

The Messenger Almanac.

DECEMBER, 1881.

Table with columns for Day, Sun, Moon, and High Tide. Lists astronomical data for December 1881.

THE TIDES.—The column of the Moon's Position gives the time of high water at... Windsor, Newport, and Truro.

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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AGRICULTURE.

GRAIN AND VEGETABLES.—There are none of the cereals raised in this country says the Poultry World, but have their uses as feed for domestic poultry. And all the root vegetables, such as turnips, potatoes, carrots, beets, ruta-bagas, &c., when cooked and mixed with meal or bran, half and half each, are esteemed economical and healthful for fowl feed.

The fattening properties of some grains, and the undue allowance daily of boiled potatoes and corn, or wheat meal are excessive however. And where the Asiatics only are kept, discretion must be exercised in dealing out these hearty kinds of aliment, inasmuch as it is neither healthful, economical or useful to stuff these birds with such feed.

The C hins, the Brahmas, the Dorkings, and the Plymouth Rocks will very quickly become next to useless as layers, it indulged in overfeeding with these rich grains and succulent roots. Care must, therefore, be had to avoid this error, particularly along through the late fall and winter, when we are preparing them for early spring laying.

If they get fat in cold weather, old hens will gather this objectionable kind of flesh internally often. And this directly interferes with their laying, while it harms the quality of the eggs they do lay, for future hatching.

All our fowls should be well fed in cold weather. But the breeding stock must be cautiously managed in this particular, or their eggs will very frequently prove infertile, from excessive cramming with these hearty sorts of food.

Keep a ready supply of oats and barley at hand for these birds. Allow them but little corn, and this crushed, and to be given at night only. Plenty of green vegetables will help them, steadily allowed all winter, such as cabbages, chopped ruta-bagas, &c. And if we avoid whole wheat, buckwheat, and whole corn—for our breeders—they will do much better next spring, when we want their eggs for incubation.—Am. Rural Home.

MANURE MADE UNDER COVER.—

Of course all the advantage of making manure in covered yards, may be secured by box feeding, with less outlay for roofing, since more space must be allowed for a given number of animals turned loose together, then when confined in stalls; it is the protection from rain and sun, the abundant use of litter, and its thorough incorporation with the excrements, and exclusion of air by compact treading, which go to make the superior manure; all these features of the method work against the loss of valuable plant food. Nor does box feeding and constant accumulation of the manure under the feet of the animals necessarily imply offensive stalls. Mr. Lawrence, often quoted, said that everybody noticed the general sweetness of his stalls; it is only essential that enough litter be used to absorb all liquids, and this absorption is more effectual if the straw is cut up.

One method or the other, box-feeding or covered yards, should be adopted by every farmer who lives where manure is worth saving, and who finds himself compelled to supplement his stable manure with commercial fertilizers. Stable manure must not be lost sight of in this increasing interest in these concentrated fertilizers, for we cannot produce our crops and have enough for ourselves and others without its aid; and there is nothing in all the list of commercial mixtures which gives so good an average return for the money invested in it, as well-made stable manure.—Am. Agriculturist.

Gladiolus bulbs may be kept through the winter in sand in the cellar, or wherever they will not freeze.

GIRDLING TREES TO PRODUCE FRUITING.—

A correspondent of an American paper writes:—You will remember the commotion made at the meeting of our State Horticultural Society, December, 1879, by Mr. Spaulding, advising to girdle trees to induce fruiting. I am greatly pleased with one year's practice of it, and propose doing more in the future. In all, some 300 trees or more, mostly apple, were treated in June, 1880, and they are generally well loaded with fruit, while others here, and orchards on adjoining farms are barren or bearing very little. From my brief experience I would advise removing a very narrow ring of bark not over a quarter of an inch wide, and never from a tree not making thrifty growth. With judicious girdling and mulching I hope for better

results from our apple and pear trees than heretofore; and in connection with root-pruning and manuring, to compel some lazy blowing Miner plum trees to go to work.

SCIENCE.

KALSOMINING.—Kalsomine, as distinguished from lime whitewash, is best suited for the interior of rooms in the dwelling house. To Kalsomine a good-sized room with two coats, proceed as follows:—

Select some very clear colourless glue and soak a 1/2 lb. in water for 12 hours. Then boil it, taking great care that it does not burn, and this is best done by setting the vessel with the glue in a pan of water over the fire. When completely dissolved add to it a large pail of hot water, and into any desired quantity of this stir as much of the white material used as will make a cream. The quality of the resulting work will depend on the skill of the operator, but we may remark that it is easier to get a smooth hard finish by using three coats of thin wash than by using one of thick. If you have time but for one coat, however, you must give it body enough. In giving more than one coat let the last coat contain less glue than the preceding ones.

