

OUR RURAL READERS.

SOMETHING HERE THAT WILL INTEREST THEM.

The Improved Ground Cherry Growing Rapidly in Favor—How to Secure Hay on Swamps—Protecting Vines from the Striped Beetle.

The Ground Cherry.
With many farmers the ground cherry is classed among the weeds, as it grows wild in many parts of the central and western States. Its value as a fruit has not been generally appreciated and until the past few years it was seldom seen in cultivation. An improved variety is now finding its way in our seedmen's catalogues, says the American Agriculturist, and there is



IMPROVED GROUND CHERRY.

no doubt that it will grow rapidly in favor. The plant is quite hardy, and will thrive on any soil where potatoes will grow. The fruit when the husk has been removed is a handsome yellow cherry of about three-fourths of an inch in diameter. It has something of a strawberry flavor, and is excellent for sauce, pies, or preserves. For winter use the fruit may be canned or dried. Or if kept in a cool place in its husk the cherry will keep plump and sound until December, or later. In growing ground cherries about the same method is pursued as in growing tomatoes. The seeds are sown in hotbeds, and the young plants are not taken to the garden until danger of frost is past. The ground cherry is wonderfully prolific. The first ripe ones are gathered about the first of August. After this the fruit may be picked every two or three days until when ripening.

the cocks and dry out this gathered moisture, and then know that it will keep. If the day after it is cut does not prove a good hay day, we leave it in the swath, and I have made good hay that was cut Thursday, lay through a heavy rain on Friday and Saturday, and was not stirred until Monday.

Killing Weeds.

Barren summer fallowing is often practiced to clear land, but usually corn, potatoes, cabbage or beets may be better grown, giving a profitable return for the extra cultivation, says the Philadelphia Ledger. As annual weeds thrive best in soil that has been broken, but is not occupied, it is evident that broken land should not be permitted to remain idle. A little grass seed sown in on bare hill sides will often keep down annual weeds, and will at the same time prevent washing. Mowing the roadside two or three times during the summer will subdue the dog fennel and ragweed. Mowing the stubble about two weeks after harvest and grain fields that have been seeded to grass or clover will check the annual weeds and at the same time produce a mulch that is very beneficial to the seedling during the summer drought.

White Lumps in Butter.

These are due to slugs of curd. They are caused by improper handling of the cream. It has become too sour, and wheyed off, says the Agricultural Epitomist. In other words, is has lost its homogeneity; it is partly decomposed. The scum of the cream has partially separated and settled to the bottom, and the solids have gathered in clots. These clots cohere so strongly that they are not broken up in the churning, and so they are found in the butter unchurned. They are unsightly. They spoil the price of butter if sold, and the pleasure of eating it if used at home. As a preventive stir the cream well when fresh cream is added to that already in the cream can, and also stir when ripening.

Protecting Vines.

The worst enemy the cucumber, squash, pumpkin and melon vines have is the little striped beetle. It not only eats the pulp from the underside of the leaves, but destroys the stalks, and if the soil is loose it eats the stalks below the ground; therefore it is a difficult matter to fight it with insecticides. For a garden where less than two dozen hills are planted, the safest and cheapest way to protect the vines is by a covering of mosquito netting or cheese cloth, cut into pieces 18 or 20 inches square. These, to add to their durability, should be first dipped in oil and wrung as dry as possible. Now take a piece of No. 12 or 14 wire—galvanized if possible—cut into 20-inch lengths, bend five inches of each end at right angles, and set them two inches into the ground at the corner of each



GOOD VINE PROTECTOR.

hill, as seen at a in the engraving. The netting is now spread over this frame, and the edges are covered with a little soil to keep it in place. This covering, while admitting plenty of light and rain as falls, also keeps out the little striped beetles.

Selling Color of Horses.

"What is the best selling color?" is a question often asked by horsemen. The opinion of the Western Horseman is that fat is the best color in the world. One sees very little of this color at the average breeders' sale. Colts and mares are too often brought into the sale ring spring poor. No one cares for such stock, and the result is that the animals sell for ridiculously low figures, and the late owner goes home cursing his luck and vowed that the bottom has fallen out of the horse market.

Securing Hay on Swamps.

Owners of swamps frequently find it impossible to store hay during the summer season because of softness of soil and water ways preventing the use of horse and wagon. The hay is cut during a dry period when the marsh will support a man, cured and cocked on a number of piles as shown in the cut. If the cock is intended for a large one, boards are laid over a dozen or more piles; if small, the hay is laid on the



FOR STACKING MARSH HAY.

pile heads. During winter when the ground is frozen, the hay is easily removed by horse and sled.—Farm and Home.

Largest Beehive in the World.
Probably the largest beehive in the world is that at Bee Rock, Cal., says the Massachusetts Ploughman. The rock is, in fact, itself the hive. It is a granite boulder, rising abruptly from the bed of a little affluent of the Arroyo Alcada, and it is seamed and scored with fissures of diverse sizes, whose depths have never been sounded. They are all inhabited by a vast population of bees, and overflow with honey. It is impossible to estimate the quantity stored in the hidden recesses, and it is needless to say that nobody will be bold enough to explore. It is not without considerable peril that honey hunters rifle the bees of that which appears at the edge of and outside the fissures, and that comes to many hundred pounds' weight every year.

