

The Bloomfield Times.

HOUSE, FARM AND GARDEN.

Shrinkage of Wheat in a Granary.

Prof. B. M. Shelton, of the Kansas Agricultural College, says:

"In the fall of 1879 I prepared a long sack, which was filled with exactly two hundred pounds of wheat, and sunk it deeply into a bin containing one hundred and fifty bushels of winter wheat. Here the sack remained exactly six months, when it was taken up and again weighed, this second weighing showing a slight fraction over two hundred and one half pounds, as the weight of the sack of grain. This seemed to show that wheat does not shrink in the bin. I have just now finished a repetition of this experiment, giving almost precisely the same results as those above detailed. On Nov. 30, 1880, a similar long sack was sunk in a bin of grain, where it was allowed to remain until July 14, last, or exactly seven months and a day, when it was taken up and again weighed, this second weighing showing a full two hundred and one pounds of grain. I am not going to offer an explanation of this increased weight of a half pound in the one case and one pound in the other. This fact becomes all the more remarkable when we consider that our Kansas winters are among the driest seasons found anywhere. These experiments do seem to show that wheat does not shrink from evaporation in the bin when put in perfectly dry. The loss of weight from wintering over wheat, of which I have heard farmers complain, must then be charged to the rats and mice or the leaky condition of the granary."

How to Take Care of Harness.

On this subject the Boston Journal of Chemistry gives this sensible advice:—A harness that has been upon a horse's back several hours in hot or rainy weather becomes wet; if not properly cleaned, the damage to the leather is irreparable. If, after being taken from the horse in this condition, it is hung up in a careless manner, traces and reins twisted into knots, and the saddle and bridle hung askew, the leather when dried retains the shape given it while wet, and when forced to its original form damage is done to the stitching and the leather.—The first point to be observed is to keep the leather soft and pliable. This can be done only by keeping it well charged with oil or grease; water is a destroyer of these, but mud and saline moisture from the animal are even more destructive. Mud, in drying, absorbs the grease and opens the pores of the leather, making it a prey to water, while the salty character of the perspiration from the animal injures the leather, stitching and mountings. It therefore follows that, to preserve the harness, the straps should be washed and oiled whenever it has been moistened by sweat or soiled by mud. If a pair of harness is thoroughly cleaned twice a year, and when unduly exposed treated as we have recommended, the leather will retain its softness for many years.

About Shoe Heels.

It is said that a man can always tell a sensible woman by the heel of her boot. There is the high heel, hooked in under the instep, which indicates giddiness, bad taste and a want of culture; then there is the medium heel, which indicates a desire for fashion, and yet an objection to excess; then there is the lady-like, small heel, slightly curved, not quite so low as the heel of a man's boot, but yet low enough, and placed in the proper position for comfort; that indicates good breeding, good sense and delicacy. Young men should know this, and judge accordingly.

The tent caterpillars can be easily destroyed if, when they are first seen to form the web, you ascend the tree to where they are located either after sundown or early in the morning, and with an old glove on your hand just roll them in their web and squelch them. If there are any of these pests on the end of small twigs which trouble you to reach, tie a cotton rag to the end of a long stick, saturate it with kerosene oil and set it on fire; apply this to the web and sure destruction is the result.

Grow more grass; this recuperates the land, and at the same time yields a profitable return.

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August 17, 1880.

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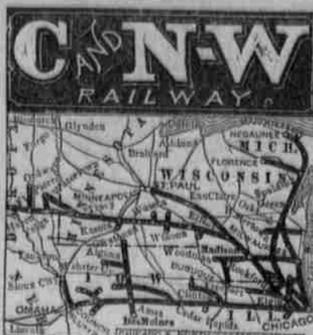
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