

The Bloomfield Times.

HOUSE, FARM AND GARDEN.

We invite communications from all persons who are interested in matters properly belonging to this department.

Horse Biscuit.

The Prussian Government, immediately after the war with France, set about inventing some kind of forage for horses which should be more portable and nutritious than any before in use. After numerous experiments this seems to have been accomplished in the preparation of a biscuit consisting of thirty parts of flour, thirty parts "dextrinated" pea meal, thirty parts rye flour, and ten parts linseed meal. This may be varied as follows: forty parts of oat flour, forty parts of dextrinated pea meal, and twenty parts of linseed meal; or twenty parts of pea meal, twenty parts of wheat flour, twenty parts corn meal, twenty parts of rye flour, ten parts of grated bread and ten parts of linseed meal. As the result of experiments it is found that four pounds of these mixtures, well cooked, possess a nutritive value equal to that of a large ration of oats of about three times the weight. So the Prussian administration of the army of occupation, taking the result observed by the cavalry officers and the veterinary surgeons as a basis, admits that three and a half pounds of biscuits are worth twelve pounds of oats. Experiments also demonstrated that horses fed on twelve pounds of oats did not support the fatigue to which they were submitted as well as those that received the three and a half pounds of biscuits. The biscuits can be strung on wire, and rations for four or five days can easily be carried hung from the saddle. Their merits are said to have been thoroughly tested, and not the least recommendation is that they serve quite as well for men as they do for horses, and the Prussians have been obliged to adopt measures to prevent the troops from consuming the forage intended for horses.

Production of Weeds.

Professor Prentiss, of Cornell University, has estimated the annual crop of seed produced by single plants of some of our common weeds. He finds that the dandelion produces 2,000; the oxeye daisy, 13,000; dock, 13,000 burdock, 24,000; mayweed, 40,000; red poppy, 50,000. Some time ago, according to the Journal of Pharmacy, Mr. T. G. Davis chose a plant of thorn apple (Datura) with the intention of collecting its leaves and seeds. The plant however, was destroyed by a storm in September, at which time it had produced 125 flowers and capsules; and as each capsule contained between 700 and 735 seeds, the total yield of the plant was over 90,000 seeds. Upon reading such figures the only wonder is that weeds can be kept down at all. The fact is, however, that great numbers of the seed fall to plant themselves, and many remain in the ground several years, only to spring up as weeds when the ground is stirred. In evidence of the latter fact Professor Prentiss refers to a tobacco field where the seed has been allowed one year to ripen and fall. For ten years afterward tobacco appeared in that field from this seeding.

Farming on a Grand Scale.

John Finnell, one of Napa's princely farmers has recently purchased 19,000 acres of land in Tehama County, at a cost of \$350,000. The property is known as the Thomas estate, and has on it a \$25,000 residence and about \$100,000 worth of fencing. With the land improvements, Mr. Finnell gets 2,200 head of cattle, 1,240 hogs, and a lot of horses, mules, etc. This entitles Mr. Finnell to a place in the front rank of the great farmers of California. His home place in this valley, comprising 1,000 acres, and besides keeping 500 of it in a high state of cultivation, he has for the past four years been paying \$35,000 per year rent for a large tract of farming land in Colusa County, from which he has derived a handsome income. We understand it to be the intention of Mr. Finnell to remove with his family to his new home in Tehama County, next spring. The new property has never been put under the plow, and it is thought will prove very productive.—From the Napa Register.

Copperas is the most necessary item of the three, for a generous use of this disinfectant is of the greatest importance. Many persons give preference to chloride of lime, which although more odorous, is no more efficacious. The copperas is very inexpensive; can conveniently be kept in crystals, and should be dissolved before using. It will destroy unpleasant odors, disinfect foul places, and if faithfully used, will no doubt lessen the liability to attacks of malarial diseases. We have read of a whitewash made yellow with copperas, and a free use of the crystals scattered in corners and crevices as a vermin antidote and exterminator.

1878. FALL. 1878.

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All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment and those having claims will present them duly authenticated for settlement to
GEO. A. EBERT,
WM. D. EBERT,
Administrators,
or their Att'y, J. E. JUNKIN,
August 27, 1878.

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