

RURAL TOPICS

SPECIALIZING IN FARMING.

There are farmers in most communities (not making more than a fair living) who might attain prominence and marked success in their vocation if they would concentrate their energies on one branch of farming. They are industrious, enterprising and have good capacity for business. Still they fall behind. The trouble is they have "too many irons in the fire."

One man may be a dairyman, but on going to town he sees another farmer sell a small bunch of fat steers for several hundred dollars. It seems like a very large sum of money to the dairyman, so he jumps to the conclusion that there must be a pile of money in fat cattle. He thinks he can easily keep a few steers in addition to his herd of cows and thus be making double profit. The plan is at once put into practice, with the probable result that he finds himself crowded with work. He is handicapped in various ways; the dairy neglected; the fat cattle fall below expectations; he may not have proper buildings for the new enterprise, or there may be other obstacles in the way beyond his control.

Another serious drawback in diversified farming is the large number of varieties of implements required. As each crop requires different tools for its culture it follows that where many different crops are raised considerable capital must be invested in implements. In fact, a small farmer will find it almost impossible to equip himself for mixed farming. His income from a small acreage will not be sufficient. In order that work may be done to good advantage one must have the proper tools for each crop. He must have the right condition for all live stock, or else the labor of caring for them will be tedious and probably unprofitable. If he makes a specialty of wheat growing then he can better provide the right implements for its culture. So with live stock.

It doesn't pay to dabble in this and that, consuming one's time and strength in the vain hope of securing great rewards by mastering many things. The man who really succeeds in doing it are the rarest kind of men. Better not attempt it if obliged to earn your own living.—H. E. White, in the Weekly Witness.

PROMOTING THE GROWTH OF PIGS.

To be profitable, a pig must be kept gaining from the day of its birth, and every day of its life it should be supplied with as much food, suited to its age and condition, as it can eat and assimilate. At first, milk is the best food; afterward, a little corn meal and wheat bran may be added, to be increased as the animal grows in weight. Bran should form a part of the feed until the day of slaughtering, as it promotes health and keeps the bowels in condition. Charcoal, fed in small quantities daily, will be found an advantage, promoting the appetite, and will be eaten with great avidity, while ashes and bone meal are also relished. It is claimed that pigs that are allowed charcoal will fatten on less food than those which are not, and the result of experiments supports the claim. Hence it is better to feed a small quantity daily. Coal ashes are eaten greedily and are good bone-forming material, as they contain lime, and should be placed where the pigs can have access to them at all times.

At fattening time the pigs should never be allowed to miss a meal, and should be fed all they will eat up clean. Instead of trying to scant the feed, efforts should be made to make them eat all they will. When everything is right the more eaten the more gain there will be. Animals properly selected and treated, as stated, will be found to pay, even if the feed is all purchased. If fed on grain it makes no difference whether it is grown or purchased, as it has the same market value in each case. How many pounds of pork may be made from 100 pounds of corn will differ much in the same animal by different feeders. A clover patch that has been given wholly to the pigs is one of the principal in promoting their rapid growth.—Epitomist.

THE BEST YIELDING EARS.

C. D. Smith, a farmer of Edgar Co., Illinois, has some advanced ideas about improving seed corn. He devoted an acre to the purpose and takes account of the yield from each row, which is planted from a different ear. He finds that the finest looking ears do not always make the largest yields; some times a second rate ear in appearance makes a yield of 50 per cent more than the finest looking ear in the lot. For example he says:

"In the 1907 plot ear No. 1 weighed 20.5 ounces, ear No. 2—15 ounces and 34, 20 ounces. Ears 1 and 34 were very large, fine ears, both show ears. Ear 2 would not meet any of the requirements of the score card except in length. It was not a show ear; yet it was the best yielder of the three, producing at the rate of 132 bushels per acre, while the other two yielded respectively 86 and 113.5 bushels per acre. Ear 34, while a good looking and one that any person would choose for seed if he were

picking it from the crib proved to be a very weak grower throughout the whole season.

From such results he shows the importance of testing the productivity of his seed corn, and not being content with finding it up to the standard in size, weight and appearance, and says:

"It is well worth while to go to a great deal of trouble to find the high-yielding ears and to reject the low-yielding ears by this system of breeding corn. Many plots similar to this one have been grown and the experience is that no man yet has been able to pick out the high-yielding ears by simply looking at them."—Indiana Farmer.

