



FARM TOPICS

Profit in Early Lambs. While some farmers are deploring the loss of profit on wool, the knowing ones are raising "hothouse" or early lambs, and make more profit from one ewe than they formerly did with half a dozen sheep kept for wool.

Care Essential in Milking. But few dairymen who have large herds are as careful in milking as they should be. Not one in a hundred ever washes the udders and teats of the cows before milking, followed by careful washing of the hands.

Space Taken Up by Fences and Hedges. In a ten-acre square field if the fence or wall and the bushes and weeds allowed to grow along by the side of it are one rod wide there is nearly one-tenth part of the land occupied by what is of no use, but often a damage to the rest of the field as a harbor for insect pests and the small wild animals that prey upon the crops.

Care of Poultry in Winter. It is always the best policy to fix up the poultry houses and arrange everything for the comfort of the fowls before winter sets in. All loose boards should be tightened up, the roof should be carefully gone over and all leaks stopped, and the ground should be banked up on outside of house.

Interior should be thoroughly cleaned and the walls whitewashed. All old nests should be taken out and burned, and new, clean straw or hay used instead.

Smaller Farms. We believe that no small part of our farmers are "land poor," not in the sense that the term is often used, that they have much land that does not produce enough to pay the taxes and interest on the value, though some of them are even that badly off, but many have much more land than they can cultivate as it should be, and more than they can keep up near to its proper productive condition.

An Orchard Chicken Coop. An orchard is the ideal place for the location of young chicks. Not only is the shade of great advantage to the chickens during the heat of summer, but the trees also receive much benefit from the presence of poultry.

Drugs have their use, but don't store them in your stomach. Beeman's Peppin Gum aids nature to perform its functions. An estimate of the rice acreage in Eastern Texas this year places it at 30,000.

To Cure a Cold in One Day. The nameless graves of the rank and file in South Africa lie more scattered than on any other battlefield.

LOCUST HARVEST IN ARGENTINA.

Western Farmers May Learn a Lesson from South America. Down in the Argentine Republic, where the merry locust sings his songs, a harvester has been contrived to gather in the insects. There are at least three reasons why the device is excellent. It does the work, it is cheap and the dead locusts are converted into fertilizing material which has a commercial value.

A large oblong, covered wooden box, upon supports ten or twelve feet high, presents a wide aperture in front through which the insects are to enter. Leading to this is an inclined plane (termed trampoline), wide at the end resting upon the ground and gradually narrowing toward the upper end, about twelve inches high, over which it is impossible for the young locusts to escape. From these side pieces extend protected on each side by zinc sheets other barriers of the same height and about 100 feet long, each of which is set up edgewise and when in use so secured at such distances apart that the outer extremities as to afford a wide entrance to the locusts. The swarms of insects are driven toward this enclosure and readily ascend the trampoline, which is painted green (the color of the foliage), into the box, which is then closed until another swarm is collected and driven in, two men being required for this work.

The apparatus for destroying the locusts is a roller sustaining a cylinder of iron similar in form to a coffee mill or roaster. The cylinder is covered with knives extended obliquely and revolves between high side pieces which almost touch it at their lower extremities and is revolved by a crank. This machine is attached to the back of the box containing the imprisoned locusts, which are allowed to drop into it, when they are cut to pieces. After this the remains of the insects are dried and sold for fertilizing purposes, there being a constant demand in Europe for this material, rich in nitrogen.

An easier method of destroying locusts has been discovered, according to reports which come from Cape Colony, South Africa. In 1895 the locusts in that part of the world appear to have been almost destroyed by an epidemic, and investigations carried on by M. S. Evans seemed to prove conclusively that the disease was the result of feeding upon a fungus growth now known as "locust fungus," and that a few insects affected with the maldy night communicate it to millions of others. After repeated experiments in the Bacteriological Institute at Grahamstown, Cape Colony, a pure culture is said to have been obtained from the locust fungus and the insects died that were brought in contact with it at the institute.

