

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

ITEMS OF INTEREST ON AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

Indication of Bad Management—Portable Racks—Preventing Hog Cholera—When a Horse is Worth Most—Clipping Clover Fields—Etc., Etc.

Indication of Bad Management.

Lice on animals indicates bad management. Horses or cattle in good condition seldom are afflicted with lice, but a low condition of the animal, the skin being hidebound, affords excellent inducements for lice. Good feed and the use of a brush will rid animals of parasites, with the aid of other remedies.

Portable Racks.

For cattle, a good rack may be made with common rough boards and a few pieces of scantling. Make them four or five feet wide, ten or twelve feet long, and two feet deep; have four by four inch scantling in the corners, and also in the center of the ends, running up twelve or fifteen inches above the top of the rack; to the latter nail in a center partition lengthwise; thus you have a double rack where cattle will eat contentedly.

Do not have the end boards or pieces of scantling reach down as low as the side boards and then by rounding up the ends of the side boards, after the manner of sled runners, the racks may be easily drawn from one place to another.

Preventing Hog Cholera.

Rules for the prevention of the fall outbreak of cholera in herds of swine may be summarized as follows:

1. Cleanliness is essential, in yards, pens, water, feed and everything.
2. Give plenty of pure water and do away with stagnant pools.
3. Use disinfectants such as ashes, lime and carbolic acid.
4. Feed a variety, especially such condiments as charcoal, ashes and salt.
5. Give as much grass range as needed.
6. Breed from hogs of strong constitution.
7. Feed new corn cautiously, if at all.
8. Allow no chance of infection from diseased herds by visitors or dogs.

When a Horse is Worth Most.

The age at which a horse is worth the most depends very largely upon his breeding and raising. In nearly all cases well bred and well kept horses will stand hard usage better at an early age than horses that have had a struggle for existence and have inferior quality of blood in their veins.

When a horse has been well fed and cared for from birth so as to maintain a steady growth, he ought to be well matured by the time he is five years old, and from that time till he is seven ought to be at his best. Other horses that are let run, receive but little care, are not fed as they should be, will make a slower growth and may not mature until seven years. A horse should be fully matured before he can be considered at his best, no matter what his breeding may be.

Clipping Clover Fields.

A writer in Ohio Farmer advocates the clipping of clover the first year after the wheat is off, and even twice if necessary to prevent it from blossoming, as that weakens the next year's growth. This year he clipped on August 1 and clipped again in September. He has done so for several years until year before last, and he said he would never omit it again. The hay last year where it was not clipped was very dry, full of stubble and trash, while where too large a growth was made before winter, it lodged and smothered out the crop. He cuts high, removing the swath board, and likes to cut just after a rain, leaving all the growth on the ground as mulch, which protects the roots in winter and keeps the ground more moist in summer. It might be pastured off and get some growth for cattle or sheep, but they will not feed on the ranker growing places, and feed the other too closely, thus making them liable to be winter killed. He does not think this pays, and would prefer to grow green crops to help out the pasturage, than to use the newly seeded fields. He wants to leave clover about six inches high when winter comes.

Winter Preservation of Squashes.

My method has been to place the squashes upon shelves in a well-ventilated cellar. The shelves are four feet next to the sides of the cellar. The remaining ones are six feet wide, with alley on each side. The first shelf is six inches from the floor and then they are two feet apart until the ceiling is reached. I use two by four inch studding for uprights and crosspieces and one by six inch strips for bottom of shelves. One of these strips is sufficient for the side. The uprights should be placed four feet apart, as the load they have to sustain is considerable. The temperature should be as high as possible without using artificial heat and interfering with good ventilation. This is best accomplished by keeping the cellar closed on very cold days and particularly during periods of foggy and rainy weather.

Choose the bright days for opening during the middle of the day.

