



ITEMS OF INTEREST ON AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

Dry Stalks and Silage—Let the Sheep Exercise—Perfect Corn—Faith in the Soil—How to Make a Hen's Nest—How to Build a Woodpile, Etc., Etc.

DRY STALKS AND SILAGE.

There is nearly the same relative difference in the feeding value between dry stalks and silage as between hay and grass. Cows fed on dry stalks and then changed to silage nearly always show a gain.

LET THE SHEEP EXERCISE.

The sheds or stables for the sheep should be reasonably warm, with no cracks for the wind to blow through, and with an opening on the south side, with boards placed in front in such a way as to break the wind and yet not hinder the sheep from going in and out at will, for it they do not have exercise you are sure to have some weak lambs.

PERFECT CORN.

The standard of perfection for ear corn, which has been adopted by the Corn Growers' Associations, is not an arbitrary requirement, but is the result of practical experience as to what makes a good ear of corn. Comparatively few have any conception of what constitutes a perfect ear. A perfect ear of corn should be 10 inches long, seven and one-half inches in circumference, should yield 90 per cent. of grain, should be cylindrical in form and should carry its size the entire length except at the point, which should taper slightly. It should be well filled out at both ends. This constitutes the standard of perfection, and the standard is of special use to the farmer who wishes either to buy or sell seed corn.

FAITH IN THE SOIL.

Professor Gowell said at the recent dairy meeting in Maine: "We are apt to undervalue our own soil and envy the west for its fertility. We read about their great crops, but forget that our old-fashioned crops of oats, and barley and corn are better here than there. If the west and south could only raise our red clover, it would be far better for their people. We don't believe in our own land as much as we ought to. We are not satisfied, and think our land is poor. We say that the soil is worn out as heritage. A greater blunder was never made. The soil of Maine contains all the elements of plant food. The maximum of crops can still be raised on it with the aid of fertilizers."

HOW TO MAKE A HEN'S NEST.

A great many will, no doubt, be inclined to smile at advice on what appears to be such a trivial subject, but I venture to say that few indeed know just how a nest should be arranged. Of course, a hen will, when compelled to do so, use any kind of a nest, but that does not alter the fact that there is a right and a wrong way of making them.

And again, a nest for a laying hen must be different from one provided for a sitter, the former being made very deep, so as to almost conceal the hen, while for the latter a flat nest so that the eggs do not roll together is required.

A box eighteen inches square, with an opening half way down on one side, sawed out, for the hen to enter, makes the best nest. Then begin by filling in the corners with dirt or ashes. A green sod turned upside down is good. Straw, or hay broken with the hands is then put on this and carefully rounded out and packed.

Only experience will teach one just how to shape a nest and no one can explain how it should be done.—Home and Farm.

HOW TO BUILD THE WOODPILE.

It costs not far from \$1 for each working hour for a farmer who hires a gang of men with a machine to saw his woodpile. Hence it stands him well in hand to make his arrangements so that the men and machine may work to the best advantage, and the work hurried as rapidly as possible. Much may be done in this respect by a proper arrangement of the logs and the log pile.

Most machines are designed to saw straight logs, cut 12 feet in length, and although long and crooked logs can be sawed, it is at a loss of time. If the logs are more than 12 feet long, from one to five minutes must be wasted in moving the trucks back after 12 feet have been sawed off. In sawing 100 logs, this will amount to from 100 to 500 minutes, and at the rate of 1 1/2-3c per minute, the loss will amount to quite an item. If the logs are crooked more time is wasted in "jigging" them along to the saw, and besides the saw must be run at a low rate of speed or there may be danger of breaking it. Generally very crooked logs can be cut cheaper with a crosscut saw than with a machine. Nor is it profitable to have many small logs in the pile.

Logs with a diameter of less than eight inches can be cut much cheaper by other methods than by a drag-saw machine. In all cases have the limbs trimmed off closely. If for any reason it is necessary to leave a large knot on a log, be sure that the large end of

that log is nearest to the saw. Throw out all splintered logs and work them up by hand. If you do not do so, be sure that the splintered end is nearest the saw. A machine does its best work with logs that range between 18 inches and 2 feet in diameter.—New England Homestead.

