

# THE KANSAS FARMER

ESTABLISHED, 1863.

TOPEKA, KANSAS, JANUARY 21, 1880.

VOL. XVII, NO.

## THE KANSAS FARMER.

HUDSON & EWING, Editors and Proprietors  
Topeka, Kansas.

### Communications.

#### Keep Good Stock.

While at the stock-yards the other day, I was more impressed with the difference in the quality of the steers than ever. There were some raw-boned, coarse fellows that must have taken at least a crib of corn to get them even fit to ship. Then in the same car load some little "runts" or "scalawags," that were not even fit to ship, but they were not paying for the corn they eat, and their owners were glad to get rid of them at any price. I could not help thinking what a difference there would have been if they had all been a good, smooth, well fattened lot of steers. If they had only had two or three good crosses of Short-horn blood in them, the owner might have received almost double for them and would not have taken any more feed at the same age, besides being larger, better fattened, and so much difference in handling them. The difference in handling can hardly be estimated.

The fine cattle at the fairs are under better control than horses, but take a lot of Texas bulls, steers, or cows, into the show-ring, if you can. Bless me! Texas bulls in a show-ring! What specimens! And even if you did succeed, what a contrast in the beefy portion! and as to the quality, certainly every one would say, give me a piece of Short-horn meat, it looks so nice and savory, and certainly it is so, for they have been bred for beef purposes for over a century.

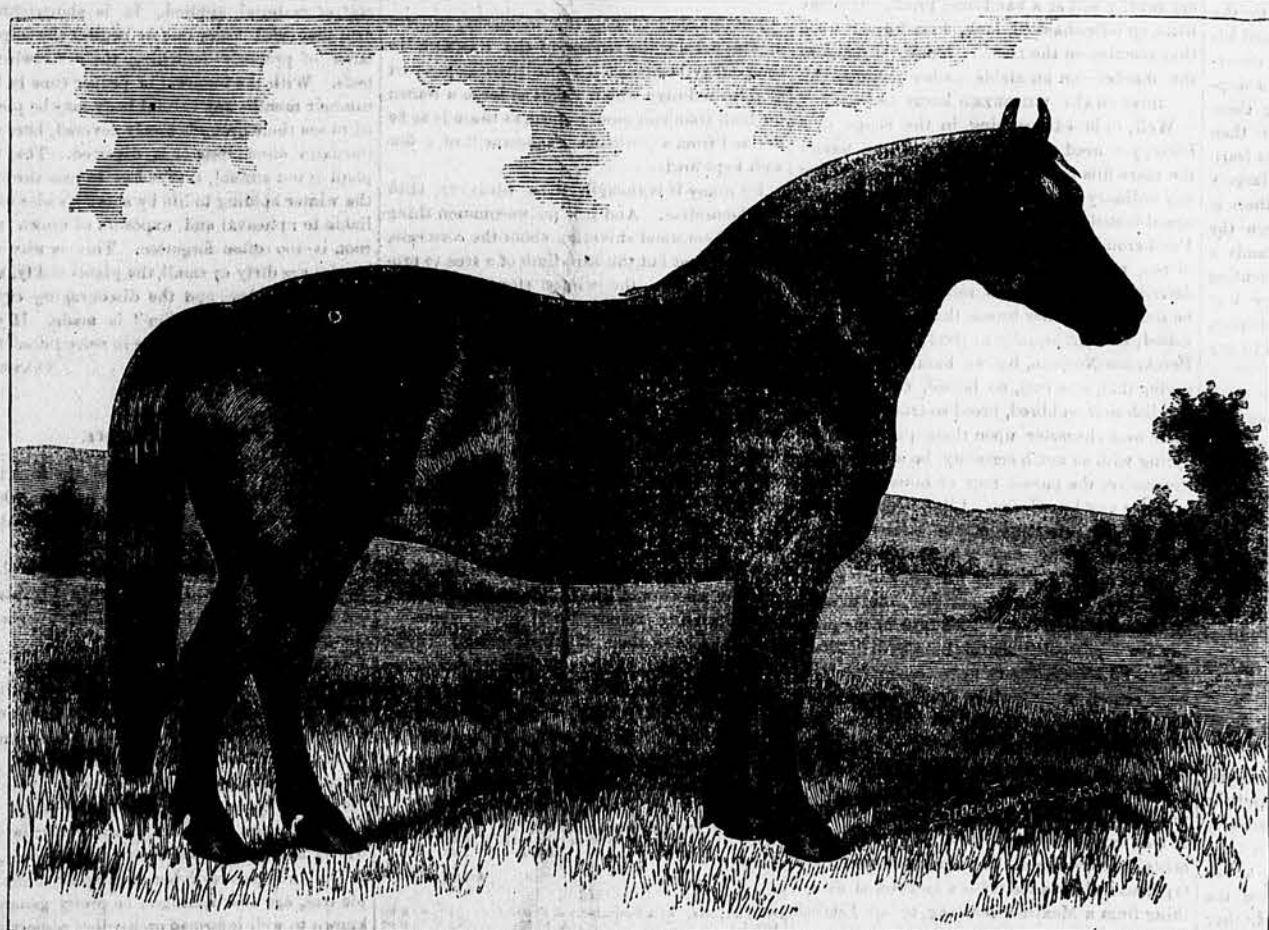
Some one will say, oh, these fine Short-horns of yours are like house-plants—you have to take so much care of them. They must be stabled and pampered all the time to make them look like they do. It is true they pay well for these extra attentions, but it is not indispensable.

My father, who was a breeder of Short-horns for thirty-five years in central Illinois, never stabled any of the cows except what he was milking, and the calves at night. (And right here let me say he did not keep anything but Short-horns, and there was a large family of children.) I have a nice little herd, that I got the start from his herd, and I only have sheds with hay roofs for them, and they are doing well. Last winter I fed and kept them with my native cattle, and they came out in the spring looking much better than my natives. I do not think they will stand as much "roughing it through" as those that have been used to it for years, but they will do well with any thrifty farmer, one that cares and provides for his stock, and you all know it saves feed to have warm and comfortable quarters.

This "roughing it through" puts me in mind of some of my neighbor's cattle, or, more particularly, some of his pigs. He calls them the "Fifth-Row" hogs,—hogs that will reach through a crack of a fence and eat corn off of the fifth row. I live a mile from him, and that across the prairie, and they got to bothering me. After having my patience exhausted, I shut them up. He came after them on horseback, with a blacksnake whip in his hand, and took them across the prairie, with the horse on the loose, so I concluded a better name for them would be *Three-Minute* hogs. These hogs look like they may have been tolerable fair hogs at one time, but in-and-in breeding, with but little care, has run them out. So it is with anything else.

I see grade heifer calves are in quite a demand. I am glad to see it. Now breed them to thoroughbred bulls, and you will soon have a nice herd of cattle, and a profitable one. By all means never use a bull that has less than four thoroughbred crosses, however nice he may look, for this is not the way to grade up your cattle.

We were afraid of the Texas cattle trade a few years ago, but until Short-horns get to doing better than they do now, we need not be uneasy. But Colorado can, and they are taking fine bulls there by the hundreds. There is now there a company called the Anglo-American Company, formed in London, with Mr. Geo. Childs secretary, and Mr. B. B. Groom, the company's manager in America, to raise beef cattle for the London market. They have bought 22,000 acres of land in Colorado (if I mistake not) for pasture, and have 120 thoroughbred Short-horn bulls, and are getting 2,000 heifers and 2,000 steers. So we have to compete with Colorado. Instead of Texas, and



PERCHERON MARE ADELAIDE 519.

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must go to raising steers to compete with them to ship to Europe, for it will not pay to ship poor animals.

Carbondale, Kansas.

#### Pratt County.—Its Water Power, Etc.

Owing to the very recent settlement of this county, there has been very little demand for mills, but a good flouring mill is in operation on Turkey creek, which crosses the southwest corner of the county just enough to furnish a good mill site within the county. The Ninescah furnishes power to run a great number of mills, as good sites may be found nearly every mile where a mill can be run nearly every day in the year, and "no postponement on account of the weather," the water being supplied by springs and is of the purest quality. A corn-starch factory, or paper mill, or any work requiring clear water, would be a success on the Ninescah.

There is a mill-dam nearly completed at Saratoga, and it was intended to put up a good flouring mill with three run of burrs, the past season, but there was not crop enough so furnish it employment, so operations were suspended until next season.

With such manufacturing facilities and one of the finest routes to be found for a railroad for forty miles right up this side, it is only a question of short time until a road will be built from the east to west, passing along the Ninescah valley. Such a road is needed to develop the resources (at present lying dormant) in Pratt and adjoining counties. Of these resources I will speak further in future letters.

R. SPRINGER.

#### Sheep the Best Stock On the Farm.

We are to have a meeting of the sheep and wool men of Pawnee and adjoining counties, at Larned, on Saturday, July 17th, for the purpose of organizing a wool growers' association for southwest Kansas. The sheep interest is greatly on the increase in these several counties, and we think an association of the kind will greatly benefit the new beginner as well as those who have had experience.

We will report proceedings after organizing, and recommend every member to subscribe for the *KANSAS FARMER* and report his success, with any suggestions in handling or breeding, or any useful hints that he may deem of interest to others, once a month or oftener, through your paper. It would obviate the necessity of answering so many inquiries to individuals, which is quite a tax upon such as are engaged in the business.

I was really interested and gratified with the report of the self constituted visiting commit-

tee as published in the last week's *FARMER*, and a similar report once a month would be of more benefit to the sheep interest than a car load of such pamphlets as we see distributed round the country. Any and all questions can be asked and answered through the *FARMER* without inconveniencing any one, and at the same time be of great benefit to all concerned, and make our paper more interesting.

We feel satisfied that sheep must be the prevailing stock kept in this vast region of country. We cannot see how farmers are to keep up without some kind of stock to consume their rough products and turn them into money, and at the same time keep up the condition of their land. Sheep are so easily handled in a settled district, both summer and winter, and consumers of every product, even weeds, turning all into money and manure, with so little cost for freight and transportation, that from long experience we consider them far superior to cattle or hogs, and horses we consider little else than a nuisance. From one to two hundred loads of sheep manure is quite an item for a farmer to spread upon his land every spring in place of clover.

W. J. COLVIN.

#### Blue Grass.

My friend, D. W. Kingsley, of this county, in a very interesting letter in the *FARMER* of Dec. 24, asks for information in regard to alfalfa.

I have a small plot of alfalfa, about two-thirds of an acre, sown in March, 1875. It is on what might be termed, second bottom—a soil having the productiveness of the better qualities of upland. I have cut it twice for seed, and have grazed it with cattle to some extent; one season allowing the cattle to tramp it very thoroughly; it being on the way from one pasture to another. But the tramping seemed to have no effect upon it. Since Mr. Kingsley is seeking a forage plant to come in after the prairie grass is killed by frosts, alfalfa will be of little service, as it is about as easily frosted as common red clover.

Why not sow blue grass, Bro. Kingsley? If you have any doubt that blue grass will not "get a good setting," as good as any you ever saw anywhere, call on Maj. Osborne, at Coffeyville, and take a look at his splendid blue grass pastures, and be convinced. Maj. Osborne has a blue grass sod as fine as I ever saw in Kentucky. And I predict that within twenty years the blue grass pastures of southern Kansas will rank second to none in the Union.

