

SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

Following and sowing Wheat.—Many persons who follow as preparatory to sowing winter wheat seem to think it necessary to plow the land deeper than heretofore just before sowing. This is all wrong. The object of a summer following is, first, to thoroughly clean the ground; second, to leave the soil free to the action of the sun and rain as a means of ameliorating the soil; and third, to bring the land into a state of fine tilth. The very action of deep plowing just before sowing would naturally counteract in a great measure all three of these means, for increasing fertility, and at the same time, leave a deep loose bed of earth, one of the worst possible conditions for success.

While the wheat crop requires a fine tilth as to the surface, the firmer the lower strata is naturally, however deep the original plowing, the better.—*Prairie Farmer.*

Agricultural Education.—To farm profitably one must think correctly, and correct thought comes from reflection and training. It is the veriest folly to expect from the recent graduate trained experience; but we should ask for a trained mind which can quickly receive the teachings of experience, and fit for profitable uses. We do not ask, for our part, for our colleges to graduate practical farmers; we but ask that they graduate men educated to act from principles, and to think correctly, and in whom the charms of a country life and the possibilities of a farming career have taken root. When farming, practical farming, has the sympathies of an educated class of men, there is everything to be hoped. When men trained to think, and whose thought is trained to take expression in action, enter upon the arena of a farming life, the possibilities of our soil and location are to become developed to an extent little realized. A class of educated farmers means greater opportunities for the common farmer whose education has been derived from tollsome experience and the conflict of trials. It means better and more practical lectures, more useful agricultural societies, a higher toned agricultural press, the exclusion of deadbeats from agricultural influence, and a healthier tone in agriculture generally. Education brings self-respect, and self-respect draws to itself the respect of others.

This is our agricultural politics in a nutshell.—*Scientific Farmer.*

A. T. Strange in the *American Farm Journal* says: One of the greatest mistakes of the western farmer is that he cultivates too much land. His whole time is spent in producing or taking from the land and never returning anything.

W. M. Singertz writes to the *N. Y. Tribune* that all he knows, with five years' reading and experience, is, that manure and thorough cultivation will give good returns each and every year.

The *National Live-Stock Journal* says of Judges at agricultural fairs: The "professional jurymen" has long been a standing nuisance in courts of justice, and he finds his counterpart in the professional committeeman at our agricultural fairs. He is always in the way, ready to slip in and supply a vacancy at the least intimation that his services will be accepted. Sometimes, because by so doing he can secure a free meal ticket, but more frequently because he has "an ax to grind"—some friend whom he wishes to favor. And so long as judges have to be picked up for the various classes, on the spur of the moment, so long are we liable to have these professional men-in-waiting thrust upon us.

Picturesque Lawns.—Contrasts may be obtained in the spring and summer, as well as the autumn, by the planting of trees in which they are constant. Gradations of color may give a harmony which is pleasing, and distance may be gained by using the lighter tints for the back-ground, and darker for the nearer trees, but the true test is the expression of pleased surprise uttered by the novice or connoisseur on entering a forest or a lawn where these strong contrasts are found.

Some thirty-five years ago, on returning from a trip over the Alleghanies, in June, and then again on the Pennsylvania hills in all the glories of October, I was so impressed with the value of strong contrasts, that I aimed for them as far as possible in planting my own lawn. The result is satisfactory; and now that the trees so planted have been growing twenty-five to thirty-five years, the effect upon visitors proves that nature is right, and that it is always safe to follow her.—*S. B. Parsons in Gardener's Monthly.*

The Value of Poultry Shows, to both individual breeders and to the interests of the movement or industry itself, can scarcely be over-estimated. When we look back over a period of thirty years, we can readily see the small beginnings from which these now extensive exhibits all over the world have grown—as steadily and profitably as have any undertakings that can be pointed at in enlargement and positive improvement—whether of science, art, manufactures or mechanics, within that period.—*Poultry World.*

Tarred paper is recommended by the *Poultry Bulletin* for lining poultry houses. The tar is an active principle and serves to purify the house, at the same time preventing the increase of vermin. The tarred paper will last for a considerable time before its virtues are exhausted.

Beekeeping.

BEEES IN AUGUST.

White clover having yielded abundantly in nearly every locality, and basswood being now past its prime, the summer season for storing surplus honey will soon be over, till buckwheat comes in. Between the yield of basswood and buckwheat, if the surplus has been taken largely, it may be necessary to feed some; all should know how their bees are doing, keeping a close watch. All impotent queens should be superseded, so that the colonies may be kept strong to gather the fall crop of honey. Queenless colonies should be given queens or frames of brood, if they have none, in order to raise a queen. If the brood chamber is full of honey, it should be broadened from a few of the central frames with the extractor, in order to give the queen room for brood. The opening of hives and the removal of surplus honey should be done at night, in the early morning, or on a cool day.

Surplus honey should be kept in a cool dry place. Examine the boxes and sections occasionally; and if any moth worms are found, remove and destroy them. Extracted honey may be kept in barrels, wooden vats or tins; the barrels or vats should be coated with wax to prevent leakage.

Care should be taken not to expose the honey, to start robbing. The entrance to weak colonies should be contracted, to enable them to defend themselves from robbers.

By the last of August buckwheat will have come in; boxes partly filled should be removed and extracted before that, so as not to have the honey mixed.

During August and September the bees will be more irritable than usual, and all who are nervous or timid should provide themselves with a good smoker and veil, if they find such necessary. These will steady the nerves and enable even the most timid to control their bees at all times, and make the necessary examinations with confidence.

In handling them let the novice be careful to avoid jars, working quietly and steadily, always keeping perfectly cool. Should a sting be given, remove it, squeeze out the poison by pressing the barrel of a small key over the wound for one minute after which apply honey, soap, hartshorn, essence of peppermint, or even a little mud.—*American Bee Journal.*

Dairy.

THE FARM DAIRY.

The demand for choice butter at good prices should stimulate the improvement of the dairy facilities on the average western farm. While many of the eastern farmers realize two-thirds of their annual income from their dairy, they make every preparation that will lessen their labor and improve the quality of the butter and cheese; in the west we are too much disposed to let the women folks make what they can out of it, with what few cows and poor facilities we happen to have.

It will pay to keep a good lot of good cows. Give them plenty of good feed, and, with good facilities for making good butter, the profits of the farm may be greatly enhanced. It is not expensive or difficult to fit up properly for a small dairy. A clean, cool cellar or milk room, with a good churn, is essential, and with a pride in the work, the most scrupulous cleanliness will be observed from the milking to the market. All the cream carefully saved and churned at the right time and temperature, the buttermilk thoroughly worked out of the butter when churned, and the butter put up in attractive shape for market, will bring a good price and prove a profitable source of revenue, and when the cows come in fresh in the fall, a good supply of milk through the winter will find better prices for butter.

The above piece of good advice is given by the *Farm and Fireside*, and we will add that the farmer and his wife and daughters should seek to possess all the information possible about making butter. The best butter makers can find much that they can utilize in their practice, and which will redound to their pecuniary advantage. Read upon the subject and put thought into the dairy, and gold with the golden butter will be gotten out of it. A crock of cream in one woman's hands is frequently worth four times as much as a similar one in the hands of her neighbor.

A TEST FOR THE CAPACITY OF COWS.

A commission has been appointed by the Governor of Pennsylvania, to examine and report on the merits of a system which undertakes to determine in advance the probable yield of milk of cows, by certain marks upon the animals. The marks are chiefly in respect to the disposition and mode of growth of the half near the udder, and a prediction can be made with certainty, it is said, as to whether the future cow will be a large producer of milk, if the observation is made on the young calf, even shortly after birth. The discoverer of this peculiarity was a French stock-raiser, M. Francis Guenon; he first promulgated it about forty years ago. Since then the theory has found favor with several French agricultural societies; M. Guenon has received medals and pecuniary rewards, and many stock-raisers in Europe are said to base their estimates of the value of cattle upon this system. The mark on the animal is called an ecutcheon. The mode by which the value of the system will be tried in Pennsylvania, is first to have the State Commissioners inspect the marks on a series of cows in several states, and make a record of the indications, without communicating any facts they may observe to the owners of the animals. These records are to be sent to the Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture. The owners of the cows will

make statistical records of the yield of milk of each animal, and send them to the State Board. The two sets of records will then be compared and reported upon. Some of this work has already been done, and it is said that 95 per cent. of the opinions formed by ecutcheon observation have, so far, proved correct.

Farm Stock.

HORSE-HOEING WHEAT.

Last week, while traveling through Lancaster Co., Pa., we made it a point to visit the farm of Levi W. Groff, near Bareville, in that county. Mr. Groff has been experimenting on the cultivation of wheat; and last year his experiments were so satisfactory (resulting in double the yield heretofore) that this year he has put in thirty acres of wheat, and has it in the highest state of cultivation, having worked it through three times this spring; does not work it in the fall. In cultivating the wheat, Mr. Groff uses a wheat drill six feet between the wheels, and with four sowing tubes instead of eight. Each tube is so arranged with a spreader at the bottom of it as to put the seed in regular rows four inches wide, with nearly eleven inches of space between the rows. The distance between the outside tube and the wheel is the same as between the tubes. This leaves the space between the rows wide enough apart for the horses to walk between them without treading down the wheat. In using the drill for cultivation, the drilling tubes are removed and the three-clawed cultivating hoes are attached—being the same distance apart as the drilling tubes. The claws of the cultivating attachment are in triangular groups, the center one in advance of the two outer ones, which prevents clogging, leaving the ground even and clean. Protectors are also fastened on to prevent the wheat from being covered up by dirt as it is thrown up by the claws, and they do the work perfectly. We witnessed the operating of the cultivator, and examined its work closely.

UTILITY VS. FANCY IN SHORT-HORNS.

