; this is about 12x18 inches inside measurement and 12 inches deep. When curing build your fire in this and cover with a piece of perforated sheet iron. The house should be eight feet high at the corners and left open to the comb, the inside of the rafters preferably ceiled. Place 2x8 joists two feet apart on the plates, and 2 1/2 feet above these put in another set of joists on the rafters; these can be 2x6, and in both sets of joists which will be used to hang your hams place iron meat hooks two feet apart and two inches from the lower part of the joists. These hooks can be made of one-quarter inch rod iron and should be long enough to let the meat hang clear of the joists.

A window should be made in one end of the house to give light when



needed, and this fitted with a tight shutter, as we do not want much air and sunshine to strike meat before or after curing.

Culture of the Orchard.
Cultivation of the orchard is mainly for conserving soil moisture. If cultivation is begun early in the season and continued until midsummer, growth of wood will be stimulated and fruit developed. Less moisture in late summer and early fall is desired, so that wood will properly develop and harden to be able to stand the cold of the following winter. Arrange to cultivate the orchard early in the summer and have the soil in good fix for sowing to rye or other cover crop toward the last of summer. The cover crop will afford some good winter pasture and will keep hilly land from washing away.

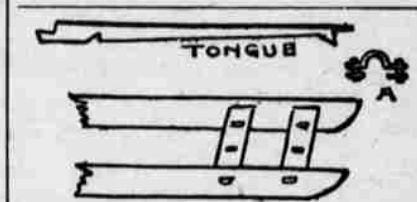
Judging Worth of Farm.
The best time of the year to look over a farm for the purpose of buying is in the summer, just before the binders get to work. The good and poor places will show up then as at no other time, and, if the season prior to that time has been an average one, the crop will be a fair index of the value of the land. The common practice of going farm hunting just after the spring's work is over has little to commend it, save the inconsiderable matter of time saved. The poorest time in the whole year to pick out a farm is when it is covered with drifts of snow.

Preparing Corn Seed Bed.
It is a good rule in plowing never to leave the corn field either at noon or at night without first harrowing the ground that has been plowed. Spring plowing is often abused by turning the clods up to the sun and dry wind to bake and dry, and depending upon a shower to mellow the ground before planting. No ground is

really properly prepared as a seed bed for corn without the use of the disc. A poorly prepared seed bed means a poor stand and an uneven growth. Such corn suffers from drought and insects.

Corn Cut for Silage.
Corn of any variety is at its best for feeding or silage as it comes from the field when about half of the ears are just past the age for table use—commonly called roasting ear stage—and the lower leaves on the stalk are beginning to dry out, says Hoard's Dairyman. For silaging purposes, it is impracticable to have the crop at its very best for any considerable time. Commence to cut a few days before it reaches its maximum value and continue after this stage is passed. Experiments appear to have demonstrated that for fodder the largest amount of nutriment per acre is obtained by planting in continuous rows and so thick that the tendency to form ears will be much lessened. The yield per acre depends so much upon the variety and the soil and care in planting and cultivating that no satisfactory estimate of the average can be given. There is almost no limit to the amount that may be fed, provided one commences with a limited amount and increases gradually up to the limit of each cow's appetite, but probably thirty to forty pounds a day is about as much as it would usually be profitable to feed.

Stig Tongue for Sled.
This is a very great improvement over the old way of having the tongue mortised into a roller which would turn and when the team would try to hold back going down hill the tongue would fly up, sometimes clear over their heads, and prove to be of very little account. Many people, says a writer, do not know of any better way yet, so I will try to show you a better way, a way that takes the weight off



the horses' necks and at the same time holds the tongue rigid when going down hill. First get a nice straight locust sapling for a tongue, one having a natural fork at the end for the neck yoke, as shown. Have your blacksmith make two loops from an old wagon tire as seen at A, with half inch holes and bolts to attach them to the two forward cross-pieces of sled, holes being bored in the cross-pieces to match holes in irons. The tongue is then notched a little to receive the cross-pieces.

How Often to Milk.
Most farmers and dairymen milk their cows only twice a day, and that is right. Sometimes a fresh cow needs to have an excess of milk drawn between times in order to prevent congestion and fever, but not for a long period. Some cows again have leaking teats, which waste the milk if not relieved three or four times a day, but such cows are a nuisance and should be disposed of. To milk twice a day is enough as a general rule. To milk three times a day does not seem to bring more milk, though some people have thought so and acted on that supposition.

