

The Pittsburgh Gazette

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

FARMING THAT PAYS. We find in the Chicago Post the following report of successful farming in Minnesota. It supports the idea that capital and science may derive from agriculture profits quite equal to those yielded by other standard employments.

Mr. Dalrymple is a native of Western Pennsylvania, and grew up among the sterile hills of that region. Being a man of energy and ambition and sharing the common aversion against a farmer's life, he studied law and came to Minnesota and settled about the year 1837.

Acquiring a competence rapidly in his profession, his health became impaired, when he turned his attention to farming. A short experience upon a moderate scale soon convinced him that a measure of the capital, energy and sagacity requisite in other pursuits would be at least equally successful in agriculture, especially if followed upon a liberal scale.

He immediately commenced enlarging his operations by purchasing two additional tracts within convenient distance, which, with his original purchase, he respectively the "Grant," "Sherman" and "Sheridan" farms. These comprised in the aggregate about 3,000 acres, of which about 1,700 were allotted to wheat.

His first crop in so extended an area was produced in the year 1837. The yield was an average of 21 bushels per acre, or a total of 35,700 bushels. He contracted for the transportation of his crop in bulk to Milwaukee for 21 cents per bushel, where he realized from \$1.00 to \$1.85 per bushel, netting about \$1.00 per bushel, or an aggregate of \$35,700.

In consequence of the extremely high prices which had ruled the preceding year—seed wheat costing \$2.50, with corresponding disbursements for first breaking and other expenses—the net profits were somewhat less than one-third of the total receipts; but a clear profit was realized of about \$14,500.

The crop of the following year, 1838, averaged about 23 bushels per acre, or an aggregate of 39,000 bushels, which he was both wise and lucky enough to sell from the harvest field before the decline in grain, by which movement prices were obtained which made an average of \$30 per acre. The total cost of production, including interest on capital, amounted to \$18 per acre, leaving a clear profit of \$12 per acre, or a total of \$30,400.

The original cost of the land averaged about \$12 per acre; so that after allowing amply for expenses of building, fencing and other improvements, the net receipts on two years' crops were more than sufficient to cover the whole, while the market value of the land and improvements is to-day nearly or quite three times its first cost.

Mr. Dalrymple, I learn, has still further extended his operations the present season, and if the present propitious continuance, greater results will be produced than anything yet realized. His field of operations is about twenty miles southeast of St. Paul, in the best and fertile region known as Cottage Grove, so called from the fact that over half a mile wide in which the farmers have built their houses, while their fields run out on the adjacent prairie. It is a narrow strip of country with an undulating surface, a warm friable soil, underlaid with limestone, and bounded by the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers, by which rare facilities are afforded for the shipment of grain.

Mr. Dalrymple purchases his supplies by wholesale, keeping an eye wisely upon the markets, obtaining his laborers by general advertising, may they multiply, and divides and directs their labor through the aid of a competent foreman, with something of military precision. He studies and uses all the latest improvements in machinery, especially for gathering and handling grain, and in short has illustrated the splendid results to be expected of "large farming" in Minnesota, which directed by simple means and business-like energy and sagacity.

Gov. Marshall's experiment is not yet sufficiently developed to afford any results. He owns, in company with Mr. J. H. Donaldson, 2,200 acres in Windom township, Mower county, of which 1,000 acres are now in wheat with a very promising appearance.

Mr. Foster, formerly of Plainville, Wabasha county, now of Winona, cultivated for several years, about 1,400 acres with very remunerative results. Mr. Jenkins, of Lakeville, Dakota county, has a farm of 700 acres; Mr. Kendall, of Eyota, Olmsted county, one of the same size; while Capt. W. F. Davidson, President of the Northwestern Packet Company, has recently purchased a tract of several thousand acres with a view to the prosecution of farming operation on a large scale.

WHEN TO CUT GRASS. We find the following, given in the Massachusetts Agricultural Reporter, of the views of Dr. Fisher with reference to the proper time to cut grass. We think that he has put the time a little too early, to secure the best results in quantity and quality, but in the main he is correct.

"Grass should be cut just at the time when cattle like it best, and that is long before it is in flower. If you will give cattle their choice, you will find that they will take invariably the earlier and shorter grass, before it throws up its flower stem. It may be that if you cut the grass at that time you get but a very small crop, but it is just as much better as it is smaller. I have been experimenting upon this subject for some years, and I have concluded that the best time to cut herds' grass, if I can have my choice, is when the seed-stem just begins to show itself, and when the grass averages from ten inches to a foot in height. At that time the grass contains more nutriment than it does at any other time, and it is so much more palatable to woody herb very much faster than it increases the soluble ingredients which serve for the nourishment of the animal. I therefore intend to cut my grass at that time.

"I used to make the same mistake that almost everybody does. I did not begin to cut my grass until my first field was in flower, and the consequence was, when I ended, my last grass was spoiled, which is the case with a great many farmers. It is important to cut all the grass when it is in good condition, and the only way to do this is to cut it as it first shows itself. I watched my grass this year daily, and I came to the conclusion that if I had cut it all on the 15th day of June it would have been worth more money to me than if cut later. I began about the 15th of June and finished on the 3d of

SPECIAL NOTICES.

SCHENCK'S PULMONIC SYRUP. SEAWEED TONIC AND MANDRAKE'S PILLS FOR CONSUMPTION. If taken according to directions, they will cure the most obstinate cases of the disease. They cleanse the stomach, regulate the bowels, and give the system a new energy. They are the only way to cure consumption.

"Then there is another thing to be considered. You get a second crop, which is large and equally good quality. It does not disturb the digestion of animals, as raven often does, and certainly two crops are worth more than can be got off the land. The effect of this upon cattle is just like grass. It is dried grass; it is not chips and shavings, as a great part of our hay is. A great portion of the hay and animals thrive well upon it. It takes less to keep them; they will give more milk, make better looking butter, and more of it."