The "crisis" which has involved business affairs generally, has reached the breeders of Short-horns as well as of other classes of stock; and this, perhaps, will do no damage, but rather good, in the end. Short-horn breeders will now have time to study the true end and aim of their business—to find the real foundation of the value of Short-horns. The trotter must be judged on an entirely different basis from the draft horse; it is not weight and heavy moving power that is wanted, but suppleness and great power of muscle; and the Short-horn, as the most perfect type of the bovine race, must be judged on the same principles of utility as that of any other breed. It is true that, as the most perfect type, it has its chief present value as the improver of the common cattle of the country, and this gives it an exceptional and greatly enhanced value; yet its solid and permanent basis of value must depend upon its capacity to produce milk and beef. Its ancient pedigree is of value only so far as it assures an eminent capacity to this end, of producing milk and beef most economically. It must be judged simply from this practical standard. If it be estimated from the beef standard only, more than half its real value is gone. The successful breeding power of a race is largely dependent upon its capacity to secrete milk. Short-horn breeders have usually acted upon the opposite principle—sought to repress the milk secretions and turn the whole activity of the system into the laying-on of flesh and the deposit of fat. That the original Short-horns were deep milkers there is abundant proof, and it is very unfortunate for the usefulness of the race that this aptitude has been repressed.

Every consideration of public and private interest requires that Short-horn breeders should restore the deep-milking qualities of the race. To show how short-sighted was this breeding out of milk and breeding in of excessive fat, it is only necessary to refer to the relative value of the dairy and beef product of the country.

The beef product each year represents about 5,000,000 head, of all classes, and may be considered as having an average home value of \$40 per head or \$200,000,000. The butter and cheese product alone represents at least \$200,000,000, and milk consumed as food has often been estimated at 100 to \$150,000,000. The whole dairy product was estimated by Commissioner Wells, in 1869, after deducting the products consumed on the farm, at \$400,000,000. There certainly can be no doubt that the milk crop of the country is considerably greater in value than the beef crop. Shall we then repress and gradually eliminate from this grand race of cattle the most important and the most permanently profitable natural characteristic?

The Short-horn is capable of leading in milk production as well as in that of meat. Is milk in an improved beef race unworthy of consideration? Let us examine the comparative profit of a deep milker from her calves and from her milk. We will estimate the calves as steers treated and fed for beef, for this is the practical standpoint of profit when the breed is estimated as a simple producer. Many Short-horn cows have each produced 7,000 to 10,000 pounds of milk in a year; and it is not extravagant to say, that they may be so bred that 8,000 pounds shall be the average production of milk. The value of this cannot be estimated at less than \$80 dollars a year. Likely Short-horn steers, at 30 months old, should average 1,600 pounds. We will esti-

mate this steer at six cents, or 96 dollars; and breeding every year, there would be another steer 18 months old, and a calf six months old.

Estimating the former at \$60 and the latter at \$30, we have her calves worth, in 30 months, \$180; and her milk during this two years and a half, is worth \$300. This is estimating the value of her calves as beef at a higher rate than her milk, and yet the milk brings the most money. It is to be noted also, that the cost of keeping these calves is more than the keeping of the cow, showing a still greater balance in favor of the milk. We present this very practical view of the question, that breeders may see that economy is all on the side of milk production. Ultimately, even the Short-horn must come to the test of common utility, and this will show what may be done on that bed-rock plane.

But we must not forget the principal present value of Short-horns is as improvers of our common stock, and that they are mostly needed to raise thoroughbred males for that purpose. But, as we said, when judging merely from the standard of breeding value, every interest of the breeder requires that he should stimulate the milk secretion, and not repress it. They will be surer breeders, and the calves more valuable, for it. It must be remembered that one of the strongest reasons for not using Short-horn bulls for dairy cows has been that the dams of these bulls are not good milkers, and that these bulls will not propagate good milkers. And when we remember also, that 8,000,000 cows are used specially for the dairy we see the powerful influence that this mistake of repressing the milk secretions of Short-horn cows has had in shutting out this breed as improvers of our dairy. This inexcusable blunder should be atoned for as soon as possible. As dairying widens its territory, and stretches across the continent to the Pacific, it is easy to see that dairymen are to be our future beef-producers, and thus every motive will induce the using of bulls of the best beef-producing breed, if it be also a good milk-producing breed.

Milk production is no hindrance to the highest form of pedigree breeding, and to the most perfect breeding of the animal—it is only opposed to that over-fat condition which it not to be desired in any breeding stock.—*National Live-Stock Journal.*

LARGE VERSUS SMALL BREEDS.

A writer in the *Rural New Yorker* has the following very sensible remarks on the effect of large breeds in deteriorating a farm:

Few farmers take into consideration the weight of bones, when deciding whether to raise large or small breeds of swine. Yet there is no element of a virgin soil so completely exhausted from what we can call worn-out lands, as is the bone-forming material, neither is there an element so difficult to restore. In the face of the fact that the continual drain of bone material from the soil, is slowly but steadily telling upon its productivity, we must, first, make the demand upon the soil for bone material as small as possible; second, restore all the fertilizers of this nature, that are available. In order to lighten the demands upon the soil, I would advise breeding with two points constantly in view: First, small bone of fine texture, such as that found in Berkshire, Essex, Jersey Red, and some other breeds; second, early maturity. These points must, of course, be in addition to those all good breeders endeavor to obtain. Small breeds have the reputation among some breeders and shippers of breaking down and becoming helpless when fat. That is because the small breeds put on flesh more rapidly when young, and carry much more flesh in proportion to the weight of bone than larger, slower-maturing breeds. Every farmer knows that when feeding (the sow with slops and grass, pigs can be made to weigh from one hundred and fifty to two hundred pounds, with but little corn, by good management. My experience is, that the limit of profitable feeding is reached at about two hundred pounds weight with early-maturing breeds. It costs the feeder at least ten times as much to grow one pound of bone as it does to grow the same weight of meat. The growing prejudice against the use of swine's flesh for food would soon be removed by using the small, early-maturing breeds for family use, as with proper variety of other meats and well-fattened pig pork there would be no argument for a Christian to base prejudice on. My plan is to raise as much meat and as little bone as I can, hurry my pigs into market as early an age as possible, and winter no hogs except my breeding sows.

SHEEP HUSBANDRY.

Sheep are the only animals which do not exhaust the land upon which they feed, but permanently improve it. Horned cattle, especially cows in milk, by continued grazing, ultimately exhaust the pastures of their phosphates. In England, the pastures of the county of Chester, famous as a cheese district, are kept up only by the constant use of bone-dust. Sheep, on the other hand, through the peculiar nutritiousness of their manure, and the facility with which it is distributed, are found to be the most economical and certain means of constantly renewing the productiveness of the land. By the combination of sheep husbandry with wheat culture, lands in England, which in the time of Elizabeth produced, on an average, six and a-half bushels of wheat per acre, produce now over thirty bushels. For these reasons, the recent practical writers in the journal of the

Royal Agricultural Society, of England, pronounce that, while there is no profit in growing sheep in England simply for their mutton and wool, sheep husbandry is still an indispensable necessity, as the sole means of keeping up the land.

Experience in the United States leads to similar conclusions. Mr. Stilson, of Wisconsin, by keeping sheep, is able to raise his twenty-four bushels of wheat to the acre, while the average yield of wheat in Wisconsin is but ten bushels. There are cases in Vermont where sheep farmers have been compelled to abandon one farm after another as they became too fertile for profitable sheep-growing. Mr. Geo. Geddes, whom Horace Greeley used to regard as the highest authority on agricultural matters in the state of New York, and who has raised sheep for many years in connection with wheat, says that, with one sheep to the acre of cultivated land, pasture and meadows, he raises more bushels of grain, on the average, than he did when he had no sheep to manufacture his coarse forage into manure, and to enrich his pastures to prepare them for the grain crop; that the land is constantly improving, and the crop increasing in quantity; and that, while producing crops on less acres and at less cost than he did before he kept sheep, he has, in addition, the wool and the mutton produced by the sheep.

Mr. William Chamberlain, of Red Hook, Dutchess county, New York, celebrated as a grower of Silician sheep, purchased, in 1840, a farm, in that place, of 380 acres, which had been used so long for selling hay, that it was worn out. The hay crop, in 1841, was seventeen loads; forty acres of rye gave ten bushels to the acre; twenty-five acres of corn averaged twenty bushels to the acre; the rest of the farm pastured two horses, four oxen, and one cow. The land was so poor that it would not raise red clover. By using sheep, as the producers and manufacturers of manure, he made this worn-out farm so productive that its crops would be satisfactory even in Ohio. The product, in 1866, was 600 tons of hay; 40 acres of Indian corn, yielding 50 bushels to the acre; 30 acres of wheat, averaging 15 bushels; 30 acres of oats, 8 acres of roots, and the pasturage of 300 sheep, and of the teams, cows, etc., necessary to carry on the farm and to supply the families on it with milk and butter.

Mr. Chamberlain's plan, when he first commenced making manure by using sheep, was to spread it thinly, so as to go over all the surface he could, and make clover grass; and he said that when he had brought his land to where it would produce clover, improvement thenceforth was easy and rapid. The sheep not only gave the first impulse, but were all the time depended upon as the great manure producing power.—*John L. Hayes, in the Bulletin of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers.*

FATTING SHOW ANIMALS.

A baneful practice is that of fattening, or over-fattening, animals that are designed to be placed on exhibition for prizes at agricultural fairs. The practice has resulted in England, and this country, too, in almost totally destroying the usefulness of prize animals as breeders; the over-feeding and grooming causing impotency. Large prices have been paid for some of these prize animals for the purpose of breeding from them, when it was ascertained that high feeding had caused barrenness, and they were only worth to their owners the price of good beef.

Exhibitors have learned that high grooming and feeding were the readiest way to form the judgment of judges, and have pursued this course to the ruin, as has been ascertained, of some of the purest bred herds. Conscientious breeders, on account of this high feeding, rather than high breeding, having been taken as the standard of excellence and awarded such by judges at agricultural fairs, have withdrawn their patronage from fairs, and seldom compete for prizes at these institutions. A certain condition of flesh should be determined upon as a rule for exhibition animals, and all that are overfed be rejected as competitors. The deformity of fat should prove as fatal to animals on exhibition, as defect in muscle or bone, and assign the animal, no matter how fine in appearance, a place among the rejected. The object of offering costly prizes is to stimulate the breeding and improvement of the best types of animals, to be brought into general use for the purpose of improving stock throughout the country, and not to simply display an unusual quantity of corn converted into tallow and lard.

This practice of over-feeding for the purpose of taking premiums at cattle-shows, demands a radical reform. It is ruining some of the best herds and cheating the public, who desire the propagation of the best animals to improve common stock.

The flax crop proves to be a good one this year, and some farmers incline to the belief that it has been more profitable than wheat. The grain is large and of even size.

Topics for Discussion.