Keeping Cellars in Order.
Very frequently the cellar is lacking in conveniences. This should not be so; there ought to be a cement floor, bins for potatoes and a rack for milk pans and such articles. Here is a good rack. Take a post 6 inches square; on this nail cleats, 1 inch thick and 1 1/2 inches wide, in pairs, that is, one on the north side, one on the south side exactly even, and just above these one on east and one on west, leaving 4 inches between each two pairs, and have them long enough to hold milk pans at each end. To use for plates, cans, etc., fasten some boards on for shelves.—Cor. Farm and Home.

Pointers in Farm Management.
Acidity may be overcome by applying from 500 to 1,000 pounds of lime per acre, or by the use of floats or grounds shells.

There is much of value written these days about work on the farm which will never benefit some farmers, because they have the notion that they are too busy to read.

No other people set so high a value on good soil as the Hollanders, and we are learning that not many acres, but rich ones, make the profitable farm.

The roots of the cowpea penetrate rather deeply into the subsoil and enable the plant to feed upon the mineral food that is not readily extracted by other crops.



For the improvement of Blyth harbor, England, a specially constructed dredger has been employed which scoops up rocks of as much as twenty to thirty hundredweight each, and discharges them through chutes into a barge. The machine is furnished with a chain of buckets like an ordinary dredger, but the buckets are of a special shape, and the rims are reinforced with hard-steel cutting edges. The boulders are embedded in mud and sand, and more than 200 tons of such rock have been removed in an hour. The apparatus works with surprising ease and certainty.

It has recently been discovered that the rare atmospheric gas neon readily becomes luminous under the influence of electric waves, and it is suggested that the property may afford a means of visually reading wireless telegraph messages. Prof. W. L. Dudley experimented with a tube of neon during an Atlantic voyage in July, and found that the gas glowed beautifully in response to the waves sent out from the wireless apparatus of the ship, but the received waves were apparently too weak to affect it sensibly. Further experiment may result in the discovery of a means of utilizing this property of neon as a detector of received signals. At present it is employed to measure the length of electric waves sent out. The length of those tested by Professor Dudley was about 800 feet.

The Texas town of Rockwall, about twenty-five miles east of Dallas, derives its name from what appear to be the remains of immense walls of ruined masonry surrounding the town, but extending in many directions. Mr. Sidney Paige has recently studied these walls, and his conclusion is that they are natural formations, consisting of sandstone dikes, which under the influence of the weather and earth movements have been cracked and jointed in such a way as to afford, in many cases, a striking resemblance to artificial walls. The weathered sands, stained with iron oxide, between the joints have been mistaken for remains of mortar. The dikes rise out of a rich, black, waxy soil composed of original lime muds. They vary in thickness from an inch to two feet, and have been traced to a depth of fifty feet or more.

Recent experiments by government experts have revealed an unexpected source of trouble in the process of sterilizing wood by the injection of preservative liquids. It is customary to remove the bark from a stick of timber before it is subjected to creosoting, but it has been supposed that thin layers of the inner bark left unremoved would do no harm. Now it is found that such layers, no matter how thin, almost absolutely prevent the penetration of the liquid. In any case, the preservative usually fails to penetrate the center of the stick, but forms an exterior antiseptic zone, which answers the purpose if there are no gaps in it. But if such gaps exist, owing to the presence of thin layers of bark, the teredo finds an entrance through them, and carries on its work of destruction in the interior of the timber supposed to have been protected.

SHOW NOAH'S GRAVE.

Natives About Ararat Connect Many Spots with History of Flood.

The region of Mount Ararat and the local traditions which still keep alive the story of the ark having rested there were described the other evening in a lecture given in London before the Royal Geographical Society by Capt. Bertram Dickson, who made a series of journeys to the neighborhood while British military consul at Van, a London correspondent says.

The country east of the Tigris, he said, was known to the ancient Assyrians as the mountains of Nairi and at other times the Niphates and the mountains at Urartu, from which comes the name Ararat. The Bible historian took the account of the ark resting on Ararat from the Chaldean legend, which made it rest on the mountains of Urartu; while local traditions, Christian, moslem and yezidi (or devil worshippers) alike make its resting place Jebel Judi, a striking sheer rocky wall of 7,000 feet, which frowned over Mesopotamia.

