

# FARMERS' CORNER

## Planting Potatoes.

The prevailing, and we might say foolish, custom of most farmers is to plant potatoes just as they come, little and big. Indeed, some use the smaller ones for seed and retain the larger ones for cooking purposes, sometimes placing them on the market.

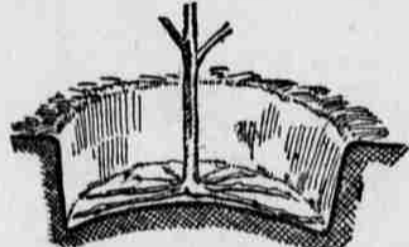
While such a course will not noticeably affect the potato crop for a single season, its continuation surely but slowly lowers the yield—not so much by an insufficient number of tubers, but by inferiority in size and quality. We believe this to be the chief blunder made by most potato raisers and that it accounts for more failures with this crop than any other one cause.

Assuming that you failed to select seed potatoes at the proper time last season (as nine out of ten fail to), great care should be exercised in selecting seed this spring. With the thought in mind that it was quite likely the healthy, vigorous plant which produced the larger tubers, these should be chosen for seed, since the smaller potatoes, which no doubt came from a weak or inferior plant, and, if planted, would produce a like growth. Is this not true of any other plant or animal life? Then why should it not be true of potatoes?—*Twentieth Century Farmer.*

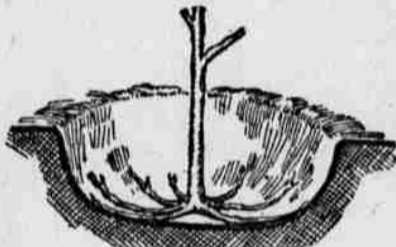
## Facts About Farms.

Nearly 1,000,000 new farms have been created in the United States during the last ten years. In the last ten years the total number of farms has increased 18 per cent. In the older States, from Ohio eastward, there has been going on for 20 years a tendency toward the amalgamation of farms distant from market into larger holdings.

## HOW TO PLANT SHRUBS, ROSES AND TREES.



Correct way of making hole. Notice how the bottom is rounded. The roots lie with a downward turn. They are not cramped or crowded or bent from their proper course.

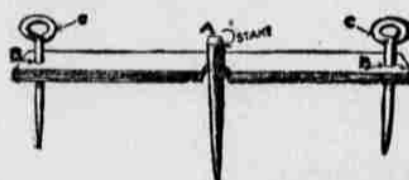


Incorrect way of making hole. Observe how the roots are bent upward. If the shrub lives the roots must bend downward again—not always successfully accomplished.

On the other hand, this section has witnessed the cutting up into smaller sizes of many farms nearer to market. There are now almost three times as many farms as in 1870, and an unprecedented increase in the value of farm lands and live stock.—*American Agriculturist.*

## Tree Planting Device.

To those who will be planting shade and fruit trees, the following method may be of assistance. In preparing for planting stake out the plot having the stakes in line in several directions. After the plot is carefully staked the trouble is to get the tree



DEVICE FOR TREE PLANTING.

set on the exact place occupied by the stake. The following plan will overcome this difficulty. Take a board about 8 ft. long and 8 inches diameter, as shown in illustration. Bore a hole in each end and cut a notch in the middle. Place the board with the notch against the stake and drive wooden or iron pins into the holes B. B. The board can then be removed from the pegs, place the tree in the notch and pack the soil around the roots. The tree will thus be in the exact spot occupied by the stake, and in line with the others.

## A Valuable Hatch.

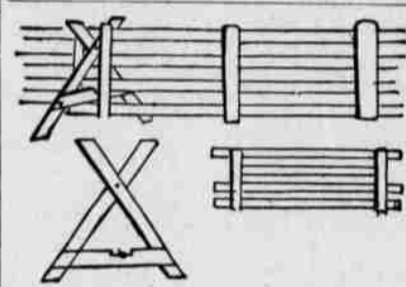
A forcible illustration of the capabilities of a setting of eggs were seen in a poultry show not so long ago. A man bought a setting of eggs of one of the American class of fowls. Twelve out of 13 eggs hatched, one of the chicks died, but the owner succeeded in raising the remaining 11 to maturity. He brought them to the show, there were three cockerels and eight pullets and they were all of a uniform color and size. They won first cockerel, first and second pullet and first hen. They were easily worth one hundred dollars of any man's money, but the owner did not wish to sell them.

### Value of the Silo.

The Missouri Experiment Station summarizes the value of the silo as follows: Silage keeps young stock thrifty and growing all winter. It produces fat beef more cheaply than does dry feed. It enables cows to produce milk and butter more economically. It is more conveniently handled than dry fodder. The silo prevents waste of cornstalks in the manure when silage is fed. The silo will make palatable food of stuff that would not otherwise be eaten. It enables the farmer to preserve food, which matures at a rainy time of the year, when dry would be next to impossible. It is the most economical method of supplying food for the stock during the hot, dry periods in summer, when the pasture is short.

