

FARMERS' CORNER

Barley as a Stock Food.

Barley will grow on any soil that will produce wheat. It is a superior food for stock. In England it is used for fattening hogs instead of corn, and, while it does not equal corn in producing fat on the carcass, yet the hogs weigh fully as much as those fed on corn, as they contain more lean meat. For the growing pigs it is far superior to corn, as it produces more protein and mineral matter.

Top-dressing Wheat with Manure.

Wheat may be top dressed in the fall or early in the winter if the manure is fine and free from coarse litter. It is an excellent way to use manure so as to preserve it from loss. As wheat land is plowed in the fall, it is consequently loose, and the rains carry the soluble portions down to the roots of the plants. The roots also follow the plant food that may be carried below the top-soil. By top-dressing wheat with manure the plants are also, to a certain extent, protected in winter, while the spreading of the manure at this season saves labor in the spring.

Feeding in Troughs.

One of our readers asks if chickens should be fed in troughs and adds that he means grown fowls, since he knows that small chickens should be fed in troughs.

A trough, speaking in general terms, is intended solely for hogs, cattle, etc., and in no case for poultry, and we will say here that more diseases result from the use of troughs than from any other source.

They gather filth, the fowls litter them and the food sours and decays in them. We do not think troughs should ever be used for either young or old fowls.

For a cheap and economical way to feed them there is nothing better than a 12-inch plank laid flat on the ground, and as any desired length.

This suggestion is made simply because we do not think fowls should have much soft food, our experience having shown that hens do better when given almost exclusively grain foods. Of course, a variety is relished and the hens will enjoy a change, but the main standby should be oats, wheat, millet and corn, the former being the principal food.—Home and Farm.

Culling the Herd.

There is nothing that assists a breeder more in maintaining a good reputation for sending out good stock than close culling. No breeder has been able to raise all good pigs, even from the most distinguished sires and dams, that ever lived. There always will be some inferior to the others. These should be consigned to the pork pens. The breeder that does not do this will have lots of trouble on his hands. He will find it unprofitable, because he cannot sell to the same man more than one time.

The man that builds up his business by honest transactions that are satisfactory to the buyer is the one that makes a profit and a success out of his business. If you get a customer for an animal, make the deal so that he will be your friend and continue your customer. We have plenty of breeders who praise this method of doing business. To do business and meet the requirement, you should have the blood for which there is a demand. You should have good sows as well as good boars if you want to produce a good class of pigs. You should give close attention to feeding and handling to properly develop them. It is better to have one good sow, than three poor or medium ones, for profit.—American Swineherd.

Corn as a Money Crop.

Much has been done toward educating the people of Europe along the line of cheapness of corn as food and also the preparation of our corn, so that in the next decade as the poor learn from others the many ways of cooking, its consumption will increase in geometrical progression. Let us hope that in the near future the serfs of Russia will not be compelled as now to mix with their rye sawdust and other material. Corn will be to them, and indeed to all the poor of our neighbors across the waters, a God-given manna sent from their western brothers.

We believe that the low prices of a few years since will never be reached again, and it would be well for our farmers, especially of the eastern states, and by eastern I mean east of the Mississippi river, to turn their attention more to the production of corn as a money crop. Corn is bulky, and the increase of freight rates from the west will be so much in favor of the eastern states.

In regard to corn raising for the dairyman, it is one of the best as well as the cheapest feeds for cows in milk. If fed whole, much is wasted, but the best meat is made by the filthiest animal, and a lot of hogs after cows so fed will increase in weight faster than if fed the corn on the ear, and many times they will pay for the corn fed to the cows.—W. B. Hawkins, in New England Homestead.

Concerning Fancy Cheeses.

