



Farm and Garden

COST OF ENSILAGE.

In a recent reference to the matter of the cost of putting up ensilage, and quoting a bulletin, giving the experiences of the Department of Agriculture, Hoard's Dairyman says:

The average yield is a fraction over 9 tons per acre; the average cost per acre of putting the corn into the silo is \$5.98. The bulletin urges every farmer to supply himself with his own machinery, and there is no doubt of the soundness of the advice.

In this matter of cost of silage machinery, which includes the corn harvester, the cutter and the gasoline engine, we believe too many dairymen are holding off from investing, to their own great loss of profit. That item of first cost scares them out of the notion of a silo, and in a few years they have lost two or three times that amount, in good profit.

One farmer recently told us that he had held back from building a silo for years, because he did not like the idea of buying so much machinery. But he finally came to it and was astonished at the increased production of his cows as well as how much more of young stock he could carry on the farm. So he had to build more stable room for he did not like to sell off the extra hay.

In five years the revenue from his farm had increased 40 per cent and it all started, he said, with his building a silo. It is surprising to many farmers what a change a little ensilage and a daily feed of good clover or alfalfa hay will make in the appearance of young heifers by spring. To be a skillful feeder and developer of young stock is a very important part of a good farmer's business, and we know of no better aid to this end than a combination of ensilage and nice alfalfa or clover hay.

FORMULA FOR WHITEWASH.

For forty years the United States Government has been using on all its forts and lighthouses, whitewash prepared according to the following formula. It is claimed that, made in this way, the wash will stick better and retain its brilliancy longer than any other, and that it is not easily affected by rain or weather. Of course, it is necessary to strain the material carefully before applying through a pump, else more or less trouble will result from the clogging of the nozzle, but with ordinary care at the start, no inconvenience will be experienced. Half a bushel of unslaked lime, slake with warm water, cover it during the process to keep the steam; strain the liquid through a fine sieve or strainer; add a peck of salt previously well dissolved in warm water, three pounds of ground rice boiled to a thin paste and stirred in boiling hot; half pound of powdered Spanish whiting and a pound of glue which has been previously dissolved over a slow fire, and add five gallons hot water to the mixture, stir well and let it stand for a few days covered from the dirt. Strain carefully and apply with a spray pump. It should be put on hot. There is nothing that can compare with it for outside or inside work, and it retains its brilliancy for many years. Coloring matter may be put in and made of any shade. Spanish brown, yellow ochre or common clay.

PROFITABLE EARLY POTATOES.

Early potatoes seem to be doing very well on the experimental farms carried on by the Long Island Railroad Company. The land was cleared from forest, as lately described in these columns, and this year some of it is planted to potatoes of the early varieties.

The first digging was on July 8, which is certainly very early for such a backward season. The yield at one of these stations for this early digging was over two hundred bushels to the acre, which sold readily at \$1 to \$2.50 a bushel, the lower price being for potatoes on the field without hauling or packing. The No. 2 plot did not yield so well, the crop ranging about one hundred bushels to the acre.

The methods were the standard ones for early potato culture. The soil was plowed early and very thoroughly harrowed both ways with disc harrows. Barnyard manure and wood ashes were used for fertilizers, and on one plot a prepared commercial fertilizer at the rate of four hundred pounds to the acre. Frequent light cultivation was employed and the vines sprayed with bordeaux mixture to prevent blight.

These heavy yields are interesting in view of the short crop obtained in many parts of Long Island, indicating the importance of early preparation and planting in a dry season. The crop by its earliness seems to have escaped most of the drought which proved so destructive on many of the Long Island farms. The frequent cultivation also did much to hold the moisture in the soil.—American Cultivator.

HENS IN A BARN.

Visiting the northern part of New York our attention was called to the reconstruction or renovating of a very large barn that had been used for milch cows and storage of hay. The second floor loft was changed into four very large rooms for the keeping of hens; below into three very large rooms and incubator cellar and brooder house. All the larger rooms constructed for the hens had board floors and windows about as in a dwelling house, two in each room toward the south. The floors of boards were covered deep with straw and chaff. Hooded roosts were built at one side for the hens, a hundred of which were placed in each room.

About 700 hens were kept in this building, and not one was permitted to go out on the ground from the time they were placed there until the mild weather of spring. These hens were carefully fed for egg production, and from the time they began to lay in December, up to and including March, they averaged an almost 55 per cent egg yield. This is a new method of raising winter egg production.

