

## MONEY IN OLD ORCHARDS.

Profitable Fruit Crops From Run Down Farms.

A woman who owns and manages large orchards in the central part of New York state furnishes interesting information which will be of interest in all states where fruit is raised. She says:

"Within the last two months I've had as many as twenty letters from women asking for advice about investing in fruit trees. Most of these women are thinking of investing in farms or small country places where there are already what they term old, run down orchards. They come to me to find out if they can ever make those old trees bear.

"According to my experience, an apple tree in this climate has to be pretty far gone to be ready for the ax—I mean, of course, when it is a good variety. The trouble with the apple trees which we see on these old places is that they need care and attention.

"They have been allowed to stand year after year with their roots covered by sod. They are actually dying of thirst and starvation. If one will only study the difference in the color of the leaves of trees growing in a tilled orchard and in one allowed to go to grass in midsummer he will see the signs of starvation and thirst.

"The first thing to do with such an orchard is to plow it up. If it has been in sod for a number of years there will be many roots near the surface. Do not be afraid of hurting the trees by cutting these roots with the plow.

"This plowing should be done early in the spring and should be repeated several times during the first season. If the roots are so thick that you cannot plow, then chop up the sod with a disk harrow. If the land is too rough even for that, turn in hogs. Drop a few grains of corn here and there in crowbar holes and leave the rest for the hogs.

"Trees in such neglected orchards always need pruning. This should be done when the trees are dormant. February is usually the best month.

"If the tree has not been pruned for several years, do not take out all the useless wood at one time. Let some of it go over.

"Now, pruning is something that should never be carelessly done. The prunings should all be burned and the ashes scattered about the roots of the trees.

"After this severe pruning you will get a big crop of water sprouts in the summer. Rub them off promptly. After this first pruning it will be necessary to prune a little every season.

"As a rule, there is enough plant food in the soil if it is only put in shape so that the trees can use it. If, however, this should not be the case, then a fertilizer containing nitrogen is the best tonic. A liberal dressing of barnyard manure is the very best way of supplying this nitrogen. Nitrate of soda is also good.

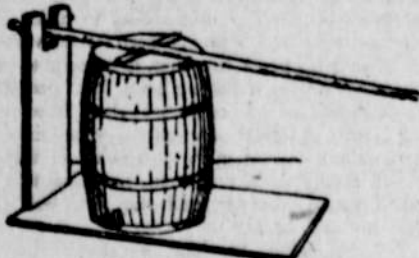
"I have found it impossible to raise good fruit without a spray pump. If you have never sprayed, begin by writing to your state experimental station for its spraying bulletins. Don't spray feebly, but do the job thoroughly.

"Trees may be healthy and blossom year after year and no fruit be formed. This condition can be remedied in two ways. One way is to graft about every third tree in every third row with a pollen bearing variety. The other and sometimes the more convenient is to replant certain rows with pollen bearers. When setting out new orchards I always plant every fourth row with pollen bearers.

"Fortunately it is only in isolated orchards of a single variety that such conditions prevail. In fruit growing districts where several varieties are raised and bees are kept a total failure is next to impossible. It is not always necessary to keep bees, but it will pay a fruit grower, especially in a new country, to be on the safe side."

### A Homemade Barrel Header.

A simple and handy device for the farm is that shown in the accompanying cut. It is of special value where the article contained in the barrel should be safely secured either in shipping or in storage. Its utility in other respects will be recognized at a glance. The barrel header is so simple in its construction that any directions as to how to make it would be superfluous.



HANDY BARREL HEADER.

Rheumatism in Cows.

Cows are subject to rheumatism, says a writer, and it affects them in the legs between the knee and the hip. The following treatment is recommended by the writer: First of all provide a comfortable, warm, dry, well ventilated stable and well lighted, but protected from strong drafts. There should be an abundance of clean, dry bedding. The food should be soft, easily digestible, slightly laxative, and the water clean, pure and cool. Give half an ounce of saltpeter three times a day. At the outset of the treatment give one pound of epsom salts in half a gallon of water and occasional smaller doses afterward to keep the bowels open. If you can locate the pain sub daily with camphorated spirits.

## CARE OF EARTH ROADS.

How Clay Roadbed's Treatment Differs From One Composed of Sand.

On clay sods a thin layer of sand, gravel or ashes will prevent the sticking of clay to the roller or to the wheels of vehicles. Clay soils, as a rule, absorb water quite freely and soften when saturated, but water does not pass through them readily. When used alone clay is the least desirable of all road materials, but roads composed of clay may be created with sand or small gravel from which a comparatively hard and compact mass is formed, which is nearly impervious to water. Material of this character found in the natural state commonly known as "hardpan" makes when properly applied a very solid and durable road. In soils composed of a mixture of sand, gravel and clay all that is necessary to make a good road is to crown the surface and keep the ruts and holes filled and the ditches open and free.

While clay alone never makes a good road except in dry weather, sand



TYPICAL CLAY ROAD BEFORE IMPROVEMENT.

alone never makes a good road except in wet. The more the drainage of a sand road is improved the more deplorable becomes its condition. Nothing will ruin one quicker than to dig a ditch on each side and drain all the water away. The best way, therefore, to make such a road firm is to keep it constantly damp. This can be done by planting shade trees along its sides to prevent the evaporation of water or by growing upon the surface of such sand roads a thick turf, preferably Bermuda grass. Roads running through loose sand may be improved by mixing clay with the sand and slightly crowning the surface.