If we can grow blue grass, and we can, it is but a waste of time to attempt growing timothy, alfalfa, or anything else for pastures; for there is no known plant equal to blue grass for con-

tinuous pasturage. It is good, properly used, throughout the year. I have had fair success in growing blue grass on prairie sod, where it had been grazed closely. Where the seed is sown on plowed ground, I doubt the propriety of pasturing it until it has made a compact sod, otherwise, much of it would be pulled up by the root.

I notice that blue grass seed is quite cheap this winter. A Louisville paper of last week quotes it at 55 to 65 cents per bushel.

A. A. STEWART.  
Radical, Montgomery Co., Kas.

#### Sheep-Raising and Wool-Growing.

BY R. S. B.—ARTICLE II.

Sheep-raising and wool-growing is fast becoming one of the principal industries of the state. From 1870 to 1878 the number of sheep in the state has increased from 17,773 to 243,760. The increase from 1875 to 1876 was 37,738, and from 1877 to 1878 the increase was 54,074. This goes a great way to show that the farmers and stock-raisers of Kansas are beginning to realize the fact that sheep pay a much larger percentage on the capital invested than either cattle, horses or hogs.

When a man has decided to make a start in the sheep business, his first question naturally is, What breed of sheep can I do the best with? The most important breed of sheep as regards the wool, is the Merino (*Ovis Hircania*), in modern times brought to the greatest perfection in Spain (its originals probably formed the flocks of the patriarchs thousands of years ago). They are excellent travelers, and possess in a remarkable degree the mellow softness under the skin which Bakewell considers an indication of a disposition to fatten in any breed.

Other fine wool varieties of the Merino are the Saxon, Silesian and Flemish breeds, the last abundant in France and the Netherlands, and are generally hornless, high on the legs, and mixed with the Barbary, long-legged variety.

In Saxony great care is taken with the sheep. When the lambs are weaned, each in his turn is laid upon a table that his form may be minutely observed. The finest are selected for breeding, and receive a first mark. When they are one year old and before shearing them, another close examination of those previously marked takes place. Those in which no defect can be found receive a second mark, and the rest are condemned. The utmost care is also taken in housing and feeding the sheep, evidently aiming rather at a fine staple of wool than a heavy

#### A Juvenile Corn Experiment.

When I was a boy on my father's farm, I once undertook a little experiment on my own account, and carried it through secretly, for the purpose of enjoying the surprise it might create. With this view, as soon as father got through planting his corn, I selected and marked off, unknown to him, a small space near the center of the field. To each stalk of the corn planted in this space I gave special attention, for the purpose of finding out how much each grain planted could be made to produce by giving it extra manure and extra hoeing. When the corn was gathered, the difference between my pet stalks and the rest of the field, attracted my father's attention, and I remember how puzzled he was in trying to account for it. When, at length, I disclosed the secret, he instantly inquired how much extra work and manure I had applied. Tell me this exactly, said he, and I can tell the value of the experiment. I told him I had simply doubled what he had given to the rest of the field. After examining the result and comparing it with the rest of the field, he found that his yield was at the rate of forty-four bushels to the acre, and mine at the rate of sixty-five bushels. Now, said he, if extra culture and extra manure are good for single stalks it must be good for the whole crop. So the next year he adopted my plan for the whole crop, and found that the gain was even larger by several bushels than in my experiment; and he also found that the cost of each bushel was reduced about six cents.

This little experiment of my early life has since been confirmed by large experience as well as by observation, and I am led to believe that there is, not only in corn, but in most of our crops, a greater power of development under experiment than we are at present aware of.—Conrad Wilson, in the *Elmira Husbandman*.

#### German Millet.

The experience of a correspondent of the *Ohio Farmer* with this forage crop may be of interest to some further west who are on the outlook for the best forage plants to supply winter feed for stock. He prefers German millet to Hungarian.

"The hay is of a much better quality and it yields more per acre. It is very hard to thresh the seed off of it; can scarcely be done by tramping it with the horses, does not shell off in the least in handling, and is perfectly safe in feeding, as there is no danger of getting too large a quantity together to hurt any animal by eating it. The Hungarian shells out badly, and from that cause stock are liable to get too much seed at one time, so that it may prove hurtful to them. The millet is much superior in foliage, in nutriment, and in yield. I sowed twelve acres, last spring, and owing to the cold and drouth, it made a very poor start; yet we cut thirty-five tons of good hay. It never should be sowed until the ground gets thoroughly warm, and should be in the best condition possible to give the seed a good and quick start. It is longer in maturing than the Hungarian; it is not hurt by getting wet after cutting, as is timothy or clover; does not break up and get rusty when dry. In short, it is the best hay a man can raise, and the cheapest, considering the enormous yield and its good feeding qualities."

Corn loses one-fifth by drying, and wheat one-fourteenth. From this the estimate is made that it is more profitable for farmers to sell unshelled corn in the fall at seventy-five cents than at one dollar a bushel the following summer, and that wheat at \$1.25 in December is equal to \$1.50 in the succeeding June. In the case of potatoes—taking those that rot and are otherwise lost, together with the shrinkage—there is but little doubt that between October and June the loss to the owner who holds them is not less than thirty-three per cent.

Horses contract abits very easily when properly managed, and transmit them to their offspring. The balky man makes a balky horse: "Tis easier to prevent than cure."

The value of imports of eggs and poultry in Britain amounts to \$400,000.



## The Sheep Business in Kansas

J. W. BYRAM.

### A Test Record for Dairy Cows.

... Then, any uninitiated  
tration, the ... may be able to ... as much  
tip of his tail we ... be ... and  
ough thirteen and seventy-two hundred  
which represents 1,372, the number

**Percheron-Norman Horses the Most Profitable for the Farmer to Raise.**

### Remedy for Scours in Sheep.

The number of sheep in Lyons county has increased very rapidly in the last two years. So far as I can learn they are doing well this winter. I have not lost a sheep or lamb this winter. I have good shelter for my sheep and feed three kinds of food daily, viz: shock-corn and prairie hay, and with oats, millet, or hungarian, with an occasional feed of pumpkins or turnips. As I am only a beginner in the sheep business, I am always glad to see something in the FARMER on that subject.

W. T. WALTERS.

### Fattening Stock.

On the last day of the show a slaughtering test was improvised, open to all animals, without regard to sex, age or breeding. The limited time, and the consequent failure of many to witness the results, robbed this feature of the exhibition of much of the interest which would otherwise have gathered about it. The figures thus elicited afford important suggestions to the breeders of blooded animals, as well as to those who feed for market. One fact was particularly noticeable—the committee of experts who placed the prizes on slaughtered sheep, decided in substance, that the fattest sheep did not afford the best mutton—which has long been apparent to the careful student of ovine history in the United States. This, however, is not to be taken as an objection to sheep of remarkable fattening propensities. These are needed for reclaiming and improving the less precocious and more numerous breeds, which will create a demand for anti-herd law custodians. All herds are

This slaughtering test opens the way for much information which the masses of feeders are still in doubt. Just to what condition of fatness, as well as to what age, sheep can be most economically fed, as well as to the time in which the forcing shall be continued—the kind, variety and quantity of that food within the reach of the average farmer—are all matters of prime importance, wholly and properly within the scope of inquiry barely acted upon at the late exhibition—and if the reports of the experts do not prove of great value by way of additional information in the line of cheap meat production, those gentlemen will have failed to properly improve the opportunity afforded them for accomplishing a great public good.

## Poultry.

## Profit From Poultry.

For the encouragement of some of the sister farmers who would like to help themselves to a little spending money, I will give a statement of what I have done the past season. In the first place I had 30 common hens. I purchased two Light Brahmah roosters. Beginning the first of March I had the success below stated. I raised clear of all loss 500 chickens. We allowed the eggs and chickens used in the family to balance the cost of keeping. It is as follows:

STOCK.		
Jan. 1, 1879.	By 5 dozen hens at \$2.00	\$10 00
Feb.	" " 2 L. B. Roosters at \$3 each.	4 00
Dec. 1,	" " 2 " " at \$1 each	2 00
Total cost		\$16 00
SOLD.		
March 1, 1879.	By 2 dozen hens at \$3 00	\$ 6 00
Oct. 1,	" " 2 L. B. Roosters at \$3 00	6 00
Nov. 15,	" " 2 L. B. Roosters at \$1 00	2 00
Up to January 1,	1880, 30 dozen young chickens	16 34
Also	" " 110 dozen eggs	16 34
Total sales		\$34 67
BY STOCK ON HAND.		
Jan. 1, 1880.	6 dozen hens at \$2 50 per dozen	15 00
	" 2 L. B. Roosters at \$1 00 each	2 00
To net profit		\$56 67
		\$111 67
		\$111 67

Now let me here state that without help and encouragement from the "gude man" it will be hardly possible to obtain the above success. As a rule the chickens are mostly left to the wives and daughters. This is right, for their patience and gentle manner is most admirably adapted to the business. But they need help. The old rubbish must be removed, weeds and grass must be kept down around the places intended for the chickens to range, otherwise they will afford a harbor for rats and other vermin which will destroy the eggs and chickens. Then there must be a house built with boxes for nests. This must be kept clean and neat, whitewashed twice a year, and the manure cleaned out three or four times during the winter. Then in the spring little coops must be made for the little chicks. Now all these things cannot well be done by the women, if, like myself, they be lit- tle of stature, and not over-strong, with the house-work to do beside. Now if there be any boys large enough to assist in the work above mentioned, it is just the thing to have them help, not forgetting to give them an interest in the poultry also. Now let the "gude man" en- courage and help the wife and daughters in their attempts, and they will find both pleasure and profit to be derived from a small outlay. But my article is already too long. Please let us hear from others on poultry.

MRS. J. P. WALTERS.

## Horticulture.

### Mulching Strawberries.

Those having plantations to look to for fruit the coming season, should be careful to give

Leavenworth, Kan.

## Fruit Tree Borers.

The two species of borer, peculiar to the apple tree, are now coming to be pretty generally known to well informed orchardists respectively as the "round-headed borer" and the "flat-headed borer." The round-headed borer is scientifically called *Saperda bivittata*, while the other is called *Chrysothothris femoralis*.

Of the two insects just named the round-headed borer is considered by far the most destructive, as it cuts deeply into the wood of the tree, causing it to dwindle and die, leaving the owner, in many cases, without the slightest suspicion as to the true cause of the trouble. The other species usually works just under the bark, though in exceptional cases I have found it deep in the wood. It is not so large as the round-headed species, and, although a veritable pest, its natural disposition to keep near the surface, renders it less injurious to the tree and easier of destruction.

An extended description of these borers is scarcely necessary, as all owners of apple trees in this country must be quite familiar with their general appearance. Borers somewhat similar are found in various forest trees; we often come upon them in cutting or splitting timber, calling them simply "wood worms." They are entirely common in dead trees, though we not unfrequently find them in green, making holes, more or less oval in shape, from the size of a mustard seed to that of a marrow-fat pea. The apple tree borers are "worms" not unlike these in appearance and character; about the only real difference resting in the fact that they work in the apple tree and its near relatives, as the pear and the quince, while the others confine their operations to certain trees of the forest.

The two borers under consideration may be readily distinguished from each other by their characteristics referred to in their common names, one having a round head, but little larger in diameter than its body, while the head of the other is flat and much larger in diameter than any other part of the insect. When fully grown the round-headed borer is about one inch in length, while the flat-headed species, in the same condition, measures in length from one-half to three-fourths of an inch. Each is the larva or young of a beetle, which, though often met with, is not so well known as is the borer, and, therefore, not so invariably dealt with in accordance to its just deserts.

