

The Orchard on the Grain Farm

If You Don't Care For It, Cut It Down—if Your Wife Will Let You. It Needs Care, However.

THE ORCHARD on the grain farm is usually an object worthy of pity and compassion—a poor thing. It was planted because the farmer thought it would not be home without an orchard. The trees were not carefully selected in the first place. Too many of them were summer and fall apples. The farmer took pride in it while it was growing and looked promising; but even before it began to bear he neglected it.

He allowed the borers to get in their work, and a percentage of the trees died. He allowed the rabbits to bark the trees in the winter. He allowed the hogs to run in it and rub against the trees. He failed to prune. He did not spray because he had not the time. He allowed it to grow up in weeds, possibly in blue grass. Then, after it had borne for three or four years, and he was dissatisfied with the fruit, he began to wonder why he ever planted an orchard. He began to figure that if he had never planted it, but had grown corn on the land, he would be much further ahead now without expense. The net result is that the average orchard on the farm is unproductive, does not pay, and the farmer wishes he had never planted it; that even 50 bushels of corn per acre would have been worth two or three times as much as all the fruit he ever got off that orchard. The orchard then becomes a preferred breeding place for orchard pests.

Cut It Down.

What should be done with an orchard of this kind? If your wife will let you, you had probably better cut down the trees, grub out the stumps, and plant corn. We suspect she won't allow you to do it. It would not seem like home without an orchard. In that case,

Fruit Distribution Is Discussed

IN DISCUSSING the business side of fruit distribution at the recent meeting in Chicago of the Second National Conference on Marketing and Farm Credits, Charles W. Holman of the University of Wisconsin and secretary of the Conference, gave seven reasons why marketing associations fail:

1. A wrong type of organization.
2. The failure to pay good salaries and expect efficient service.
3. A half-hearted feeling among the producers, which led them to follow false gods of antagonistic interests that were combining for the purpose of disrupting the local organization.
4. Failure on the part of the local associations to federate with each other to obtain strong selling power and to develop strong purchasing power.
5. Failure to provide for proper inspection and auditing services.
6. Failure to guarantee the product and protect the guarantee by the credit of the organization.
7. The spread of tenancy through some twenty-six states of the Union.

Get Down to Facts.

"Such causes are to be expected in the present development of the farmer as a business man, for we must remember that the evolution of farm business is at least a generation behind the evolution of other forms of business. There are many fundamental causes for this condition, which have been dwelt upon by other speakers and by many writers.

"It is customary to discuss the farmers' co-operative movement somewhat in the same way that people discuss the single tax or the co-operative commonwealth, as a movement of beautiful idealism. Very few people have as yet gotten down to the actual dollars and cents point of view in discussing this thing.

Organization Is Thing.

"And after all we do not care whether it is the non-profit-making corporation, or the joint stock company, or the partnership agreement, or whatever form of organization that the farmer's business may take, provided that in the running of that business he gets the thing that is now

there's only one thing to do; and that is take care of it.

If it has been growing up in weeds, plow it up, sow it to clover, and thus fertilize it. Scrape the rough bark off the trees, whitewash them, prune them, and if you can, head them out low, so that the fruit can be gathered easily. Learn how to spray, and then spray every tree. We are not telling you how to spray. If you are interested, you will send to your experiment station and get a spraying calendar. If you are not interested, you would not do it if we should tell you how.

Orchard Business Apart.

We don't advise farmers to go into commercial orcharding. That's a separate business by itself. No farm, however, is really a farm unless it has an orchard. What you want is fruit enough for your family, and in good years some to give away to the people in the neighborhood, and perhaps in town, who do not have an orchard. Don't do any half-way job. Either make the orchard a delight, an ornament to the farm, a joy to your wife, and a double joy to your children, or else dig it up. Anything is better than a run-down, neglected orchard.

It will cost you something to spray; but if the farmers in any neighborhood determine that they are going to have orchards, as they should for the sake of the farmers, the wives and the children, and the farms themselves, it is easy to arrange for some man to spray all the orchards in the neighborhood, to keep the trees pruned, and give directions as to how to take care of them. The orchard in the corn belt takes the place of the vine and fig tree in ancient Israel; and the man who does not have one is not living up to his privileges as an American farmer.

necessary for the welfare of himself and his family and his community—a living price above the cost of his farm and selling operations."

The reasons for the failure of marketing associations as given by Mr. Holman are not all that may be discovered, but fruit growers who have watched the rise and fall of marketing organizations will find among these seven reasons, at least one which has contributed to the downfall of their organization. And furthermore, these marketing associations which are now in existence and are somewhat uncertain about the success they will make, need to consider these reasons for failure, find the leak in their ranks and proceed to make the changes and adjustments that will lead on to success.

CHERRY GUMOSIS, REMEDY.

THE Corvallis experiment station recommends for gumosis of the cherry to clean off the affected parts, removing bark and the gum and any decayed material, then disinfect with a solution of 1 part corrosive sublimate to 1000 parts of water. This will help to heal, but the original cause is perhaps imperfect transformation of cambium into wood; likely to occur when the trees grow too rank and late in the fall.

Tree Wash.

To the Editor.—Please give formula for making whitewash for peach trees.

S. L. R.

Dissolve as much common washing soda as you can in six gallons of water; then dissolve one gallon of ordinary soap to the above; slake some lime to a rather thick paste and add enough of this to make a thick whitewash. Scrape off the loose bark, if any, also remove the soil from the base of trunk, digging out the borers if you see signs of them, then apply the wash freely from the larger limbs to the ground, then replace the soil about the tree.

Two more European capitals, Vienna and Bucharest, have been connected by a direct telephone line.

A new electric churn for household use is operated by a motor of only one-thirtieth of a horsepower.

Electro-magnets operate a new sewing machine without the use of internal shafts and gearing.

Feeding Field Peas Proves Success

HENRY ROSENBERG, who is farming a 1700-acre wheat ranch a few miles out of Pendleton, Oregon, has for the last three years had four acres planted to Canadian field peas.

He considers them very fine for hog feed, because on account of the small amount of work and trouble they place him to compared to the amount of value he figures they are to him.

Beginning about the first of June he turns his hogs in on them and from that time on he bothers no further in regard to them.

They clean the patch up entirely, eating everything, peas, pods, vines and as much of the root as they can root out.

Last year he ran from 35 to 50 pigs on his patch and will probably put in as many or more this year than he did last. He says there is no danger of volunteer peas if one wishes to discontinue raising them at any time, for the pigs clean them up by fall so clean that it is impossible to find a single pea upon the ground.

Some Experiments in Salting Butter.

A report received by the Department of Agriculture of experiments made by the Ontario agricultural station showed that salt added to butter in a wet condition was better distributed and more in solution than were the dry salt lots. The average percentage of moisture retained in the finished butter was practically the same with both saltings. Tests on the retention of salt in the butter by the two methods do not agree. Butter churned to about the size of wheat granules contained more moisture and less salt than did similar butters churned to lump size. Grittiness in butter was found to be due to an overabundance of salt. It was found that a saturated salt solution contained, on an average, 29.25 per cent salt. Quantities of salt ranging from 4.29 to 5.77 pounds per 100 pounds of butter were added to churnings, with a resulting retention of salt of from 3.156 to 3.45 pounds, the loss being accounted for in the churn water and on the worker. A loss of moisture and salt in butter was found in the process of printing and packing, and after one, two and three months in cold storage there was a steady decrease in moisture content, the salt content remaining fairly uniform.

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