It is in a way lamentable to relate, but few indeed are the farmers who have the patience to become proficient along any one line. Hence all the more they who are endowed with this quality, are pretty sure to make rapid

strides ahead. Another thing, fancy products never become a glut in the market, while the common goods generally do. There is consequently less risk of loss in the production of fancy fruits, vegetables, live stock and other farm products, among which may well be named fancy cheeses. We often hear that these so-called fancy cheeses are only appreciated by those who have acquired a taste for them, and that heretofore they have been made chiefly abroad; today, however, as an example to the contrary, there is a big pineapple cheese factory running almost within a stones throw of the writer's home and so well is its manager prospering that it makes manifest beyond a doubt that this is an important branch of our cheese and dairy industry. And if pursued with energy is pretty sure to pay in the long run—aye, give those who engage in this specialty rewards even beyond the special knowledge required. It is a matter of fact, the greater part of this country has the climate and the vegetation to supply all the essentials for these fancy cheeses, and better still, the cost of making them is usually not much more than for the commoner kinds. It is asserted that imported fancy cheeses generally sell for more than double the amount that our common varieties command, and that those made in the United States by expert dairymen can hardly be distinguished from the foreign products. Should not the latter, then, bring as much as the former? Certainly, and, truth to tell, they do.

The fact is the consumption of fancy cheeses has increased so rapidly during the past few years that home dairymen, notwithstanding the equal increase in the importation of such goods, have put forth a noble effort to supply a part of this demand. The acquired taste is even becoming a popular taste, and now it is nothing out of common to see fancy cheeses on the tables of our leading hotels and restaurants at all times. Nor does this in any way diminish the consumption of the cheaper factory made cheese. Rather it opens up a new department of the dairy business, which should be studied most carefully. Happily, however, our dairymen are already in a more or less limited manner making the leading cheeses in this country.—Fred O. Sibley, in The Epitomist.

Women and Cows.

Women are the best friends of the dairy industry. Cows milked by women yield more milk than when milked by men. The cow is an easy going, ruminating animal that leisurely converts grass and other food into milk. Stabled comfortably at night without a mouthful of food she gives more milk in the morning than after being at pasture all day long. This is because the pasture lacks the contentment of the comfortable stall in which to ruminate and repose. In this respect the cow is like the poet. The cow supplies milk for food for the body, while the poet creates food for the soul. Both meditate; both create food for mankind.

It is a physiological fact that the waste of the body and the wear of the mind are restored by repose. This is a law of nature. It is thus readily seen that the undisturbed life of the cow is more productive of milk. The gentle hand of woman and the kind care of the cow by her produce a larger and more perfect product. Hurried manufactures always lack perfection. Milk produced by day, when cows are driven to and from pasture by boys yelling and throwing stones at them or worrying them with barking dogs, is never so perfect, nor abundant, nor good. Remove the annoyance of boys and rough men from the dairy, and prosperity will smile upon it.

There is no milking machine equal to a woman's hands. The ounce of stripplings—the last richest milk—that most men when milking leave in the cow's udder, tells of a loss of many millions of dollars to the dairy industry annually. And every ounce left in milking means a loss of the capability of the cow's production. The lack of fostering the milk tendency is a far greater loss to the dairy than is generally supposed, if, in fact, it is ever thought of.

In some parts of Europe cows are milked three times a day, and with economy. But as our custom is to milk cows twice, we can only estimate the loss by lack of thorough milking at two ounces of the richest milk daily. Multiply 17,000,000 cows by two and you have a total of many gallons, as every gallon of milk should weigh ten pounds. Following up the figuring, it will be found that we lose two or three millions of dollars every year by the want of woman's hands in milking.

Cows become strongly attached to the woman who milk and feed them, and if such cows were tested, it would be found that they give more milk.

The family cow milked by a woman always yields more milk, and richer in butter, than the same cow does when turned into the dairy herd. Many dairy men have paid high prices for exceptionally good family cows, and found that with the ordinary feed and care of the dairy herd they degenerated into the low grade of the other cows. It seems that the dairymaid's hands are full of the milk of human kindness. Gentleness and thoughtfulness and care on the part of the woman of the family for the dairy give the cow extra feed—a crust, a nibble of corn, an extra measure of meal or a portion of hay and extra straw for bedding. These extras add milk to the pail and put money in the purse. Kindness to and care of animals pay a remunerative interest on the capital invested.—Dr. A. S. Heath, in New York Tribune.

SHOP DETECTIVE FORCE.

WATCHES NOT ONLY VISITORS, BUT ALSO ESTABLISHMENT'S HELP.

Greatly Augmented During the Holidays—One Conceals His Thirty Sleuths—Caution and Discrimination in Making Arrests—Unaccountable Shoplifting Cases.