With the best of conditions and best of care there is quite a loss and more depends upon time and manner of gathering crop than all else. Because the squash has a hard shell and does not show the effects of a slight frost, it is often left too long on the vine. I plan to gather them just before the first frost. This can usually be accomplished if I am ready to put all my help to work as soon as I think a frost is on the way. I pick them and place in piles about six rods apart, covering them with their own vines. As the weather becomes colder I draw them on truck wagon with springs and hay rack with about six inches of marsh hay on that. I handle them as carefully as possible, loading only three or four deep on the wagon and carrying them into the cellar in baskets and placing on shelves two deep. I am careful to sort them, using the soft and bruised ones for feed or sell them for immediate consumption.—Delbert Otter, in New England Homestead.

The Cucumber's Foes.

Professor Charles D. Woods, director of the Maine Experiment Station, has issued a valuable leaflet dealing with cucumber enemies. The essay takes up the striped beetle as follows:

This well-known insect, with its yellow coat and black stripes on the wing covers, feeds on all kinds of cucurbitaceous plants—cucumber, melon, squash, pumpkin, etc., and often appears in such numbers as to ruin the entire growing crop.

Remedies: 1. Plow out and destroy all cucumber and squash vines as soon as the crop is off to destroy any larvae that may then be in the roots.

2. Planting an excess of seed, to distribute the injury, is a common practice, as is also the system of starting the seed in pots, boxes or sods, and transferring the plants to the field after they are well established.

3. A free use of tobacco dust, lime or land plaster about the bases of the young plants is often recommended.

4. In large fields "driving" is sometimes practiced. Before the middle of the day the farmers sow air slaked lime with the wind, and this seems sufficient to drive most of the insects to the leeward.

5. The planting of a few large hills of squash among the cucumbers, as traps, is sometimes recommended since the insects seem specially partial to the squash.

6. Spray the plants with Bordeaux mixture and paris-green (formula 2), being careful to reach the under sides of the leaves.

7. One of the surest preventives is to cover the hill at the time of planting with a box over which is placed mosquito netting.

Artificial Broilers.

A flock of four or five hundred broilers pays handsome profit if one raises them in time for the best markets, and then gets his price. Broilers sell from \$1.50 to \$2 per pair in the best season, but the one who raises them rarely averages more than 75 cents to \$1 per pair. There are those who get the latter on the average right along. That is, they receive more than this in the best season, and less during the season of plenty, but they average the sales of \$1 per pair.

But on the other hand there are some who find broiler raising a total failure, and they do not get their money back from the investment. Some reasons for this success or failure should be apparent. To start a good colony of broilers for the early markets the incubators should be started to work early in November, and then the broilers will be ready for market early in March, the season when the highest prices are paid. For 400 broilers one needs at least 800 eggs, for one cannot depend on more than 50 per cent hatching. These eggs should cost all the way from \$10 to \$15, according to the price of fresh eggs in the locality. The cost for time, labor and similar items cannot be taken into account, for these represent the working capital of the farmer, and must be given in return for a living and anything over. Careful attention to business details is necessary for success with the broilers from the time the eggs are purchased until they are sold. The chickens cannot be fed for nothing, and the question of profits will largely depend upon how this work is done. It is here that profits are cut down and actually turned into losses at times. One must study the economy of winter feeding more than anything else. Granted that the whole expense of winter feeding and raising should amount to \$100, we then have a profit of \$100 to show for 120 days or three months. This is not great, and would be very unsatisfactory if one had to depend upon it alone for a living. But added to the other profits from eggs, and the farm crops in summer, it will do to encourage us to make more of our winters. Usually this seems to be a season of idleness on the farm, and if we can convert it into a season when we can make \$100 there is no reason to complain.—Annie C. Webster, in American Cultivator.

Short and Useful Pointers.

A farmer can always profit by observation as well as experience. It does not take long for the reckless farmer to realize his foolishness. Some farmers feed celery to their hens to improve the flavor of the meat.

Charcoal cannot be used as a grit for poultry; it is too soft for that purpose.

