

FARM AND GARDEN

DWARF FRUIT ORCHARD.

Professor F. A. Waugh's Novel and Successful Enterprise.

One of the subjects relating to horticulture which demand deserved attention is the experiment of Professor F. A. Waugh of the Massachusetts Agricultural college in the production of dwarf fruits. The one-fourth acre dwarf fruit orchard there fruited heavily last season.



DWARF APPLE TREE IN FRUIT. (The kind they grow in Massachusetts.)

An editorial representative of the New England Home-stead inspected the orchard when it was in fruit and found the enterprise an unqualified success. All of the common fruits, such as apples, pears, plums, peaches, nectarines, etc., were found in the dwarf fruit garden. Fine large apples were seen growing on trees not half as tall as a man. The fruit in some instances was within two or three inches of the ground. In the case of pears the trees were about as high as one's head, and the limbs were literally loaded with delicious fruit. The peaches, too, were bearing heavily, and the close planting did not seem to injure the quality of the fruit.

In Professor Waugh's opinion dwarf apples are the most interesting and valuable of dwarf fruits. Of the forms under which they may be cultivated the simplest is the bush or vase form. They succeed very well as upright cordons and all the simpler modifications of this form. As the trees can be planted very close together (easily as close as fifteen inches), thus occupying very little room, a large number of them can be planted in very limited areas of the city lot or back yard.

The apple adapts itself admirably to horizontal cordons. Dwarf apples require practically the same cultivation and care as standard apples. The soil should be cultivated the early part of the summer and allowed to rest the latter part of the year. Cover crops may be sown during June or July, ac-



APPLES IN UPRIGHT CORDONS. (As grown at Massachusetts Agricultural college.)

ording to the custom in the usual orchard management. Practically all varieties of apples can be grown as dwarfs, though some succeed better than others.

Care in Using Feed Cutters.

Every little while we hear of a farmer losing a hand or arm in a silage cutter—one this week. This is usually caused either by stalks getting wedged in the feed rolls or a loose jacket sleeve getting caught in the fodder and pulling in the arm. Don't wear any but tight fitting or buttoned up clothing around a cutter or machinery of any kind for that matter. If stalks get wedged in feed rolls, do not put your hands near the rolls to straighten out matters. Use a large long stalk, or, better still, shut off the feed and straighten out things. Do not crowd the cutter and push with all your might. It will cut more corn if it is not crowded. If you have one of the old style feed cutters, where the corn must be pushed up to the rolls, stand so that you pull it in rather than push; then your elbow is the point that comes nearest the feed roll, and there is very little danger of an accident.—Rural New Yorker.

Looking Into Past and Future.

As we look over the past year and take note of its conditions and of our own experience, we should be able to note wherein we might have done better. He is a wise and practical person who is willing to profit by mistakes to the extent of changing his views and practices for what appears to be the better.

VALUABLE NOVELTIES.

Alfalfa From Siberia—Single Germ Sugar Beets.

In the bureau of plant industry at Washington the leading features of the work reported of the past year have been the co-operative demonstration work with farmers, fruit growers and others under the careful supervision of department experts and the introduction of new crops of economic value. One of the most important achievements in this latter line is the discovery of the existence of a Siberian alfalfa, a plant native on the dry steppes of Siberia, where the mercury freezes without snow, thus proving the ability of the plant to withstand without protection a temperature of 40 degrees below zero. This discovery may mark an epoch in the agriculture of the north-west prairie regions of the United States. Among other valuable plants introduced are a vigorous alfalfa from Arabia and the Tangier pea, which has yielded as high as nine tons of green feed per acre. With a view to increasing the matting industry the department's explorers have secured living plants of the best foreign varieties of rushes.

In the improvement of sugar beets the annual report further says:

"Good results have attended work in securing high grade strains of sugar beet seed, and especially satisfactory results have been secured in the development of the sugar beet seed containing a single germ, which will eliminate a considerable portion of the work of thinning."

MOSS IN PASTURES.

Sodium Nitrate Is Found to Be an Effective Remedy.

The moss knolls so common in our pastures are composed mainly of Polytrichum commune and less often of



A PEST IN OLD PASTURES.

a closely related species, Polytrichum juniperum. A pasture belonging to the Vermont experiment station and considerably infested with moss was used in these experiments.

Three plots, containing 100 square feet each, were measured off and lime, maple wood ashes and sodium nitrate applied at the rate of 5,000, 1,000 and 1,000 pounds respectively. Made application also on three plots containing ten square feet at the same rate, but worked into the soil. These materials were applied about Nov. 15, 1905, and about June 1 of the following year some action had already taken place.

Plot No. 1, containing lime as a top dressing, was little affected.

Plot No. 2, containing ashes as a top dressing, was little affected, except in those spots where the ashes happened to be particularly thick, in which places the moss was unhealthy and in some cases dead.

