

**FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN**  
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**BEETS AND SOIL FERTILITY.**  
With a view to getting somewhat definite information relative to the amount of fertilizing elements removed from the soil in the growing of a ton of beets, the writer recently made inquiry of the bureau of plant industry at Washington and received the desired information from A. D. McNair, expert in charge of the farm management investigations. The query was made to ascertain the correctness or incorrectness of the claim made by the promoters of a beet sugar factory to farmers who have been raising beets for the concern that a larger crop of corn can be raised after beets—in other words, that the growing of the sugar beet tends to enrich the soil. Mr. McNair states that he has found from his own experience that corn does not do well after this crop, though he is not positive that other crops are injured thereby. He adds that promoters of sugar beet factories sometimes hold that sugar beets take nothing from the soil and try to justify their arguments by stating that sugar is made up of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen—in vulgar parlance, "wind and water"—and as such it does not contain any fertilizing ingredient. This statement, true as far as it goes, overlooks the important fact that the pulp residue or fibrous parts of the beet do contain large quantities of fertilizing materials. From the table which follows, which gives the pounds of fertilizing elements per ton of product, it will be seen that, as compared with potatoes, corn, silage, cabbage and timothy hay, beets do not pull very heavily on the soil, yet the figures disprove the statement that the growing of beets enriches the soil:

	Nitrogen	Phosphoric acid	Potash
Sugar beets.....	4.4	2.0	3.6
Potatoes.....	5.5	1.6	10.2
Corn silage.....	8.4	2.6	7.3
Cabbage.....	7.6	2.2	8.6
Timothy hay.....	25.2	10.6	18.0

**TOO MANY ACRES.**  
A ride on the cars through almost any section of the country forces the conclusion that the chief trouble with the type of farming which is being quite generally followed is that landowners are putting half as much labor as they ought to on twice as much land as they can work. In almost every section it is to be seen the pitiful evidence that the land is being tilled in a slipshod and careless manner, evidenced by an omnipresent growth of weeds and all too meager crop returns. The tilling of too much land to handle discourages the most profitable kind of stock raising and dairying, increases the problem of farm help in the house and outside and makes a drudgery of a type of life that at its best, with modern conveniences and machinery, ought not to be oppressive or unenjoyable. It is patent from more points of view than one that the prosperity as well as the peace of mind and happiness of a large per cent of the agricultural population in the United States would be found in larger measure than is true today were there a better and more thorough working of fewer acres of land.

**DEATH IN CORNSTALKS.**  
Almost every fall reports are numerous of the death of cattle shortly after they have been turned into the cornfields. While death in some of these cases may be due to the working of an active poison which is not as yet fully understood, in a majority of cases a post-mortem examination of the affected animals would show that death resulted from impaction of the stomach and bowels. To guard against this contingency the cattle should be provided with an abundance of salt, while they should have easy access to all the water they can drink and even be driven to the supply to make sure that they get it. This will furnish the system sufficient liquid to handle the digested corn fodder, which is at best dry and absorbs much moisture. Care in this matter of providing an abundance of salt and water will often prevent serious loss.

**CREAMERY PROMOTERS.**  
Reports in the papers here and there are to the effect that professional creamery promoters are getting in their work in some localities, with the result that creamery companies just organizing, acting on the suggestion of these chaps, have bought much equipment not of the best type and poorly suited to their needs. If a creamery is to be organized in a locality it would be far better as well as more economical in the end for those interested in it to secure the advice and experience of a creameryman of known reliability and one acquainted with the equipment needed under similar conditions than to be imposed upon by the smooth talk of one of these unknown promoters.

Recently there embarked from the city of Milwaukee for Buffalo a grain barge laden with 270,250 bushels of wheat, the largest cargo of grain ever shipped from a port on the great lakes.

While Houdan chickens, introduced into this country from a province in France, are not particularly handsome to look at, they are excellent layers and good to eat, though not quite as highly prized for the table as the yellow legged varieties.