When handled rightly turkeys are among the most profitable products of the farm.

During the last 100 years dairying has made more progress than any other branch of farming.

Burnt corn with the cob makes the best charcoal for hens. Twice a week is often enough to feed it.

Farmers should keep themselves informed as to the markets, as they are constantly changing year by year.

Don't imagine that poultry do not require any care. It is only those flocks that receive every attention that pay big profits.

A point in favor of bees is that they insure the fertilization of fruit, which is an important matter that the American farmer has only lately begun to realize.

The care of poultry is not "women's work." There is too much money in it for the men to slight it. Nobody, male or female, can afford to slight the hens.

It's a good plan to assist the young pigs to make hogs of themselves, and after they have reached the hog stage assist them off to market. "Haste makes waste" doesn't apply to marketing stock when they are once in marketable condition.

It is said that an excellent way to deal with mice in an orchard is to procure small blocks of wood and bore one and one-fourth inch holes in them, placing some meal mixed with tallow and rat poison in the bottom of each hole and leave these about the orchard. No other animal can reach the bait.

CHINESE NEWSPAPERS

Cheapest in the World and Dearest at the Price, Except as Curies.

The lot of the Chinese editor is not one to be envied by those who follow the calling of literature in this country; indeed, it is said to be little short of martyrdom, says a writer in the London Express. He has a very remote chance of living a long life unless the organ he conducts is a powerful one, and an equally remote chance of dying a natural death.

If a newspaper run by a Chinaman returns a profit equivalent to \$100 per annum the proprietor must think himself an exceedingly lucky man, but not 10 per cent, are so successful as this.

The price of these news sheets, as they might be more aptly termed, is absurdly low, owing to the small wages asked by native workmen. A Chinese compositor is perfectly satisfied with 2 taels (two ounces of silver) a month, and, failing that, a small quantity of rice. Again, paper can be purchased for next to nothing, being made from the refuse collected in the rice and cotton mills. Knowing this, no person would think of paying more than 4 cash (the tenth of a penny) for a current copy of a paper.

The advantages of the free press are, of course, unknown, and the editor who attacks the government or any officials of high degree in his column may find himself in prison at any moment, with a warrant issued for his decapitation without a trial in a few days' time. In the large towns these measures are to a certain extent modified, for the authorities are perfectly aware that to behead an editor unless his offense is a very grave one would be to incur the anger of his comrades, who would promptly revenge his death by stirring up an insurrection at the risk of being tortured to death for doing so. But they can and do imprison an obnoxious editor whenever they think fit, and in order that such a calamity should not affect a journal a man is always employed at a small salary, who is willing to take the blame upon himself and go to prison in the editor's stead. Thus, the literary lights in China continue to flourish while their substitutes frequently spend half their lives in confinement.

War news seldom finds its way into these obscure papers, and when it does it is based on rumor solely, for no war correspondents are employed, and such institutions as press agencies are altogether unknown. There is not the slightest doubt therefore that thousands of people in the remote parts of China will read their paper regularly during the present trouble, and yet be unaware that their country is at war. Of course, several of the largest papers are conducted by Europeans upon modern lines, but they are allowed more freedom and do not come under this category.

Night Life Active in Mindanao.

Surgeon McKenna, who has passed the last six months on the Island of Mindanao, does not hesitate to maintain that the number of quadrupeds and insects enjoying existence in the moon light of the tropics exceeds that of their daylight rivals; so much so, indeed, that whole species and groups of species are represented only by nocturnal creatures. Forests that remained as still as the grave under the glare of the vertical sun are all in an uproar within an hour after sunset.—Indianapolis Press.

The Mikado of Japan has under his subjection a population of over 40,000,000 people, and they are about as happy as the average people in any part of the world.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

Mary's Lamb Up-to-Date.

If Mary's little lamb, my dears, Had lived in '98, The little, fleeting, woolly thing Would have met a better fate.

