

# News for the Farmer

## ORCHARD AND GARDEN WORK FOR THIS WEEK

Remember to plant garden peas as soon as weather conditions permit; also onion sets.

Fresh stable manure will give better results if applied to the garden now rather than at the time of planting the spring vegetables.

It is a good time to enlarge the garden area. Set the fence back thirty feet or even farther on one end of the garden so as to give it a rectangular shape. This will permit of long rows, which are more easily cultivated.

If your front yard is cluttered up with masses of shrubbery and rose bushes, thin out some of them so as to allow open stretches of lawn. On the other hand, if it is too bare plant ornamental shrubbery on the borders and a few trees for shade.

It has been noted that very few home orchards have been pruned up to this time. Let us begin this work with the first sunny day, for if it is put off until spring other things will at that time demand attention and the orchard is likely to be neglected.

Instead of depending upon the town grocer for our supply of seasoning herbs such as thyme, sage, lavender, and spearmint let's produce them at home. There is no reason why these old time favorites will not thrive just as well in our own gardens as they did in the gardens of our grandmothers.

Besides, those grown at home are much fresher and sweeter than those put up in tins.

In constructing the fence for your large new garden, make a gate large enough for a team to enter. It is no uncommon thing to see gardens that are not provided with a large gate, it being necessary every time a team and wagon is taken into it to pull down a portion of the fence. And, as a consequence, they are plowed and manured about half as often as they require for best results.

To do a good job in pruning, the following tools are necessary: A good saw, a strong pair of hand pruners, and a pair of long handled tree pruners. Also, every tool must be kept sharp, which will not only give a smooth cut but make pruning work much lighter.

It was most interesting to observe a short time ago a tenant farmer moving into his new home, bringing with him a wagon load of collards. The plants had been taken up by the roots and when buried in the ground up to the leaves were "as good as new", showing how well this vegetable will stand adverse treatment. Whether or not it is even necessary to "move" during winter, we should have on hand an abundant supply of this old reliable winter vegetable.

A South Carolina farmer was recently offered \$1.60 a bushel, wholesale, for his entire crop of sweet potatoes. Knowing the number of bushels of potatoes that can be grown on an acre and the approximate cost of production, figure out how much money can be made from a field of ten acres at this price. You will perhaps say that there is a risk in storing sweet potatoes. Not so, if vine cuttings are used in planting (to prevent rot) and the potatoes are stored according to standard methods.

In a recent trip through the country it was observed that numbers of fruit trees set out during the past fall still had the wire labels attached to them. Unless these labels are removed before growth begins they will girdle the trees. The only safe method of keeping track of the kind and varieties of fruits is to make a plan of one's orchard on paper, showing the name and location of each tree.—F. J. Crider, in The Progressive Farmer.

## FOOD FROM THE GARDEN.

Now that the government is urging everyone to cut down the consumption of wheat bread and the country generally is getting more and more onto a war basis, it becomes necessary for us farmers to

grow real food in our gardens. We can eat more potatoes and less wheat bread, more peas and beans and less meat, just as well as not, and actually have better health by so doing. It is simply a question of the will to do our part.

You know we are prone to get into the habit of eating certain things and we actually think if we don't have them we will starve to death or become weak or lose flesh. We put the same things into our stomachs day after day and week after week until our poor stomachs get tired and we complain of indigestion. We even become stupid and blue, and catch cold, and have liver trouble, as the direct result of a sluggish condition of the system and this condition continues until we decide we must take a dose of calomel or pills of some sort, or call in the doctor, and we lose time and energy and money in the process.

Now, modern science has proved that it is quite possible to make food take the place of medicine. In other words, if you vary your diet, and eat the proper food you will keep well. This includes drinking plenty of pure water, especially when you first get up in the morning, and eating fruit and vegetables and less meat and bread. Indeed, meat should not be eaten more than once a day, and many days it can be cut out altogether.

You know beans and peas will take the place of meat and supply your system with the same elements of nutrition. Potatoes and rice and hominy and corn bread can be substituted for wheat bread.