Curing Clover Hay.

After many years of unsatisfactory experience with clover hay, says a writer in "Ohio Farmer," I finally learned how to cure it so that it will surely keep. The secret lies in curing twice. We cut usually quite late in the afternoon what we can care for in a day, and if the following day proves a good hay day, cure it as rapidly as possible, and by 2 o'clock it will feel perfectly dry. I then put it into cocks, and always find it the next morning damp and clammy. About 10 o'clock we open

Notes on Eggplants.

At the Maine Station early setting of eggplants, when the plants escaped injury from frost, gave a large advance in the percentage of plants bearing marketable fruits, in the case of Black Pekin variety amounting to 33 per cent. Deep cultivation with a horse hoe gave much better results than shallow-hand work. Root-pruning gave contradictory results.

Taking Out Tall Stumps.

To take out stumps and stones is easier during a very dry spell on some fields, while on other soil the work is made lighter if the ground is moist, or even wet. Pick out the best time for doing these jobs, so that the same labor will accomplish more and be less expensive for the amount of improvements made.

Salt for Cattle.

Salt is an essential constituent of the blood, and because many of the common foods of cattle are lacking in this essential it must be artificially supplied. They are all inhabited by a vast population of bees, and overflow with honey. It is impossible to estimate the quantity stored in the hidden recesses, and it is needless to say that nobody will be bold enough to explore. It is not without considerable peril that honey hunters rifle the bees of that which appears at the edge of and outside the fissures, and that comes to many hundred pounds' weight every year.

Use the Horse Mower.

Thousands of acres are mowed with a scythe where a horse mower might not be used. Rocks and roughness cut no figure with the modern mower properly handled.

Wide Tires on the Farm.

Wide tires protect the woodwork of the wheels. When you have got them, keep them by painting every year.

Cheap Farm Luxuries.

A garden, a driving horse and Jersey milk are the choicest and cheapest farm luxuries.

TROUBLE IN THE CAMP

REPUBLICANS EXPECT LOSSES IN NORTHERN STATES.

Attempt to Keep Up Their Courage by Claiming Improbable Gains—Coming Prosperity Reluctantly Admitted by Champions of Protection.

Republican Losses and Gains.

It is evident that the Republicans expect to lose some, at least, of the great Northern States which they carried by the dust, mourning as one that could not be consoled, the fearful calamities which it said must fall upon this nation as the result of the reduction of taxation at the custom houses, not only lifts its eyes to see prosperity upon every hand under a Democratic tariff, but lifts also its voice to exclaim in joyful note:

life no man can define with exactness his position on any vital public question. It is not at all creditable to American political methods that this consistent policy of trimming and evasion should be held to peculiarly qualify him for the presidency.

Admitted Prosperity.

The Chicago Inter Ocean, that with well known has been seeking McKinley in the dust, mourning as one that could not be consoled, the fearful calamities which it said must fall upon this nation as the result of the reduction of taxation at the custom houses, not only lifts its eyes to see prosperity upon every hand under a Democratic tariff, but lifts also its voice to exclaim in joyful note:

ALL SAY IT'S A BOOM.

MERCHANTS CLAIM AN ERA OF PROSPERITY HAS BEGUN.

DARK DAYS LEFT BEHIND.

DRY GOODS MEN SPEAK OF A VAST IMPROVEMENT IN TRADE.

Clothing and Boot and Shoe Manufacturers All Tell of Increasing Orders.

Do we sleep? Do we dream? Is civilization a failure? Is the Caucasian played out? Here is a journal that has never failed to assert that if Democrats, voted into legislative and executive authority by the people of the United States, should make the slightest reduction of taxation from the schedules set up by Republicans, should make a single step in the direction of free trade, the land would lie prostrate under a blow delivered by the land itself! If, was the dire prediction of the Inter Ocean and all its class, the Democratic party should reduce taxation at the custom houses an average of 50 per cent, the prosperity of the country would disappear, its industries would be delivered into the hands of the Philistines, its workmen would be reduced to a condition of paupers and peace and prosperity would forever fly therefrom.

In Pennsylvania the war between the Cameron and Quay faction and the faction led by Governor Hastings is embittered in the extreme. "Don" Cameron's Senatorial term expires March 4, 1897, and the Quay politicians are in such straits that they have attempted to unload by announcing that he will not be a candidate for election to another term. In Ohio the condition of the Republican factions is as bad as that of the Democrats.

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In the States carried by the Republicans last year the grosses scandals have occurred in the administrative departments and in the legislatures. The yet incomplete history of the Illinois General Assembly is a specimen of the condition of affairs in other States.