THE PASTURAGE AND SOILING SYSTEMS.

The pasturage system of keeping cattle is one which will not soon be overthrown in this country. The soiling system will some day be general, but not as long as farmers have large farms and are willing to devote a portion of their land to pasturage. The value of the land is seldom considered in the expenses of pasturing, and farmers are willing to affirm that to pasture the cows is much cheaper than to feed in any other manner. Of ordinary pasture it is estimated that it requires about four acres to keep a cow during the period when grass is abundant, but this proportion of land depends upon the condition of the pasture, the rainfall and the kind of cattle. If land is cheap the use of four acres for one cow may pay, especially as the cow harvests the crop herself and no labor is necessary in feeding her, except when she comes up to the barn at night. When land is costly it will pay to cut the food and carry it to the cattle at the barnyard. Whether pastured or soiled, every farmer is aware of the fact that cows will give more milk when they can receive a supply of green food. On the pasture there is a great variety, the cattle being able to select the short grasses that are not easily mowed and carried to the barnyard. At the barnyard, however, a larger amount of manure is saved, as there is then no waste, as happens in the pasture, where much of the manure is deteriorated in value by drying in the fields, the ammonia being carried away by the winds. When land is in pasture it gains in humus and fertility, and is benefited in that respect.

In Germany experiments extending over fourteen years, to test the merits of pasturing and soiling, were made, seven years being given to each system. During the first seven years 40 to 70 cows were pastured each year, and a separate account kept with each cow. The lowest average per cow was 1,385 quarts, during the third year of the experiment, when 70 cows were kept, and the highest 1,941 quarts, during the seventh year, when 40 cows were kept, the greatest quantity of milk given by one cow being 2,933 quarts. The average per cow for the whole seven years of pasturing was 1,583 quarts per year. In the soiling experiment 29 to 38 cows were kept, the lowest average being 2,939 quarts per cow, in the third year, when 38 cows were kept, the highest average being 4,000 quarts, in the seventh year, with 35 cows. The average per cow for the whole seven years of soiling was 3,442 quarts, and the highest by one cow was 5,110 quarts. The yields of the same cows were also compared for different years. One cow gave during the first year 3,636 quarts; the fourth year, 4,483 quarts, and the seventh year, 4,800 quarts. It was, therefore, demonstrated that the soiled, or stall-fed cows, increased their product from year to year during the seven years, green food being assisted by bran, linseed meal, etc. In this experiment, only the results as to yields are stated. The actual expense is not given, and that is an important matter. It is admitted in this country that the soiling system will result in larger yields, but the cost of production is to be considered. It is difficult to make a comparison unless the value of the land is estimated, as well as the cost for labor.

The smaller the area of land that can be used for pasture the lower the cost of the food. The fault with some farmers is that they depend upon the pasture too exclusively. If the pasture is deficient in herbage they make no allowance therefor. The best results are with luxuriant pastures and liberal feeding at the barn, but in the use of land for pasture some estimate should be made of the possible return from the land if devoted to a regular crop. The question to be considered is whether it pays to use a 20-acre plot for pasture if 1,000 bushels of corn or 400 bushels of wheat can be grown thereon. On the other side, it is maintained that when a field is used for pasture it is, to a certain extent, in a condition of fallow, the rains bringing down ammonia and nitric acid, humus being formed in the soil, and the mineral elements of the subsoil are rendered soluble by the roots of the grass, but it must not be overlooked that, while the cattle are occupying the land, they daily remove large portions of the fertility of the soil. As long as the cattle are well fed on concentrated foods the farmer will always have something to return to the soil. He cannot afford to use much land for pasture if he is located where land is valuable, but he can grow green food to supplement the allowance on the pasture, and in that respect partially combine the soiling and pasturage systems, much depending, however, on the farm and its surroundings.—Philadelphia Record.

