

jured themselves. If the farmer suffers all the country is injured.

The greatest misfortune I see in the farmer is that he does not put enough value on time. You may go anywhere through the country towns and you can find farmers sitting around stores or less worthy places and if there is a justice's trial you will generally find the place crowded, not by merchants nor bankers nor professional nor business men, but mostly farmers and laborers. If the merchant or banker would neglect his business, he would not last as long as the farmer. For my own part, I fail to find any time of the year when there is not plenty of work on a farm. A farmer who is at work or having work done all the year round is one who does not complain of hard times. A man should put value on time; where it passes without his accomplishing anything, it should be looked upon as the loss of something of particular value.

We as farmers do not study enough. Farming is as much a science as any thing there is and takes study to understand it. There is something to learn beside sowing and reaping. We should grow everything we need that we can, and to have a little of everything to sell. Hay should be consumed on the farm so that the life of the soil could be replaced. We should also strive to raise a better crop each year, which can be done if the right course is pursued.

Will someone tell how to keep apples so that they will be crisp and firm in the spring?

O. H. WARNER.

UNCOMPAGRE LAND.

W. B. Matthews Esq., of the Washington, D. C., bar, now and for some years the attorney for the State Board of Land Commissioners for the state of Idaho, has been in the city on professional business for the last month. Mr. Matthews was and is the attorney for the original discoverers of some of the asphaltum lands in the extreme eastern portion of the Uncompagre Indian reservation on the Colorado line, and in an interview gave the following facts. These men, after making their discoveries, supposing they were in the state of Colorado, the line between Utah and Colorado having become obliterated, began their developments and got out a considerable portion of the deposits, erected houses, etc., when all of a sudden the representatives of the Indian agent at Uintah appeared on the scene, notified them they were on the Indian reservation, summarily destroyed their improvements and drove them off the ground. These men then applied to the department of the interior at Washington for redress, but as these lands were not open to location or settlement nothing was done. Then it was that Mr. Matthews' services were secured by the discoverers, and he immediately set to work to secure relief through the Congress of the United States. A bill was introduced simultaneously in both houses of Congress, referred to the appropriate committee of each, and in turn referred to Secretary Noble, then secretary of the interior, for report. Mr. Noble referred the bill to the commissioner of Indian affairs and the lat-

ter after a careful investigation of the character of the land, the status of the title of the U.S., and the interests of the Indians, recommended that the lands embraced in the reservation be at once opened under the mining, homestead and other laws of the United States. The secretary concurred in the report of the Indian commissioner and recommended to Congress that the lands be at once thrown open, whereupon the bill was enacted into a law and all that was required before these lands became open to settlement, was the signature of the President of the United States. On the tenth day after the passage of the bill, after 4 p.m., President Harrison sent to Congress his veto of the bill with his reasons for the same. This was his first veto and was a surprise to both houses of Congress, but as there was serious opposition to the bill from asphaltum companies in New York and St. Louis, it was impossible to pass the bill over the veto of the President. Subsequent to this, Mr. Matthews, in his investigation as to the cause of the veto, discovered that the same had been brought about by the St. Louis people, who had been the chief and most open opponents of the bill, they supposing that should these lands be opened it would seriously interfere with their business already established and which they are now conducting in Utah.

Subsequent to this, Mr. Matthews appealed to Secretary Noble, inasmuch as this reservation had been created by executive order, to urge the President to rescind said order and to restore the lands by proclamation, as it was conceded he, the President, had the right to do. Senators Teller, Shoup and Perkins, Chairman Peck of the Indian committee of the House and other lesser lights concurred in the views entertained by Mr. Matthews, and personally addressed the President urging the opening by proclamation. Secretary Noble interviewed the President and subsequently informed Mr. Matthews that President Harrison recognized his power to declare the lands open, expressed regret that he had vetoed the bill, but as he was about to be succeeded by Mr. Cleveland, he thought it in better taste to leave this matter to his successor, particularly so since matters had become complicated by the unwarranted and unlawful acts of the Indian agent at Uintah in consenting to and assisting in obtaining a lease of the mineral lands from the Indians in favor of the American Asphaltum company.

After Secretary Hoke Smith came in, a like appeal was made to him to have the lands declared open. He objected to this method and Mr. Matthews again resorted to Congress, introduced a new bill, differing from the one vetoed by President Harrison only in this that the latter bill gave no preference right to the discoverers as did the first. This bill was referred by Congress to Secretary Smith for report. The secretary was of opinion the Uncompagre Indians owned their lands, hence it would be unjust to open them to settlement without providing compensation for the Indians. Further, that independent of the question of title—that inasmuch as the mineral lands in this reservation were immensely valuable—they should be sold by the government at public

or private sale and the fund placed in the treasury of the United States. He desired to hear argument upon the question of title, whereupon Mr. Matthews and his associate, Mr. C. A. Kelgwin, filed a printed brief and also argued the question orally. Subsequent to this and after much time uselessly lost by delays of every sort and character, a report was made to Congress, and in August, 1894, Senator Shoup succeeded in placing this bill as a rider upon the Senate Indian appropriation bill (Delegate Rawlins having previously secured the passage by the House) and when the iodiao bill was approved on the 15th of the same month it became an act. But for the intervention and active cooperation of Senator Shoup—even in the event that the bill had passed both houses—it would no doubt have been vetoed by the President, owing to the known hostility of the secretary of the interior. The bill as enacted into a law authorized the President of the United States to appoint a commission of three persons whose duty was first to visit the Uncompagre lands and as soon as practicable thereafter, to "report to the secretary of the interior what portions of said reservation are unsuited or will not be required for allotments, whereupon such portions so reported shall by proclamation be restored to the public domain and made subject to entry, etc.," under existing laws. After some delay the commission was appointed and went over to Fort Duane. After months of apparent idleness a perfunctory report was made, the character of which was not made known to the public. It is said that Secretary Smith, although hostile to the law, promised several senators that a proclamation should follow the report, but as is well known, no such proclamation has been issued. It is true, however, that Commissioner Lamoreaux prepared such proclamation together with instructions to the register at Salt Lake City, but there the matter ended. Towards the close of December, Delegate Cannon—now United States senator—introduced into the House a resolution calling for a detailed statement of proceedings and expenditures and the probable time when the reservation would be opened up. To this resolution, it appears, the secretary has replied. He states that there is not within the Uncompagre reservation sufficient agricultural or grazing lands to provide "these wards of the nation" with allotments, and if such lands were there, the Indians will not agree to take allotments and pay \$1.25 per acre therefor. The commissioner of Indian affairs gave the cost of the commission at \$14,440.45 to date and states he deems it inadvisable to express any opinion as to the probable time when the lands will be opened up to settlement. These reports are far from satisfactory to the people and to Congress. It is a matter of no concern to the people of the United States how much agricultural or grazing land there is in this reservation or whether the Indians are willing to pay for their allotments at \$1.25 per acre or at any other price. These Indians are only tenants by sufferance and have not the slightest shadow of title to any of these lands. They sold their lands in Colorado to the United States and were