Contrary to the general opinion that hens will not produce well that are confined in the second story of a building on a board floor so far away from the ground, the owner of these hens informs us that they did remarkably well as to health and working ability during the entire winter. The hens were Wyandottes, Leghorns and Plymouth Rocks. The owner expects to increase the number of hens that will be kept in the same manner another winter. This is the third experiment of this kind that he has made, and he is now thoroughly convinced that it is a good way to keep hens for a large egg production in winter in the cold climate of Northern New York.—Country Gentleman.

GOOD FOOD FOR RAPID GROWTH.

The poultry department of the Connecticut Agricultural College, managed by Prof. C. K. Graham, finds a very successful soft food is made up 35 per cent, corn meal, 30 per cent, ground oats, including hulls, 25 per cent, low grade flour, and the balance of bran. It is mixed with skim milk to a soft dough and fed as much as will be eaten up quickly. When skim milk cannot be had, beef scraps and water are used, but with less satisfactory results. To get a good grade of oat, feed, Prof. Graham finds it desirable to buy whole oats and take them to the mill to be ground, thus avoiding the excess of hulls which are found in most of the boughten feeds. Regularity in feeding, he finds, more important than commonly believed. Birds, like people, he finds, soon learn to look for meals at certain hours, and thrive better if fed at the regular time. This food is of special value in finishing chickens for market, causing them to put on a very fine quality of texture of flesh desirable for the choice private trade. Where the result is merely to produce most weight without regard to texture, he considers it doubtful whether any grain will give results equal to whole corn.

RE-SEEDING GRASS LANDS.

The maintenance of pasture and meadow lands is of the greatest importance, for it is no easy job to get a field so well set that it will yield the maximum amount of grass for several years in succession. Some wonder why we have so much trouble now in keeping up a good stand, than we did several years ago. The whole trouble comes in re-seeding. We cut most of our grasses now before the seeds become ripe enough to shatter, and for this reason no fresh seeds fall upon the ground, unless sown by hand. The earlier practice of cutting timothy was to wait until the seeds were practically mature. I have seen farmers go so far as to make tight bottoms to their wagon racks, and gather up the seed every noon and night. Of course when grass was cut at this stage, sufficient seed shattered to cover the field. No doubt the stage we now mow timothy, right after the blossoms fall, is best both as to the quality of the hay, and also the condition in which it leaves the roots of the plants to withstand the usually dry summer weather, but when the crop is cut before any seeds shatter, re-seeding and harrowing should be faithfully done every fall.—L. C. B. Indiana Farmer.

ADVANTAGES OF THE DRILL.

Farmers who use the drill for sowing find in it many advantages over the old method of sowing broadcast. With the drill less seed is required, because all the seed is covered. Even germination is secured, because all the seed is in at a given depth. Winter wheat will stand thawing and freezing better if drilled in.—Indiana Farmer.

Germany holds a record for cocoa drinking.

NO CAUSE FOR DISCOURAGEMENT.



Uncle Sam—"Cheer up, Wall Street! Can't you see I'm prosperous?"—Cartoon from the Atlanta Journal.

COAST DEFENSES LACK TEN THOUSAND MEN

Better Opportunities in Civil Life Have Drawn Thousands From Army—Commissions Not Taken—Graduates of Technical Schools Ignore Proffer of Second Lieutenantcies—Many Vacancies.

Washington, D. C.—The coast defenses of the United States are facing the most serious condition of recent years. Reports received by the War Department show that with an authorized force of 19,321 men the Coast Artillery on October 15 was able to muster only 9,628. Ten thousand recruits are needed to fill the ranks, and the question is where to get them.

An official report prepared last year in connection with the Artillery Increase bill showed that the actual strength of the Coast Artillery was 11,450 on October 15, 1906. Congress passed a bill authorizing the addition of 5000 men, but not only have the officials of the army failed to get these extra men, but they have lost 2000 of those they had.

Every month reports are received of men quitting the Coast Artillery to accept more lucrative places in civil life. Men of five, ten, fifteen years' service—privates, sergeants, first sergeants, non-commissioned staff officers—are leaving by the hundreds. Their electrical and mechanical training in the Coast Artillery especially fit them for good jobs in civil life.