Plot No. 3, containing sodium nitrate as a top dressing, was greatly changed. More than half the moss was killed, and the greatly increased growth of grass bid fair to drive out the rest.

The three tilled portions were also considerably less acid, although not alkaline in reaction. The effect of lime when used as a top dressing is well known to be slow, and consequently later results may prove more favorable. This action shows how much the mosses are dependent on a certain kind of habitat in order to thrive and suggests the practicability of using the nitrate on lawns, etc., that are infested with mosses. In any case the better and more luxuriant grass produced would usually more than pay for the cost of trouble of application, concludes a writer in American Cultivator.

Nitrate of Soda is a Salt extremely easy to apply and with scarcely any smell. Its solubility and quick action make it especially effective during a rainy season.

Growing Fruit in Nebraska.

Not only is there no question about the water supply in western Nebraska as long as the rivers run, but soil cultivation is easier than under ditch irrigation. Not only is the elevation less than some of Colorado's most famous fruit districts, but the climate is at least equal to and very little different from that of Colorado. Cool nights, ample moisture and bright sunshine all combine to give the high coloring and fine quality which have made Colorado fruit famous. Western Nebraska has all of these.—E. F. S. in Orange Judd Farmer.

Manure in Cold Climates.

Many experiments, notably those made by the Michigan and Wisconsin stations in this country, have shown that barnyard manure is one of the most effective means of increasing the productivity of swamp or muck soils. This is thought to be due largely to the increase of available nitrogen brought about by the application of the manure. In cold climates, where the season is short and the conditions for rapid fermentation in the soil unfavorable, the use of fermented manure is preferable.—W. H. Beal.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

What This Great British Institution Represents.

At first sight there is not much likeness between the comfortable country gentlemen, retired lawyers, blase men of fashion and liberal subscribers to party funds, who now drop into rather than frequent their magnificent hall, and "the mail covered barons, who proudly to battle led their vassals from Europe to Palestine's plain" in the days of the Henrys and Edwards, but in one point the house has always maintained its character through centuries—it is an aristocracy of birth, but it is still more emphatically one of wealth. The law of entail and primogeniture has kept the landed estates together as far as the law can. Many have passed by heiresses to new names or been sold by spendthrift lords, many holders of ancient titles have lost the wealth that gilded their ancestors' coronets, but new peers are almost always rich, and a title is still an attraction to an heiress. We sometimes hear that the house of lords represents nothing. This is false. It represents property. Tennyson's new Lincolnshire farmer, whose horse's hoofs trotted "property, property, property," is the type of a vast number of Englishmen. Such men are not only content, but proud, to be represented by the house of lords. They know that as long as the lords have their say "property" will have a staunch body of organized champions.—William Everett in Atlantic.

NATURAL KITCHENS.

Places Where Cooking Is Done in Boiling Springs.

There are one or two countries—Iceland, for example—where washday is not dreaded, because nature provides the hot water at one's very door in the shape of steaming springs of spouting geysers. But there is only one country where the native women do practically all their cooking by unaided nature, and that is the North island of New Zealand. Here is a wonderland of a thousand square miles so volcanic that a fire may be lighted by inserting a few sticks in the earth, and wherever one makes a hole he speedily has a pool of boiling water, into which a pudding may be lowered incased in a cloth and cooked expeditiously.

Frequently in perfectly cold streams a boiling hot current may be seen and felt running along the edge of the river, and here the Maori women do their own and the white man's washing. Naturally the volcanic region of New Zealand is a dangerous country to wander in without a guide, and many tourists have lost their lives as the result of such carelessness. Maori servants boil coffee and eggs in this way.—New York Tribune.

A Vile Performance.

On the occasion of his brother's benefit Edwin Booth was standing behind the scenes when a character actor who had been giving imitations of noted actors was about to respond to an encore.

"Whom do you imitate next?" inquired Booth.

"Well," was the reply, "I was going to represent you in Hamlet's soliloquy, but if you look on I'm afraid I shall make a mess of it."

"Suppose I imitate myself?" remarked the tragedian, and, hastily putting on the other actor's wig and buttoning up his coat, he went on and delivered his well known lines.

Next morning the newspapers stated that the imitations ruined the performance, "the personation of Edwin Booth being simply vile enough to make hat actor shudder had he seen it."—Colorado Blade.

Costly Windsor Castle.

No royal castle has cost Great Britain more in hard cash than that of Windsor, says the London Chronicle. When George IV. announced his intention of making it a family residence parliament granted him £300,000 toward its reconstruction. For four years the work went merrily on under fresh grants, and the king then took possession of the private apartments. That did not end the expenditure however. By the time William IV. had satisfied himself that there was nothing more to be done the castle had swallowed up close to a million pounds.

