April 1.

# Agriculture.

#### WHY TIMBER IS PAINTED.

When water is applied to the smooth surface of timber, a thin layer of the wood will be raised above its natural position by the expansion or swelling of the particles near the surface. In colloquial phrase, workmen say that when water is supplied to a smooth board, the grain of the timber will be raised. Every successive wetting will raise the grain more and more; and the water will dissolve and wash away the soluble portions with which it comes in contract. As the surface dries, the grain of the timber at the surface, having been reduced in bulk, must necessarily shrink to such an extent as to produce cracks. Now, if a piece of oil-cloth be pasted over the surface, the timber will be quite dry. Consequently the grain of the wood will not be subjected to the alternate influences of wet and heat. As it is not practicable to apply oil cloth ready made, a liquid or semi-liquid material is employed for covering the surface, which will adhere firmly, and serve the purpose of oil-cloth in excluding water that would otherwise enter, to the injury of the work. Metallic substances are painted to prevent oxidation or rusting of the surfaces which may be exposed to moisture.

It is of primary importance to make use of such materials as will form over the surface a smooth and tenacious pellicle, impervious to water. Any material that will not exclude water sufficiently to prevent the expansion of the grain of the timber, or the oxidation of metallic substances, must be comparatively worthless for paint. Linseed oil possesses the property of drying when spread on a surface, and forming a tenacious covering, impervious to water. Spirits of turpentine, benzine, benzole, and certain kinds of lubricating oil, all of which are frequently used in preparing paint, will not form a covering sufficiently tough and hard to resist the action of water; for which reason the paint that is made by employing these volatile materials will be found comparatively worthless for outside work. A pigment is mingled with the oil to prevent the timber to which the paint is applied from absorbing the oil. The design is not to saturate the wood with oil, but simply to cover the surface with a coating resembling a thin oil-cloth .- Manufacturer and Builder,

#### INSECTS IN THE GARDEN.

Insects, bugs and worms will soon begin to trouble our garden vegetables, and our readers may wish to know how to destroy them. Carbonic Acid Soap Water is excellent. No insect can stand either carbonic acid or oil. Sprinkle the solution well over the vegetables or bushes. Fine Flour of Bone or Bone Float has also been used with success in repelling squash bugs from the vines. A lady destroyed the insects which infested her rose bushes by the use of quassia, and states that it also proved to be a fertilizer-the plants thriving much better after it had been applied than before. In the report of Alton (Ill.) Horticultural Society quassia is recommended for destroying black and green insects in cherries. Quassia may be found in any druggist's establishment. Use two ounces to a gallon of water; boil fifteen or twenty minutes. It will also be found effective in destroying many kinds of insects which infest the flower garden.

### HOGS WANT BULPHUR.

Whether hogs require sulphur as an essential to their health, or whether it is sought by them as a condiment, may not be known for certainty. But one thing is sure, they devour it with greed wherever it is to be found. It is for this purpose, probably, that they eat large quantities of soft coal, which contains a large amount of sulphur. Perhaps this is the most economical method of supplying hogs with sulphur during the winter, when they require a good deal of carbon. But in the summer it is better to feed it to them in substances which contain less carbon, on account of their producing less heat.— Mustard is one of the best things for this purpose, and on that account some of it should be sown in every pasture into which hogs are turned. If hogs are kept up, or are in small yards, it is well to supply them with the wild mustard that grows in the fields or highways, or to cultivate some of the better varieties for them. They will eat its leaves, flowers, seeds and stalks,-Prairie Farmer.

#### MESSENGER ALMANACK.

### June, 1870.

New Moon,		N.	28th, 7h. 19m. afternoon.  MOON   High Tide			
The street	Rises.	Sets.	Rises	South.	Sets.la	
1 W 2 Th. 3 F 4 Sa 5 SU 6 M 7 Tu 9 Th. 0 F 1 Sa 2 SU 3 M 4 Tu 5 Th. 1 Sa 5 SU 6 Th. 1 Sa 5 SU 7 F 8 U 1 Tu 2 Su 1 Tu 2 Su 2 Su.	# 28 # 22 # 22 # 21 # 20 # 20 # 20 # 20 # 20 # 20 # 19 # 19 # 19 # 19 # 19 # 19 # 19 # 19 # 20 # 20	7 32 7 7 33 7 7 36 7 7 36 7 7 37 7 7 38 7 7 38 7 7 39 7 7 42 7 7 43 7 7 43	6 18 7 9 8 8 9 12 10 20 11 29 A. 40 1 53 5 41 6 56 8 8 9 11 10 48 11 23 11 53 morn 0 20 0 44 1 55 2 22 2 53 3 29 4 13 5 4 6 1	1 52 2 44 8 37 4 30 5 21 7 53 8 45 9 89 10 87 11 35 morn. 0 36 1 36 2 33 3 27 4 18 5 49 6 31 7 54 8 36 9 20 10 6 11 46 A. 39 1 33	9 26 10 18 11 6 11 47 morn 0 22 0 53 1 24 1 53 2 28 2 55 3 32 4 13 5 4 6 1 7 2 8 6 9 13 10 15 11 17 A. 18 2 17 3 17 4 18 5 19 6 18 7 19 8 14 0 4	8 51 9 24 10 2 10 41 11 27 morning 0 20 1 25 2 41 3 47 4 49 6 42 7 30 8 21 9 7 9 52 10 39 11 23 A. 13 1 4 2 3 3 7 4 6 5 4 6 86 7 16 7 55 8 33

THE TIDES .- The column of the Moon's Southing gives the time of high water at Parrsboro', Cornwallis, Horton, Hantsport, Windsor, Newport, and

High water at Pictou and Cape Tormentine hours and 30 minutes later than at Halifax. At foundland, I hour earlier, than at Halifax.

FOR THE LENGTH OF THE DAY .- Add 12 hours to the time of the sun's setting, and from the sum subtract the time of rising:

FOR THE LENGTH OF THE NIGHT -Subtract the time of the sun's setting from 12 hours, and to the remainder add the time of rising next morning.

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