In 1897 experiments were carried on on a large scale. Immense swarms of locusts perished after the infection of several individuals in each group. It was also found that the best results were obtained during the periods of rain, when the locusts remain longer in one place, and the spread of the infection was thus facilitated. In dry weather the flight of the insects is more rapid, and the sick ones being left behind, there is less chance for the spread of the disease. The Bacteriological Institute now sends out the culture from the locust fungus with directions for its use in tubes, which may be conveyed 1000 miles or more.

Some Surnames. Every one knows how in ordinary language words have been modified by the inclination to save trouble in pronunciation, to shorten endings, assimilate consonants and substitute the subdued for the sonorous in vowel sounds. This inclination has largely affected surnames. Few would suppose that the not uncommon cognomen Sparke is an abbreviation of the mediaeval nick-name Sparrowhawk; not every one would see in the absurd Hunnybun a degraded version of Honeybourne—a pleasant name commemorating ancestral residence beside some well of sweet waters. But both explanations are true. Caird (a tinker) has become Card by a like shortening of vowel sound; and Tassel includes both a bold contraction and an assimilation of consonants if, as suggested by a well known authority, it be condensed form of Tattersall.

The surname Card will serve to lead on to the consideration of another sort of corruption that befalls surnames, viz., that rising from varieties of local pronunciation. In Somersetshire and some neighboring counties the sounds ar and or on the lips of the lower ranks usually change places. The groom asking for arders about a sick horse suggests that you come into the stable yard to see him. When therefore we find as we do find Cord among recorded surnames we trace in it a descendant of Caird twice degraded, the second time by means of the provincialism in question.—Good Words.

The Candid Fiddler. A story is being told at present concerning the late Duke of Coburg, whose enthusiastic love of the violin was so well known. Some years ago Prince Alfred invited a well-known London professor to play upon his "Strad," but the musician insisted upon the royal host leading the way. This the duke did, after which the professor played a masterpiece. "Do you know," said the duke, "I had no idea there was so much music in that instrument until I heard you perform?" "Quite possible, your highness," came the ready if somewhat candid reply, "neither did I." This is one of the stories, it is said, that the late duke delighted to tell.—London Chronicle.

Col. Joseph P. Wright Dead. Colonel Joseph Payson Wright, assistant surgeon general of the United States army, died suddenly Tuesday night at his home in Washington, D. C., in the 64th year of his age. Colonel Wright was a native of Pennsylvania. He served throughout the Civil war as an assistant surgeon and received three brevet commissions for faithful and meritorious services. After the war he entered the regular army with the rank of Captain and assistant surgeon and rose steadily to the rank of Colonel.

THE MARKETS.

Table with columns for Grain, Flour and Feed. Items include WHEAT-No. 2 red, COB-No. 2 yellow, OATS-No. 2 white, FLOUR-Winter patent, HAY-No. 1 timothy, FEED-No. 1 white midd, BROWN-Middlings, STRAW-Wheat, BUTTER-Elgin creamery, CHEESE-Ohio roll, NEW YORK, NEW, Poultry, etc.

Table with columns for BALTIMORE and PHILADELPHIA. Items include FLOUR, WHEAT, COB-N, OATS, BUTTER, EGGS.

Table with columns for NEW YORK. Items include FLOUR, WHEAT, COB-N, OATS, BUTTER, EGGS.

Table with columns for LIVE STOCK. Items include CATTLE, PRIME HEAVY, MEDIUM, BUTCHER, COMMON TO FAT, OXEN, COMMON TO GOOD FAT, SHEEP, EXTRA, MED. WEIGHT WETHERS, LAMBS, EXTRA, YEARLING, VEAL, EXTRA, COMMON TO FAT.

