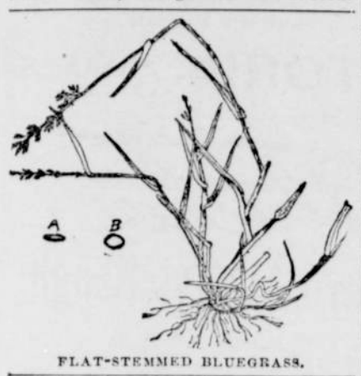
Flat-stemmed Bluegrass.

A correspondent writes to the Ohio Farmer inquiring the name for an enclosed sample of grass. The Farmer replies that the grass included with this letter is flat-stemmed blue grass, Poa compressa L. It grows in dense tufts, forming a thick but usually intermittent sward. It spreads by underground stems shown in figure, and hence often, in light soils, rapidly invades the meadows. It is a good grass in many respects, but is so much less productive than Kentucky bluegrass, Poa pratensis L., that many persons entertain a rather low opinion of its merits. The specific name, "compressa," refers to its flattened stems or culms, in contrast with the commonly cylindrical ones. This character, with its short blades and wiry stiffness, permits a ready recognition of flat-stemmed bluegrass; A, in the cut, is a cross section of a stem, and b, of an ordinary round stem grass.



FLAT-STEMMED BLUEGRASS.

Cultivation and Apple Trees.

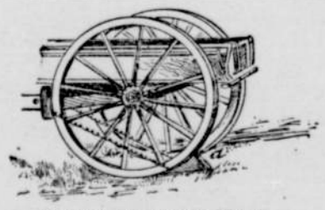
At the Nebraska station a study was made of the effect of cultivation on the growth of apple trees, the size of fruit and the water contents of the soil. A small orchard was divided into three parts, one of which was cultivated regularly and the other two left in grass and weeds, one of the latter being mowed and the other pastured by hogs. The report says: "Trees in cultivated ground suffered noticeably less from the drought and hot winds of summer than those in sod ground. The foliage was darker and more vigorous in appearance, and there was no yellowing and dropping of the leaves, nor wilting during hot, windy days, both of which occurred with uncultivated trees. Apples from cultivated land averaged nearly 14 per cent larger in weight than those from pasture land and over 17 per cent larger than those from mowed land."—Grange Homes.

How Salt Helps Fertility.

While the soda and chlorine of salt have no manural properties, there is often a decided effect from using salt as topdressing for land that has organic matter. Only very small amounts are used per acre, and thus used the salt hastens decomposition, and this sets free whatever carbonic acid gas or ammonia the organic matter contains. Salt is usually thought of as a preservative. It is so when in amounts large enough to pickle what it is applied to. When carbonic acid gas is liberated, that acts as a solvent on the inert potash and phosphate that the soil contains, thus often serving in place of those minerals at much less cost than if they were bought and applied.

A Brake Block.

This is used by teamsters in mountainous regions. A three-cornered block, a, of wood is fastened by chains or wired to the brake beam of a wagon so that it will drag on the ground about 2 inches behind one of the rear wheels of the wagon. The driver stops to rest his team, and instead of applying the brake the team is allowed to slacken its traces so the weight of the load will rest on the self-acting chock block.



EFFECTIVE BRAKE BLOCK.

When the team starts again the team merely has to start the load instead of having to pull against the brake until it can be loosened.—American Agriculturist.

Gapes.

Since so many lose their chickens with this dreadful disease, if it may be called such, I will give what I consider a preventive, says a writer in Practical Poultryman. At from three to four weeks old I give a litle whey to drink that is very sour. Recently I did not have any, and at four weeks of age I found one chicken with gapes. I placed a basin on the stove with a little sour milk in, and after the curd had separated I let it sour a day or so and gave to my chickens, and have seen no more gapes since. Always have plenty of water by chickens so they will not drink too much.

Small Celery Best.

