

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

ITEMS OF INTEREST ON AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

Sheep's Loss in Weight—Removing Honey From the Hives—A Little Feeding Information—Seed Potatoes—How to Fatten Mules—Etc., Etc.

Sheep's Loss in Weight.
Farmers who keep common sheep and depend upon wool do not know how specimens of some breeds may be made to reach great weights. A two-year-old grade Lincoln wether in England was slaughtered, its live fat 34 pounds, the skin, blood and entrails 90 pounds, and the waste 6 pounds. Sheep weighing 300 pounds live weight are numerous in the United States.

Removing Honey From the Hives.
To have honey in the best shape to sell it should be removed from the hives as soon as it is well capped over. The cappings are then white and very inviting. If allowed to remain long in the hives after being capped, the cappings become stained by the bees and the appearance is injured.

A Little Feeding Information.
In fall feeding of cattle, it seems, by taking the country at large, that the best method employed is to feed grain while the steers are still on good pasture, feeding from ten to twenty pounds of corn meal per day. Some feeders commence to use their green corn crop just as soon as it commences to dent, but this is not considered a good practice by many of the most successful feeders, and it is calculated that it should require from fifteen to twenty days to change steers from grass to their corn diet. Great care should be exercised to prevent the steers from losing any flesh in the transfer.

Seed Potatoes.
It is important to guard carefully your seed potatoes. They should be fine and large, for potatoes are prone to retrograde. The sprouts should not be allowed to start; if they do, they must be broken off. To have the best seed you must plan in the fall. We read a good suggestion in an exchange:

One way to prevent them from sprouting is when storing the potatoes away in the fall to leave vacant the same amount of room adjoining them, then when they show signs of sprouting scoop them into the adjoining bin.
A good way when one saves only a few seed potatoes is to put them into barrels, leaving as many empty barrels as have been filled; then two men can pour them back and forth when necessary; they will not have to be changed often. This may sound unreasonable, but just try it and see. The potatoes will be almost as solid in the spring as when stored away in the fall.—Farm, Field and Fireside.

How to Fatten Mules.

Put them into a shed or barn which can be closed up except the windows and doors. Hang up at all of these burlap fastened at the top so that it will blow in and out with the wind, and when quiet it will keep the place turned loose in barn, put in a good oak trough. If the trough is of pine, put a hoopiron band on the edge, as mules are great to gnaw. Have a small lot adjoining in which you can turn them at night to roll.

If they have collar sores, keep these well greased with axle grease. Flies do not like the smell and will not light upon the sore if it is well greased. Have a half-barrel of water in one corner where the mules can go and drink at will. Put this up so high that they can only drink out of it and not get any litter into it. Place a box of salt and ashes where the animals can at all times go and lick it. Now commence feeding them lightly, increasing until you give them all they will eat. Green corn, clover hay, oats, ground or soaked corn, bran and a little oilmeal and brown sugar. In fifty or ninety days they will be fat and fit for market, provided you have the right kind of mules to start with.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Fatal Effects From Green Fodder.

Because they have seen cattle eat young first-growth and second-growth sorghum and Kafir-corn, and in some instances pretty nearly subsist on them without apparent harm, many persons are ready to maintain that these green growths are never dangerous. Yet, under circumstances and for reasons which no one is yet able to explain, other persons in numerous instances find to their sorrow that the plants are almost immediately fatal. This suggests that no one is justified in taking any chances by permitting cattle to have access to such "greens." Among others, Secretary Coburn of the Kansas Board of Agriculture cites three examples of their fatal effects, occurring recently. Thomas Feakes, of Lincoln County, turned his cows into an unused corral where a few scattering bunches of Kafir-corn were growing. In less than thirty minutes seven of the cows that had nipped the growing blades were dead; several others were made very sick, but recovered.

John Kaiser, of Covert, Osborne County, was driving a lot of young cattle through a pasture where there were stools of green Kafir-corn and sorghum. Within thirty minutes ten out of eleven heifers that had eaten of these sprouts were dead. C. F. Wadsworth, of the same county, at

about the same time, lost six steers in the same way.

