

FARM AND GARDEN.

BRIEF HINTS AS TO THEIR SUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT.

Birchen Corn Economically of Labor
—**New Variety of Game Fowls**—**The Northern Spy a Good Bearing Apple**
—**General Farm Prospects.**

Birchen Game Fowls.
At the last revision of the American Standard of Perfection there was recognized a new variety of Game under the name of Birchen. This variety, though new to the Standard, is by no means new in fact, for it has existed for many years, but has been but little bred. In the past few years interest has been revived or created in it in England, and has been awakened in this country.

Birchens were produced originally by a cross of the Silver Duckwing and the Brown Red, the Duckwing being used to effect the change in the color of the hackle and outer lacing. This cross, however, usually gives more lacing than is required or desired, and a return to the Brown Red is made to get rid of the extra lacing. It is by no means an easy thing to produce a new variety, and though every step should be indicated, the patience necessary for the undertaking could not be supplied to the experimenter. He must furnish that very important element himself. Ordinarily, except to the one who likes



TYPICAL BIRCHEN GAMES.

this kind of work, it does not pay to attempt to produce a new variety. It is quicker and cheaper to purchase it already made. But there are always some minds which delight in the manipulation of old varieties for the sake of producing new, and to them we owe many new combinations in color or figure which delight the eye.

Game fowls—especially games are not generally included in the list of practical fowls, but they are really very good layers of most excellent eggs, and are, despite their long shanks, most excellent fowls for the table. Their bodies are plump and meaty and the flesh is exceedingly fine in grain and delicious in flavor. Exhibition games are better practical fowls than they are given credit for, and the Birchen is one of the most useful.

The Back Yard.

The intelligent man inspects his sinks, drains and cess-pools, and makes sure that they are in good order for winter. Whatever material is used for drains, says A Healthy Home, the necessity of flushing the pipes with some good disinfectant solution at frequent intervals remains the same. Once or twice a week is none too often in hot weather. Copperas is a good disinfectant for ordinary use, and has the advantage of being cheap. Dissolve in the proportion of one-half a pound to a gallon of water, and use very freely. Plug the outlet, and pour enough into the sink to fill the pipe its full length. Use the solution as near the boiling point as convenient, for the reason that a hot fluid is far more penetrating than a cold one; also, because a hot solution acts as a solvent of whatever waste particles may have lodged at various points. Dishwater usually contains more or less grease, and this will be melted and washed out if the disinfectant is poured in hot.

The Northern Spy Apple.

Freely, out of a number of varieties of apples in an orchard, only one or two will bear, all the others failing to produce a crop. The Northern Spy is said by Meehan's Monthly to be one of the apples that will frequently bear when all the others fail. This is probably owing to its blooming later than the others, so that the flowers get the full benefit of its pollen. The Northern Spy is also a favorite, from the fact that it usually bears an abundant crop; that is, after it once commences to bear; but the trees seldom bear when young, and the orchardist frequently has to wait several years for a crop, when other varieties have been for some time in bearing.

The Most Beautiful Fern.

The beautiful Adiantum Farleyense, the delight and despair of most home growers, requires three things—heat and moisture, shade and root room. Never let a plant get pot-bound, says Edgar Sanders in the Philadelphia Ledger, but keep on repotting, keeping the plant within bounds by using old stools for propagation when the plants are oversized. To do this, cut into as many pieces as there are eyes, cut the foliage off and put into the potting material; soon there will be a young plant to show for it. Water the earth in which the plant is and keep the pot moist, but do not water the fronds.

Farm Prospects.

Three things are constantly tending to decrease the legitimate profits of agriculture, and that they are likely to continue to do so for a long time to come, says the Michigan Farmer. These are an increased area devoted to production, increased competition in all departments, and the increased facilities for production afforded by machinery. And to these might be added a fourth, the wonderful facilities for transportation that enabled the products of the cheapest labor to compete with those of the dearest in the markets of the world.

Treatment of Ashes.

