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THE KANSAS FARMER.

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Literary Items.—No. 23.

"GO ON TICK."

When our purse has become somewhat empty, and we need some article of our merchant, our grocery keeper, to supply our daily wants, we frequently say, "I must go on tick." This expression is associated with an insect which fastens on the skin and draws forth blood to nourish and supply its wants. These annoying little pests also live on borrowed capital, but they never repay back. It is not so, in the general way, with the honest customer; he must pay up. Some have supposed that this every-day expression of "going on tick" originated from the natural propensity of these troublesome pests of poor humanity. It is not so; the term is borrowed from the practice of those who pawn their goods to the pawnbrokers. The pawnbroker loans money to those who place on deposit a certain amount of goods, such as clocks, watches, half-worn clothes, etc. These articles left on deposit, may be redeemed within a certain date, on payment of the money with interest. If not called for the goods are forfeited and sold to others who may need them. A ticket is given by the pawnbroker, which is returned on payment. Hence the expression, "going on tick," and the old phrase, "on tick and on bill." This business is chiefly confined to large cities. The history of pawnbroking dates back a great many centuries.

PETRELS.

Who is there that has not floated over the briny ocean and stood on the after-deck of the vessel, and watched, with a steadfast eye, the dexterous manners of a little bird called the petrel, or in common parlance, "Mother Cary's chickens?" These little birds are seen following the track of a vessel, thousands of miles from land, diving and dipping into the spray caused by the vessel's track. Where they roost at night, or raise their young, is the common question asked. It is not my province to write on natural history, it is simply on the name of the little petrel that I intend to make one remark. It is recorded that St. Peter walked on the water. From this historical incident these birds have received the name of petrel, from the known habit of skimming as they fly on the surface of the water, which, to an observer, appears as if they were walking on the surface.

HYMEN.

The altar of Hymen is an institution recognized in all civilized countries. The hymenial ceremonies are solemn and impressive. Those who have gone through the ordeal of a marriage ceremony, have passed an epoch in life which is truly considered as one of grave importance. The marriage ceremony is much shorter than in days past. The folly of a moral lecture of an hour and a half long, addressed to a young couple on such an occasion, is not only out of place but cruel in the extreme. I speak from experience, and I know my young friends will sincerely thank me for dropping this remark in this place.

Hymen was the ancient god of marriage, according to the Greeks. He was said to be the son of Brechus, or Apollo. He was called on to preside at the nuptial ceremony, and the people of Athens paid honor to him by instituting festivals. He was represented as crowned with flowers, leading a winding torch in one hand, and on the other a vase of honey. He was personified as a young man, and called out Hymen! Hymen! for it was considered as fatal to the future happiness of the parties if his presence was not there, and he did not preside on such occasions. We have discarded these superstitions of the ancient Greeks, but we have adopted another but little less ridiculous, viz: not to be married on Friday, because it has been customary for many centuries to hang or execute criminals on this day of the week. In our day, during the nuptial ceremonies, who ever thinks about this Grecian divinity, yet we retain the name which has still its magic influence on the young and the old.

If our worthy Governor St. John would appoint some other day than Friday, this superstitious idea would soon vanish from the minds of the people.

At the time the celebrated patriarch, Nicoll, took control of the Russian church, the oriental seclusion of women on public occasions, was in vogue. But this bold man changed the programme. He ordered the empress to appear in

church by day, instead of at night, as heretofore. This brought about a change.

JAR. HANWAY.

Lane, Kansas.

Shoes and Shoeing.

The foot of the horse is fearfully and wonderfully made. It is sufficiently complicated in its structure, the diseases to which it is liable, and the methods of shoeing and taking care of it, for a lifetime of study. While the general structure of the foot is alike common to all, in other particulars each individual horse has feet peculiar to itself, which in shoeing need a special study and particular treatment. It is on this account that intelligent smiths tell us there is always something new to learn about a horse's foot.

When we reflect that with every step taken by the fastest trotter, there is with the placing of each foot upon the ground a telegraphic communication going on which enables the horse to choose the best location for the step, and to instantaneously adapt his foot to the minor inequalities of surface over which he is traveling, we are struck not less with the wonderful nature of the foot which is fitted for this work, than by the presence of that high order of intelligence which the horse possesses, qualifying him to change the position of his foot, or to select the best place for it in traveling. This gives us also an idea of the importance of good feet to the horse, for a horse that is off his feet is of no value. With good feet under him, a horse is capable of good service, even with other "outs" of considerable magnitude.

The custom of shoeing the feet is a necessary evil, rendered imperative by our modern systems and the uses to which the horse has been put. In his natural condition, grazing and used on soft soil free from ice and snow, there was no need of artificial protection to the feet. They took care of themselves, and were always in good condition. In fact, we are acquainted with a case where a pair of horses in New York State, that were twenty-two years of age, never had a shoe upon a single foot. The outer wall of the hoof projected below the general surface of the foot, became sharp, and even on the roads of winter this pair of horses were always sure footed.

With shoeing, through all the past generations, have come the countless forms of disease and lameness to which the feet are subjected; for in a very large proportion of cases of lameness, and injury, and diseases connected with the horse's feet, it is due to or results from improper shoeing. And from the wonderfully diverse peculiarities of the feet of horses, many of these injuries have been inevitable, because no one knew how to shoe them in order to avoid injury, except by running some risk at the beginning. And this experimenting resulted in lameness. Moreover Mr. Cole, an American writer on the horse's foot, says that navicular disease, among others, is hereditary, and he had abundant proof to sustain the statement.

Fleet horses upon the turf, the driving horse for business and family riding, and the heavy horse for hard trucking over our rough, stony pavements, all require, shoeing, and shoeing which is different in each case, and for each kind of service. Horse shoes are centuries old, and for years and years there was no change or modification to them. Even down to a comparatively recent period the common iron shoe held full sway; the date of the first "patented" shoe is not very far back, and even now the majority of horse owners hold on to the "old fashioned shoe." New methods of shoeing, however, and attempts at improvements of the shoe, have come about through the natural agencies of the shoeing trade in these later days. The use of horses has largely increased, the demands of our street railways in cities being immense, though unthought of fifty years ago. Besides, hand workmen could never make all the shoes consumed annually in our country at the present time. Eighty-seven shoes per day was formerly an average day's work for two men; now a single man in our country turns out six shoes every second of every working day throughout the year. Nails were formerly made by hand; later they were made by machinery and "pointed" by hand, now they are made and pointed ready for use by machinery.

As soon as horse shoes began to be made by machinery, then they began to be "improved," and the era of "patented" shoes came in. One of the first was the Wheeler shoe, or the "snow-ball shoe," a good shoe for winter use, having a concave inner surface, which prevented the snow from adhering or "balling." It is yet used somewhat north and east. Among the numerous other kinds of shoes are the

Brighton, Burdens, Perkins, Goodenough, Smith's Flexible, Clark, Eureka Spring, and scores beside. We do not know how many patents relate to horse shoes and parts of shoes, but some smiths are inclined to believe there are fully five hundred, while others say there are not more than half as many.

The Goodenough shoe is a pressed iron shoe, having three or four oval steel calks upon it, and is the kind most largely used by the street railway companies of this city. It is understood that the owners of this patent have contracts for shoeing the horses of several railroad companies, owning the shops and fixtures, and furnishing their own workmen.

The Clark patent consists of a thin plate of spring steel (the shape and size of the shoe) confined to the toe of the shoe, placed under it and running back over the frog, thus completely covering the entire "bosom" of the foot. It is packed underneath and about the frog, when set, with oakum.

The Flexible, or Expansion, shoe is generally made in two parts, being jointed at the toe and adjusted to the differences of the foot. But it was found, in use, that it did not spread the foot, its tendency being to crowd off the outer wall from the inner structure.

The Eureka spring shoe is one having a steel spring extending across the heel of the foot from one side of the shoe to the other, having a bearing upon the frog.

A "bar" shoe is also in some use, the shoe being one in which the rear ends are bent round together and meet, forming a bar or round shoe, on which the cushion of the frog rests. It is of some advantage in case of a quarter crack, in supporting the foot, but they are used in hundreds of cases where they should never be put upon a horse.

Among other patents relating to shoes is one which is confined to the foot by "clips" all round the sides and toe of the shoe, and which does away with the use of nails. It has not met with much favor, as it holds the foot in too confined a position, while the "clips" rust and cause the hoof to decay. A rubber pad has been patented which is placed under the shoe, but it is not used to any great extent as it causes the foot to perspire, keeps the hoof dry by absorbing the moisture, and has a tendency to cause thrush or foulness in the hoof.

Several distinct patents relate to rubber pads, one of which has reference to a canvas covering which comes next to the hoof to remedy the evils of rubber. We weighed such a pad the other day and found it to weigh 1½ ounces. When used under a shoe this pad is set in wet oakum.

There is also a rubber shoe, which is objected to for the same reasons as the pad, and being very flexible it is difficult to confine it, the nails used being so large as in some cases to injure the foot. There are in all some ten or a dozen patents on rubber shoes and parts of shoes.

Another patent is the adjustable calk, some of which are fitted to the shoe with screws; others are square, driven into a round, tapering hole. Sometimes a leather pad placed under the shoe instead of rubber, serves a good purpose.

Shoes for different purposes weigh from five ounces to three and a half pounds. The light shoes, those weighing from five to eight ounces, are for the hind feet of trotters; while the heaviest shoes, not unfrequently weighing three and one-half to three and three-quarter pounds, are for the forward feet of trotting horses, used to "square their gait," or to make them throw out well in front. Heavy team and express horses used in city streets having unequal pavements, need a shoe weighing three pounds, and having large, strong calks. These require to be fastened with ten nails, while seven is the usual number for road horses, three upon the inside and four upon the outside; the outside of the foot is believed to sustain the most weight, and to do the most service.

Calks on the shoes of driving and family horses used upon our country roads, are fast going out of use except for winter service. Then the calk should be as slight as possible, as at best they give the foot an unnatural bearing. For the shoes of team, express and work horses they must still be used.

So far as can be gathered from a candid and unprejudiced inquiry among both shoers and large owners of horses, which has been for some time continued, and embraces answers to hundreds of inquiries addressed to owners of horses for different purposes, and to users of different kinds of shoes, the conviction seems to be that the various patented shoes are in the interest of their inventors and owners of shop rights, rather than in the interest of this best servant of man—the horse.

Notwithstanding that more than two hundred volumes have been written on the horse's foot, and thousands of articles in our agricultural journals, there is yet great ignorance or indifference concerning the nature, care and shoeing of the foot, both among shoers and owners. Thousands of horses are owned by wealthy gentlemen who know nothing about them, whose care is in the hands of an ignorant groom, and when they need to be shod are sent off to a shoer, whose interest is, in too many instances, to send in a large bill. So the foot is tampered with, the "patent" shoes are used, and possibly the horse is spoiled. We have seen horses badly lamed from shoeing, where there was too much bearing on the wall of the foot at the heel, the wall of the hoof being fairly swedged into the iron shoe from too great a pressure. The same has also been noticed in the case of bar shoes, one of which we saw removed from a lame horse only a few days ago. From numerous inquiries among private owners of horses, of the largest intelligence and experience, we have yet to find a single instance where they believe any patented shoe whatever possesses any advantages over the common hand-turned shoe of the standard pattern so generally used.

