

# THE KANSAS FARMER

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## THE KANSAS FARMER.

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Topeka, Kansas.

### Rainfall on the Plains.

So much has been written in the FARMER during the past year about the rain supply of Kansas that it seems scarcely possible that anything new could be said on the subject. Mr. Stahl, however, in a previous issue of the FARMER advances some theories that have been long since abandoned, but to some they may sound as new.

He states that Illinois gets its summer rains from the gulf moist breezes that blow northward during the summer months, which no one will dispute, but asserts that Kansas is denied moisture from the same source, although the eastern part of Kansas, about equal in extent to the whole state of Illinois lies equally as near to the waters of the gulf as does Illinois, and it affords the same conditions to attract the moist gulf winds. Why the laws of nature should operate differently in the state of Kansas from what they do in the state of Illinois under the same circumstances is an inconsistency Mr. Stahl does not explain.

Mr. Stahl further states, that the prevailing winds of Kansas are from the southwest, as 2 to 1 when compared with the SE winds.

The records and observations made at all the forts on the plains and by the signal service department, show that the SE and S winds are much in excess of those from the SW, and every observing Kansan will verify this statement.

Many and other meteorologists of 20 to 25 years ago believed that the SW current, which prevails all over the United States in the summer months, came across the snowy range from the Pacific. The signal service department and meteorologists do not sustain this theory and find a different wind system, if I may so express it, on each side the mountain.

The generally accepted theory of the winds of the plains based on extended observations, is, that the NE return trade winds south of the 30th parallel when they reach the central American chain of mountains, are deflected from their course toward the equatorial zone and curved to the northward along the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, and gradually swing around into the SW current, making a grand curve from the gulf bending first westward along the Rio Grande northward through western Texas and eastern New Mexico and Colorado, and then northeastward over parts of Kansas and Nebraska.

In addition to this general curve, there is the Monsoon influence of the great heat radiating power of the plains owing to the scant vegetation that affords no protection from the sun's rays.

As soon as the sun's rays impart enough heat in the spring to warm the earth, which in turn raises the temperature of the surrounding atmosphere so soon do the winds commence to blow from the south and southeast, varying occasionally to the south west, and until the end of summer, southerly winds prevail. They are regular Monsoon winds induced by the same causes that bring to the Mississippi valley states their supply of moisture; the only difference being that in the latter the conditions are more favorable to precipitation.

Had Kansas the same amount of trees and proportion of cultivated land—that Illinois has—the rainfall would be equally as great and as well distributed in the summer months. It is not a lack of moisture in the air that makes the rainfall of Kansas less than that of Illinois, but a lack of the conditions necessary to convert the rain clouds into water.

Twenty-five years ago, the rain supply of eastern Kansas was not any more reliable or certain than the western half is to-day, but during that time nearly five million acres of prairie sod has been broken, thousands of acres of trees planted, prairie fires stopped, and the short buffalo grass replaced by the tall blue-stem. All these things have effected a radical change in our climate, and our rainfall for the past ten years in the eastern half of Kansas has been as reliable and favorable to vegetation in the past ten years as not so great as that of the state of Illinois.

Compare the first ten years of the settlement of eastern Kansas with the last ten, and who will deny that the change has been wonderful—that the seasons are more equable—that we have more general rains and a better distribution of the supply.

The three great rain persuaders are the plow, the fire guard and the forest groves. To these

may be added, the rank growth of crops and other vegetation and ponds of water.

I am not among those who believe that cultivation of trees, etc., directly produce rain, by increasing evaporation. The amount of rain produced by local evaporation as compared to the whole supply, would bear no greater proportion than does the water in the Mississippi river to that in the Gulf of Mexico. The value of trees, etc., is not in directly producing rain by what they evaporate, but in producing the conditions necessary to persuade the moisture in the air to condense and precipitate. The western half of Kansas is dry, not so much because of its western location, as on account of its exposed surface, which readily becomes heated, and imparting its own temperature to the surrounding atmosphere, forms a dry strata of air next the earth's surface which insulates it from the moist and lighter air that floats above, and produces conditions unfavorable to condensation. Remove the strata of dry air formed by radiation, by cultivation, trees, etc., and we furnish greater attraction for the electric current, which is a great factor in the rain supply—bring the moist air and the earth closer together, cool the air by evaporation instead of heating it by radiation, and when this is done we have made a radical change in the climate. It would be a reversion of nature's laws if you did not.

