

FARM NOTES.

WHY FARMERS SHOULD KEEP BEES.—The fact that bees are pollen distributors is sufficient reason why a place should be made for them on every farm. If kept for no other purpose than the benefit they do to growing crops and fruit-bearing trees and plants by spreading the pollen among the blossoms, these industrious workers would be a valuable adjunct. Testimony is abundant and conclusive as to the desirable effects of bees upon grape vines, fruit trees and fruit-bearing plants generally. Indeed one prominent apiarist goes so far as to insist that a few hives of bees judiciously placed will revive a fruit farm from a non-paying to a profitable investment. Field crops, scientists tell us and wide-awake farmers know from their own observation, are greatly assisted by the honey bee's manipulations. Indeed, their influence is required for the perfect floral fertilization of some of the cereal crops and the meadow grasses. Where the farmer is too busy to give his personal attention to the production of honey it is suggested that he purchase a few hives and turn these over to the care of his wife and daughters. They will find the pin money accruing from the sale of the honey a convenient and pleasant return for the labor and time spent among the bees. The outdoor occupation, too, will prove a welcome and healthful change from indoor drudgery, which they can then afford to hire done.

This is a matter of interest to stockmen. It is said that Pasteur's idea, that infectious diseases in animals can be prevented by inoculation, the same as vaccination prevents smallpox, has been carried out to some extent by the Saxony Agricultural Society with the approval of the German Government. Sixteen head of cattle were inoculated for pleuro-pneumonia and subsequently placed among a herd highly infected with that disease. Thirteen of the number remained entirely unaffected; the other three had the disease in a mild form. While the experiment has not been tried to a sufficient extent to demonstrate beyond all doubt that the principle is correct, the results are regarded as possible.

BET SUGAR.—There are at present 13 0 beet sugar factories in Europe, and they consume 24,000,000 tons of beets every year. Their annual output of sugar amounts to 2,000,000 tons. It is said that over \$50,000,000 are expended for labor and fuel, and that \$10,000,000 are paid to farmers for beets. These figures are probably too high, but they serve to throw light upon the magnitude and importance of the industry.

A novel device for controlling excitable horses has lately been invented. It is attached to the browband of the bridle or headstall, and a light but strong cord runs through loops along the reins to the hand piece. "In case of 'fright pull the cord, and instantly the horse is blindfolded." This diverts his attention from the object of fright and puts him into another train of thought. Let go the cord and the double spring instantly withdraws the blinds from the eyes and rolls them out of sight. "This device is not clumsy, and does not clog in action."

A farmer labors hard, early, late, persistently. He gives little time to mental culture; to silent communings that elevate the spiritual nature still less. In old age he acquires worldly wealth, with mental and spiritual poverty. This is not the best success.

Ignorance and prejudice are the bane of the farmers' cause—ignorance of their rights and prejudice against each other. When they know their rights and are willing to trust them in the hands of their kind as in the hands of others, their prejudices will vanish.

A potato "sorter" is something that is needed, and it is invented, it will find ready sale. Apple "sorters" have been in use for some time, but as yet potatoes are sorted by hand.

Solid manure and dry dirt will hold liquid manure well. The solid parts also absorb large quantities of moisture and the mixture of solids and liquids improves the quality of both.

Dry soils should receive flat cultivation, and damp soils should be ridged. The object, in the first place, is to save as much of the moisture as possible and in the second, to get rid of the excess.

Time intelligently given to bees will pay equally well with that given to any other kind of farm work, and where too many are not kept it may be done at such time as not to interfere with other important work.

The only great thing needed in the winter care of animals is more food of a succulent character, and the silo is a ready helper in the production of such food.

If young raspberry plants are to go out no delay should be made. Very warm days are not beneficial to them at first, as they prefer cool shade until they begin to start.

Don't let earth or rubbish accumulate around the silos of the barn; if you do, it will not be many years before the expense and trouble of a new silo will have to be incurred.

A correspondent of the Mirror states how to avoid rot and scab in potatoe "Roll the land, and when the potatoe are four inches high sow on a mixture fifteen parts plaster, three parts slaked lime and one part of salt."

An English gardener claims that to scatter sand that has been soaked with petroleum over the beds will keep away the onion fly.

Orange orange makes a poor hedge unless carefully trimmed. Evergreen depends on the management of the hedge for the first three years.

