

# RURAL TOPICS

### GROWING OATS.

As a general thing the oat crop is neglected. A good many farmers say that it doesn't pay to grow oats but the crop is necessary in a proper rotation. The trouble is the average farmer is careless in the preparation of the seed bed, he is careless in the selection of seed and he don't deserve the results he does get.

It often happens that oats are put in after corn and the stalks are not properly broken up so the seed is very unevenly covered, which makes a poor stand.

Smut is a great drawback to the oat crop. Some fields developing as much as ten per cent when the owner doesn't realize that he has smut to amount to anything.

The State of Iowa raises 29 1/2 bushels of oats to the acre, when the average yield ought to be at least 50 bushels.

Oats naturally follow corn in rotation. If a disc drill is used the seed may be put in evenly in spite of the seed stalks. Set the drill to cover from 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 inches and put in about three bushels of good seed per acre. A great many farmers use less seed, but in every experiment that I have heard of, where accurate tab was kept on results, three bushels of seed per acre has brought a bigger yield and more satisfactory returns.

When oats are planted after corn that has been properly tilled and well cultivated, it is not necessary to prepare the seed bed more than three inches deep.

Few farmers take the pains to fan seed oats enough. Often the oats are run through a fanning mill once and sometimes not at all.

The fact is, it pays to take out half, very often three quarters, and it may take four times through the mill to do it, but the result is uniform heavy oats for seed that will bring strong plants that start out in life with a determination to grow and yield handsomely.

It is good education along this line to take a handful of oats as they come from the machine, count the kernels and pick out the really good ones by the aid of a magnifying glass. You may not select more than ten seeds out of a hundred, but the ones you have will be good ones. After you do this a few times you will pay more attention to seed oats and you will quit complaining that oats do not pay.

Successful farmers say that they find that the most certain way to succeed with the clover crop is to break new ground shallow in midsummer without burning over, cultivate with a disc harrow, sow the seed two inches deep the following spring without a nurse crop, cover with a heavy roller, and then run over with a light spiketooth harrow to leave the top soil loose and rough.—Eplionist.

### FARM NOTES.

A hungry cow cannot produce milk any more, than an empty mill hopper can produce flour.

Some men are so prodigal of their strength that they work hard to raise a crop of corn just to throw it in the mud to be trampled and wasted by the cattle.

Sunshine, pure air in the house and well-cooked food make a combination which produces health and optimism and tends to discourage the patent medicine man.

The rural route postal service comes high, but it is doing more to educate and uplift the young people of the farm than any other influence.

How tenderly we nurse the young animal to give it a good start in life, but how often we neglect this care of our children.

It is as much the duty of a farmer to take an interest in politics as in the church. But he can do that without becoming a permanent and valuable member of the Grocery Store Debating Club.

Every hard-working farmer earns a vacation of at least two weeks every year—and generally the wife earns four. But does she get it?

The farm telephone wire is the connecting link between neighbors and the outside world. It banishes loneliness and creates sympathy and a spirit of optimism.

If our troubles which keep us awake nights were really as big as they seem in the dark, we would never get over them.

A man may have a good knowledge of the two principles of farming, but if he neglects the details he will fail. You can tell a good husband by the clothes his wife wears.

The bank books of the dairymen tell the story of last summer's drought. Soling crops will prevent so much loss hereafter.—From "Fence Rail Philosophy," in the New York Times.

### TEST OF FERTILIZERS.

We are now testing some fertilizer combinations to ascertain if we can increase the color of our apples. On one row of these greening trees, an application of twenty pounds of basic slag or Thomas phosphate powder, twelve pounds of sulphate of potash and nine pounds of nitrate of soda were applied per tree with some interesting results.

The foliage upon that row of trees was very much better throughout the

entire season of most excessive drouth while the apples were greener at time of picking than in the other rows which added to their value at least fifty cents a barrel. We shall continue this fertilizer work on several varieties with a view to producing as high colored apples here in the East as the very beautiful fruit that comes into our markets from the Pacific coast.—George T. Powell, in the American Cultivator.