At best never easy, the policing of large department stores is, at the busy season, a most complex problem. Not only is the task aggravated by the increased crowds, but by the infusion of strange salespeople.

But the main reason for the temporary reinforcement of such detective staffs is to afford a warning to the professional shoplifters who flock to the big cities at such opportune times. The knowledge that a certain store is better equipped in its detective bureau than another serves as a most effective deterrent, and therein lies the chief benefit of such a bureau.

Though normally four or five officers seem to suffice, at rush times the total exceeds thirty.

Harry Blades, chief of that bureau in a famous New York department store, when seen the other day by an Economist man, talked interestingly of his department and the way it was run.

"We have now," said he, "about 30 detectives on our roll, of whom four are women. Our regular force doesn't exceed four or five, but is reinforced for the holidays from a waiting list—all tried and true men.

"No, we don't recruit from police headquarters, or rarely ever. We are after people with the detective instinct, hail where they may.

"One of the best detectives was once a salesgirl at the fancy goods counter. She gave our sleuths so many excellent clues as to suspicious shoppers—that we were successfully followed—that we persuaded her to join our staff. And we made no error. She has more than fulfilled our expectations. You see she had it in her, and needed no Mulberry street training to bring it out.

"As a rule, however, women are not so good at ferreting out crime as men. They are also timid, fearing violence if necessary to arrest. But where the clue is given a woman can shadow a suspect better than a man, seeing that she can worm in and out, and is less conspicuous in doing so. A man looks out of place at a bargain counter.

"One of our greatest troubles with new detectives," continued Mr. Blades, "is overzealousness. They imagine that they are not making a showing—not earning their salary—unless constantly dragging offenders up to the office. So anxious are they to show results that they are apt to overdo.

"They probably look at it this way: 'I am only here for the holiday season, unless I can show special aptitude, to prove which I must succeed in making a big trapping.'

"On this account I give my new men positive instructions never to make an arrest without calling one of my old staff for consultation. As to the best policy to be pursued when a woman is caught opinions differ. The method we pursue is this:

"Whenever a professional shoplifter is caught red-handed we invariably prosecute in order to deter others, otherwise we use discretion.

"Some of the cases of shoplifting which have come to my notice during a life-long connection with store detective bureau. Many of our new plebeians. To this very office have been brought wives of prominent merchants, wall street brokers and men of like standing in the community—women who have been caught in the very act of secreting goods on their persons.

"On investigation these women almost invariably proved to be victims of the morphine or laudanum habit, the drug rendering them almost irresponsible. Now, what should we gain in exposing such a case, thereby ruining a reputation for all time?

"Nor do we expose cases of theft by really indigent people, when we are assured they are not 'professionals.' No good end can be served by such exposure. Moreover, it would be a bad ad. for the house, for such cases would receive extended newspaper comment, to the detriment of the firm exposing the culprit.

"Lack of harmony, continued Mr. Blades, "is another point to be guarded against in the management of a detective bureau. Many of our new men are inclined to throw the bluff that they are the whole thing. They did it all. I discourage that sort of thing.

"If any good piece of work is done in the store in that direction, the detective bureau receives credit therefor, not an individual officer. All must work in harmony. I instruct them to be receptive to hints from any and all sources. And even if they find certain clues unreliable, not to discourage the offering of them. Though wrong once, they might be right again.

"Professional jealousy is also to be guarded against. What any one of us may have learned about a certain case the rest are entitled to know. Information so obtained is not for any individual's benefit, but for that of the bureau. Hence there is nothing to be gained in an attempt to 'hog' glory.

"I am sorry to say that the help, especially at this season of the year, when there are so many supernumeraries employed, require most watching.

"We have representatives behind counters known as such only by myself, who, presumably, are salespeople. Suppose we suspect somebody at a certain counter. I put there a girl of my own who has not only to keep her eye open for my benefit, but hold up her end of the sales in order to escape transfer. If anything wrong is going on she will find it out.

"Sometimes these special sleuths are in the delivery department, even on wagons as helpers.

"From one of the latter is this letter," picking up one from the table before him. "In it my representative makes a report of his four days' experience on a certain wagon. Nothing was found amiss, as far as honesty was concerned, but a beneficial and unexpected result was reached.

