A TROUT FARM.

An Massachusetts Man Whose Stamp is a Gold Mine.

Mr. Walter L. Gilbert's trout farm, the biggest in the country, is situated at Plymouth, Mass., and he also owns a cranberry bog, which yields annually an abundant harvest. As soon as the cranberries are gathered Mr. Gilbert turns his trout loose over the flooded bog and in the spring their stock forms are harvested and sent to market. The bog then performs a dual duty, which is without parallel in this country. There are not many places where the conditions have such a combination. Cape Cod cranberries are famous all over the country, and Cape Cod trout are delicacies which require no introducing, but Mr. Gilbert is the only man who are fond of raising both on the same "garden patch."

Older fish spawn in the spring and smaller fish do not deposit their eggs until the fall of the year—from Oct. 15 to late October—spawning season being over in the middle of December. Wild trout do not commence their pleasures until the last of March, because the supply of food is curtailed while the ice covers the ponds and streams. Artificially raised trout, however, fully recover from the effects of spawning within a month, and are so plump by the 1st of January as are wild trout when they are given permission to leap with them in April.

For ten years Mr. Gilbert sought to win for the street which would enable him to raise trout by artificial means, but each year he met a failure. He studied the subject, and every reason he learned, some new trait, but the trout absolutely refused to thrive in captivity. They would live a few months, and then every one of them would turn belly up and give up the ghost. Mr. Gilbert analyzed the water from his springs, and found it as pure as the purest spring water to be found. There was no absence of it, but its temperature did not vary 5 degs. the year around, and his stock had been chosen for its trout because its ancestors to raise them artificially. He had about given up in despair when one day he noticed gas bubbles rising in the water, and the thought flashed across his mind that decaying vegetation was the antidote of his trout. He had flowed new Lindford had placed only the channel of his original brook. He immediately drained his ponds, dredged the bottom of all vegetation, sprinkled thereon a liberal quantity of lime and the next year had the satisfaction of raising a pretty a "crop" of trout as one would wish to see.

The process of raising trout is simple enough, if one only knows how and if all the conditions are favorable. Let no one think that it is a mere matter of some a brook runs through his back yard. Of course the brook is the most important feature of the plant, but it and be fed by living springs as nearly as may be, so that water will remain at an one temperature the year around. It will not freeze even in the coldest weather or show an increase of more than 2 degs. even in the hottest of summer days. A brook that fulfills the conditions and whose water is as nearly pure as spring water can be developed into a bonanza for the man lucky enough where territory it runs, especially if he entered the land under homestead. It can be made to yield more gold and silver in proportion to the amount of capital than the richest mine, and will at the same time furnish rare sport for the fancy.

Given a suitable brook, the next step toward establishing a trout farm is a hatching house. Mr. Gilbert's place at the Old Colony trout ponds will serve as a good example. The hatchery is a long one story structure with small windows at either end, which furnish only enough light to reveal the hatchways. There are more than a dozen long troughs about a foot wide and twenty feet long, the number in any establishment being regulated by the size upon which the business is conducted. The spring water is led through a big main from the hatchery at the brook, a distance of about 100 yards, and filtered in a big tank at the upper end of the hatching house. This aqueduct keeps the water free from all contamination. From the tank the water is led through pipes into each of the hatchways.

Extra precautions are need to keep all impurities from the spawn, double filters being placed over the mouths of each faucet. The water flows through the hatchways with a depth of three or four inches and empties into the main brook below the hatching house. Along the sides of each hatchway, about two inches from the bottom, are slots upon which the frames holding the eggs are suspended. The eggs are thus kept suspended in the running water, and the possibility of their being covered by impurities is reduced to a minimum. The spawn frames are covered with coarse netting, each mesh of which is wide enough to furnish a secure resting place for an egg and prevent it from touching its fellow egg, a necessary precaution to the propagation of trout.

A novice in the trout breeding business would be forced to buy his eggs from a government hatchery or some other established place, but Mr. Gilbert, who is not obliged to take that trouble, for his trout now give him enough spawn and to spare. Besides hatching more than 600,000 eggs this spring for his own use he has sold 1,200,000 eggs.

The trout having finished their spawning by the middle of December, in another month he artificial feeding can be made as plump as the fish with food ever caught, and that without impairing their flavor. Under the present law the trout have three and a half months in which to recuperate. In the spawning period they become quite thin and in their wild state, hence appeal to the absence of their natural food in the winter, they require more than in which to grow fat. Just in the cases with artificially fed trout.—New York Sun.

Too Hot to Touch.