### CLEAN COWS PAY.

There is still many a chance for a slip between the possession of a good milch cow and the securing of a profit from her production. And here the colleges have undertaken to guard the cow owner. Dirt is his greatest enemy, and against this the colleges are making their most stubborn fight.

Clean stables, clean cows, clean milk receptacles, and clean men are essential to the production of clean milk. Stalls in which cows are compelled to keep clean and yet are comfortable are in use in college stables. Feeding of dusty fodder or raising dust in any way at milking time is to be guarded against.

The cows are to be sponged or wiped with a damp cloth on flanks and udder just before milking. The milk-er is to come to his work with clean clothes and clean hands. The pail should be covered, except a four-inch opening, and should be readily cleanable.—Collier's Weekly.

### PROPER PLOWING.

Ground properly plowed is easier to handle, and we can secure better results for the time spent in working the tillage implements. We follow the sulky plow with a twenty inch disc harrow. Then come the smoothing harrow, brush and drag. On ground seeded, after removing the rocks, we follow the above with roller, and under certain conditions with some hoed crops we also roll the ground. We run the weeder, alternating with the two horse riding cultivator, until the size of the crop forbids cultivating deeply at first, very lightly later. Thus a dust mulch is maintained, enabling the plant to secure the best results from the moisture conserved, and keeping down weed growth.—W. E. Leland, in the American Cultivator.

### STRICTLY FANCY BUTTER.

Butter market conditions are very satisfactory from the receivers' standpoint. No heavy accumulations are reported at any of the large distributing points, and prices hold fairly steady for this season of the year. As usual, the cry is for more fancy grades than are available for the increasing trade in this class of butter. Receipts do not differ from previous years as far as quantity is concerned.

Renewed activity on the part of the government officials to protect consumers against the illegally branded butter, either imitation or that containing an excess of moisture, tends to benefit the honest producer.—Farm and Home.

### BLOOD WILL TELL.

"Individual excellence is not a certain guide to breeding powers, and many ordinary individuals are among the greatest breeders. This is neither a mystery nor a fault in heredity; it arises from the fact that individual excellence is partly a matter of individual development, and not a sure index of real ancestral possession. The specimen may be only fairly well born, though faultlessly developed; in which case he will probably be a disappointment as a breeder. Or he may be exceptionally well born, but only fairly well developed; in which case he will breed better than he is developed."—Farmers Home Journal.

### SOIL WASTE.

It is said that a ton of wheat removes between eight and ten dollars' worth of soil fertility, and that the farmer never gets it back. Of course, there are ways of replacing it by the proper rotation and stock raising, but the dairy farmer who sells butter or cream, stops the leak before it happens.—Farmers' Home Journal.

### Pin Traveled In Woman.

After traveling for four months through the body of Mrs. Oakla Bay Jennings, piercing the walls of the stomach and penetrating the lungs, a glass-headed steel pin, accidentally swallowed by her, again made its appearance in her mouth and has been extracted.

Mrs. Jennings was walking along the street one day when she swallowed the pin. Within a few days her lungs became affected and she was attacked with severe coughing spells. Her condition grew worse and she almost lost her voice. She was seized with a severe choking attack Wednesday night, and put her hand to her mouth and extracted the pin from the soft palate, from which one end of it protruded. The pin had become very rusty, and a hard substance had accumulated on it, making it almost twice as large as it originally had been.

Mrs. Jennings experienced relief upon its extraction, and is looking forward to complete recovery.—Cincinnati Dispatch to New York Times.

## KISMET!



—Cartoon by Triggs, in the New York Press.

## Story of the Massacre Told by an Eye-Witness

### Armenians Shot Down by American Missionary's Side While Begging Official to Protect Them—"Adana Was a Hell"—Military Commander a Craven.

Adana, Asiatic Turkey, via Constantinople. — The Rev. Herbert Adams Gibbons, of Hartford, Conn., a missionary of the American Board of Foreign Missions stationed here and at Tarsus, was an eyewitness of the scenes of terror and destruction at the center of the Moslem uprising. He gives the following story of massacre, rapine and incendiarism:

"The entire vilayet of Adana has been visited during the last five days with a terrible massacre of Armenians, the worst ever known in the history of the district. The terror has been universal, and the Government is powerless to check the disorders. Adana, the capital of the province, has been the storm center.