Losses such as these are of annual occurrence, and a list of them would be very long. The fact that results are not always fatal should not furnish an excuse for taking risks so likely to prove extremely expensive. Certain safety is only assured by absolutely preventing cattle from getting within reach of the plants named, even for the briefest intervals.

The Season's Lessons From Dairymen.

The season ended has many lessons for the thoughtful man. One of them is that general farming is in the long run most reliable. In many parts of the country dry weather has very materially shortened the hay crop. Where men did not foresee the coming trouble and put in liberal pieces of corn to supplement the shortage of hay, winter stares them in the face with empty mows and an abundance of stock on hand. This stock must either be carried through cold weather on grain or turned off at a loss. The result is, cattle are very low in price. Not once in a lifetime do we see cows selling as cheaply as at the present time in those sections which were most seriously affected by the drought. Good cows coming into milk in the spring are to-day worth only from \$15 to \$20 per head. And many are selling for even less than that. Calves, sheep and lambs go along with cows in price.

If we had been a little more cautious about getting overstocked with cows, we would be better off. The pendulum has been swinging toward dairying for a few years back, and now we are caught. We must get out the best way we can. But should we not firmly resolve that hereafter we will not run so largely to one branch of farming? Mixed farming is the safest. Again, we should learn from the experience of this year that it is wise to be prepared for any kind of a season that may chance to come. It is said that any fool knows enough to carry an umbrella when it rains. It is a wise man who takes one along when the sky is fair. Who could have foretold last spring that the hay crop would be so nearly a failure in 1900? If we had all known that we would surely have planted a good piece of corn. But we didn't know it, and many of us are sadly lamenting the fact now.

Prudence would have suggested that we should be on the lookout for just the thing which did happen. Corn is a splendid crop to raise every year, drought or no drought. No one ever saw guilty of saying that he was sorry he had so much corn. The trouble is to get enough. Here is a chance to turn over a new leaf. If we err, let it be on the right side, and plant corn. Experience ought to have taught us this long ago.—E. L. Vincent, in American Agriculturist.

Short and Useful Pointees.

Linseed meal is excellent for the poultry while moulting.
Damp stables are injurious to the stock. Don't have them.

Select your future dairy cows from only the best heifers.

Pop corn is better than field corn for hens, as it contains more nitrogen.

Try changing the churning temperature of the cream if the butter seems long in coming.

The largest profit always comes from the animal that has been fattened up in good shape.

If your cows are of the best only the way to increase the yield is by more and better feeding.

Poultry do not require a large amount of charcoal, but they do need an uninterrupted supply.

Keep the hens scratching. When they are idle they get into bad habits—especially that of feather pulling.

You might as well farm with the old-fashioned implements as to try and farm with the old-fashioned scrub stock.

Good beef cattle are only those that are able to take off flesh rapidly, mature early, and stand ready to be fattened at any age.

Don't empty meat brine where the hogs can get it. The burying of hogs is a very unpleasant as well as unprofitable business to be in.

The way some people who keep hens deprive them of a dust bath, you would think it was gold dust that was required instead of common road dust.

The farmer who keeps hens must take his choice between lice or eggs. If he persists in allowing the hens to be lousy he must do without the eggs.

It appears that the hog's digestive apparatus is of the very best. In from thirty to forty-five minutes after he has eaten, his food will be fully digested.

If the hens receive better care, better housing, and more comfort, it is equivalent to "pushing the button." The hens may be depended upon to "do the rest."

A farmer should not satisfy his own ideas in breeding. Find out what the purchaser wants and try to comply with his ideas of what constitutes a good animal.

If a cow can't make at least 150 pounds of butter in a year she isn't worth her keep. But before discarding her make sure that the fault is with the cow and not the owner.

A new educational plan is being tried in Copenhagen. No books are used but the boys are instructed orally when they perform at the same time some light manual work.

"TWO STRIKE," THE SIOUX.

EPISODES IN THE CAREER OF THE UNCONSTRUCTED SAVAGE.