Those who remember the climate of Kansas prior to and subsequent to settlement and cultivation, do not feel discouraged about the future. Periodic drouths will come to Kansas, the same as to Illinois or New York, but notwithstanding these, the limits of the Great American Desert are being slowly but surely narrowed down and who will say where this narrowing process is to stop.

Referring to Mr. Stahl's theory of the winds crossing the range, my observations this season has been that nearly every rainstorm this summer has been precipitated by a current of air, formed on the mountain tops and sent sweeping across the plains, lowering the temperature, producing a low barometer, and squeezing the moisture out of the south winds with which it came in contact. This rainfall which accompanies these mountain currents will as a general rule be heaviest where local evaporation is greatest.

I also noticed that the first good rain following the drouth of this spring in western Kansas was preceded by a southwest wind of several days duration, showing that it is possible for winds coming into the state from the southwest to be charged with moisture, and that their source was in the gulf and west of the mountains.

The soil of Kansas, owing to its superior natural drainage requires less rainfall than the states where the soil is underlaid with clay.



THE NEW WARNER OBSERVATORY, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Owing to the greater power of the soil of Kansas to absorb, retain and utilize the rain that falls, and the further west the greater is the capacity of the soil for utilizing the rain fall and withstanding drouth.

Central Kansas will successfully produce crops adapted to its soil and climate on one-third less rainfall than is necessary in Illinois.

Kansas farmers have much to learn yet about this climate. They have also much to learn in the matter of adopting a system of cultivation and crops adapted to the climate they now have, but they are learning fast, and those at least of the eastern half of the state are not yet prepared to be placed outside of the pale of those moist trade winds from the gulf of which the Mississippi valley claims a monopoly.

H. R. H.

### The New Outlook.

The attractive building shown on this page of the FARMER, is the new Warner Observatory at Rochester, N. Y., which will be when completed by far the finest private astronomical observatory in the world. Its inauguration is certain to give a new impulse to the study of astronomy in this country, although America is already greatly distinguished by the splendid discoveries which her astronomers have made.

Among the prominent revelations which the United States has given to the astronomical world may be mentioned the following: The discovery of the eighth satellite of Saturn in 1848 by Prof. Bond; the transparent ring of Saturn in 1850 by Bond. The separation of Biella's comet into two parts was first discovered in this country in 1845: The discovery of the two moons which accompany Mars was made by Prof. Hall, of Washington, and is one of the crowning events of the century.

The United States claims the discovery of fifteen new comets, some fifty asteroids, over a thousand double and triple stars, (many of them being the most remarkable in the whole catalogue of those objects,) and last but not least three intro-mercurial planets by Watson and Swift during the total eclipse of 1878.

It is but a few years since there was not a respectable telescope in the United States. Now it boasts of having the largest refractor in the world, and in the entire country there are but two larger than the one which is being prepared for the dome of the new observatory at Rochester. This observatory has been endowed by Mr. H. H. Warner, the well known proprietor of the Safe Kidney and Liver Cure and other remedies, and both in its design and arrangement marks a new departure in astronomical construction. The new telescope alone will cost about \$15,000, and is to be in charge

of Prof. Lewis Swift, who, by his discoveries of comets and two intro-mercurial planets has become known to all lovers of science in America. The tube of the new instrument is twenty-two feet in length and the lens sixteen inches in diameter.

The locality of Rochester is not the most favorable for discoveries, as it is subject to storms which obscure the sky and thus prevent observations, but very much may be expected from the Warner observatory in the way of scientific discoveries during the next few years.