## Temporary Sheep Fence.

A movable fence of this kind for soiling sheep is made in panels as seen in the picture. The panels are



ten feet long, made of four-inch boards solidly nailed together. After this fence is once put up sheep or hogs are not likely to overturn it. A fence three and one-half feet high will turn most flocks.—*Denver Post.*

## Drainage.

One of the essentials about the poultry house and grounds is good drainage. For this reason a good hill slope is the best place for the grounds. The land should slope enough so that rains will wash it clean of all impurities. On flat land the grounds should be frequently changed and planted to some crops that will take up the noxious elements. The draining and surface draining the grounds will assist in keeping them dry and pure. Scraping off the top soil each year and filling with fresh soil from the field will aid in

## RARE PAINTING DISCOVERED.

### Picture Declared to Be Work of Feti, Sixteenth Century Artist.

A rare and very valuable painting of "David," said by experts to be the work of the famous sixteenth century Italian artist, Domenico Feti, has been discovered in Philadelphia, the Public Ledger of that city says. It has been in the possession of a well known man who, however, is not an authority on art, for some years, and while he and his friends always admired it for its beauty and the mellowness of its coloring, it has been only in the past week that it came to the notice of experts, who enthusiastically pronounced it a genuine Feti, and worth probably \$25,000.

The picture is vigorous in treatment and remarkably strong in color, technique and the general handling of the subject. The figure of the Biblical hero is youthful and beautiful. In the dark shadows of the lower foreground is dimly seen the severed head of the giant Goliath. The picture is said to be one of the few large ones done by Feti. It is about four feet by six feet. The painting is on exhibition in a window at 1634 Chestnut street and has attracted much attention.

Domenico Feti was born in Rome in 1589 and died at Venice in 1624. He became a follower of Ludovico Cigoli and afterward went to Mantua, where he obtained the patronage of Cardinal Gonzaga, who, on coming to the dukedom, appointed him his court painter. Unfortunately, however, Feti gave way to intemperance, and this shortened his days. He adopted the style of Guilio Romano without, however, being a mere imitator. His coloring is forcible and the expression of his figures animated. His works, though chiefly of small size, are very scarce. There are four of them in the Corsini palace of Florence and one in the Mantua Academy, while others are in Dresden, Munich and Vienna. Feti was a great favorite of the celebrated picture collector, M. Crozat.

## Effect of Heat.

When one stands before a hot fire the face becomes red, as we all know. This result is the effect of the action of radiated heat on the nerves controlling the small blood vessels of the skin. These tiny vessels are normally in a state of moderate contraction. Under exposure to heat they relax and become distended with blood. The same process, under the mysterious connection of the vasomotor nerve system with mental impressions, produces ordinary blushing.

In regard to exposure to direct heat the reddening of the skin, together with the uncomfortably warm feeling accompanying it, may be looked upon as one of the useful little "danger signals" with which we are surrounded. Persons who from any cause have lost their susceptibility, as is the case in some forms of paralysis, may expose a limb to heat until serious injury results.

The reason that the face chiefly flushes is that in the ordinary position near a fire it is most directly exposed to the rays of heat, while most of the body is shielded by clothing; that the nerves of the face are particularly sensitive in this respect and that the skin there is more abundantly furnished with blood vessels.—*London Standard.*

## Art of Papermaking.

In the matter of making and using paper we are not in line with the Chinese and other Asiatics, who not only make the finest paper in the world, but apply it to all sorts of uses, making window panes, fans, umbrellas, sandals, and even cloaks and other garments of it. The art of making paper from mulberry bast is said to have been invented in China in the second century, B. C. Afterward bamboo shoots, straw, grass and other materials were also used. The manufacture spread to the adjacent countries. The Arabs learned it in Samerkand, and their learned men carefully kept secret the process by which they made paper for their own use. The crusades made Europe acquainted with the art, and the first paper mill in Germany dates from the twelfth century.

## A Matter of Time.

"You ought not to gulp your lunch like that."  
"But I save five minutes each day."  
"Five minutes, eh? Wait until you get to waiting two hours each day in some dyspepsia specialist's anteroom."  
—*Louisville Courier-Journal.*

## Bankruptcy Defined.

"Father, what is meant by bankruptcy?"  
"Bankruptcy is when you put your money in your hip pocket, and let your creditors take your coat."  
—*Mlegende Blatter.*

## Pessimistic.

"What a pessimist Brown is!"  
"What's the matter now?"  
"He even bewails the fact that he can't live to collect his life insurance."  
—*Detroit Free Press.*

When a man insists that he knows what he is talking about, make him prove it.

Love is blind, and alimony is the judge's fee for restoring the sight.