An Old Chieftain of the Dakotahs About Whom Much Interest Centers—Strategem by Which the Tribe of Pawnees Was Exterminated—Custer Massacre.

Two Strike, the Sioux chieftain, the unconstructed savage, lying on his bed of skins hears the thundering hoof-falls of the buffalo on the plains that skirt the eternal hills, writes E. B. Clark in the Chicago Times-Herald. Two Strike, the wily, the bitter enemy of the whites, is dying in his wigwam firm in the faith of his fathers that he will but close his eyes on earth to open them in the happy hunting ground. About none other of the elders of the tribe of the Dakotahs does there centre so much of interest as about this old brave, whose heart holds "a nobility of hatred" for the enemies of his people. The chieftain took part in the last uprising of the Sioux against the whites ten years ago, and when forced with the others to give up the unequal combat he said: "The body is given up, but the spirit never surrenders." There is only one being on earth whom Two Strike holds in greater hatred than the white man and that is the hereditary foe of his tribe—the Pawnee warrior.

Old Two Strike bears the distinction of having been the leader in the last battle which took place on the American continent between two hostile tribes of Indians. For years without number the Pawnees and the Sioux have hated each other. The wars that were waged between them were wars of extermination. No prisoner, warrior, squaw or pappoose was taken in battle or in the raids upon sleeping villages. All were put to the knife or the tomahawk. In one of Cooper's novels *Hard Heart*, the Pawnee chieftain, taunting the Sioux, says: "Since waters ran and trees grew the Sioux has found the Pawnee on his war path." The battle in which Two Strike led the hosts of the Sioux against the Pawnees was fought near a little stream known as "The Freochman," a branch of the Republican River, about 100 miles south of Lexington, Neb. For generations the Pawnees had held the valley of the Platte. It was the most famous buffalo hunting ground on the continent. The Sioux from the north constantly invaded the buffalo plains of the Pawnees. This in itself was enough to bring about constant battle, but back of everything else there was set a hereditary hatred between the two nations, the beginning of which not even the old men of the tribes pretended to know. The masterful Sioux had thrashed all the Indian tribes with which they had come in contact, but they met a foe worthy of their tomahawks every time that they came in contact with the Pawnee. About the middle of the nineteenth century disease ravaged the Pawnee nation. It carried off little children and stalwart warriors with equal impartiality. The strength of the tribe was sapped but its spirit was unbroken. The Sioux won frequent victories over their weakened enemies and forced them to a course which they had ever before spurned, an alliance with the whites.

The Sioux had killed scores of whites who had had the courage to pierce the wilderness and establish homes. Soldiers were sent against them to punish them, and the Pawnees, burning for revenge, went with the white soldiers as scouts. The Sioux warriors were punished. Two Strike bided his time. With the other chiefs he finally urged his people to make peace with the whites. It was the only time that words of peace had ever been known to come from the chieftain's lips. It was not a case of hating the white man less but the Pawnee more. With the end of the active campaign the white soldiers withdrew from their Pawnee allies, who returned to their hunting ground and their villages. Adabel Ellis, who knew better, perhaps, than others the fullness of the Sioux plot and the circumstances of the Pawnee annihilation, has told the story. Two Strike and his Sioux watched for an opportunity. They would not be content with a mere battle in which so many warriors should be killed off, but they were after a chance for extermination. They wished to root the tribe out from its place in the land.

Early in August, 1874, the Pawnees started from their homes on a great hunting expedition. They were led by Sky Chief, once noted for his prowess in the Pawnee tribe. Sioux runners carried the information of the hunt to Two Strike. Then the Sioux took the war path. They cut down into the heart of the buffalo country, and finally found the Pawnees encamped in a comparatively narrow canyon. The Sioux started a small herd of buffalo, and driving them into the upper end of the canyon, started them down toward the camp of the Pawnees. The Sioux goaded the animals from the rear, but took themselves out of sight just before coming within vision of the Pawnees. The buffalo went heading through the canyon and the Pawnee warriors, hastily mounting, followed them out on the broad plain, leaving the women and children behind. Then the Sioux swept forward and began the work of extermination. They spared neither youth nor age, and had almost completed the slaughter when the Pawnee braves returned. Then followed a conflict in which the twang of the bowstring was heard oftener than the crack of the rifle. The Pawnees fought as they had always fought, to

the death, but the Sioux, armed for war and not for the hunt and with overpowering numbers, won the day, and of the great nation of the Pawnees only a vestige remained. Two Strike with his own hand slew Sky Chief. The conflict served to whet the Sioux appetite for that other conflict less than two years later, when the same warriors attacked Custer and his band and left not one living.