Common civil laborers at military posts are making more money than the highest-grade technical non-commissioned officers under whom they are employed. Teamsters, plumbers, firemen, engineers and electricians get rations, quarters, fuel, medical attention, etc., practically all of the allowances of soldiers except uniforms, and in addition they get from \$45 to \$125 a month for eight hours' work a day.

Soldiers performing the same duties at the same posts get from one-third to one-half of the corresponding pay, are subject to all the rigors of military discipline, and are frequently on duty all day and all night.

More remarkable is the difficulty of getting officers. For the first time in the history of the army vacancies in the grade of second lieutenant are going begging. The artillery bill of last year authorized the appointment in the Coast Artillery each year for five years of sixty second lieutenants.

The appointments were to be made: First, from graduates of West Point; second, from qualified enlisted men, and third, from civil life graduates of technical colleges and schools. Invitations were sent to the presidents of 125 of the principal technical schools and colleges requesting them to send in the names of graduates who desired to be appointed. In six months no names have been submitted. Eighty-five vacancies in the grade of second lieutenant of Coast Artillery exist to-day.

SMALL GUNS WON JAPAN'S NAVAL VICTORY

French Admiral Says Huge Artillery Was Not Effective—Dreadnoughts a Mistake—Light Caliber Guns With Deadly Explosives Won Togo's Success on Fleet Ships of the Line.

Paris, France.—Admiral Germinet, the newly appointed commander of the Mediterranean squadron, totally disagrees with the naval experts of England, America and other countries who advocate the heaviest battleships and the heaviest guns as most serviceable in future naval warfare. He argues for not larger ships and bigger guns, but smaller, faster vessels capable of great mobility and armed with guns of smaller caliber capable of more rapid fire. This, he contends, is the real reason of the Russo-Japanese war. The English admiralty, he says, built the Dreadnought on a misapprehension of the reasons of the Japanese successes.

"Before obtaining complete information," says the Admiral, "the English attributed the Russian disaster to Togo's tactics and the big guns with which his ships were armed. It was not true. I have recently obtained the proof from official documents. I do not question Togo's ability. I say only that the big artillery did not produce the effect expected. At the beginning the Japanese used projectiles loaded with a comparatively small quantity of explosive. They soon realized their mistake and commenced the manufacture of shells capable of holding an enormous amount of explosive. All their ships carried that ammunition at the battle of Tushima. To that they owe their victory. The projectiles exploding on contact gave off a prodigious amount of heat, which melted the hardest steel and produced a volume of gases which asphyxiated all who breathed it. The gases penetrated the interior of the Russian ships and suffocated them even in the hold.

"In the reports from which I obtained this information a case is cited where the ammunition hoist suddenly ceased working. Upon examination it was found intact, but very near the bottom of the hoist was dead, without a visible wound; in other words, asphyxiated. Upon the same ship the electricity suddenly went out. The fires were found unburned, but the dynamo crew was dead, suffocated to a man. Projectiles exploding against the ship's armor outside had introduced gases which put two big guns out of action and plunged the ship in darkness. It was not that the Japanese shooting was marvelous. It was good. But the efficacy of the projectiles, many of which, by the way, exploded in their flight, was the real secret of the Japanese victory."

Profiting by this experience, Admiral Germinet contends that the French navy should arm the ships with a good gun capable of firing shells carrying the maximum quantity of explosive. The 305-millimetre gun of the Dreadnought class, he says, cannot do this, as the pressure of the discharging load would create too much danger of firing the explosive.

Must Stop Wasting if Prosperity is to Continue.

Washington, D. C.—After an extensive investigation of the country's natural resources, conducted in the West at the instance of the Government, Professor J. A. Holmes, Chief of the Technologic Bureau of the Geological Survey, who has just returned, has made an official statement warning the American people that the present prodigious waste of these resources must stop at once if the country is to continue to prosper.

Professor Holmes made the investigation to determine how serious the situation is. He declares that in the mining operations of the present time nearly one-half of the total coal supply is being left under ground; that water as a source of power is being wasted day after day and year after year to the extent of millions of horse power, and that forest fires have burned more lumber than has been used in the building of homes or in the industries. Professor Holmes says that the waste of coal is appalling. Every possible means should be adopted, he declares, for reducing this waste to an absolute minimum, in order that the country's fuel resources may suffice for the future, as for the present needs of the nation.

"At the present rate of increase in consumption," says Mr. Holmes, "the better part of the fuel supply of the country will be gone by the end of the present century, unless the proper steps are taken."

Would Hang Promoters of White-Slave Traffic.