For if it followed her to school, The teacher kind would say: "Why, Mary, dear, I'm glad he's here, I think we'll let him stay."

The children all would gather round Discussing every feature, As though a treasure they had found, They'd draw a picture of it, too.

They'd draw a picture of it, too, "Twould really do them credit, And then a story each would write, 'Twould please you if you read it."

The lamb would be allowed to roam Around the room at pleasure, And when at noon it trotted home It's joy would know no measure.

I'm glad that time a change has wrought Regarding education, Now children's minds are used for thought,

Their eyes for observation.—Primary Education.

What Becomes of the Old Moon?

Till about the year 1817 there lay a few miles to the east of Nain, a small fishing village of the pleasant name of Mavistoun, the natives of which were regarded as foolish folk. One day a horseshoe was found on the shore. It was the first ever seen in the village, and nobody could tell what it was. At last one said it was a bit of the moon—really a new moon. But the oldest, and, therefore, wisest fisherman of Mavistoun shook his head, and declared this to be a mistaken notion. He believed it was a moon, but not a new one, else it would be up in the sky. He had, however, often wondered what became of the old moons; and this discovery cleared up the mystery. After they were done with, the old moons fell to the earth, and this horseshoe was one of them!—Little Folks.

Boys and Girls in Korea.

As a little lass the Korean girl is taught all about domestic work, and begins early to assist her mother in making the family clothes. If too young to sew she can at least hold over the stove the long iron rod to be used in pressing seams. The heating of this rod is the first thing taught a little girl. Later she learns how to paste clothes together, then to wash and iron them.

Now, this use of paste instead of thread is a custom, so far as I know, practiced only by the Koreans. It is done on account of their mode of ironing. To accomplish this difficult feat they rip their garments to pieces before putting them in water. After the washing, garments are laid on a smooth block of wood or stone and are beaten with ironing sticks. These sticks resemble a policeman's club, and each ironer uses two.

Girls and boys wear their hair hanging in two plaits until engaged to be married, after which the boy fastens his on top of his head and the girl twists hers at the nap of her neck. Koreans hold marriage in high regard, and show a married man profound respect, while a bachelor is treated by them with marked contempt. I have seen men greet a slip of a boy wearing a topknot with ceremonious deference, saying to each other: "He is a man; he is about to be married;" while of a much older man, and possibly a richer, who wears his two plaits, they remark that "he is a pig. He cannot get a wife. He will always be a boy."

In the choice of his first bride, the Korean leaves everything to the "go-between." But all other wives—and a Korean may have ten—the man makes his own selection. Women are well treated, and, as a rule, live happy, contented lives. They are gentle, attractive little bodies, and devoted to their homes.—Chicago Record.

A Peculiar Florida Spider.

In Florida they have a curious large yellow spider, which is remarkable, both for the ingenuity it displays in constructing its web and the marvelous faculty it has of hiding itself on the slightest approach of danger. The insect swings a strong web from two plant twigs on each side of a path or closed space of ground, and waits for its prey. The web is in the shape of a hammock, says the Washington Times, and tapers at each end to a fine point, though quite broad in the middle. The bright color of the spider seems to mark him out for destruction—he is so clearly defined against the white sand and dead leaves that you wonder what he would do for defense in case of attack.

Approach quietly and he watches you intently. Then if you raise your hand suddenly he will disappear. While you are wondering what became of him you see first a blur where he had been, then several spiders, then you catch sight again of the yellow ball you noticed at first. Repeat the performance and the stage effect is renewed. The disappearance is absolute; there can be no doubt about it, and the little magician trusts to the trick entirely for his protection. How is it done? Well, as soon as he is startled he starts the vibration of his airy hammock; these become too

rapid for the eye to follow, and he vanishes. As these become slower you see a blur, and then several spiders, as the eye catches him at different points of his swing, until finally he rests before you."

The Bear and the Boy.