TRANSPORTATION.

Class Legislation.

By the official statistics of the state of Kansas, the number of persons engaged in agriculture are a fraction over 71 per cent. of our population; 8 per cent. in professional and personal service; 4 per cent. in trade and transportation; and 9 per cent. in manufacturing and mining.

Strange as it may appear, in a republic where the ballot-box is accessible to all its citizens, the small per cent. engaged in transportation have succeeded in securing for themselves privileges which no person either in aristocratic England or under the autocrat of all the Russias, would ever dream of possessing, and exercising powers that even the most tyrannical despot of the dark ages would have trembled to exercise—powers fearfully dangerous to our republican institutions, and fatal to the prosperity of our state and nation.

In a letter received from the department of the interior, Hon. J. A. Williamson, U. S. land commissioner, says: "Under the several congressional grants, six railroads are provided for in the state of Kansas, viz: The Kansas Pacific, Central Branch Union Pacific, Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, Missouri, Kansas & Texas, Leavenworth & Galveston, and St. Joseph & Denver City, and the lands thereby granted make an aggregate of 6,540,953 acres."

Add to this the celebrated 500,000 acres donated by the state to four railroad corporations, then the counties of Crawford, Cherokee, and one-third of Bourbon, known as the Cherokee Neutral lands, and sold to T. F. Joy, in violation of every principle of justice, we have a sum total of about eight millions of acres of land, which otherwise (except perhaps the Indian lands) would have been subject to free homesteads for the cultivator; but these lands being now in the hands of these arrant speculators, who are selling this, our public domain, at prices from three to twelve dollars per acre, the sum of over one hundred millions of dollars (interest and capital) is directly taken from fifty thousand families who purchase the railroad land, for the benefit of a half dozen soulless corporations.

Even confining these papers solely and entirely to these monopolies as they affect the state of Kansas, where, in all the annals of history, is there a parallel to these privileges? Where is the Hudson Bay and East India companies' privileges compared to this? Yet, if with these privileges, the powers of these corporations had ended, we might try, with Job-like patience, to bear the burden thus placed on our necks, but the powers they assume, and which they possess, are of such magnitude that endurance is suicide.

In the Kansas FARMER of May 15th, that interesting and progressive journal publishes the summary of a meeting of the Southwestern Rate Association, whereby the railroad corporations deliberately schedule, from Chicago, the rates at which, from every station in our state, produce shall be carried to and from Chicago and St. Louis, these railroad potentates agreeing that the roads doing the work will receive 30 per cent. of their earnings, then to divide the 70 per cent. remainder among themselves!

In an argument before a congressional committee, T. F. Rushing demonstrated the existence of a monstrous and "satanic" scheme to plunder the grower of stock, called the "eveners," (a kind of a patent pooling concern). The railroad officers and the owners of stock yards, from which alone the farmers of the west can ship cattle east, have organized an association and placed the power to control this trade in the hands of "select" men, called "eveners."

The result is that two or three men, called "eveners," make, annually, the sum of one million of dollars for the stock transported. They also receive one million of dollars from the profits on the hay and grain fed to the stock in their yards each year, and also a profit of \$500,000 a year for yardage. The whole of this princely income is an absolute theft from the owner of the stock.

In the report of the congressional committee on transportation, is the following: "In the matter of taxation, there are, to-day, four men representing the four great trunk lines between Chicago and New York, who possess, and who not infrequently exercise powers which the congress of the United States would not venture to exert. They may, at any time, by a single stroke of the pen, reduce the value of property in this country by hundreds of millions of dollars. An additional charge of five cents a bushel on the transportation of cereals, in one year, is equivalent to a tax of forty-five millions of dollars. No congress would dare to exercise so vast a power except upon the most imperative necessity; yet these men use their power whenever it suits their supreme will and pleasure, without explanation or apology."

This report concludes with the very sensible admission—"The time is not far distant, if it has not already arrived, when it will be the duty of the statesman to inquire whether there

is less danger in leaving the property and industrial interests of the people thus wholly at the mercy of a few men who recognize no responsibility, than in adding somewhat to the patronage of a government directly responsible to the people and entirely under their control." (This report has also been published in the Kansas FARMER.)

In addition to these powers, attention is directed to a far greater evil looming in the distance. Already, we believe, this infamous monopoly, owning and controlling the purchase and sale of coal oil; owning or being in full fellowship with the cattle-yard owners; building elevators for the storage of cereals at their depots, how long will it be before they exercise the powers that they hold now, of being the exclusive purchasers of our produce, which by refusing carriage to the shipper or owner, will compel the producer to sell to their own agents alone, at rates to suit their every whim and caprice?

The following is a sample of our import charges as compared even with the states immediately east of us, and which rates are "arranged" in Chicago:

"Mr. J. D. Barker, Girard, to M. R., Ft. Scott & Gulf R. R. Co., sundries, iron and steel, 3,420 pounds, \$27.30 (from Kansas City to Girard, 125 miles). Back charges (from Chicago to Kansas City, 600 miles), \$10.45. Total, \$37.75."

Thus every pound of groceries, dry goods, agricultural implements, etc., is charged nearly three times as much for 125 miles of carriage, as the cost is for 600 miles of transportation east of us.

The average taxes (state and local) on a well improved farm of 160 acres, is here about \$20 or \$25, for the levying of which tax by our representatives, the utmost circumspection is manifested, but from our eastern tier of counties to St. Louis, (about 320 miles of distance) and for the transportation of one year's crop, every farmer cultivating 160 acres of land, pays at least \$200, unjustly and unnecessarily wrung from him by extortion, and which tax is levied on him without explanation or apology, those corporations forcing us to pay \$68 per car, when eastern railroads, paying dividends, carry produce that distance for \$12.50 per car.

Other people's burdens are very easy to bear. How much of the burden of transportation and railroad lands is borne by any member of congress? How much by our lawyers, who figure so conspicuously in national politics? How much by our editors and professional men? How much by our shippers and speculators, who add usury of borrowed money to the cost of transportation, profit, insurance, commission on sales, shrinkage, storage, etc., etc., then deduct that amount from the sea-board prices of our produce and pay us the miserable pittance that is left? How much by our merchants, who add all the above items to the original cost of their articles, and then sell them to us?

Thus the whole cost of transportation on articles used and consumed by the farmer, and of the produce of which a surplus is exported, is exclusively the burden of the producer, and the railroad lands, infamously given to the railroad corporations, is wholly and entirely the burden of the cultivator of those lands. The bonds voted to the railroad corporations are directly, and indirectly also, the burden of the farmer, and whatever taxes these railroad companies pay, they are directly taken from our produce.

Are we, then, born ready bridled and saddled to be thus ridden by this privileged class, and which is expressly booted and spurred for the occasion?

From the warehouse, store, and residence of our merchants and shippers, and the dwellings of the mechanics who built them, to the princely abiding places in our cities, where is the structure that, in a direct or indirect manner, the produce of the soil has not built? And from the ragged urchin of a rag-picker to the bloated usurer, where is the industry that also directly or indirectly is not supported by the tiller of the soil or the labor of the mine?

In the face of all this, is it possible that in this free republic, at the close of the 19th century, with all the educational advantages and intelligence within reach, that the farmer is treated to-day as the mud-sill on which the superstructure of society is built, and is entirely ignored and unseen by the stately edifice which it supports? or rather, are we not the tree bearing the golden fruit which gives life and health to the nation? Therefore, to keep this tree healthy and vigorous, is certainly a better policy than to leave it the spectacle it now exhibits—a sickly dwarf, a mere support for parasites, gnawed to the heart by pernicious borers, and pastured and browsed by ravenous cattle?

As a body, the farmers of Kansas, for a case of debility caused by overwork, have been subjected by our doctors at Washington, and by our nurses at home, to so thorough a system of depletion, by the incessant and continuous application of the lancet and the leech, that there is scarcely any life or any blood left in us. Is it not about time, therefore, to stop this treatment and try the stimulating system, and give this poor, emaciated and consumption-eaten body plenty of good, nourishing and palatable food?

True the constitution of our state provides that the legislature may alter, amend, or repeal charters, and the supreme court has affirmed the constitutionality of acts limiting fares and rates on railroads. But, in the first place, it is repugnant to our free institutions for a government to direct or control private

property. Then, by the over-much enterprise of these corporations, their lines are in the hands of receivers. Under these circumstances, who is going to fix a price for transportation that will give justice to the carrier and the producer? Then what power have we over the states east of us, where, also, our produce is plundered, and pays the railroad taxes in every state treasury from here to the Atlantic ocean? What has Congress accomplished in its legislation on the Kansas Pacific railroad?

Therefore from the standpoint of this national legislation, all attempts to make laws controlling individual railroad property, is a contemptible farce. All we want is the free exercise of the republican principles of representation and competition; a system of transportation where no person can speculate on us, at least without our consent; a system where our produce can be carried to the nearest navigable waters on its way to the sea, at the least possible cost; or, in other words, that the people, through their government, which, unaided by corporations, could, in time of danger, exercise the power to save the nation from its foes. That this same people, through this same government, and unaided by corporations, exercise the same power to build and own the highways for their commerce—for their mutual use and benefit; the national government to furnish trunk lines on which transportation can be concentrated, then the states can furnish short roads to these inter-state and national railroads, and which will be open and free for the competition of any carrier, by complying with laws relating to the same. And whilst, comparatively, a handful of laborers in some of our cities, (reduced to a deplorable state through the effects of the depletion system practiced on the farmer), are growling and showing their teeth, we, as producers, conscious of our power at the ballot-box, and implicitly relying upon the intelligence of the farmer there, and the result of an intelligent public sentiment on this transportation question, know that these will speedily accomplish the needed reform on this the most vital of all important questions. EDWARD BALLAINE.

TRAMPS AND LEGISLATURE.

