

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

ITEMS OF TIMELY INTEREST TO THE FARMERS.

ING FOR MOWING AND PASTURE—Reclaiming Peat Marshes.

YOUNG COCKERELS AS BROILERS.

The best time to thin out surplus fowls, especially the cockerels, is when they attain the right size for broilers. They will bring more than after they have attained full growth in the fall, when most of the thinning out is usually done by farmers, and when the market is sure to be glutted. For early broilers in June and the fore part of July an extra price can generally be obtained, as the market then is not so well supplied as it is later.—Boston Cultivator.

GRAPES WITH LITTLE LAND.

It is a lesson to most farmers to go into the crowded city and see how much use is made of small plots of land that they would consider not worth anything. We have seen grape vines trained up beside houses but a little distance from them, when all the land they could use was comprised in a few square feet. The trellises were made as high or nearly as high as the building, and most of the fruit was on its upper portions, out of reach of the passers by on the street. The finest grapes are thus grown, and they are earlier by several days than on trellises away from buildings. In the country, if the kitchen is on the south side of the house, a trellis with grape vine should be put four or five feet away, to protect the kitchen from sunshine.

BLANKETS FOR COWS.

Blanket cows in summer to protect from attacks of flies and other insects, which cause the loss of large quantities of milk and cream because of this constant fretting of the cows. Where only a few are kept, or where the pasture is free from bushes, through which cattle delight to crowd, one may abate the nuisance of fly time to a great extent by light blankets of burlap. Cut this in the form of a rectangle and sew in stout cord to tie at base of tail—like a crupper—at the breast, and beneath the body, just back of the forelegs, passing the end up from this tying between the forelegs and into the string at the breast. This and the crupper ties will keep the blanket from slipping out of place. Burlap can be had at drygoods store for a trifle. It comes about bales of goods, and the comfort an animal will experience from a blanket made from it will pay one largely for the trouble.—American Agriculturist.

PREVENTING SCOURS IN CALVES.

I milk my cows for the butter that is in the milk, writes C. L. Gabilson in Hoard's Dairyman, and I cannot afford to let the calves have it. I therefore, feed skim milk. The great trouble in feeding this way is scours; but I have learned that this difficulty can be entirely prevented by the use of rennet extract, to be given with the skim milk as we get it from the deep setting cans. We make a business of dairying, and the calves must take their chances with the skim milk, and everyone knows the difficulty in feeding this skim milk. If we increase the quantity a little or have it too cold, the calf's digestion is upset and scours follow. I accidentally stumbled on to the use of rennet extract in liquid form, which can be bought for \$1.50 per gallon, and is of such strength that one teaspoonful is enough for ten calves getting four quarts each of milk at a feed, to prevent any danger from scours. With this adjunct, skim milk can be fed with as great safety as new milk, and now I can put my calves on skim milk in about five days. I feed the milk at a temperature of about eighty degrees at first, but after two months I reduce it to sixty-five or seventy degrees. The rennet extract never fails to prevent scours.

EFFECT OF DETASSLING CORN.

At various times it has been thought that the removal of the tassel of the corn plant would result in a larger yield. This was based on the admitted fact that a large amount of energy is used in the development of the flower and the production of pollen. A number of tests were made to determine the facts in the case. Of course it was necessary to allow enough pollen to be produced to fertilize the silks. In most of the tests, therefore, the tassels were removed from every alternate row, pulled out as soon as they appeared, or three rows were detasseled and one left untouched. At the Cornell station detasseled corn produced a slightly greater yield during the first two years, but the third year there was practically no benefit. In Nebraska, detasseled corn resulted in decreased yields. Here the tassels were cut off instead of being pulled out, as was the case in New York. In Maryland the yield was decreased by the practice. In Kansas

detasseled fields produced slightly the most corn. In Illinois, tests were made during two years. In both cases it was evident that no greater yield was produced by rows that had been detasseled. It will be seen, therefore, that the question has by no means been determined.

gated. One thing, however, is certain—the ordinary farmer can with profit leave the matter for experiment station men to determine. There is evidently not enough benefit in detasseled for the commercial grower to practice it, and if better seen can be produced, let trained investigators prove it.—New England Homestead.

GRASS SEEDING FOR MOWING AND PASTURE.