Common sense also suggested that with a subsiding flood in the plains a boat would more probably run aground on the high ridge at the edge of the plain rather than on a solitary peak miles from the plains, with many high ridges intervening. The lecturer thought himself that the local tradition had the greater element of truth.

There is a large ziarat (ziyarat or sanctuary) at the top of Jebel Judi, where every eve in August is held a great fete, attended by thousands of energetic moslems, Christians and yezidis, who climb the steepest of

trails for 7,000 feet in the terrific summer's heat to do homage to Noah. This mountain seems to have been held sacred at all times, and certainly it has a wonderful fascination about it, with its high precipices and jagged, tangled crags watching over the vast Mesopotamian plain.

The local villagers can show one the exact spot where Noah descended, while in one village, Hassana, they showed his grave and the vineyard where he is reputed to have indulged overfreely in the juice of the grape, the owner declaring that the vines have been passed from father to son ever since.

Capt. Dickson recounted some curious stories of the inhabitants of these regions, particularly the Kurds. These people, he said, claim to be the descendants of Solomon by his concubines, and though nominally one race they are split up into numerous hostile clans, with little in common but their religion, their language and their love of a gun and cartridges.

RULING A SAVAGE TRIBE.

The author of "Heroes of Modera Crusades," the Rev. Edward Gilliat, M. A., at one time master of Harrow School, says in his most interesting book that he had a few years ago the privilege of meeting the king of the Quiah country, Tetty Agamasong, at Harrow. The Quiah king had been educated at St. Augustine's College, Canterbury, and was able to lecture to the Harrovians in good English. In his lecture he told a quaint story which brings one nearer to the weird lives of the Quiahs, a small agricultural and trading tribe of inoffensive character on the west coast of Africa. "In my country," said the king, "we have no prisons; therefore if a culprit is brought to me I must chop off something—an ear or two, a hand or a foot—and he goes home a sadder and a wiser man. Just before I left for England a chief came to my hut, bringing a prisoner.

"What has he done, friend? I asked. "He is a dangerous witch, O king; he can turn himself into an alligator."

"Pooh! nonsense! I don't believe that old-fashioned stuff."

"Oh, but we saw him do it, down by the big river."

"Indeed! Well, chief, tell me all about it. You saw him yourself?"

"I did. We were hunting by the banks of the river with our rifles when all at once we saw a big alligator lying on a rock in the river. The witch man was lying asleep in a hammock some fifty yards away. O the dangerous creature he is!

"Well, king, do not laugh with your eyes like that, for I am speaking the truth. I put up my rifle to shoot the alligator, but to our great fear, as soon as I fired, this fellow rolled out of his hammock and fell on the ground, and rubbed his back, and swore he was hurt."

"Now, O king, if this witch had not been inside the alligator, how could he have been hurt when I fired?"

"Gentlemen," concluded the king, "I see you are laughing with your eyes; but it is very difficult to rule over a people untaught and given over to superstition.

Camel a Delicate Beast.

Contrary to the widespread but erroneous opinion, the camel is a very delicate animal. A camel that has worked fifteen days in succession needs a month's pasturage to recuperate. It is liable to a host of ailments and accidents. When a caravan crosses a seabka, or dry salt lake, it is rare that some of the animals do not break a leg. If the fracture is in the upper part of the limb there is nothing for it but to slaughter the animal and retail its flesh as butcher's meat.

If the lower part of the limb has been injured the bone is set and held in position by means of splints made of palm branches, which are bound with small cords. If no complications ensue at the end of a month the fracture is reduced. When it is a case of simple dislocation the injured part is cauterized with a redhot iron, then coated with clay and bandaged with a strip of cloth. Fifteen days afterward the animal is generally cured.—Vulgarisation Scientific.

It Depends!

"How do you pronounce s-t-i-n-g-y?" the teacher asked the young gentleman nearest the foot of the class. And the smart boy stood up and said it depended a great deal whether the word applied to a man or a bee.—London News.

An egotist is merely a man who is unable to disguise the interest he feels in himself!

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At the Artists' Reception.
"Mr. D'Awber, what are you going to paint on this coal black canvas?"
"Madam, that is a completed painting. It is listed in the catalogue as 'Early Morning in Chicago.'—Chicago Tribune.

Chronicle.
Mrs. Hewlligus—Abraham, we are out of coal. Is your cart at the dealer's bad again?
Mr. Hewlligus—Not "again," Amanda. Still!—Chicago Tribune.

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