In this tramp question the United States is but passing through one of the same phases that other civilized communities have experienced. With the growth of civilization and the increase of population, the vicious classes naturally draw together. Weak minded persons who have not the ability or lack the energy to think for themselves, naturally gravitate in the same direction. From this grow up organized bands of plunderers, first in cities, but who at length overrun the country. In countries with strong governments they are more easily managed. Here their votes are eagerly sought for by demagogues who, by their assistance, are foisted into power. There are not wanting journals, even agricultural journals, which, on the one hand boldly assert the right of the division of property, or on the other talk in a maudlin way about the encroachments of capital upon labor. Every farmer in the land is a capitalist; every man in the land may be a capitalist to a certain degree, if only we have health and be not above labor, however humble it may be. Labor is honorable, of whatsoever honest kind it may be. If an equal distribution of property were to be made to-morrow among the masses of the country, that would again the next day be in process of unequal accumulation. All cannot be rich alike. The farmers are as a class those to whom capital is most equally distributed. They are about one-half the working population of the country. They may control the legislation outside municipalities, both state and national, if they will, but their segregation makes this difficult, and therefore our primaries are governed by demagogues, very largely, whose creatures make our laws. We did not expect to see the tramp question definitely settled until the farmers take a hand in the manipulation of our primary conventions. In other words, we want fewer lawyers of low calibre and far less mere politicians in our legislatures both state and national.—Prairie Farmer.

Some wheat crops are being threshed out and yield as well if not better than was expected.

Patrons of Husbandry.

OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE.—Master, Samuel E. Adams, of Minnesota; Secretary, O. H. Eccley, Louisville, Kentucky; Treasurer, F. M. Dowd, Wayne, N. Y. KANSAS STATE GRANGE.—Master: Wm. Sims, Topeka, Secretary: P. B. Maxon, Emporia. COLORADO STATE GRANGE.—Master: Levi Booth, Denver. Lecturer: J. W. Hammett, Plattville. MISSOURI STATE GRANGE.—Master: H. Eshbaugh, Hanover, Jefferson county. Secretary: A. M. Coffey, Knob Noster.

TO OFFICERS OF SUBORDINATE GRANGES For the use of Subordinate Granges we have a set of receipt and order books which will prevent accounts getting mixed up or confused. They are: 1st. Receipts 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 POWER OF THE GRANGE.

The grange is, or can be, one of the most powerful organizations ever known to any age or undertaking. It rests wholly with the farmer to make it a grand success, and

a power that no monopoly of any kind whatever can overrun; for it has all power over railroads as shown in the Iowa case, all power over banks and rates of interest by doing its whole business through its own bank, all power to be protected in legislation against all landed monopolistic bills, by sending only farmers pledged to the common interests of the grange policy to the legislature; all power to protect itself against middlemen of every class by doing all its buying and selling through its own business association, where all can be dealt with alike.

The farmers, while they are the most conservative element of society, are the most difficult to unite in the common good—arising from personal jealousies and a constant fear that some one will secure privileges or conditions superior to another.—The Farmer's Friend.

TRI-STATE PICNIC.

The following items clipped from the call of the committee for their great annual grange picnic, will give some idea of the spirit of the grangers in the Shenandoah valley of Virginia, settled largely by native Pennsylvanians, and the people of northern Maryland and eastern Pennsylvania. We copy from the Farmer's Friend, published in that section of the old Keystone state:

"The fifth annual tri-state picnic of the Patrons of Husbandry and farmers of southern Pennsylvania, western Maryland and West Virginia, will be held at William's Grove, on Thursday, August 29th.

Worthy Master Piolet, Worthy Lecturer Downing, and other prominent members of the order will be present to talk on the subject of the grange.

Prof. S. B. Heiges, the eminent agricultural and horticultural writer and lecturer, of York, Pa., will deliver an agricultural address.

Heretofore these picnics have brought together from 12,000 to 15,000 people, and the committee have reason to believe that the one in contemplation will exceed all others in number and interest."

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Sheep.

Two or three hundred choice young Sheep for sale by H. A. STILES, Pavilion, Kansas.

Great Public Sale.

50 Head of

HIGH BRED TROTTER STOCK including Stallions, Brood Mares, Colts and Fillies of the most fashionable strains of blood in America. Representatives of the five leading families now on the turf, viz: Hambletonians, Abdallahs, Clays, Manbrino Chieftans and Alexander's Normans. Also,

20 Head of Thoroughbred

JERSEY COWS, CALVES & BULLS, The Property of E. A. SMITH, NORWOOD STOCK FARM LAWRENCE, KANSAS.

Sale to take place at the Kaw Valley Fair Grounds, THURSDAY, Sept. 5th, 1878.

All the stock will be on exhibition during the Fair held Sept. 2nd, to 7th, 1878. Capt. P. C. KIDD, Auctioneer. Note: Parties wishing to attend the sale, can avail themselves of the own CART & MULE excursion rates on all Railroads to and from the Temperance Camp-meeting, held Aug. 30th to Sept. 10th. For pedigrees and description, send for catalogue.

Walnut Grove Herd.



S. E. WARD, Proprietor.

Breeder of Pure bred Short Horns. 1st Duke of Walnut Grove, 3518, S. H. Record. A. H. Book \$26.412 and Mazurka Lad and 5 1/2, S. H. Record at head of Herd. Young Bulls and Heifers. The get of the above sires for sale cheap. Inspection of my herd and correspondence solicited. Six miles south of Kansas City. Address, S. E. WARD, Proprietor, Westport, Jackson Co., Mo.

SHORT-HORN CATTLE.



ALBERT CRANE, Durham Park, Marion County, Kan., breeder of pure Short-horns of fashionable blood. Stock for sale low. Also, best Berkshires in Kansas. Catalogues free.

"HIGHLAND STOCK FARM." Salina, Kansas.

THO'S. H. CAVANAUGH,



BREEDER OF HEREFORD CATTLE, COTSWOLD SHEEP, BERKSHIRE and DORSETSHIRE FIGS.

Premium Cattle, Sheep and Pigs for sale. Correspondence solicited.

Breeders' Directory.

D. MERRY & SAYRE, Osceola, Clark Co., Iowa, breed & Record Berkshires & Poland Chinas for sale "Beantles Sure," Pairs not akin. Circulars free.

D. W. IRWIN, Osceola, Iowa, Breeder of pure, D. M. Magie, & W. W. Elsworth strains of Poland China hogs; write for circular.

O. BADDERS, Leavenworth, Kan., Breeds Black & Coshin & Brown Leghorns. Stock not surpassed in America. Send for descriptive circular and price list.

D. R. W. H. H. CUNDIFF, Pleasant Hill, Cass Co., Mo., breeder of Thoroughbred Short-Horn Cattle of fashionable strains. The bull at head of herd weighs 3000 pounds. Choice bulls and heifers for sale Correspondence solicited.

J. R. DUNLAP & CO., IOLA, KAN., Breeder of pure Poland-China Hogs and P. Cochins, Light and Dark Brahmas, and B. B. R. Game, Bantam Fowls, Stock first-class. Write for prices.

J. BELL & SON, Brighton, Macoupin County, Ill., Inclos, Breeders and Dealers in Spanish Marino Sheep. Thirty-five miles from St. Louis on the Alton and St. Louis Railroad. Stock reliable; prices reasonable. Reference furnished.

A. LIBERTY CRANE, Durham Park, Marion Co., Kansas, Breeder of Pure Short-Horn Cattle of fashionable families. Young stock for sale cheap. Send for catalogue. Here of 200 head, Also Berkshires.

R. OOK, Iola, Allen Co., Kansas, Breeder of pure Poland China Hogs and P. Cochins, Light and Light Brahma Chickens. All Stock warranted first-class and Shipped C. O. D.

W. H. COCHRANE, Emporia, Kan., Breeder of Short-Horn Cattle. Stock for sale. Correspondence solicited. Planet, 17943 at head of herd.

JOHN W. GARRY, Canton, Ill., breeders and shippers of pure bred Poland-China hogs. This stock took the \$1,000 premium at Canton, in 1871 over 26 competitors.

H. M. & W. P. Sisson, Galesburg, Ill. Breeders of pure Poland-China of Magie Hogs. Young Stock for sale.

FOR Choice Merino Rams and Ewes. Also Imported Canada Cotswolds at Moderate Prices. A. Address, A. B. MATTHEWS, Kansas City, Mo.

J. M. ANDERSON, Salina, Kansas, Pekin Ducks, Partridge, Coshin fowls, and White Guineas. Write to me.

LEVI DUMBAULD, Hartford, Lyon County, Kansas, Breeder of Thoroughbred Short-Horn Cattle and Berkshire Pigs. Young Stock for sale. Correspondence solicited.

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

H. H. GRIMSHAW, Paola, Kansas, Breeder of Essex Berkshires and Poland China hogs. Stock for sale.

Nurserymen's Directory.

WATSON & DOBBIN, Wholesale and Retail, 100, 000 2 yr. old apple trees for fall, also 100,000 1 yr. old, all of the best growth and varieties, all fenced in Rabbit tight; also 50 acres of Hedge Plants in season, prices low to Nurserymen and Dealers. Address, ROBT. WATSON, Lee's Summit, Jackson Co., Mo.

80,000 Apple Stocks, 1,000,000 Osage Plants, 80,000 Fruit Trees, 25,000 Currants, &c. Apple Root Grafts put up to order by experience hands. Send for Price Lists. E. F. OADWALLADER, Miami County Nursery, Lonsburg, Kansas.

A. WHITCOMB, Lawrence, Kansas, Florist Catalogue of Greenhouse and bedding plants, free.

Dentists.

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

JAMES G. YOUNG, Attorney-at-Law, Rooms 10 and 12, Hart's Office Building, West Fourth Street, between Main and Delaware, Kansas City, Mo. Practices in Missouri, Kansas and U. S. Courts. Real Estate & Corporation Law a specialty.

HENTIG & SPERRY, Attorneys at Law, TOPEKA, KANSAS. Practice in Federal & State Courts

Berkshire Pigs at Auction Prices.

Single Pig \$15, \$25 per pair, \$35 per trio. These pigs are sired by the Imported Prize-Winning Boar, Wide Hampton, and out of sows picked from the best herds in U. S. and warranted to be as good as the best. No trouble to answer correspondence. Address, F. B. HARNES, New Palestine, Mo.

Shannon Hill Stock Farm

ATCHISON, KANSAS, Thoroughbred Short-Horn Durham Cattle, of Straight Herd Book Pedigree, bred and for sale. Also Berkshire pigs bred from imported and premium stock, for sale singly, or in pairs not akin. Persons desiring to visit this farm, by calling on Mr. G. W. Glick, in the city of Atchison, will be conveyed to and from the farm free of charge. Address, GLICK & CARMICHAEL.