The true theory in shoeing is, and the only practice should be, to leave the foot as much alone as possible. Pare as little as is consistent with good fitting, and in no case tamper with the frog by knife, rasp or patented "spring," or other kind of shoes which bear upon the cushion. Never rasp away the outside of the hoof. The foot of the horse is strongest across the ball—that is to say, the part from the point of the frog on one side round to the same place on the other side. Here is located the power and strength of the foot, and here the greater part of the bearing of the shoe should come. It should bear very lightly on the wall of the hoof at the heel, and it is from an excess of weight here that many kinds of lameness have their origin. It takes a year for the hoof to entirely reproduce itself, but if from any cause it is necessary to hasten its growth, it may be done in four or five months. This is sometimes the case with a quarter-crack, which it is necessary to grow off, and the process is usually hastened by poultices of oil-cake meal, but such a growth is seldom firm or healthy. The average period of shoeing a driving horse is once in four weeks, though in winter it is often the case that they need to have their shoes sharpened every few days.—*American Cultivator.*

S. E. V.

A miscellaneous genius who has been enjoying the luxury of atmosphere passed through an underground air-duct constructed on the plan of our friend, Prof. Wilkinson, of sub-earth ventilating fame, has been inspired by the refreshing influence of that tempered atmosphere in these trying days when the dog-star rages, to perpetrate the following literary *bonne bouche*.

The professor has been called to Chicago to give instructions in his mode of earth ventilating, several parties in that city proposing to have buildings constructed and ventilated by that system. As we have had several inquiries on the subject, we will state that the professor's address at present is 655 W. Washington St., Chicago.

How unlike and how impressive the contrast in the modes of controlling tempests, as practiced by Aeolus, to whom alone his contemporaries conceded the power, "their fury to restrain," as compared with the unique, real and marvelous method so ingeniously applied by the ventilating engineer of the age, familiarly known on both continents as "Venerable S. E. V." The former

"Hurled against the mountain side
His quivering spear, and all the gods applied.
The raging winds rush through the hollow ground,
And dance aloft in air, and skim along the ground;
Then, settling on the sea, the surges sweep,
Raise behind mountains and disclose the deep."

"Where, in a spacious cave of living stone,
The tyrant Aeolus, from his airy throne,
With power imperial curbs the struggling winds,
And sounding tempests in dark prisons binds!
This way and that the impatient captives tend,
And pressing for release, the mountains rend.
High in his hall the undaunted monarch stands,
And shakes his sceptre and their rage commands;
Which did he not, their unrestrained sway
Would sweep the world before them in their way;
Earth, air and sea through empty space would roll;
And heaven would fly before the driving soul.
In fear of this the father of the gods
Confin'd their fury to their dark abodes,
And lock'd them safe within, oppress'd with mountain loads."

Præto.—The philosophic inventor of S. E. V., whose sceptre is the press, which he illumines with the light of science, modestly but seductively invites the boreal tempest, when in his fiercest fury, to take a short tour through a concealed, dark, subterranean air-duct, or tiny tunnel, with which he has pierced the pure, pristine bosom of mother earth. The restless

physical laws of the unerring Creator, forces the raging polar guest, to make the free tour, and while in rapid transit it is magically transformed into a bridled, genial zephyr, as pure and enlivening as was the first breath of man. How changed that which but a moment previously was a life-destroying frigid tempest, the terror and destroyer of all animate nature, so suddenly and entirely altered and modified that all acknowledge it the most genial, vitalizing air they ever inhaled, and insist that its purity, sweetness and freedom from all noxious, contaminating influences, were unknown to the gods, save those who have been so fortunate as to have breathed air transmitted by a subterranean air duct, the distinctive feature of S. E. V. The writer is happy to say that he has once enjoyed, for a brief period, that priceless, peerless boon of science, and that he has ever since lived a life of discontent, and will continue so to live, until his domicile is artistically and perpetually supplied with that most estimable of all domestic necessities and luxuries—pure air by means of sub-earth ventilation. JUNO.

Breakfast Bacon.

This has come to be a famous dish, even contesting the palm with the best sugar-cured ham. The *Western Stock Journal*, in the very seductive article which we copy, tells how to make breakfast bacon. Now is the time to prepare for it by selecting the best shoats; or what would be better, perhaps, make all the medium sized hogs into breakfast bacon.

"For country, town or village, the most convenient, and, to many persons, acceptable dish for the morning meal is breakfast bacon. Yet, while it is charged upon the farmer that he lives upon pork, breakfast bacon, that which is worthy of the name, is seldom seen upon the farmer's table. In any first-class hotel in the larger cities it is regularly found upon the bill of fare, and to say that it is a popular dish is the least we can say. But mind you, these houses don't buy the tough, flabby old meat known among the soldiers as 'sow-belly,' nor the thick, greasy, over-salted and over-smoked sides of a three-year-old, four hundred pound hog. The farmer's wife who reads this, and knows not of the reputation which the standard bill of fare breakfast bacon has before travelers and what are termed genteel boarders, is ready to ask: 'Well, tells us exactly what it is?' We will tell you how to make it. When new corn is ready to feed, select two or three spring pigs that are strictly healthy, yet are thin in flesh. Feed these up rapidly, thus causing the flesh to be tender. At butchering time take the sides and hams, and the shoulders if you like, into your own keeping. Sugar-cure these in the most careful manner, using plenty of sugar, and a small amount each of salt and saltpeter. After being about six weeks in this preparation, smoke moderately, not for a month or two, steady, until the meat is as brown as the skin of a mulatto, three-fourths black, but gently browned, and having the flavor of the curing process slightly through the meat. Do not pursue that abominable practice of leaving the meat in the smoke-house to be treated to a heavy dose of smoke once a week, to keep the flies away, but encase each piece separately in heavy paper and pack away in dry wood ashes. When wanted, take one piece at a time from the storage place. Cut thin, not half so thick as the ordinary farmer's bacon is cut. Broiling is better than frying, and as the saying is, 'Do it nicely,' and if you have prepared the bacon and hams from two such pigs as a first venture, you will need to double the allowance for the next season."

Increasing the Ears of Corn.

If we take a well-developed cornstalk and dissect it lengthwise, at the axils of many of the central and lower leaves we discover buds cut through longitudinally. Some of these buds generally develop ears of corn. Usually these ears are near the upper buds noticed on the dissected stalk. Now the fact has been established that all, or a majority of the buds on the cornstalk may be developed into ears. Such being the fact, why do not corn-growers generally pay more attention to the improvement of the crop? Even if they are not disposed to give it the patient attention needed for this improvement, why not more generally adopt the improvement made by others, when it will require less loss of time and experiment than otherwise? A singular fact noticed in a cornstalk well grown, is that instead of the largest bud of the green stalk developing an ear of corn, it is the smallest on the stalk, at the time of ripening; and on stalks which bear no ears, the buds will be found to be nearly of equal size, if examined when growth has matured. Some varieties of corn show a greater number of buds to the stalk than others, and such are usually the more productive.—*W. H. White, in Country Gentleman.*

Farm Stock.

Oxfordshire Down Sheep.

No breed of sheep has grown more into public favor or has more rapidly extended in numbers within the last fifteen or twenty years than the Oxfordshire Down. It is now somewhere about fifty years since Messrs. Druce of Eynsham, Gillett of Southleigh, Blake of Stanton Harcourt, and Twynham of Hampshire undertook the construction of a new breed of sheep, that should in great measure possess the weight of the Longwool with the quality of the Down. Probably the advantage of such a breed was first apparent in the offering of a cross occasionally resorted to in the case of draft ewes, but from pursuing which farmers had hitherto been deterred by the tendency of the offspring to breed back to either side; and for many years after the breed had become recognized as distinct, the want of uniform character was a source of criticism. Some slight admixture of Sussex Down may have been introduced by those early breeders; but we are of opinion that the Cotswold gray-faced ram and the Hampshire Down ewe were the chief if not the only materials, which by judicious blending and careful selection have resulted in a class of sheep which, under suitable conditions, are probably as profitable as any that can be mentioned, both on account of size, weight of wool, aptitude to fatten, hardy character, and valuable meat. The success of the early promoters of the project led many others into the field. It was not until 1850 that they were styled the Oxfordshire Down, the county of Oxford being their stronghold; previous to this date they were properly regarded as cross-breeds, and known as Down-Cotswolds, under which designation they achieved successes at the Smithfield shows.

Mr. Phillip Pusey, seeing the advantage these sheep were likely to confer on the public generally, as also on the flock-master, became himself a warm supporter of the breed. At his death they lost a great patron, who had been spared, would have materially aided their rapid spread and improvement. His flock was brought to the hammer in 1855, also that of Mr. Gillett of Brezenorton, and soon after Mr. Gillett of Southleigh, both ram breeders standing high in public estimation. The distribution of these flocks laid a good foundation for many others. Not only did many tenant farmers give up the old breeds to make room for the improved sort, but the Oxfordshire sheep found favor with the landed proprietors, and amongst others his Grace the Duke of Marlborough had a flock on a farm in his own occupation at Blenheim. As soon as the breed became established, some of the most successful breeders began to exhibit their sheep at the Royal agricultural society's show, and as they had no special class, were shown with short-wooled sheep and cross breeds. This unsatisfactory state of things continued until 1861, when the stewards in their report stated "that the judges are of opinion that the Oxfordshire Downs should not be excluded from competition at these annual shows, as they believe them to be animals possessing great merit, and worthy of having a class to themselves." The R. A. S. decided on a separate class, and the Oxfordshire Downs made their first appearance as a recognized breed by the great society in the exhibition year of 1862, at Battersea, where they numbered 62 entries, and were highly spoken of by the judges, who, however, objected to their want of uniformity—a deficiency again referred to by the judges at the Royal in 1865 and 1868. The reports in the R. A. S. Journal of 1870 and 1872 speak in high praise of their general excellence and great improvement in uniform character. We still see difference in type in the rams offered to the public; but, knowing that a heavy fleece can be obtained, with wool thickly set on the skin, and holding the opinion that a fine quality of mutton is not to be found under an open coat, we think that a great advance will be made when a lathy Cotswold fleece is no longer to be found among flocks bearing the name of Oxfordshire Downs.

We now shortly describe the characteristics of a good type of Oxfordshire Downs.

A real Oxfordshire Down should have a nice dark color, the poll well covered with wool, adorned with a top knot on the forehead; a good fleece of wool thick on the skin, not too curly; a well formed barrel on short, dark legs (not gray or spotted), with good, firm mutton. The tugs usually sold fat, from eleven to thirteen months old, at an average of ten stone, (140 pounds), and are much sought after in the London and other markets.

The weight of wool for a whole flock will average 7 pounds per sheep; rams have been known to cut as much as 20 pounds when shearlings.

