The Bloomfield Times.

HOUSE, FARM AND GARDEN.

We invite communications from all persons who are interested in matters properly belonging to this de-

Molasses Cookles.

One cupful of molasses, 1 cupful of sugar, two-thirds cupful of lard or butter, 1 egg, 1 teaspoonful of alum, 1 teaspoonful saleratus, and 2 teaspoonfuls of ginger. These ingredients will make 90 to 110 cookies.

The east is increasing her erea of wheat. According to "The Maine Farmer," one farmer in Somerset county, Maine, will have this year nearly one hundred bushels of wheat, where but two years ago he had but thirty, and in his neighborhood are one hundred acres of wheat. In one neighborhood in South Thomaston, one thousand bushels of wheat were harvested this season, where only six years ago scarcely any wheat was raised.

There would seem to be no end to big crops this year. In the North we have the largest live stock and corn crops for many years, and now comes along the South with an enormous cotton crop, amounting to 4,811,265 bales, against 4,485,423 in 1877. This is the largest crop since that of 1859-60, the greatest ever known, and it is only a little behind that. Of the total supply, 3,840,166 bales were exported while 1,546 298 bales were taken for home consumption. The takings for home use were largely in excess of those of previous years.

Proved by Photography.

Proof that the top of a wagon wheel, when running along on the ground, moves faster than the bottom, is given, according to the Scientific American, by instantaneous photographs of a wagon in rapid motion. It is obvious, says the writer, that an instantaneous photograph of a wheel, revolving upon its axles in the air, will show all parts of the wheel with equal distinctness. But if the wheel has a progressive motion, and any one portion has a greater motion than its corresponding part, above or below, there must be a liability to blurring in that part of the picture. These pictures are taken with so brief an exposure that the horse, though moving at a 2:24 gait, sharply out-lined. The wheels of a driver's sulky, however, have a different tale to tell. The lower third of each wheel is sharp and distinct as if absolutely at rest. Not so with the top, that part of the wheel showing a perceptible movement during the two thousandth part of a second of the exposure of the plate. The upper ends of the spokes and rim are blurred.

How Raisins are Prepared.

A strip of land bordering on the Mediterranean, somewhat less than one hundred miles in length, and in width not exceeding five or six, is the raisin-producing territory of Spain. Beyond these boundaries the muscatel grape, from which the raisin is principally produced, may grow and thrive abundantly; but the fruit must go to the market or the wine-press. When the grape begins to ripen in August, the farmer carefully inspects the fruit as it lies on the warm, dry soil, and one by one clips the clusters as they reach perfection. In almost all vineyards slants of masonry are prepared, looking like unglazed hot-beds and covered with fine pebbles, on which the fruit is exposed to dry. But the small proprietor prefers not to carry his grapes so far. It is better, he thinks, to deposit them nearer at hand, where there is less danger of bruising, and where bees and wasps are less likely to find them. Day by day the cut bunches are examined and turned, till they are sufficiently cured to be borne to the house, usually on the hill-top, and there deposited in the empty wine-press till enough has been collected for the trimmers and packers to begin their work. At this stage great piles of rough-dried raisins are brought forth from the winepress and heaped upon boards. One by one the bunches are carefully inspected, those of the first quality being trimmed of all irregularities and imperfect berries, and deposited in piles by themselves. So, in turn, are treated those of the second quality; while the clippings and inferior fruit are received into baskets at the feet of the trimmers, and reserved for the home consumption. A quantity of small wooden trays are now brought forward, just the size of a common raisin box, and about an inch deep. In these, papers are neatly laid, so as to lap over and cover the raisins evenly deposited in the trays, which are then subjected to heavy presure in the trays, which are then subjected to presure in a rude press. After pressing, the raisins are dropped into the boxes for market.

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