Two Strike's conscience is not troubling him as he lies in his wigwam. With him the slaying of the enemies of his people is a virtue, and about this feeling there is something that is not solely characteristic of the savage.

FRIENDLY SNAKES OF KLAMATH.

Residents Reluctant to Part With a Few Tons of Them at \$500 a Ton.

The snake industry at Klamath Falls, Ore., bids fair to become important. A few weeks ago Postmaster Castel received a letter from a concern in Minnesota making inquiries as to the price of the reptiles, and if a shipment could be made to a Minnesota farm. Although the letter was written on printed letterheads, the postmaster thought some one was trying to perpetuate a joke upon him. He replied, however, and stated that it would supply all the snakes wanted at 25 cents a pound. By return mail, much to his surprise, came an order for 400 pounds of snakes, delivered at the nearest railroad station. The Minnesotan went on to state that next season he would make further orders an object to Mr. Castel, but he would take 800 pounds more this fall. Snake catching is now the order of the day here. It is a paying business, as one man can easily capture 100 in a day, and this represents at least fifty pounds.

The Klamath Falls snakes have a worldwide reputation. The town is situated at the foot of Klamath Falls, which begin at Upper Klamath Lake and continue through a narrow, rocky gulch for a mile, to the lower lake. The descent is gradual, and the falls nothing more than a rapid mountain stream, a hundred yards or more wide, between the two lakes. This place forms a sort of curve or elbow, and was called "Ewawa" by the Indians, meaning elbow. Along this river or falls on a warm day miles of snakes, curling, wriggling and crawling over each other, is no unusual sight, and if the weather is a little cool, one has to wait for them to get out of the way or take a stick and lift them aside, as many do. The stranger, on his first trip to this section, is continually dodging and jumping aside, although he is informed that the reptiles are perfectly harmless. The inhabitant doesn't mind them at all. Little girls gather apronfuls and boys carry small ones around as pets here generally and are seldom harmed. They come down into the very town and while walking along the streets a couple of dozen may be seen in going a block. They simply wriggle out of the way—crawl between the cracks of the plank sidewalks, or move off to one side. The snakes are regarded as benefactors by the community, and there is some complaint at parting with the few required to fill the Minnesota man's order.

The reptiles live and breed among the rocks and cliffs along the falls, and it is asserted that they have completely routed the rattlesnakes from the entire section, besides destroying all the mice and other pests that infested the place. They attack a rattlesnake and while one alone has been known to kill the largest rattler, a number will vind themselves about the venomous reptile and strangle it in a short time. It is claimed that before these snakes infested the region, but they are now seldom seen.

The species is said to be a water snake, and this is evidenced by the fact that they will take to the water if there is no other means of escape when crowded and move about in that element with the ease and skill of a fish. They are of a dark color about three feet long when full grown and have a stripe a little lighter than the general color down their back. All sizes may be seen among them, from the three or four inch baby snake to the full-grown ones. On a warm day they are visible by the thousands, and in many cases they coil up by the dozens in high rolls. Pictures of these rolls have been sent, upon inquiry, all over the world. A farmer living in the gulch by the banks of the river has great difficulty in using his hay at the last of the winter. The snakes take refuge in his barn during the cold weather, and as the hay gets low he finds great masses of the benumbed reptiles rolled together all through the hay.

It is believed that tons of the snakes could be shipped from Klamath annually without materially decreasing the supply, and the industry may prove a paying one. Snake oil commands an enormous price for medicinal purposes and it is known that a superior quality of the oil can be manufactured from the Klamath Falls species.

