

FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN
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CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED



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BETTER TILLAGE DID IT.

What can be accomplished by the mere fact of a thorough cultivation of the soil has been brought to the writer's attention very forcibly during the past few weeks. A fifty or sixty acre field belonging to a farm which has been share rented for the past twenty years and hence gradually robbed of its fertility—for it has not been manured or replenished with clover—was given a deep plowing and this year planted to corn. Prior to this year the field had been sort of an agricultural byword, little being expected of it and as little being realized from it. This season, however, different tactics were followed. The field was put in good tillage as a seed bed, good seed planted and a good stand of corn secured. During the growing season it was cultivated thoroughly five times. The result was an eye opener. Not only did this handling result in a good growth of stalks which were well eared, but so mellow was the surface kept that the crop was able to withstand protracted dry weather in much better shape than richer and heavier land which was not so well tilled, notwithstanding it had a coarse gravel subsoil. A lot of farmers who have driven past this field have been wondering what magic was used on it. It was just a matter of cultivation of the soil which unlocked its possibilities, in spite of the fact that its fertility was badly depleted. The same cultivation, coupled with manure and clover, would accomplish even better results. These three things ought to be tried on thousands of farms through the cotton, corn and small grain belts.

PROXY FARMING.

One of the greatest curses of present day American agriculture is the all too prevalent system of proxy farming, or absentee landlordism. Go into any section one will and the most rundown places are almost without exception those owned by men who live in town and have turned the virtual management of the farm over to a cash or share renter, who in all too many cases, being on a short lease, thinks he does best for himself by skinning the land to the limit. Very likely the owner came into possession of the property when land was got for a song or inherited it from some thrifty parent, and it is natural enough if he receives a fair interest return on what he considers is invested that he should not be as alert along the line of seeing that its fertility is kept in repair as he ought to be. Best results are obtained in the farm management when the owner works it himself if he has any business head at all. Next best is the leasing of the farm to a careful man on a long time lease, so that both tenant and landlord may share jointly in the benefit which may accrue from stock feeding, clover growing and dairying operations.

CHEAP PLOWING.

A north Iowa gasoline engine manufactory, the largest of its kind in the world, some little time ago established an experimental farm on which during the season closing all of the plowing, disking and seeding operations have been done with traction engines. In the matter of comparative crop yields the figures have not been fully worked out, but in the plowing operations it was found that the cost in labor, oil, etc., of plowing an acre was 35 cents. While the large areas on which steam or gasoline tractors would give most effective and economical results are in a way incompatible with the widespread tendency toward a division of these large areas and the following of a more intensive type of tillage, the fact remains that there are still a good many sections where the small tractor might be used with decided advantage as a substitute for horses in plowing and other farming operations. A feature of the above machine plowing that ought to be mentioned is that it was done at a depth of from seven to eight inches, which is nearly twice the depth of ordinary horse plowing.

NEEDED INOCULATION.

An Illinois farmer who sowed fourteen acres to alfalfa last year had an experience which might be a help to some of his fellows. He sowed the seed in the spring and did not take the precaution to inoculate the soil with bacteria laden soil from an old alfalfa field or sweet clover patch. The field was a complete failure except for a quarter of an acre, on which the alfalfa grew luxuriantly. He was at a loss to understand this, but after doing considerable thinking he remembered that some thirty-five years before his father had attempted to grow some alfalfa (then called lucerne) on this particular spot. While the stand was not very good, enough of it developed to inoculate the soil with the necessary bacterial life. It is more than likely that many a failure with alfalfa is traceable to paying no attention to the matter of soil inoculation.

Sponging the back of an animal with crude petroleum will fix the ticks.

If there happens to be a woman's club in the neighborhood, encourage the good wife to join it. It will widen her outlook on life and furnish a much needed variety.

The two or three messes of green lima beans which come from the home garden are such a rare treat that they pay well for the trouble taken in raising them.

A heavy freeze which struck the Michigan and Wisconsin cranberry fields at picking time ruined the crops of many growers. As a result of this the festive berry will be high at Thanksgiving time.

The natives of Hawaii can't go out in the back yard with a big slice of watermelon and enjoy it with the same zest as we do in America. If they are finicky at all, for the melons grown on the islands are likely to be infested with maggots, which appreciate a good thing as much as folks do.

One of the surest as well as most profitable crops for the Pacific coast horticulturist is the English walnut. The trees are remarkably free from the insect pests and fungus which so often attack fruit trees, while the crop is one that is much less perishable and can thus be held if prices are not satisfactory.

