

Farm, Garden & Household.



Table with 7 columns labeled S, M, T, W, T, F, S and 7 rows of numbers 1 through 31.

WORN-OUT FARMS.

I look with sincere pity upon many farmers who are settling down into discouragement over the condition of their farms; their crops are light from lack of manure, the mature-beap is small from want of crops; from want of any thing to sell they are too poor to buy fertilizers, and in utter hopelessness they exclaim: "Farming is a poor business."

Well, such farming is a poor business. I do not speak of this to add to the discouragement, but to give a word of cheer—to point, if I can, to some way to better the farmers lot. I believe the cheapest and the easiest way to bring up a run down farm is by green manuring.

Suppose your farm is too poor for clover, and grass makes only a feeble growth; put on it a manural crop that will grow, such as rye, turn this under with your plow, and you can then raise something better; keep feeding your soil with everything your shovel and your team can command—ashes, leached ashes, if you can get them by drawing them within five miles—muck, manure, anything that will bring a green mantle over your fields, soon you can set the clover pump to work pumping up to the surface the inexhaustable resources of your subsoil.

If an animal dies, don't stop to bewail your luck and exclaim, "Everything goes to the dogs on my farm!" Don't send it to the dogs at all, but compost it with muck, or even soil, and thus secure a most valuable manure. Samson performed a wonder by taking honey from the dead carcass of a lion; out do that wonder by extracting wheat from the carcass of your cow. Pick up all the bones you can find, put them under cover and mix with them two or three times their bulk of ashes from your kitchen; moisten them with enough water so that the potash may act on the gelatin of the bones; stir them over once a week, and in a month or two you will find the bones so tender that you can cut and crush them with a blow of your shovel; heat the whole into a powdery mass, and you will have a manure better than the average of the superphosphates which you feel too poor to buy. Give a handful of this to each hill of corn and see how it will wave its banner of green, and pour into your basket the golden ears of corn.

But in bringing your soil into good condition, do not neglect green manuring; let every wind that blows over your fields bring them a blessing in the shape of atmospheric plant food. Do all these things patiently and hopefully, without urging your soil beyond what it can do, and you will yet, out of the fullness of a grateful heart, exclaim, "Bless God for the farm."—Prof. B. C. Kenzie of the Michigan Agricultural College.

ATTEND TO BUSINESS.—Nothing but ultimate ruin stares that farmer in the face who does not pay personal attention to all the most minute details of his farm. There are a thousand small leaks about the management of an ordinary farm, that if not closely attended to will surely bring the most hard working farmer to ruin and bankruptcy. Nine-tenths of the sinking farmers can attribute their present distress to no other cause than a lack of close attention to the small details of the farm; a close supervision of machinery and tools, the stock and their feed, a place for everything and everything in its place. No one is as much interested in attending to these details as the boss. Such a course will in a few months, or a year or two at most, enable many farmers who are now on the down grade, to again begin to ascend. If heroically persevered in, it will surely make headway against what now looks hopeless.

Often in a fine orchard we find one or more trees leaning over so far as to destroy the beauty of the whole orchard. It is also much more difficult to cultivate around a leaning tree. This trouble may easily be remedied while the trees are young by partly digging up and replanting them. The roots will be found smallest on the side from which the tree leans, therefore these roots should be loosened from the earth and the trees set in a perpendicular position, and carefully fastened by stakes and guys, and the earth replaced around the roots. It would be well to add some rich compost to promote their growth. If, as is very probable, the top of the tree has become one-sided, it should be pruned so as to restore the balance. In this way we have righted up pear trees six inches through the stem, but the best way is to look after the young trees and not permit them to depart from the way of uprightness.

PENNYROYAL AND POTASH.—The Scientific American says that if mosquitoes or other bloodsuckers infest our sleeping rooms at night, we uncork a bottle of the oil of pennyroyal, and these insects leave in great haste, nor will they return so long as the room is loaded with the fumes of that aromatic herb. If rats enter the cellar, a little powdered potash, thrown in their holes, or mixed with meal and scattered in their runaways, never fails to drive them away. Cayenne pepper will keep the buttry and store room free from ants and roaches. If a mouse makes an entrance into any part of your dwellings, saturate a rag with cayenne, in solution, and stuff it into the hole, which can then be repaired with either wood or mortar. No rat or mouse will eat that rag for the purpose of opening communication with a depot of supplies.

We are informed by one who has tried it that, if a small quantity of salt is sprinkled under the plum trees just as the fruit is forming, it will kill the curculio and prevent the young plums from being stung. The same person says wood-ashes spread under the plum trees will also drive the curculio away. He applies both of these remedies and always has nice smooth plums and a bountiful crop. Perhaps both are effectual; the ashes will, at least, promote a vigorous growth, and the salt can do no harm if it is used sparingly.

A poison of any conceivable description and degree of potency, which has been intentionally or accidentally swallowed, may, it is said, be rendered almost instantly harmless by simply swallowing two gills of sweet oil. A person with a very strong constitution should take nearly twice the quantity. This oil, it is alleged, will most positively neutralize every form of vegetable, animal, or mineral poison with which physicians and chemists are acquainted.

The roots of clover have a natural tendency to decompose after having produced the plant in perfection, and it is the effect of this decomposition that renders a crop of clover so good a preparation for the growth of wheat. Decay ever furnishes regenerative food, while the roots pierce and divide the soil, loosening the ground.

It is a mistake to suppose one can work off sickness. If you fall ill, favor your body and take the required rest which nature demands. Don't eat without appetite. Your stomach will indicate when it is time to take food, and then it will be prepared to digest it.

One pound of corn is equal, as food, to four pounds of potatoes, and more than equal to eight pounds of cabbage, or to twelve and a half pounds of turnips. Meat is not fattening, but is muscular yielding and strengthening. Grains are fattening.

An Oskaloosa farmer says: "Clover, so fatal to cattle, may be cured by fastening a stick in their mouths and compelling them to hold their heads in an elevated position, the poisonous gases escaping. He says it never has failed."

For twenty-four hours after farrowing a sow should be fed on soft food or slops, which should be given in a warm, though not hot, state. Amash of bran or meal answers very well.

Miscellaneous.

THE SEASIDE LIBRARY.

Table listing books and their authors, such as 'East Lynne' by Mrs. Henry Wood, 'John Halifax' by Miss Mulock, etc.

Miscellaneous.

Table listing various items and services, including 'Sewing Machines', 'Dry Goods and Notions', and 'Watches, Clocks, Jewelry'.

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