There is a great difference in the quality of celery, and this makes the size a matter of comparatively little account. The giant varieties of celery are now superseded in favor of dwarf kinds that are crisp and nutty in flavor. Something, however, depends on the soil and method of growing. A moist soil makes the celery grow much fuller of its native juices than one which is dry. The soil can hardly be too rich, for the quicker the growth the better it is, whatever the variety. Celery that is any way stunted becomes stringy, and if it is checked by drought it will have comparatively little of the characteristic celery flavor.

Pruning Vines in Summer.

The chief art in gardening consists in not allowing our plants to have their own willful way, but to make them behave as we want them to. Vines generally make desperate attempts to get to the top of a bush or tree that they twine around, and the lower portion is nothing but a series of naked stems. When we set them to trellises we want this proceeding reversed. We desire as many branches close to the ground as at the extreme upper portion of the pole or frame on which they are supported. The educated gardener understands how to do this. The grower of grapes under glass has to know how to do it, as otherwise he would have grapes in the apex of the roof and nowhere else. He applies the same principle to the growth of flowering vines out of doors as to his grapes under glass, or to the grapes in the outdoor garden, for that matter, with equal results.

The art is very simple. It is simply to pinch out the apex of the strong growing shoots that want to get up still higher, and leave the struggling shoots at the base alone. The growth force, suddenly checked by the topping of the upper shoots, has to be expended somewhere, just as the sudden stoppage of water being forced through a pipe may burst that pipe. It is diverted to the lower and weaker shoots, which become, before the season is over, as strong as the upper ones.

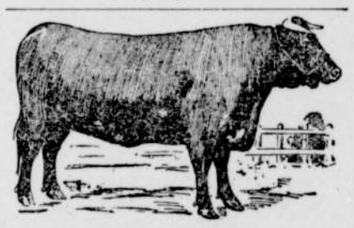
In the hands of a good gardener a grapevine trellis will have fruit over every part of its surface—and have as fine fruits at the apex as at the base. But how rarely do we see these masters of the art; and how simple the art is, after all.—Meehan's Monthly.

Ventilation of Horses' Stables.

Good ventilation of stables with plenty of light should be provided for horses in summer. Many horses are kept in underground stables. This is very bad, especially in summer, when excrement rots very quickly, filling the stables with ammonia. This is very injurious to horses' eyes, especially if the stable be rather dark. This causes enlargement of the pupil of the eye, and the change to bright sunlight when the horse is brought out of the stable often results in making him blind. It is worse if there are one or two small windows where sunlight can come in. The underground stable should in summer be unusued; it is tolerable only in cold weather.

Welsh Heifer.

The Welsh heifer shown in the picture is the property of Col. H. Platt, Gorddinog, Llanfairfechan, Wales. She is the winner of first prize at the show of the Royal Agricultural Society of England in Birmingham.



WELSH HEIFER.

Feeding Clover to Fowls.

The very common advice to feed clover to hens as an aid to egg production needs to have a caution attached to it. If hens have grain with the clover they will not probably eat too much of the lighter food for their good. But exclusive reliance on cut clover as winter feed for a day or two may so clog the gizzard with light indigestible food that when grain is given it only makes the matter worse by furnishing more heating material to ferment in the crop. Wherever much grain is given to fowls they become too fat to lay, and it is such hens that are most likely to be crop bound.

Ridding Land of Bushes.

Most farmers are infested to a greater or less extent with bushes, which are exhaustive of fertility and patience, and are unsightly. They are cut regularly each spring, but continue to come up and multiply. It is a fact not generally known that if they be grubbed up during "dog days," or at the time when they have about attained their growth for the year, 99 per cent. of them will be effectually killed and the rest so enfeebled that they will do but little harm the next season, and can be easily killed at the second grubbing.

Fertilizing Growing Corn.

Top dressing with well-composted manure is fast coming to the front with our farmers for a growing corn crop. Try spreading when the corn is two feet high and you will find it works wonders. If droppings from the hen house are available, keep them dry; add some dry ashes if convenient, scatter along the row tightly and you will find it beats any brand of special commercial fertilizer.

Kerosene for Killing Mosquito Larvae

To be very effective the kerosene must cover the surface of the water where these pests develop to a perceptible depth. A mere film will not answer. The cost of this method will be prohibitive, except in thickly settled communities and on small bodies of water.