One of our exchanges gives a mode of treating wood ashes, which has the advantage of convenience, in connection with ground bone. The mixing is performed on a solid good barn floor. The first layer is of finely pulverized soil about two inches thick, which is then moistened with a sprinkler. On this is then placed two inches of ground bone,

which is also moistened; and then two inches of unleached wood ashes, moistened. The succession of layers is then continued until the mass is two or three feet high. The fermentation which follows repels the moisture in about two weeks, when the whole is overhauled, worked over and all the lumps pulverized with a hand hoe. It is then ready for applying to crops, on such soils as are benefited by bone and ashes. It may be used at the rate of six or eight hundred pounds to the acre, whether broadcast or in hills.

Farm Water Supply.

Running streams and springs are the best sources of water supply, but they should be frequently examined to detect otherwise unsuspected causes of pollution, those most frequently coming from factories, slaughter-houses and the sewage from hotels and farmhouses. Especially, says the New York Tribune, should one set to it that all forms of human excreta are kept from polluting drinking water.

Cisterns should be carefully built and covered, so that no foul air can reach the water, or small animals or insects fall into it. The overflow pipes from cisterns should have no connection with any other pipes. Roofs and gutters should be frequently examined, and no water allowed to enter the cistern during storms until they are well cleaned. Cistern water should be frequently examined and kept free from color, odor and every other indication of impurity. Rainwater is purest when collected from a slate roof. The cistern should not be under the house, and should be cleaned at regular intervals.

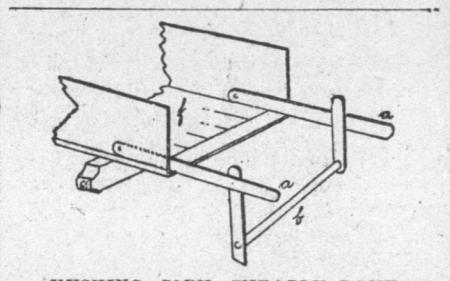
Granular Butter.

Draw off the buttermilk, and with a dipper pour a pail of cold water over the butter, letting it run through it and out of the churn. This hardens the granules of butter and prevents their massing together. Next, advises the Wisconsin Dairymen, cover the butter with cold water, and move the churn back and forth a few times, draw off the water and repeat until the water runs from the churn clear. At this stage it is recommended and practiced by many to cover the butter with a strong brine (which can be kept for this purpose, and repeatedly used by occasional scalding to keep pure), which hardens the grains, and more perfectly liberates the buttermilk, giving the butter a brighter appearance.

Corn Husking Device.

In the illustrated device for husking corn, it represents the rear end of an ordinary wagon box; a are 2x4 in pine sticks 5 or 6 feet long, rounded at the ends and extended into the wagon box 2 feet from the end. The gate is bolted to the sides, up edgewise, so that the whole will tip clear forward and lie in the bottom of the box toward its front end; b is a step and brace.

A man doing his own work can blanket his team, drive along the shock row, fling enough corn stalks upon the frame a, husk it, throwing the corn into the wagon bed, the the bundle, step on b, walk to front end of wagon box, place it crosswise and continue the husking until loaded. When starting home, raise the frame and put in the end



HUSKING CORN CHEAPLY DONE.

gate which keeps fodder from rolling off in the rear. Returning to the field, turn the step b forward and use the inverted end for a seat.—Farm and Home.

Subsoil Plowing.

Where there is a hard, dry subsoil, subsoil plowing is to be recommended. Where the subsoil is loose, gravelly or sandy, subsoiling is probably unnecessary, or may even be injurious.

Do not subsoil when the soil is very wet, either above or beneath, as there is great danger of puddling the soil, thus leaving it in worse condition than before. This is one of the reasons why it is better to subsoil in the fall than in the spring.

If the ground be subsoiled in the fall the winter and spring rains have ample opportunity to soak in, that being the season of greatest rainfall and least evaporation.

Watering Hens.

I winter 200 hens; they are kept in warm but ventilated houses, and do well. For the morning meal, says the Agriculturist, I feed hot corn and a pudding made of cornmeal, seasoned with salt and pepper. They have plenty of straw, all kinds of small grain, which they must scratch for, and all the fresh water they can drink.

My hens are fat in winter, and I keep them so and have eggs in plenty at the same time. I keep the lice from interfering with my business by using Carbolicum Avenarius. It also prevents disease.

For the Red Spider.