POULTRY ON THE FARM.

Professor Gilbert, of Ottawa, Canada, in answering the question, "Why is poultry valuable to a farmer?" gives the following reasons:

Because he ought, by their means, convert a great deal of the waste of his farm into money in the shape of eggs and chickens for market.

Because with intelligent management they ought to be all-year revenue producers, with the exception of perhaps two months during the molting season.

Because the poultry will yield him a quicker return for the capital invested than any of the other departments of agriculture.

Because the manure from the poultry house will make a valuable compost for use in either vegetable garden or orchard. The birds themselves, if allowed to run in plum or apple orchard, will destroy all injurious insect life.

Because, while cereals and fruits can only be successfully grown in certain sections, poultry can be raised for table use or layers of eggs in all parts of the country.

Because poultry raising is an employment in which the farmer's wife can engage, and leave him free to attend to other departments.

THE BALANCED RATION.

Some feeds are rich in the elements that produce fat; others are rich in the elements that make bone and muscle. A proper proportion of these two kinds of feed to produce best results is a balanced ration. We call the fat formers carbohydrates and speak of the muscle makers as rich protein. While many farmers do not use these terms, most modern feeders pay at least some attention to supplementing one class of feed with the other. Corn is the great fat producer. Along with it, the poultryman feeds some wheat or oats or alfalfa meal. The hog feeder feeds on clover or alfalfa pasture or in winter time uses tankage in addition to corn. The cattle feeder and dairyman use bran, oil meal, clover, alfalfa or pea hay to balance up the rations for their stock.—Epitomist.

PREVENTIVE FOR GAPE.

To prevent gapes plow or spade the ground around the houses and where the chicks are to sleep and eat, then sprinkle the entire yards with lime. This is done early in the spring and if late chicks are to be kept in the same place, again in the fall. If in spite of this precaution the chicks have gapes, which is seldom, they are put in a box, sprinkled with lime, covered closely and left an hour or two to sneeze and cough up the worms. If, in a day or two they are still gaping the treatment is repeated. Occasionally a weak chick will die in the operation, but it is the best remedy we have yet found.—From the Farmers' Home Journal.

BREEDER OF WHITE CORN.

Riley, the Indiana farmer who bred the Boone County White Corn, was an ordinary farmer, not a scientific experimenter. Yet his variety is grown extensively over a dozen of the great corn States, and has added thousands upon thousands of dollars to the valuation of the corn crop of the world. Many of the standard varieties of our ordinary crops have been bred by farmers, and the time has come when such service to humanity will be recognized and recorded in history as are the noteworthy deeds of other great men in other fields of human industry.—H. J. Webber, Cornell University.

THE HUSTLER HEN.

A hen that is soonest off the roosts in the morning and the last to retire at night is what we call a hustler. She is looking for something to eat from which to produce an egg. A hen to produce eggs in large quantities must have capacity to take food and good digestive organs to digest and assimilate the food eaten. You naturally, therefore, look for a long keel, apparently lengthened by a full breast filled out square with the keel by a good full crop. In such a hen the abdomen while not bagging down much will be well distinguished showing egg capacity.—Farmers' Home Journal.

Old and worn typewriter ribbon can be used to good advantage by making writing ink from them.

Government experts are investigating seaweed with the object of determining its economic value.

On Being Obvious.

By Randolph Forbes.



In a recent magazine article, a certain clever writer pokes some innocent fun at the commonplace people of this commonplace world who are prone to make what one might call "obvious remarks." The man is laughed at, who, when he takes a glass of water at a gulp, says to you: "After all, old man, there's nothing like a good cold glass of water to quench one's thirst!"

But is it just to laugh at him? Think how simple he makes himself. He is wholly satisfied, and you are saved the exertion of trying to make a clever reply to what might have been from him a brilliant epigram.

There lies the whole trouble. If you mingle constantly with inordinately clever people you will soon find yourself endeavoring to be as witty and bright as they; and unless you have been endowed by Nature with a gift for the light quip and jest, you are apt to become an awful bore—and from all bores, good Lord deliver us!