Washington, D. C.—That the laws should be altered so as to make the importation of women for immoral purposes a capital offense was emphatically declared by Secretary Straus. A national crusade against the white slave traffic has been inaugurated by the Federal Government.

"Many innocent women and girls are brought to the United States under promise of bettering their conditions," said Mr. Straus, "but they are deceived and are made to lead lives of shame. This is one of the worst crimes known to man, and any one guilty of it should be hanged.

"In the past it has been impossible to break up the practice of bringing women here for immoral purposes, owing to the claim that they had been here so long that they could not be deported and they were allowed to remain. Under the new rule of assuming they have not been here three years and requiring them to produce proof, the department will be able to send many of them back to their homes."

THE SHIP'S MUSIC.

Custom of Band Playing Aboard Originated by Germans.

The custom of band playing on merchant ships originated on the German liners. Afternoon concerts were given by improvised bands, generally recruited in the steward's department, and the same Hans who had spilt sauce on the lapel of one's coat at breakfast could be seen earnestly blowing the trombone while the band was murdering "Hell dir in Siegeskranz," or a selection from "Freischütz." These primitive musical attempts have progressed like everything else, and today professional orchestras are by no means uncommon on passenger steamers.

The most conservative of British lines has been obliged to follow suit, and very soon it will be impossible to escape from this flood of harmony on the broad Atlantic as it is now hard to find actual rest, and for a week at least remain out of the reach of Wall street news. Whether this evolution of the steamship into a floating hotel, with all the discomforts of the latter, as well as its advantages, constitutes a real improvement remains as yet to be proved. The question may be asked in all seriousness whether steamship patrons are not now giving their patrons more than they really expect for their money, and certain it is that there are many—and among these genuine lovers of music—who would prefer to eat their dinner in peace and silence.

It is said that music as a feature of the dining room has become in vogue owing to the prevailing dullness of the present age. Conversation is a lost art and nothing better than music could be found to enliven the atmosphere while all are maintaining an awkward silence. To the few, however, who need the spice of agreeable talk to facilitate digestion music at table is a positive nuisance. The man making a trip to banish unpleasant memories from his mind will not take kindly to the heartrending notes of "I Pagliacci" or to Schubert's "Serenade." The flighty music of Puccini may become perfectly abhorrent to him who has just been appraised by wireless of enormous losses, while the inexperienced, making his first trip, who may be thinking of "the girl he left behind him," will become unerved when the orchestra unfeelingly reminds him that la donna è mobile. In short, music should be restored at sea to what it originally was. Nothing is better than an operatic concert on the boat deck on a calm afternoon, but let the atmosphere of the dining room at least remain free from all melody save that produced by the clinking of glasses, the popping of corks and the soft murmur that rises over an assemblage of well-bred folks gently conversing.—Shipping Illustrated.

Game in Maine.

From every indication noticed by the wardens who spend nearly all their time in the woods, and corroborated by people who have been camping and canoeing in the Maine woods, game is just as plentiful as it was five years ago. Notwithstanding the deep snow and extreme cold of the winter the deer wintered well, and there are hundreds of young bucks and does which came through the winter and are in the best of condition, says a Maine report. The summer was wet and the deer had all the water they wanted in the swamps without going out to the lakes and streams. Because of this not as many deer as usual were seen by canoeing parties, but the number seen indicates that the animals are plentiful. Moose also are plentiful, more of them than of deer having been seen in some localities. Young bulls seem more numerous than usual, but few large bulls have been seen.—New York Tribune.

Geese on a Spree.

Marin Beck, a farmer on the Conewago Hills, related a story while attending market this morning to the effect that three of his geese went on a disgraceful spree after having eaten some pulp from a cider mill. Some time after the eating of the pulp the peculiar actions of the fowls attracted the attention of the farmer. They swayed from side to side and cackled hoarsely. Finally one by one they fell limp and apparently dead.

Mrs. Beck carried the fowls into the house with the intention of plucking them, believing that they were dead. She had about half finished the first when she detected a quiver in the body and dropped the goose in astonishment. Soon after the geese revived. The farmer then realized what had happened.

The pulp, lying in the sun, had fermented and his poultry had been indulging in sprees upon the sand.—York (Pa.) Dispatch to the Baltimore American.

"Jack Tar" Newspapers.