If the little people who come into the home are to reach a respectable maturity, scalding water, fly poison, rough on rats and headache tablets should so far as possible be kept out of their reach. Hardly a week passes but one sees chiroleins in the daily papers the death of helpless little babies who run afoul of some one of these things.

A town the writer visited the other day was an improvement over many others in that a considerable number of its vacant lots were busy growing alfalfa instead of being allowed to produce a rank growth of burdock, mustard or what not. It furnished a good bite of nutritious hay for cow or horse and was quite an advertisement of the possibilities of the soil of the locality.

While lime is in no sense a substitute for manure and should not be used with this thought in mind, it does serve as a corrective of soil conditions—sweetens sour soils and puts them in shape to furnish food for growing plant life. A ton of lime per acre is usually sufficient to set things right, and it may be applied to the land with manure in the shape of the freshly air slacked product or it may be put on alone.

Ventura county, Cal., produces three-fourths of the world's supply of lima beans, the output last year being 68,000,000 pounds, worth \$2,720,000 to the growers. This is one of the special agricultural interests which impress the traveler through southern California, fields of beans in the district devoted to growing them stretching as far as the eye can reach. The fields are planted to permit of horse cultivation and are kept remarkably clean.

One of the many interesting exhibits in the forestry building at the Seattle exposition was a section of a pile taken from Galveston bay last year which had been doing service for thirty-three years. That it was able to withstand the attacks of the teredo, a molluscan borer, during this long period was owing to the fact that it was treated with creosote before being driven. Had it not been so treated it would have been riddled and worthless in a very few months.

The high prices which have prevailed for small grains for the past two years have caused a good many more farmers to stack their grain than for many years past, due to their desire to hold it and not market it with a rush as soon as thrashed. This will result in a brighter and better quality of grain which of itself will fetch a higher price than that badly discolored. More than this, the stacking of the grain has made possible good progress in the plowing of the stubble and the heading off of a seed of weeds in next year's fields.

With every year that goes by that easy way of harvesting corn, hogging it down, makes new friends, and this because it saves the job of husking and because hogs feed corn in this fashion do better and make more rapid gains than in the usual method of pen or lot feeding. Not only do the hogs get the corn, but at the same time a good deal of green forage, which keeps their systems in good condition, enabling them to consume a generous ration of corn with the largest possible advantage. This method requires good fencing, but the gain in one season will usually pay for this.

A bunch of lambs will find abundant food in the average cornfield from the time the corn dents until December. One who has tried this plan states that the lambs will clean up the grass and weeds first and, while they will later browse some on the leaves of the corn, rarely disturb the ears or break down the stalks. Not only is such forage a waste that would count for nothing, but the devouring of it and the tramping of many seeds into the soil mean an infinitely cleaner field the next season. Sheep will do more for a weedy, unkempt farm than almost any other single agency at the disposal of the tiller of the soil, and a flock of them should be kept on every well managed farm, when the above plan can be given a test.

It is usually the tabby cats that are most often found kicking around under one's feet which are the poorest mousters and of least account.

It requires from four and one-quarter to four and one-half bushels of wheat to make a barrel of flour, while a barrel of flour will make about 280 one-pound loaves of bread.

A sick animal on the farm should be isolated at once. This not only makes it possible to give the special care needed, but will lessen the likelihood of a spread of the trouble provided it should prove catagious.

Several counties in Wyoming were lately placed under quarantine by the federal authorities for the purpose of preventing what is styled as the lip and leg disease among sheep, an ailment somewhat similar to the foot and mouth disease in cattle.

There is one present day fad which has a deal of common sense to back it, and that is the rapidly increasing tendency of people in cities and smaller towns and in some cases the country of sleeping in tents on their porches or in their back yards. It has healthfulness and solid enjoyment to commend it.

The State Poultry association of Connecticut has brought pressure to bear on the members of the state legislature and secured the passage of a bill which compels dealers to sell eggs for what they really are. A placard must be placed in each receptacle containing eggs stating whether they are fresh or cold storage.

A good, square look at a piece of meat reeking with tuberculosis germs, and the exhibit is being made frequently these days, is calculated to make the consumer of meat and milk products thankful that some one in the past decade had patriotic concern enough for the public health to assist in giving this dread plague its present publicity.