It is always a consoling thought for the fellow who doesn't go fishing often enough to keep his hand in or get posted as to where the best places are to know that his family is not really dependent upon his catch for their subsistence and that the meat market is within walking distance.

A very effective storm door may be made by tacking a long piece of building or tar paper on to the screen door, using narrow cleats or strips in fastening it to the frame. The paper covering will protect the wire screen from the weather, while at the approach of warm weather next spring it may be removed.

One naturalist whose name and standing are not reported has figured out that the production of a pound of honey if expressed by the labor of one bee would require 2,500,000 trips. In view of these figures it is not strange that the little fellows get hot under the collar sometimes when folks rob them of their sweet stores.

Trees of the sapindus or soapberry order grow in north Africa, their fruit being used as a substitute for soap, while the black seeds which it contains are used by the natives in the making of necklaces. The trees are very prolific, the fruit which they produce containing as high as 38 per cent of saponin, or vegetable soap element.

A few counties in central Iowa probably raise more popcorn than any area of equal extent in the world. Here farmers make a business of growing it, as do their fellows elsewhere in the matter of field corn. The growers receive from \$1 to \$1.10 per hundredweight for it and in places are erecting large cribs in order to store it for higher prices.

A southern college for ladies certainly has much to commend it when it lists as chief among its claims the fact that no entrance examinations are required and that a fine herd of Jersey cows furnishes an abundant supply of milk for the institution. If more ladies' colleges had less examinations and more Jersey milk there would be fewer broken down and invalid graduates at commencement time, with a correspondingly greater health and happiness in after years.

The temperature maintained in the henhouse is not so important a matter as adjusting the ventilation so that no direct drafts will blow on the hens while they are at roost. Many who have studied the question and tried the plan recommend a burlap curtain at the windows instead of glass. This is justified on the ground that poultry are more subject to disease from breathing impure air in a poorly ventilated house than they are in quarters which are properly ventilated though much colder.

A common fault to be found with the graded road work usually done by road supervisors is that, while sufficient earth has been brought to the crown of the road, the ridge is usually left rough and uneven, with the result that few drivers have either the patience or patriotism to work it down. For this reason traffic usually follows the slopes of the highways, the crown of the road being left until teams are driven on to it by muddy roads in the fall or spring. Were the crown of the road finished more carefully and smoothly and possibly dragged or rolled, the work would be much better done and more satisfactory all around to those who have to drive over it.

Summer is the best time for cutting timber. It dries rapidly and becomes hard and sound. Cut and saw basswood in summer, and in a few weeks it will become thoroughly seasoned and will finally harden so as to almost resemble horn. Cut it in winter, and it will be so long in seasoning as to become partly decayed before the process can be completed. No doubt the presence of the water or sap in great abundance in winter, and especially toward the latter part, hastens this incipient decay. Rails cut and split in summer and the bark peeled to hasten drying have lasted twice as long as winter cut rails. It is the practice to cut nearly all timber in the comparative leisure of winter, but it certainly would be better to pay a higher price to have it done in summer.

How would it do to ask your better half if that machine with which she has been doing the family sewing for a number of years past does not need repairing or replacing by a new one? She may not have got into the habit of asking for everything that she would like, and it is barely possible that you have failed to mention it to her. If there is anything that is calculated to tax the patience and rouse the ire of an otherwise even tempered woman it is a machine which is out of whack and which she cannot get to respond to her attempts to regulate. Such a machine is in the same class with a balky gasoline engine or a reaper that won't tie bundles properly. If the machine is worn out, turn it in on a trade or throw it on the junk pile and gladden the good wife's heart by fetching her a new one.

**Ornaments of the Peerage.**  
Lord Lyveden is an ardent peerage reformer and tells an anecdote in this connection for whose authenticity he pledges himself. The narrative shows a famous statesman of the nineteenth century was called upon to visit his son in prison. He bitterly reproached him, remarking, "Here am I, having worked my way up from a middle class home to a great position, and when I die you will be the greatest blackguard in the peerage." The son listened quietly and then replied, with terrible irony, "Yes—when you die."