Personally, I am fond of the steady, easy-going people who tell me that they prefer comely to tragedy because there is so much tragedy in real life; or those who invariably tell you that "anyhow, education is something that no one can take away from you;" or, "How time flies!" or "You wouldn't enjoy your meals at hotels so much if you could have a peep at some of the kitchens." They save me my breath, and they are very useful—if I do not stay with them too long. They certainly keep me from attempting to be too clever; and with all my heart and soul I loathe people who are too clever.—From Puck.

Miscalled English Conservatism

By Louise Imogen Guiney.



THE most singular circumstances about this modern national inertia, miscalled conservatism (true conservatism being a most militant thing), is that it proves to be a source of prodigious pride to the kingdom which has complacently sunk into it. It is locked upon an "English"—that is, it means dignity, safety, moderation, peace. That it means provincialism, that it means death, is patent to nobody but some upstairs bonnet rouge of a critic. It is hard to get people to see that as in the world of thought doubt is cheap and belief the intellectual thing, so in the world of action perfunctoriness is cheap and enthusiasm the intellectual thing. Whenever a man of genius is bred in England, endowed necessarily with faiths and ardors of one sort or another, he usually stands out from his racial environment in an absolutely bewildering way. In the United States the man of genius is a far less frequent phenomenon, for Nature uses her phosphorus freely there on divers and sundry, and has no surplusage and arrears of brains to make him out of; but when he does appear, he is not curiously like Americans in general? The man of genius overseas is not so homogeneous. Would it be rash to hint that he, too, is often curiously like Americans in general? This is simply because ideas and their purveyors have no standing to speak of in one country, and are the very life of the other. An idea arriving in New York harbor is recognized instantly, and to its own dismay, as a prince travelling in disguise, who must be interviewed before the gangway is fixed at the dock; whereas in England every idea is de facto a pauper and vagrant, repeatedly hauled before the magistrates and accused of brawling in churches, or else (only too accurately!) of having no visible means of support.—From "English Reserve," in the Scribner's Magazine.

Chinese Opinion Kindly To Missionaries

By Chester Holcombe.



THE Chinese Imperial Government has recently despatched two commissions, composed of officials of high rank and a numerous staff, to visit and study various important subjects in America and Europe. When arrangements were being made for the visit of the first of these commissions to Boston, and a long list of points in or near the city which they might wish to see was submitted to them, among the first selected were the offices of the American Board, the parent of all foreign missionary organizations in the United States and having large interests in that work in China. The selection of this active center of foreign evangelistic effort was unguided and entirely spontaneous. In their addresses and informal remarks during the visit to those offices the commissioners expressed in unqualified terms their appreciation and strong approval of the missionary enterprise in China and their gratitude for what had been and was being done there. "We know who are our friends," said they again and again. Yet neither of the Chinese commissioners was a convert to Christianity; they were under no obligation to visit one of the headquarters of American missionary effort in China, or, being there, to go beyond polite and non-committal remarks. Hence, and all the more, their declarations must in all fairness be taken as strong official indorsement and approval.

With much the same feelings they expressed their delight at what they saw at Wellesley College and recognized in it the grander development of what American women were attempting to do for the women of China.

To speak quite frankly and to the fact, for many years more unfriendly criticism and complaint of the presence of missionaries and their work in China has been heard from foreigners, either, like them, alien residents in the Far East, or at home than from Chinese officials or people.—Atlantic Monthly.

Too Many Destructive Laws

By Professor Jeremiah W. Jenks of Cornell University.



WE have had many laws merely destructive in their nature. Experience shows, first, that these laws have not been generally and impartially enforced. Had they been so enforced in some instances practically every trade unionist, every member of a grocers' association, every clerk or salesman who agreed to devote his business energies solely to the interests of his employer during the period of contract, would now be occupying a felon's cell. Usually such laws have been ignored in small places, and in reference to smaller combinations, and have been enforced only against some of the larger, although quite possibly in some instances, at least, against some of the more grasping and unscrupulous of the combinations. But even when these laws have been enforced they have at times led to higher prices for the consumers, and in other instances, although effective in form, they have been non-effective in fact. Though the corporations have nominally been dissolved, practically their members have worked together as efficiently as before. It may indeed be said that this exaggerated attack upon agreements of all kinds, reasonable and unreasonable, has been one factor, perhaps the most prominent factor, in driving together into a rigid, single organization establishments that without this pressure of an unwise law would have remained in great part competitive, although acting under agreements in certain particulars. People who complain most loudly against the concentration of our railroads and the growth of our giant corporations have largely to thank the baleful influence of destructive legislation.

