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THROUGH TRAVELERS on the railroad will find this Hotel an excellent place to lunch, or procure a meal, as ALL TRAINS stop about 25 minutes. 47

The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PA.

We notice by the premium list of the National Fair Association of Washington, D. C., \$10,000 is offered for the fastest trotting horses; a bronze medal for the best landscape; \$5.00 for the best collection of cut flowers, and \$10.00 for the best collection of plants, not less than thirty, correctly named. For fruits of all kinds, the large sum of \$71.00 is offered; for vegetables, \$54.00, and for dogs, \$151.00. Dogs and horses seem to be the chief "agricultural products" down there.

MR. PETER B. MEAD remarks that flat culture helps wonderfully to carry a crop of corn through a severe drought.

This paragraph, which we find in the agricultural pages of the Tribune, is an excellent text for a long sermon, but we have not just now the time to prepare it, and this is not the most appropriate season for its delivery. The writer has a distinct recollection of hearing his father, who was a most careful and observing farmer, "remark" the same thing at least twenty-five years ago, and remembers, too, that he produced the indisputable evidence of results to substantiate the correctness of his theory.

This is the season for the farmer who wishes to improve his poultry stock to purchase new blood. Breeders of good poultry everywhere have a large surplus of cockerels which they are anxious to get rid of speedily, to save expense, and are willing to sell good birds at very much less than they will ask after keeping them half the winter. Besides this, fowls can be shipped at this season with much less discomfort and danger than during the cold of January. We are sure that the poultry on three-fourths of the farms of Centre county can be improved with great advantage to their owners, and our advice is to begin the improvement by introducing a cockerel of the kind you may prefer, and to do this now, besides you can do it at less expense than at a late date.

Early Lettuce.

Cor. of Vick's Magazine.

There are very few people not fond of lettuce in the early spring. Having removed from the city, where early lettuce could be bought at the markets, I was much at a loss for this refreshing salad plant—at least, until quite warm weather. Knowing it to be quite hardy, I, last autumn, sowed some seed in a warm, dry spot, and in a week the plants were up. Before hard frost I placed around my little patch some boards—to be particular, an old door frame—and over this some loose boards, covering about two-thirds of the space, so that there was about one-third uncovered for light and air. It was where it got the best of the sun, sloping southeast and it was a surprise to find how early I had young lettuce from this rude bed. Of course, this will be of no benefit to those who have hot-beds and other conveniences for forcing vegetables, but to very many of your readers I think the knowledge may be useful. This is about time to sow the seed.

To get early pie plant, just place an old barrel over the root in the fall, and throw around the barrel a lot of manure or old straw and refuse, and in spring the pie plant will start and produce leaves wonderfully early. Some think putting the barrel over in the spring is just as good, but I am convinced the autumn is the best time.

Fall Ploughing.

When land is ploughed in the fall and left till spring without harrowing, it may be sowed to any kind of spring grain after being well harrowed, and the crops in most cases will be as good as if the land were ploughed in the spring. Stable dung, when ploughed under in the fall for a spring crop, will be as beneficial as when ploughed under in the spring; but all kinds of common fertilizers should be sown broadcast in the spring and harrowed in, unless one sows seed with a drill that deposits and covers the fertilizers at the same time. If it were not for the great hurry that farmers are subject to in our short springs, it would not be of our advantage to plough light, loamy soils in the fall; but in consequence of not having time, in many cases, to plough in the spring all the land one desires to cultivate, it is decidedly advisable, in some cases, to plough in the fall, especially clayed soils, which are greatly benefited by being thrown up by the action of the frosts of winter. It often occurs that a field in the spring is too wet to plough when the seed should go in, and such land, if ploughed in the fall, would be in good condition to harrow in the spring, and the crop would be better for the fall ploughing.

Our Agricultural Contemporaries.