Tired of a Bad Reputation. Billingsgate wishes to rid itself of the imputation which rests upon it of being the ward in which the worst characters, judged by the language used, assemble. There is no doubt at all that in Billingsgate a very marked improvement as regards the use of bad language has taken place, a fact undoubtedly due in a great measure to the good influence exercised by the Christian Mission.—London City Press.

CONGRESSIONAL TYPES.

MEN WHO HAVE WON IN SPITE OF EVERY OBSTACLE.

The Leaders in the House Have Had to Fight Their Way—Richest Representative was a Mine Boy at Seventy-five Cents a Day.

"The richest man in the House of Representatives at Washington is Connell, of Pennsylvania, who has accumulated over \$10,000,000, and who has a single item of income of over \$500 a day. Connell is a coal operator—one of the largest in the United States. Fifty years ago he was working in the mines as a driver-boy at 75 cents a day. Closely approaching him are Levy, of New York, the owner of Monticello, who inherited his wealth, and Sprague, of Massachusetts, who acquired his by marriage. Other rich men in the House, some of whom are in the millionaire class, are Sibley, of Pennsylvania; Stewart, of Wisconsin; Hill, of Illinois; Cannon, of Illinois; Dalzell and Adams, of Pennsylvania; Ruppert, McClellan and William Astor Chandler, of New York; Babcock, of Wisconsin; Lovering, of Massachusetts; Wadsworth, of New York, and Burleigh, of Maine. It is safe to say that a great majority of the members of the House have little besides their salaries, although there are a few of them who could not earn more than their salaries if they were to retire from Congress and devote themselves to their profession.

"With comparatively few exceptions, both Senators and Representatives started in life as poor boys. Perkins, of California, was a cabin boy, shipped before the mast when 12 years old, and followed the sea for 12 years. Stewart, of Nevada, was a stage-driver. Thurston, of Nebraska, supported himself as a boy in Vermont by farm work and by driving teams. Needham, of California, was born in an emigrant wagon somewhere in Nevada. He is one of the youngest members of the House. Adamson, of Georgia, worked on a farm and hauled goods and cotton. Lorimer, of Illinois, who, while still under 40 years, is supreme in the Republican politics of Chicago, was a bootblack and card-driver. Cusak, of Illinois, was a sign-painter. Smith, of Illinois, worked his way through college from a blacksmith shop. Robinson, of Indiana, was a newsboy, and worked in a shop from the time he was fifteen till he was twenty. Haugen, of Iowa, began to earn his own living at 14, and when he was 18 had bought a farm. Hephurn, of Iowa, was a printer. So were Hentzole, of Minnesota; Young, of Pennsylvania, and Amos Cummings, of New York. Weeks, of Michigan, had to buy books and study law through the intervals of teaching school. Brownlow, of Tennessee, earned his own living when ten years old. He was a tinner and a locomotive engineer. De Graffenreid, of Texas, was a brakeman. Otjen was foreman in a rolling mill. Mercer, of Nebraska, taught school, clerked in a store, worked on a farm and edited a newspaper. Robinson, of Nebraska, worked as a mechanic in a hinge factory. Gardner, of New Jersey, was a waterman. Daly, of the same state, was a moulder by trade. Spaulding, of North Dakota, left home at eleven to earn his own living. Ryan, of Pennsylvania, was employed about the coal mines as a mule-driver. Graham, of Pennsylvania, was employed in a brass foundry and enlisted at 17. Breazale, of Louisiana, clerked in a dry-goods store while studying law. Wheeler, of Kentucky, worked on a farm summers and attended school winters. Baker, of Maryland, worked on a farm until he was 32. H. C. Smith, of Michigan, worked on a farm and in factories, and after he entered college did chores for farmers for his board, teaching school in vacation. William Aiden Smith was a page in the Legislature. Tawney, of Minnesota, a leading member of the Ways and Means Committee, was a blacksmith and machinist until he began to study law. Champ Clark worked as a hired farm hand, clerked in a country store, edited a country newspaper, and practiced law. So the list might be continued. The men who have made records in Congress have had to fight their way.—L. A. Coolidge, in Ainslee's.

Interest Laws of China.