It is important that the corn-crib be cleaned out and fumigated so as to destroy insects.

To Revolutionize Salt Manufacture.

A new process for the manufacture of salt from brine, which is described as simple, automatic and continuous, has been invented. While requiring only about two-fifths of the fuel at present necessary for the manufacture of salt, the process can be worked with a minimum of unskilled labor. The system of salt manufacture at present in vogue is the evaporation of brine in open pans, heated by fire underneath. The defects of this system are that it is very slow, and that the output is comparatively small in proportion to the area occupied and the quantity of fuel used. The life of a salt pan averages, too, only three years, the formation of scale on the bottom of the pan causing it to burn away. In the new process the evaporation of the brine takes place in rarefied chambers, and the liquid is heated by steam. The new apparatus is made in three separate, but duplicate sections, each section consisting of four main and closely connected parts. These are the heating chamber, the boiling chamber, the collecting chamber and the filtering chamber. The three sections are placed side by side, a few feet apart, and they are connected together by pipes. The first section is in communication with a steam boiler or with the exhaust steam from an engine, while the third section is connected with an air pump and condenser. Each of the three sections, having been charged with brine, steam is admitted to the heating chamber of the first section, heating the brine in it. The steam given off from that brine enters the steam chamber of the second section and heats the brine in that section. The steam from that section goes to the heating chamber of the third section and heats the brine therein. A vacuum being maintained in the three sections by a pump, boiling or evaporation is carried on at the reduced temperature due to that vacuum. The salt as it is precipitated settles in the collecting chamber, and thence is admitted at intervals into the filtering chamber. Here the brine, which is carried forward with the salt, is automatically returned to the boiling chamber, and the crystals are withdrawn, molded and dried for the market. The brine from the tanks is supplied automatically to the boiling chamber of each section, and the processes of evaporation and production are simultaneous and continuous. A single-section apparatus may be used, but the working is not so economical as with the three sections. It is estimated that the cost of production of salt will be reduced by the new process by about seventy-five per cent.

A "Ragged" Ball in Vienna.

The ragged ball in Vienna, Austria, was a great success, over \$9000 being collected for the poor. Wealthy citizens and members of the aristocracy, all attired in tatters, and high-born dames dressed as beggars, were in attendance. The quadrille of ragged nobles was a wonderful sight, as also was a ludicrous cancan by officers disguised as blind beggars. Another quadrille included courtesans costumed as Nautch girls and three archdukes attired as scavengers. All distinguished society people of Vienna not on the floor were watching the ludicrous scene from the boxes.

"Death of a Prince."

Upon the death of the Italian prince Amadeus, the lottery offices in Vienna were besieged with tickets bearing the number 47, which, according to the lottery dictionary, signifies "death of a prince;" 47 came out, and the players won several millions of florins from the imperial treasury.

"May I have the honor of this waltz?" "But I don't think I have the pleasure of your acquaintance." "O, yes, I trod on your foot about half an hour since, and I heard you say you would remember me as long as you lived."

Mrs. Nervous—"I want a good girl. Now is this girl you recommend capable?" Agent (pitily)—"Capable. Why, ma'am, that girl is capable of anything."

Silver purses now have round clasps made of a number of diagonal bars, which fall apart when unhooked and leave the bottom of the purse fully exposed in the hand.

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The very best way to know whether or not Dettol Electric Soap is as good as it is said to be, is to try it yourself. It can't deceive you. Be sure to get no imitation. There are lots of them. Ask your grocer for just one box.

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Use the Frazer Axle Grease. It's the best in the world—will wear twice as long as any other. Ask your dealer for it, and take no other.

The gamblers at Monte Carlo lost \$13,000,000 last week.

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It is said of the late John J. McElhiney that he could report with either hand. In reporting on the floor of the House of Representatives he often shifted from his right to his left hand, or the reverse, without interrupting his speech.

HUMOROUS.

THERE WAS NO PROHIBITION HERE.—"I have had a delightful evening," he said, as he took his hat and rose to go. "May I call again?" "I shall be glad to see you," she replied, with a blush. As he walked out into the hall he saw in the mirror of the hat-rack a reflection of the regular girl slyly throwing kisses at him, and he turned back. "I must have that in the original package," he whispered. He was a Kansas young man and he got it.

