

FIGHTING THE CUTWORM.

Complaints of damage by the cutworm in Utah are quite numerous this year. Upon the subject of destroying this pest the June 1st issue of the *Denver Field and Farm* has the following:

The presence of cutworms in a field becomes noticeable immediately after a crop has been set out, whether sweet potatoes, cabbages, tomatoes or whatever else it may be, or soon after the seed has sprouted, be it corn, onions or other vegetables. All over the field plants have disappeared or have fallen. Investigation will show that they have been cut or eaten off at the surface or even a little below it. In the cornfield they cut off the plants almost as fast as they come above ground, and white potatoes occasionally suffer as severely. Normally the insects are grass feeders or feeders upon low, succulent vegetation and in grass or alfalfa lands or in masses of rank vegetation generally the moth lays her eggs.

Other things equal, alfalfa, or sod land will be most likely to be infested by cutworms, while land cultivated late is most likely to be free. With other remedial measures are closer culture and an early fall plowing. It is important that the plowing is done early. But when land has been wintered with an infested sod covering it and is plowed in the early spring the farmer is not quite helpless. If the land is to be put into crops, prepare as usual and apply all the potash and nitrogen in the form of kainit and nitrate of soda as a top dressing. Delay seeding until rain or irrigation has dissolved and carried down the fertilizers. Phosphates may be applied at any time, as these have no insecticide properties. This practice will, as a rule, protect the corn crop. In crops like sweet potatoes a different method is necessary, the poisoned bait remedy being the best. This is simply providing the cutworms with poisoned food after the soil is prepared for planting. The easiest plan is to spray a rank patch of alfalfa with one of the arsenites used at the rate of a pound in 100 gallons of water, and as soon as it has somewhat dried out it close to the ground. Next spread in little heaps at intervals over the field to be protected. This affords complete protection when carefully carried out. The alfalfa may be cut first, made up into loose balls and dipped in a poisonous liquid. The more numerous the traps the greater the chance of destroying the insects. They will be found in the morning an inch or so beneath the surface under the bait, and after twenty-four hours the majority will be dead. No plants should be set out until the poisoned bait has had an opportunity to act for two nights at least. A modification of this plan, which has been very successful with sweet potato plants, consists in mixing dry wheat bran with Paris green or London purple sufficient to color it faintly, in weight about one of poison to fifty of the bran. The mixture should be as complete as possible and then water added to make a soft mush that can be ladled out with a spoon without dripping. The water may be sweetened to add to the attractiveness of the mixture. A teaspoonful should be placed on each hill of plants to be protected when first set out.

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

It is officially announced, says the *Utah county Standard*, that the former owners of the Ibox will take charge of the property this week, and will put a force of men upon the mine and begin the production and shipment of ores to Salt Lake City.

The Lander, Wyo., *Oppler* says Fish Commissioner Schottiger has delivered to Mr. Gillis, at Rock Springs, 60,000 trout. These were at once transported into this county and the various streams stocked with them. The Sweetwater, Christina lake and the various streams in the Lander valley all received their proportion.

The city fathers have granted a franchise to the electric light company, says the *Ephraim Enterprise*, and it is now only a matter of a few weeks until we have the city lighted up with electricity. Enough lights have already been contracted for to insure the construction of the plant. The city council should contract for lights for the principal streets.

James Howard, an employe of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s stables, staggered into the San Francisco branch police station at 4 o'clock Monday morning, bleeding from a scalp wound. He talked incoherently, though sober. All the sergeant could understand was that Howard had been beaten and robbed. He was taken to the receiving hospital, where he died in two hours, without being able to tell his story. His skull was fractured.

The sale of 2,500 acres of Salt creek oil lands, says the *Laramie, Wyo., Boomerang*, has been made at a good price to West Virginia parties who are interested in the oil business in their own state. Shipments of lubricating oils from the Pennsylvania Oil company's refinery at this place are increasing. The company has sixty-eight horses and fifteen wagons on the road at all times between the wells and the refinery.

Utah county Standard: Nellie Hyde, the eight-year-old daughter of Mr. C. L. Hyde, met with a serious accident last Monday teetering on a board with some of her playmates, she fell and broke her arm. Dr. Miner was at once called in and did all he could to relieve the little sufferer of her pain. This is the second time Nellie has had this same arm broken, but we are pleased to state that she is getting along nicely.

The Apache Kid has been killed again, says the *Tempe (Ariz.) News*. This time the operation was performed by two cowboys on the upper San Pedro. The story of the killing was brought to Phoenix by P. C. Bicknell and J. J. Frazier, the cattlemen. The details of the killing as published, render the fact rather problematical, and it still behooves settlers in the vicinity of the noted renegade's haunts to sleep with one eye open.

An old musician named Emile Berlinger left his home at Sacramento, Cal., last Wednesday and took a room in a hotel, where he went to bed and swallowed about fifty morphine pills. He was found dead the next day. He left a letter stating that he was too old

to be of any more use in the world. Chazrin over his defeat for the secretaryship of the Musicians' union is believed to have been the direct cause of the act.

In Easton school district, five miles from Fresno, Cal., where two school trustees were to be elected, it turned out that every voter in the district but three was a candidate, and after much caucusing it was decided to hold a convention. It was held and fifty-two men were placed in nomination. After a session of several hours two candidates were chosen. Politics did not enter the contest. Every man ran on his own merits. The result was accepted and harmony reigned.

A dispatch from San Francisco says that Howard Smith, one of the main witnesses for the state in the case of Mrs. Jennie Mathews, for whose death Winthrop, the assistant superintendent of Laurel Hill cemetery, is in jail, committed suicide by cutting his throat with a razor. Smith was employed in the cemetery. He helped Winthrop to carry Mrs. Mathews home, but said that he believed she was shamming when she declared that she was poisoned.

An important cattle transaction has taken place at Tempe, Ariz., says the *News* of that place, that illustrates the rapid advance which is taking place in cattle prices. The sale of a band of one hundred cattle by J. J. Frazier to Wm. Sachs shows that beef is bound to be beef and that the long looked for harvest of the cattlemen is at hand. The price paid for the Frazier cattle, which are just off the range, is \$21 straight through. The cattle are large, averaging about 935 pounds. They will be turned onto alfalfa pasture for a few months before marketing.

Every day brings its additional good news from the coal discoveries south of the city says the *Laramie Boomerang*. Tuesday the workmen sunk the shaft forty inches and passed through the slate and encountered a four foot vein of coking coal. The first vein of coal struck was only about fifteen inches. This second vein is said to be coking coal and even finer than the first vein encountered. The water continues to come into the shaft very fast and the pump has to be kept going night and day. Charlie Braudie began work with the pump this morning. The shaft is now down thirty-eight feet and they are now sinking at the rate of three feet a day. The coal is so hard they have to blast it out. It seems as hard as glass.

Jacob W. Harlan and Margaret Poolley Bloomer, each aged 66 years and both of them inmates of the county infirmary near San Leandro, filed a marriage contract in the recorder's office at Oakland, Cal., Monday, which showed that on the 14th of July, 1894, the aged couple decided to unite for life and they so declared in a formal contract. The document will be an addition to the archives of the county considerably out of the usual run. After reciting the names, ages, etc., of the contracting parties, the document concludes: "We agree to live together as