Sheep Guarding Birds.

The yakamk, a species of crane, is said to be one of the most intelligent birds known. The bird is used by the natives of Venezuela, South America, in the place of shepherd dogs, for guarding and herding their flocks of sheep. It is said that however far the yakamk may wander with the flocks, it never fails to find its way home at night, driving before it all the creatures entrusted to its care.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

There is such a person as a Chinese emperor. But he has evidently learned that discretion which is the better part of valor.

Generally the woman who thoroughly understands men may not be able to write poetry, but she is apt to be a pretty good cook.

Chinese laundrymen are said to be leaving America in large numbers for the purpose of returning home to do up the present dynasty.

An English earl wants the American jockeys barred from the English race courses. This seems to be a sad confession of inferiority.

In the estimation of his heirs the late Marquis of Bute was in every way worthy of his name. He left an estate valued at \$25,000,000.

The students of Amherst College have decided to abolish cane rushes by a vote of 296 against 33. Now, what students will down the college yell?

Half a century ago Belgium was scarcely known. To-day its products and manufactures are in the markets of every corner of the globe, and it ranks as the seventh industrial country of the world.

Great Britain would seem to be rather short on timber, at least so far as the United Kingdom is concerned, for within that particular domain there remains only about 3,000,000 acres that can be classed even as woodland.

A Chicago servant girl had her mistress arrested for using a shower of eggs as an alarm clock to get her up in the morning. The rules of the Cook Ladies' Union do not permit employers to turn their servants into human omelettes.

Manchester, England, is to be provided with new sewage purification works, which will cost \$2,371,000 to construct. Since the ship canal joining the city with the sea was constructed, municipal improvement has been prosecuted three with the greatest vigor.

It has been generally supposed that the dikes of the Netherlands had cost more than the water front protections of all other nations combined. It now transpires that a greater amount has been expended for dikeage by little Japan than by the Netherlands.

Children playing with matches caused 91 fires in the United States last year; cigars and cigarettes caused 912; electric wires and lights, 750; boilers and engines, 387; incendiarism, 674; light spontaneous combustion, 1,225; 6 were due to the sun's rays. The causes of 13,127 were not discovered.

A Western boy returned a juvenile story book to a library with this comment: "I don't want any more of them books. The girls is all too holy." A young lady, fond of quiet stories, once requested a librarian, in a laboriously written note, to send her "something light in the way of friction."

Russia is primarily an agricultural country, and must always be such. Grain, vegetables, timber and cattle-raising, with their closely allied products, are the mainstay of the Russian workman. But manufactures have increased of late years to an almost marvellous degree.

During last year the National Telephone Company, of England, established no less than 615,000,000 talking connections amongst its subscribers, or about 2,000,000 per working day. It is remarkable that this figure exceeds that of the telegrams received and dispatched by the General Postoffice during the same year by nine times.

Turkey has been taking a census of Islam and finds that the number of Mohammedans in the world is 196,500,000. Of these 18,000,000 are in Turkey in Europe, 99,000,000 in western Asia and Hindostan, 20,000,000 in China, 36,500,000 in northern and northeastern Africa, and 23,000,000 are scattered in other parts of the world.

A dozen and a half fine Rhode Island turkeys from the farm of the late Horace Bloodgood have been shipped to France, in which country the Marquise de Breuille will endeavor to breed the fowls for the market. The turkey is so distinctively an American bird that it has not done well heretofore on the European Continent.

At the meeting of the International Railway Congress at Paris, M. Baudin, the French Minister of Public Works, commented on the fact that all the later improvements adopted on European railways had come from America. European countries ought to realize, he said, that in the construction and management of railways they are behind the United States.

A society has been organized in Wisconsin for the suppression of the man that rocks the boat and the fool who can't tell a deer from a man while hunting. This society might be multiplied indefinitely throughout the United States with infinite benefit to the people, and it might be added to by including the idiot who "didn't know it was loaded."