Winter is coming, and all having farm or even garden plots will find valuable aid in the American Agriculturist for October, just issued, with its hundreds of practical directions, hints and suggestions. Among leading topics are Work for the Month; a \$1,000 Farm House, with plans and specifications; Shelter for Stock; Numerous Hints and Helps for Farmers; Humbugs Exposed; a full Household and Children's Departments, etc.—15 cents per number; \$1.50 per annum; Orange Judd Company, publishers, 245 Broadway, New York.

The Farm Journal appears for October in an entire new dress, including a new and handsome head. We congratulate our enterprising, spicy little neighbor upon its improved appearance.

The decided growth of small farming in the Southern States and its relation to politics, are discussed by Sidney Lanier in the October Scribner. While not insisting on any contrast of the sections, Lanier has invented a phrase which cleverly describes the bonanza farming of the northwest, with its lack of homestead life. "It is not farming at all," he says, "it is mining for wheat."

Bringing up Calves on the Bottle.

"A Shorthorn Breeder" gives The Farm, of Dublin, Ireland, his reasons for improving on nature's way of raising calves:

"In the native state the cow gives milk enough to raise her calf, and no more, and dries off in four or five months. Some of our improved breeds give enough to raise four or five calves per year, and other breeds do not give enough for one. I raise all my calves, even thoroughbreds, by hand, and principally on skim milk; and I think that when one year old they will compare favorably with calves that have run with the cow. As a result of such raising, I sell one-half my milk, and the cream from the other half. The chief argument in favor of letting calves suck is that it saves labor. I admit that when the cows and calves are turned out together, allowing the calf to take what he wants when he chooses, there is a saving of labor; but this practice is ruinous alike to cows and calves. Any cow of good milking qualities will give more milk than the calf can take for two months at least. The cow's bag is liable to be ruined, and she is injured as a milker; after the calf takes the milk, her bag, being sucked out frequently, is not allowed to distend, and she receives another injury, which, if a heifer, is ruinous to her milking qualities. The cow and calf become so attached to each other that weaning becomes very difficult, and sometimes impossible. The calf at weaning time frequently receives a backset from which he never recovers.

"If, on the other hand, the more judicious plan of keeping the calves up, and taking part of the milk, is practised, there is no saving of labor. I would rather sit down quietly and milk all of the milk than fight with a calf for one-half of it. Or if you allow the calves to suck all they want, and then go around and milk what is left you injure the cow, as the milk should be taken at once when the cow lets it down. The cow's milk is often too rich for the calf and does not agree with it. The calf frequently becomes too fat. When raising by hand you can make the calf just what you want. If you are feeding skim milk, and the calf is too poor, add a little oil meal; too fat, give poorer feed. A calf raised for the dairy should not be kept as fat as one for the butcher. My practice is to wean the second day; I used to not allow the calf to suck if found in time; but have found it better for cow and calf that it should suck a few times. The cow and calf soon forget one another; the cow is quieter, easier stabled and fed than when anxious about her calf. The calf can be taught in two or three lessons to drink from a pail or trough, and you can make it just what you want by regulating its feed. There is never any weaning time, as you can gradually change its feed to anything you desire."

How to Clean Dairy Utensils.

Henry Stewart in Rural New Yorker.

Every dairy utensil should be tin. No wooden vessel should be used in milking, as the wood absorbs milk which sours in the pores and there curdles, and every particle of curdled milk, whether effected by rennet or by acidity, like the leaven of yeast, is an active agent for souring other milk. As curd of milk is hardened by heat and made insoluble, dairy utensils should first be washed with cold water and soap, and when thoroughly well cleaned they may then be scalded. Curd is dissolved by alkali, and the free alkali of the soap not only removes the grease of the milk, but also any particles of milk which by any accident may have been retained in a crevice or corner, and there soured or curdled. To make the cleaning of dairy vessels more easy it is well to have no sharp corners, but to have all the joints made

round, and this may be done easily if one has the milk pails made to order

Cornstalks and Seed-Corn.