In addition to this, turnips and turnip greens, cabbage, mustard and spinach or any boiled green vegetables are most healthful, and should be eaten liberally. Also, don't neglect the pot liquor. This is more nutritious than the greens themselves. This is a time when nothing should be allowed to go to waste which can be used for what you save, someone else may eat.

Don't be afraid, therefore, if you do eat different things from what you have been accustomed, but know that it is good for you; that your stomach will thank you and your liver rejoice at the change, and you will feel a whole lot better all around.

When planting your garden this year, figure first on the food value of all the vegetables you grow and try to make your garden supply your table to the greatest possible extent. Then, plant some of the salad vegetables, such as lettuce and radishes, etc. Also, tomatoes. While there is comparatively small food value in tomatoes they help to make other food more palatable and should be planted liberally and saved and canned for future use.

Let us try this year as never before to make our gardens pay and pay big in food production for our families and to sell.—F. J. M. in Southern Ruralist.

## ORCHARD NOTES.

The first of February is here and the last call for spraying with concentrated lime-sulphur for the San Jose scale is made in this issue of the Ruralist. If this spray is not applied before the paper comes out again it will be too late. Don't let the trees go into the growing season without this spraying. The February spraying with lime-sulphur is a very important spray; it not only kills the scale, but also many spores of diseases that are lurking about the trees just waiting for warm weather to get in their work on the plants and fruit.

Finish up what pruning is still to be done before the rush of spring work is upon you. Don't put this off any longer unless it is intended to prune in the summer time. Look over the place for the last blight cankers on the apples and pears and get them out of the way.

Get ready to plow the orchard by March. If the cover crop has not made a good growth give it time,

but where it was planted early and has done well turn it under during the last of this month or in early March.

Get busy on the fertilizing question. All bearing orchards need about 60 or 70 pounds of a mixture of cottonseed meal, 100 pounds, and acid phosphate, 200 pounds. Get this fertilizer mixed and ready for application as soon as the plowing is finished.

If smudging is to be done during the frost season get the piles of leaves, sawdust, or whatever is to be used and arrange them in the orchards. Get in a supply of kindling and make ready to do the job in a ship-shape manner. Don't cry over spilt milk if the frost gets the blooms because the smudge piles were not ready.—Southern Ruralist.

## EFFICIENT HOG BOX.

Many farmers prepare hot water for scalding hogs by the old method of heating rocks and pieces of iron and dropping them into the water. Here is a better way; Make your scalding box just as usual; except use a sheet of galvanized tin for the bottom, having it large enough to lap up the sides and one end about three or four inches, and at the other end to the top of the box. Drive short nails thickly around the edge of tin, and be sure to have the tin drawn tightly over the edges. Next, dig a trench about one foot deep and as wide as the box, leaving two or three inches around the edge for the box to rest on, and parallel to wind. Place the box over the trench and use the end that is covered with tin for fire end. Erect a piece of stove pipe at the other end, if convenient. Bed earth around the sides and pipe so as to close the recesses. Start the fire just under the end and in a very short while the water will be ready. It doesn't take more than an armful of wood and less than thirty minutes of time. By this method one can kill at his convenience.—Southern Ruralist.

## HOME GARDEN NOTES.

Start the plants for transplanting out of doors this month. If there is a hotbed on the place use that; if not, plant the seeds in boxes in the house and keep the boxes in the kitchen or where they will keep warm. Not only flowering plants, but tomatoes and such like plants should be started this month.

There are still a few weeks in which shrubs and trees can be planted about the home. There has been plenty of cold weather during the winter when plans could be made for the yard and grounds about the home. It is to be hoped that advantage was taken of the snowy days of midwinter to plan out some improvement about the farm home.

Work manure into the flower beds this month. Next month, seeding time will have arrived and if the beds are manured and worked now they will be in an excellent condition for the spring planting and transplanting.

February is a good month to fix up the edges of the walks, fill in the holes in the lawn and give the place a general straightening up before spring opens. After the spring work starts on the farm there is going to be little chance of getting any labor about the home until the rush is over. Take time by the forelock and do the fixing up ahead of the rush.

Fats supply energy. Without fats people's flesh melts from their bones and they weaken. When we become hungry we draw on the fat of the body; when that is gone we are easy prey to disease.