Bisulphide of carbon Dr. Bailey recommends for the mite and the red spider. It is a clear, transparent liquid, evaporating rapidly. Its fumes are fatal to insect and animal life. The plants to be treated must be in a small space. An uncorked bottle of this hung above the infected plants in a tight box just large enough to contain them will kill all animal life.

Increase the Yield of Your Cows.

If you can raise the average yield per cow, only 100 quarts per year for the next ten years, you will be well on the way to success as a milk farmer. The way to do it without expense is to breed the best cows to a bull of milk-producing pedigree, raise the best heifer calves and sell off a few of the poorest cows each year.

Feed the Orchard.

The better we feed the tree so much the better will be the return. What feed shall be for each one to decide. With me I'll pin my faith on barn manures helped out by bone and potash. We are tilling our young orchard. In the small pasture places where there are older trees the hog is doing good work.

Medium-Sized Cows Best.

Some of those big milkers are not so profitable as the cows of moderate size, which give a moderate amount of rich milk and keep it up nearly the whole year. Big, coarse cows are tremendous eaters.

VICIOUS INFLUENCE.

"PROTECTION" A CONSERVATOR OF CORRUPTION.

Blunts the Public Conscience and Makes of Politics a Mercenary Scramble—Mr. Lubin's Challenge—A Study in Wool—The Iron Trade.

Ambassador Bayard on Protection. The Hon. Thomas F. Bayard, ex-Secretary of State, and now ambassador to Great Britain, delivered an address before the Philosophical Society of Edinburgh on Nov. 7. After an earnest protest against all forms of paternalism and state socialism he said:

"In my own country I have witnessed the insatiable growth of that form of state socialism styled protection, which, I believe, has done more to foster class legislation and create inequality of fortune, corrupt public life, banish men of independent mind and character from public councils, blunt public conscience and place politics upon the low level of a mercenary scramble than any other single cause. Step by step, and largely owing to the confusion of civil strife, it has succeeded in obtaining control of the sovereign power of taxation, creating the revenue into an engine for selfish and private profit (its allied beneficiaries and combines are called trusts), and gradually the commercial marine of the United States has disappeared, the few vessels lately built being an exception and proving the rule, as they were only built by making a breach in the general tariff and navigation laws."

No clearer statement of the evil effects of protection has ever been given.

The loss to the material interests of the country which was due to the high tariff system, was but a secondary result. The most important and far-reaching injury was the degradation of national statesmanship into a cunning balancing of the claims of privileged interests.

The money lost through protection amounts to billions of dollars. But who can calculate the effects on private character of the establishment as a principle of public life of the doctrine that governments may justly take away the property of the people and bestow it on a favored few? Is it any wonder that the business man who in 1888 raised the largest fund for corruption purposes should have been rewarded by President Harrison with a seat in the cabinet? Were not those funds contributed by men who wished to purchase government favors for themselves?

By cleverly appealing to the selfishness of the various protected interests the advocates of a high tariff policy succeeded for a long time in holding office. If after the experience of the beneficial results of a low tariff on trade and industry the country should again elect a protectionist administration, it would be the strongest evidence of the lack of public conscience caused by the unjust and dishonest protective system.

Combination in the Soft Coal Trade. With the approach of cold weather comes the announcement that practically all the bituminous coal operators of central and western Pennsylvania, Maryland and West Virginia have completed arrangements for the joint control of production and prices. It is stated that the combination will be able to maintain or increase prices by demand for their products at home, but the foreign markets are open to them.

The output of American iron and steel mills is now much larger than that of any other nation, and it can be indefinitely increased. Is this not a good time for them to enlarge their export trade? There may be a slackening of demand for their products at home, but the foreign markets are open to them.

The Tariff Is a Tax. If the tariff is not a tax, will the Buffalo News kindly tell us why the consumer is obliged to pay more for the taxed article than he would and does we are it untaxed.—Niagara Falls Cataract.

The Cataract begs the question. He doesn't—Buffalo News.

That is sheer nonsense. If the consumer does not pay the tax, why then is there so much attempted smuggling of taxed articles on his part; and why is it that when the tax is taken off the price immediately falls? How, for instance, does it happen that woolen goods are cheaper now than ever before; how that the price of natural gas to the consumer in Buffalo, as the Express of that city pointed out, is greater by reason of the import tax than it would be? And what would be the effect in this last case if there was no tax?