The Oxfordshire sheep are adapted more particularly for mixed soils, and stand close stock; ing and confinement; that is, they can be kept entirely in hurdles, and will probably do better so than if allowed a range.—London Field.

Fattening Stock.

One of the great difficulties in bringing stock to a full degree of fatness is that they often break down in their limbs through the excessive accumulation of fat. This is particularly noticeable in swine, and especially when they are fed exclusively on Indian corn. This may be obviated in a great measure by giving fattening animals a variety of food during the earlier stages of fattening, and finishing with corn. Plenty of salt is also essential, its office being among other uses, to eliminate from the blood noxious principles. Very finely-ground

bone meal is also used in the finishing stages of fattening in connection with salt and ashes.

Many persons are in the habit of giving salt and ashes and also bone dust regularly in the food given to stock, or else at stated intervals. This, however, is objectionable, since the stock are obliged often to take an undue portion, and in the latter case often at irregular intervals. The better way is to keep salt always where stock may take it at will. The same may be said of wood ashes. When a good variety of food is given stock will not require bone meal. In fact it is not altogether certain that herbivorous animals will assimilate bone, though from the fact that cattle are apt to gnaw bones when they find them, it is altogether probable that it is digested. Swine, however, undoubtedly do. Bone is composed of cartilage, gelatin, fat, and salts of lime, magnesia, soda and potash, combined with phosphoric and other acids. There is no reason why in a finely ground state it may not be assimilated even by herbivorous animals. Practice would seem to show that it is. Hence the use of it in fattening animals in particular cases.

When the animals are intended for the shambles it is important that they have bone enough to sustain them. It is especially important that this be the case in the show ring. To accomplish this end, while young, they should be kept steadily growing. They must have plenty of nitrogenous food. For young animals there is nothing better in connection with a flush pasture in summer, than sound oats, bran and middlings of wheat flour mixed. In summer when the pasture is flush, they will eat but little. In winter they should have all they will eat clean, but at this season one-third of the feed may be corn meal, or the food may better be alternated, giving the oats crushed, the bran and middlings mixed, and the corn ground into meal. All three of these may be mixed with cut hay or fed separately, according to the means at hand. Indeed, many feeders, where grain is cheap, prefer to feed it whole. It is largely a matter in which the cost of grinding is concerned.

While the plan given above for making animals fully fat will apply to all, it is with swine particularly that the rule is to be observed. This is particularly essential with animals intended for the show ring. They often have to be transported long distances by rail, subject to heat, exposure, loss of regular feed, and other disabilities calculated to weaken the system and detract from the general appearance of the animals. It is not only mortifying, but it also touches the pocket seriously to have an animal lose a prize for want of proper care in feeding. Corn is all right so far as fattening is concerned; but if the animal has not been started right all the corn that may be given will not make it properly fat. In the show ring at our fairs, if the animals have not been given bone and muscle to start with, they must inevitably fall under the handling of competent judges.—*Prairie Farmer*.

Breeding From Show Herds Dangerous.

We cannot too often warn our readers against purchasing breeding stock at public sales and elsewhere, that have been pampered and fed for the show-yard. In the height of the Short-horn speculation it did not make much difference; then barren show-cows were carried from place to place, and appeared first in one breeder's catalogue and then another, until they finally drifted out of the current and were stranded high and dry in the hands of some unsophisticated outsider, where they were never again heard from. Experienced persons steer clear of these show-yard animals, or at least will not buy them without a distinct and specific warranty that they are breeders; and it will be well for all who buy at public sales, made up mainly of old show herds, to follow their example. If these cattle fail to breed, they are worth simply what they will bring for beef, and no more; and the purchaser should have a distinct understanding to that effect before he makes a bid upon an animal old enough to breed, that does not show for itself. Breeders who offer stock that has been, in the main, bred and raised by themselves on their own farm, are not much troubled with barrenness in their cows, and when such cases occur they are usually sent to the shambles at once; but show-yard animals, and those that have again and again been fitted up for the auction block, are so frequently made barren by the high feeding and forcing to which they have been subjected, as to put every experienced man on his guard when such animals are offered.—*Nat. Live-Stock Journal*.

A Grain Ration on Pasture for Sheep.

Commenting on the above named subject the *National Live Stock Journal* says:

"We do not favor the opinion, too prevalent among a large class of stock feeders, that animals at pasture must necessarily be confined to the grass, good or bad, long or short, and that it is wasteful to feed grain in pasture. The simple question should be: Does the pasture furnish abundant food to produce a full growth of the lambs, to put the ewes that bore them in fine condition, to give a strong growth to the yearlings, and fit the weathers for the intended market? Sheep, like steers, are kept for their growth—for their increase in value of carcass and wool—and if the pasture will produce a profitable growth of both, then let 'well enough alone.' But it often happens that the pasture is so meagre that the lambs are small, the dams thin, and the whole flock at a stand still, for the want of proper nourishment. Now, there can be no profit in this mode of feeding. Sheep can no more stand poor feeding than other stock, and cattle feeders often help out a short pasture by feeding grain. A few cents' worth of corn

per week to each sheep may bring all the profit that is obtained, for there can be no profit without full feeding.

We once tried an experiment that illustrates the point under discussion. Having fifty sheep, which were kept alternately in two small pastures, and the summer being dry, the "sheep would come out all right in it," we concluded to divide the flock (30 wethers, and 20 dry ewes) into two equal lots, and place one in each pasture—leaving one lot to get its living wholly from the pasture, and giving the other lot one pint of corn and oats per day to each sheep. This experiment was begun on the 15th of July, and continued to October 1st—or 77 days. In September the pasture improved very much; yet, on October 1st, the lot given grain weighed 20 lbs. per head more than the lot on pasture alone. They were sold for \$4.50 per head more, and thus paid a large price for the grain fed. The man who purchased them said the pelts would be worth 50 cents more each for the grain fed."

The Management of Horses.

They should be fed according to their work. An idle team may be wintered on good hay alone; when working lightly a feed of grain at noon will be sufficient, with hay morning and night. With heavy work, ten quarts of ground corn and oats, and chaffed straw or corn fodder will be good feeding, and in many cases, for small horses, less will do. Good grooming is necessary for health in winter. Ground gypsum spread upon the floor will prevent the pungent odor common to stables. This vapor of ammonia is hurtful to horses' eyes, and the frequent cause of ophthalmia, and resulting in blindness with which so many are troubled. Throw a few pailsful of water upon the floor first, and then scatter around a shovelful of gypsum. Fresh air should enter the stables at the bottom, and foul air leave them at the top. Make small sliding doors for ventilation, and cover them with wire netting or laths, to exclude vermin.—*Ex.*

Apples for Horses.

One of our citizens, who usually keeps several dozen work horses, informed us a few days since that he occasionally fed sour apples to his horses, with excellent results. They are a certain cure for worms. He recommends from a half to a whole pailful once a week. Another citizen who has been in the practice of keeping a considerable number of work horses on his farm, says that he has been in the habit of turning his horses into the orchard in the fall, where they could eat as many apples as they liked. He found that they derived much benefit from the feed, and gained flesh much more rapidly than others which did not receive an apple feed.—*Dirigo Rural*.

Rubbing the Tail by Horses.

Washing the rump and roots of the tail both on top and underneath, with strong vinegar at least twice a day, and giving a small portion of tobacco, well broken up, in the feed, will usually cure this vice in a few days. In some cases it is a good plan to nail a piece of plug tobacco in a corner of the feed box, and let the animal bite it at will. Where ascarides or pin-worms cause the irritation and trouble, tobacco is as good a vermifuge as can be used. It has the merit of rarely, if ever failing.—*B., in Prairie Farmer*.

Cure for Galls.

Dissolve six drachms of iodine in half a pint of alcohol, and apply it on the sore with a feather as soon as the collar is removed, and when at rest twice a day, morning and evening. The article should be in the stable of every farmer, as it is an excellent application on horses where the skin is broken by kicks or other accidents, and is a sure cure for splints if used in a proper manner.

Horticulture.

Grapes Fully Ripe.

A gentleman who was overhauling his vines after the grape season was passed, made the important discovery that grapes allowed to fully ripen and mature, were much more delicious than when they reached their first stage of ripeness, at which period the fruit is almost all consumed.

"The other day while taking down Isabella grape vines I found a few bunches that had been left from the general gathering, which took place over a month ago. Such sweetness and excellence of quality I was surprised to find in this variety, seeming almost like another grape. I had had some experience of the kind before, but never to the same extent. It convinced me that grapes should be left longer on the vines generally than is usual. The excuse that the frost might take them was answered here, as there had been several frosts toward the last. A well-ripened grape will stand considerably cold and some sorts will improve in quality by keeping after they are picked. This is particularly the case with the Clinton, which is one of the very best of keepers, lasting, when well matured and stored in a rather dry, cool place, till spring. I have had them in May. Keep exposed to the air till the stems are dry, then box up in sawdust well dried, or other like material. But keep cool and as uniformly so as possible."

Mulch, Mulch, Mulch!

Earth kept constantly loose and to the depth of four to six inches, about trees or vines is one of the best mulches, but this on stony soil

can only be secured by constant labor. An economical method is to mulch with stones, chipped sawdust, leaves, compost, litter, &c., which when generously applied prevents evaporation and keeps the soil moist and loose. What folly it is to dig a small hole in a grass plot, set therein a valuable fruit or ornamental tree, cover the roots with the poorly prepared soil removed and expect vitality to be retained. Why there are a thousand hungry and thirsty grass roots foraging about the spot, and the tree is robbed, in its helpless condition, of almost every particle of nourishment. Excavate a large space, under such circumstances, and after careful planting cover the loose soil with six inches of leaves or litter and lay flat stones over that to keep in place. Better results are secured in this way than if you should pour a barrel of water about the roots daily. Newly set maples especially need mulching. Observe the mulch of leaves about them in their original abodes. Can you expect to remove them, from a retreat so favorable, to a baked soil, open to the scorching sun, and yet hope to see them thrive?—*Charles A. Green, in the American Rural Homes*.

The Castor Bean.

EDS. FARMER: I see it stated in some of the newspapers that the castor bean is grown to some extent in your state. I think of engaging in that business, and would like to have you, or some of your correspondents, give me, through your paper, some information in regard to the yield per acre, prices, where sold, etc.

J. M. SMITH.

Palmyra, Missouri.

Apiary.

The Future of the Honey Crop.

There are 20,000,000 swarms of bees in the United States. It is fast becoming "a land flowing with milk and honey." We have room and pasture for 500,000,000 swarms in the United States. Enough honey products are allowed to go to waste each year to produce 10,000,000,000 pounds of honey. And if we had that amount we could find consumption for it at home and abroad. American honey exhibited by H. K. & F. B. Thurber & Co., New York, has taken the highest premium at the Royal Agricultural Exhibition, held in London, commencing June 30th. This is very important to American bee-keepers. The shameful adulteration of molasses, syrup, candy, &c., have made the demand for honey greater than the supply. The recent heavy shipments of honey to Europe from New York have conclusively shown the possibility and certainty of finding a ready market for our honey.