"Conditions have been unsettled for some time past, and there has been animosity between Turks and Armenians, owing to the political activity of the latter and their open purchasing of arms.

"Early last Wednesday morning, while I was in the market, I noticed that the Armenians were closing their shops and hurrying to their homes. An Armenian and a Turk had been killed during the night, and the corpses were paraded through their respective quarters. The sight of the dead inflamed the inhabitants, and crowds at once began to gather in the streets armed with sticks, axes and knives. A few young Armenians assembled in the center of the market square and began firing revolver shots into the air. By 11 o'clock in the morning the crowd had begun the looting of shops.

#### Military Commander in Secclusion.

"The military commander of Adana was by my side in the market when the firing commenced. He had not the courage to endeavor to disperse the mob; he returned to his residence and did not venture out for two days.

"William Chambers, Field Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association, and myself proceeded to the Konak and found a howling mob demanding arms with which to kill the Governor. We then went to the telegraph office to summon the British Consul. On the steps of the building we saw three Armenians who had been killed. Their bodies had been mutilated. While we were in the telegraph office a mob burst into the room where we were and killed two Armenians before our eyes. The unfortunates were supplicating the protection of the Vail when they were struck down.

"We managed to make our way into the next room, where we made representations to the Vail. This official said he could do nothing. He was afraid for his own life, and he made no attempt to protect us. Somehow we managed to get to the interior of the Konak, where we remained at the side of the Government officials for the next forty-eight hours.

"That afternoon the situation grew distinctly worse. The Armenians withdrew to their quarter of Adana, which is situated on a hill, and converted the houses that held advantageous positions into fortresses. Here the fighting went on for two days, during which the Armenians succeeded in beating off their Turkish assailants.

#### British Woman Cares For Wounded.

"Wednesday evening Major Daughy-Wylie, the British Vice-Consul at Mersina, arrived at Adana and established headquarters in the house of the dragoman of a wealthy Greek.

#### "Fans" Threaten Umpire and

Pittsburgh, Pa. — Prohibition has made such progress during the last year or two as to cause a decided slump in the glass and tumbler manufacturing business. A Zihlman, head of the Huntington (W. Va.) Tumbler Company, said that the plant of his company will have to shut down for lack of orders. Mr. Zihlman said the temperance wave has so diminished the demands for glassware of the tumbler variety that many factories have shut down.

## The HOME

DON'T LISTEN TO GOSSIP. There are some people who always know every bit of gossip that is afloat in their community or church. It is not fair to say that all these individuals know "all the news" simply because they are specially ready to pass along all they hear, forming a sort of exchange always ready both to give and receive. For some time, by reason of their business relations or other circumstances of their lives, they learn much of what people are saying and doing, without being possessed of either a prying, inquisitive nature or a malicious one.

We find other people who, while ever ready if neighborly help and kindness are needed, do not hear the ugly tales of slandering tongues. They know the people who carry gossip around (only too plenty in every town!) but have such a tactful way of turning a deaf ear that it requires an over-bold scandal-monger to leave any at their fireside. This quality seems inborn in some gentle natures—would that it might be cultivated by all who lack it. When a caller begins with "Oh! have you heard?" or "They do say," it is well to be on guard. "I do not know anything about it," can be said so that it conveys at the same time a firm but gentle hint that the speaker does not wish to be enlightened on the shortcomings of her friends and neighbors.

The writer recently heard an account of a fore-mother, who had a most effective way of preventing the retelling of gossip to her. If a caller had the temerity to repeat any scandal to her, she would quickly say, "Oh, Mrs. Y. I am sure you must have been misinformed. I cannot believe our friend would do that; just wait a moment, I'll put on my bonnet and we'll go over and ask her about it." There are always a hundred tongues ready to repeat an ugly tale to one with the courage to find out whether it is true, or give the victim a chance to nip the lie in the bud. While few may be possessed of the courage of that sturdy grandma, everyone can utter some protest, find some way to discourage gossiping tongues. Some wise people simply decline to give credence to any statement reflecting upon one of their friends.

