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A Dairyman's Yarn

A bunch of dairymen were together a few days ago, spinning yarns about the cow when one of them sprung this: "We had a cow once and one of the boys by mistake left a pail of gasoline stand where she could get at it. She tasted the juice and liked it, so, lapped it all up. Some time later we heard an awful commotion in the cowyard. I ran down and saw the cow galloping around, yelling 'Honk, honk, honk, honk!' When I saw the empty bucket I knew that the cow was suffering 'auto-intoxication.' We couldn't get the animal into the barn, so I painted a sign 'garage' and hung it out. In she steered. We had to cut a hole in her hoof to keep her quiet until the effects of the gas wore off. You see, she thought she had blown up a tire when the hoof was punctured."

Poultry Pointers

It is too late to be setting eggs. For this reason it is well to take the male birds out into a pen by themselves.

Throw open the windows every night, but tack some wide-meshed cloth or screen of some kind over them to keep out things that have no business in the house.

Sort the young growing stock as to size. It will give them all an equal chance and you will find they will grow better and less trouble will be experienced.

When there are two pens of fowls in the same house, separated by a partition, the drink dish may be set in the partition so that fowls may drink from both sides. It should rest on a shelf so that it may be easily removed for cleaning and disinfecting.

Fall Plowing Advocate.

It is almost always advisable to plow clay lands in the autumn. If clay land can be plowed shallow soon after the hay is removed it is the case of sod, and after the crop is taken off in the case of stubble, it is so much better, as it not only ensures a good reservoir for holding moisture, but also stores up more available fertility than where the soil is plowed but once.

EXPANSION OF METALS

Effects of Temperature on Rails, and Bridges.

An ordinary poker, such as is used in our homes for stirring up the fire on a winter's night, if allowed to come to the temperature of boiling water is only about one two-hundred-and-fiftieth of an inch longer than when at the freezing point. This does not mean much to the everyday man, but the expansion of metals due to heat is a very important subject for the bridge engineer or the maintenance of way superintendent.

An accident occurred not long ago in England due to the expansion of rails. The variation of temperature between winter and summer in many parts of the world is not more than 80 degrees F. Yet this range of temperature is competent to produce a variation in the length of the rails of about two feet in the mile. The effect of this expansion if it is not allowed for in the track is usually to cause the outer rail on a curve to bulge out more than the inner one and thus throw the track out of gauge. The force exerted by an expanding rail is estimated at about 1,000 pounds for each degree of temperature. —Railway and Locomotive Engineering.

Novel Railroad Record.

The Grand Trunk Pacific railway (Canada) has commenced a novel undertaking whereby a record of the growth of the west so far as the railway is a factor in its growth will be kept, says the Scientific American. The official photographers of the company have begun to work on the plan of the company, and towns along the line will be photographed, each photograph being duplicated yearly, so that a continuous record may be obtained and kept of each individual town from the time it sprang up throughout the period of its growth. The record kept is expected to be of invaluable importance in years to come.

GARDEN ADVICE FOR THE PACIFIC COAST

Others Will Do Well Also to Heed These Hints—Fall and Spring Planting

Advice for gardening and flower-raising in the Pacific country is given by A. E. Skinner of Huntington, B.C., as follows: How often we hear the expression used that there is no money in a flower garden, but who has not been at some time or other impressed with their observations, and noticed how dreary and desolate is the mansion, with grounds uncared for, and uncultivated, and then in contrast noted the beauty and enchantment of even a humble cottage, covered with beautiful vines, and surrounded with lovely flowers and well kept grounds. It is hard to give any specific plan in laying out one's grounds to the best advantage as they vary so much in size and contour. Where one has a fairly good stand of grass, beds can be cut in any shape the fancy may dictate, and borders can be dug around the house, or along the path leading to the house, enriching it with well rotted stable manure, if deficient in fertility, pulverizing the ground thoroughly.