Beside man is an animal that loves sweets. He must or will have them in some shape or form. Confectionery, sugar, molasses, preserved fruits, sweet cakes, &c., are the many forms in which he takes his sweets. But of late he has been uneasy. *Terra Alba* has passed for candy, the baking powder in his sweet cakes contain alum, sugar is shamefully adulterated, molasses is manufactured from glucose. Preserved fruits and jellies are very expensive and to nearly all people less palatable than honey. Without doubt honey will soon supersede sugar, molasses, preserves, jellies, &c., to a large extent. Again, honey is very healthy. Nothing is better in winter for sore throats and colds. In the summer when inflammation of the stomach and diarrhoea are so prevalent there is no more soothing, palatable and effective preventive than honey.

Another advantage of honey is its easy transportability. Extracted honey in barrels, hogsheads, and kegs may be transported without trouble for thousands of miles. The comb honey may be shipped with far less care than most of the fruits or vegetables. If properly cared for it will keep for years. When the Mississippi is made the commercial outlet of the Valley, honey will find an almost insatiable European market.

Bees may be kept by the farmer, the merchant, the lawyer, the doctor, the minister; by children, ladies, old persons, invalids and cripples. If you have but ground enough to set your hives upon, you can raise bees. If you have but capital enough to purchase, or borrow one swarm, make the start. If you know nothing about bees, buy a good book on the subject and you will soon learn. It matters not how poor, weak, or sad you may be, here is a field of pleasure and profit to be occupied by yourself or somebody else. Some one will reap the profits of the industry ten years from now. If you commence now you will have a good, large apiary, valuable experience, and a growing enthusiasm for your work. Kansas people are generally wide awake and shrewd and if they miss this opportunity it will be strange.

Kansas has great natural advantages as a honey producing state. The blossoming vegetation, some of which, like the sunflower, are troublesome to the farmer, will furnish practically inexhaustible fields for the bees. Her climate is excellent for this branch of industry and her honey making seasons long. For various reasons honey will find a good home market. Kansas is centrally located in the Union, and when the Mississippi is made a navigable water way will be as near Europe as the Eastern states.

Where will the honey find a foreign market? First in England. The Englishman likes honey and honey likes the Englishman. Then in France. France is a land of confectionery, sweetmeats, and *bon bons*. Honey will largely supersede these. Then in Germany. And so on throughout Europe. If we get the Lesseps canal it can be taken by way of the Mississippi, Gulf and canal to Asia, or by way of San Francisco.

My articles upon bee management, discontinued on account of work and illness, will commence again soon. An interesting season to the bee-keeper is almost here and I shall try to give him a few practical hints.

JOHN M. STAHL.

Camp Point, Ill.

Miscellaneous.

Harvesting in the West.

Any one of our farmers, with few exceptions, who stands in a western wheat field of 2,000 acres for the first time, witnessing the operation of harvesting, cannot fail to be deeply impressed by the wonderful celerity with which four or five men with machinery and horses will reap, bind and sack this immense piece of grain. These four or five men actually do as much as a hundred of their kind could do with the old-fashioned "cradle" and the straw band by hand, which is largely used by our farmers even yet—still they have reason in part for it, because the average field of wheat in Ohio is not over twenty or thirty acres, few have pieces of one hundred acres, and many, a great many, do not sow more than ten or twelve, and it plainly would not pay to purchase machinery for so small an extent of work. One of the strange fashions which mark the western wheat harvests is the peculiar class of people upon whom the remote dwellers on the frontier depend to aid them in gathering their grain. They rely first upon the emigrants who come into the country to settle, subject to the homestead laws, and, second, on the "wheat harvest tramps." These "tramps" are men who start in Texas and follow the harvest north. Some keep on the line of the rivers, while others drive in wagons across the country. They work in Texas until her harvest is saved, when they strike for the Mississippi river and there take a boat north. When they reach a point where the wheat has not been cut, there they disembark and at once go to work. Finishing here they go again further north, so keeping on until Minnesota is reached, ceasing only when the broad fields of wheat on the Red river and Dakota are cut.

Other men of this class get into wagons at the Rio Grande and work right through north overland. Hundreds and hundreds of their white-tented vehicles may be seen forging through Kansas to-day. They have cut the crop of Texas, they have saved that of southern Kansas, they are at work on those of middle Kansas to-day, and the eyes of the Nebraska farmers are anxiously turned to the southern horizon every evening eagerly looking for the white-topped wagons of the Bohemian harvesters, who are the very best of harvest hands and soon, when they have finished their season's work among the purple hills of Dakota, they will disappear just as the wind listeth.

What revelations our improved machinery of the harvest is yet destined to work upon the vast wheat fields of southern Russia and Roumania, where the immense aggregate yield is nearly all gathered at a frightful expenditure and waste of physical toil—with rude reaping hooks and scythes, threshed out by the clumsy flail or trodden out by the hoofs of cattle. Yet with all these bungling customs in the way and in vogue, Russia exports nearly as much wheat at we do. When she comes to adopt our methods, then we shall have to stir ourselves if we wish to lead the list, which we do now, as the great feeder of the world.—*Cleveland Herald*.

Bring Out Your Best.

Under this heading a cotemporary makes the following very appropriate comments which will apply equally well to any section of the country. Let every farmer read what is said here and imagine it is he who is being addressed in person.

"The fair season is at hand again, a little earlier than usual this year, and if you are going to exhibit anything it is time you were stirring yourselves. You have attended the fairs for a good many years, never exhibited any products of your soil or the fruits of your labor in any direction, and always went away saying you had better grain, vegetables, butter, cheese, cows, sheep, or something else, at home. Now prove it this year by bringing them out to the fair, where they can be compared with others of the same kind. Your saying they are better than your neighbors' don't make it so. Let a competent committee decide upon it this year, and if you are fairly beaten, you will still have the satisfaction of knowing you have assisted in promoting the objects of the exhibition. Your contributions have made the exhibition better, even though better exhibits were shown. There has been, always, too much indolence and carelessness with farmers in this matter. An old fair manager, in speaking of this thing recently, said that he believed that not one in a hundred of farmers ever exhibited anything at the fairs, and until they did exhibit, quite generally, could the annual exhibitions be made what they ought to be, or were originally designed to be. The great design of these institutions is not to give and receive premiums, but to promote agriculture in its various departments, by bringing together the best productions, where the people can see them, and thus become educated up to a higher standard. The offering of premiums is only a means to secure this object, by stimulating to best efforts. If we want the fairs to be what they ought to be—educators of the people—let us all take hold and help to make them so."

Lime has been used for apple orchards with great benefit at the rate of twenty bushels per acre. One who has tried it for many years deems it very beneficial as his trees have been very productive.

The Miser of the Everglades.

An instance of solitary confinement, almost as complete as that of a lighthouse-keeper, is the life led by the richest man in Florida, the cattle king of the everglades. He owns over 150,000 head of cattle that are now pastured on government land and cost nothing but the branding, herding and marketing. At the proper ages they are taken to Cuba and Spanish doubloons and silver dollars received in exchange. This coin is packed in boxes and hidden in places deemed inaccessible to any one who may have curiosity enough to penetrate the moss-covered morasses or mangrove swamps of the southern end of the state. This cattle king and coin hoarder who returns for taxation about one-third of the live stock he actually owns, lives in a shanty without stove or fireplace, with a large hole on one side for a door, and a small one on the other for a window. There is nothing in it that could truthfully be called bed, chair or table. With his dogs for society, he passes his time here, when not absent on business connected with the marketing or selling of his cattle. He has no stationary neighbors within seventy-five miles, and don't want any. The shot-guns, rifles and long-bladed knives forming the armament of this citadel, and bloodhounds on the outside constituting lines of defense to all approaches, make it no easy matter to communicate with the miser and semi-hermit, nor is it desirable to do so. The hospitality, if any was dispensed, would be fish and game cooked in the most primitive style, without coffee or bread of any kind. Swamp water with its marshy taste removed by mixture with whisky might be the beverage, but the water alone would more likely be served. In this miserable condition the wealthiest man in the whole state chooses to live. He rivals some of the cattle raisers of Texas in the size of his herds, but with his thousands of animals, which are increasing in numbers every year, his masses of hoarded coin, the extent of which he does not know himself, in all probability, his self-denial of not only the luxuries but all the comforts of life, in order to accumulate more money and more cattle, he is a burden to the land he inhabits, and his death, instead of a prolonged existence, would entail blessings, if anything flavored with good can flow from such a source.

Saddle Horses and Their Paces.

It is important that farmers of means, having a desire to bring out good saddle horses (which will soon be the most valuable), should know how to accomplish their object. In order to make a good, clever riding horse after he has been carefully gentled and his mouth brought to feel the bit properly, and through that and the reins, the riders hands, he requires to be ridden by a good horseman who is at home on a horse's back and who has a fine sense of touch, for on this depends the fine sense of feeling in the horse's mouth. Hence it is often said of rough riders and of many common riders in England, "he can sit on a horse very well but he has no hands." In England, no gentleman would ride any horse which was used at all in harness; therefore, beautiful young horses, raised in the United States, should be used exclusively as saddle horses, and if such animals are not raised for exportation, the Americans of the next generation will have found the difference between a genuine nag and one having been spoiled by leaning against a collar.

In the southern states there are a great many horses used exclusively under the saddle, but it is French or Spanish riding and not English. The saddles also are not at all like those of England. There are but four paces in which a horse is allowed to go among good riders—the walk, which is generally 4 to 5 miles an hour; the trot, which is from 8 to 12 miles an hour, according to the inclination of the rider; the canter, which is as slow as the animal can be brought to gallop—by some called a hand gallop, but in England, or at least in all the midland counties, the pace is termed "canter," and for a lady's nag or palfrey it is always required that the animal must be trained to canter with the right leg first; in fact it is customary to teach most of the nags to canter or gallop with the right leg first. The fourth pace in England is the gallop, which means at any rate from a brisk gallop of 20 miles an hour to the greatest rate of speed. In the southern states here, the horses are used to what is called "pace" and "rack," which is not done in England, excepting that many old farmers accustom the nags they ride to the weekly market to move at a "jog trot" which is called a "shog," but although this makes a fifth pace, yet as it is not countenanced by good riders, and any horse having been indulged in this way of going is not so desirable, it may thus be seen there are but four legitimate paces—the walk, trot, canter and gallop.

The cavalry are taught to ride differently from the general public. They sit very upright, and have their stirrup leathers longer, so that the toe part of the boot only rests on the stirrup. When the horses trot, the soldiers do not rise in the stirrup, whereas the general public and sporting men run the foot in right up to the instep, and thus in jumping, or when a horse shies or swerves from any cause, the rider does not lose the stirrup, or in other words, his feet does not slip out.