It is generally customary to mow for a year or two land that is to be eventually turned into a permanent pasture field, says J. C. Watson of the Pennsylvania Experiment Station. The clovers, particularly, fit the field for permanent pasture grasses. The grasses are, without exception, what at the present time are termed nitrogen consumers, the legumes are nitrogen gatherers.

While clovers that are used mostly for forage crops do not improve themselves well in the land, they are particularly fitted to precede plants that require nitrogen. The clovers, through the aid of bacteria, make use of a considerable amount of free nitrogen of the atmosphere. While it is not expected that red clovers or alsike will maintain themselves very long in the pasture field, yet their decaying roots and stems leave a good deal of this valuable food, nitrogen, for the grass, which will come naturally.

If the seeding is to be made after wheat, and mowed for a year or two before being pastured, sow largely clover and timothy, particularly if it is in a locality where bluegrass will come in naturally and form a thick turf in a short time. If it is not a natural bluegrass country, then some bluegrass should be sown; from one-half bushel to a bushel per acre. The timothy should be sown in the field at the time of or soon after seeding to wheat, at the rate of two to four quarts per acre, or it may be sown in corn at the last cultivating. Sow in the spring a mixture of three parts red clover to one part of alsike, at the rate of eight to twelve pounds per acre.

A valuable grass that at the present time is attracting attention is *Festuca elatior*, called meadow fescue. This grass is well calculated to maintain itself with other grasses under somewhat adverse conditions. Besides being tenacious and hardy, it is very nutritious. If some of the seed of this grass can be procured, it should by all means be sown with the Kentucky bluegrass. The fescue I refer to is variety pratensis, a nutritious, hardy persistent grass that will gain a foothold in a well-established bluegrass sod. It is a much shorter grass than the English F. elatior, which grows abundantly in bottom lands and ditches.

KEEPING HEDGES.

One of the principle objections urged against the employment of live fences or hedges is the cost of keeping them in efficient repair, for it admits of no qualification that unless they receive proper attention they will prove to be of but little value as a fence against live stock.

Unfortunately, our best hedge plants so far are of strong growth, especially when young, and consequently require to be trimmed two or three times during the summer, at least for several years after planting, and this at a time when farm crops demand attention, so that in a vast number of cases the hedge is neglected, and soon ceases to be serviceable. The best hedge plant is one that could be kept by winter trimming only because in that season of comparative leisure it would probably receive attention, but with such strong growing plants as the osage orange and honey locust, or two popular hedge plants, it is impracticable to produce a close fence without frequent summer trimmings. There is one thing, however, which should be put to their credit, that, after a few years, the growth will be less profuse; the weakening effect of continued summer pruning ultimately weakens the plants, so that they become easier managed. This also prevents them from sending out their roots to a great distance, so that they do not interfere with cultivated crops, an evil which soon becomes visible when a hedge is neglected and allowed to take care of itself. When a hedge gets into a condition that one summer trimming and one winter trimming will keep it in fairly good condition the labor and cost is reduced to a minimum. It will also have a tendency to retard the exuberance of early growth if the winter trimming is delayed until after the buds begin to push in spring. This will make a difference of several weeks in regard to summer trimming, and will prove of some importance when summer is confined to one operation.

The weakest part of a hedge is always nearest the ground. The criterion of a well-kept hedge is that of thickness at the bottom; this should also be its widest part, and it should taper upwards to a point. Unless this form is strictly maintained, the lower

branches will gradually weaken and ultimately the tree, leaving such which are not evenly closed. Hedges which become weak and full of gaps through neglect may be renewed by cutting them down in early winter to within eighteen inches or so from the ground; the plants will then branch out vigorously, and by proper pruning soon

RECLAIMING PEAT MARSHES.

Marsh lands vary very greatly in their character, and consequently in the best method for their treatment. In a general way, it must be said that all such lands, before they can become suitable for general agricultural purposes, must be drained, and sooner or later tile-drained. Tile draining is always to be recommended rather than draining by open ditches. If the peat is well decomposed and not more than eighteen inches thick, the best method of treatment is to tile drain at once; but if the peat is not well decomposed, and this is, if it is coarse and fibrous, and brown in color, having a thickness of more than eighteen inches, then usually, in such cases, open ditches should first be resorted to. The necessity for open ditches, in such cases, grows out of the fact that undecomposed peat, when drained, shrinks very greatly and settles, so that the surface may fall ten to twenty inches during the process of drying. If the tiles are laid in such lands at once, the danger is that they will be found too near the surface for effective work when the land has become dried. After such land has laid two or three years, and the peat has settled, then the open ditches may be deepened and the field properly tile-drained.