By Col. F. D. Curtis.

It takes corn and the cornstalks longer to dry, or cure, when cut up by the roots than when the corn is topped. There is more juice in the butts of stalks than in the topmost portion, and the watery portion must be well dried out or the stalks will mould if they are packed together in quantities. The upper portion of the stalks, if bound up into small bundles and placed in stooks, will usually be fit to house in two or three weeks, while the whole stalks require a much longer time, especially if they are large and bulky. The stacks or stooks should not contain more than twenty-five hills when the crop is good, and they should be set evenly around the standing hill so that the stook will not fall down. The ears will dry quicker and brighter when left on the hill as they are when the corn is topped. Topped corn always husks easier as the husks open, and it is easier to get at the ear. Many farmers prefer to cut their corn at the root, so that it can be drawn into the barn and husked under cover. They also estimate the husks to be too valuable to leave to dry up and waste in the field. When corn is topped, the ears may be snapped off and taken into the barn and husked there, and the husks saved, but they are not so handy to handle as when the stalks are left whole.

Long cornstalks are a bother when thrown out with the manure, on account of tangling the manure-fork, and on this account corn is often topped to reduce the length. Some painstaking farmers run their cornstalks through a straw cutter to make them fine for the manure pile, and so that the stock will eat more of them. It hardly pays the cost. They may be broken up and made more palatable as well as fine for the manure-heap, by running them through a thrashing machine which tears them into little bits. An ordinary three-horse thrashing machine will also husk and shell the corn if the stalks and ears are run through it. When this is done the corn should be very dry or it will mould unless carefully spread and turned. Cornstalks may be packed or mowed together in large quantities if a layer of dry straw is put between each layer of bundles. The stalks will impart to the straw a savory smell and make it liked better by the stock. Stalks should never be put into a mow when damp, or they will surely mould and be injured. Sweet, well-cured cornstalks are equal to good hay for fodder, and will make more milk than hay. They are laxative in their nature and hence excellent to feed with hay or grain. More fodder may be obtained by cutting corn up at the roots, and better ears by topping it. The best course to follow depends upon the wants of the farmer.

The best seed corn can be obtained from the topped corn, as there is then no danger of its being heated or getting mouldy, and if left in the field late it will be too dry to be injured by freezing. Seed-corn can be safely gathered from a topped field almost any time if it is kept dry afterward, but when the corn is to be cut up at the root it should be gathered before hand. In this case—and it is a good rule always—the earliest and brightest ears should be selected, and those well filled out at the tips. Seed ears ought always to be taken from stalks which have two ears on them. By a careful and continuous selection of the earliest ears, and those most perfect, the variety may be made earlier, and by taking only from stalks with two ears a propensity or nature may be established in the variety to produce two ears. I know of a farmer who followed this course to shorten the ripening season of his corn, (smut white, an early sort,) fully ten days, and nearly every stalk bore two ears. Freezing and thawing injures seed-corn when it is wet, hence the sooner in autumn it is gathered and made dry the more likely it is to grow. It should be "twisted" or braided together by the husks and hung up in some dry room or out doors in the sun for a few days, after which it may be put away in a dry place where it will not be molested by rats or mice, and kept till planting time. We always cut up our corn, as we want all of the fodder.

Every farmer knows that exposing potatoes too long to the rays of the sun, or to plenty of light and air, will soon ruin them. A good farmer will dig and dry his potatoes at the proper time as quickly as is convenient, and take them to his dark cellar without delay, being careful not to have too many in one bin. Potatoes which are fine and mealy when dug treated in this manner will remain good until new early potatoes are ripe.

We have lately noticed in the daily papers accounts of several fatal accidents from farmers coming in contact with vicious bulls. The fact is, any man is foolish who allows his bull to run with the cows at large, and thus put himself at the mercy of these erratic creatures. We could count up within our own knowledge more than a dozen men who were gored by bulls.