For the temporary improvement of earth or sand roads any strong fibrous substance, especially if it holds moisture, such as refuse of sugar cane or sorghum and even common straw, flax, swamp grass or pine needles, will be useful. Spent tan bark is sometimes beneficial, and wood fiber in any form is excellent. Enough sand or earth should be thrown over such roads to keep them damp and protect them from catching fire.

Earth is composed of small, irregular fragments which touch each other at points, leaving voids between. When the earth is broken up and pulverized these voids are almost equal in volume to the solid particles, and as a result the earth will absorb almost an equal volume of water. In the building or maintaining of earth roads it is therefore very desirable that these small, irregular particles be pressed and packed into as small a space as possible in order that surplus water may not pass in and destroy the stability of the road. To this end rolling is very beneficial. The work of maintaining dirt roads will be much increased by lack of care in properly rolling the surface.

### Grading a Roadbed.

It is simply extraordinary the lack of judgment shown by many who undertake to shape a roadbed. The road allowance in various states covers sixty-six feet. In rounding up the roadbed the earth is sometimes moved toward the center from nearly the entire distance of the width of the road. This means that the ditches for carrying away the water are not distant from the fences that hedge in the highway. The roadbed is entirely too wide, says the American Agriculturist. It cannot be sufficiently rounded toward the center, and as a result water does not run off with sufficient quickness. The temptation to spoil roads by grading them thus is all the stronger since road graders have come into use. This result follows from the comparative quickness with which the earth can be moved by these machines. A distance of forty-two to forty-five feet between the outer edges of the ditches furnishes a roadbed sufficiently wide.

### Effect of Good and Bad Roads.

In issuing a call for a state good roads meeting that was held at Louisville on Sept. 17 Governor Augustus E. Wilson of Kentucky said: "There is nothing which hurts the people more or costs the people more or keeps them back more than bad roads. They make it hard to leave home, hard to get back, hard to haul, hard to visit, hard to get to heaven sometimes. There is nothing that a man can think of that will do more to help the people than good roads, which make it easy to travel, easy to bring goods home, easy to haul your produce and manufactures to market, easy to go to school and church and easy to avoid many bitter thoughts that bad roads cause."

### Iceland Out For Fine Roads.

Highway improvement is becoming a live issue in Iceland. It is claimed that with good roads more than 40,000 acres of land could be made profitable for agricultural purposes and that such roads would lead to the development of the rich veins of gold which are known to exist near Reykjavik, the chief seaport.

## Humor and Philosophy

By DUNCAN M. SMITH

### PERT PARAGRAPHS.

A man finds very cold comfort in being in hot water all the time.

The critical moment is the one that comes about 2 a. m. when your wife gets her eye on you.

I WANT SOMETHING THAT WE ALL CAN USE



If it ever becomes fashionable to be comfortable and easy probably the millennium will be peeping over the horizon.

It is only too frequently quite hard to tell the truth—from the fascinating fiction that it is traveling with. Give Uncle John a silk muffler. Silk mufflers are so serviceable, and nobody else may think of it. He probably doesn't wear them, but they are so nice to have.

When a man is obviously taxing his brain to say nice things about you look out that he isn't soon engaged in taxing your pocket.

The man who takes things easy is equally prone to let 'em slide.

Keep your temper. If you don't it a certain to give you away.

When a woman has been insulting to a man she will never forgive him until he has apologized for it.

As a man can't spend his money and have it, too, there are some who have adopted the expedient of spending somebody else's.

Blessed are the meek, for they are never expected to rise to the occasion.

If I'd an idea.  
If I'd an idea  
I know what I'd do;  
I'd earnestly labor  
To see it go through.

I'd sit up for hours  
And nurse it with care  
To cause it to ripen,  
Mature and grow fair.



NOW, IF THIS WATER RUNS UP HILL - I'M RICH

I'd never, no, never,  
Permit it to be  
Exposed to the chill of  
Austere enmity.

If I'd an idea  
Quite safe from abuse—  
I have no idea,  
So what is the use?

Starting Right.  
Good resolutions?  
Let me think  
Of course to start  
I'll cut out drink—  
At every invitation  
pass  
And farewell bid  
The friendly glass.

Old pipe, my solace  
And delight,  
Your ancient bowl  
No more I'll light.  
The fat cigar  
No more will grace  
The classic outlines  
Of my face.

The truth no more  
Will I disguise.  
I mustn't even  
Tell white lies,  
But always stick  
To the exact  
And more or less  
Annoying fact.

I'll be so good  
You'd never place  
Yours truly as  
The same old case.  
Puffed up a bit,  
I'll walk about  
And watch my wings  
Serenely sprout.

Quite Immediately.  
"Who was it that said, 'Oh, this is so sudden?'"

"I believe it was the young lady when her steady proposed after ten years of unproductive courtship."  
"Oh, I thought it was some one else."  
"Who did you think it was?"  
"The fellow who fell off the water wagon the second day."

In a Class by Himself.  
"Yes, Jones is a model man."  
"Doesn't smoke or drink or do anything of that sort?"  
"Not a thing."  
"How lonely he must be on New Year's day."

A Real Substitute.  
"After all, the weather comes in handy as a subject for conversation."  
"Yes, unless you happen to meet a man who owns a safety razor."

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