For heavy, fibrous soils, tile draining is the only suitable way to bring them under good agricultural conditions. Wherever possible the tile in these lands should be laid not less than two and one-half to three feet, and the lines of tile should usually be no further apart than seventy-five to 100 feet, three-inch tile being used for the laterals, and a larger size for the main drains, the size of the mains varying with the number of laterals and amount of ground drained. If the lands are very flat, so as to require careful leveling in order that the drains may be properly laid, it will be found best in the end to put such work under the supervision of a man who understands thoroughly tile draining, for otherwise a considerable expense might be incurred, resulting in an unsatisfactory piece of work.

The best grasses for such lands are reedtop and timothy, both doing well where the ground is properly drained. On the black marsh soils, too, corn and oats thrive, but there are usually found in many of these lands spots where corn fails to develop, or where it may start out well, but soon become yellow and die. On such spots farmyard manure usually exercises a very beneficial effect, but just what is the cause of this dying out of corn, or failure to develop, is yet an unsettled problem. It should be said that these marsh lands, when they are once thoroughly drained, become the most valuable and productive lands we have, and where there is not too thick a layer of undecomposed peat, there is usually but little risk to run in improving such lands, where these are so situated as to be easily underdrained.

Clever Trick of a Sheep.

Two years ago a lamb owned by a gentleman whose farm lies close to Lough Foyle was left motherless, says the London Spectator. A yardman in charge of the flock nursed and fed the little orphan. She became very tame and was much petted by her master's children. Last year she had grown into a young sheep, with a lamb of her own. One day some dogs ran through the pasture grounds, and the frightened flock scattered and fled through the field, which was a large one, sloping toward the shore. The yardman, Aleck, banished the intruders and collected the sheep, as he supposed, into safety.

An hour or two afterward the pet sheep rushed past the dwelling house, apparently in great distress. With piteous bleatings she went to the lodge gate, where Aleck was sitting at his noonday meal, and coming close to him, seemed to seek his help. As he rose from the table she ran out of the house and straight through the pasture to the shore. He followed her and soon saw the cause of her alarm. Her lamb, terrified by the dogs, had fled to a little peninsula among the rocks, which the incoming tide had transformed into an island. Of course, it could not cross the strait, and the mother could not save it, therefore, she applied to the power and sympathy of her human friend. Her trust in his help was not disappointed, and she and her rescued offspring were soon reunited.

Mission of a Russian Prince.

Prince Ootomski, the confidential adviser of the czar, is especially interested with the mission of every where following the footsteps of Li Hung Chang as the latter pursued his way from one European court to another. It will be the function of Ootomski at T. P. in Egypt and elsewhere, quietly to undo the diplomacy of the old Chinese.

NEWS SENT TO MILLIONS.

WORK OF TELEGRAPH COMPANIES DURING A POLITICAL CONVENTION.

The Elaborate Bulletin and Ticker System of the Western Union Telegraph Company—Providing Light for the

A question as to how many of the millions of men in these United States became aware inside of twenty-four hours after action by the two conventions that McKinley or Bryan had been nominated as candidates for the presidency is one that no human being can answer. But it is not unreasonable to assert that nine-tenths, or even a greater proportion, were informed at some minute in the period indicated who the nominees were. This marvelous achievement was accomplished primarily by that elusive element electricity, plain and practical men being its masters.

According to Mr. W. B. Somerville, the veteran superintendent of the press bureau of the Western Union Telegraph Company, that corporation's wires carried out of Chicago, from the beginning to the end of the Democratic convention, more words and figures than were ever transmitted from Chicago or any other city in the world on any occasion. The Western Union's comparatively youthful rival, the Postal, is said also to have exceeded its previous records in the number of words sent by its operators from Chicago during the convention. Both companies sent millions of words from St. Louis regarding the doings of the Republican convention there. But the total was not as great as at Chicago.

Considering, then, the ramifications of these two corporations and the speed with which controlled electricity travels over wires, is it not likely that the curiosity of practically every man in the nation as to the important features of these political meetings was gratified in at least one day? Thirty-six years ago, when Lincoln was first nominated in the "Wigwam" at Chicago, one operator was sufficient to send from the insignificant headquarters of the telegraph company the news of the convention. During the convention at Chicago, this year, nearly 600 employees of the Western Union Company were engaged in some capacity in handling convention "matter."