## THE COUNTRY'S GROWTH.

### Shown in the Increase of Mail Matter Handled Annually.

The growth of our country and the increase in the volume of business can be realized no better than by a comparison of the number of pieces of mail matter handled annually. The total for 1889 was 3,860,200,000 pieces, including letters, postal cards, newspapers, printed matter and packages of every sort. Twenty years later the total was four times as great, and reached 13,173,340,329.

The advance has been remarkably regular year after year and at the rate of about 100 per cent every five years. In 1847, the year when postage stamps were first issued, the total number of pieces that passed through the mails was 114,175,480.

A considerable part of the increase during the last ten years has been due to rural delivery. Farmers are now able to receive newspapers, letters and other mail matter at their doorsteps without leaving their plows or their harvest fields and driving into town.

There are now nearly 40,000 rural delivery carriers who are paid \$35,000,000 a year for carrying the letters and newspapers to the country homes in the United States, and together they traveled last year more than 1,000,000 miles a day. The rural delivery service is now thirteen years old, and it has been the greatest success of any new idea that has been introduced into the administration of our government.

The Postoffice Department will renew its efforts to secure a law authorizing a parcels post service so that farmers' wives can do their shopping by mail, but the opposition from the country merchants, who fear their trade will be diverted to the cities, is so determined that it is doubtful whether Congress will act.

## FASHION HINTS



Our sketch shows one of the lovely chiffon robes veiled in gauze. The robe is creamy white with a shaded pink border, while the overdress is a deep pink. A black satin hem makes an effective and practical finish to the skirt.

## Too Much for Him.

They numbered four. They absolutely exuded prosperity. The things which they ordered were such as to fill with envy the breast of the man at the next table, engaged in consuming the most modest dish disclosed by the bill of fare.

The four were conversing—languid, plutocratic conversation. After a while it turned to the question of money. Evidently they wanted to do something. How much money had they? One of the four took out his pocketbook and counted up a roll of bills.

"Oh, I have a hundred and forty," he said, carelessly.

The second and third members of the party went through their pockets. "I have two hundred and fifteen," remarked one.

"And I have three hundred," said the other.

The fourth waved his hand—grandly.

"Never mind, you fellows," he said. "I'll lend you all you want."

Tenderly, waiters bore the man at the next table out into the cold air. He will recover.

## No Place for Celestials.

George Richmond Hayes, the noted San Francisco ethnologist, said at a recent dinner:

"The yellow races are held in better esteem than used to be the case in the West. I once visited a very rough boom town in Oregon near Cottage Grove. In the leading saloon a man in a red shirt said to me:

"Ye wanter carry yerself almighty straight in these parts, stranger. Go wrong the least mite and, by crinus, we'll lynch ye as quick as look at ye."  
"I smiled.

"'Would you lynch me,' I asked, 'if I killed a dog?'"

"'Would we?' he snorted. 'Why, stranger, we've lynched fellers here for killin' Chinamen!'"



NEVER BRING ANOTHER OF THESE CONTAMINATED BARBARIC INTO THE HOUSE UNTIL YOU HAVE TAKEN MY DEAR, THESE SLIDERS ARE FINE. THEY CERTAINLY ARE. I'VE BEEN GETTING THEM FOR A FEW DAYS. THEY'RE SO GOOD. I'VE BEEN GETTING THEM FOR A FEW DAYS. THEY'RE SO GOOD. I'VE BEEN GETTING THEM FOR A FEW DAYS. THEY'RE SO GOOD.

RESOLVED THAT NOTHING LOOKS GOOD TO ONE SUFFERING WITH INDIGESTION OR CONSTIPATION UNTIL HE HAS TAKEN MY DEAR PILL. MAKE LIFE WORTH LIVING. 10 PILLS 10¢

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REDUCE THE COST OF LIVING; USE CRESCENT BAKING POWDER 25c. FULL POUND

### John and the Franchise.

A woman suffrage lecturer in England recently brought down the house with the following argument: "I have no vote, but my groom has. I have a great respect for that man in the stables, but I am sure if I were to go to him and say, 'John, will you please exercise the franchise?' he would reply, 'Excuse, mum, which horse be that?'"

## WHEN YOUR MEALS DISAGREE

It is certainly time to take immediate action if you would ward off a serious sick spell. It is positive proof of a weak stomach and deranged digestion and for which you cannot take a better medicine than Hostetter's Stomach Bitters; but remember this, the longer you put off giving the assistance needed by the digestive system the harder it is going to be to cure you. We know of hundreds of cases, taken in hand at the very beginning, in which a short course of the Bitters proved very efficacious. Therefore, be persuaded to get a bottle today from your druggist or dealer, and thus avoid all possible danger of a sick spell. It is a wonderful tonic and invigorant for overworked, nervous and run-down persons, and in cases of Poor Appetite, Bloating, Heartburn, Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Costiveness and Malaria it is the best.

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