Hiding the Unsightly

As soon as all danger of frost is over, sow such annuals as stocks, nasturtiums, phlox, drummond, marigolds, godetia, mignonette, cosmos, candytuft, etc., all of which will give a good display of flowers throughout the summer and until frost. A good many of these seeds may be sown in pots or boxes, and planted out as the weather becomes warm, and all danger of frost is over. Unsightly fences and outbuildings may be covered, and made a thing of beauty during the summer months by sowing such climbers as scarlet runner beans (which are not only ornamental but edible), nasturtium, major, or climbing; sweet peas, tropeaeolum canariensis, and convolvulus major, all of which are easily grown from seed sown in spring. Plants of rudbeckia golden glow, may be utilized to advantage to hide some unsightly corner, it being very easily grown, and attains a height of 6 to 8 feet and blossoms very freely from seed, plants can be readily obtained from florists who invariably carry a stock of all suitable bedding plants.

Start Roses Early

If you care to go to the expense of roses, or shrubs, these can be obtained at reasonable prices at the various nurseries, and I would advise planting same in the early spring as soon as the ground can be worked, the earlier the better, while they are still in a dormant condition. If you desire to grow flowers from roots or bulbs, such as dahlias, gladioli, lilies, or Montbretias, these can be planted to advantage in the spring. Other bulbs, such as hyacinths, tulips, narcissus, should be planted in the fall, any time before the frost sets in. In case of a severe winter, a good protection is afforded these by a covering of coarse stable manure, which can be removed in the spring.

BRIQUETTING LIGNITE

Prairie Provinces Might Adopt New Method and Save Money

Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta contain many millions of tons of sub-bituminous coal and lignite but the comparatively low heating value of this coal and the fact that it disintegrates rapidly when exposed to the air prevent its economical transportation for any considerable distance. In fact, these provinces are now supplied almost entirely by coal from the Crow's Nest district in Alberta and British Columbia and from the United States.

In a plant in Denver, Colorado, with a capacity of 500 tons of lignite per day, lignite is distilled, the by-products are saved and the residue is manufactured into briquettes. These briquettes are of very good quality, and are suitable for domestic or railway locomotive purposes. The lignite is charged into ovens having a capacity of 10 tons each. The ovens are heated by gas flame between the walls, and distillation is carried on for about two hours without the admission of oxygen from the atmosphere. During distillation about 100,000 cubic feet of gas, 130 gallons of tar and 35 pounds of ammonium sulphate, are removed per 10 tons of lignite. Benzol is removed from the gas and the gas is cleaned by electrical precipitation. While the raw lignite only contains 55 per cent. of fixed carbon, the briquettes average 34 per cent.

Curious Sinecures

It will be interesting to know, if an all-round reduction of Government salaries takes place, whether the

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In 1/2, 1 and 2 pound cans. Whole—ground—pulverized—also Fine Ground for Percolators.

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HELP FOR INEBRIATES

Ontario Act Makes Provision For Their Care and Cure

The London Advertiser says: One of the acts passed at the 1916 session of the Ontario Legislature that deserves some mention was "an act to amend the hospitals for the insane act." This act made provision for the admission, as a voluntary patient, of any alcoholic habitual, by the superintendent of the hospital, for care and treatment, but the patient must be capable of appreciating the fact that he is to be admitted as a voluntary patient. The time during which he may be detained is limited to one year. Of course the patient must agree to comply with the rules of the hospital. The patient may be discharged cured or incurable, or for breach of the rules.

Another important provision is that with respect to those so given over to drunkenness as to render them incapable of self-control, or of managing their own affairs. In such cases a judge in chambers, or a magistrate, if applied to by a relative or connection of the inebriate, or by the family physician, may cause a petition to be served on the inebriate setting forth the facts, and appointing a time for the hearing of the application. The hearing is to be conducted as other proceedings in courts are, and the judge or magistrate is to report the facts to the inspector of prisons and charities, and transmit the evidence to him.