Pope's Skull.

The skull of Alexander Pope, the poet and satirist, is in the private collection of a phenologist. During some alterations in the churchyard where Pope was buried it was necessary to move his coffin, which was opened at the time to ascertain the state of his remains. By bribing the sexton of the church possession of the poet's skull was obtained for the night, and in the morning a different skull was returned instead. The cost of the skull, including the bribe, was £50.

His Stubbornness.

"Haven't you and your friend got through that argument yet?" asked a parent of his youngest son.

"It isn't any argument," answered the boy. "I am merely telling Jimmie the facts in the case, and he is so beastly stubborn that he won't understand."—Chums.

Escaping the Organ Grinders.

Reside close to a dentist's if you are not fond of street music. Itinerant organ men carefully avoid playing anywhere near the house of a practitioner who can effectually stop or remove all troublesome grinders.—London Punch.

A niggardly rich man does not own his estate; his estate owns him.—Blon

ANOTHER WRECK.

On S. P.—Caused Excitement in Corvallis Friday.

For the second time within a month or six weeks there was a wreck on the S. P. railroad, Friday, between this city and Portland. The train that is due in Corvallis at 11:45 did not get in until 4:30 and there was considerable excitement and worry among local residents until it was learned that no Corvallis people had been injured. The story of the wreck is told in Saturday's Oregonian as follows:

Train No. 2, the Corvallis passenger, which left Portland yesterday morning at 7 o'clock was derailed at 11 o'clock a mile north of McCoy, Polk county. Fourteen persons were hurt, two seriously.

Benjamin Schofield, of Cornelius, sustained the most serious injuries. Mr. Schofield is well known in the Willamette Valley, and is a regent of the Monmouth Normal School.

E. N. Burwell, who lives at 505 Williams avenue, the postal clerk on the train, was also quite badly hurt, but will recover.

The five cars of the train, three of which were well filled with passengers, left the rails and turned over, almost clear of the track. The locomotive remained upright, with only one truck off the rails.

There were wild scenes in the passenger coaches when the crash came. Passengers were thrown from their seats. A coal stove was overturned in one of the cars and one woman's dress caught fire. This caused intense excitement as the doors of the cars were jammed shut and escape from cremation seemed impossible. The fire was extinguished however, and the doors of the cars were beaten down, allowing the imprisoned passengers to escape.

The cause of the accident was not reported to the Portland offices of the Southern Pacific Saturday. Conflicting reports were received, a broken rail and spreading rails being assigned as causes of the accident.

Additional Local.

Jack Milne moved his cigar store yesterday into his new location one door north of the Spencer barber shop, formerly occupied by the Fisher music store.

F. L. Miller had planned to go to California since last October, but was afraid of earthquakes. He at last got up courage and started, arriving in San Francisco last Thursday. That same evening there was an earthquake. He wrote to the clerks in his Corvallis store that at last, in his old age, he was rocked to sleep—by an earthquake.

B. W. Lacy is up from Portland for a visit with friends.

Bert Yates, formerly of this city, is now at Pendleton. He is still in the employ of the North Bank railroad and his salary has recently increased to \$75 per month.

Attorney W. E. Yates came up from Vancouver Sunday for a few days' visit. He reports everything as moving along nicely with himself and family. He returns today.

The K. O. T. M. and lady Maccabee social given last week was a success from every standpoint. About 100 people were present at the clam and crab banquet. The program rendered was an excellent one as follows: Grand march by Degree team in uniform; cornet solo, Prof. Harry Beard; recitation, Fenton Starr; instrumental solo, Prof. Frank White; vocal duet, Misses Hubler and Kyle; instrumental solo, Mrs. Carl Hodes; recitation, Edgar Starr; comic ballad, Arthur Boquet; instrumental solo, Miss McBride; instrumental solo, Prof. Frank White; cornet solo, (by special request), Prof. Harry Beard.

How It Struck Her.

"You seemed greatly impressed," said the minister, "with my description of how they brought the head of John the Baptist before the king on a salver."

"Yes," sighed Mrs. De Style: "I was thinking how much better they trained servants in those days. Now, mine, when they bring me things, are forever forgetting the salver."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

A Sure Way.

First Author—Oh, the unutterable monotony of existence! I am thoroughly disgusted with it all. Would that I might completely disappear for a while. Second Author—Then why don't you marry a famous woman?—Judge.

Her Mourning.

Maud—Why is that lady over the way always in black? Is she mourning for any one? Bess—Yes, a husband. Maud—I didn't know she'd been married. Bess—No, but she's mourning for a husband all the same.

Of Course.

Professor (a little distracted)—I'm glad to see you. How's your wife?

"I regret it, professor, but I'm not married."

"Ah, yes. Then of course your wife's still single."—Fliegende Blatter.

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