The interest laws of China, with which the operations of banking are intimately connected, date from the year 1250 of our era. The enormous rate of interest is curiously defended by several writers. It results, they say, in securing economy, in order that the borrower may repay the loan, in producing greater industry, in deterring persons from borrowing, in reducing the number of renters of land, thus increasing the number of land owners, and in inducing circumspection in regard to new enterprises. It is further stated by men of business that this 30 per cent. is also a maximum founded on the probability that the oscillations in the price of silver will never exceed that sum. It must be understood also that the ordinary rate of interest rarely exceeds 20 or 22 per cent., and that money may be had as low as 12 per cent., though the rate sometimes exceeds even 30 per cent.—The Forum.

A Swedish turnip weighing 20 pounds and a yellow weighing 23 pounds, both grown by a Forfarshire farmer, have been on exhibition in Dundee.

Hard Coughs

No matter how hard your cough is or how long you have had it, you want to get rid of it, of course. It is too risky to wait until you have consumption, for sometimes it's impossible to cure this disease, even with

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral

If you are coughing today, don't wait until tomorrow, but get a bottle of our Cherry Pectoral at once and be relieved.

Three sizes: 25c., 50c., \$1.00.

If your druggist cannot supply you, send us one dollar and we will express a large bottle to you. All charges prepaid. Be sure you give us your nearest express office. Address, J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup

Cures a cough or cold at once. Croup, whooping cough, bronchitis, grippe and consumption. 50c.

"TAKE THIS! My Bilious Friend," said the doctor, "it is the best laxative mineral water known to medical science." Hunyadi János. A glass of Hunyadi János will do more for a disordered stomach or a torpid liver than all the pills in the world. IT CURES CONSTIPATION AND BILIOUSNESS. Average Dose: One-half glassful on getting up in morning. Your druggist or grocer will get it for you. Ask for the full name, "Hunyadi János." Blue label, red centre panel. Imported by Firm of ANDREAS SAXLEHNER, 130 Fulton St., N. Y.

Easy Enough. "The easiest way to get into society is to marry for money." "But suppose a fellow is in and wants to get out?" "Then marry for love." Quicker Than Thought. A little boy, hearing some one remark that nothing was quicker than thought, said he knew better than that; whistling was quicker than thought. Being asked to explain, he said: "In school the other day I whistled before I thought and got a licking for it."

The North American Indians are known to have had two different kinds of flutes.

Don't drink too much water when cycling. Adams' Popin Tutti Frutti is an excellent substitute.

Florida papers report that the lobster is disappearing.

There is No Death from Croup, Pneumonia and Diphtheria when Hoxie's Croup Cure is used promptly. No Opium. 50 cts. A. P. Hoxie, Buffalo, N. Y.

Grand Rapids, Mich., has a free skating rink.

Uncle Sam Aims to buy the best of everything which he uses Carter's Ink. He knows what's good.

The sugar cane grows from six to twenty feet high.

The Best Prescription for Chills and Fever is a bottle of GAY'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC. It is simply iron and quinine in a tasteless form. No cure—no pay. Price 50c.

The Smiling Peddler. "This is the lady of the house, is it not?" "Yes, sir." "I am not taking a political census, ma'am, but something seems to tell me you are all good Republicans here." "Not exactly, but we are Gold Democrats." "Then you will be interested, I think, in knowing that this brand of soap, which I am selling at the ridiculously low price of 10 cents a cake, is the identical soap which William Jennings Bryan contemptuously refused to take a \$10,000 advertisement of a few days ago in that measly newspaper of his. Thanks, ma'am. Will you kindly tell me the politics of these people next door to you?"

Tacoma, Wash., has the largest per capita net debt in the country—\$115.74.

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, Lucas County. FRANK J. CHESEBURY makes oath that he is the senior partner of the firm of F. J. CHESEBURY & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of CATARRH that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE. FRANK J. CHESEBURY. Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 25th day of December, 1895. A. W. GLEASON, Notary Public.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials. F. J. CHESEBURY & Co., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 25c.

Hall's Family Pills are the best.