About two hundred years ago a rich and powerful nobleman named Leopold was duke of the province of Lorraine. The duke was very fond of animals.

Among his savage pets was a great bear, whose name was Marco. Marco was housed in a rough hut in a corner of his royal master's park. He was supplied with the best of food by the keeper of the animals; and on state occasions he was led out by a big iron chain, and made to dance for the amusement of Leopold's friends.

Marco was fierce; and, when he swung his shaggy head out of the door of his hut and showed his white teeth in an ugly snarl, no one dared to go near him. One blow from his paw would have knocked a man senseless, and those white teeth of his were very sharp.

One cold winter night Marco having swallowed his supper at a few gulps, shambled back into the farthest corner of his hut, and curled himself up to sleep. He was just at the "falling-off" point, when he heard a sound at the house door. He started up; and what should he see but a small boy, hopping first on one foot and then on the other, and shivering with the cold!

The boy was a homeless child, who had lost his way in the duke's forest, and had run into the bear's hut for shelter.

Marco did not know who this newcomer might be, but he was so surprised that he quite forgot to growl.

Then a strange thing happened—so strange that, if it were not a true story, I should not ask you to believe it. The boy ran over to Marco, and, peeping into the shaggy face, cried joyfully: "Why, you are the duke's funny bear, that I saw dancing the other day! Won't you be my friend? I need one so much!"

The bear Marco did not understand what the boy said, but he understood the kind hand that stroked his head. That hand meant, "I love you." Marco had never been loved in all his rough, bearish life—at least, not since the days before he had been caught in the deep forest, a frightened baby, screaming for his mother.

Now a great answering love filled his wild heart. He allowed the little lad to lie down beside him, warmed by his furry coat; and together they slept through the night.

In the morning the boy went away, but came back to his friend in the evening. This happened for several days. Marco shared his food with his visitor, and they became fast cronies. One day the keeper was surprised to see that Marco left his supper untouched; and, instead of hurrying away to feed the other animals, he stayed to watch the bear.

Marco sat in the door of his hut, patiently waiting for his boy. The keeper offered to take away the food; but he received such a fierce look that he set it down again, and hid behind a tree, to see what would happen next. In a moment, to his amazement, a child ran up to the bear. The keeper sprang forward to snatch him out of harm's way; but the boy had already thrown his arms about his faithful friend, and in a twinkling they finished the waiting supper together.

Duke Leopold was brought to the hut to see this wonderful pair, and soon the story of the boy and the bear had spread throughout the land.

Duke Leopold gave orders that the poor child should be brought to his palace, to be educated and cared for. The little lad made many friends in his beautiful new home, and I think that he never found a dearer one than the bear Marco.—Cora Haviland Carver, in Little Men and Women.

Her Majesty a Humanitarian.

The Queen of the Belgians is not only a first-rate whip, but also a great lover of animals. When she is in Spa she is constantly in the stables attached to her villa, assuring herself that the horses are well cared for. It was mainly owing to her majesty's efforts that the dogs there are no longer muzzled in the streets. Apart from her personal interest in dumb creatures, her majesty's tastes and habits are most simple and unostentatious.

Gentle Sarcasm on Athletes.

With reference to the dedication of the athlete at public schools, the Oxford Magazine has the following: "It appears that a few days back the vice-chancellor received the following letter from a gentleman: 'How much would I have to pay for the education of my son in your university? Let me know if I shall have to pay more in case my son, besides rowing, should wish to learn to read and write.'—London St. James Gazette.

Deer in Matanzas Mountains.

A gentleman came to the city from Matanzas for the purpose of securing hounds with which to track deer. He stated that he has a large sugar plantation there and that the deer come down from the mountains frequently.—Havana (Cuba) Post.

A new pencil for clerks will cut twice or erase ring marks.

THE INFUX OF FINNS.

Why These Trifty, Honest Peasants Are Leaving the Czar's Empire.