Farmers in the United States who wish to breed and bring out good saddle horses, should ride daily, or have sons who can constantly ride. Boys, when quite children, are allowed to ride ponies in England, and thus they become so accustomed to the riding and guiding of their sags that they feel as much or more in their element in the saddle than boys in this country do when driving a horse before a buggy. The French re becoming much better equestrians than they

were formerly, and it is to be hoped, that the Americans will improve, if only for the sake of making money by perfecting a fine class of saddle horses. No one can become a good rider by merely taking a few lessons at a riding school. It is all right to take the lessons and ride in a proper manner from the first, but after knowing all about holding the reins and getting on and off, &c., practice every day is necessary.—G. G. in Country Gentleman.

An Old Saying.

The North Carolina Farmer quotes a piece of advice given by Tom Corwin, with this comment, which we have nothing to add to:

"A good many years ago, Tom Corwin, of blessed memory, when secretary of the treasury, gave some advice to a young man who came to him with an application for office that deserves to be written in letters of gold and hung up in the conspicuous places about Washington. 'My dear boy,' said he, 'go to the northwest, buy one hundred and sixty acres of government land, or if you have not got the money to purchase, squat on it, get you an ax and a mattock, put up a log cabin on your habitation and raise a little corn and potatoes; keep your conscience clear and live like a freeman, your own master, with no one to give you orders, and without dependence upon anybody. Do that, and you will be honored, respected, influential and rich. But accept a clerkship here, and you sink at once all independence; your energies become relaxed, and you are unfitted for any other and more independent position. I may give you a place to-day and turn you out to-morrow; and there's another man over at the White House who can turn me out, and the people by-and-by can turn him out, and so we go. But if you own an acre of land it is your kingdom, and your cabin is your castle; you are a sovereign, and you will feel it in every throbbing of your pulse, and every day of your life will assure me of your thanks for having thus advised you.'"

Advertising.

The Portland Transcript, in one of its issues about the time the following transaction took place, published the following, which enterprising fruit growers would do well to remember and act upon when the season for shipping apples comes around:

"L. J. Stout, of Limington, Maine, while barreling apples to be shipped to Paris unknown to him, conceived the novel idea of ascertaining their destination by putting a letter, enclosing money to pay the postage on a letter, in one of the barrels, kindly asking the purchaser to write him the date of opening it, his name and residence, the price paid, the condition of the apples when opened, etc. In about three months Mr. Stout received a letter from a merchant in London, England, saying one of his customers found the letter and passed it to him, and by him it was neatly answered, giving all the desired information in regard to apples, etc. Last winter Mr. Stout received a letter from the same merchant in relation to filling an order for Maine apples, but the quality and scarcity of the fruit last year prevented his filling the order satisfactorily to himself. Last week Mr. Stout received another order by cable for several hundred barrels as samples, from the same persons. As Mr. Stout will undoubtedly fill the order, the English gentleman will no doubt be surprised at the size and quality of the fruit, which is this year probably a third larger than two years ago."

Patrons of Husbandry.

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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: Receipts for Dues, 2nd, Secretary's Receipts, and 3d, 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.

The Grange Far-Reaching and Just in Its Objects.

President Darden says in the Patron of Husbandry: The Declaration says: "For our business interests we desire to bring producers and consumers, farmers and manufacturers, into the most direct and friendly relations possible.

Hence we must dispense with a surplus of middlemen, not that we are unfriendly to them, but we do not need them. Their surplus and their exactions diminish our profits." Here comes in our "war" with trade—and the wise observer must long since have remarked that unless some agency should intervene, the producer of this country must at no distant day cease to have any voice in the disposition of his productions. The grange is this agency, and by bringing to light, through its educational department, the impositions practiced upon agriculturists in moving and exchanging their productions, the vast sums expended unnecessarily, by discounting "the credit system, the mortgage system, the fashion system, and every other system tending to prodigality and bankruptcy" has saved its members much money, but more than all, it has inaugurated a better system among those who have come under its influence, than could possibly have been attained without its useful teachings.

To still further husband our resources, we now recommend the co-operative plan of doing business which has succeeded so admirably in England. In this attitude towards "trade" we are not actuated by a spirit of aggression, but of self-protection. While we are free to admit that we have not accomplished all that we desired, or all that we yet hope to accomplish in correcting the errors of the present system of trade, yet we would ask of those most interested, if the grange has failed entirely in this respect? If so, why is the effort so persistently made to impede its progress, and even to destroy it as an institution?

Of transportation, our Declaration says: "We wage no aggressive warfare against any other interest whatever." "We hold that transportation companies of every kind are necessary to our success, that their interests are intimately connected with our interests, and harmonious action is mutually advantageous, keeping in view the first sentence of our declaration of principles of action that "Individual happiness depends upon general prosperity." And again, "We are opposed to such spirit and management of any corporation or enterprise as tends to oppress the people and rob them of their just profits."

Our agitation of the railroad question has proceeded from the spirit they have manifested to oppress the people and rob them of their just profits, by cruel exactions and unjust discriminations. To show that the grange has not "failed" in its efforts in this respect, it is only necessary to allude to the fact that the public sentiment created by the discussion of this question resulted in what is known as the grange's laws, and the discussion of the supreme court that state legislatures have a right to control transportation companies within their respective jurisdictions. When this agitation first began, the unequal contest was left to the grange, and the very few papers then published in its interest, now many of the ablest of our political papers have joined in this contest, not to destroy railroads or their usefulness, but to prevent them from destroying the prosperity of the people, and many of our wisest statesmen view with alarm their encroachments and their power which now bids defiance to the laws of the land. To those who think farmers should take no interest in the management of railroads, I call their attention to the evidence of decadence in farming in the great states of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut, as shown in a series of articles which recently appeared in the New York Bulletin, the only cause that can be assigned being the discriminations of the railroads.

I would also direct attention to the discriminations made in our state, and close this part of my letter by asking the question, can our industry prosper with the exactions, extortions and discriminations practiced by transportation companies?

Why Farmers Go Back.

Our grangers are realizing the fact that years ago, when they were attending grange meetings regularly, and going upon the cash principle, they were doing well, and were independent of the middlemen. Now, where communities have got credit, given mortgages and quit attending grange meetings, they are fearfully behind financially; they belong to a master, and the prospects ahead are gloomy. The farmer who mortgages pays this season 10 to 12 cents per pound for bacon; the cash farmer pays 5 to 6 cents. No wonder our farmers are going back to the grange, and were our organs generally circulated among them, great would be the result.—J. H. Wilson, Master of Florida State Grange, in the Patron of Husbandry.

Co-Operative Effort.

Immeasurable good comes of that self-reliance which is the product of co-operative effort successfully employed in a thousand ways. Even in thought there has been wonderful growth. Very many granges conduct their meeting much as farmers' clubs are managed, thus broadening and increasing common intelligence, thereby fitting the recipients of the benefits for higher fields of usefulness. It is really the elevation of a class by the development of mind and the growth of virtues. In view of the great good already accomplished, it may be said the beneficence of the order entitles it to the respect of all classes that desire real progress in all that elevates mankind. Farmers, especially those who have held aloof, are challenged to action. If the grange advances in its good work, every step of its progress will be a receding step for those farmers who do not accept its benefits. Let them take thought of their relative positions, and act wisely.—W. A. Armstrong, in Grange Visitor.

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.

TOSWINE BREEDERS

The Drouth has failed

The corn crop will be immense and good hogs will be scarce and high for some time to come. I believe that I have as large, as fine and as well bred

BERKSHIRES.

as can be found anywhere, and will sell pigs C. O. D. to reliable parties as I am sure of giving satisfaction. Some young SHOW Sows, safe in pig for sale. A. W. ROLLINS, Manhattan, 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.

FOR SALE!

THE FINEST LOT OF NURSERY STOCK EVER GROWN IN THIS PART OF THE STATE. 200,000 APPLE TREES

15,000 PEACH TREES

And other Stock, which will be sold at the LOWEST FIGURES!

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SEXES AT WILL.—Kings and Queens would gladly have their names in the columns of this paper, and will do so without charge. For further particulars, send a card to the Editor, Kansas Farmer, Topeka, Kan.

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Will be Held at the Fair Grounds, Lexington, Ky., commencing on

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At which time 200 head of horses; 30 Short-horns; 40 Jerseys (all bred); and 200 Cows and Southdown Sheep will be sold, representing the best herds and flocks on Kentucky soil. Twenty head 1 and 2 year old Southdown Rams, bred by A. J. Alexander, will be sold. The Horses will be sold on TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, Sept. 9th and 10th, and Cattle and Sheep on THURSDAY, Sept. 11th. Those in want of Trotters, Buggy Horses, Roadsters, Stallions, Brood Mares, Saddle Horses, Cows and Fillies of the most choice breeding and promise, as well as Short-horns, Jerseys and Sheep, will do well to be on hand, many of the Horses, Jerseys and Sheep, in the Catalogue have been winners at the great Fairs in Kentucky. Terms cash. For Catalogue address

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Physician.

MRS. DEBORA K. LONGSHORE, M. D., has removed her office to the west side of Harrison St., 1st door south of Sixth St.

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A. H. THOMPSON, D. D. S., Operative and Surgeon, Dentist, No. 129 Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas.

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

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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 stock. Terms reasonable. Correspondence solicited.

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Kansas Pacific Railway.

Lands! Lands! KANSAS TO THE FRONT!

The Leading Wheat State in the Union in 1878 and the Great Kansas Harvest of 1878 was

Solid for the Golden Belt.

The celebrated Grain Belt of country, in the limestone section of Central Kansas, traversed by the Kansas Pacific.

The following statements are taken from the report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture for 1878: WHEAT! Kansas rises from the Eleventh Wheat State in 1877 to the FIRST WHEAT STATE in the Union in 1878, producing 28,518,361 bushels winter wheat, and 5,796,403 bushels spring wheat, total.

32,315,361 Bushels Wheat, with only one-eighth of the state under cultivation. The organized counties lying in the Golden Wheat Belt of the Kansas Pacific produced 18,335,334 bushels, or over 41 per cent, and including unreporting counties, fully 14,000,000 bushels, or 45 per cent, of the entire yield of wheat in the state, with an equally grand showing in all other departments of agriculture.

The foregoing facts show conclusively why 29 per cent of the increase of population in the State during the past four years; and 40 per cent in the increase in population during the past year; and 45 per cent of the increased acreage of wheat in the state in 1878, belonged to the "Golden Belt."

A FARM FOR EVERYBODY.—25,000 farms—5,000,000 acres for sale by Kansas Pacific—the Best land in America, at from \$2 to \$6 per acre, one-quarter off for cash, or on 6 or 11 years credit at 7 per cent. Interest. It don't take much money to buy a farm on the Kansas Pacific; \$25 to \$50 will secure 50 acres on credit, or \$120 to \$300 in cash will buy it outright.