A Brooklyn housewife took her cook to task the other day for carelessness and forgetfulness. "Why is it, Maggie," said she, "that you keep on making the same mistake over and over again? Why do you not try and remember what I tell you?"

"Sure, mum," was the frank reply, "I can't do after supper with you round the hot weather."—New York Times.

THE RAGWEED.

How This Pernicious and Troublesome Pest May be Effectually Eradicated.

Ragweed is found in nearly every state in the Union east of the Rocky mountains and in nearly all the provinces of the dominion of Canada. It grows in great luxuriance and in some localities possess much vitality. The annual suffers the later farm crops rather than those that have grown early. No sooner have the grain crops been removed than the fields and hay fields the meadows then the ragweeds push up their succulent branches and mature their seeds.

There are farmers who take it for granted that this troublesome weed cannot be eradicated. A correspondent writing from the Agricultural college at Guelph, Canada, in The Ohio Farmer, says: "Ragweed may be eradicated by the application of certain principles to the ordinary business of cultivation rather than by specific modes that may be laid down. There are 1. Drop out of the rotation such crops as ripen along with the ragweed. This means that red clover seed should not be grown in certain fields. But it would not under the growth of seed crops, as corn and beans and field roots, providing these were kept clean in the autumn. 2. Give much attention to autumn cultivation. This the means of lighting ragweed will do more to effect its destruction than any other. When the fields from which grain crops have been re-

DR. PEMBERTON RAGWEED.

moved are going plow all the ragweeds growing in the same are destroyed, for they have not been ripened. Farmers cease or fail to encourage the weed that are living in the ground to germinate, spring cultivation is of little or no avail in fighting ragweed. 3. Plow the fields that have been sown to grain just before any of the seeds ripen. Move them closely and leave whatever vegetation that has fallen to lie upon the ground. Also meadows the same treatment. This will not interfere with pasturing them. 4. Give attention to pastures and fence corners. The former, if pastured with sheep early enough in the season, will not give trouble, but if necessary these should be mowed with mower. Fence corners should be mown rather that is to say, if the first cutting has been done at the usual time. 5. Grow hoed crops to the ground possible extent, and make such that some of the weeds of ragweed are allowed to ripen in them. 6. Use the mower on the highways at the right season. It is also advised that the neighboring farmers combine in the extermination of this weed pest, of which there are several varieties. The one shown in the cut is the most troublesome. The tenure of marching the seeds extends from the latter party of July until frost."

Insects in Stored Grain.

The transformation and activity of the grain moth, black weevil and red grain beetle are about the same. The eggs are laid within the grain, both before and after it is gathered, and the mature insects come forth in three to six weeks after the eggs are laid. Their depositions are laid in the kernel by any one sound, and lay their work they cause a marked decrease in weight. Sulphur or salt sprinkled in bedded corn will tend to drive the insects away.

The best remedy for grain insects is bisulphide of carbon. For this a "giant action" bin should be built and the grain treated in it as gathered. The amount of bisulphide needed varies with the tightness of the bin, but as a rule 1 ounce of bisulphide to 100 pounds of grain is sufficient. As the bisulphide is explosive, all lights from matches, cigars and the like should be kept away until all odor from the fumes has passed off. Insects in mills should be treated with bisulphide, beginning in the basement and going upward. To destroy all insects in the spring with bisulphide is or near the proper grounary will tend to decrease any damage done the next fall and winter.—Mississippi Station.

What Others Say.

The California Fruit Grower says: "One of the drawbacks of California is the large landholder. Fortunately he is beginning less numerous, and the subdivision of large ranches goes merrily on."

According to The Farm, Field and Stockman a celebration has been made of the comparative results, from an economical point of view, of the cultivation of lowest grades of pak indiana fodder and fuel which is now being practiced in some parts of the south.

It used to be the notion among dairymen that the aquarium would injure butter. "But," says Hoard's Dairyman, "that idea is generally dispelled now, as the finest of butter is made by the process."

"American Cultivator says that no late crops will pay better than a piece of land planted with mangel wurzel for stock in winter.

According to The Jersey Bulletin, pacers are unpopular in New York, but popular in Chicago and other towns that go in for speed.

Rust On Tomatoes.

The family had several tomatoes for dinner and one of the slices found something round and hard to a specimen of the vegetable. It turned out to be a dime, rather than had fallen in from the pocket which it was chosen to the baby with this explanation that it was a pretty little ball. Then the baby, who happens to be a lad of about four years and very much interested in guns, looked up and asked:

"Do they shoot tomatoes to kill 'em?"—Columbus Dispatch.