Another of Lord Lyveden's peerage stories is equally piquant. The son of a peer applied to a friend in the north of England for a housekeeper and was recommended a certain Mrs. Brown. The peer wrote to the woman accordingly to the effect that, having learned particulars of her character, he was willing to engage her as his housekeeper and making an appointment for her to call and see him on a certain date. The good woman replied: "My Lord—From what I have learned of your character I decline to enter your house. I am your lordship's obedient servant, ANNE BROWN."  
—Westminster Gazette.

**The Plays Mixed.**  
During one of his tours in this country, when the late Sir Henry Irving was playing "Twelfth Night" in New York, he revealed absentmindedness and greatly amused the members of his company and the audience. As Malvolio he was expressing surprise at a remark of Sir Toby.

"Do you know what you say?" he asked.  
To his surprise, a roar of laughter echoed through the house, and his stage associates were convulsed.

He repeated the line, putting undue emphasis on the pronoun, and again the audience shouted with laughter.  
It was not until after the performance he learned that quite unconsciously he had been parodying the well known words of "The Private Secretary." His only explanation was that it was done in a bit of forgetfulness while thinking of the other play.—Chicago Record-Herald.

**A Ghost Story.**  
Floors castle, home of the Duke of Roxburgh, was the scene of a curious psychical mystery over a century ago. Sir Walter Scott relates the incident. John, third duke of Roxburgh, who died in 1804, the celebrated book collector, when arranging his library employed neither a secretary nor a librarian, but a footman called Archie, who knew every book as a shepherd does each sheep of his flock. There was a bell hung in the duke's room at Floors which was used on no occasion except to call Archie to his study. The duke died in St. James' square at a time when Archie was himself sinking under a mortal complaint. On the day of the funeral the library bell suddenly rang violently. The dying Archie sat up in bed and faltered, "Yes, my lord duke, yes, I will wait on your grace instantly." And with these words on his lips he fell back in bed and died.—St. James' Gazette.

**The Broken Bottle Symbol.**  
The breaking of a bottle over the bow of a vessel at launching seems to be taken by many people as having a convivial, a sort of here's-looking-at-you significance, but nothing of the kind is meant; neither has it any association with Christian baptism, for the name of a man-of-war is given months before the launching. The real thing typified is sacrifice. Building a town or settling a ship afloat was a solemn matter away back in the dim past, and such an act was not to be undertaken without devoting a life to propitiate the gods. Our refined and humane civilization no longer dares to offer up a prisoner or a slave on such occasions, and therefore a bottle is broken to symbolize the taking of a man's life.—United Service Gazette.

**Jerome's Mistake.**  
One of the early vicissitudes of Jerome K. Jerome as an actor was to be offered his choice of playing the part of either a soldier or a donkey in a pantomime, a real donkey with four legs. After careful consideration he thought the red coat the more becoming disguise and chose the part of the soldier. Apparently he made a mistake, from the point of view of success, at all events, for a few days afterward the manager came to him and said: "You made a great mistake, Jerome, in not taking the part of the donkey. It would just suit you, and there's 5 shillings a week more in it."

**A Coin Trick.**  
Rub a coin against a smooth, upright surface for a little while, then press it hard and take your hand away from it. You will be surprised perhaps to see this coin stick to the wood. The reason is that in rubbing the coin over the wood and then pressing it hard, you drive out all the air between the two objects, and the pressure of the atmosphere keeps the coin in its place.

**Just Suited Her.**  
"Please, ma'am, I haven't a friend or a relative in the world," said the tramp.  
"Well, I'm glad there's no one to worry over you in case you get hurt. Here, Tiger!" said the housekeeper.

**Getting His Own Back.**  
"The giraffe has a tongue eighteen inches long," said Mrs. Talkmore.  
"And knows how to hold it, too," growled Mr. Talkmore, who had had a long curtain lecture the night before.—London Answers.

Don't try to be a mind reader. Think how uncomfortable it would be to know what people are thinking about you.—Acheson Globe.



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