CULTURE OF SMALL FRUITS. A correspondent of the New York Fruit Growers' Club lately asked the following questions:

1. Will it do to continue pinching back the young shoots all through the growing season until frost, or should we stop the fall? If so, at what time? 2. How long will blackberry and raspberry planting last? I understand that some growers recommend sowing up the old plants every four or five years, and setting up new plants in their place. I hear that the Antwerp raspberry is falling at present in the Hudson river. 3. I have seen it recommended to plow or furrow up to the plants in the fall. Now, should the soil be left during the next summer, or taken away?

To these questions, Mr. A. S. Fuller replied as follows: It is difficult to give directions that will suit all localities and soils. In regard to pinching back the young canes of raspberries, my practice is to pinch back blackberries but once or twice in the season, according to the strength of the plants, and then only the main cane is checked, as I prefer to let the side shoots grow in winter or early in the spring. I usually commence pinching off the main cane in July, and if the upper buds start and grow too strong, I check them again in August, but never later than the first of September. Late summer pinching or pruning is always injurious, particularly if the plants are growing very vigorously, because they are very likely to produce new shoots which will be killed by the frost. Besides this, the fruit buds which are relied upon for the next season's crop, will sometimes start in the fall, and, of course, be destroyed by the first frost. I have never found it necessary to check the growth of raspberries in summer, and I doubt if it is ever beneficial. The duration of the raspberry and blackberry plantations will depend entirely upon the soil and care given them. Probably about five years is the average duration, but I have known some to last for fifteen years, as they were as good as new when I planted them. The late Mr. Keen of Isleworth, the originator of Keen's Seedling, was an advocate for shallow culture, and he is right, because his soil was rather light, and that the strawberry delights to grow in a tenuous or good loamy soil, he objected to deep digging, for fear of loosening the subsoil. In the neighborhood of London the London markets are supplied annually with large quantities of fruit, the ground between the rows is deeply dug, and allowed to remain rather rough, so that the soil thus disturbed, may derive benefit from the influence of the atmosphere penetrating it. Besides this, the constant treading between the rows, when the sheep will apply the manure that may be applied, and to admit the spring and early summer rains, or any water that may be given to them during their bearing season.

To destroy insects on the leaves of your roses, an experienced gardener tells us the following remedy, which we are assured never fails, and the expense is inconsiderable. Take about two ounces of quassa, which is cheap and can be procured at any drug store, and put it in a gallon of water, which will boil twenty minutes. When cold wash the leaves of the bushes with it. Many florists have been complaining of a little green insect, which they will do well to try the receipt. It is a step from robbing each other's hives, put a small piece of comb inside the entrance of the hive which is plundered.

FOUL IN ORCHARDS. The public has yet to learn the full advantage of keeping poultry, we seem to appreciate what they do for us in an orchard. Let any one try them in an orchard of a quarter of an acre, they may be kept by the picket fence for four or five feet high, and say one hundred and twenty-five fowls, and observe the result. It will avoid the annoyances in the garden, of which so many complain, which they will work among the trees, doing just what is needed, and destroying everything that can injure the fruit trees, in the shape of bugs, worms or other insects, and lay a large number of eggs, which are a cash article, to say nothing of the chickens, which pay well enough for raising at the present time. I have tried it and know it is so. I have about one hundred fowls, which have worked admirably among my trees, keeping the ground in good condition, keeping off the insects and promoting the growth of the orchard. I am satisfied that we have yet to learn the full benefits which may be derived from the proper management of fowls, and it is quite possible that the method of raising suggested may offer the best way of getting our apple orchards into bearing condition.

Number One.—One hour lost in the morning by laying in bed, will put back all the business of the day. One hour gained by rising early, is worth one month in the year. One hole in the fence will cost ten times as much as it will to fix it at once.

One diseased sheep will spoil a flock. One drunkard will keep a family poor and make them miserable. One husband that is penniless or lazy, deprives his family of necessary comforts, more than their neighbor who is not such a husband as he ought to be. One good newspaper is one good thing in every family, and—

One who don't take a good paper, and pay for it, is an unworthy citizen, and disregards the best interests of his family.

NOTICES.

OFFICE FITZ & CONNELLVILLE R. R. CO. 1 PITTSBURGH, June 10, 1869. NOTICE TO BONDHOLDERS. Notice is hereby given that the Corporation No. 9, Pittsburg & Connellville Railroad Company, First Mortgage Bonds, will be presented to the holders of the same on the 15th day of June, 1869, at the office of the Corporation, No. 100 North Second Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS have this day declared a semi-annual dividend of FIVE PER CENT on the capital stock of the Company, clear of National and State taxes, payable in cash on and after the 15th day of June, 1869. Blank powers of attorney for collecting dividends are to be had at the office of the Company, No. 100 North Second Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. The dividend will be paid on the 15th day of June, 1869, at 4 P. M. from May 30 to June 5, for the year 1868, and on the 15th day of June, 1869, at 4 P. M. from May 30 to June 5, for the year 1869.

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INSURANCE.

THE IRON CITY MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO. Of Pennsylvania. Office, 75 Federal St., Allegheny City. DIRECTORS: Hon. JAMES L. GRAHAM, Capt. R. ROBINSON, Rev. A. C. BROWN, D. D., Rev. N. H. SMITH, D. D., W. A. REXEL, Cashier, Allegheny Trust Co., JACOB HUNN, Real Estate Agent, HENRY H. HARRIS, Mayor of Allegheny, G. W. BROWN, J. H. HARRIS, Attorney-at-Law, D. L. PATTERSON, Lumber Merchant, B. SWIGER, Insurance Agent.

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