"The detective voiced the hardships and grievances to which these overworked drivers and helpers are subjected in a way that brought about reform. These same complaints, if made to the head of the delivery department, would, in all probability, have been pigeon-holed, seeing that the rectifying of them would tend to increase the expenses of that department—a change which the manager thereof would naturally desire to obviate.

"We also have an outside man for secret service work. He never comes into the store, but makes his report by letter. Such a sleuth is essential to all employers of labor of this character. It might be reported to us that an employee in a responsible position, but drawing a moderate salary, was living as a high roller. This outside man would be detailed to get all information. Such an officer, in fact, is useful in hundreds of ways, and no large store should be without one.

"But the greatest benefit of a thoroughly equipped detective bureau, from a department store standpoint, is that it acts as a deterrent to the 'professionals.' In my time, for instance, I have had to do with over 2000 cases of shoplifting. It follows, therefore, that my presence in a particular store keeps away at least those 2000 offenders, and probably as many more of their friends."

WORLD'S LARGEST SCHOONER.

Unique Five-Masted Vessel Being Constructed in Maine.

The eyes of the shipping community of this country are at present centred with the deepest kind of interest upon the huge five-masted schooner now in process of construction at Camden, Me., for Capt. John G. Crowley, for service in the coal trade between Philadelphia and New England ports.

This craft, whose frames are now up, is distinguished by reason of the fact that she is the largest fore and aft sailing vessel the world has ever produced, and when completed she is calculated to have cost about \$90,000, and will spread 10,000 yards of canvas, carrying a cargo of 4000 tons of coal on 23 feet draught of water.

In this huge undertaking a number of prominent Philadelphians have invested, among them being Henry W. Cramp, S. P. Blackburn & Co., and Samuel J. Goucher, and while the craft, which has not yet had her name determined upon, will fall from Taunton, Mass., a large percentage of her stock will be held here.

This vessel, unlike any other sailing craft afloat, will be lighted throughout by electricity and heated by steam. Her sails and gear, excepting the steering will be worked by steam, and despite the condition of freights, she is looked upon to declare large dividends to her owners. Capt. Crowley and his brother Arthur, who now manage and sail the schooners Mount Hope, Sagamore and Henry W. Cramp, now trading between here and New England ports, are the first to show the ability of vessels when properly run to declare dividends in these hard times.

The enormous craft which will, in a measure, revolutionize coastwise business, is being built by H. M. Bean of Camden, Me., and will be launched early in November. She is 282 feet long on keel, 44 feet breadth of beam and 21 1/2 feet deep of hold. Her poop deck will extend 20 feet forward of the main rigging. The length over all will be 318 feet. The keelson is eight feet high and the sister keelson four and a half feet.

The new craft is to have five Oregon pine masts, each 112 feet long and 29 inches in diameter. The fore topmast is to be 56 feet long and 20 inches in diameter, and the other four topmasts are each to be 56 feet long and 18 inches in diameter. The jibboom is to be 75 feet long and 20 inches in diameter. The bowsprit has 30 feet outboard and is 30 inches square. The fore, main, mizzen and spanker booms are to be 48 feet long and 14 inches in diameter, while the jigger boom is to be 78 feet long and 17 inches in diameter.

The vessel will have two 6000-pound anchors, with 190 fathoms of two and three-eighth inch chains. Patent engines, windlasses and screw-steering gear will be fitted. John J. Wardell designed the vessel, and, in addition to being a large carrier, she is built with a design to great speed.

The vast changes that have taken place in shipbuilding in the last 15 years are made very apparent by the construction of this huge craft, when it is known that even a schooner to carry 1000 tons of coal was a thing almost unheard of. With the exception of the schooner Governor Ames, this craft will be the only five-masted schooner afloat.—Philadelphia Press.

Sewing Birds.

Most curious are the sewing or tailor birds of India—little yellow things not much larger than one's thumb. To escape falling a prey to snakes and monkeys the tailor bird picks up a dead leaf and flies up into a tree, and with a fibre for a thread and its bill for a needle, sews the leaf to a green one hanging from the tree; the sides are sewed up, an opening to the nest thus formed being left at the top. That a nest is swinging in the tree no snake or monkey or even man would suspect.—London Science Sitings.

UNCLE SAM'S CHIEF POISONER.