Kalsomine, such as we have described, may be coloured by means of any of the chief colouring stuffs.

The following is recommended as a good kalsomining fluid for walls:—White glue, 1 pound; white zinc, 10 pounds; Paris white, 5 pounds; water sufficient. Soak the glue overnight in three quarts of water, then add as much water again, and heat on a water bath till the glue is dissolved. In another pail put the two powders, and pour on hot water, stirring all the time, until the liquid appears like thick milk. Mingle the two liquids together, stir thoroughly, and apply to the wall with a whitewash brush.

It is often desirable to "kill" old whitewash, as it is called, as otherwise it would be impossible to get new whitewash or paper to stick to the walls. After scraping and washing off all loose material give the walls a thorough washing with a solution of sulphate of zinc (2 oz. to 1 gallon of water). The lime will be changed to plaster of Paris, and the zinc will be converted into zinc white, and if a coat of kalsomine be now given it will adhere very strongly and have great body.

A leading cutlery firm in Sheffield, England, estimates that to supply them with the ivory needed for their business 1,280 elephants are required every year. Taking into the account the cutlery manufacturers of the world, and the ivory used in other ways, and it would seem that the number of elephants must be rapidly diminishing.

THE HOUSE.

INODOROUS PAINT.—This paint is mixed without any turpentine, the evaporation of which in ordinary paints causes a strong, unpleasant smell. In this paint the ordinary white lead, or zinc white ground in oil, instead of being thinned with oil and turpentine, is mixed with methylated spirit in which shellac has been dissolved, together with a small quantity of linseed and castor oil. The methylated spirit evaporates very rapidly, leaving behind the shellac which acts the part of the film of varnish left by the oil and turpentine in the ordinary method of painting. This paint dries very rapidly. The second coat can be applied an hour after the first, and three-coat work can be finished in one day. For interior work in occupied buildings this paint has very great advantages; also where rapidity of execution is required.

AN ECONOMICAL TEA-CAKE.—

An attractive and economical tea-cake, and one which might appropriately be called "children's delight," is made by taking enough white bread dough to make a small loaf; knead into it a table-spoonful of butter or lard, two table-spoonfuls of English currants; let it rise until it is very light, then bake it in a moderately hot oven. If you have any of the tin cans in which tomatoes are put up, use one of them for a baking tin, and bake this cake in it. You will have a pretty, round loaf, and the size and appearance of the slices is also pleasing. Graham bread seems actually to taste better if baked in one of these tins.

Is there a word in the English language that contains all the vowels? There is, unquestionably.



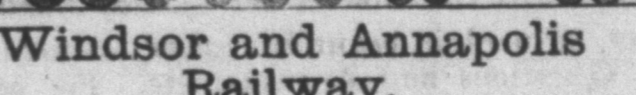
INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

WINTER ARRANGEMENT.

TRAINS leave Halifax daily (Sunday excepted) as follows:— (Halifax time.)

At 8.30 a. m.—Express for St. John, Pictou. At 1.15 p. m.—Accommodation for Pictou. At 5.30 p. m.—Accommodation for Truro. At 3.00 p. m.—Express for Quebec.

WILL ARRIVE:— At 9.15 a. m.—Accommodation from Truro. At 12.15 a. m.—Express from Quebec and from St. John. At 2.50 p. m.—Accommodation from Pictou. At 8.30 p. m.—Express from St. John. Nov. 24, 1880.



Windsor and Annapolis Railway.

Winter Arrangement—Commencing Monday, Nov. 21st, 1881.

The following is according to Railway Time. Halifax time is 15 minutes later.

Table for Windsor and Annapolis Railway. Columns: Miles, GOING WEST, GOING EAST, Pass. and Freight Daily, Express Mon, Wed, and Sat. only, Pass. & Freight Daily, Express Mon, Wed, and Sat. only. Rows: Halifax, Windsor, Wolfville, Kentville, Berwick, Middleton, Annapolis, St. John.

HALIFAX and CAPE BRETON RAILWAY.

EXPRESS leaves New Glasgow at 2.15 connecting with Halifax Morning Express, arriving at the Strait of Canso at 6.35 P. M. EXPRESS leaves the Strait of Canso at 8.00 A. M., arriving at New Glasgow at 12.25 P. M., connecting trains for Halifax and St. John.

Western Counties Railway.

Train leaves Yarmouth daily at 7.45 a. m., and arrives at Digby at 11.45 a. m. Leaves Digby on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 1.00 p. m. Arrives at Yarmouth at 5.00 p. m. On Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 3.30 p. m. Arrives at Yarmouth at 7.30 p. m.

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