The parent of the round-headed borer is a cinnamon brown beetle, measuring a little more than three-fourths of an inch from end to end and having two white stripes on its back running the entire length of the insect. "Face," "feelers" and legs are white; in truth, white is the prevailing color of the entire underside of the body. It flies at night, but keeps close to the concealed under bark, leaves, etc., during the day, hence one is not likely to see it often while out making special search for it. During the months of April and May it makes its appearance for the season in the cotton states (later, further north), and deposits its eggs on the bark, near the root of the tree. In a few days these eggs hatch out minute worms, which in due time work their way through the bark and in-

The borer found in the peach tree has a large flat head, and looks something like the flat-headed borer of the apple tree, though it is an insect widely different in many respects. It is not even the larva of a beetle, but is produced by a little steel blue moth with yellow markings, which, with wings fully expanded, would about reach across a silver twenty-five cent piece. The female is much larger than the male, and has more yellow upon her body, but less upon her wings. The wings of both have a peculiar construction which distinguishes them from most other moths; they are very narrow, and when at full spread, give the insect somewhat the appearance of a dragon fly or "mosquito hawk." The scientific name of this moth is *Aegeria citrota*.

The peach tree borer works in the forks of the tree, or at the base of the trunk near the earth-line, living as a worm but one year, and coming forth a perfect moth about contemporaneously with the beetles of the apple tree borers. In a word, as far as depositing eggs, hatching, cutting through the bark, etc., is concerned, the natural history of the three insects is the same. The peach tree borer confines its operations mainly to the sap wood of the tree

The symptoms indicating the presence of borers are in the apple, the cuttings or dust sitting down the bark, or, cemented together protruding from the hole as a small brownish plug; in the peach, knots of gum accumulating over the wound. A sickly condition and general decline of the tree is apt to be apparent.

The usual mode of operating against the pests is to watch for their start and cut them out with some sharp instrument while they are yet in the neighborhood of the bark. When already in some distance they may still be destroyed, in many instances, by inserting a slender wire into their holes and forcing it into them until it does the work. Some persons attempt to scald them to death with hot water, but I regard this as decidedly an uncertain remedy. It might be effectual where the worms happened to be very near the surface, but in no other case, of course.

But preventive is always better than cure where it can be successfully employed, and in this case it can. An application of soft soap made at the proper time, will never fail to keep an orchard entirely clear 'of borers. Rub the trees well with it about the base and in all the main forks early in April, and keep them well soaped throughout the egg-depositing season of the insects and nothing more will be needed—not a borer will find its way through the bark. No eggs will be laid upon the soap, and it will make but little difference if they were, for the would not hatch; and even should they hatch the tender young worms would never live to work beyond the influence of the alkali.

The application of this valuable preventive kills two birds with one stone, for while it works death to the insects it gives life to the tree. Nothing is better for trees than a good rubbing of soft soap, for it destroys fungi and cleans and enlivens the bark, and when the rains have washed it down among the roots, it proves a most grateful fertilizer.

## Pruning of Pear Trees

As the pruning season draws near, a few words on pruning the pear may not be amiss. I have one large Louise Bonne de Jersey pear tree, ten years old, growing six feet from the wall. It grows six or eight feet of young wood every year, which I cut back in the month of February to six or eight inches, as recommended by books as well as by acquaintance besides thinning out side branches. As a consequence I had a beautiful tree, but few pears. Last spring I tried a new plan; instead of pruning in February as directed, I waited patiently until the fruit buds were well formed, and then instead of cutting back to a certain length, I left on every fruit bud that I could see, and cut the rest as close as possible. The result was this fall I had bushels of choice pears instead of dozens, and near the top of the tree there was the remarkable bunch of twenty-six pears on a twig eighteen inches long. The pears were a bright greenish yellow when the leaves were down, which by the old system of pruning would have been cut off. It was voted by a jury who witnessed it to be the best they had ever seen.

"Please to give us some instruction as to the best method of picking apples and storing them."

A round basket with a swing handle is the best receptacle for the use of the picker. A wire hook is needed, fastened to the handle, so that the basket may be fastened on a round of the ladder or on any convenient branch; thus both hands of the picker are free to work.

A convenient way of storing apples until packing time, is to take the barrels in which they are to be picked out into the orchard as fast as needed, knock out the heads, place them carefully in the bottom of the barrels, and each evening draw as many as are filled and cover with a stone boat. They will thus occupy very little room, and can easily be tipped out on a bed of straw as fast as they are required for culling over and packing. This is far more satisfactory than barreling from heaps in the orchard.—*Canadian Horticulturist*.



## Patrons of Husbandry.

COUNTY DEPUTIES.—J. T. Stevens, Lawrence, Douglas county; T. B. Tyers, Beatty, Marshall county; E. H. Powell, Augusta, Butler county; C. F. Morse, Alton, Lincoln county; A. J. Pope, Wichita, Sedgewick county; A. P. Reardon, Jefferson Co., Post Office, Dimond, Leavenworth county; S. W. Day, Ottawa, Franklin county; G. A. Hovey, Belleville, Republic county; J. E. Barrett, Greencastle, Washington county; W. W. Cone, Topeka, Shawnee county; J. McComas, Holton, Jackson county; Charles Disbrow, Clay Centre, Clay county; Frank B. Smith, Rush Centre, Rush county; G. M. Summerville, McPherson, McPherson county; J. S. Payne, Cadmus, Linn county; Charles Wyeth, Minneapolis, Ottawa county; F. M. Wierman, Milledale, Morris county; W. J. Andrews, Atchison county; George F. Jackson, Fredonia, Wilson county; D. C. Spurgeon, Leroy, Coffey county; James W. Williams, Peabody, Marion county; R. T. Ewalt, Great Bend, Barton county; G. S. Worley, Eureka, Greenwood county; James McCormick, Burr Oak, Jewell county; L. M. Earnest, Garnett, Anderson county; D. P. Clark, Kirwin, Phillips county; George Fell, Lawrence, Pawnee county; A. Huff, Salt Creek, Sumner county; James Faulkner, Iola, Allen county; J. W. Ellis, Miami county; George Amy, Gladale, Bourbon county; W. D. Covington, Smith county; F. O. Kirtin, J. H. Chandler, Rose, Woodson county; E. F. Williams, Erie, Neosho county; J. O. Vanorad, Winfield, Cowley county; George W. Black, Olathe, Johnson county; Arthur Sharpe, Crawford county; John B. Hill, Fairfax, Osage county; I. S. Fleck, Bunker Hill, Russell county; J. K. Miller, Sterling, Rice county; W. D. Rippling, Severance, Doniphan county; Arthur Sharpe, Crawford county; P. B. Maxson, Emporia, Lyon county; A. M. Switzer, Hutchinson, Reno county; S. N. Wood, Cottonwood Falls, Chase county; G. S. Kneeland, Keene, Wabasha county.

**TO OFFICERS OF SUBORDINATE GRANGES.**  
For the use of Subordinate Granges we have a set of receipt and order books which will prevent accounts getting mixed up or confused. They are 1st, Receipts or Dues, 2nd, Secretary's Receipts, and 3rd, Orders on Treasurer. The set will be sent to any address, postage paid for \$1.00.

We solicit from Patrons, communications regarding the Order. Notices of New Elections, Feasts, Installations and a description of all subjects of general or special interest to Patrons.

## Public Installation of Capital Grange.

There is not a secret society in existence that is capable of conferring so much good, socially, upon its members as the grange; and there has never been a secret society organized whose members have drawn so largely from its social features as the grange.

Happy indeed is the neighborhood where there is a grange in active, working order. Thus thought the invited friends who attended a public installation of Capital Grange in the city last Saturday.

The large hall occupied by this grange was crowded with old and young who had gathered there to enjoy themselves in a social, rational manner. About twenty happy, merry, laughing children were amusing themselves as only children can, and apparently enjoying the day equally as well as the older people.

At 1 o'clock p. m. a bountiful dinner was served, which had been prepared by the lady members of the grange, after which the impressive, interesting and instructive ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. John G. Otis, assisted by Bro. S. H. Downs.

The following officers were installed: Alpheus Palmer, W. M.; S. W. Wilder, O.; W. P. Popenoe, L.; Sister B. A. Otis, Treas.; G. L. Flanders, Sec'y; Louis, Mullholland, Steward; C. Hutchinson, Chap.; John Armstrong, G. K.; Sisters Ella Spencer, Ceres; Alice Swingley, Pomona; Nellie Witwer, Flora; Laurella Thomas, Librarian; Fannie Cole, L. A. A. S. The grange was then called from refreshments to labor, and opened in the usual manner for the transaction of business. The subject of holding a "social" was discussed in all its bearings, and the result was that Capital Grange will hold another one of its annual "socials" some time in February next, the exact time to be fixed at the next meeting. This will be good news to many hundreds in different parts of the state who have yearly attended these noted socials. It is an institution which the citizens of Topeka are justly proud of, and to which a critical public refers with unqualified expressions of pleasure.

Heretofore the proceeds of these socials, which have aggregated hundreds of dollars, have been expended in the purchase of books, until now the grange has a large and varied collection of books, comprising probably the largest grange library in the state. The proceeds of this social, however, will be used as the commencement of a fund for the erection of a grange hall, at some future time.

After a very interesting session, the grange closed. Peace and harmony prevailing.

"SADDLEBAGS."

## Farmers as Law-Makers.

From the address of Judge George, at the laying of the corner stone of the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Starkville, Mississippi, published in the *Southern Live-Stock Journal*:

In a free government, the true emanation of the popular will—the laws and policies should be the result of the average interests, and average thought, and average aspirations of the people. Among the Anglo-Saxons and their descendants, there seems to be an aptitude for free institutions, and this aptitude seems to consist, in a large degree, in the capacity to ascertain what this common and average opinion is, and then to give it effect. This is what may be termed the common sense of the community, and the government—its tendencies and policies—can rarely be higher, nobler or wiser than this common sense demands. In the formation of this average and common opinion—in giving it voice and force in the government, the agriculturists of the state, constituting four-fifths of the people, should exercise a potential influence. They are usually conservative. The methods by which they acquire pecuniary independence are prudence, patience, energy and economy. As a rule, they are opposed to a wasteful and extravagant administration—as tax payers, and not tax receivers, and their influence would be to cut down expenditures to the lowest possible limit consistent with administrative efficiency. Unskilled in political and

party machinery, they would be against all jobs and rings—and bounties to favorites—all expenditures not for the public good.

## Farmers' Insurance.

*Land and Home* gives a synopsis of the last report of the insurance committee of the New York State Grange. There are fifteen associations in the state, each confined to a single county, excepting one, which embraces three small counties. The total amount of risks carried last year was \$5,171,650, and the total expenses and losses for one year and a half were \$4,418.75, making a premium of eight one-hundredths or about one-fifth as much as is charged by stock companies. The expenses of organizing and printing are included in the above amount, and from facts now in possession, it is quite certain that the premium rate will be less this year than last.