Not Generally Known That This Government Maintains One.

In a little house in South Washington is located a Federal institution without which the Smithsonian Institution and National museum could not exist. It is the department of the chief poisoner, Mr. Joseph Farmer.

The office of chief poisoner was not unusual in countries ruled by despots, but it may be a surprise to many to learn that such an office is maintained by our republican form of administration. However, Mr. Farmer, unlike his cotemporaries in Turkey, Spain, Arabia, etc., is not engaged in putting obnoxious and exuberant statesmen out of the way, but in placing the objects on exhibit in the institution and museum beyond the reach of thieves, rust and cockroaches. Everything that is received by these institutions, whether it is a rare book, a Philippine bolo, or a stuffed and mounted animal, is sent to Mr. Farmer to be poisoned. He is an expert in the preparation and use of preservative compounds. For stuffed animals and birds he finds that arsenical compounds bring the best results. Every object of metal receives a coating of something that prevents rust, while fabrics, basketry, silks, furs, etc., are poisoned in much the same manner as stuffed animals. Even the shelves and cases of the Museum, in which the objects are placed, have passed through Mr. Farmer's hands and have been treated to a fluid that causes a bug, moth or cockroach to think that he is walking over a red hot iron the minute he strikes their surface. By these means the museum is forever freed from vermin.

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With local applications, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarh is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take internal remedies. Hall's Catarh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surface. Hall's Catarh Cure is not a quick medicine. It was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years, and is a regular prescription. It is composed of the best tonics known, combined with the best blood purifiers, acting directly on the mucous surface. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing catarh. Send for testimonials, free.

Sold by Dr. F. J. Cheney & Co., Props., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, price, 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

A sea anemone taken from the Firth of Forth in 1828 lived and flourished in captivity until 1887.

FTS permanently cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. \$2 trial bottle and treatise free. Dr. R. H. KLINE, Ltd., 931 Arch St., Phila., Pa.

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Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething, relieves all the greatest inflammation, cures wind colic, 25c a bottle.

Auckland, the most important town in New Zealand, has 60,000 inhabitants.

Piso's Cure for Consumption is an infallible medicine for coughs and colds.—N. W. SAMUEL, Ocean Grove, N. J., Feb. 17, 1900.

Slippery customers are often to be found in shoe stores.

The Handsomest Calendar.

of the season (in ten colors) six beautiful heads (on six sheets, 10x12 inches), reproductions of paintings by Moran, issued by General Passenger Department, Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, will be sent on receipt of 25 cents. Address F. A. Miller, General Passenger Agent, Chicago.

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No matter what ails you, headache to a cold, you will never get well until your bowels are put right. CASCAER'S help nature, cure you without a gripe or pain, produce easy natural movements, cost you just 10 cents to many, relieve your health back. CASCAER'S Candy Cathartic, the genuine, put up in metal boxes, every tablet has C. C. C. stamped on it. Beware of imitations.

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"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—I was in an awful state for nearly three years with a complication of female troubles which three physicians called by different names, but the pains were all the same. I dreaded the time of my



MABELLE L. LAMONTE.

monthly periods for it meant a couple of days in bed in awful agony. I finally made up my mind that the good doctors were guessing; and hearing from different friends such good reports of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, I tried that. I bless the day I did, for it was the dawning of a new life for me. I used five bottles before I was cured, but when they were taken I was a well woman once more. Your Compound is certainly wonderful. Several of my friends have used it since, and I say the best do I ever hear from. Use it.—Yours, MABELLE L. LAMONTE, 222 E. 31st St., Chicago, Ill.—\$6000 forfeit if above testimonial is not genuine.

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Mrs. Pinkham advises sick women free. Address, Lynn, Mass.

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I pay the best prices. Write for price list. J. I. Galt, East Aurora, N. Y.

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The SUNNY SOUTH teems with the life of the great south. The genial sunshine warms everything into activity, and the season is never cold enough to check the hand of industry. The paper comes fragrant with the breath of the magnolia and pine, and gives out the very air of the orange, palm and bay. The beauty and pathos, the romance and mystery of the land where the corn stores up the golden sunshine and the cotton whitens in the moonlight, will be given in the well-filled columns of this fascinating weekly.

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