DESPERATE CHANCES.—First New Yorker (to a friend)—Do you know some good life insurance company that you can recommend? Second New Yorker—Yes, half a dozen. Any hurry about it? First New Yorker—Yes; I want to get my life insured right away. And say, if anything should happen to me won't you look out for my family? Second New Yorker—Goodness gracious man, what desperate step are you about to undertake? First New Yorker (in solemn tone)—I'm going on a steamboat excursion. Second New Yorker—If that's so get insured before you leave; you are taking desperate chances.

THE LITTLE GEOGRAPHER.—"Now, Willie," said a Washington lady to her nephew from Boston, "I wonder if you can tell me who discovered America?" "I can't tell you that." "Why, Willie! Don't you know that it was Columbus?" "No, my auntie, but you are mistaken; Columbus did not discover America. He discovered a land which was subsequently called America, but when he made his voyage there was no such place."

A CHEAP SUBSTITUTE.—Wife—Well, what do you think Johnny wants now? Husband—I've no idea. Wife—He wants me to tease you into buying him a new bicycle. Husband (who has tried bicycling himself)—Nonsense; he can't have one. Tell him to go up into the attic and fall down two flights of stairs. It will be just about the same thing, and save me a hundred dollars.

A JUNEBUG'S TRIALS.—Teacher—Give me the name of some quadruped that is an animal with four legs. Tommy—A dog. Teacher—Mention another. Tommy—A Junebug. Teacher—A Junebug has six legs. Tommy—What's the matter with pulling off two of them?

MADE THE TEACHER FEEL GOOD.—Aunt—Didn't you get another thrashing in school to-day? Johnny—Yes, indeed I did; but it didn't hurt a bit. Did you cry? Yes, I believed like everything; but I only did it to humor the teacher.

It Would Give Him a Chance.—Newsboy—Please, mister, will you give me 2 cents to get a night's lodging? Minister—But 2 cents won't pay for that, my little friend. Newsboy—No, sir. But if I had 2 cents I could pitch with the other boys and perhaps win a pile.

THEY'RE MARRIED NOW.—Snooks—How are you getting on since your marriage? Scroggins—Not as well as I expected. When she gave me her hand, a little over a year ago, I was filled with delight; but the way she gives me her hand now only makes my ears ring.

HARDLY WORTH WHILE.—A—I hear that your daughter was married to a man in Japan. B—Yes, that's so. A—Is he well off? B—Not very. A—And what is his name? B—Smith. A—Great Scott! The idea of a woman going all the way to Japan to marry a poor man by the name of Smith.

HE MEANT IT, TOO.—A young couple on their honeymoon are dallying languidly with the grapes at dessert. She (archly)—And you don't find it tiresome all alone with me? You are quite sure you don't want to go back to our bachelor life again? He (earnestly)—Quite, my darling. Do you know if you were to die to-night I'd get married again to-morrow morning!

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A horse thief in Kansas is writing a book on his experience.

Ants in a Hotel Dining-Room.

"See that?" asked a waiter in the Palace hotel, holding up a dish filled with black insects. "Caviar?" inquired a San Francisco Examiner reporter to whom the question was addressed. "No, Ants," was the sententious reply. "This is my harvest since noon. Every other gentleman in this dining-room has collected as many more. The house is literally overrun with them, and has been for three years to my certain knowledge." "Trying to evict these little crawlers has cost the Sharen estate \$10,000, and it will cost many a thousand more before any effect will be made on these intruders. They creep in everywhere and there is no way invented to keep them out. I don't think we can get rid of them without moving the hotel. They are in lots of houses and nothing has been found that will lease them. They are worse than flies, because poison doesn't have any effect on them, and they are worse than cockroaches, because they are smaller."

Customs of the Equimaux. Like the Indians, the Equimaux often kill the old. Often the old are tired of life and beg to be dispatched. If food is scarce they are turned out to starve, whether they like it or do not. The superfluous women are also disposed of in this way. Barbarism shows itself in their treatment of the dead. The body of a favorite wife or child is sometimes protected through the winter and decently buried in the spring. But as a general rule corpses are dragged a short distance from the village and abandoned to the dogs. The savages have no idea of the marriage relation. Women are treated as chattels. The number of wives a man may have is regulated not by his possessions, as among our Mormons, but by his ability to manage women. One infers from this that polygamy is not carried on to any great extent.

Hungarian grass or millet is the best crop to sow in the poultry yard.

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