Stability, Calmness, Reason Versus Passion

By Gov. Chas. E. Hughes.



CONFIDENCE depends upon the assurance of stability. By stability is not meant fixity of things or relations, but steadiness. It may be steadiness in motion. Paradoxical as it may seem, human society cannot be stable unless it is progressive. That is because growth and progress are the law of our nature.

Reason demands the facts. By the requirement of publicity is not meant sensationalism or distorted emphasis.

Reason in its rule of governmental activities demands even, impartial and consistent enforcement of the law. Stability and confidence can never be assured save by strength and firmness.

It is an egregious blunder to suppose that to make the administration of government and the enforcement of law a matter of caprice involves danger only as to the subject directly concerned. The evil cannot be so confined, but poisons the whole governmental system.

The HOME

ONE WOMAN'S DAY.

If you think that little 110-pound wife of yours has a snap doing her housework take a day off next week and try the following:

Get up at 5 a. m., start the kitchen fire, fill the teakettle, put a half-dozen potatoes in the over to bake, prepare the table, call the children, wash their faces, comb their hair, help dress them, pick up their night-clothes that are scattered all over the floor, then go down stairs *after* the oatmeal, get the bacon and eggs ready and call the family to breakfast.

After the meal is over clear the table, brush the crumbs off, feed the cat, wash the dishes, prepare the children for school, put on the wash-boiler, fill it full of water, rinse out the tubs and fill them with water, collect the soiled linen, wash for two hours, wring out the clothes, hang them on the line to dry and then prepare for the noonday meal.

Peel a dozen potatoes, a dozen onions, a bunch of beets and turnips, cut up a five-pound cabbage and chuck in enough corned-beef to fill a horse and set the whole thing boiling. Prepare the table again, polish the silverware, entertain four or five callers, listen to the hot air of a gay book agent, brighten up the nickel trimmings on the stove and by that time dinner will be ready.

After dinner clear the table, wash dishes, sweep the dining room and kitchen, sew a button on Jimmy's waist, attend to the hole in his trousers, change Lizzie's dress, wash their faces and they are ready for school again.

After this short breathing spell dust the sitting room, sweep the parlor and darn a dozen pairs of socks, cut out a new pair of trousers for Jimmy, fix the lace on Lizzie's new dress, cut the fringe from papa's pants and entertain one or two more neighbors.

It is now 4 o'clock, and as the sun has been shining brightly all day, why, the clothes must be dry, so go take them in, sprinkle and fold them and then for the last meal of the day, but you have forgotten the chamber work, so go up stairs, make the beds and tidy up.

After this begin to prepare the evening meal. Get the fire burning briskly, mix up the flour for the biscuits, place same in oven, chop up the meat and vegetables left from dinner, put in the spider and fry.

Again prepare table, call the children from their play, wash their faces and hands and then sit down and enjoy a well-cooked meal.

After supper clear the table, wash dishes, make up a batch of bread, put children to bed, iron the clothes till 10:15, when you can read the morning Post and converse a few minutes with the members of your family who have not retired.

Before you leave for your bed empty the pan under the ice chest, put the cat down cellar, see that the windows and doors are locked and you will have finished a day's work that any woman would feel proud of, and I think you will go back to the iron foundry with a long face and a heart full of pity for the little woman whom you thought had a cinch.—Wilhelms Doolittle, in the Boston Post.

NEW VIEW BY SUFFRAGETTE.

It seems the strongest possible argument against the woman agitator for the ballot box is to be found in the dominion which the women of Belgium have gained over their alleged "lords and masters," and all that without a word of the ferocious speech-making at present going on in England and America. An English suffragette went on a visit to Belgium a few weeks ago and returned converted to the idea that the woman does not live who requires any political concession to lift her, as it were, to equality with her husband. Her address before an audience of suffragettes created a sensation, and well it might, as the following brief extract will show: "The life of the average Belgian," said the reformed domestic tyrant, "is one of benevolent domestic tyranny, tempered by the consolations of the cafe. His wife manages everything. Most of all does she manage him. Her expression is intelligent, purposeful, self-confident. She does not know what man was made for, since he takes so much looking after and she treats him with condescending indulgence as the weaker vessel. There is nothing tenderly deferential in her public attitude to her 'lord.' She may take a proprietary pride in the color and luxuriance of his whiskers, but her attitude is maternal, and if, after two steins he expands into slight conjugal emprovements, she represses him in her own austere, frigid way. She is the most strong-minded type of woman I have come across—strong with the strength of the woman whose position is accepted, not with the noisy and assertive strength of the American woman. She has been trained, or rather has trained herself to the management of men and affairs, and to talk of giving her the ballot box would be both amusing and unnecessary."—New York Press.