A deficiency of fat cannot be replaced by an excess of starch and sugar.

A child requires about half as much fat as a man and an old person about three-quarters as much.

The error of using too much fat, especially lard, has been the cause of much of our digestive trouble. We will be doing ourselves a kindness by using it sparingly.

Sell the lard and use cottonseed, corn or peanut oil. It will not cost you less but it will help win the war.

# WHEN BANKS ARE CLOSED HOLIDAYS THAT DELAY THE WORLD'S BUSINESS

### Only 84 Days in the Year in Which the World's Business Is Not Interrupted Somewhere by Holidays and Sundays.

## CURIOUS FACTS ABOUT THE WORLD'S HOLIDAYS.

- There is no national legal holiday in the United States.
- Massachusetts does not observe New Year's Day as a legal holiday.
- Five Christian countries do not observe Christmas as a legal holiday.
- New Year's Day is the only holiday observed throughout the world.
- Eleven different dates are observed as New Year's Day in different parts of the world.
- International business will be interfered with by holidays or Sundays in 281 days in 1918, of these 261 days being holidays.
- This leaves only 84 days in which universal banking business is possible.
- November, with 28 holidays in different parts of the world, leads the month.
- March, with 19, has the fewest holidays.
- Brazil leads the nations of the world with 84 holidays.
- The United States comes next with 54.

By GARRET SMITH.

WHILE man plays or prays the world's business will be interfered with on 281 days during 1918. In other words, there will be only 84 days in this coming year that are not Sundays or special holidays in one or more important commercial regions of the earth.

The growth of international finance has made the world's aggregate of closed days a serious factor and an expensive one. Not until now, how-



New York City's Financial District Decorated in Honor of a Foreign War Mission.

ever, has any attempt been made to compile an exhaustive list of holidays for the guidance of bankers and merchants. This task has just been completed by the Guaranty Trust Company of New York City.

Contrary to the popular notion, the new democracies of the west enjoy a greater number of holidays than their sister nations of the eastern hemisphere. Of the 97 nations or dependencies listed Brazil leads, with 84 holidays. The United States, with 54, is a close second, although she, unlike Brazil, practically ignores the church days. Another popular delusion is shattered when we find that France has only 18 formally observed days and Italy only 23. We had supposed the Latins always outdid us in this particular. Among the other belligerents Germany, it is presumed, will observe 20 days next year, Great Britain 16, Japan 15 and Russia 17.

The United States has no national holiday. Acts of Congress and Presidential pronouncements in this respect apply only to the District of Columbia and the territories.

Among the favorite months of holidays the world over November leads, with 26 out of its possible 30 days. May comes next, with 25 and an additional Sunday not otherwise celebrated, thus actually tying November in the number of days closed to business. March, on the other hand, is the longest all around business month, having only 19 holidays.

New Year's Day is the only holiday universally observed. But, alas, it falls on 11 different dates in different parts of the globe, and some countries observe more than one of them.

Christmas Day, due to its religious significance, is not so generally observed as New Year's Day. It has, moreover, only three different dates.

# GENERAL NEWS

Francis X. Bushman, the popular movie actor, is being sued for divorce by his wife.

The Germans have brought over 2,700,000 men on the Western front in preparation for the spring drive.

Mrs. F. A. Judd, philanthropist, who has given over \$100,000 to local institutions, died in Spartanburg Monday night.

The City of Venice was hit repeatedly by bombs dropped by airmen on Sunday. No great damage was done.

More than 14,000 British non-combatants including men, women and children have been killed by the German air raids.

Secretary Baker has asked the House to appropriate \$13,211,180 for the construction of army quarters and store houses at the canal zone to afford better protection to the canal.

The Bolsheviki government gave the Roumanian Minister only ten hours to leave for Jassy, Roumania. Reports say that "he got within the time limit."

Herbert Sleight, a sergeant major from Johnstown, Pa., has the distinction of being the first American to shoot a German. He shot him at a distance of 1,400 yards. He had a telescopic sight.