The News apparently loses sight of the economic fact that the less the cost of putting any ware on the market the cheaper it can be sold. Any addition to the expense, whether arbitrary in the form of a tax, or otherwise, means a raising of the price to the consumer. And if the price be raised to him he must assuredly pay the tax.

Creditable to Democrats. The total vote in Pennsylvania gives an explanation of the Republican plurality of 175,000. Compared with 1892 the Democratic stay-at-homes number 170,000 this year. The Republican vote, so far from increasing, is 60,000 behind that of 1892. Compared even with last year the Democrats fall behind 118,000 and the Republicans 50,000. Considering the ascendancy of Boss Quay in their party, it is much to the discredit of the Republicans of Pennsylvania that they permitted the Democrats so greatly to surpass them in disgust and apathy.

Sealed Markets. The calamity howlers of the Boston Home Market Club have doubtless observed that during the operation of the new tariff a Boston shoe firm has been very successful in supplying many people in Germany with "Hessian" boots. But to the members of this club a foreign market for American manufacturers is not worth considering. What they desire is an exclusive home market, in which there will be neither exports nor imports.—Philadelphia Record.

Sherman on Free Wool.

Sherman tells an interviewer that free wool has cost the country \$40,000 or \$50,000,000. It would be interesting to know how much the free wool which Mr. Sherman has put over the country's eyes in his role of financial wiseacre has taken out of the pockets of the people.—Philadelphia Record.

The Challenge to Protectionists.

Mr. David Lubin, of Sacramento, Cal., has had on deposit in a San Francisco bank for nearly a year a check for \$1,000. This amount is offered as a contribution to the Protective Tariff League, provided that an impartial committee of five would decide that the present system of tariff protection is just and equitable to the producers of agricultural staples as long as there

is a surplus of these exports. So far the League has not attempted to win the thousand dollars.

As the Republicans will appeal to the farmers next year on a high-tariff platform, it is certainly incumbent on them to accept Mr. Lubin's challenge and try to prove that protection is just to the farmers. It is an encouraging sign to find that the Democratic campaign of education has had the effect of showing many farmers that they cannot possibly be helped by the protective system. If the McKinleyites fail to prove that a restoration of their high taxation scheme will benefit the farming industry, how can they expect to gain the farmer vote? Their only hope lies in dodging the issue. But they may be assured that their cowardice will be of no use. In the words of the West, the farmers are on to the high-tariff dodge. Not just to the farmer? Then no votes for protection. See?

What the President Will Do.

Certain impudent Protectionist editors and politicians have taken upon themselves the liberty of advising President Cleveland that if the incoming Congress should pass a bill increasing duties, he would be bound to sign it, in view of the Republican successes in the recent State elections. And with unequalled insolence these petty partisans declare that the President "would not dare" to veto a bill restoring the McKinley tariff.

The Republicans in Congress need not worry about the Democratic President. If they choose to hamper industry and check the business revival which has been going on since the Wilson tariff became law, by threatening to re-establish McKinleyism, they are welcome to go ahead. The sooner they show their hand the quicker will the people realize that they are prosperity destroyers and opposed to the country's best interests.

There need be no question as to what President Cleveland will do with a protectionist bill. The man who refused to sign the law repealing the McKinley tariff, because it retained too much protection, will veto a Republican tariff bill so quickly that the Congress which passed it will hear something drop right hard. No scheme for more protection will become law while Grover Cleveland is President.

Wonderful Production of Pig Iron.

In its latest issue the Iron Age states that the current production of pig iron in the United States "is at the tremendous rate of 11,250,000 tons per annum."

It adds that preparations now under way "will probably carry the make up to 220,000 tons per week," and that "nearly every furnace manager in the country has been driving his plant furiously."

This intense activity in the iron industries does not compare very well with the multiplied and manifold predictions of our calamity-howers. Prosperity in the iron trade is usually recognized by commercial men as a precursor of prosperity in the majority of other manufacturing industries. Certainly never before in the history of American industry was the activity of the iron and steel works of the country so great as it is now.

The output of American iron and steel mills is now much larger than that of any other nation, and it can be indefinitely increased. Is this not a good time for them to enlarge their export trade? There may be a slackening of demand for their products at home, but the foreign markets are open to them.

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