The United States Department of

Agriculture is reported to be preparing an order setting apart as forest reserves the island of Panay, and also the island of Pantaui, which is one of the extreme groups of the Jolo Islands. These islands have been found to be remarkably rich in rubber trees, and the proposed order is with a view to the preservation and care of these trees, a precaution suggested by the growing scarcity of such trees, while the demand for rubber is increasing.

Farm labor in England seems to be scarce, and the result has been the bringing together of a strange assemblage in the harvest field. The other day there were working on a Surrey farm a couple of clerks, a compositor, a solicitor who had been unable to scrape up the money to take out his certificate; a medical man "down on his luck"; a pawnbroker's assistant, and of course a "journalist." The journalist explained that he was there for the purpose of "copy." He intends to write an article and call it "Haymaking by Eminent Hands."

It is quite possible to be too smart sometimes. A little messenger boy in New York City was called as witness for the plaintiff in a suit involving heavy damages against a street car company. "How fast was the car going round the curve at the time the plaintiff says it struck him?" asked counsel for the company in his cross-examination. "Pretty fast, sir," was the answer. "And how fast is pretty fast?" snarled the lawyer. "The cars don't go fast round that curve to-day. I suppose they don't run 'em as fast this fall as they did last spring when the plaintiff says he was struck, eh?" The boy was silent a minute. "No, sir, they don't run 'em as fast now," he said; "they killed so many people going round that curve they had to slow up."

The recent Woman's Congress in London would not have been complete if some one of the delegates had not read a paper on the decline of manners in the present day. This duty devolved on a Mrs. Farnell, who told the congress that there was a marked decay of good manners among the women of Great Britain; that mere roughness is prized as an excellence, and that grace is rarer than in the past. This theory must command assent, on the doctrine that what everybody says must be true. Not only do all authorities agree that this decline in manners is going on all over the world, but there never has been a period in the history of any country when the same melancholy doctrine was not asserted with equal emphasis. There is, however, a certain consolation in reflecting that this theory of the decay of manners in only a part of the broader and gloomier theory of the degeneracy of the human race, which we are assured on the same evidence has been going on since the beginning of history.

Statistics of the population of the cities of the United States containing over 25,000 inhabitants have been completed by the Census Office. Those cities, which number 159, have a population of 19,694,625, as compared with a population in the same cities of 14,855,480 in 1890 and of 9,983,927 in 1880. It is worthy of note that the cities in question showed a smaller absolute increase in the decade just ended than in the preceding one—82,428 less, while the percentage of increase was only 32.5 per cent. for the decade ending in 1900, as compared with 49.5 per cent. in the preceding decade. Of the cities referred to, nineteen have 200,000 or more inhabitants, nineteen have between 100,000 and 200,000 population, forty have between 50,000 and 100,000 inhabitants and eighty-one cities have between 25,000 and 50,000 inhabitants. As compared with the thirty-eight cities having over 100,000 inhabitants at present, there were only twenty-eight in 1890 and twenty in 1880.

One of the notable humors of the Parliamentary campaign in England has been contributed by Captain Oliver Young, who participated in the bombardment of Alexandria and the conquest of the Soudan. Despite these experiences, or perhaps because of them, Captain Young is an opponent of the Government, and his admiration of the War Office is not profound. At a recent political meeting he told a story to illustrate the amazing convolutions of red tape. He was wounded at Suakin, he said, and sent to the hospital. By some mistake he was reported dead, and a tombstone to his memory—which still ornaments the battlefield—was erected. When the error was discovered, the War Office not only asked, but insisted, that he should pay a guinea to cover the cost of inscribing his name on the stone! Well, somebody had to pay for it, and evidently the departmental mind, appalled at the idea of an inaccurate entry in the accounts, could think of no other expedient than the imposition of a mortuary expense upon the living man for whose benefit it would have been paid if he had been dead.

A Gloomy Tragedy.
It is a dark night. It is also a dark kitchen. The kind-hearted man in his stocking feet is after a drink of water for his fretful youngster. He thinks he can find his way in the inky darkness. He is mistaken. He turns to the left instead of to the right and falls down cellar.
Another good man gone wrong!—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A beach at Nome 600 feet long has yielded \$475,000 this season.