FRIENDSHIP.

The way to have a friend is to be a friend.

Life is made up to most of us of

little things, and many a friendship withers through sheer neglect.

Hearts are alienated because each is waiting for some great occasion for displaying affection. The great spiritual value of friendship is the opportunity it affords for service, and if these are neglected it is only to be expected that the gift should be taken from us.

Friendship which begins with sentiment will not live and thrive on sentiment. There must be loyalty, which finds expression in service. It is not the greatness of the help or the intrinsic value of the gift which gives its worth, but the evidence it is of love and thoughtfulness.

Attention to detail is the secret of success in every sphere of life, and little kindnesses, little acts of consideration, little confidences, are all that most of us are called on to perform and they are all that are needed to keep a friendship sweet.

If we never show our kind feeling what guarantee has our friend, or even our self, that it exists?

If there has come to us the miracle of friendship, if there is a soul to which our soul has been drawn, it is surely worth while being loyal and true.—Lillian Whiting.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

One of London's dressmakers—regarded as a great authority over there—has just returned from a visit to this country, and bears witness to the superior dressing of American women.

"The most averagely endower American woman," says this authority, "has a style and chic immeasurably above that of our average suburban and provincial woman."

"At present the cult of the former is the exceedingly severe but perfectly cut tailor-made, which is concluded by an equally carefully thought out and executed shirt blouse, with a particular emphasis laid on the color finish."

"Among notable points of the elegant over the Atlantic are beautiful feet, beautifully shod."

"Not as of yore, with long, narrow, square finished toes, but shoes perfectly proportioned, the heels not too high and rather broad. They are such well-bred looking boots and shoes!"

SHOE BLACKING NOT USED.

"It used to be," said the economical girl, "that we blacked over our last year's natural color straw hat and so made a new straw hat of it with the blacking, but not now, not now, when we can buy material specially prepared for this purpose and in any color."

"It used to be that we could do our hats over only in black, but now we can make them any color we want. I'm doing this one in black because I want it black."

"Then why don't I black it more carefully around the sides of the crown? There are a whole lot of places there, you say, where the white shows still?"

"Why, that's because I'm going to trim this hat all around the crown and sew the trimming on, and then the white won't show, and I'm afraid if I put on too much of that stuff there I won't have enough left in the bottle to finish the brim."—New York Sun.

FASHION NOTES.

There has not been a season in many decades, and probably never in the history of things sartorial, when transparent fabrics were so extensively used as now.

For evening hats feathers are the approved trimming. The sprig and paradise feathers are the most popular.

Volumes could be written about the fancy little coats this season and still leave half the story untold.

The fad for purple is amounting to a craze. Clematis, morning glories and all manner of purple flowers are bidding for favor.

Crystal buttons on the colored silk vest give a bright touch to the most somber of costumes.

Among the imported novelty ribbons are Shantung, pompadour, gauze, tinsel, plaid and Roman effects.

In colors, purple is daily growing stronger, and if the present indications are reliable purple tones will be the leaders.

The palest shell pink or faintly tinted blue tulle as a lining to the dotted veils that are in such high favor now makes them becoming to dark skins.

There is somewhat of a tendency to soberness in gowns at present and gray and ecru predominate in most large gatherings.

Khaki is the name of a shade of color as well as a material, and is a great favorite in Paris for trimming black.

One of the good things is unbleached linen. It is to be very, very fashionable for both blouses and entire frocks.

Dyed heron's plumes are paramount and nothing more is required to trim some of the smartest examples of headgear than a bunch of these popular feathers, those in pale mauve on a hat of a soft tone of Saxe blue representing one of the smartest schemes.