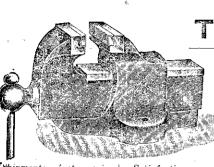
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THE FARM.

(By "Furrow").

It is said that exposure to weather causes greater destruction to farm implements than using them. Avoid this loss by storing all machinery and tools properly under shelter.

Anybody who has had to handle cement or lime knows how unpleasantly dry and sore the hands get. Relief can speedily be obtained if, when the job is firished, you get a basin of warm water, and with soap work up a good lather on the hands. Then take a teaspoor *-1 of sugar among the lather, and work it into the hands and finger nails for a minute before rinsing. The hands will then be quite clean and all soreness gone.

In the State of Michigan, U.S.A., it is a common practice to make sorghum syrap take the place of sugar, says a writer in the "Sydney Mail." The experimental farm there has turned out greatly increased quantities lately, owing to the sugar scarcity. The early amber cane is said to be the most suitable; but very great care must be exercised in the selection of good seed, or trouble will follow. The general yield is about 16 gallons of syrup to the acre. Of course, there is a good deal of labour in the preparation, and probably when sugar becomes cheap again it would not pay to go in for it.

The important South Island fixture at Invercargill, the Southland summer show, on December 14 and 15, is again to witness the contest for the South Formerly in the south Island cups. there was a championship cup for females, but now there is a cup for noth sexes. The first cup was won outright by Mr W. D. Huut in 1918. Last year the first contest for the new cups was decided at Christchurch, when Mr John Grigg's Longbeach Big King was champion male, and Mr R. Mugford's Bounty Segis Maid, champion femals. The Southland show promises to produce a great exhibition of the fancy this year, great interest having been roused in the South Island by the enterprise of southern breeders in providing prize-money at this show totalling no less than £65 for Derby candidates competing in the yearling class. Another fine prize competed for at this show is a rather unique trophy, called the Butter-fat Shield, and valued at 25 gaineas. The contest for this trophy is decided on a basis of butter-fat backing coupled with the ability of the animal to sire dairy stock.

POTATO SPRAYING.

The potato on the farm often fails to receive the all-necessary spraying that is required to protect this crop from blight. There are certain points in spraying that are essential to success. They are: Spray before blight appears. Spraying is a means of preventing the infection of the foliage, for once the disease has appeared it is almost as useless to spray as not to spray at all. Endeavour to apply the spray in dry weather, for when the mixture has thoroughly dried on the foliage it does not readily wash off; it then retains the protection to the plant. The spraying must be thorough; the pressure to secure the full distribution of the mixture must be maintained. The spray should cover the foliage from the top to the bottom of the haulm. The upper and the lower surfaces of every leaf must be covered with the spray; cach side is equally susceptible to spore infection. It is simply a waste of time to half-spray. Spraying in time saves the crop. It is not a question of increasing the yield, for there may be no crop to increase without the spraying. Spraying secures sound potatoes, and sound potatoes keep sound when they are stored. Use Bordeaux mixture, at a strength of from 4lb to 6lb of bluestone and 4lb of fresh lime to 40 gallons of water. Keep the mixture well stirred. It is useless to spray with lime and sulphur as a potato blight preventive.

WATERPROOFING CONCRETE.

For the purpose of waterproofing concrete there is nothing better than the commercial waterglass, which is a solution of sodium silicate. Dilute the water-glass with four parts of soft water. Apply with a flat brush, thoroughly wetting the surface.

Another method is the use of copper sulphate, also known as blue vitriol. One pound dissolved in 4 gallons of water and applied the same as the water-glass will give excellent results. The sulphates of aluminium, zinc, or iron can also be used, but the copper solution is by far the cheap, est and most efficient.

Water-glass is the best water-resisting agent, for its combination with the cal-

cium of the cement is a chemical one, forming an insoluble silicate of that element. Incidentally the water-glass may be coloured by mineral pigments, thus at the same time forming a waterproof colour for concrete.

Well-painted farm buildings increase the borrowing capacity of their owner.

The Poultry-Yard

(By "S.Q.M.").

THE LEGHORN FOR INTENSIVE WORK.

For egg-production the Leghorn is a grand fowl. Its eggs are large and pure white, and if it is from a good laying strain it will repay well for the comparatively small amount of food it requires. Being light and active, the Leghorn very rarely becomes fat, consequently it is less prone to disease. Where it is kept on intensive lines it will be found most satisfactory.

Take care this season that you do not allow surplus cockerels to eat up the profits; keep enough for breeding purposes and no more. If the others cannot be sold for breeding get them into condition for market.

Hens must have some kind of mineral matter to form the shells of their eggs. Do not, therefore, omit to supply them with shell-making material and hard, sharp grit. These will keep the fowls in a healthy condition.

Don't force the breeding birds. You are after strong chickens, and you are more likely to get them from a hen that lays four eggs a week than from the one that lays seven a week. It is right and proper to breed from your best layer, but when she is in the breeding pen, don't whack too much meat into her. Be satisfied with four or five eggs a week at this time. It is but fair to the hen that is wanted to produce strong chicks to give her two or three days' spell from laying in the week. You can't have it all. There is a limit, and when you go over the edge something must break.

FEATHER PULLING.

One of the troubles that the small poultrykeeper has to contend with, particularly where the birds are closely confined, is feather placking. Fowls appear to develop the habit more for lack of something to do than for any other reason, and the male, if one is kept, is apt to be the first victim. As soon as the practice begins, however, it quickly spreads to the other members of the flock, and if allowed to go unchecked will presently result in nearly all the oirds being more or less denuded, and with this there is a reduction in the egg yield. The best remedy for feather placking is exercise. The birds must be kept busily engaged during the day, and made to scratch for their feed, plenty of scratching material must be added to their sheds, and their food raked well into it, or if they can be given more liverty they usually will discontinue the pracunless it has become too deep-One preventive measure is to prepare a strong solution of bitter aloes, and sponge the feathers about the denuded parts with this. This makes them very distasteful. A lack of animal food is sometimes held to be the cause of the development of the habit. regular and liberal supply of fresh meat is recommended. This is a good plan for almost any flock in confinement, though it is doubtful whether a deficiency in this part of the ration really has anything to do with feather pulling. If the meat is fastened to a string and hung high enough above the floor so that the fowls have to jump for it, this will also assist in keeping them _usy. The birds should be supplied with plenty of green food, as this will help to keep the blood cool. A small quantity of Epsom salts in the drinking water two or three times a week will also be of service.

INCUBATOR ITEMS.

If possible run your incubator in a well ventilated cellar.

If a celtar is not available run the incubator is a well ventilated room.

incubator is a well ventilated room.

Always make sure that it is away from draughts.

Attend to the machine carefully and at regular hours.

Keep the lamp wick trimmed and

clean.

Always disinfect your incubator after the completion of a hatch.

Firemen passing through Harrison, a New Jersey town, on their way to a fire, were arrested for receding the speed limit. They were later released.

Winter Bros.,

GENERAL CARRIERS,

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(Cut this out for future reference.)

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