

HOUSE AND FARM.

Preparing the Land for Grass.

We are apt, very apt, to overlook the fact that land intended for grass should receive more thorough culture than any other, because for years while in grass, it has not the advantage of the plow and other implements to stir the soil, but must rest and back, and get more and more in a condition to keep out the air, and let in and pass off less readily the water. We should, therefore, thoroughly prepare the soil, plow as deep as may be, and subsoil well; pulverize and enrich the soil—enriching it will make it more loose and mellow, and keep it longer in that condition, as well as increase the yield. Such land will catch its seed, and if plentifully applied, will be certain, under anything like favorable circumstances to form a thick set. A little top dressing, aided by the after math, which should never be fed close, will ensure good crop—two cuttings a year.

But let there be a cold, hard under-soil, and the seed put in the usual way—little of it, on a harsh reduced soil, without manure, what can be expected? Just what we see; light crops, getting lighter every year until it will hardly pay for harvesting. Such land, when the plow turns it down, will be found to be hard. The sod amounts to but little, whereas in properly treated land it will yield from sixty to seventy loads of manure per acre. A mellow seed bed of deeply loosened soil well enriched, plenty of seed sown as early as possible—are the points to be secured in putting down grass land.—*The Rural World.*

Fluctuations in Wool.

A correspondent deploras the effect upon the sheep interests of the fluctuations in wool which have marked the previous history of this country, and declares the great necessity of the country, to be stability and uniformity. This is all true enough, and to secure this stability and uniformity sheep-growers should resist all change in the tariff laws. They have been one fruitful source of change and uncertainty, and it would seem as if the Government could not adhere to one line of policy in reference to the wool interest. But the tariff has not been the only source of these fluctuations. The enormous production in South America, Australia, and Africa, have at times broken down the foreign markets to such a point as to seriously influence the American market, even when protected by the most stringent tariff. This matter, however, appears to have regulated itself; and if we may judge by the condition of foreign wool markets, there is very little prospect that the interests of American wool-growers will be seriously affected, for many years to come, by excessive productions in the southern hemisphere. There was no time, in our estimation, when the outlook was more favorable to the stability and prosperity of American sheep husbandry than the present.—*National Live Stock Journal.*

Our Daily Meals.

As the invitation seemed general for the "bill of fare" I thought a response from some, who are not farmers, might perhaps be a little help to many, who like us, live in a small way. Our family consists of two children, and we have only two regular meals these short days. Our breakfasts are rather late, from choice, preferring to do up most of the morning's work first, even the sweeping and dusting the sitting room, lamp-filling, &c., and then our appetites are considerably keener for the 9 o'clock meal. I presume no one has regular stereotyped meals. Our aim is to waste nothing and our food is in palatable and healthy condition, and what we know we can eat and enjoy, thinking it cheaper in the long run. At 12 o'clock we have a cold lunch, if we need it, and sometimes have pies made of canned peaches, and again we have green-apple pies and the good, old-fashioned, well-stewed pumpkin dumplings and we use them all for our lunches. We had abundance of grapes and made "right smart" of them. It always good, and a very good fish and nice.

Monday—breakfast, buckwheat cakes, coffee and jelly; lunch, pie

and milk; supper, bread and butter, beefsteak and tea, or cold water.

Monday—breakfast, sliced potatoes boiled in water, salted a little until tender, then pour off all the water, add a lump of butter, a little milk and salt, turn out hot and add a little pepper. Then a little pork-steak, bread, butter and coffee. Lunch, bread and butter and milk. Supper, remnants of Monday's meat and Sunday's beefsteak, stewed with very thin short dumplings, bread, butter and jelly.

Tuesday—breakfast, bread sliced, soaked in sweet milk a little while, with a little salt, then fried a light brown in butter; sausage and coffee, also the jelly. Lunch, pie and milk, if needed. Supper, a chicken stuffed and baked, mashed potatoes, gravy and jelly.

Wednesday—breakfast, remains of the chicken warmed up, with gravy, buckwheat cakes and jelly. Lunch, bread and butter and milk. Supper, boiled mush, stewed oysters and jelly.

Thursday—breakfast, fried mush, coffee, and a bit of spare rib. Lunch, pie and milk. Supper, corn-slappers, stewed oysters, and sweet pickles.

Friday—breakfast, hot rolls, beefsteak, coffee and jelly. Lunch bread and butter and milk. Supper, Virginia pone and butter, and any cold meat chopped up and stewed with potatoes.

Saturday—breakfast, buckwheat cakes, sausage and coffee. Lunch, pie and milk. Supper, bread-slappers, boiled chicken and the inevitable jelly.