The Seneca County Association may be taken as an illustration of how the county organizations work. It was organized in February, 1877, and has now over \$600,000 at risk. Only one assessment has been made; it amounted to \$1,400, and was paid promptly. The association was organized without legal enactment, trusting to the honor of members to pay their assessments. If any should fail to pay, their policies would be cancelled, and they would be expelled from the grange. The plan of organization adopted by the New York Grange provides for the annual election of a president, secretary, treasurer, and board of directors by each county association, the directors to have the entire management of the association, and to be its only authorized insurance agents—the directors to receive two dollars per day for each day's actual service, the salaries of the other officers to be fixed by the board of directors. Each county organization must render a yearly statement of its business, which is published in the annual report of the state grange; further than that the county association is independent. Grangers have an advantage in co-operative enterprises of any sort; the order gives them a cohesive power, without which success is more difficult. But in this matter of self-insurance, farmers can succeed if they but organize rightly and honestly, and upon a simple basis.

## Farmers to the Front.

Whatever may be the shortcomings of the grange organization, it must be admitted that it has already accomplished more to advance the farmers' interest than any other society or association ever established in this country. If it has failed to solve all the knotty problems that vex society at large. If it has failed to accomplish all that was expected of it, the failure has resulted largely from the lack of that unanimity of action so desirable in a popular cause, or from that lack of interest and support which springs from indifference. If farmers, as a class, are a long-suffering people, if they have less influence in shaping the policy of the state and nation than those of other occupations, it is principally because they have never asserted their rights and privileges. The agriculturists are in the majority in this country. The united efforts of the farmers in almost any state in the Union, would control legislation, yet the most unaccountable apathy is seen in every direction. The cities, through their lawyers and capitalists, carry the statute books about in their pockets. A majority of the farmers of any of our states will march to the polls and cast their ballot for a lawyer, a politician, a minister, or any one as their representative, rather than vote to place the best farmer among them in the legislative halls. It is folly to complain of the greed of corporations, of the monopolies of railway companies, or of unequal and burdensome legislation, while farmers themselves voluntarily permit the yoke to be placed upon their necks without a murmur and without an objecting voice.

An examination of the legislation of this state reveals a singular state of affairs, fully illustrating our point, that the farmers are willing to lie down upon their backs, so to speak, before the capitalists and non-producing classes, and have their legs and arms tied in such a manner as to prevent any attempt at fair play or remunerative reciprocity. For instance, the laws of this commonwealth place an expert between the farmer and his customer when he goes to market, subjecting him to insult and annoyance, depriving him of the privilege which is granted to all other classes of men to put up, weigh, measure and assort his own goods? Why should the farmer be thus degraded before his fellow men? If the farmer desires to purchase a pair of shoes or boots, the law makes no provision for an expert to stand between him and the dealer to inform him whether the goods are of standard material, weight, or manufacture. If his daughter buys a dress or shawl, she must run her own risk as to the shopkeeper's representation. His son may purchase pants or coat at full prices, though made of shoddy, or a gold watch, though an alloy of copper and zinc; the law provides him with no expert or umpire or even protection. On the other hand, let the farmer come to market with a load of hay, a cord of wood, a can of milk or a barrel of apples, and some broken-down politician, under sanction of the law, will follow at his heels with a pair of balances, a four-foot pole, a lactometer, or a peck-measure, to see fair play and to earn his legal fee. It is the genius and glory of American jurisprudence to presume all men innocent until proved guilty; yet what is known as the free and independent yeomanry are presumed by the law to need close watching.

Again, in the great battle between vested rights and the rights of the people, between

chartered monopolies and those who are strangled in their grasp, the farmer has taken his portion in the background. Even if the very railroad that cuts across his farm transports a car of grain from Chicago to the seaboard, a distance of one thousand miles, at a less rate than the same corporation would contract to carry the same freight one hundred and fifty miles, yet he enters no protest. If the state spends thousands of dollars in publishing agricultural reports that the newspapers would publish free, and which not one farmer in one hundred ever sees, no cultivator of the soil, no taxpayer in the rural districts, disputes the appropriation. If an agricultural college is founded and an extravagant board of trustees purchase a cheap farm at a high price; if they erect, at enormous cost, accommodations for one thousand students, when they graduate less than twenty-five per year if they spend all their appropriations in unnecessary outlays, having nothing left for practical work, yet no dissenting voice resounds in legislative halls. However it is apparent to the most casual observer that farmers are now coming to the front in far greater numbers than formerly, and with an increase in zeal and earnestness which bids well for the future. Every dweller in the rural districts should resolve to sink local prejudice, to banish petty jealousies and join in associated efforts for the advancement of the common interest. The good work must be commenced in local clubs, farmers' neighborhood gatherings, and in town meetings at the polls and in the primary meetings and caucuses. Little reliance should be placed upon pretentious schemes and great associations for the benefit of practical farmers, where politicians, merchants and patent-right vendors are in control. Farmers' associations should be such both in name and nature.—*Cultivator*.

One of the greatest hindrances and drawbacks to the intellectual development and mental activity of the farmer is his isolation. He is seldom thrown into the society of his neighbors, and is so little brought into contact with society that the mind settles down into a kind of self-satisfied inactivity. There is a need of some stimulus to mental activity, something to awaken thought. The absence of this often leads to a self-possessed, dogmatic way of thinking and speaking, hardly consistent with the fact that there is more to be learned about farming than there is now known; the world is waking up to the fact that farming is a science as well as a routine of toil, a theory as well as a practice.

## Miscellaneous.

## Depth to Break for Wheat.

Not having lived long in a prairie country, and being desirous of making a contract for breaking prairie next spring for sowing wheat the following fall, I was at a loss to know how deep to bind my contractor to break, and consulted with my neighbors. Some said plow deep; others affirm that medium depth is preferable, and yet others tell me that breaking prairie for wheat should be very shallow. Now were I back in the old Empire state, summer following clover sod, I should be capable of deciding this question myself, but as it is I know no better course than to appeal to those of the readers of the FARMER who are experienced in wheat-growing on prairie sod.

I have taken the KANSAS FARMER but a few months and have already found that the investment pays well, and should I get a satisfactory answer to the above, through its columns, I should more than ever believe it necessary to take the FARMER to get on in Kansas.

M. MERRICK,  
Snokome, Kansas.

To insure a good crop of wheat the first season, plow the prairie sod as early in summer as possible, and as shallow as a sharp plow will turn the furrows. The plowing should be done carefully, the sod all cut and turned over, leaving no breaks or "galls." By early shallow plowing the sod is thoroughly rotted, forming a fine seed bed of rich mold for the young wheat. If plowed deep, the air and sun, in the short time between breaking and the cool weather of fall and winter, do not sufficiently decompose and areate the mass of sad earth which has lain in a primitive state for a long period. As a principle in cultivation, deep plowing is correct. But if a crop is expected on new prairie, it must be plowed shallow, for the above reasons. Deepening a tenacious soil without injury to present crops, must be accomplished gradually by deepening the furrow about an inch each year. By this mode a deep, mellow soil will be formed which will resist drought in seasons of little rain, and in wet seasons will drain a large portion of the surplus water from the surface, allowing the roots of plants to spread through the warm upper strata of soil.—[Ed.]

The day is far distant, may it be very far distant, when we shall cease to be an agricultural people. Our pride would revolt at the suggestion that we are not an educational if not an educated people. The progress of the nation introduces to the attention of statesmen complexities that were not dreamt of at the founding of the republic, where three departments, one of war, one of money, and one of diplomacy, were considered sufficient as executive wheels in the machinery of government. This development, this governmental evolution, has been recognized in the organization of four additional departments, and it is high time that it should be further recognized and accepted in the raising of agriculture and education to equal rank and consideration with the departments already established.—*Prairie Farmer*.

## Advertisements.

Our readers, in replying to advertisements in the Farmer, will do us a favor if they will state in their letters to advertisers that they saw the advertisement in the Kansas Farmer.

## SHEEP WANTED.

I want two hundred grade cotswold or Merino ewes, from two to five years old. Must be warranted perfectly sound and healthy. State lowest price and address.  
W. A. FOLLETTE,  
Richmond, Franklin Co., Kas.

## WOOL-GROWERS

Can rely upon immunity from contagious disease in their flocks after use of LADD'S TUBACCO SHEEP WASH. GUARANTEED an immediate cure for scab and prevention of infection by that terror to flock-keepers. GUARANTEED to more than repay the cost of application by increased growth of wool. GUARANTEED to improve the texture of the fleece instead of injury to it as is the result of the use of other compounds. GUARANTEED to destroy vermin on the animal and prevent a return. GUARANTEED to be the most effective, cheap and safe remedy ever offered to American Wool-growers. No flock-master should be without it. I have the most undoubted testimonials corroborative of above. Send for circular and address orders to W. M. LADD, 21 N. Main St., St. Louis, Mo.

## American Berkshire RECORD.

Notice is hereby given that entries in Volume IV of the Record will close December 1, 1879. For entries blanks or further information address  
PHIL M. SPRINGER, Sec.,  
Court House Square, Springfield, Ill.

## THE CENTRAL KANSAS BREEDERS ASSOCIATION.

Offer FOR SALE.  
As good Short-Horn Cattle, Berkshire and Poland China swine as can be found in the West. All orders should be sent to the Secretary of the Association. The Executive Committee of the Society will take such orders, and see that Selections are made that cannot fail to give satisfaction, to the purchasers.

A. W. ROLLINS,  
Secretary Kansas Central Breeders Association,  
Manhattan, Kansas.

## Durham Park Herds

ALBERT CRANE,  
BREEDER OF  
Short-Horn Cattle  
—AND—  
Berkshire Pigs,  
Durham Park, Marion Co., Kansas.

Catalogues free. The largest and best herds in the west. Over 200 head of cattle and like number of pigs. PRICES LOW. Address letters to DURHAM PARK, Marion County, Kansas.

## HOGS.



## Southern Kansas Swine Farm.

THOROUGHbred POLAND-CHINAS and BERKSHIRE Pigs and Hogs for sale. The very best of each breed. Early maturity, large growth, and fine style are marked features of our hogs. Terms reasonable. Correspondence solicited.

RANDOLPH & PAYNE,  
Emporia, Kansas.

## Holstein Cattle.

The largest importers and breeders of Holstein Cattle in America. Also large importers and breeders of Clydesdale horses, and breeders of Hambletonian horses of the most approved strains.

Send for catalogue. Prices reasonable.

SMITHS & POWELL,  
Syracuse, New York.

## Dairy Cattle.

I want to sell my entire herd of thoroughbred Ayrshire cattle, fourteen females and four males. My nursery and fruit farm requires my undivided attention. I will sell those cattle at a bargain. Address  
A. A. ADAMS,  
Garnett, Kas.

## TREES and PLANTS.

If you want to sell

## GRÂPE VINES,

## SMALL FRUITS

and choice varieties of

## PEACHES, PEARS,

## CHERRIES, PLUMS,

## ETC., ETC.,

on commission, I will give you the

## Most Liberal Terms

of the age. Park Nursery & City Gardens, Lawrence, Kas.  
P. P. PHILLIPS.

## Breeders' Directory.

BLUE VALLEY HERD.—Walter M. Morgan, Hereford Cattle and Cotswold Sheep, Irving, Kansas. Choice Young Bulls For Sale.

G. B. BOWWELL, Breckenridge, Mo., breeder of Spanish or Improved American Merino sheep of Hammond stock, noted for hardiness and heavy fleece. 200 rams for sale.

JOSHUA FRY, Dover, Shawnee county, Kansas. Breeder of the best strains of Imported English Berkshire Hogs. A choice lot of pigs from 2 to 8 months old for sale. Prices to suit the times. Correspondence solicited.