Col. R. C. Clowry, vice-president and general superintendent of the Western Union in whose district the two conventions were held, remembers that the employment of four operators in a proscenium box at the old Crosby Opera house, in Chicago, where, in 1858, a convention was held, was considered a great feat of telegraphic enterprise. The development from those times, it can be seen, has been remarkable.

"We hardly thought," said Mr. Somerville, the other day, "that the work our company would have to do during the Chicago convention would exceed that done at the St. Louis convention, for the reason that the Chicago papers would not require our services. When conventions are held in other cities than Chicago, the papers of that city take about 25 per cent. of all the words sent out, New York another 25, and the rest is distributed all over the country. But we never did as much as at Chicago this year."

"What is the effect upon commercial business during one of these conventions, so far as telegraphic companies are concerned?" Mr. Somerville was asked.

"Why," he answered, "the commercial business seems to fall off. I presume that is due to the general interest among those business men who at other times use the telegraph wires in the proceedings of the convention, and that they let what can go over for a day or two. No, I do not think the companies lose money through the conventions. Of course, their receipts from the newspapers are very large. But the companies, or at least our company, are put to great expense because of them. For ordinary business between Chicago and St. Louis we had sufficient wires, but to serve the Chicago papers this year we had to build a number of new wires. Then there is growing up an enormous free business during these conventions on the part of the Western Union Company. In Chicago I sent bulletins from the convention hall which gave information to the public in over 20,000 cities, towns, and villages in the United States—in fact, wherever there is a Western Union office."

These bulletins were posted outside of all the telegraph offices, by Exchanges, in hotels, sent out on the "tickers," and passed around from hand to hand everywhere. Mr. Somerville was on the platform of the Coliseum, and during the important episodes he sent them out at the closest intervals, practically posting the people in all parts of the country on what had just transpired in the convention.

Probably in no previous convention or similar gatherings was the telephone ever so extensively used in the dissemination not only of bulletins, but of regular reports of proceedings. It was at Chicago and St. Louis, this year, that the Chicago Telephone Company, by the expense

placed upon tables for the natives of these newspapers. A private line was prepared by the telephone company for its own transmitting bulletins to long distance lines all over the city.

Electricity also played an important part as a light provider. The convention hall was lit from a temporary plant in the building three blocks west of the seum known as the Vendome. The new unoccupied. The current taken to the Coliseum by a pair of two circuits supplied the 185,000 candle power each used in the hall. Ninety-six of the lamps were arranged in groups of four each, out globes, and backed by reflectors for the lighting of the space under the great truss, the remainder were disposed of the galleries, in committee room in various parts of the building.

On the Thursday night convention was in session until 1 o'clock, the plant was run to give an opportunity for the ants to put the hall in order morning session. The effect by the side group and reflector was especially noteworthy. The light was directed just where it was needed—on the floor of the ing—where it blended into a general illumination. The eye spectators on the sides of the protected from the glare by the of the reflectors, while the lamp far enough removed from the floor space so that no annoyance caused by the light to those portion of the building. The of lighting large interiors suitably has always been a perplex but it was solved on this occasion, altogether, a great triumph electricity—and men.

Waterspouts of the Desert.

The staff of each mine in Australia usually makes a camp mine, which they surround with fences of boughs to keep out the "wille-willes." The "wille-willes" are more or less the goldfields, and are really fine lines. They are water mountains of dust and sand go to make up a goldfield's staff. Suddenly you observe a tremor, two or three wisps of dirt, a piece of paper wanders and watches the proceeding becomes quite excited and a foot from the surface around very rapidly in a spiral the pillar of dirt then moves down the street or across the goes very slowly, but it attracts scraps in its way and such each yard the "wille-wille" it gains power and moves very deliberately, but nothing in the way of small After a few minutes it is a few feet high, solid at the base, ing out into a film of sand nit. The idlers watch it as it gathers force. It hums top. By the time it has hundred yards in its zigzag feet high and soaring merrily we betide the midway. To by a "wille-wille" means very marrow is saturated and dirt. You go in a clean some creature; you clean the begrimed cripple. The doesn't trouble; it stands about for another victim, strong enough it tackles and goes the canvas, spinning The contents of the tent with dust, but filthy, putrescent camp where cleanliness is consideration. The gets outside and dies away trees. They are something high, and then they do damage.—Birmingham Post.

