

* The Farm. *

VIEWS ABOUT ORCHARD CULTIVATION.

The subject of orchard treatment is one having advocates for and against cultivation. It is largely a matter of soil characteristics. The slope and depth of soil must be considered. Where a soil is but fifteen inches deep, underlaid by hardpan or bedrock, there is not much chance to hold fertility and moisture. If the depth is thirty inches or more, the holding capacity is largely increased.

The soils of the Devonian and the Silurian formations are quite shallow in many places. The limestone is commonly deep, the granite and mica schists rich in potash, and the drift formation various depths, but in many sections deep and rich in fertility so that trees will usually be thrifty and productive, regardless of treatment. If an orchard is on a slope where a cultivated soil washes badly, it would not be advisable to follow clean cultivation altogether. Surface manuring might be practised to maintain sufficient fertility for the trees to make an annual growth of eight to twelve inches.

The difference in growth and productiveness is largely in favor of mature and cultivation. On rather poor soil I have trees twenty-two years old as large and more productive than others near by more than forty years old, not so well cared for.

It may also be questioned whether or not rapid growth of fruit under cultivation hastens maturity, so that it is more liable to drop early, or necessitate earlier picking than where the trees are not stimulated by cultivation. There is no doubt but that fruit produced by cultivation and fertilization is finer in appearance and of better quality than that produced by the common practice of giving trees little or no care.—(W. H. Stout, in American Agriculturist.

THE HIRED MAN QUESTION.

When a farmer secures a man that is a careful and painstaking workman, he should try to keep him for years. In the cities and villages we find clerks and salesmen, lots of them, who have worked in the same store ten to twenty years. They have learned that their employer's interest is theirs, and they are as much interested in building up a trade and holding it as he is, and they do not hesitate at working overtime when business demands it. They are paid extra for it, and they feel that the amount is so much clear gain. The more valuable the services of a salesmen become to his employer the higher his salary rises, simply because his employer can afford to pay him more for his work. I have known men to work on the same farm up to six years and their wages were never raised one cent.

When I look back to the time I worked on a farm one year I can plainly see that my services were actually worth \$3 to \$5 a month more to the farmer the second year

OLD SOAKERS.

Get Saturated With Caffeine.

When a person has used coffee for a number of years and gradually declined in health, it is time the coffee should be left off in order to see whether or not that has been the cause of the trouble.

A lady in Huntsville, Ala., Mrs. S. M. Brazier, says she used coffee for about 40 years, and for the past 20 years has been troubled with stomach trouble. "I have been treated by many physicians but all in vain. Everything failed to perfect a cure. Was prostrated for some time, and came near dying. When I recovered sufficiently to partake of food and drink I tried coffee again and it soured on my stomach. I finally concluded coffee was the cause of my troubles and stopped using it. I tried tea and then milk in its place, but neither agreed with me, then I commenced using Postum Food Coffee. I had it properly made and it was very pleasing to the taste.

I have now used it four months, and my health is so greatly improved that I can eat almost anything I want and can sleep well, whereas, before, I suffered for years with insomnia.

I have found the cause of my troubles and a way to get rid of them. You can depend upon it I appreciate Postum."

than they were the first, because I knew every foot of the farm and his method of managing it, understood the stock and knew how he wanted it fed and cared for; knew all about the implements, and could put my hand on anything needed at a moment's notice; knew what repairs were needed, and could if occasion demanded, gone right along with the farm work for a year on the lines followed by my employer; yet he thought a raise of \$1 a month was ample for my knowledge of his farm and his methods.

One may sometimes think he is saving and yet be wasting. Farmers complain about the poor class of help seeking employment on the farm when their own sons have gone to the cities to seek a livelihood rather than become an illy paid drudge on the farm at "going wages." They have driven the brightest boys to town by undervaluing and underpaying skilled farm help.—(Fred Gundy in Farm and Fireside.

THE WHEAT TO PLANT.

"What kind of seed shall I sow?" is a question the importance of which is underrated by many farmers. Seed wheat should be pure, that is, of one variety. It should be well matured, full grown and free from smut or other parasitic or fungoid growths. It should also be free from weed seeds, especially chess, which, being exceedingly hardy and prolific, will take the field if it has half a chance, and is exceedingly difficult to eradicate when once it has infested a neighborhood. Poor, shrivelled wheat, if sufficiently matured to sprout, will, under favorable conditions, produce a good crop, but will surely cause the variety to "run out" in a very few years if continued sowing of inferior stuff is indulged in.