D. R. W. H. H. CUNIFF, Pleasant Hill, Cass Co. Mo., breeder of thoroughbred Short-Horn Cattle of fashionable strains. The bull at the head of the herd weighs 8000 pounds. Choice bulls and heifers for sale. Correspondence solicited.

A. KNAPE, Dover, Shawnee Co., Kas., breeder of Pure Short-Horn Cattle, and Berkshire Pigs. Several choice young bulls for sale.

HALL BROS., Ann Arbor, Mich., make a specialty of breeding the choicest strains of Poland-Char Suffolks, Essex and Berkshire Pigs. Present prices less than last year's rates. Satisfaction guaranteed. A few splendid pigs, jills and boars now ready.

## Nurserymen's Directory.

THE KANSAS HOME NURSERIES offer a superior and Large Variety of trees for Western Planters, all the standard and choice varieties of Apples, Peaches, Cherries, Pears, Plums and Quinces. Small Fruits, Vines, Shrubbery, and Ornamental Trees. No. 1 Apple Seedlings. Prices to all applicants. Send stamp for samples. A. H. & H. C. GILMAN, Lawrence, Kansas.

LEE'S SUMMIT AND BELTON NURSERIES, Fruit Trees of the best, and cheapest. Apples, Peaches and Hedge Plants a specialty. Address ROBT. WATSON, Lee's Summit, Jackson Co., Mo.

A. WHITCOMB, Florist, Lawrence, Kansas. Catalogue of Greenhouse and Budding Plants sent free.

MIAMI COUNTY NURSERIES, 11th year, large stock, good assortments; stock first class. Osage hedge plants and Apple trees at lowest rates by car load. Wholesale and retail prices listed. Send for catalogue. E. F. CADWALLADER, Louisville, Ky.

## Dentist.

A. H. THOMPSON, D. D. S., Operative and Surgeon Dentist, No. 189 Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas.

TEETH extracted without pain, by Nitrous Oxide gas, or laughing gas, at DR. STULTZ'S Dental Rooms, over Funk's Clothing Store, Kansas City.

60 Queen Anne and photo cards, illuminated and perfumed, in case 10c Globe Co., Northford, Ct.

60 new styles chromo and floral cards in case 10c; 80 agents' samples 10c; Stevens Bros., Northford Ct.

## FOR SALE.

Native Bees in Quinby beehives. Mrs. E. D. VAN WIN KLE, Pleasant Ridge, Leav. County, Kansas.

## Shannon Hill Stock Farm

Thoroughbred Short-Horn Cattle and Berkshire Pigs, bred and for sale. Only first-class animals allowed to leave the farm. Address  
G. W. GLICK,  
Atchison, Kansas.

## POULTRY BREEDERS TAKE NOTICE.

I have a few choice Plymouth Rock and Brown Leghorn fowls for sale at reasonable prices if bought for soon. Address Mound City Poultry Yards, Mound City, Kansas.

## To Bee-Keepers.

Many of our subscribers are lovers of Honey and would keep bees enough to supply their own tables at least if they know how. We have made arrangements to furnish all such persons the \$2 page monthly Bee-keeper's Magazine at only \$1 a year (formerly \$1.50) or the Kansas Farmer and Magazine for \$2.00. Also all bee books and articles used in Bee-keeping at very low prices. The Magazine gives beginners just such information as the must have, to make the business successful and profitable. Send the money direct to us and we will see that your orders are promptly filled. For Prices of Extracts, Hives, Smokers, Uncapping knives, etc., Address, Publisher of the KANSAS FARMER, Topeka, Kansas.

## A. PRESCOTT &amp; CO.,

TOPEKA, KANSAS.

Have on hand

## \$100,000 TO LOAN

In Shawnee and adjoining Counties on good Farm security

At 8 and 9 per cent.,

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## THE Beautiful Indian Territory.

When we went to Texas, we picked out the route down through the finest portion of Missouri, by way of the "Queen City" Sedalia, thence to Fort Scott and Parsons, through the garden portion of Kansas, passing along the wonderful "Valley of the Noxah," with its rolling upland prairies, broad majestic rivers, springs of pure water, deep ravines, rich plains of waving corn, dotted here and there with pretty farm cottages nestled under the green slopes.

Going south from Parsons, Kansas, our route led down towards the Blue waters of the Gulf of Mexico, and we entered the Charming Indian Territory, just below Chetopa, Kansas.

Beautiful Indian Territory, inexhaustible in its variety of resources, white mines, forests and prairies; its mountains, cataracts and canyons its valleys, dales and streams; the brightest skies, the grandest sunsets, the softest twilight and the most brilliant moon and glittering stars; her fair surface covered with the rarest fragrant flowers; home of the wild horse, deer, elk, bear, turkey, grouse and birds of song. Broad winding streams, clear as the fabled mirror in the halls of the fairies, wind along the green prairies, stretching in airy undulations far away as if the ocean in its gentlest swell stood still with all its rounded billows, fixed and motionless for ever. No other country on the globe equals these wonderful lands of the red man. With a lingering look at them we crossed the Red river and entered Denison, the "Gate to Texas." From this point our route led through the finest and richest portion of Texas, through the grain and cotton growing districts, and the wonderful sheep and cattle ranches. What wonderful marks of progress we saw! Our earnest advice to those going to Texas, is to be sure and take the route through the Beautiful Indian Territory, and enter the Gate City, Denison; see that you go by way of the Great Missouri Kansas and Texas Railway.

If you wish a beautiful illustrated guide book, describing Texas and Kansas, and containing articles on cattle raising and where the best and cheapest lands are, it will be sent you free of charge by addressing  
JAS. T. BROWN,  
Texas and Kansas Emigrant Agent,  
St. Louis, Mo.



## THE KANSAS FARMER.

HUBSON & EWING, Editors & Proprietors,  
Topeka, Kansas.

TERMS: CASH IN ADVANCE.  
One Copy, Weekly, for one year, 1.50  
One Copy, Weekly, for six months, .90  
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RATES OF ADVERTISING.  
One insertion, per line (space) 20 cents.  
One month, " " " 1.00  
Three months, " " " 2.50  
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The greatest care is used to prevent swindling humbugs securing space in these advertising columns. Advertisements of lotteries, whiskey bitters, and quack doctors are not received. We accept advertisements only for cash, cannot give space and take pay in trade of any kind. This is business, and it is a just and equitable rule adhered to in the publication of THE FARMER.

## TO SUBSCRIBERS.

A notification will be sent you one week in advance of the time your subscription expires, stating the fact, and requesting you to continue the same by forwarding your renewal subscription. No subscription is continued longer than it is paid for. This rule is general and applied to all our subscribers. The cash in advance principle is the only business basis upon which a paper can sustain itself. Our readers will please to understand when their paper is discontinued that it is in obedience to a general business rule, which is strictly adhered to and in no wise personal. A journal to be outpoken and useful to its readers must be peculiarly independent, and the above rules are such as experience among the best publishers have been found essential to permanent success.

## Clubs. Agents.

To the many agents who have sent in clubs for the FARMER we desire to tender our thanks for the interest they have taken to extend the circulation of the "Old Reliable" among their neighbors. We believe that in no other way could they confer so great a benefit at so small cost, as to aid in disseminating useful information, touching all branches of agriculture, among farmers.

Agents who have sent in clubs may continue to take names for subscriptions at club rates, and for every ten additional names sent in will be entitled to an extra copy free to any address they may designate. Partial lists will be received at club rates, but will not entitle the agent to an extra copy. Our clubbing offer will remain open until April first.

## Dependence the Surest Road to Independence.

Let us suppose that ten farmers, or a larger number, whose farms lie contiguous to or join each other, who are men of intelligence, who are reading and thinking farmers, should conclude to form an association and conduct their business on a limited partnership plan, or on a system of mutual assistance. By such a system the company would be in the best condition to render mutual aid, the strong would prove a constant support to the weak without drawing upon their individual means, but by merely using the knowledge and experience of all for the benefit of all. Joint councils would determine the crops most profitable to grow and procure the best seed, which last is one of the most important matters in achieving success, and is almost universally overlooked, to the great loss of the farming interest. The best time to sell could be more accurately determined, and the needed assistance in holding on to their produce till such time as the best price could be obtained. The cheapest and best tools could be selected and bought by a common fund, as one half the number would suffice that is required where every man is for himself and floundering on by himself. There would be infinitely less danger of being cheated when an association dealt with large dealers or the manufacturers, paying cash, than isolated farmers buying from agents or peddlers on credit at enormously high prices, and often getting inferior implements, and being without proper places to house them when not in use, speedy destruction overtakes them even before they are paid for.

In an association of this kind it would be the duty of the officers to investigate and ascertain such facts as to guard against being defrauded by swindlers and sharpers who traverse the country and do an extensive business by defrauding unsuspecting farmers. A constant reliance on the community would benefit all. Officers would be chosen to serve without salaries, and the best men required to assume these duties in rotation, and the company be at no other official expense than such as actual outlay in traveling on business for the association, etc. There would then be no treasury to rob and no incentive to those who are borne with a hankering for office and are innate demagogues. The majority would always determine the line of action to be pursued in all matters affecting the welfare of the association.

The very best of breeding stock could be owned by such an association, and a member best fitted for the business selected to take charge of it. They could afford to employ a specialist to plant, prune and direct the proper care of orchards and vineyards, and the gathering and preparation of fruit for market. An expert dairyman could be employed to insure the best dairy products at the least cost. Numerous similar advantages would accrue to an association of intelligent farmers banded together for mutual profit, which would widen by experience every succeeding year. Wrong-headed, stiff-necked, ignorant men would have to be excluded from such an association. A man who doesn't "go anything on book farming," and never reads an agricultural journal, is far below the plane of such an association, and could never be a desirable or profitable member.

The influence of such an association in its immediate neighborhood would be many times greater than its members could exert, acting singly, and in many directions, notably in buying and selling, and socially. Men, single handed, cannot effect much, compared to the results that may be achieved by combining their efforts. "In union there is strength" is

an old and true maxim. Dependence on one another is the surest road to independence by farmers.

## Petitions to Congress.

The following petitions, through the action of the National Grange, are being circulated throughout the country. The movement looks to the checking of those two sources of oppression to the agricultural interest by national laws, which will act with uniform effect throughout the entire country. In remedying the evils of transportation state laws, it is believed, can produce but a partial and not a very salutary effect. The fact is, to remedy the evil wholly is not within the power of the railroad companies themselves; and it is also worthy of note that no very strenuous exertions are made by them in that direction.

The patent right laws have grown to be a refuge for knaves as well as a protection and encouragement to honest inventors, and a reform is loudly demanded:

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

Whereas, innocent users of patent articles are frequently threatened with prosecution as infringers; and whereas, the existing patent laws are ineffectual in protecting such parties from the threats of the patentees, or owners of patents, or from the speculations of impostors; therefore, we, the citizens of — county, state of —, do respectfully petition your honorable bodies to amend these patent laws as to make the manufacturer or vendor of all such articles alone responsible for the infringement.

And further so to amend them as to protect from penalty any person manufacturing for his own use any article previously patented; provided, such manufacturer was not cognizant of the existence of the letters patent.

And your petitioners would ever pray:

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, the citizens of — county, state of —, do most earnestly and persistently insist, that the congress of the United States enact such laws as will alleviate the oppressions imposed upon us by the transportation monopolies that now control the inter-state commerce of our country. Railroads, or railways, as they are severally styled, exact fluctuating and excessive rates of transportation both for freights and passengers, and in all such arbitrary exactions are a law unto themselves, being beyond the reach of state legislation, and therefore unrestrained by congressional enactments.