Effect of Boiling Milk.

Medical men tell us that the effect of milk is to kill all the living organisms, and to coagulate all the albumin. After boiling, it is that all the constituents must be digested before it can be used; therefore, a distinct loss of utility in the living cells of fresh milk, and the circulation direct preparation, and build up the milk. In practice, the been noticed by the medical generally that there is a appreciable lowered vitality, the explanation of this is the process of absorption is and the quantity of milk is distinctly larger for amount of growth and nourishment of the child than is the case when milk is used.—New York

Best Vehicle Advertising.

There is a city ordinance for the use of the streets to vehicle advertisements. A man is to show an advertisement if a fine was fined recently

MAN'S INFLUENCE.

Influence of women upon the of the world, could never of her, thrones have been and destroyed. The flash to the touch of her hand, and the marvellous power of glorious in the possession of health.

Pinkham, by her wonderful of the Com- place this in of of

At the recent meeting of the Society in London, a presentation was exhibited, intended the slightest tints and put the crust of the earth. It was that this instrument would be a servable a lot of less than a hundredth of a second of yards, if a plane surface up only so little that the amount to a single inch miles, the instrument would

Women are gradually recognition in China, the one could buy a pretty and current. Now the market has

Cure for Blood's

Sarsaparilla

Collecting Fads.

Foreign paper is responsible for the fact that the late Lord Randolph Churchill had a choice private collection of teeth of noted criminals, to be constantly adding up to a certain time before his death. The collection for the Deeming relics at the seum known as the Vendome. The new unoccupied. The current taken to the Coliseum by a pair of two circuits supplied the 185,000 candle power each used in the hall. Ninety-six of the lamps were arranged in groups of four each, out globes, and backed by reflectors for the lighting of the space under the great truss, the remainder were disposed of the galleries, in committee room in various parts of the building.

Sarsaparilla

Collecting Fads.

Foreign paper is responsible for the fact that the late Lord Randolph Churchill had a choice private collection of teeth of noted criminals, to be constantly adding up to a certain time before his death. The collection for the Deeming relics at the seum known as the Vendome. The new unoccupied. The current taken to the Coliseum by a pair of two circuits supplied the 185,000 candle power each used in the hall. Ninety-six of the lamps were arranged in groups of four each, out globes, and backed by reflectors for the lighting of the space under the great truss, the remainder were disposed of the galleries, in committee room in various parts of the building.

Sarsaparilla

Collecting Fads.

Foreign paper is responsible for the fact that the late Lord Randolph Churchill had a choice private collection of teeth of noted criminals, to be constantly adding up to a certain time before his death. The collection for the Deeming relics at the seum known as the Vendome. The new unoccupied. The current taken to the Coliseum by a pair of two circuits supplied the 185,000 candle power each used in the hall. Ninety-six of the lamps were arranged in groups of four each, out globes, and backed by reflectors for the lighting of the space under the great truss, the remainder were disposed of the galleries, in committee room in various parts of the building.

Sarsaparilla

Collecting Fads.

Foreign paper is responsible for the fact that the late Lord Randolph Churchill had a choice private collection of teeth of noted criminals, to be constantly adding up to a certain time before his death. The collection for the Deeming relics at the seum known as the Vendome. The new unoccupied. The current taken to the Coliseum by a pair of two circuits supplied the 185,000 candle power each used in the hall. Ninety-six of the lamps were arranged in groups of four each, out globes, and backed by reflectors for the lighting of the space under the great truss, the remainder were disposed of the galleries, in committee room in various parts of the building.

Sarsaparilla

Collecting Fads.

Foreign paper is responsible for the fact that the late Lord Randolph Churchill had a choice private collection of teeth of noted criminals, to be constantly adding up to a certain time before his death. The collection for the Deeming relics at the seum known as the Vendome. The new unoccupied. The current taken to the Coliseum by a pair of two circuits supplied the 185,000 candle power each used in the hall. Ninety-six of the lamps were arranged in groups of four each, out globes, and backed by reflectors for the lighting of the space under the great truss, the remainder were disposed of the galleries, in committee room in various parts of the building.