Several of the big ships in the United States Navy have their own newspapers. On board the Kentucky is printed The Kentucky Budget, a semi-monthly paper. The Louisiana is responsible for The Pelican, which is issued monthly. The battleship Ohio has The Buckeye. The West Virginia boasts of The Ditty Box. The Raider is printed monthly on the Wisconsin. All of the above papers are issued by the enlisted men of the ships. The aim of each is identical—to make life aboard the ship more agreeable, and to give the friends in civil life an outline of naval doings and of the brighter side of naval life.

An Unfulfilled Warning.

Sir William Ramsay's career affords an interesting study to those who believe in the forces of heredity. Both on his father's and mother's side his relations are scientists. Curiously enough chemistry was the very last subject which his educational advisers recommended should occupy his attention. Mr. Ramsay, Sir William's father, took his son one day to Professor Anderson, then professor of chemistry at Glasgow University, in order to talk over the boy's future. "Whatever you do don't make the lad a chemist," said the professor, "there are too many blanks and too few prizes in the profession." To the man, however, with the true scientific spirit the world's blanks are often prizes, and Sir William, knowing what was best for himself, threw himself heart and soul into laboratory practice, and after finishing his studies in Germany, returned as a full blown professor.—Tit-Bits.

From the Soil of One County.

Thirty-seven years ago Sioux County, Iowa, was first settled. Its land was then wild and valueless—at least its value was unrecognized. Now the auditor of the county has just completed an abstract of the returns from the assessors' books of the various townships of the county, and the results show a marvelous example of wealth production from thrift and industry.

The farm land of the county, valued at about one-half its worth, is placed at \$20,000,000.

There are plans on the farms in the county worth \$25,000.

There are 90,000 hogs in the county, about four for each person.

There are 60,000 head of cattle, 16,500 sheep and 14,000 horses.

The wealth of the county cannot be less than \$75,000,000, and is probably more than that.—New York World.

Great Cave Discovered.

Two gold prospectors recently discovered in the Santa Susanna Mountains, about fifty miles from Los Angeles, Cal., the largest and most remarkable cave in Western America. While looking for indications of gold they found an opening which they entered. The opening led to a great cavern, consisting of many passages, some of them wide, but most of them narrow and lofty. The passages lead into great halls, some an acre in extent, studded with stalagmites and stalactites in some cases so thickly that it is difficult to get through. The walls of one of these halls are covered with rude drawings, some almost obliterated, but others still clear. The drawings represent incidents of the chase, showing Indians on foot pursuing bear, deer and other animals.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Cure, Not Prevention.

A laborer in eastern Indiana died recently and the members of the fraternal order in which he held membership called upon his widow to find how they might be of most assistance in her distress. They made all arrangements for the order attending the funeral, but before settling upon the final details for the obsequies they desired to know if the deceased had any special church affiliation.

"Did your husband belong to any church?" was asked.

"Why, no," said the woman, in astonishment, "he never done nothin' to belong to church fur."—Chicago Daily News.

The Monkey's Escape.

With a swift gulp the crocodile seizes the monkey in its jaws.

"What are you trying to do?" chatters the monkey.

"I am going to dine—on you," says the crocodile.

"Ha, ha!" laughs the monkey. "Go ahead. There is a nature fur in the jungle, and he will see you. Inside of two months the world will be criticizing him and you, and the preponderance of authority will be that you are a vegetarian. Then, when you are captured for a zoo, no more fresh meat."

Realizing the weight of the argument, the crocodile releases its hold, and the monkey hastens away.—Chicago Post.

England and India.

Nothing is more depressing to those who really care for India than the ignorance and indifference of English people concerning the major part of their fellow-subjects. When it is remembered that more than half the King's subjects are Hindus, and that in India and Burma, out of every 29 people, 21 are Hindus, 6 Mohammedans, and 2 miscellaneous (the third of one person being a Christian, native or European), it seems hardly necessary to insist upon the importance of knowing something at least about Hindu life and ideas; yet few there be that realize it.—London Athenaeum.

Volume of the Shrinkage.

The tremendous decline in the value of stocks and bonds during the past seven months is estimated by Chandler Bros. & Co. at over \$5,000,000,000. In most years this shrinkage in the borrowing capacity of the holders of these securities—though, of course, not all are held speculatively—would have relieved the banking situation so that money would be cheap. This year the expansion in other directions has been so great that the banking situation is now worse than it was seven months ago.—Moody's Magazine.

Wolfskin makes the best drumhead.