Park Nursery

LAWRENCE, KANSAS. 22nd year in the State. Very large and complete stock of ornamental trees, grape vines, &c., &c., Wholesale prices very low, and terms reasonable. Address F. P. PHILLIPS, Lawrence, Kansas.

GEO. M. CHASE, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, BREEDER OF

Thoroughbred English BERKSHIRE PIGS.

Dark Brahma and White Leghorn Chickens. None but first-class stock shipped.

600 SHEEP!

Owing to the shortage of Range, and increase of Flocks, we offer for sale, delivered Sept. 15th, 600 head of Sheep, most ewes, graded Merinos; age from one to five years old. Our flocks have been in this section of the country five years. For further particulars, enquire of J. M. BRINING, Great Bend Kansas.

SHORT-HORN CATTLE.

L. A. KNAPP, Do- ver, Shawnee Co., Kansas, breeder of Pure Short-Horn Cattle. Farm 18 miles south-west of Topeka, and 12 miles south of Roseville.

Literary and Domestic.

EDITED BY MRS. M. W. HUDSON.

WHAT THE HEART HAS. There is not a heart, however rude. But bath some little flower To brighten up the solitude And scent the evening hour.

There's not a heart however cast By grief or sorrow down, But hath some pictures of the past To love and call its own.

A DISQUISITION ON APPLE DUMPLINGS, PRACTICAL AND OTHERWISE.

We had our first apple dumplings, a day or two since, and they were so palatable, the crust so light and the fruit so tender and juicy, that I fell to thinking what improvements had been made in this, as in many other articles of food, since the relation of health and cookery had been fully established, and how from the sodden lumps of dough that our forefathers and mothers indulged in, and enjoyed, we, their descendants eat and eschew dyspepsia, even on an occasional diet of apple dumplings.

The enigma which puzzled one of the kings of England, how the apple could get inside the crust, has long since been explained in many of the excellent cook books with which every housekeeper is supplied, and it is rare to meet a person now-a-days who has not luxuriated on this delectable food, now and then, in its season. No doubt each housekeeper believes her dumplings the best, so I may be excused for taking that ground myself without being specially egotistical.

My plan is, to make a dinner of the dumplings, save a bit of something in the way of a relish to "top off on," as a dish of cold meat, or pickle, or vegetables left from yesterday's dinner; by this plan we avoid repetition, even with the eighteen dumplings of the familiar anecdote.

Now as to the modus operandi. If we are not sure that the apples will cook in twenty minutes inside of the dough, we peel, quarter or halve them, and then steam them until tender enough to run a fork in them; this can be done when you have your morning fire, or any time so they can cool before putting them in the crust. When ready, say forty minutes before you wish to serve them, make up the crust as for biscuit, either with baking powder and a small quantity of butter, or sour milk or cream and soda; roll out the dough a third of an inch in thickness and from five to seven inches in diameter, according to the size of your apples; lay them carefully in, draw up the dough pinching the edges together closely, lay them in the steamer, which should be buttered to prevent them sticking—set them over a kettle of boiling water, cover tightly, and let them steam twenty or twenty-five minutes. To test the crust being thoroughly cooked, raise a bit of it with a fork and if light and firm they are ready for the table, but if that or your family are not ready they are not injured by remaining a little longer over the boiling water.

For dressing I prefer butter and sugar with a slight sprinkling of cream, while others prefer sweetened cream or rich milk, and others again any of the numerous sauces for which the Home Cook Book gives various excellent recipes. If your readers approve my mode of preparing and disposing of this delicious article, and my experience is of any benefit to young housekeepers, I shall not have lived in vain.

I hope that none of them will ever suffer the vexation I did once upon a time, years ago, when I was invited into the country to eat the first dumplings of the season. After a fair dinner of the usual variety, which I ate carefully as served, for I had reserved my strength for the dumplings. Lo! when placed before me the crust was like leather with a strong flavor of old lard, and the sauce, milk with a suspicion of sugar in it. I assure you, that the next day we had dumplings at our house which, fairly buried in "richness," would have delighted Epicurus himself. While on this tender subject, I am reminded of certain ludicrous mistakes which young housekeepers occasionally make and which, grievous at the time, furnish food for mirth many a day thereafter. I call to mind one of these in the early days of Kansas, when all our fruit came from Missouri, of giving a young Boston lady two apples. "Oh!" said she, "I will make Harry some dumplings, he is so fond of them." As she asked no questions I supposed she had studied her cook book to some purpose. Meeting her a few days after, she began to laugh immoderately. "Well," said she, "I made the dumplings, and the two filled the kettle." "Filled the kettle," said I, in amazement. "Yes," said she, "I rolled the dough too thick, and when I took off the cover the kettle was clear full, but Harry thought they were splendid."

Of another contre temp in the olden days under the slave regime; a sweet, pretty Kentucky girl was won by a grave, elderly, Indiana M. D., and a treasure of goodness she was, but unskilled in household arts. In the course of events the "help"

took a vacation, and the young wife undertook to prepare the family dinner; in this she was aided by a sister as fair and ignorant as herself. After a serious conference on the dinner question, they decided on boiled apple dumplings, and proceeded together to the kitchen, and after much labor and vexation made them according to their best impressions. Then filling a large kettle with cold water, dropped them carefully in, set it over a slow fire and returned to the sitting-room to await the cooking. When the dinner hour arrived and the Dr. was told of the lusciousness in store for him, they prepared the table, and then, as sufficient time had passed for the cooking, the young wife triumphantly raised the lid when, to her consternation, a kettle of starch with here and there a bit of apple swimming in the mass, met her eyes. History has no further account of that dinner save of that and other delinquencies of which the husband plaintively told his wretchedly mother-in-law; the comforting reply he received was, "Who asked you to come to Kentucky for a wife? I (assuming her most dignified manner) did not raise my daughters to be cooks."

AUNT SAMANTHA.

Cowley Co., Kansas.

LETTER FROM MARION COUNTY.

MRS. HUDSON; I remember a lady in Illinois who used to make most excellent sweet, ripe cucumber pickles; can you or some of your benevolent readers oblige me with the recipe?

To that lady who, in the magnitude of her heart, made excuse for the farmers wives that we were too busy to write to the FARMER, I owe my warmest gratitude; but I blush at the conscious thought that her mantle of charity falls upon me unworthily, for I am more indolent than busy. If "confession is good for the soul," I certainly should now be granted free absolution. The question concerning whose duty it is to do the milking, has never disturbed our domestic sea. "The good man" has always accepted that as one of his duties, but, of course, it is often convenient and some times even necessary for me to do the milking, and I am equal to the occasion.

Mrs. Batten came nobly to the rescue with those timely recipes, especially the one for keeping ripe tomatoes. She has my thanks.

MRS. J. E. BROWN.

Peabody, Kansas.

RECIPES

STEAMED PUDDING.—Two eggs, sugar, one cup; sour milk, one cup; soda, two teaspoonfuls; a little salt; raisins, one cup; flour to make it rather thicker than cake. To be eaten with sweetened cream.

SWEET TOMATO PICKLE.—Seven pounds ripe tomatoes, peeled and sliced; three and a-half pounds sugar; one ounce mace and cinnamon, mixed; one ounce cloves; one quart vinegar. The spice must all be ground. Mix all together and boil one hour.

PICKLED CUCUMBERS.—(Gherkins)—Wipe small cucumbers, but not too young; put into jar and pour boiling vinegar with handful of salt on them. Boil up the vinegar every three days, and pour on them until they become green; add ginger and pepper and tie up close for use.

CITRON.—Keep the rinds of water-melons or cantelopes in strong brine until you wish to preserve them; then boil in fresh water until the salt is removed. Soak or boil a short time in weak alum water, then boil again in fresh water until there is no taste of alum left. Make a rich syrup of two pounds of white sugar to each of rind. When the syrup has boiled until well clarified, drop the rind in and boil an hour. Lemon flavoring may be added and a "pinch" of citric acid to prevent sugaring.

HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY.

PAINT SPOTS.—When neither turpentine nor benzine will remove paint spots from garments, try chloroform. It will absorb and remove paint which has been on for six months.

According to Von Bibra, casks may be freed from their soluble matter by being two-thirds filled with clean, pure water, and adding a pound or two of common soda. When this is dissolved, the cask is to be filled to the bung, and allowed to stand for ten or twelve days. After this it should be repeatedly rinsed with clean water.

Dr. Brown, of the United States navy, claims to have discovered a certain remedy for ivy poisoning. It is bromide dissolved in olive oil, cosmoline or glycerine. He used twenty drops of bromide to an ounce of oil, rubbing it on the affected part three or four times a day, and washing it off occasionally with castile soap.

NEWSY ITEMS INTERESTING TO WOMEN. The forty-seventh exhibition of the American Institute will open September 11, in this city.

A Vienna mechanic has invented a set of springs, etc., for running sewing machines, thus avoiding a most unpleasant bodily exertion.

Mr. Moody will spend the coming autumn and winter in Baltimore, and will preach under arrangements with the Young Men's Christian Association of that city. According to the New York Evangelist, he will not hold nightly service, but will give much of his attention to the education of his children.

On the 23rd of June, Father Hyacinth concluded his series of Paris Exposition lectures. He still holds to Catholicism, but

advocates its reformation through the abolition of the papal supremacy, election of priests by the people, worship in the vernacular language of each nation, and liberty of priestly marriage. His hearers were almost wholly Protestants.

Mr. Bergh will prepare a suitable address on the work accomplished in America by his society, and forward it to President Barnard, now in Paris, with the request that it be presented at the Congress of the Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, soon to be held in that city.

FINE NEEDLE-WORK.

Machinery, though it does some very delicate work, cannot surpass, in the delicacy and effectiveness of its workmanship, that superb piece of mechanism, the human hand. No machinery can harness six fleas to a chariot, nor can it make the harness by which they are yoked together. Yet the hand has done both. A Hindoo woman can weave a piece of muslin—the famous Dacca muslin—so fine that when spread out on the grass to bleach it looks like the tiny cobwebs one sees in early morning. The finest loom in France cannot approach the delicate workmanship of this rude woman; yet she uses only her hand and a very simple contrivance made of sticks.

FOR DEAF PEOPLE.