In conclusion, I will say that we make our bread just as good as we can and always get the best butter. We are not very much for fish, though some of the city folks say we live on herring down here. We try, in arranging our meals to cook what we think will about answer for the one meal, so as to avoid scraps for the next. This does not refer to bread-making. It must be remembered that there are only two of us.—*Nellie, in Germantown Telegraph.*

Adulterations of Milk.

According to Mr. Alfred Wanklyn, the most common modes of adulteration of milk consist in removing the cream in greater or less quantity and in adding water; and consequently the testing of milk resolves itself essentially into the detection of the skimming and watering, and the measuring of the extent to which these operations have been carried. For this purpose he finds it most satisfactory, first to estimate accurately the normal composition of milk, or at least the average limits of variation in this respect, and then to find out what deviation from this average is presented by any given sample. The result of many inquiries on his part is to show that the solids left by evaporation of cow's milk vary comparatively little, in different animals or in different seasons, and he thinks that a range of from 5 to 12 per cent, expresses about the average amount of these solids.

To Boil Potatoes.

In Ireland potatoes are boiled to perfection; the humblest peasant places his potatoes on his table better cooked than half the cooks in this country by trying their best. Potatoes should always be boiled in their "jackets;" peeling a potato before boiling is offering a premium for water to run through it and go to the table waxy and unpalatable; they should be thoroughly washed and put into cold water. In Ireland they always nick a piece of the skin off before they place them in the pot; the water is gradually heated, but never allowed to boil; cold water should be added as soon as the water commences boiling, and it should thus be checked until the potatoes are done; the skins will not then be broken or cracked until the potato is thoroughly done; pour the water off completely, uncover the pot and let the skins be thoroughly dry before peeling.

BLACKBERRIES.—Set out in rows six feet apart, and allow from four to six feet between the plants, according to the variety. Cut the plants back to six inches before planting. The old plants should have their canes cut back to four or five feet.

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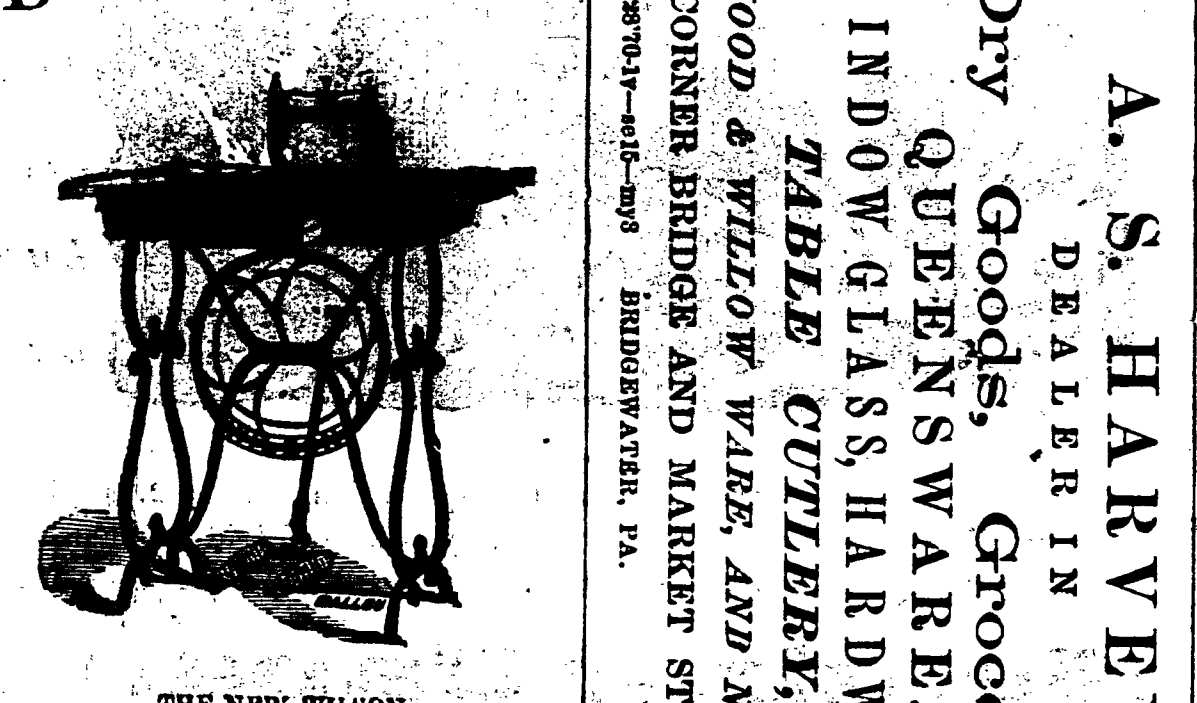
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