Popular indignation has been excited by the enactment of bad laws and by failure to enact good laws, and by general inaction, incompetence and corruption. In every "landslide" State, without exception, this is the record that the victorious Republicans have made. The Republicans have deserved to lose the great Northern States that they carried overwhelmingly in 1894, and such is the present probability. But their expectation of making gains at the South to offset, in whole or in part, their losses at the North is absurd. What gains they made at the South last year probably will disappear, instead of increasing, in 1895 and 1896.—Chicago Chronicle.

When Will Democracy Die? When the lion eats grass like an ox, And the fisherman swallows the whale; When the robin knit woolen socks, And the hare is outrun by the snail; When serpents walk upright like man, And doodle-bugs travel like frogs; When grasshoppers feed like the hen, And feathers are found on hogs; When Thomas cats swim in the air, And elephants roost on trees; When insects in summer are rare, And snail never makes a sneeze; When fish creep over dry land, And miles on velocipedes ride; When foxes lay eggs in the sand, And women in dress take no pride; When Dutchmen no longer drink beer, And girls get to preening on time; When only geese butt from the rear, And trout in a pond is crime; When hummin birds sing like an ass, And limburbers cells have a tongue; When plowshares are made out of stone, And the hearts of true Texans of stone; When ideas grow in Populists' heads, And the wool on the hydrable can, Then the Democratic party will be dead, And the country won't be worth a d—n.

A Tin Plate Nail in McKinley's Coffin. The increased number and prosperity of the tin-plate mills drive another nail in the coffin of McKinleyism. The new tariff made the ore free, as it was before the McKinley bill clapped on the preposterous and oppressive tax of four cents a pound. It also reduced the duty on tin-plate from 2-20 cents a pound to 1-15 cents. Yet there are thirty-five tin works rolling their own black plates and seven in course of erection. In addition there are thirty tin-plate dipping works prospering because of untaxed metal. The amount of finished plates will be increased this year, according to the Metal Worker, from 4,110,000 boxes of finished plates to 5,500,000 boxes, or nearly four-fifths the consumption. The logic of events is making short work with the theories of high-tariff men.—New York World.

Day after day the announcement comes of voluntary increase of wages by industrial concerns from one end of the land to the other, especially from those great industries specially the object of Republican protection—furnaces, forges and rolling mills. The iron industry is the greatest precursor of improved conditions. Throughout the United States the iron industry is actively at work. The fact that the Democratic tariff law reduced the so-called element of protection cuts no figure at all. Wages are increased, activities at iron mines are renewed, lines of transportation are more widely employed, business conditions are everywhere more favorable.

Where is an apostle of calamity and disaster, that fraudulent preacher of the false doctrine that the United States must put heavy taxes upon the whole body of the people in order to render themselves prosperous; that hired advocate of the few who wish themselves to be the special objects of government regard? McKinley is running up and down the land, looking for a nomination to the presidency at the hands of the Republican party, still preaching calamity and distress as the necessary outcome of Democratic tariff laws, and holding his peace profoundly on the silver question. And if nominated in 1896 thereafter nothing will again be heard in this country of either McKinley or McKinleyism.

Carrying a Heavy Handicap.

Ohio's favored son is logically a hard-times candidate. By an overwhelming majority he was re-elected governor of Ohio as a calamity howler who charged all disaster to the party who overthrew his tariff system and substituted that now in operation. His graphic description of the troubles and sufferings that must be endured until McKinleyism could be restored are on record to discredit him as to his alleged facts as well as to his presence as a statesman. He committed himself beyond hope of hedging or explaining. He burned his bridges behind him and stands before the people to-day carrying the handicap of a dead issue.—Detroit Free Press.

The Popular Income Tax Idea.

We have heard many men in this country discuss the income tax question, and only the few having a tax to pay have opposed it. One rich summer visitor to Cooperstown, who would have had a large tax to pay, wrote to us when Congress passed the law: "It is one of the most equitable and just taxes ever imposed to carry on the government."—Freeman's Journal.

Hint to a Good Friend.

If Governor McKinley has any gumption he will have Captain Foraker removed from charge of the steerage apparatus. The Times does not want to make any hard feeling in the Republican camp, but cannot help a friendly word of caution to the best friend the Democratic party ever had.—Dayton Free Press.

Fact and Fiction in Each Issue.

The American papers are presenting the ridiculous spectacle of carrying prosperity in their news columns and calamity on their editorial pages.—Richmond Times.

The Industrial Barometer.

As wages go up McKinley goes down.—Indianapolis News.

MONEY IN PATENTS.

LITTLE THINGS THAT HAVE MADE MILLIONS.

An Inkstand That Already Has Made \$200,000—A Pen That Pays \$40,000 a Year and a Boutonniere That Brings in \$12,000.

Invent Something.

Do you need money? If so, why not give your attention to the invention of small and useful articles which may



THIS WAS SOLD FOR \$50,000.

be patented? A little investigation will satisfy anybody that a great amount of money has been made in recent years from small, and, in some cases, trivial patents. It is true that the inventor has not in all cases secured much of the profit himself, but it seems that with energy and ordinary business ability he should be able to do so. How trivial the invention may be shown by the statement that the "Pigs-in-Clover" puzzle brought in \$100,000. Experience does not prove that it is wise for the inventor to occupy himself with

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