Nothing grows so easily and rapidly as a rumor. The simple incident may be told to two individuals and their respective versions be alarmingly different from the first version, and quite unlike. Each listener not only bears the words, but receives impressions from the voice and manner of the narrator. In retelling the tale he reproduces often not simply what he heard in words, but by the whole combined impression made by words and manner. This can be tested by an amusing game called scandal. A brief story or sentence is whispered in turn to each person present, then the last one repeats it aloud, always finding it ridiculously at variance with the one which started.—New Haven Register.

WOMAN'S COURT. Miss Martha Van Rensselaer, director of the reading course for farmers' wives conducted by the New York State Department of Agriculture, is said to be responsible for the movement to establish a woman's court. While studying conditions in New York city Miss Van Rensselaer was very much impressed by a scene which she witnessed in a downtown court. Speaking of it afterward to other women she said that one of the women on trial led on being questioned by the Judge. "You couldn't have blamed her for lying," declared Miss Van Rensselaer. "No woman, it makes no difference how degraded, would or could have answered otherwise to a man. Had there been a woman on the bench I am convinced she would have told the truth. She was young, almost a girl, and with the right woman on the bench to question and advise her there would have been a chance to stop her on her downward road.—New York Sun.

INDUSTRY WINS FOR WOMAN. Of all the popular woman writers probably none has won success in the face of so many repeated defeats as the Baroness Orczy, who has resped a fortune from her play, "The Scarlet Pimpernel," and her book of the same name. The Baroness gets her title from Hungary, but she is the wife of an Englishman, Montague Barrow, and lives in a castle in Kent once the home of Anna of Cleves. Her first novel, "The Emperor's Candlestick," fell flat, and she though in vain for a publisher for her next two, "A Son of the People" and "By the Gods Beloved." Then she wrote "The Scarlet Pimpernel," and after a year still she was hunting a publisher, when she decided to turn it into a play. This meant an end of a half a dozen years of discouragement. Fred Terry and Julia Neilson produced the play, and it was scored unmercifully by the critics. For a week the theatre practically deserted, then the play caught the public and ran for four years. Publishers bid feverishly for the book once the play was a success, and of the novel 250,000 copies have been sold. Not only that but the three early books were brought out. "The Emperor's Candlesticks" in a fresh edition, and all found many thousands of readers. To women who write the Baroness has just three words of advice: "Keep at it."—New York Press.

MATINEE EXPLAINED. As everybody knows, the principal etymological meaning of the French word "matinee" is morning time, or better, forenoon; how it came to be applied to afternoon performances is not generally known. Some twenty-five years ago concerts of classical music became very popular in Paris and were given at 11 o'clock in the morning, and therefore called "matinee musicales," but the fashionable ladies soon found this hour too early and too exacting, following so closely upon the balls, soirees and theatricals of the previous night. The hour was changed to noon; then to 1 o'clock. The success of these concerts prompted the theatre directors to try day performances also. From Paris the custom passed to London then to America, the name matinee being retained.—San Francisco Call.

VALUE OF LAUGHTER. A good laugh is the best medicine in the world.

If we laughed more we should all be happier and healthier.

True, we are a busy and a very practical people, and most of us probably find more in this life to bring the frown than the smile; but, at the same time, it is a pity that we do not laugh more—that we do not bring our selves to the laugh, if need be.

Physicians have said that no other feeling works so much good to the entire human body as that of merriment. As a digestive it is unexcelled; as a means of expanding the lungs there is nothing better.

It keeps the heart and face young. It is the best of all tonics to the spirits.

It is, too, the most enjoyable of all sensations.—Indianapolis News.

Mathilda Haska of Buda-Pesth broke off her engagement because her fiancée, who is a nonsmoker, wishes her also to give up the habit.

Observers the Christian Register: As the rich become richer in honorable ways, the poor are lifted out of their poverty.