While general prosperity pervades the land, agriculture, the corner stone of our national progress, is depressed. The surplus of our farms is wrested from us to enrich these giant monopolies. A buoyant market instantly enhances the freight rates of transportation, robbing the producer of well earned profits, and levying upon the consumer unjust taxation. A depressed market maintains the previously enhanced freight rates, and in neither case do these common carriers attempt to promote the public weal.

The patience of an industrious, law-abiding people is sorely tried, and with anxiety they look for relief to your honorable bodies, from whom alone relief can come. That it will come in the near future, we have every reason to hope. To hasten its coming, we respectfully urge upon your bodies the enactment of such laws as will prevent fluctuations in freights, and unjust discriminations in transportation charges. And your petitioners would ever pray.

## Plowing Prairie Sod.

In giving a hasty answer to a young farmer is our last issue in regard to the proper time to plow prairie sod, we advised him to break the ground as early as possible. This advice is literally true but needs qualifying in order that our young friend may not be misled. His object in breaking the prairie is to sow millet, to be followed by wheat in the fall. This rotation is the worst possible. In the first place the prairie will not break well till it is too late in the spring to sow millet, in order to insure a paying crop. Again, wheat does not do well to follow immediately after millet. The two crops on the same land in one season are not practically profitable.

If it is determined to plant a spring crop upon the freshly broken sod it were better to risk corn. If a good crop of wheat is the object, the conditions most favorable for its realization on first breaking, is to break the sod as early in the spring and summer as possible, plow shallow, and the sod will be well rotted by the time to sow wheat, and if the season is at all propitious a heavy crop of wheat will be the reward. If millet is desired, plant sod, corn and the following spring plow the stocks under and sow millet seed as soon as the weather is favorable for early vegetation.

## The Want of Vegetable Gardens.

One of the wants which should be supplied in the new regions of the country, which virtually embraces all that vast territory lying west of the Missouri river, is good vegetable gardens in the vicinity of towns and cities, which increase so rapidly in population that the eaters for the stomachs of the citizens are compelled to ship vegetables in from long distances, which makes this species of food very expensive, when it should be the cheapest of all others in a new and fertile country. In the rich soil of the prairies the vegetable crop should be made a sure and abundant one. To achieve certain success in this branch of husbandry, two things are necessary, besides the ordinary culture and care, which are a supply of water at all seasons, and thorough protection from the strong winds and drying atmosphere. A good well with wind-mill pump and tank, will place water at the command of the owner; hedges, closely-set shelter-belts, and mulching, will make him master of the situation. These pre-requisites, with deep tillage, will make success, let the season bring what weather it may. For all root crops and berries, mulching with hay or straw (and this material can always be had in abundance) is the sine qua non to success.

By a heavy mulch the earth is protected from the scorching rays of the sun and loss of moisture by evaporation, while all shading of the soil serves to keep up its fertility and add to its producing capacity. Some plants, notably strawberries, require abundance of water at some periods of their development, and a wind-mill pump is capable of supplying a large quantity of water, which can be conducted by ditches and hose to considerable distances, and will suffice to supply such plants and vegetables as demand an abundance of water, while a good mulch is the cheapest and best economizer of moisture.

Protection from strong winds of both winter and summer, is very necessary, if the best results are to be expected in raising any crop that comes under the familiar name of "truck." This can only be accomplished by good hedges, dense copses and well extended wind-breaks of timber belt.

When the most common vegetables are shipped long distances from Chicago and St. Louis to supply the towns and villages of Kansas, and other west-lying states, it would surely pay a handsome profit to establish vegetable gardens or farms at their very doors, and retain the money at home that is sent abroad for these supplies of vegetable food.

## Debating Societies as Farmers' Clubs.

There is probably no simple, inexpensive little institution more interesting to rural populations of a literary turn of mind than the old lyceum or debating society. Nearly every neighborhood has its debating society or lyceum in the winter season where the youthful aspirants for oratorical honors congregate to air their rhetoric and display their stock of information. While they serve in some measure as training schools in the art of public speaking, the subjects generally chosen are barren of any results which their discussion might elucidate. This custom of holding lyceums in country districts might be directed to the development of much useful knowledge, while the end for which they have been principally held, amusement and exercise in declamation, would be as well, and probably much better, served. In a word, pleasure and profit, in a high degree might be combined by the discussion of a series of questions pertaining to the advancement of agricultural knowledge. The sharp conflict of opinion would not fail to stimulate investigation and create an interest in the neighborhood previously unknown or dreamed of. Such farm debating clubs exist in some parts of the country, and their usefulness in leading farmers to investigate and become more familiar with the natural laws which produce important results in their every day business, cannot be overestimated. The following series of questions have been selected by an eastern farmers' club, and they form a very fair list for a winter's discussion, but subjects are almost endless in extent and variety.

Selecting soils for crops—what are the evidences of a naturally productive soil?

Pruning fruit trees and grape vines.

Improvement of dairy stock.

Butter making.

Potatoes—their cultivation, cost of production, best varieties, &c.

How can we make farm life attractive to the young?

Manure—its production and preservation.

Application of manures, including commercial fertilizers, to the soil.

Planting shade and shelter trees and selecting varieties for locations and soils.

Swine—their management and profit.

What books shall we read, and how shall we read them?

A farmer's or mechanic's life—which offers the more inviting prospects?

Our buildings—best methods to warm and ventilate them.

How can roads be kept in repair the cheapest and best?

Culture of flowers and shrubs.

Plowing and plows.

How shall we feed for milk?

Cultivation of small fruits.

Poultry—the best methods of feeding and the best breeds for general use.

The grass crop—seedling, culture and harvesting.

Lawns and walks—making and keeping in order.

Insect enemies and friends of the farmer—how can we control them?

Corn growing and the best way to feed out for profit.

Root crops—cost of growing beets, mangolds and ruta-bagas, and comparative value for feeding.

Management of children.

Can oxen be profitably used on farms in this vicinity?

What improvements can be made to lessen the labors of housekeepers?

## Saving Seed Corn.

The importance of good seed in order to secure good crops, is generally well known though not as highly appreciated by many as it should be. The quality of the soil and its preparation for crops are important as essentials to success in farming, but without good seed these will prove of little avail. The seed is the future crop in embryo. The seed is the culmination of the plant's growth. The only object for which a plant grows seems to be to reproduce itself—to propagate its species. And when it produces seed it lays up within its covering the sum total of its qualities. It seems that every plant has the power of impressing its own peculiar qualities—those that distinguish it from other species and even varieties—upon the seed

that it produces. But in addition to this each plant has an innate power to change within certain narrow limits. The surrounding conditions, as the amount of heat and moisture, the fertility of the soil and manner of culture, may exert modifying influences that may produce slight though permanent changes in the character of the plant. These minute changes, if preserved and carried forward for a few generations, will sometimes so modify the plant as to give it very desirable qualities that were not possessed by the plant from which it sprang. Thus a plant may be greatly improved in size, vigor, profitability, hardiness, etc., as to make it far more desirable than it was before such improvements had been made.

This is a matter of far greater importance in the selection of seed for a crop than is generally known. But little attention has been given the subject of pedigree in plants, although that of animals has long held a prominent place in the science of the day. But recently a few intelligent men have given some attention to the improvement of some of the cultivated plants, that has resulted in what are called "pedigree" varieties, such as "pedigree wheat," "pedigree corn," etc. These have been produced by individuals selecting some particular variety and by careful culture and severe weeding out of all inferior specimens, and a sharp selection of the most promising specimens, thereby securing and making permanent every step in improvement. This improvement has been carried on so far in some instances for so long a series of years, that the latter qualities seem to have become indelibly stamped on the very constitution of the plant. Thus corn has been produced that will give a yield of 75 to 100 bushels per acre, while other varieties differing but little if any in appearance, will not give more than half that amount with exactly the same chances. And this difference in productive power is more frequent than is generally supposed. Many who never gave any thought to the improvement of their grain on any scientific principles, have, nevertheless, fallen into the way of selecting, with care, the best of every season's crop for seed, and though guided by no well understood scientific principles, yet a fair degree of success has crowned these efforts.

The difference in the product of different farms is probably frequently owing as much to the difference in the quality of the seed as in that of either soil or culture. Much has been done in this respect but the work has hardly been commenced as yet.

To no crop does this apply with more force than that of the corn crop. With none of our cultivated crops, probably, can a greater improvement be made than with this. Should every farmer adopt some method of trying to improve his corn, and pursue it year after year, there can be but little doubt that the productive capacity as well as the quality of the corn crop of the country, would be greatly improved, for while, doubtless, many would fail to secure any marked improvement, many would secure such advance in quality as well as quantity, as would have a very important effect on the statistics of that crop. The more a man knows of the pathology and physiology of the vegetable kingdom, and of the laws of chemistry and meteorology, and the more care he exercises in the management of his experiments, the more certainty there would be in valuable results.

But any farmer of ordinary intelligence may, by adopting some course of either selection or culture, or both, with a view to securing a better variety, and persevering in such a course for a series of years, obtain very valuable results. There are many different methods by which such improvement may be secured, but of these I do not propose now to speak, but probably shall have something to say on that subject in the near future. L. J. TEMPLIN.

## Swindling by the Aid of Patent Right Laws.

A great deal of trouble and costs has been fastened upon the users of patented articles and devices, even in cases where they have been procured regularly by purchase, or through proper license. The hardships incurred by honest men who unwittingly infringe upon patents are continually repeated through the connivance of men who expect to reap profits from the violation of legal rights they have secured by their patents, but which in many cases they have kept carefully concealed. The driven-well scheme that has cost infringers millions of dollars is a notable instance of the shelter afforded by the patent laws for rascally operators. Nearly all men who have submitted to the exactions of the driven-well sharpers, and paid the royalties demanded, had in the first place paid full price for driving their wells, and added fees for the patents. That is to say, they were owners in good faith. They had violated no law in procuring their wells, so far as they could judge—not even in the judgment of legal advisers: but the courts decided otherwise on cases brought by collusion, the defendants, users of the patented process agreeing to be beaten, and sharing in the royalties collected. It is quite apparent that in this case the courts were used to promote a swindle that had in its operations all the sanction of legal authority. This is but a single instance of many. Collectors of royalty on a farm gate in extended use for a period antedating the patent, had like protection—a license from the United States to defraud citizens who used the gate. Any system that can be made a protectorate for extended villainies of the character noted is bad. There is earnest desire by farmers for such revision of the patent laws as will save innocent users from the payment of heavy penalties for conducting their own affairs in accordance with what would be regarded as just principles in all business, ex-

cept in these absurd patent rights. They cannot see why they should be liable constantly to penalties for acts perfectly regular, and proper, except when measured by patent laws. They have been bold enough to ask that the system, which works thus iniquitously, should be corrected in any way that shall leave them with ordinary freedom to buy and use patented articles, without being pre-judged guilty of wrong, and liable to summary process ending in fine.—Husbandman.

## A Few Popular Errors.

If, in summer, an Italian queen is placed in a black stock, at the end of eight weeks the black bees have diminished considerably in number, and that at the end of three months the colony is completely Italianized, showing that bees live but a few weeks, at times of active out-door life. In winter bees live several months, for the obvious reasons they are not worn out by daily excursions, and that they meet with no accidents. Their death can be caused, then, only by cold or starvation.