Send to S. J. Gilmore, Land Commissioner, Salina, Kas., for the "Kansas Pacific Homestead," a publication that tells about Lands, Homesteads, Free-emption, Soil, Products, Climate, Stock Raising, Schools, Wages, Land Explorers' Tickets, Rates, etc. It is mailed free to all applicants. Read all you can gather about Kansas, and when you decide to start, be sure and start right by locating along the KANSAS PACIFIC RAILWAY. T. F. OAKES, Gen'l Superintendent, KANSAS CITY MO

There is but one solution to the problem, and every practical woman can solve it to a demonstration. It is this: to be self helpful and independent enough to do without these "Jacobins of the kitchen." If we American mothers did our duty by ourselves and our daughters, we should make house work in all its branches, the highest exponent of our own and their education. And indeed, this duty is not confined to our own family circle, but it is one we owe to all, in common. It is a shame to any woman, that she does not expect from her home a discordant element that is held there by no stronger tie than a pecuniary one. If a woman has not independence of character enough to take into her own hands the management of her own household, or, if by circumstances, as is so often the case, she is compelled to depend on other people to discharge those duties for her, then there is but one safeguard for her: to treat with kindly respect and consideration those persons on whom she is dependent. I can not see that this is a work for either the strong-minded or the philanthropist. It is a work in which we all must engage, and that too, with a fixed determination, and a singleness of purpose, else our labor is vain.

A. A. BROWN.

Topeka Retail Grain Market.

Topeka Retail Grain Market.
Wholesale cash prices by dealers, corrected weekly
by T. A. Beck & Bro.

WHEAT-Per bu. spring.....	75
" Fall No 1.....	75
" Fall No 2.....	75
" Fall No 3.....	75
" Fall No 4.....	75
CORN-Per bu.....	75
" White CHOP.....	75
" Yellow.....	75
OATS-Per bu.....	75
" Rye-Per bu.....	75
BARLEY-Per bush.....	20
WHEAT-Per 100 lbs.....	8.0
" No 1.....	2.7
" No 2.....	2.7
" No 3.....	2.7
" No 4.....	2.7
CORN MEAL.....	9
CORN CHOP.....	7
CORN CHOP.....	7
CORN & OATS.....	7
BRAN.....	7
BRAN.....	7

New 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.

in postage stamps or currency enclosed in letter at our risk will pay for the WEEKLY CAPITAL for the balance of 1879. This offer which does not cover cost of white paper is made to introduce this paper into every home in Kansas. Send money or stamps and get the paper at once.

HUDSON & EWING,

One Hundred HEAD

Choice MERINO BUCKS for sale at low and reasonable prices. These bucks are bred from pure blooded stock and second to none in the state. Those who wish to supply themselves with good bucks will do well to call and see them at the Allison Ranch, 12 miles north of Topeka, on Little Soldier Creek, address

C. P. ALLISON,
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FOOD FOR INFANTS
AND INVALIDS

Is used with greater success than any other article the kind. The finest children are those fed on Ridg Food. WOOLRICH & CO., on every label.

HOW TO MAKE CHOICE BUTTER

THEIR best butter makers of this country are in England are adopting the Cooke's System. This is the only system that secures the best results in all temperatures and conditions of weather, neither heat or cold affecting milk or cream, it being entirely surrounded and covered with cold water. It will produce the best butter with less labor and with less expense and less waste than any other method.

The cream flows between milkings, the milk is drawn from under the cream, and both are as fresh as when new. The added value of milk produced is successful. You can make a large quantity of butter, and if you make butter, in large or small quantities, you cannot afford to do without it. LYMAN S. SHAFER, 100 Kansas Ave., Topeka, are Sole Agents for the Cooke's System. They will furnish you information, or supply the Creamer. Good Agents Wanted.

TELE
NINTH ANNUAL

**KANSAS CITY
EXPOSITION**

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IT WILL BE

The Great Fair
OF THE WEST.

\$20,000.00 IN PREMIUMS

EVERY DAY A GALA DAY!

Among the many attractions offered are U. S. Trot Races every afternoon during the week.

On Thursday, September 25th,
The Great Pacers, Sleepy Tom, Rowdy Boy, the Hunter and Lucy will compete for a purse of \$1,500.
In the Trotting and Running Races:

100 OF THE FASTEST HORSES
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Magnificent Displays

of Agricultural, Horticultural and Mineral Products, Fine Arts, Textile Fabrics, Manufactures, Mechanical Vehicles and Agricultural Implements will fill the commodious buildings overflowing.

The finest Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Swine, Poultry in the West will fill over Eight Hundred Stables, Stalls and Pens provided for their accommodation.

Increased accommodations and facilities have been provided for both visitors and exhibitors.

Competition Open to the World

All Railroads running into Kansas City
very low rates for both freight and Passenger
and most of them run special trains during
week of the Great Fair.

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Persons of weak and enfeebled constitution
nothing better than this Food for constant use.

1.50@2.00 member it is a steam cooked food. I have no
 and I would like to see it in a restaurant. I have no
 and I would like to see it in a restaurant. I have no

Literary and Domestic.

Not Now.

BY MRS. M. S. NEWCOMER.

I sit and wait to hear the jar
Of opening gates beyond.
Eager to catch the sound afar
Which snags the earthly bond.
I ask myself, what will it be?
Oh night! whence comest thou?
Will darkness yield to prayer's kiss?
Hark the response, Not now!

I vainly beat my prison bars,
And look aloft to find;
The cold indifference of the stars,
Mock the inquiring mind;
Heaven is dumb, and silence reigns,
I long to know, but how?
Since my wings I have longed to gain,
The dreary notes, Not now.

The hills are mute with mystery,
The river's sabbath loams;
The ocean's song of liberty,
And muffled strains of home;
Yet I ask the dreary why,
Clouds veil each all-seeing eye,
And Nature dooms my hopes to die,
And, answering, writes, Not now.

Tell me the book of God and read
My Bible, home's dear friend;
When from its pages I can find
A sign that I am true;
Oh, let me know, let me know,
And trust me all to Him.
Since this for darkness will I stand,
And glimpse faint and dim.

Though God in nature may be dumb,
Yet nature's God I see,
When Faith computes the mighty sum,
And blood atones for me;
I trust Him, yes, I trust Him now,
Though clouds around me roll,
Beneath thy gracious truth, art Thou!
The sunshine of the soul!

Selling Chestnuts.

BY AMY RANDOLPH.

"There they come now!" said Miss Myrtilla Fulton.

She stood in the old farm-house door, with one hand shading her eyes from the intense glow of the yellow October sunshine. Down on the orchard slopes the apples were ripening in globes of amber and crimson—the wild clematis in the woods was draping all the hedges with clouds of white floss-silk, and the Virginia creeper on the walls was turning scarlet, as if a magic pencil had painted all the roadides.

And as "they"—to wit, Miss Myrtilla's two young half sisters—emerged out of the woods with autumn leaves twisted around their straw hats and brimming baskets on their arms, the sunshine seemed to weave them about with braided glories.

"I declare, girls," said Miss Myrtilla, "I thought you were coming!"

"Is it five o'clock yet?" asked Justine, the youngest.

"Oh, if you could only see how beautiful it is in the woods!" cried Agnes, enthusiastically.

"Humph!" commented Miss Myrtilla.

"Damp grass, mouldy tree trunks—any amount of rheumatism! I'm better off baking butter-milk biscuits in the kitchen."

And Justine, solemnly advancing, swept the bright-colored maple leaves from the top of her basket, and poured a shining cascade of brown, glossy chestnuts on the floor at her half-sister's feet.

"Blame me!" cried Miss Myrtilla, receding a pace or two. "Why there must be half a bushel of 'em, at the very least!"

"And they give twelve cents for them at Chando's Lynn's store," said Agnes.

"And we could easily gather another bushel, if we went early to-morrow morning, to be before hand with the squirrels," added Justine.

"You wouldn't—sell 'em!" said Myrtilla.

"Yes I would," protested Agnes. "Why not? We don't want the chestnuts—and we do want the money."

"Five dollars would get the flowers and ribbons to re-trim our old straw hats quite decently for fall," said Justine. "And oh, they are so shabby."

"I hope," said Myrtilla, severely, "that we are not reduced to selling our chestnuts yet."

"Other people do it," said Justine.

"Money is money," added Agnes.

"We are Squire Fulton's daughters," said Myrtilla. "We are ladies born!"

"Poor and proud!" said Justine shrugging her shoulders.

"Genial poverty!" sighed Agnes.

"No, girls, no," pronounced Myrtilla, "we can wear our old hats and turn our dresses, and eat our dry bread without any butter on it; but we are not reduced; yet, to selling chestnuts for vulgar money at the village store!"

And Justine, rather depressed in her spirits, went down on her knees at Miss Myrtilla's feet, to gather the shining treasures into the basket once again.

"Agnes," said she, lifting her wistful brown eyes to her sister's face, after Myrtilla had gone out, "it's too bad!"

"So it is," said Agnes.

"Our hats are so shabby," declared Justine.

"So they are," assented Agnes who was a bright-haired girl with a dimple in her chin, and deep blue eyes, like woodland violets.

"If we could only sell these chestnuts!"

"We will!" said Agnes.

Justine looked up in surprise.

"But Myrtilla?" said she.

"Myrtilla is neither the Queen of Sheba nor the Grand Mogul of Tartary," nodded Agnes.

"She's our half sister—and she has the advantage of being ten years older than we are. But then, don't you see, we're in the majority. The chestnuts shall be sold Justine, and our hats shall be new trimmed against next Sunday."

So they sat down, in her own room, and penned a note, which read as follows:

"Dear Mr. Lynn—Justine and I have a bushel and a half of chestnuts to sell, but Myrtilla thinks it beneath the dignity of a Fulton to barter in produce. So if I put them in a box out outside the back kitchen door at nine o'clock

to-morrow night, will you send your man for them? Yours, very truly,

Agnes Fulton.

"Will I send my man for them?" said Chando's Lynn, the thriving proprietor of the village store, as he perused the little folded note which was handed in, by Demas Johnson, the milkman. "I'll do nothing of the sort. I'll send myself. A glimpse of Agnes Fulton's blue eyes would be worth a night ride at any time!"

And after Miss Myrtilla had retired to bed upon the morrow night, Agnes and Justine carried the box of chestnuts down stairs, treading on tiptoes, and trying to suppress the giggling as they crept past their elder sister's door.

Miss Myrtilla had hardly drifted into her first refreshing slumber when the creaking sound of a footstep on the porch below aroused her. She started into a sitting posture and listened intently.

"It's burglars!" said she.

And creeping to the window she peeped out furtively. She could just discern in the starry darkness of the October night, the faint outlines of a horse and wagon a little way down the road, and there was—yes there certainly was—the figure of a man on the porch below!

Miss Myrtilla Fulton came of revolutionary lineage, and it would take more than one ordinary sized burglar to intimidate her. Softly and silently she clad herself in an aggressive looking wrapper, reached down Grandfather Fulton's old musket from its pegs in the closet, and rushed frantically down the stairs.

"Stop, thief!" shrieked Miss Myrtilla, and the next instant Chando's Lynn felt his collar clutched by a determined female hand, while the barrel of Grandfather Fulton's old musket grated unpleasantly against his ear. "Stop, you villain! Thieves! Murder! Robbers! Help, help, help!"