It has been announced that a simple form of string telephone will enable deaf people to hear and to distinguish voices. For this purpose a looped string attached to a flexible membrane, stretched over the end of a cylinder cut from an old tin can, passed around the forehead and around the hands of the listener—the hands being pressed against the ears—will enable the deaf to hear words spoken near the open end of the can. Mr. Browning remarks that having tried this experiment, he was only partially successful. Although the sound of the voice was always heard, only certain words were distinguished. By fastening a single string to the telephone, and allowing the deaf person to hold the string between his teeth, he was able to hear every word distinctly, even when spoken in a low tone of voice from across the whole length of the room.

A YOUNG LADIES' COOKING CLUB.

During the winter a young ladies' amateur cooking club was organized in Kalamazoo, and has been in successful operation ever since. The club has sixteen members, mostly unmarried ladies. Meetings are held once in two weeks, at which a supper is prepared, each member furnishing some article of food of her own cooking, and in this way a very rare bill of fare is the result. The president assigns the work to each, and all carefully obey—for instance, the young lady who furnishes cake for the first supper is delegated to make bread for the next, and so through the whole catalogue of edibles, she makes her way; in course of time obtaining a knowledge of cooking in all its branches. Those who have partaken of their suppers bear witness to the excellence of the work performed, and the graceful and excellent manner in which the viands are served.—Grand Visitor.

THE MATTER WITH THE MOUNTAIN.

The North Carolina Bald mountain volcano has exploded. The mysterious rumblings that have been heard in the bowels of the mountain at intervals for some years past, have been accounted for, and upon another theory than that of the roaring of subterranean fires. The shaking, shocking phenomena that have driven people away from the vicinity of the mountain, causing them to abandon all their property, and become homeless wanderers, have been very simply and innocently explained to be not genuine earthquakes but great internal rock slides. Several geological professors from several colleges in several states lately visited Bald mountain, for the purpose of feeling its pulse and ascertaining the cause of its disorder. The doctors discovered no volcanic fever and no signs of past or coming eruptions. They assure the people that they may return to their homes on the mountain side without fear of being swallowed up or consumed, and they assure the state of North Carolina that it has not the distinguished honor of holding a volcano, and no chance of becoming a mother of earthquakes. The rumblings and the shakings are caused, say the learned pundits Clark, Smith, Crenshaw, Lowe and Lowman, by a gradual giving away of the bedrock which forms the mountain's base, and the rock slides, filling up the yawning spaces. Some bowlders are cut in two as smooth as if cut with a knife and others are ground to powder. They say this grinding way and filling up and cutting and grinding process may go on for some years yet, before Bald mountain may be considered settled on a substantial basis.

COUNTRY HOMES.

It is often to be observed; in passing through farming districts, that little care is evinced in the arrangement of farm homesteads. An ugly fence has been put around a square of land, a box of a house planted in the centre, and a stable with a straw roof, or no roof at all, in one corner; a kitchen garden at one side of the house and a hay yard at the other. If any shade, fruit trees or shrubs are seen on or about the premises, they only add to the confusion. On the spur of the moment, and

in great haste of settlement, the occupants labored under a confused notion of what was needed to make a pleasant and convenient home. And having started out in this way they keep on year after year making no improvements; they cultivate no taste for the beautiful; the acquaint themselves with few, if any, of the comforts of an orderly and well arranged homestead.

Even on the best of farms, where the buildings and farms are good, there is an unparadiseable carelessness in many respects. Current bushes, gooseberry bushes, and the various berry-briars, with now and then a little fireweed, or a luxuriant burdock all tangled into an impenetrable barrier, form the borders of the garden, while the fruit trees are scattered here and there, rough-barked and scrubby. A little order infused into the owner's constitution; a little care and attention given to what some regard as trifling matters about their premises, would make home blooming and attractive. No one has more opportunities to create home attractions, or a better right to enjoy them than the farmer. He should not let his opportunity pass.

REMEDY FOR POISON IVY.

A remedy for the effects of poisoning from the poison oak or poison ivy (Rhus toxicodendron) is given by Dr. S. A. Brown U. S. N., in the Medical Record. The specific is bromine, and he has found its success unvarying used as follows: He uses the drug dissolved in olive oil, cosmoline, or glycerine, in the strength of from ten to twenty drops of bromine to the ounce of oil, and rubs the mixture gently on the affected part three or four times a day. The bromine is so volatile that the solution should be renewed within twenty-four hours from its preparation. The eruption never extends after the first thorough application, and it promptly disappears within twenty-four hours, if the application is persisted in, and the patient is entirely cured.

A FLY'S FLIGHT.

The formation of the wings of a fly enables it to attain a velocity of from thirty to thirty-five feet in a second. In this space of time a race-horse would clear only ninety feet, which is at the rate of more than a mile per minute. Now, our little fly in her swift flight, will, in the same space of time, go more than the third of a mile. If, therefore, we compare the infinite difference of the size of the two animals, how wonderful will the velocity of this minute creature appear!

FARMERS, SUPPORT THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

Farmers will become healthier in body and mind, says Hall's Journal of Health, in proportion as agricultural papers are taken, for several reasons. These publications uniformly contain a large amount of unexceptionable family reading, as to health, temperance and sound morals; they also gradually awaken up the mind of farming people to experiments, to what is often sneeringly called "scientific farming." Every day the better skelter mode of agriculture is becoming less and less remunerative, every day it is becoming more and more necessary to study the laws of vegetable growth, the habitudes and needs of plants and grains and trees; and in proportion as this is done, and the analysis of soils becomes a pre-requisite, there will be a world of novelty and light to break in upon the farming mind to interest, electrify and enrich. The time will come, when to attempt the successful management of a farm, large or small, without some considerable practical knowledge of chemistry and botany and geology will be considered the extreme of Quixotism.

There is just one thing about it—the lady who insists on carrying the most of her dress in her hands, has got to keep her boots buttoned up or people will think she left home in a hurry.

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 this advertisement in the Kansas Farmer.

FARMER'S FRIEND! FANNING MILL!

Don't be the labor and expense of raising grain, then market it dirty, but clean your grain and make money by raising it in grade. Our Mills give Universal Satisfaction, and are Fully Warranted.

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By reading and practicing the inestimable truths contained in the best medical book ever issued, entitled SELF-PRESERVATION. Price only \$1. Sent by mail on receipt of price. It treats of Exhausted Vitality, Premature Decline, Nervous and Physical Debility, and the endless concomitant ills and untold miseries that result therefrom, and contains more than 50 original prescriptions, any one of which is worth the price of the book. This book was written by the most extensive and probably the most skillful practitioner in America, to whom was awarded a gold and jeweled medal by the National Medical Association. A Pamphlet, illustrated with the very finest Steel Engravings—a marvel of art and beauty—sent FREE to all. Send for it at once. Address PEABODY MEDICAL INSTITUTE, No. 4 Bulfinch St., Boston, Mass.

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BOTTOM PRICES! GOOD STOCK! We offer for Fall of 1874 and Spring of 75, an extra fine stock of 3 year Apple, Small Fruits, Evergreens, Ornamental Shrubs, Geage, &c. &c. Correspondence solicited. BARNES & CRESSWELL, Kirkwood, Ill.

18 ELEGANT New Style Chromo Cards, with name, 10c. post-paid. Geo. I. Reed & Co., Nassau, New York.

25 FANCY CARDS, Snowflake, Oriental, etc., in 25 styles, with name, 10c. J. B. Mausted, Nassau, N.Y.

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\$5 to \$77 a Week to Agents. \$10 Outfit Free P. O. VICKERY, Augusta, Maine.

\$7 A DAY to agents canvassing for the Fireside Visitor. Terms and Outfit Free. Address: F. O. VICKERY, Augusta, Maine.

\$1200 Salary. Salesmen wanted to sell our Staple Goods to dealers. No peddling. Expenses paid. Permanent employment. Address: A. A. GRANT & CO., 7 & 8 Home St., Cincinnati, O.

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These lands belong to the University of Kansas. They comprise some of the richest farming lands in the State, and are located in the following named counties: Woodson, Anderson, Lyon, Coffey, Wallace, and Allen. The lands have been appraised by authority of the State, and will be sold at \$3 to \$5 per acre, according to quality and nearness to railroad stations. Terms—One-tenth down, and remainder in nine equal annual payments, with interest. For further information apply to V. P. WILSON, Agent University Lands, Abilene, Kansas.

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HOW TO POST A STRAY.

BY AN ACT of the Legislature, approved Feb. 27, 1866, section 1, when the appraised value of a stray or strays exceeds ten dollars, the County Clerk is required, within ten days after receiving a certified description and appraisement, to forward by mail, notice containing a complete description of said strays, the day at which they were taken up, their appraised value, and the name and residence of the taker up, to THE KANSAS FARMER, together with the sum of fifty cents for each animal contained in said notice.

THE STRAY LIST.

Strays For Week Ending August 14, 1878.

Atchison County—Chas. H. Krebs, Clerk.

HOSE—Taken up by Mathias Glem, Kaplona Tp. (Arington P. O.) June 28th, 1878, on dark bay horse, collar mark on right shoulder, 16 hands high, 6 years old. Valued at \$60.

Brown County—Henry Isely, Clerk.

PONY—Taken up by J. F. Babbit, Hiawatha Tp. (Hiawatha P. O.) March 25th, 1878, one sorrel mare pony 13 years old, large white strip in face, black and white, white hair scattered over the body. Valued at \$15.

COW AND CALF—Taken up by S. H. Dean, of Hamlin Tp. (Saballa, Nemora Co.) (P. O.) April 28th, 1878, left hind foot white with better calf, cow 7 years old, marked with underbill in right and crop in left ear, branded on right hip with brand resembling J. I. Cow with calf valued at \$25.

Crawford County—A. S. Johnson, Clerk.

MULE—Taken up by Moses F. Beard, of Washington Tp. (Girard P. O.) July 16, 1878, one brown mare mule, three years old, white nose, about 15 1/2 hands high. Valued at \$75.

MARE—Also, one pony mare, four years old, light bay, stripe from forehead to nose, both hind feet white, black ring around right pastern joint, about 12 hands high. Valued at \$20.

HOSE—Taken up by P. O. Wood, of Crawford Tp. (Girard P. O.) one bright chestnut sorrel horse, bald face, soft hind foot white, also has ring tone on same foot, about 5 years old. Valued at \$30.

Jefferson County—H. N. Inley, Clerk.

MARE—Taken up by Herman Newman, Delaware Tp. May 25th, 1878, one black mare, 4 years old, 14 hands high, star in forehead, white scar, saddle girth mark. Valued at \$25.