I have often been amused by the fanciful natural history that some people create to suit their own ideas of the manners and life of bees. For the benefit of those who have not the opportunity or the patience to study a treatise on bees I will mention a few more mistakes.

It is generally supposed that bees carry wax already to mould, to their hives, when the fact is they generate wax after eating honey. Any one can ascertain this by the following experiment: After a swarm of bees is hived, close the hive so that no bee is allowed to leave it. After 36 or 48 hours examine the interior of the hive and a piece of comb will be found. From what did the bees obtain the wax? Certainly not from anything outside; and they had with them only the honey with which each filled her honey-bag before starting. Close observations have shown to bee-keepers that the wax comes out in little scales from the rings of the abdomen of bees. Many people still believe that wax is the yellowish or grayish or otherwise colored substance that bees carry in little balls on their "hind legs," while this is simply pollen, the powder secreted by the stamens of flowers.

Another error is that the working population is male or neuter, the truth is that a colony of bees can be in a prosperous condition without masculine inhabitants. The queen, or more properly the mother, is a well developed female, and the bulk of the population, the workers, are females, whose abilities are for work only. The drones—the male element, in a swarm of bees—live a life of idleness.

Still another mistake is that each bee has its life work assigned to it, some having the direction of home affairs exclusively, while others have to deal with outside objects only; while really, the younger working population alone attend to household matters, and the old and toughened bees get food and water. (Old in this case means above two weeks of age).—Cor. Prairie Farmer.

## Questions for Sheep Men to Answer.

We have received the following letter of inquiry from Buffalo, N. Y. Will some of our sheep breeders who have recently brought flocks into Kansas please answer?

January 13.  
ED. KANSAS FARMER, Topeka, Kan:  
DEAR SIR—Will you please answer the following questions:  
Which are the best counties of Kansas for sheep raising?  
Where is the best place to buy sheep in the east or west? How is Ohio and Michigan?  
What kind of sheep are the best for Kansas?  
What can they be delivered in Kansas for per head cost?  
If you have any papers or books on sheep raising in Kansas, please forward and I will remit. Please answer and oblige.

MUD.—A correspondent of the Indiana Farmer, who has been traveling through the "cotton belt" of Mississippi, says the people are forced to cut off the tails of their hogs, close up, to prevent the accumulation of a ball of earth sufficiently large to anchor the animal on level ground!

D. M. Ferry & Co. send out to the press nice packages of seed. The assortment could not well be improved upon. Vegetable and flower seeds number among them phloxes, pansies, pinks, etc., and of vegetables, Acme tomato, cucumbers, melons, etc.

## To the Readers of the Kansas Farmer.

The readers of this paper are cordially invited to attend the Breeders' and Farmers' Institute to be held at Manhattan, Kansas, January 27th and 28th. Prominent breeders from abroad will be present and take part in the exercises. Those wishing to attend will pay full fare to Manhattan and return on the Kansas Pacific railway at one-fourth regular fare.

A. W. ROLLINS,  
Sec'y Cen. Kap. Breeders' Association.

The castor bean crop of Kansas is estimated at 10,000,000 bushels for 1879.

It is not exactly true that Mr. Bonner paid more for Rarus than he ever paid for a trotter before, although there is but one Mr. Bonner's stud that cost him more, that one being Pocahontas, which Simmons sold to Bonner for \$45,000, eight-ninths of which was in actual money, and the remainder in trade. Star's cost him \$20,000; Dexter, \$33,000 and Grafton \$15,000. Goldsmith Maid and Jay Gould represent \$35,000 each; Lady Thorn, \$30,000; Socrates, \$26,000; Lucy, \$25,000; Tatler, \$27,000; Rosalind, \$13,000, and Gen. Knox, \$10,000. Rarus stands \$1,000, therefore, beyond all save Pocahontas.















## Farm Letters.

**AGNES CITY, Lyon Co., Jan. 8.**—I have been in Kansas for ten years, and I never saw so many continuous foggy and cloudy days. I have been looking over the wheat and it is looking well in this township. If we have favorable weather from this on we will have a good crop. Stock is looking well. A good many calves have died of the black leg, and some two year olds.

Wheat is selling at 80 cents to \$1 per bushel; oats 28 to 30 cents; corn 28 to 30; hogs, gross, 3 1/2 to 4 cents, and all of the first crop of hogs are sold.

I should like some veterinary surgeon to tell me what was the matter with my neighbor's mare. On last Friday her nose was swollen as if bitten by a rattlesnake. It continued to swell until it affected the whole head. On Sunday evening death relieved her from her terrible suffering. It is something new, and is so sudden a disease that I would like to know what it is.

I have been canvassing for a club for the FARMER, and have been surprised to hear some of the farmers say they could not afford it. And yet some of those men sell their hogs for \$3 when they were worth \$3.50 to \$4; but they had no market report, had so much work to do that they could not find time to read a paper, when the loss on their hogs would have kept some of them in dailies for the next five years.

E. C. EDWARDS.

**BUNKER HILL, Russell Co., Jan. 9.**—Tourists tell us that during the month of January wild flowers are blooming on the Pacific coast; we cannot boast quite so much of our climate, yet we can say that wheat germinates and comes up during the same period of the year. Fields which were frozen bare during the cold spell which we have just experienced this winter, are assuming a tint of green. We are all interested in wheat growing to such an extent that other departments of agriculture are overlooked. We need in this vicinity a practical gardener, one who will give his whole attention to the matter, which would beyond doubt prove remunerative. The idea by the inexperienced prevails that garden vegetables cannot be grown successfully in the wild soil, but experience has taught us that this is only the theory of the careless frontiersman, and that after a few years of culture and proper care, nearly all these vegetables can be grown. We must supply demands from the gardens of the eastern part of the state. This ought not to be. Will say more on this subject in some future number of the FARMER.

**BEACH GROVE, Graham Co., Jan. 6.**—This is a very new county, not organized yet. Most of the government land is taken, but there is very little improvement in the western part of the county.

I was very much interested in Mr. G. M. Berger's letter from Rooks county, in regard to the catkins tree, and would like more information about it. Please write again. Is it a hard or soft wood? When is the best time to plant? Tell us all about it.

**Tell W. H. Prouty** to try as a preventative for cholera, cayenne pepper, alum and sulphur mixed in their feed once a day. It will stop it for I have tried it until I am satisfied.

Long life to the FARMER.

**PARKVILLE, Morris Co., Jan. 18.**—The FARMER contained a letter from this county sometime ago, which does not do it justice. Although our crops were not so good as in the past two or three years, taking the county as a whole, we had very fair crops of all kinds the past season. Two many are apt to judge the productions of the country by their own, or that of their neighborhood.

This township is composed of upland, yet we know of fields of corn that yielded 48 bushels per acre the past season, and we saw potatoes gathered, both early and late, that were very fine; in fact, we saw one crop of peaches that we never saw equalled for nice potatoes. We know of one field of corn within four miles of the writer alluded to, that yielded 50 bushels per acre, and many others in other parts of the county that yielded a great deal more.

A large acreage of wheat was sown here last fall which is looking well, although the late sowing was damaged to some extent by the cold weather in December.

A correspondent asks about tame grasses. We will give the experience of C. L. Thomas, of this township in regard to clover. In the year 1874 he had a small field of clover that was looking very nice when the grasshoppers came. They, as he thought, utterly destroyed it, so he plowed the ground and sowed wheat on it. It has been in corn and other grains every year since until the past year when it was pastured again, not having had any more seed sown on the land.

**WILSON, Russell Co., Jan. 17.**—We are having very fine winter weather and farmers are taking advantage of it in plowing for corn. Wheat looks well and the warm weather has turned it green. I think there is a fair prospect for a good crop. Stock looks well. Corn is only 20 cents new, wheat 92. Farmers here are tired of raising hogs for \$2.50 to \$3 alive, and think of trying smoked bacon. I think there is some profit in hogs if farmers cure and smoke them, instead of giving all profit to shippers and those that cure them. Hogs are bought here for \$2.50 to \$3.00, shipped to Kansas City, made into bacon and shipped back here and sold for 14 cents per pound.

The FARMER came out for 1889 in illustrated form and shows that Kansas is still ahead in variety and quality of all she raises. There was quite a variety in the dog picture.

The FARMER is always a welcome visitor and is getting to be a popular farm paper of the west, and is in quite a good demand for our eastern friends who wish to know all about Kansas. It has been a great benefit to its readers in the past, and I wish it a prosperous future.

**CEDAR VALE, Chautauqua Co., Jan. 11.**—I will again give my brother farmers some items from this county. The weather was very fine until just before Christmas it got very cold. The thermometer, on the 24th and 25th, being about eight degrees below zero, and having no snow on the ground it was trying to wheat. On the 31st it began sleeting in the morning, and by 12 o'clock there was about four inches of round sleet on the ground. There was sufficient rain with it so that when it turned cold in the evening it froze solid; but fortunately it turned warm in a few days, and thawed it off, and gave plenty of water and some mud.

Notwithstanding the severe storm, cattle are looking fine. There are about 900 head of steers being fed in this the southwest corner of the county.

This county is well adapted to stock-raising, there being a large portion that is unutilized, rough and stony. It is very well supplied with water of the very best quality. There are a great many giving their attention to cattle.

There were, in 1878, 1,799 cattle in the county. The county is well adapted to sheep-raising; the face of the county being broken and having a dry, sandy soil. Some farmers have already engaged in the business and are doing very well. There was, in 1878, 3,350 sheep in the county. Persons wishing to engage in sheep husbandry, will find this a good county for the business.

I see J. W. Byram, Cedar Point, is still wanting an answer to his question: "Will wheat joint in the fall?" I will say yes, under certain conditions. I have never seen it do so but once. In the fall of 1870 I sowed wheat in Cherokee county, about the 20th of August. It was on first sod well tilled. The weather during the fall was very favorable for wheat to grow, and there was a small branch that ran through the field, and on it was some very small, rich places, and in those places there was some of the wheat jointed, but it was not general over the field. The wheat was of the Walker or May variety, I am not positive which. I never, at any other time, have seen so rank a growth of wheat as it was, and it only yielded eight bushels per acre. Expecting to hear from Byram, I will close.

**HOMER, Russell Co., Jan. 10.**—I am a new comer here, only have been in the state a little over a year, (am from Illinois). We are on the K. P. railroad, 258 miles from Kansas City, and on the divide between the Saline and Smoky Hill rivers. This is a very beautiful country; soil two to four feet, and very rich and productive, but the last season was too dry for a good crop; wheat ranging from five to twenty-five bushels per acre. The drouth and chinch bugs injured the corn crop; however, there is corn for home consumption and some to spare, and we hope for a better crop next season.

We have had a few days of cold weather; the coldest day was December 24th, when mercury reached 14 degrees below zero. We are having beautiful weather now; mercury last two weeks ranging 40 to 80 degrees in daytime, and seldom reaching freezing point at night, and farmers are plowing, breaking prairie, etc., and it reminds one of April or May.

Water is rather scarce here, and timber not so plentiful as coal; some eight or ten shafts in the county and more opening; three within three miles of Homer, and another shaft being sunk with all possible speed. Coal at the different beds ranges in price from \$3 to \$4.50. Wheat is selling from 85c to \$1; corn, 25c to 28c; oats, 35c to 40c; potatoes, 80c to \$1; pork, gross, \$3.25 to \$3.50; butter, 15c to 20c; eggs, 15c.