According to information from the Womens' section as announced Monday there are 1,800,000 women in the United States doing farm work. Of this number 1,050,000 are colored and work in the Southern States.

It is said that the Central Empires have decided to serve an ultimatum upon the Bolsheviki delegates at Brest Litovsk demand definite acceptance or rejection of the German peace terms within a specified time.

Greece will be able to muster 400,000 men in the next two months and have them at Salonika. More than 1,200,000 allied troops will be ready for the drive to break the German back-bone in the Balkans by March 31st.

The coast ship lines want more pay for carrying cotton to New England. The increases were asked following an order of Director General McAdoo diverting 150,000 bales of cotton to Southern ports for emergency shipments to New England points to relieve the cotton shortage at Northern Mills.

Foster L. Kay, manager of the sub-station in Spartanburg, was instantly killed when he attempted to throw a switch or when he came in contact with a heavily charged wire. He had been in the employ of the Southern Power Company for three years. He leaves a wife and six children.

Mrs. A. F. Mische, of Jersey City, killed herself by taking gas when it was discovered that she had leprosy. She had been sick for five years with a skin disease but did not know what the disease was until she called in a specialist. She was fifty two years old. Plans were being made to take her to the County Isolation Hospital at Laurel Hill.

President Wilson recommended in his annual address to Congress that the German women in the United States be brought within the scope of the espionage act among with the male alien enemies under the provisions of a bill introduced in the Senate Tuesday by Senator Culberson of Texas, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee at the request of Attorney General Gregory.

According to Provost Marshal General Crowder the last of draftmen of the First Draft will be called to camp on Feb. 23. The movement

Frank Buchanan, an ex-representative from Illinois in 1910 to Congress, is now employed as a structural ironworker in Chicago.

The first Episcopal bishop and the only one serving in the United States Army as chaplain, is William P. Remington, of Minneapolis. He is stationed at Fort McPherson.

The Atlanta merchants are complaining that they are not able to get cornmeal to sell with the flour. They want some other cereal to use as a substitute.

The new Polish Army that is training in France will rival the famous French Foreign Legion. The legion is composed of men from many countries but the recruits for the Polish army are from the United States, Canada, Italy, England, Brazil, France and Australia.

will bring the strength of the National Army up to 685,000. Camp Lee, Virginia, is to get 3,000; Camp Jackson in Columbia will get 3,383 negroes; Camp Gordon will get 2,800 negroes; Camp Travis, Texas will get 7,558, and Pike, Ark. will get 2,000 negroes.

It is proposed that the government take care of the birds and thereby save the country millions of dollars worth of feed that is consumed by the grasshoppers, cinch bugs, boll weevil, potato bug, army worm, cabbage worm, and other destructive insects.

W. G. Lee, President of the Railroad Brotherhood, in a statement at the hearing in Washington says that the Road owners are responsible for the traffic conjection. They do not want the government control under the Adamson act to be a success and they have deliberately tried to make it a failure. Instances were cited by Mr. Lee in which he says that inexperienced men have been put in the place of veteran railroad employees. Engines were permitted to freeze. Crews would be called for duty and would be delayed in the yards until the sixteen hour law made it necessary for that crew to take its rest.

The selling of candy, cigars and cigarettes on passenger trains on Heatless Monday is a violation of the Workless Day order. Such sales are not specifically mentioned in the order but they violate the spirit coming under the same prohibition as in hotels and drug stores.

Another attempt to kill Lenin failed Saturday. A student armed with a revolver penetrated the reception room of Smolay Institute but was mobbed before he could reach Lenin's private office.

New devices are being used by the Americans in the submarine campaign. Guns and torpedoes are still being used. Just what the new devices are has not been disclosed.

The Russian soldiers around Moscow want to fight. They do not want to accept the German peace terms. They are ready to continue the resisting.

Surgeon General Gorgas is the head of the great medical branches of the army, navy and public health.

Trapped by their own barrage fire a few American soldiers faced death but they managed to get back to their own lines safely.

Grover Cleveland Alexander wants besides his annual salary of \$12,000 a bonus of \$10,000 to play baseball this season.

## CAN'T DO WITHOUT THE PRESS AND BANNER

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