PONY—Taken up by E. M. Hutchins, Delaware Tp. July 13th, 1878, one sorrel horse pony, 3 years old, blaze face, 3 white feet, right eye white, hind foot white, left hind foot white to ankle with scar as of rope. Valued at \$20.

PONY—Taken up by Jerome Kunkle, Kentucky Tp. June 24th, 1878, one brown horse pony, about 7 years old, left hind foot white, some white in forehead, scar on right shoulder. Valued at \$25.

Johnson County—Jos. Martin, Clerk.

HOSE—Taken up by Geo. W. Ridge, in Oxford Tp. July 15th, 1878, one bay horse, 3 years old, saddle and harness marks, 15 hands high, hind feet white.

HOSE—Taken up by Henry Rhoades, living three miles west of Gardner, in McComish Tp. July 2nd, 1878, one bay horse, 14 hands high, near on right hip. Valued at \$25.

Labette County—L. C. Howard, Clerk.

MARE—Taken up by M. P. Logan, of Fairview Tp. May 17th, 1878, one 14 hands, about 15 hands high, 3 or 4 years old. Valued at \$20.

HOSE—Also, one sorrel horse, 2 years old past, 14 1/2 hands high, white hind feet. Valued at \$25.

Miami County—B. J. Sheridan, Clerk.

FILLY—Taken up by A. B. Light, Paola, Kansas, one sorrel filly, 2 years old, small star in forehead, no other marks nor brands.

Montgomery County—Jno. McCulloch, Clerk.

HOSE—Taken up by Sarah Mason, of Lonsburg Tp. June 10, 1878, one gray horse, blind in left eye, about four years old. Appraised at \$25.

Morris County—A. Moser, Jr., County Clerk.

MARE—Taken up by E. W. Moon, in Elm Creek Tp. June 24th, A. D., 1878, one brown pony mare, about 13 hands high, with small scar on left shoulder. Valued at \$20.

Osage County—Ed. Spaulding, Clerk.

PONY—Taken up by Martin L. Foutz, in Dragon Tp. June 10th, 1878, one light bay horse pony, no brands. Valued at \$25.

MULE—Taken up by E. D. Sterrett, in Arvonia Tp. July 16th, 1878, one black mare mule, eight years old, fourteen hands high, branded O on left shoulder, left eye blind, collar marks. Valued at \$25.

COW—Taken up by A. L. Hunt, Valley Brook Tp. July 26th, 1878, one dark brindle cow, under slope in each ear, left horn drops over the eye, about 12 years old. Valued at \$17.

Ottawa County—D. D. Hog, Clerk.

MARE—Taken up by Chas. B. Rotrock, in Centre Tp. one roan mare, 14 hands high, 8 years old with black mane, tail and legs, collar marks on shoulders, and saddle marks on back, white star in forehead and (17) branded on left shoulder. Valued at \$15.

Sedgewick County—E. A. Dorsey, Clerk.

COW—Taken up by Geo. B. Robbins, of Waco Tp. July 10th, 1878, one muley cow, red and white spotted color, supposed to be six years old, no marks nor brands.

Smith County—E. Stevens, Clerk.

MARE—Taken up by Joseph Kuhman, in Lincoln Tp. July 1st, A. D., 1878, one light bay mare, with three white feet, white face, about 7 years old, 15 1/2 hands high. Appraised at \$20.

STRAYED!

Thursday morning, July 11th, from the farm of W. H. Griggs, 7 miles northwest of Eldorado, a large white horse, white mane and tail; large feet, and shod all around; about 8 years old. When last seen had on the back part of a new set of harness. A suitable reward will be given for the return of the horse. O. H. DAVIES, M. D., Eldorado, Kansas.

Strayed or Stolen!

Strayed or was stolen, from the subscriber on the night of Friday, July 19, 1878, one dark bay mare, about 15 hands high, 7 years old, left fore-foot white up in the hair, some white on hind feet, black feet, tail and legs, and slight blemish in right eye. A liberal reward will be paid for information that will lead to the recovery of this animal. DANIEL THOMPSON, North of Fair Grounds, Topeka, Kansas.

OPIUM and MORPHINE

habit absolutely and speedily cured. Pain-killer, to be had for full particulars. Dr. Carlton, 169 Washington St., Chicago, Ill.

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WOMAN "The Physiology of Life," a large, new and complete Guide to Wedlock, including Diseases peculiar to Women, their causes and treatment. A book for private and confidential reading, (positively) the best published or will refund the money) 250 pages, with full Plate Engravings, 50 cents.

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"Medical Advice," a lecture on Manhood and Womanhood, 40 cents; or all three in one nicely bound volume, \$1. They contain 600 pages and over 100 Illustrations, embracing everything on the generative system that is worth knowing, and much that is not published in any other work. The Author is an experienced Physician of many years practice, (as is well known), and the advice given, and Rules for treatment laid down, will be found of great value to those suffering from impurities of the system, early errors, lost vigor, or any of the numerous troubles coming under the head of "Private" or "Chronic" diseases. Sent for Price, in Stamps, Silver or Currency. Address: Dr. Butts' Dispensary, 13 North 8th St., St. Louis, Mo.

DR. BUTTS invites all persons suffering from (RUFFLES) to give him their names and address, and hereby assures them that they will learn something to their advantage. —Not a Quack.

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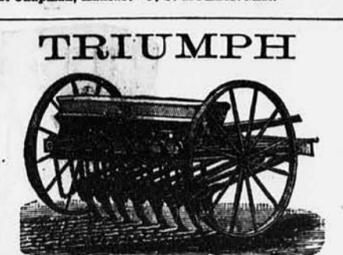
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If you feel dull, drowsy, debilitated, have sallowness of color, or yellowish brown spots on face or body, frequent headache or dizziness, bad taste in mouth, internal heat or chills alternated with hot flushes, low spirits, and gloomy forebodings, Irritability of temper, and longings to eat, you are suffering from Torpid Liver, or "Biliousness." In many cases of "Liver Complaint," only part of these symptoms are experienced. As a remedy for all such cases, Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery has no equal, as it effects perfect cures, leaving the liver strengthened and healthy.

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Invalids arriving in the city and desiring to consult us, should come directly to the Hotel. It is easily accessible by carriage, omnibus, or street car. Miscellaneous Agents in all incoming trains, can be relied upon to deliver passengers and baggage with security and dispatch.

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BEFORE AND AFTER

Illustration of a woman's face, likely related to the 'Anti-Fat' advertisement.

No Bar. There's music in the bird's back And in the rooster's strain...

BENEATH THE STARS. He sang to his darling, "The stars are forth. The night winds gently sigh; There's a light in thy window, love, for me, And waiting below am I."

Her father the minstrel's voice o'erheard, And mentally whispered "Wait!" As he gath'ered the serenader up And yanked him over the gate.

And she? She knew by her lover's words The wreck that the old man made—"Ten dollars are what those trousers cost, And I'm glad the bill isn't paid."

Even a pig upon a spit has one consolation: things are sure to take a turn.

When married men complain of being in hot water at home, it turns out half the time that it's s-c-o-l-d.

A man was walking along a Chicago street singing "Heaven is my home." "Don't you feel homesick?" yelled a small boy who passed him.

A young lady has compiled a list of her gentlemen acquaintances, and entered their names in a handsome album. She playfully calls it her "him-book."

Out in Nevada a young wife in Eureka asked her husband to take her to the circus, but he refused and said, "I've lost four wives already and you are the fifth, and after four times fellows get here I'm goin' to chain you up."

"Gentlemen, I introduce to you my friend, who isn't as stupid as he appears to be." Introduced friend, with vivacity: "That's precisely the difference between my friend and myself."

A stranger was strolling about Costello's tannery and accosted Pat, the bark-grinder: "Is there a man about here with one eye by the name of Jerry McCarty?" "Fhat's the name of his other eye?" said Pat.

It is true that, unraveling the cord of man's existence, you will generally find the entanglement begins just in the twentieth year part, and that it turns out to be a true love-knot.

Recently at a colored ball at a hotel in Jacksonville, Florida, the white guests crowded round the doors, eager to look in. They retired, however, when one of the sable managers came forward with an important and respectful air and waved them away, with the observation: "The white folks will please stand back, the odor is disagreeable to the ladies."

He was a St. Paul clerk, and he was trying to amuse himself by questioning a little girl in a big bonnet, near South Stillwater. "What do they set hens for?" he asked. "To hatch chickens," she replied promptly. "What do they set milk for?" he queried. "To catch calves," said she, and she said it in a way that caused the St. Paul chap to close the conversation.

A little four-year-old remarked to her mother, no going to bed: "I am not afraid of the dark." "No of course you are not," replied her mother, "for it can't hurt you." "But, mamma, I was a little afraid once when I went into the pantry to get a cookie." "What was you afraid of?" asked her mother. "I was afraid I couldn't find the cookies."

A little fellow has just begun going to the public schools. His mother, to stimulate him to attention to his lessons, said to him the other day: "Charley, if you study hard, you may some day become President of the United States, like George Washington." "Don't talk to me about being President!" exclaimed he: "everybody's going to be President. When we go to school the first thing the teacher does she calls the names of the little boys, and they all say 'President.'"

How women can manage to sit bolt upright and not change a position, looking neither to the right nor the left, during a sermon in church, passes the understanding. A man will sit on a picket fence all the afternoon to see a ball match, but put him in a churchpew for three quarters or an hour and he will waddle all over the seat.

You might think it didn't take any science to tie two chickens together, but it does. Whenever an educated fowl producer brings young chickens to town, he ties a fat, hearty rooster of some two months old, to a poor, little bare-legged peeper, and sells them for seventy-five cents a pair. Of course, nobody wants the one which was hatched last Sunday, but the hearty one is just irresistible, and so they go.

An Irishman and his wife quarreled, and she started out of the house, swearing she would never come back. Her husband went to the door and said: "Mary, Mary, would yez be aft'er leaving the nice house?" "Divil take the nice house, Pat."

"Mary, Mary, would yez be aft'er leaving me and the childer?" "Divil take yez, and the childer too, Pat."

"Mary, Mary," cried he, unbuckling his coat and exhibiting a bottle of whisky, "would yez be aft'er leaving the loikes of this?" "Aha," said she, coming back and smiling, "ye coaxing roguer; yez could coax the birds out of the bus-shes."