There is a good opening at Homer for an elevator, mill, general store, blacksmith shop, or almost any business.

Success to the Kansas FARMER.

**S. H. SMITH.**

**RINERTON, Reno Co.**—This portion of Kansas failed almost entirely of crops of all kinds, so much so that we have our seed and bread to buy until another harvest. We had 130 acres of wheat of which we only cut and threshed 17 bushels; 50 acres of oats never cut a sheaf. Lost all our garden vegetables. Hail storms and hoppers were the cause. Our prospect for wheat at present is good. We have 150 acres of wheat, which all looks well. We have bought 140 bushels of seed oats; have our ground already plowed to put them on. We will plant and seed more than ever before. The last week has been quite warm and pleasant; plows running on all sides.

I have been a reader of the FARMER for several years and like it very much.

The last Sunday in December was very windy. South of the Ninnescah river a terrible fire raged most all day, doing immense damage, burning up hay, corn, stables, and several houses, the poor homesteaders being left without a roof.

**ANKERLOPE.**—By the kindness of my neighbor I have your paper of December 24th, before me. I like the paper very much. I think every farmer in Kansas would be benefited by reading such a paper. We live in Marion county, on a tributary of the Cottonwood; have lived here three years. We like a home on the prairie, and have no desire to return east of the Mississippi.

The short crops of spring grain occasioned by dry weather, has been compensated for in the almost universal good health of the people, the very thrifty condition of all farm animals, (poultry included) an excellent farm crop and good prospect, at present writing, for a bountiful wheat crop next year. But there is time for it to blast yet before it is in the granary.

Sorghum culture is receiving more attention every year. One man, near Antelope, made forty-one barrels of No. 1 sorghum, last fall, with a one-horse mill, the most of which has granulated and is now full of sugar. I have heard that one man, near Peabody, has separated the sugar.

**STERLING, Rice Co., Jan. 13.**—The cold snap in December has evidently considerably affected our prospect for a peach crop for next season. The fruit buds of some of the budded varieties are nearly all killed. The Crawford and Hale's Early are nearly all destroyed, while the Amesden seems perfectly sound. Many of the goodlings are also perfectly sound. The thermometer went down as low as 14 degrees below zero in some localities.

The wheat crop thus far is very promising. Our cold weather was followed by mild, misty weather, which has started the wheat to grow. While we have more fog than we have ever known before in this country, we are also having more high, southwest wind than is usual for the month of January. To-day is the third heavy blow since the first of the month. This month, so far, is more like March of other years.

Many farmers are busy plowing and preparing their ground for early spring planting. The results of last season were not very encouraging to farmers in this portion of Kansas. As an entire failure. Many see where they have made a mistake in turning over too much soil, and not leaving enough grass land for stock-raising.

**J. B. S.**

**IOOLA, Allen Co., Jan. 11.**—I have just been reading Mr. Stoner's description of his combined stock shelter and manger, and like it so well that I shall try it on my place. It is a wonder to me that so many farmers will persist in throwing feed on the ground for stock to trample in the mud and destroy—when in this range of cheap feed—where racks and mangers are so easily and cheaply constructed. In the one item of labor-saving, the feed-racks will more than pay for themselves the first winter. Construct enough racks to give your stock ample room, and in such position that you can drive on all sides of them, thus taking advantage of these Kansas breezes. If this is done before haying time, much labor can be saved by stacking hay in your racks directly from the mow; with (as Mr. Stoner says) an occasional eating down and filling in at the sides of the racks.

Self-feeding corn-hoppers are easily constructed, thereby reducing the labor fully fifty

per cent, for you are then fixed to winter one hundred head of cattle as easily as three men could in the old way.

If corn-feeding your stock, make your yards hog tight, and turn in pigs and shoats intended for next fall market. Brood sows are often injured by turning in with cattle.

The outlook for winter wheat is fully up to any previous year. Present prices of old crop from \$1 to \$1.10.

The past ten days have been very muddy ones, making traveling by wagons both unpleasant. I see some of my neighbors are allowing their stock free access to stalk fields while the ground is in this pulpy condition. I don't. Am I right?

Fat hogs are about all marketed, the bulk of them at good prices—from \$3 to \$3.75.

The coldest weather so far this winter, was Christmas morning—10 degrees below zero.

**D. D. S.**

**READING, Osage Co., Jan. 19.**—The weather now-a-days makes us think of commencing to plow in fact, some have commenced. The winter wheat never looked better at this time of the year since 1874, and if we have a fine March month we can depend on having a big crop. Corn is about all out of the fields now, and I would say right here, that corn should all be out of the fields by the 20th of December. In fact some are always behind with their work. Corn made 72 bushels to the acre on the river, and 50 on the upland. There is twenty-eight hundred head of cattle feeding in seven places on the river, which makes for corn a good market at home. Wheat is selling for \$1.10; corn 32c; potatoes, 1.25 per bushel. Cows range from \$20 to \$35 and two year old steers \$25, yearlings, \$16 to \$20, and calves \$10 to \$12.

In my next letter to the FARMER I will give my experience of the easiest way to cure scab in sheep.

**WM. SKINNER.**

**STERLING, Rice Co., Jan. 13.**—Some of our farmers are giving some attention to thoroughbred cattle. My neighbor, Mr. Wilson Keys, has just sold his large herd, and has formed the nucleus of another by purchasing a pair of extra fine thoroughbred Short-horns, with a pedigree showing their lineage for twenty generations, covering the space of one hundred and forty years. The dam is of the Jubilee family, and is called the 5th Jubilee of Durham Park. Her ancestry was born in England in 1739. She is a beauty. Her generous face and short, blunt horns indicate that she never will "hook." But the "Village Blacksmith" which is the young sire's name, does not get my sympathy; he is too saucy, proud and dignified. He seems to be one of those kind of creatures that has made the discovery, in his youth, that he is something extra. Of course his ancestors were all noble fellows; he is proud of that. He is able to trace his record back to No. 59, on the English Stock Records; he is proud of that. He has an extra fine fur coat on him; he is proud of that. Of course he is a noble, dignified animal, and must be excused for his sauciness.

Mr. W. Q. Ellcourt has also made a similar purchase. I have not seen his animals, but they are also said to be very fine. They made the purchase at Crane's stock ranch in Marion county, and the figures they have paid show that they both mean business.

**J. R. SCHLICHTER.**

When a ram butts he moves backwards to get a start. By attaching by some device to the horns if he has any—a couple of light poles, four or five feet long and on each side, that may drag on the ground behind, the ram will find backing an uphill business. He will be "headed" and become peaceable so long as he can not get a good start. After a little time one stick may prevent as well as two, and he can handle himself better. A mean ram that is valuable has to be endured in some way. If not valuable, fat and sell to the butcher. Such a ram is dangerous. They will keep orchards safer than a dog and grow wool besides.

**J. R. SCHLICHTER.**

**CHAMBERS, BERING & QUINLAN, Exclusive Manufacturers, Decatur, Ill.**

For sale by SMITH & KEATING, General Agents for Kansas. Dealers in Agricultural Implements, Kansas City, Mo.

Only Double Ring Invented.

**Champion Hog Rings**

**RINGS & HOLDER.**

No sharp points in the flesh to cause irritation and soreness, as in case of rings that close with the joints in the flesh, and produce soreness of the nose. The Champion Hog Rings are made of the best material, and are the only ones that will hold the rings in place.

**CHAMBERS, BERING & QUINLAN, Exclusive Manufacturers, Freeport, Ill.**

ing it to decay and to keep the hog's nose sore.

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**HEIFER.**—Also, by the same, one red heifer, branded with G on right hip, crop off of left ear, and hole and underbit in right ear, supposed to be two years old, valued at \$15.

**MULE.**—Taken up by John Mitchell, Franklin tp., one brown mare mule without marks or brands perceptible except harness marks about the shoulders, some white on belly and nose, about 14 hands high, supposed to be 7 years old, valued at \$40.

**Chase County.**—S. A. Breeze, Clerk.

**STEER.**—Taken up by Charles McDowell, Falls tp., (Cottonwood Falls P. O.) Nov. 4, 1879, one yearling steer, gray, white about the head and face, slit in top of right ear, valued at \$1.

**STEER.**—Taken up by John Whalen, Diamond Creek tp., Dec. 9, 1879, one steer, one year old last spring, red and white spotted, split in right ear and crop off of right ear, valued at \$12.

**POSS.**—Taken up by J. A. Loomis, Bazaar tp., Dec. 6, 1879, one small horse pony, dark bay, little white in forehead, saddle marks, 6 or 7 years old, valued at \$20.

**STEER.**—Taken up by Geo. Brummond, Falls tp., (Cottonwood Falls P. O.) Dec. 19, 1879, one red steer, white on belly, 3 years old, indistinct brand on right hip, valued at \$25.

**COW.**—Taken up by Wm. Meyer, Edinburg tp., (P. O. Kansas City, Mo.) Nov. 10, 1879, one white cow, some white on the back, bay a light brand, the tip of left horn broken off, supposed to be 4 years old, valued at \$10.

**CALF.**—Also, by the same, one dark brand sucking calf, belonging to the above cow, valued at \$5.

**COW.**—Also, by the same, one spotted one year old heifer, valued at \$10.

**STEER.**—Also, by the same, one white, one year old steer, valued at \$10.

**Franklin County.**—Geo. D. Shenebaugh, Clerk.

**STEER.**—Taken up by C. C. Cutler, Outler tp., Nov. 15, 1879, one year old red and white spotted steer, valued at \$25.

**STEER.**—Taken up by Joseph Smith, Ottawa tp., Dec. 1, 1879, one year old red steer with under bit in right ear, valued at \$20.

**COW.**—Taken up by S. M. Collier, one red cow four years old, no marks or brands, valued at \$14.

**COW.**—Taken up by H. L. Hurd, Shawnee tp., Dec. 3d, 1879, one white yearling steer, with red neck and ears, and a hole in the left ear, valued at \$15.

**STEER.**—Taken up by F. F. Black, Peoria tp., one six year old medium sized cow with red head, and legs, neck and sides white, spotted in forehead, white back, belly and hips, and valued at \$25.

**Jefferson County.**—J. G. Postfield, Clerk.

**STEER.**—Taken up by D. Worley, Straight Creek tp., Dec. 6, 1879, one red yearling steer, some white under belly and some white on the head, marked with a crop off of right ear and a hole in the left ear, valued at \$15.

**STEER.**—Taken up by Judson B. Harper, Jefferson tp., Dec. 22, 1879, one white yearling steer, with red neck and ears, some spots on the body, white forehead, no marks or brands, valued at \$15.

**COW.**—Taken up by J. J. Elliott, Cedar tp., Dec. 24, 1879, one red and white pided cow, a half under crop in right ear, 4 years old, valued at \$20.

**STEER.**—Taken up by C. H. Hamman, Washington tp., Dec. 9, 1879, one white steer, marked with a slit and under bit in each ear, branded with an indistinct brand on left hip, 4 years old, valued at \$15.

**MAKE.**—Taken up by G. W. Sheld, Washington tp., Dec. 22, 1879, one bay mare one year old, rather large, mouse colored hind legs, valued at \$20.

**STEER.**—Taken up by J. J. Elliott, Cedar tp., Dec. 24, 1879, one red and white pided cow, a half under crop in right ear, 4 years old, valued at \$20.

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