During the year 1900 there were built in the United States and officially numbered by the Bureau of Navigation 1,102 merchant vessels.

PURINA TABLETS DYES are fast to sunlight, washing and rubbing. Sold by all druggists.

There are six species of mosquitoes found in New England.

Best For the Bowels. No matter what ails you, headache to a cancer, you will never get well until your bowels are put right. CASCARETS help nature, cure you without a gripe or pain, produce easy natural movements, cost you but 10 cents to start getting your health back. CASCARETS Candy Cathartic, the genuine, put up in metal boxes, every tablet has U.C.C. stamped on it. Beware of imitations.

It requires eight years for some sorts of wood to become seasoned.

To Cure a Cold in One Day. Take LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE TABLETS. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. GAY'S signature is on each box. 25c.

There are from eight to ten species of silk worms in this country.

Pico's Cure is the best medicine ever used for all affections of throat and lungs.—Wm. O. ESTESLEY, Yankton, Ind., Feb. 10, 1890.

In the Main Hatchway. Many years ago when sailors were in the habit of chewing much more than at the present day two men were sitting in the gallery of an old country church, paying very great attention to the service.

During the sermon one of them heard a distinct sound of snoring coming up from the body of the church, and, looking down, he saw a fat old farmer fast asleep, his head thrown well back, and his mouth wide open. The temptation was too strong for Jack, who, making up a quid of tobacco, shut one eye, and, glancing along an imaginary plum-line, dropped it into the old man's mouth, causing the old fellow to close it with a snap and jump to his feet, spluttering and spitting with a face almost purple.

Confusion reigned supreme, and Jack's chum innocently asked: "What's up, Jack? Man overboard?" "No," said Jack, exploding with suppressed laughter. "I dropped a bit of 'baccy plumb down the main hatchway and into his old grot tub!"

Gave Her An Opening. Mr. Gayboy (over his paper)—Well well! Here's another shocking story of crime. Truly, one-half the world doesn't know how the other half lives. Mrs. Gayboy (significantly)—Yes and very frequently a man's better half doesn't know how the other half lives.

DR. GREENE'S NERVURA Blood and Nerve Remedy. Is the Greatest and Most Positive Cure for Rheumatism the World Has Ever Known. Try it and be convinced of its wonderful power to cure Rheumatism and Neuralgia. Nothing like it for Headaches, Pain and Weakness in the Back or Limbs; unrivalled for Painful Menstruation, etc. TO PERFECT HEALTH. If you suffer with Rheumatism, try Dr. Greene's Nervura, and consult Dr. Greene, 35 W. 14th St., New York City, about your case. Call there or write him. This you can do without cost or charge.

DR. GREENE'S NERVURA BLOOD AND NERVE REMEDY. Guaranteed - Purely - Vegetable. FOR THE CURE OF Nervousness, Nervous Debility, Weakness, Poor Blood, Stomach and Liver Complaints, Rheumatism, Neuritis, Female Weakness, Migraine, Chills and Fever, Exhausted Nervous System, Nervous Prostration, Epilepsy, Paralysis, Headache, Depression, Hysteria, Prolapsus, Mouth-ache, Trembling, Pains in the Side and Back, Aneurism, Epileptic Fits, etc. Price, \$1.00.

A Wonderful Cure of Rheumatism of the many thousands cured by DR. GREENE'S NERVURA. The greatest known cure for RHEUMATISM. Mr. T. H. Robson, of Essex Junction, Vt., says: "For three years I was terribly afflicted with a most severe case of rheumatism. For 23 months I could not walk a step, and I never expected to walk or work again. I was completely helpless and suffered the most horrible agony. No man in these parts ever suffered as I did. I took everything that I ever heard of, but never found anything that did me the slightest good until I began the use of Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy. And now comes the most wonderful part of all. In a short time this splendid medicine made me completely well. It is the best remedy I ever saw or heard of, for it raised me from a condition of utter helplessness and constant agony to perfect health. It saved my ability to work which was entirely gone. I am now entirely well and strong, and I owe my health and my life to Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy. I advise everybody to use it."