An old sea captain at Coney Island, N. Y., who, retired from active sea life and enjoying rural felicity, was importuned by his wife to buy a horse. The horse was bought but proved refractory, and the captain with the aid of another old salt, undertook to break him. A keedge anchor and a stout rope were procured and placed in the carriage; the horse was hitched, and after sundry gyrations, ran forward at great speed. Dropping the lines the captain roared, "All hands ready to let go the anchor!" It was cast, and the unsuspecting equine pranced along unsuspectingly till he was brought up with a jerk. There was a shock. The demoralized horse pitched suddenly forward, the demoralized tars pitched over his head, and picking himself up the dilapidated captain observed to his companion: "That's the first time I ever saw an anchored craft go to pieces."

Most of our farmers have commenced plowing for wheat.—Chetopa Advance.

The oats crop, owing to the rust in some localities of the county, will make a light yield. Some fields reported the yield large.—Holtan Recorder.

The flax crop is averaging about 12 bushels per acre. Some pieces are making as much as 18 bushels.—Miami Republican.

The apple crop of the river counties will fall short this year about fifty per cent. But the crop of peaches, pears, grapes and plums will be simply immense, and inestimably greater than ever before known in Nebraska.—Lincoln (Nebraska) Globe.

The local correspondents of the Russell Co. Record furnish that paper the following crop notes:

The corn crop promises an abundant yield. Some of our farmers talk of shipping their own wheat.

Wheats is threshing out about eighteen bushels per acre; the yield is not so heavy as was expected.

SADDLEBAG NOTES.

NO. XXXV.

Going southeast from Edwards county I passed through Pratt county again, this time across the southern part of it. Not being organized, it is attached to Reno county for judicial purposes and assessed as one of the townships of that county. There was raised here this year 3601 acres of wheat which will probably yield 15 bushels per acre. There was 3703 of corn planted in the county this year. There are 284 horses, 91 mules, 486 head of cattle, and 4495 sheep in the county.

Luka the probable county seat has about a dozen houses, and at present is the liveliest town of its size that I know of. The country around here is very beautiful and were it not for the lack of wood, water and stone this would be one of the garden spots of the world.

Saratoga a prospective town in the south part of the county is located on the Ne-ne-saw river. This stream has many very fine mill sites. I had been told that there was a flouring mill on this stream. After a careful examination I found a dam by the mill site but did not find the mill by the dam site. I understand, however, it will soon be built.

Near Saratoga I noticed a flock of 2150 Mexican and grade merino sheep. They were brought from New Mexico in September 1876. The fleece averaged 2 1/2 lbs apiece in 1877 and this year nearly 3 1/2. They are owned by Messrs. Potter & Co.

Mr. J. C. Tousey of Livingston has 400 grade merino sheep that are very fat; this gentleman finds it profitable to raise sheep for the mutton. I noticed here a small flock of 40 full blooded merino sheep owned by John McMullan. They were brought from New York this spring. They are a very great improvement over the native or western sheep.

Two miles east of Saratoga are 1930 Mexican and graded sheep owned by Messrs. Ball & Bangasser. These sheep averaged 4 lbs. of wool per fleece this year.

Before I leave the county of Pratt I will mention that in the north half of the county there is about 50,000 acres of land subject to homestead entry. The South part of the county is within the limits of the Oage Trust Lands. These lands are only subject to preemption at \$1.25 per acre. There are about 100,000 acres of these lands.

It can neither be taken under the homestead law nor under the timber culture act. It is only sold to actual settlers on a year's time. The only money required to be paid in advance is \$2.00. This is for the necessary papers.

There is no record in Topeka of any bonds being issued against this county.

I entered the county of Kingman near the northwest corner. There is in the western part of this county a fine body of unoccupied land subject to preemption. I should judge fully 50,000 acres of good land could be found in one body ten miles square in the western part of the county at the government price of \$1.25 per acre. This would be a splendid locality for a colony.

Near the county line on the west is a herd of 3400 Texas cattle owned by Messrs. Lovel & Mason. They have 17 men, and run 4 camps. Each camp has a corporal and three privates, with a sergeant in command of the company.

Mr. Sheedy from Kansas City has 7000 head of Texas cattle feeding here. There were a large number of other herds but I did not visit them. Will some one who knows please tell us where the "dead line" is.

The city of Kingman consists of nine houses. It is located near the center of the county. The soil in the northeastern part of the county is very red, but I think it productive. I had never before seen so red a soil. This county is one among the best for a new comer who wants cheap land. W. W. CONE, Kingman, Kansas.

WHEAT ON VIRGIN SOIL.

The experience of an old settler of Illinois, published in the Country Gentleman, may prove a warning to the wheat-growers of Kansas who are now rejoicing in the heavy crops of wheat from the virgin soils in the middle and western counties of this state, to save the manures and apply them to the fields from which they take those heavy and exhaustive crops of grain, before they begin to decline in their production.

New land and virgin soils probably contain certain elements of plant food of whose composition we have now no very clear idea. At present the virgin prairies of Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, and the hither and remote west, produce prodigious crops of wheat for several years in succession, on the simple condition that the original wild herbage be killed out by preliminary plowing or breaking of the sod; and what is singular, the yield of the soil and its capacity for doing the same thing for two or three more years, depends not on the depth to which the soil is turned over, but the shallowness of the plowing. As long ago as 1850 to 1855, when the lands of Champaign county were new, just as any in the above named states are at present, the same condition of things prevailed, and the winter wheat crop was as certain a one then as in the 'states' aforesaid now. Then, for wheat, we plowed shallow, and the shallower the better, and we felt, if we could get rid of the sod, it would be a desirable thing. Then all the field and road-side ditches, and every avenue for drainage opened through, or in the fresh soil, ran soap-suds-like, or milky water, and continued to do so for a number of years. Indeed, from 1850 to 1860 or '65 there was no such thing in the newly-settled counties as a

clear stream of water, though now, and for the past five or six year, the open sloughs will run perfectly clear twenty-four to thirty-six hours after the heaviest rain. When our streams began to run clear, our wheat crop began to fail—that is, we failed to grow wheat without the preparation of a summer fallow—and the simple explanation I offer is, that the imponderable and insoluble salts of phosphorus, lime, and magnesia having been washed off, one of the absolute essentials of successful wheat growth was lost. This is an interesting subject, and I appeal to Mr. G. T. Taylor, Mr. Samuel Edwards, Mr. Arthur Bryant, and Judge Lawrence, all venerable gentlemen and old settlers in Illinois, to say whether when they first knew the country the ditches did or did not run clear, whether the water cleared in ditches and streams the growing of the wheat crop became more and more doubtful. Here in Champaign county I find a number of old residents who agree with me as to the character of the water running in the streams twenty and twenty-five years ago, and I would like to know if the same was true of other soils and other counties.

COST OF FENCING AND BREAKING PRAIRIE.

The cost of breaking prairie is now \$2 per acre. F. E. Smith, of this city, has this season fenced a 160-acre tract northwest of the city, at a cost of \$350. He bought 670 posts at nine cents each, paid three cents each for having them driven with a pile driver, sixteen feet apart, and put two on strands of heavy twisted barbed wire. The account stands thus: Breaking 160 acres, \$320. Fencing, as above, 250. Total, \$570.

It thus costs \$3.56 per acre to break and fence a 160-acre tract of land in this county. The fence costs \$125 per mile. A 40-acre tract would cost \$125 to fence, an 80-acre tract, \$187, a 160-acre tract, \$350. These figures will be handy to keep for reference, as they will be about the average cost of a two strand barbed wire fence, driven posts, 16 feet apart, throughout the county. Counting land fenced and broken as worth \$4 more than the raw prairie, if the fence is in good condition, is about as low an estimate as the buyer could fairly claim or the seller afford to concede.—Emporia News.

BLUE STONE, AND ITS USE IN WHEAT.

Preparing seed wheat by dampening it with a solution of blue stone is the universal practice in California, to prevent smut, whether the wheat in that climate is more subject to that fungus, than in other localities east, we are not aware, but the demand in San Francisco for blue stone is very extensive to be used in the preparation of seed wheat.

A correspondent of Colman's Rural has this to say on the subject of blue stone as a preventive to smut in wheat:

"Some ten years ago I took ten bushels of wheat and saturated the grain with a solution of blue stone and sowed it immediately, and if any one ever saw more smut in the same amount of wheat, they have seen more than I have. I sowed the same fall about twenty-five bushels more, which remained in soak from twenty-four to forty-eight hours, and you could not find one head in a thousand. I generally dissolve five pounds to twenty bushels of wheat, put in a tub large enough to stir it well, and let it remain twenty-four hours, in order the grain may be soaked with liquid, and have never known it to fail."

From Franklin County.

I noticed a remark which appeared in the editorial columns, that the class of writers who sent crop reports, generally overestimated the growing crop. I don't pretend to say how true this may be; I think with you that the tendency of most men who write occasionally for their favored locality, is to give the most favorable report possible, and no doubt in many cases the figures reported are too high. In my report to the FARMER about harvest time, I reported the average of wheat, from 18 to 22 bushels per acre. Since then I have been able to procure a better test than guessing.

Wheat in three places has been threshed; one in Linn county, in the northwest corner of the county, reports from three farms; it ranges from 18 to 22 1/2 bushels. Another in Anderson county, only three miles from my residence, yielded 39 1/2 bushels acres; this field was estimated at harvest time, about 30 bushels. In the other case, the average is 23 bushels. You will see from the above that one of your correspondents was under the real estimate in place of over. It is, perhaps, too soon to place much reliance on even these statements. Very little has been done at this date in threshing. Will report progress.

A heavy, soaking rain, on the 25th visited us. It will add thousands of dollars to the productive industries of the county. J. H.

From Douglas County.

Aug. 7.—The season at present is all that could be desired for the making of one of the largest and best crops of corn ever raised in this part of Kansas. The wheat acreage was large for last year but will be much increased the coming season. Farmers are busily engaged in breaking for fall sowing; the extreme heat interferes some with the work. There is one farmer not far from here putting in 600 acres of wheat, which is a large quantity for this part of the state. Wheat is being threshed and is yielding up to former expectations; it is No. 1. Stock are in good condition; hogs are in demand and prices advancing. Fruit is plenty, and the same with all kinds of vegetables. The outlook for everything here is encouraging. WM. PLASKET.

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