Why They Sing Newspapers.

Begging newspapers seems to be one of the occupations of Gotham's small boy, and according to one of them it makes a good revenue is derived from the business. The practice is known as "Canada business." A group of eight or ten boys besiege the entrance to the ferry and station and hand every passing and keep an argus eye on all persons carrying newspapers. They stretch out their arms asking for the newspapers and often pull them out of the hands of passers by.

The "newsies" are very persistent, and occasionally get into little scrapes with dyspeptic persons who get down town in bad humor. The temper of these people might be modified if they knew that, according to a conversation of one of the boys, a newsboy of a speculative turn of mind originally put the boys up to the practice this fashion. If the newspapers are too much soiled to sell, the boys, in turn, then sell to the speculator, who hides them in reserve, paying the boys a pittance and then realizing full value by handing them over to the respective newspapers as "returns" and handing copies of the current date for them.

The newspapers have learned his method, though, and most of them do their own "returning" as well as "begging" boys. The business of lighting ragweed will do more to effect its destruction than any other. When the fields

"All's Well That Ends Well."

The Scotch, with unconscious absurdity, sometimes talk of "begging Providence." In writing "All's Well That Ends Well," Shakespeare was "begging" the higher criticism. Ever since the days of Zenodotus to Alexandria the higher criticism has resolved in "rathetinting," or marking suspicious, the part of an author's work because it is unworthy of him, that part because it is "not in his style," which part or because it is a repetition of something he has said elsewhere, and so on. All in Homer then are for him to which some Greeks or some Alexandrian Greek has not copied. Shakespeare's another exercise of the ingenuity has "All's Well That Ends Well" been exposed.

When Lucius met Homer in the Elysian fields, he asked the poet which of the reported passages were really his own. "All and every one of them," answered the shade and Shakespeare's ghost might have made as fortunate a reply concerning his plays. Yet "All's Well" is certainly a play full of difficulties and enigmas. It was first printed in the folio of 1623, and very badly printed it was. Nine of the diverse problems concerning passages that appear to contain some in so rich in the noble twilights seem so open to conjectural emendation.—Andrew Lang in Harper's.

Cattle Master Pen.

A fox was seen the day were coming out of a pile of stones near the water side.

He hid in the bushes for awhile and then crawled unobserving to the water, which proved to be a branch of some. The wind took it into the middle of the lake and blew it past some ducks sitting on the center.

Having watched his venture for perhaps ten minutes with manifest satisfaction, and observed that it scared the ducks without arousing their suspicions, one friend began to collect another and larger bunch of moss, which he allowed to float in the same direction, but this time he swam behind it, taking care to show only his eyes and nose above water.

Just as it was passing the group of ducks he made a sudden dive, pounced down a bird and swam back to some shallow water. Arrived there he carried the duck to the pile of stones, where his wife and daughter were no doubt waiting to enjoy the fruits of his labors.—"Forty-five Years of Spain."

Invisibility for the Birdlets.

Birds do not eat fleeces, and even bats, which seem to eat everything else that they can chew or swallow, never touch a lightning bug. There must be something distasteful in this insect to the feathered world, and this the species is preserved, for if it were not so lightning bugs would soon become extinct, as the birds they carry would only serve the purpose of attracting their enemies.

It may be that the uncanny appearance of the insect, giving forth as it does a brilliant flash of light every moment or two, deters birds and bats from attacking it, but if a lightning bug were a bonbonne sacred to a bird's bill, any member of the feathered world would soon overcome their repugnance to the little living torch and a bonfire for lightning bugs.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Wild Horses in Russia.

In the steppes of Russia, where wolves abound and the horses lead a wild life and have to shift for themselves, it is said that a young colt will sometimes be made so furious by the persecutions of his enemies that he will rush wildly among a drove of wolves and bite and strike until he has slaughtered a large number of them. These horses are exceptionally fierce, regulated as it is supposed, by the extreme variations in the climate. At one time of the year they suffer from the intense heat of a tropical sun, and at another they live among icy mountains and extreme cold.—Washington Star.

He Lets the Tailor Whistle.

Cobble—Willie is the strangest fellow about some things. He's been a twenty-five cent necktie with a fifty dollar coil and thinks he is saving money.

Stone—Well he does, doesn't he?

Cobble—I don't see how.

Stone—He has to pay for the necktie.—Chatter and Pertsiders.

Thoughtless Characterization.

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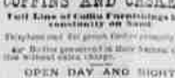

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