Table with columns for TRADE REVIEW. Items include The Election and the Miners' Strike Are Disturbing Factors in the Business World.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says: "More reasonable weather had important influence throughout the country, but the coal strike continued as the restraining factor in business. As speculation everywhere is on a small scale the effect is minimized. Lower prices recently for some iron products have been without disturbing force, and the firmer market for print cloths, and strong quotations for lumber, show that in some directions in the great industries a small increase in demand is capable of raising prices. The situation still promises a recovery when politics and the strike are settled. Distribution of merchandise at the West is still very active. The working force is increasing steadily, and in railroad and manufacturing circles in the Middle West scarcity of labor is causing uneasiness. Fear of tight money has made some men hesitate, but higher rates result from the activity of the movement of cotton at high prices in the South. At the moment the movement of gold from Europe has tended to relieve the tension in New York and gold is still coming from Australia."

Business failures for the week in the United States number 210, as against 177 last week, 166 in this week a year ago; 233 in 1898, 196 in 1897, and 279 in 1896. Failures in the Dominion of Canada number 36, against 18 last week, 19 this week a year ago; 22 in 1898, 44 in 1897 and 30 in 1896.

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In Austria mushrooms are grown in coal pits.

Living Expenses Decreased.

The interesting disclosure is made that the cost of living is less in the United States to-day than it was in 1860. Carefully compiled statistics show that articles costing \$100 then cost only \$75 now. It is true that a few things are more expensive, but commodities consumed generally by families, such as breadstuffs, sugar, rice, salt, woolen and cotton goods, boots and shoes, and silk and rubber goods, are considerably cheaper now than they were 30 years ago. All manufactured goods, with hardly an exception, are cheaper, mainly because of improved processes of manufacture which enable the maker to reduce the cost to the lowest point.

The development of our vast arable territory in the West, Northwest and Southwest, and the striking results of irrigation, when applied to what were formerly considered desert lands, have increased our crop supplies more rapidly than the increase of population. Despite the dire predictions that prices of wheat, corn and cotton must inevitably advance because little land remained to be cultivated in the West and South, the fact is that millions of acres are still awaiting tillage. In Texas alone an area almost as extensive as that of the original 13 States is virgin soil. The emigrant may have to go farther and work harder to establish a homestead in the United States, but Uncle Sam is still rich enough to give every able-bodied, industrious new-comer a chance to own a farm.—Leslie's Weekly.

Profitable Fishing in Scotch Waters.

The salmon is accounted the king of freshwater fish," says Isaac Walton; and somebody else has called it "the venison of the waters." Scotland's deer forests have their counterpart in Scotland's streams; and, in an age of utility even in sport, the fisherman's zest is increased, not lessened, by the value of his haul. This is the case even where the element of personal gain is wiped out; where the guest is fishing in the interest of his host; or where the visitor, "paving highly for board and lodging, relinquishes his harvest of the flood to the lessee. Great rentals follow in the wake of keen competition. The Aberdeenshire fisheries are valued at many thousands a year; and the Tay alone yields some £60,000 worth of salmon during each season.—London Illustrated News.

Climate Healthy, People Live Long.

Old age creeps along in easy fashion in the health-giving county of Bucks. In one village alone, that of Waddesdon, where the late Baron Ferdinand Rothschild erected his palatial mansion, now presided over by his sister, Mrs. Alice de Rothschild, there are eleven men of over 80 years of age at the present time. One veteran has just completed his 90th year. Four members of one family, two brothers and two sisters, have reached 88, 87, 85 and 84 years respectively—a total of close upon three and a half centuries between them.—London Telegraph.

Welsh College Gets Rare Books.

Among the Welsh books left under the will of the late Principal T. Charles Edwards for the Bala Theological College library are "Psalm Davidydd," the 1595 edition by W. Middleton; "Cynnyr Lith a Ban," the 1557 edition by William Salesbury; the New Testament translated by William Salesbury and published in the year 1557, and a copy of Dr. William Morgan's translation into Welsh of the Bible published in the year 1588. All are in a very good condition and are valuable additions to the college library.—Cardiff Western Mail.

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HELP FOR WOMEN

WHO ARE ALWAYS TIRED.

"I do not feel very well. I am so tired all the time. I do not know what is the matter with me." You hear these words every day; as often as you meet your friends just so often are these words repeated. More than likely you speak the same significant words yourself, and no doubt you do feel far from well most of the time.



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