But at this critical juncture Justine and Agnes rushed to the rescue. The former caught away the musket, while the latter seized hold of both of Miss Myrtilla's arms, pinioning her, so to speak.

"Girls!" cried the breathless spinster, "Are you crazy? He is escaping."

"Myrtilla, don't be a fool," energetically whispered Justine. "It isn't burglars—it's only Chando's Lynn!"

"Chando's Lynn!" echoed Myrtilla.

"Yes, Chando's Lynn," said the young man himself, advancing boldly into the melee.

"And what, in the name of all creation, brings you here at this time of the night?" demanded Miss Myrtilla.

"Business!" said Mr. Lynn.

"Oh!" said Miss Fulton.

"He came for the chestnuts," said Agnes, bravely; "I've sold them to him."

"Sold them!" repeated Miss Myrtilla. "A sister of mine to sell chestnuts?"

"She may be a sister of yours, Miss Fulton," interposed Mr. Lynn, "but she will be a wife of mine in a very few days. We've settled it all under the honeysuckles here, while we were discussing the price of the chestnuts; so you see that it will all be a family transaction."

"Justine?" cried Miss Myrtilla, "is this true?"

"It isn't I," said Justine, demurely, "it's Agnes."

"I never heard such a thing in all my life!" cried the astonished spinster.

She went back into her room again, while Chando's Lynn drove away, and Justine and Agnes laughed and cried in each other's arms.

And those were the last chestnuts that Agnes Fulton ever sold.

Education for the Kitchen.

The next great step must be to do something for the art of cookery; and the friends of genuine social improvement may congratulate themselves that the progress of education is beginning to take effect on this important department of domestic life. Cooking schools are springing up in many places in this country and England, and the English are taking the lead in organizing them as a part of their national and common-school system. Of the importance, the imperative necessity, of this movement there can not be the slightest question. Our kitchens, as is perfectly notorious, are the fortified intrenchments of ignorance, prejudice, irrational habits, rule of thumb, and mental vacuity, and the result is that the Americans are liable to the reproach of suffering beyond any other people from wasteful, unpalatable, unhealthful, and monotonous cookery. Considering our resources and vaunted education and intelligence of American women, this reproach is just. Our kitchens are in fact almost abandoned to the control of low Irish, stupid negroes, and raw servile menials that pour in upon us from various foreign countries. We profess to believe in the potency of education, and are applying it to all other interests and industries excepting only that fundamental art of the preparation and use of food to sustain life, which involves more of economy, enjoyment, health, spirits, and the power of effective labor than any other subject that is formally studied in the schools. We abound in female seminaries and female colleges, high schools and normal schools, supported by burdensome taxes, in which everything under heaven is studied except that practical art which is a daily and vital necessity in all the households of the land.—Prof. Youmans, in Popular Science Monthly.

Beecher on Coffee.

It is matter of astonishment how much more great minds can discover in little things of everyday occurrence, than are visible to the ordinary observer. In the matter of coffee making, a thing every woman believes she knows all about, because she has practiced it daily from her childhood, Mr. Beecher states a great many reasons why coffee is so often such miserable dishwater stuff. The great preacher says: "I have no trouble in getting a first-rate cup of coffee. I generally get the best Java and the best Mocha, and mix them in the proportion of one-third Mocha to two-thirds Java. After it is burned—and I prefer having an honest man do it to burning it myself—and ground I take one of these coffee-pots with a top to it and strain it. The first rule is to get good coffee, well burned and ground; and the second, that you cannot make coffee without using coffee. The man who undertakes to make a cup of coffee out of a teaspoonful of grounds will find out his mistake. Put in enough, and when you pour in the water take care to have it boiling, not scalding. It makes all the difference in the world whether it has just boiled or stood on the range all day, having a little added to it now, and then. You cannot make good coffee in an ordinary family, where they keep their kettle going all day long. The water is sure to taste smoky. The water is stale, it has been boiled to death. Have fresh water put on. But then it is not enough that it should be scalding hot; it must be bubbling, boiling hot! I put my coffee into the top, and pour in just as much boiling water as will run down through and begin to drip at the bottom. I then wait half a minute to let the coffee swell and get moist all the way through; then pour in slowly all the rest of the water that I am going to, till I have got right up to the lid, and let it run through. I get then coffee that would make a king dance to drink. I don't know much of the Vienna coffee pot. The simpler it is the better. I never touch an egg.

In both tea and coffee there is a second taste, and the second taste of coffee is bitter and acid. If you desire, therefore, supreme coffee or tea you have to use enough to get the first taste which is a fragrant and delicious result. If you let this stand awhile, you get the second, which is more or less bitter and astringent."—Christian Union.

What Most Women Need.

Discussing the difficult problem of female education, the Nation pertinently remarks that what most women need next after health and power of acquisition, and the confidence which springs from having acquired something is a tolerable amount of administrative capacity. House keeping is administration on a small scale. It includes the faculty of getting the most for one's money, and managing servants and children. If it were likely to be a man's vocation to the extent to which it is likely to be a woman's, he would undoubtedly be prepared for it by some sort of apprenticeship. He would have to learn in some subordinate capacity the proper mode of buying and preparing food, and of procuring and taking care of furniture and clothing, and of ruling servants. He would be trained to receive company by some experience of the art of entertaining, both in its material and its æsthetic aspect. No one would ever guess, however, from an inspection of an average school course, that a girl was to be the head of that most complex result of civilization, a modern household, with its thousand duties, responsibilities and relations.

Pickling Cucumbers.

In reply to T. H., of Johnstown, Mo., I would say that cucumbers put up as follows, are ready for use at any time, and are much better than those put up in brine, and require less labor: Take fresh cucumbers, wash clean and pack closely in stone jars or glass fruit cans. Then cover with cold vinegar, adding salt and red pepper to suit the taste; do not put any less than one level teaspoonful of salt and one pod of pepper to one gallon of vinegar—some prefer that amount. Seal up air-tight, same as fruit. If the vinegar is good, pickles put up in this way will keep well for over a year.

An excellent pickle for present use is made of fresh cucumbers, as follows: Take a two-gallon jar, cover the bottom with a good handful of grape-leaves, making a layer two inches thick, then a layer of cucumbers, a small handful of salt, one-fourth pod of red pepper, a layer of grape-leaves, then cucumbers, salt and pepper, etc., filling the jar; weight it down heavily, then cover the mass with water. If put in a warm place they will be fit to eat in a week. All who try this will find it a luxury.—Mrs. M. R. H., in Indiana Farmer.

Remedy for Summer Complaints.

Here is an old and excellent prescription for cholera, which is also a remedy for ordinary summer complaints, diarrhea and dysentery: Take equal parts of tincture of cayenne pepper; essence of peppermint and spirits of camphor; mix well. Dose, 15 to 20 drops in a little cold water, according to age and violence of symptoms, repeated every fifteen or twenty minutes until relief is obtained.

Canning Fruit Cold.

A lady in Springfield, Mass., according to the Union, has been making some interesting experiments in putting up canned goods without cooking. Heating the fruit tends more or less to the injury of the flavor, and the lady referred to has found that by filling the cans with fruit and then with pure cold water, and allowing them to stand until all the confined air has escaped, the fruit will, if then sealed perfectly, keep indefinitely without change, or loss of original flavor.—Country Gentleman.

To Get Rid of Ants.

Brush the crevices they inhabit with hot alum water and sprinkle powdered borax where the ants frequent. Repeat the operation several times.

THE

Weekly Capital

the balance of 1879 for

25 CENTS.

To introduce this splendid weekly paper to all the readers of the FARMER we offer to send it the

Balance of 1879 for

25 CENTS.

which may be enclosed in letter in currency or postage stamps at our risk. The WEEKLY CAPITAL contains latest telegraphic, general and state news. It is a live, progressive, fearless, wide awake newspaper. It is Republican in principle, independent and outspoken upon all questions of public importance.

A sample copy will be sent free to any address.

If you have friends in the east to whom you want to send a live Kansas paper, this presents an opportunity. For instance: One dollar pays for five copies which will be sent, postage paid, to four different addresses in any part of the United States.—This offer is made to introduce the paper.

The State news, the Crop letters, News from the cities of the state, Local news from the Capital, Fashion notes and Editorials all combine to make this the

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Address plainly

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Advertisements.

In answering an advertisement found in these columns, our readers will confer on us a favor by stating that they saw the advertisement in the Kansas Farmer.

\$66 a week in your own town. Terms and \$5 outfit free. Address H. HALLETT & Co., Portland, Me.

\$77 a Month and expenses guaranteed to Agent. Outfit free. Shaw & Co., Augusta, Maine.

\$777 a Year and expenses to agents. Outfit free. Address F. O. VICKERY, Augusta, Maine.

\$72 a WEEK, \$12 a day at home easily made. Outfit free. TRUB & Co., Augusta, Me.

GLENDALE For History of this great Strawberry, send postal to originator.

20 plants for \$1.00. W. B. STORER, Akron, Ohio.

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The Farmers Moving.

The state convention of the Farmers' Alliance, of New York, met at Syracuse on the 30th of last month, and the following is a brief report of the proceedings:

The Alliance bids fair to accomplish a great work in the Empire state, and it is about the only organization of farmers outside of the grange which seems to be doing effective work. The convention was a very respectable gathering of the representatives of the state, with here and there a politician hanging upon the outskirts, whose presence may be accounted for only on the supposition that they were on hand to watch things and kindly aid the farmers in running their convention. But the farmers at the outset gave them the cold shoulder, and they retired in short order. Although the members of the Alliance are unaccustomed to parliamentary rulings, and the approved manner of running conventions, yet they arrived at results in a most practical way.

The most influential men in the Alliance had intended to persuade the convention to nominate candidates for governor who were known to be friendly to the agricultural and industrial interests of the state, and to respectfully urge the democratic and republican conventions to adopt the candidates proposed. Wiser counsels have, however, prevailed, and the convention contented itself with recommending county alliances to nominate advisory candidates for the legislature.

An attempt was made to introduce a resolution favoring free canals, but the members from the northern and southern portions of the state protested so vigorously against it that it was withdrawn. The members of the Alliance claim that they are in earnest in their determination to support no candidate that fall on either ticket who are suspected of being the special friends of corporations, or whose record is unfriendly to the industrial interests of the state. They claim especially that they will not aid in the election of machine politicians. Several times representatives of various organizations in the city of New York attempted to influence the action of the convention, but the farmers very firmly gave them to understand that the Alliance did not propose to grind the axes of any organization.

During the evening session the Alliance was engaged in discussing the questions of taxation and railroad monopolies.

The secretary presented an address to the people of the state, which recites the evils arising from railway mismanagement, and urges the people to vote only for such candidates as are friends of the people and not monopolists.

The Hon. Herman Glass, of Monroe, presented the following resolutions, which were adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That we recommend farmers and manufacturers to meet in mass convention in each county of this state to make advisory nominations for the legislature, and that we urge every county alliance to call such convention at an early date, and to put forth active efforts in determining the end sought, with the assurance to all concerned that these advisory nominations, and these only, will be supported by the alliance members and all electors in sympathy with them upon whatever ticket they may appear.