It is announced that a large number of Finns will come to America this year. Steamship companies have made estimates as high as 55,000, but as there are only two and one-half million people in the grand duchy of Finland, these figures seem to be exaggerated. It is hardly probable that one person in every fifty will emigrate. Nevertheless, it is certain that the policy of the new Czar of Russia is driving from his country a large number of his most valuable subjects. Until last year, the usual number of Finnish emigrants who landed annually in New York was under 2,000, although in the early '80s many more came, attracted by prospects of work on railways and in mines. Last year the number had risen to 6,420.

The immediate cause of unrest among the Finns is the edict of a year ago, by which the Russia army conscription was introduced into the grand duchy. The Russian navy has been successfully manned by Finnish sailors, and the Czar has evidently concluded these sturdy people would make good soldiers. This is a violent departure from what had been Russia's policy toward the Finns up to ten years ago. The grand duchy was ceded to Russia by Sweden in 1809. The Czar Alexander I. issued an edict, guaranteeing their constitutional rights "for all perpetuity." Each Czar since that time has issued a similar edict. About ten years ago Alexander II. began steps for the Russification of Finland by abolishing its postal system, suspending its criminal code and introducing the Russian language into the schools. Nicholas II. did nothing until his conscription proclamation. Within a week 522,931 adult Finns signed a protest, which was carried to St. Petersburg by a delegation of 500 men, but the Czar refused to receive them.

Beside sending Russian officials throughout the grand duchy and abolishing the Finnish flag and postage stamp, the Czar has now again interfered in the Finnish schools, probably the best in Europe. The University at Helsingford has 2,134 students, 285 of whom are women. There are forty-four lyciums in the country, and out of a total of 458,000 children of school age, fewer than 19,000, only 4 per cent, do not receive instruction. By imperial edict hereafter the Russian language is to be used exclusively, and about half the subjects taught hitherto are declared seditions. The Finns, who are good Lutherans, fear that in this way the religion of the Greek Church will be thrust upon them. Their national spirit is still strong, and they deeply resent this blow at their native tongue and institutions.

The Finns have always been faithful subjects of the Czar. They have never plotted against him. There was no excuse on such ground for his action. The United States has nothing to fear from Finnish immigration. The peasants are thrifty, industrious and upright. In this case, Russia's loss is America's gain.—Kansas City Star.

The Singing Mate.

Joblots attended a concert one evening, and not having been educated to the subtleties of classic music, it soon became evident to his friend that he was slightly bored.

Joblots almost groaned when the violin soloist appeared and quietly adjusted a queer looking bit of metal to the bridge of his instrument. But when the soft, almost human tones of the violin began to float through the hall, Joblots manifested considerable interest and pleasure. At the conclusion of the selection Joblots, for the first time that evening, applauded vociferously, and turning to his friend said:

"Say Bob what was that thing he put on his fiddle to make it sound that way?"

"That," replied Bob, "was a mute." "A mute," repeated Joblots. "Well, that's the first mute I've ever heard that I liked."—Colorado Springs Gazette.

Where Wits are Wit.

The Rocky Mountain jester delights you with violent, boisterous, unpredictable whimsicalities. He is mannerlessly frolicsome. There sat next me at table a married man who so reverently adored his wife that in our presence he uniformly addressed her as "Old Sweet Apples." Looking up from his plate one morning at breakfast, he soliloquized in this fashion: "Folks," said he, "I don't know where I'd be if it wasn't for my wife." The lady beamed affectionate appreciation. "Nope," continued the proud husband. "I don't know where I'd be if it wasn't for my wife—she's a great drawback!"

Rats Ruin a House.

In St. James place recently Nos. 7 and 8 collapsed as a result of rats gnawing through the supports of the gable end, which fell with such force as to break through the floors below.—London Express.

A Hungarian has discovered a method of spinning wood pulp into yarn, so that it can be woven into a fabric that may be converted into various articles of clothing.