Black Marsh Soils.

Marsh soils are usually considered so rich that fertilizers are not necessary. Experiments show that they respond very well to applications of farmyard manure and often to coarse litter, if well worked in, but commercial fertilizers other than an application of potash have but little influence.

The old log house near Galesburg, Mich., in which General Shafter was born, is to be torn down and the property sold. During the fighting before Santiago the place was visited by hundreds of relic hunters, who carried away much of the structure as souvenirs.

James Bryce is making a study of the goverment of colonies by republics, which is to have special application to the United States.

The fastest flowing river in the world is the Sutlej, in British India, with a descent of 12,000 feet in 180 miles.

In the middle of a game of tennis in Central India the other day a tiger bounded into the midst of the players.

Until the reign of Henry VIII., English sovereigns, as well as their subjects, ate with the fingers.

In Mexico school children are allowed to smoke in school hours when their lessons are well prepared.

It has been observed in the hospitals that nails on amputated fingers continue to grow.

Last year the tourists from the United States and elsewhere left over $500,000 in Nova Scotia, and a great increase is fully expected this year.

Far away from civilization gesture language is still extant in Australia. Some of the tribes possess such an excellent code that it is almost as efficient as the spoken language.

IN AND ABOUT A MINE.

Blind Lode—One that shows no surface croppings.

Placer—Alluvial deposits; earth containing gold dust.

Foot Wall—The lower wall or side of a lode or vein.

Cap-rock—The formation overlaying the pay dirt or ore.

Wall—Boundary of vein, lode or ledge and inclosing the same.

Breasting—Taking ore from the face of a mine or head of a drift.

Adit—A tunnel or vein or lode—a passage for water underground.

Shaft—A vertical or incline excavation for prospecting or working mines.

Hanging Wall—The upper wall; the rock or wall resting on the lode or vein.

Deposit—A body of ore distinct from a ledge; a pocket of gravel or pay dirt.

Croppings—Ledge matter lying upon the surface, or the outcropping of a vein.

Upraise—Running a drift upward or rising above a shaft or level, instead of sinking.

Winze—A shaft connecting one drift level with another, but not reaching to the surface.

Horse—A mass of wall or rock or other barren matter obtruding into an unbearing lode or fissure.

Contact Lode—A lode lying between two different kinds of rock, as, for example, porphyry and slate.

Bed-rock—The bed of a metalliferous deposit, commonly applied to the slate underlying auriferous gravel.

Drifts—Tunnels leading off from the main shaft, or from other tunnels or levels through and along the vein.

Lode—A longtitudinal fissure or chasm filled with ore bearing matter and having well-defined side walls; lode, lead, vein and ledge are synonymous.

Reserves—Ore reserves are the vein material still standing in the mine between the shafts and the levels that have been driven in or through the vein.

It is best to beware how you tell your dreams. The very latest decision of person 'way up in Boston and psychology is that the true spiritual condition of the mind is revealed by the dreams rather than by waking experiences.

Legal determination of what constitutes a spendthrift is likely to come out of a suit over a will in Chicago. T. W. T. Palmer, who was left an income of $20,000 by the will of his mother, Mrs. Benedict, is suing for the estate, valued at some $600,000; and the trustees allege that he is a spendthrift because he spent $100,000 in two years, and offer to prove that he lost $50,000 in three months on the New York Stock Exchange. Whether losing money in this way makes a man a spendthrift will then be left for the jury to determine.

The London Daily News says that the Russian man-of-war Gerzog Edinburskskij, whose officers and men were recently the recipients of Swedish courtesy at Kariskrona, reciprocated by secretly taking soundings, under cover of darkness, until they were discovered by the governor of the fortress Kariskrona, is the chief naval station of Sweden; its approaches are well fortified by modern naval defenses, and it has also a ship channel which is difficult of navigation.

It takes a snail 14 days and five hours to travel a mile.

The oldest university in the world is at Pekin, China. It is called the "School for the Sons of the Epmire." Its antiquity is very great, and a granite register, consisting of stone columns, 320 in number, contains the names of 60,000 graduates.

PORTLAND DIRECTORY.