Resolved, That we reaffirm the grievances previously recited by this alliance, and again declare our purpose to secure their early and complete adjustment.

Resolved, That with a due regard for all vested interests, we will steadfastly labor to bring the railroads of this state to a proper responsibility to the public, that the rights of the citizen, be they rich or poor, shall be respected upon public highways. That until transportation of freight, as with passengers, the charges shall be to all citizens alike, and in no case should more be charged for a short than a longer distance.

Resolved, That contributions by railroads to pay election expenses of candidates, or to party campaign funds, and the granting of free passes, are demoralizing and dangerous to the public interest, and should be prohibited by law.

The Alliance adjourned to meet in Rochester on the fourth Wednesday in August, 1880.

There are numerous indications that there is more common sense being applied to the railroad problem, and that the impression is becoming general that our whole transportation business needs a thorough overhauling, and that railroads as well as people are in need of protection by law from the Christian Yarn which exist among the companies. Vanderbilt, in his testimony before the committee appointed for the purpose of investigating railroad management, said he was in favor of a law to punish railroads for going above or below the rates to be fixed by the general government, co-operating with individual state governments.

Even the London Times has something to say about American railroads, and suggests that the shareholders must be able to effect a partial reform by united effort, but the only permanent remedy will be the establishment by congress of a railway court, taking special cognizance of railroad matters, and constituted upon principles somewhat similar to the English railway commission.

Commercial Speculation on the Wheat Crop.

To persons of a speculative turn of mind, the following guess-work statistics of the wheat crop and bread needs of the world, will be amusing and in some measure instructive.

The estimate of crops in some of the European countries approach a reasonable degree of exactness, but for this country, with its wide expanse and thin population in many of its principal wheat-producing quarters, it is impossible to approach any degree of certainty in the compiling of such statistics, and mere guess-work is resorted to to supply one-half of them. From observation and subsequent inquiry we are led to believe that it is safe to reduce all these grain

statistics, which are promulgated from the trade centers about harvest time, at least twenty-five per cent., and then the probability is that the amount will be too high.

The *Spirit of the Two*, by way of variety from "house talk," compiles the following commercial gossip on the subject:

"One of the leading, if not the chief topic of conversation in commercial circles at the present time is the probable supply and demand of grain in this and foreign countries. For weeks back the producer, the dealer, the consumer, the board of trade statisticians have been busy calculating, and our advisers are 'that the production of wheat in the United States for the current year will approximate 420,000,000 bushels. From all accounts so far received, it would appear safe to estimate this year's crop at from 400,000,000 to 420,000,000 bushels. The quality will be much superior to that of last year. The export of wheat and wheat flour from September 1, 1878, to August 31, 1879, be reduced to bushels, will, it is anticipated, be between 180,000,000 and 190,000,000 bushels. The annual consumption of 46,000,000 population, at four bushels per capita, is 184,000,000 bushels, and the seedling of 32,000,000 acres of wheat at one and a half bushels to the acre more amounts to 48,000,000 bushels. Hence, the aggregate of these estimates, including export, is from 382,000,000 to 392,000,000 bushels, which leaves a surplus of from 28,000,000 to 38,000,000 bushels, not considering the 14,489,759 bushels now in store in this country, and the 1,426,321 bushels now on passage from America for the United Kingdom.

"The deficiency in European countries between the supply and demand has been variously estimated from 225,000,000 to 294,000,000 bushels, and a Chicago dealer makes the following estimate of the requirements of Europe:

Great Britain.....	120,000,000
France.....	100,000,000
Spain and Portugal.....	25,000,000
Holland, Belgium and North Germany.....	35,000,000
Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.....	10,000,000
Total.....	290,000,000

"England shows the largest deficiency. Years ago the wheat consumption of England was estimated at eight bushels per capita, but by reason of the increased use of meat it has been reduced to six. The population of Great Britain and Ireland is now about 33,000,000, which indicates a consumption of 198,000,000 bushels of wheat, to which must be added that used in manufactures. The wheat crop, though it has reached 108,000,000 bushels, is considered a good one when it amounts to 100,000,000 bushels. To reach this the yield per acre has to be over twice as large as in this country. The average imports of wheat and flour, reduced to bushels, are about 100,000,000 bushels. The imports of last year were more than double that of 1880, though the population has increased but 5,000,000. The importations of food into Great Britain in 1880 amounted to \$65,000,000. The population at the same time was 26,000,000. In 1878 the population was 33,000,000, and the import of food products amounted in value to \$505,000,000.

"The French authorities estimate that the supply of wheat available from the several exporting countries will be as follows:

United States.....	\$2,500,000
Hungary.....	2,500,000
India.....	4,000,000
Austria.....	7,000,000
Southern Russia.....	20,000,000
Danubian countries.....	2,000,000
Egypt.....	1,000,000
Total.....	79,000,000
Equivalent in bushels.....	225,000,000

"The chief sources of supplies besides the United States are Russia and Roumania. So that the all-absorbing question to-day among wheat producers and dealers is, 'Will the demand on the United States will be likely to swamp our resources that prices will advance?'

Answers to this are, as usual, contradictory, the 'bears' persisting that it will not, and the 'bulls' on the other hand, maintaining that it will. Of course all is conjecture, and shaded according to the individual views of those expressing an opinion. That the reader may form his own opinions, the following facts, gathered from reliable sources, and bearing upon this question, are submitted. Besides the advantages given to the United States by the possession of an area suitable for grain-growing greater and more accessible than that of any other nation, our producers can compete successfully for Europe's trade, on account of the low cost of lands, the general use of machines, and the reduced expenses of producing.

"The area of the United States is nearly fifteen times greater than that of France, and over nine times as great as that of the French Republic and the United Kingdom combined. In 1876 there were devoted to the cereals in the United States 17,000,000 more acres than the entire area of the United Kingdom, and 30,000,000 more acres than the entire tilled land of France. In 1878 France devoted 37,000,000 acres to cereals, of which 17,000,000 were in wheat. In 1876 the United States raised 289,000,000 bushels of wheat from 27,500,000 acres. In 1877 the crop was 348,000,000 bushels, and in 1878 the yield was placed at 390,000,000 to 421,000,000 bushels, according to the reports of the agricultural department."

Vermin On Fowls.

BURNING.

At the close of summer a very good thing to do for the efficient purification of the nest-boxes (which, by the way, may always best be constructed so that they can always be taken out of the hen-house into the air if required) is to make a fire inside of each box, of light litter and straw, and to char the interior all over. This tends to preserve the wood-work for a time, and the process will kill off the vermin and also that may have accumulated

during the hot weather, most effectively. Common nest-boxes will stand several such brief burnings. If the discoloration occasioned is offensive to the eye, or if your fowls are white or light colored, especially, after the scorching they may be whitewashed inside, and to rendered perfectly clean and free from the hen-house pest.

FUMIGATE.

Fumigating materials are inexpensive and easily managed. The chicken-houses should be thoroughly "smoked" twice or three times a year, if fumigation is relied on, more particularly where the fowls are not allowed on open field or pasture-range, but are compelled to pass much of their time inside the premises. The process of fumigation is very simple, and if rightly performed, it is very effective in destroying the vermin and parasites that inevitably accumulate in the interior of the hen-houses.

The buildings should be so constructed that, when desirable, they can be tightly closed. Place a couple of pounds of crude brimstone in an old iron or stone pot, and add to this a pound of common resin. Put a shovelful of coal, well ignited, upon this in the middle of the fowl-house floor, so protected that it will not fire your building, and leave this mass to smoulder out, for two or three hours.

You will find no lice inside that house for a while afterwards. This should be done, of course, when the fowls are all out of the premises; and before succeeding roosting-time the place should be thoroughly aired, as the united fumes of burning charcoal, resin and sulphur are fatal to animal as well as insect life.

THE MISCHIEF CAUSED

by these pests, where they are allowed to increase and multiply without check, in the natural way, is quite incalculable. No one who has had any experience in fighting these enemies of domestic poultry will dispute the assertion, that of all afflictions, the lice nuisance is the worst in its disastrous results to chicken life, and the hardest of all to cure, when once it gets a hold upon the poultry-stock.

It is therefore of prime importance that the novice, amateur or breeder, who is ambitious to have about him fowls that are in good health, and may be in their best condition constantly, should learn something of the habits of these tormentors, and know how to rid his fowls of the pests, or keep them out of his houses altogether.

This may be done with proper care and at trifling expense, but it can only be done by the application of the means we have now suggested, which means should be thoroughly used as often as the slightest indications of the return of this vermin is suspected or observed.

By this method our poultry may be rendered comfortable, our chickens may be reared much more successfully, and in the long run the fowl-keeper will find that his own labors are greatly lightened, as well.—*Poultry World*.

Fig and Corn Exports.

We are given credit for great shrewdness as a commercial people. The Yankee is represented as always seeing the interest side of his account; never standing on trifles, but with eye on the main chance. Yet he is, no doubt, often given credit for more than he deserves. He is certainly a determined trader, but he does not always sell judiciously. He has been prone to sell too largely of the raw material and too little of the finished product. This is quite the opposite of John Bull's tactics. He never sells raw material, but buys much of it, expends labor upon it, and sells the finished product to all the world. England buys largely of grain and other feeding stuffs to make her own meat.

We sell her over sixty million bushels of Indian corn and transport it inland and on ocean four thousand miles, for which she pays about fifty cents per bushel, but the American farmer does not receive more than thirty cents per bushel. When this corn is judiciously fed, it will make nine to ten pounds of pork to the bushel. This will bring the farmer, on an average, fifty cents per bushel at his own door. Grain raising with meat production draws on the fertility of the soil but little, and if, temporarily, it paid no more to sell meat than grain, still it would be great economy in the end. But it is easy to see that the farmer, who sends the bulky, raw material so far to market and pays transportation, must be the loser as compared with the man who sends one-sixth of the same weight in meat. Freight rates are low, comparatively, at this time, but the same proportion exists as when freight rates are high. It costs six times as much to send the corn as the pork made from the corn, and the pork will bring ten to twenty per cent. on the average more than the corn.—*Prof. E. W. Stewart, in Rural New Yorker*.

It is very likely that the beginner will make some mistakes. The boy may not run the mower or reaper as well as his father can; he may not be able to sell the farm products quite as well, or purchase goods quite as closely. But he ought to learn to do these things some time, and it is very desirable that he should learn while he is young. His father should go with him at first, and show him how to act and teach him what to do. The farmer should point out the mistakes which are made, and show how they can be avoided in future. He should act the part of a guide and counselor, and give the boy all necessary instruction in all the different lines of farm business.—*Ohio Farmer*.

The American self-binding reaper was first successfully used in 1874, and in that year consumed fifty tons of wire. In 1876 it consumed 300 tons; in 1876, 2,800 tons; in 1877, 6,500 tons; and in 1878, 14,000 tons or more than the total amount of wire made in this country in 1880.

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