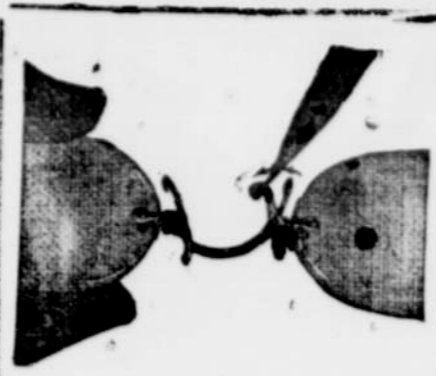
A Pennsylvania farmer we heard of the other day very effectively solved the problem of loosening up the clay hardpan soil of a long cropped field by sowing the field in the spring with seed of the long horn turnip and plowing the whole crop under in August. He found that the long taproots of the turnip had penetrated the hard soil to a foot or more, and when the roots decayed the field was very effectively perforated, making possible a ready circulation of air and moisture. Alfalfa performs a similar service in loosening the soil, but the turnips get action in a much shorter time.

With the long winter evenings approaching, plans for a systematic course of reading or study would be an excellent thing for the ambitious boy or girl who may not have all the advantages he or she desires. A bright young person could outline a very satisfactory course for himself, which, if followed out conscientiously, would be of great value to him, while to him who may have a trifle more spare time excellent courses of correspondence in special and even collegiate courses are offered by schools and universities of high standing. More than one earnest young student has acquired the major part of a college education in this way. The chief requirements are industry, patience and perseverance.

While it is true that a tract set apart as an orchard should not be turned into a hog lot, it is nevertheless worth remembering that it is a real benefit to the trees and results in fruit that is free from worms if a drove of hogs can be given the range of the orchard for three or four hours a day from the time when the windfall apples begin to litter the ground. These drops are usually wormy, and the worms are destroyed when the apples are consumed. When the drops reach a merchantable size the hogs may be kept out of the orchard until after harvest, when there will be considerable more stuff they will clean up. Besides cleaning up the apples and destroying a lot of worms, they will also devour a good many grubs and insects of one kind and another.

A plain spoken friend of the writer, in referring to the practice of those on a rural party telephone line in taking down their receivers and listening to conversations when their neighbors' ring sounded, dubbed it as "harkin' on the line." Not infrequently a telephone patron will not hear a call distinctly and will thus unwittingly overhear a conversation that does not concern him. There is excuse for this, but mighty little for the practice which prevails in some sections where from two to half a dozen receivers are taken down every time a ring is given for some other patron on the line. Those who have got the habit of "harkin' on the line" probably have given the practice little scrutiny, but in the last analysis it is akin to siddling up to two people engaged in private conversation on the street for the purpose of overhearing what they may have to say or secreting oneself behind a door or under a window to hear conversations not concerning him in the least. It makes matters no better that the offender cannot be detected, but rather the more disgusting and small. Where it develops into a habit it is an abject admission of insufficiency and poverty of both character and experience as well as prima facie evidence of morbid curiosity and poor breeding.

J. E. Trigg



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Notice of Sale of Tide Lands

Notice is hereby given that the State Land Board of the State of Oregon, will sell to the highest bidder, at its office in the Capital building at Salem, Oregon, on December 14, 1909, at 10:00 a. m., of said day, all the state's interest in the tide and overflow lands hereinafter described, giving however, to the owner or owners of any lands abutting or fronting on such tide and overflow lands, the preference right to purchase said tide and overflow lands at the highest price offered, providing such offer is made in good faith; and also providing that the land will not be sold nor any offer therefor accepted for less than \$5.00 per acre. The Board reserving the right to reject any and all bids.

Said lands are situated in Coos county, Oregon, and described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the meander line of the Coquille river at the northwest corner of lot 6, which said point is 1320 feet east and 1965 feet north from corners sections 17, 18, 19 and 20, running thence along meander line as follows, to-wit:

S 84° 0' E 130 feet.
S 74° 45' E 492 feet.
North 36 feet to low water line.
N 75° 15' W 257 feet along low water line.
N 75° 10' W 232 feet.
N 80° W 137 feet.
S 100 feet to place of beginning, containing 1.31 acres, being tide land fronting on west half of lot 6, sec 17, T 28, S R 14 W of W. M.

Applications and bids should be addressed to G. G. Brown, Clerk State Land Board, Salem, Oregon, and marked "Application and bid to purchase tide lands."

G. G. BROWN,
Clerk State Land Board.
Dated this Sept. 28, 1909.

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	Leaves	Arrives
Bandon		Coquille
Coquille,	6:00 a m	8:30 a m
	1:00 p m	3:00 p m
Dispatch,	7:00 a m	10:00 a m
Favorite,	1:30 p m	4:00 p m
	Leaves	Arrives
Coquille		Bandon
Favorite,	7:30 a m	10:30 a m
Coquille,	3:00 a m	11:30 a m
	4:00 p m	5:30 p m
Dispatch,	1:00 p m	5:00 p m

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