A farmer should have a seed patch on which to grow wheat for seed. This should be given the best of care, should be ploughed deep and early, kept free from weeds, use the best varieties and the purest seed, and from the products of this sow the larger fields. Plant different varieties and sow the general fields only with such as have proved themselves suited to the locality. Buy new seed from time to time and in that manner grow the very best quality and largest quantity. Changing seed from one locality to another is desirable; even from one neighborhood to another; still better from distant parts; usually from northern localities to southern is better than from southern to more northern.—(C. B. Hoffman, in Farm and Home.

Driving about eight miles through the country a few days ago, just as the snow was going off, I made a few observations as I passed farmyard after farmyard. Here is the result: Standing in various fence corners and against the sides of barns were one reaper, a mowing machine, several wagons, a road machine belonging to the taxpayers of the township, a number of plows and some harrows. These will all be handy to hitch to when next they are needed. So far the owners consulted their convenience when they left those tools where they have been all winter, but will they hold together, and, if they will, what kind of work will they do? Are they worth as much by a good many dollars as they would be if they had been properly sheltered? Few farmers are rich enough to stand the losses which must come from so reckless an exposure of their tools to the action of the wind and weather.

What shall we do about the fruit trees we bought a few years ago, now just coming into bearing but not at all the kind of fruit we ordered and expected? The agent is gone, our money ditto. It seems to me the proper thing to do is to enter into a solemn compact with ourselves not to buy again of any man whom we do not know, but rather order direct from some reliable house, of whom we can demand and reasonably expect any and all mistakes to be rectified.—Ex.

White Cake.—The whites of four eggs, one-half cup of butter, two cups of sugar, one cup of sweet milk, three cups of flour and three teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Beat the butter to a cream to insure lightness; add sugar, milk, eggs and baking powder well sifted into the flour. The baking may be done in a large tin or in petty-tins.



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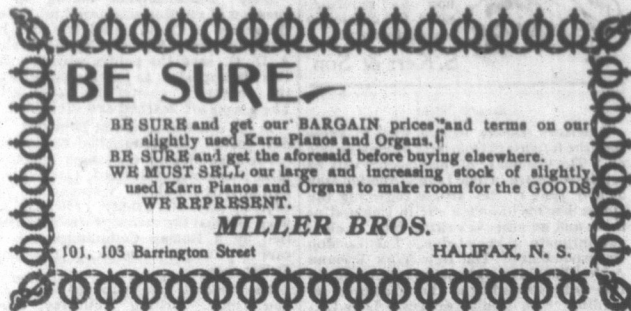
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MADE HIM MAD.

It is characteristic of those who are severe on others that they cannot bear severity. Dean Swift, the severest satirist of his day, was one day dining with a company of gentlemen, one of whom he had made the butt of his ridicule, with repeated sallies. At last the Dean poured upon a piece of duck some gravy intended to be eaten with a roasted goose. The unfortunate gentleman seeing this, immediately said:

"My good Dean, you surprise me—you eat duck like a goose."

The company roared, and the poor Dean was so confused and mortified that he flew into a rage and left the table.

When you are an anvil, hold you still; when you are a hammer strike your fill.—George Herbert.

Ground Plan Completed.—Naggs (literary editor)—How is your new society novel getting on, Borna?

Borna (struggling author)—Splendidly. I've got the French phrases I am going to use in the story all selected. There's nothing to do now but to fill in the English and divide it into chapters.—Chicago Tribune.

"Your face is very familiar," said the Congressman, as he shook the calloused

hand of a constituent, "but I really can't recall your name."

"I don't wonder a bit at that," said the caller. "It's all the fault of that dum fool editor of our'n. The time we had our last county fair he went and printed my picture with Bill Perkins' name under it."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Teacher—But all trees do not bear fruit. In what way are the others useful? Pupil—Their good to climb.—Puck.

The Promoter's Wooing.—"That young trolley line promoter is going to marry Mabel."

"I didn't suppose he'd find time to propose."

"Yes, the second time he called he asked her if he couldn't have a perpetual option on the right of way to her heart."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Apple Fritters.—Make a batter with one cup of milk, one teaspoonful of sugar, two eggs, whites and yolks beaten separately, two cups of flour sifted with two teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Chop or cut fine four tart apples, mix with the batter and fry in spoonfuls in hot fat. Serve with maple syrup or a sugar syrup made by boiling one cup of sugar with one-half cup of hot water.