The inspector may have the inebriate placed in a hospital or placed where he will be detained and treatment administered for a period not exceeding two years. And the judge or magistrate may have the inebriate in some safe and comfortable place, but not in a jail, prison or reformatory. This is a humane act in the true interests of the public, the inebriates and their families. One wonders why such legislation has not long since found its way to the statute books. The credit is due to one of the young members of the Legislature, a former Londoner, Thomas Hook, member for South Toronto.

NEITHER FOOD NOR DRINK

As an illustration of the keen sense of humor possessed by the famous Scottish judge, Lord Mackenzie, Sir J. H. A. Macdonald, late Lord Justice-Clerk, tells the following story in his Reminiscences. On one occasion when the jury had retired to consider conviction or acquittal, they rang their bell, producing the usual stir of anticipation in court. It turned out, as reported by the mace, that they rang to ask if they might be allowed to have some water while they were in deliberation. According to the law of Scotland, it is forbidden, when a jury has been enclosed, that they should be suffered to have any "meat or drink" until they have returned the verdict. Everybody listened to hear what the judge would say. Lord Mackenzie, looking up meditatively, delivered himself in slow and deliberate tones, heard throughout the court, thus: "Well, ye canna call it 'meat' (and then more rapidly), 'and it sairtainly is not a drink; they can have the water.'"

PREPARING FOR LAWN

Spring planting makes the new grass to become well established before frosts arrive, but fall planting has this advantage that any weeds coming up will be killed before they can seed. Of the two plans spring seeding is the most recommended. Before putting the seed on the ground it answers to thoroughly well prepare the soil. All weeds, roots, stones and rubbish must be removed. It is an excellent plan to put the surface soil through the sieve, so as to get a dressing of an inch deep or so, of perfectly clean soil all over. If the soil is a very poor one, some well rotted manure must be mixed in with the sifted soil or at any rate kept near the surface. After the soil has been carefully levelled with the rake it should be rolled, or carefully trodden or beaten down. It must then be raked over gently again. This raking must be very carefully done so that the surface is left absolutely level and free from even a single small stone. For this purpose employ the back of the rake when the soil is fairly dry.

Where Forestry is Easy

"Of the forests of Ailly, there remain a few mutilated trunks. It is a field of desolation, levelled by shells." This was written of a French forest following a deluge of German artillery. It might as easily have been written of thousands of square miles in all parts of Canada following the deluge of annual forest fires. Nothing could save the magnificent French forests but an eastward re-adjustment of the trenches. No such grim necessity, however, faces the Canadian Provincial and Federal Governments in the relatively simple task of keeping our ready-made wealth of timber free from needless conflagrations. No army need fight for it; no life need be sacrificed. All that is required is commonsense organization.

SOME STRAY PIECES OF INFORMATION

Injections of rattlesnake venom are used to cure epilepsy.

The atmospheric changes during a thunderstorm accelerate the discharge of all gases and it is now asserted that it is these, and not the electrical discharges which sour milk.

It is asserted that the germs of paralysis find their way to the brain through the nose.

The house fly is the principal source of infantile paralysis infection.

Hunger makes the brain heavier.

A scientist says that the bassoon player is always cranky and the drummer generally lacks humor.

Where do the birds die is a question which has not been satisfactorily answered, although considerable attention has been given to the matter.

A statement has been made that life would be prolonged if persons would acquire the habit of stooping by the hips, instead of bending the backbone.

In Prussia a whole new knee joint has been successfully grafted.

Every once in a while lumps of butter are dug up in the Irish bogs which are said to have been placed there many years ago for flavoring or preservation.

On the last day of each year the Koreans throw out of his house a straw image of a man, which is said to carry sins and bad luck with it.

Chemicals are more effective in fighting mine fires than water.

Barely one-seventh of the population of the British Empire is composed of whites.

Great Britain carries on more trade with Germany than any other country, with France and the United States ranking second and third.

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