### Churns.

In no implements of the dairy and modes of manipulating butter, have there been greater improvements than in churns and churning, within a very recent period. In the process of churning the improvements have been in the direction of primitive modes rather than new discoveries. The most approved system practiced by advanced dairymen does not differ in principle from that in vogue among nomadic tribes as far back as the days of Abraham, if that extensive live-stock owner indulged in the luxury of butter, which is probable. To place the milk in a goat-skin bag and gallop over the plains is the manner of churning used at the present day by the Tartar and other pastoral tribes, and the people of South American countries have not improved upon this ancient custom. By the swashing of the cream the butter is separated into granules, and after an hour or less of this horse-power churning, the bag is opened and the "savory mess" separated from the buttermilk.

Modern investigation and experiment have proven that this primitive mode is not only the most natural and convenient for those wild riders, but it embraces the true principle of separating the butter from the milk.

Vast sums of money have been expended and labor wasted in churns only to lead further from the object most desired, to produce the largest amount of butter in the best possible condition from the milk. To this end dash churns innumerable have been invented and patented only to be abandoned. And at this day we see men traveling the country with some new device of churn with gearing and driving wheels and ingeniously contrived dashes, guaranteed to "bring the butter" in five or seven minutes, each and every one "warranted" to be the most convenient and best of the kind ever brought out. Not one of them, however, it may be safely affirmed, is worth the material required to construct it.

The best churn of all the dash churns is the old "up-and-down" plunger; sometimes a stone jar and sometimes a wooden cylinder being used to hold the milk. But dash churns of all manner of makes—and their name is legion—are being cast aside by advanced dairymen, and the dashless, swash churns are coming into use. The old goat skin bag principle is found to be the true principle after all, and to adapt the principle to a more convenient use has been the easy task of the modern mechanic.

Those dashless churns are of several shapes. There is the square or cube churn with revolving axis and operated by a crank, like the numerous dash churns in use. The rectangular churn is a modification of the square one by passing the axis through diagonal corners represented by Fig. 1.

The "end-over-end" or cylinder churn, with axis through the sides and operated by a crank, almost the exact counterpart of the old fashioned barrel churn, minus dashes, with the crank handle on the side in place of at one end. This churn is represented in Fig. 2, and is styled the "Boss" by its inventors and patentees, Rhodes & Palmer, of Rockford, Illinois.

The principle in all of this class of churns is the same—that of separating the butter from the milk or cream by swashing or throwing it from side to side, or end to end—revolving the churn. By this motion the whole body of milk, which ought to not more than half fill the churn, is thrown rapidly from side to side, which in less than a quarter of an hour generally suffices to separate the butter, the latter rising in granules about the size of small shot. When the butter "breaks," as this stage of the process is termed, the milk is allowed to remain quiet a few minutes till the grains of butter rise to the surface, when the most of the buttermilk is drawn off by a hole at the bottom of the churn. Cold water is thrown into the churn and agitated slightly to harden the grains of butter, when it is drawn off and more

water placed in the churn. The following are the directions given by the manufacturers of the "Boss" churn for completing the process, which is virtually the same in all:

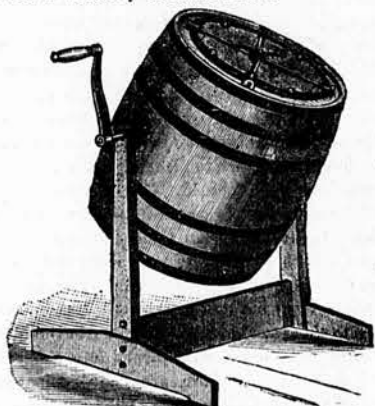


FIGURE 2.

"Add plenty of cold water in such a way as to spread the particles of butter as much as possible; swing the churn back and forth; draw off as before, and repeat the process until the butter is as cold as the water will make it, and if your water is in the neighborhood of 50°, your butter will be in separate grains, like grain sugar, and will change from one side of the churn to the other, as fine salt is sprinkled in. Do this thoroughly, using 1½ ounces to the pound, as a portion will drain off with the brine. After standing a while to dissolve and strike through, remove the cork, close the churn, and it will usually drain dry enough to pack, which should be done by carefully pressing it together in the tub."

The rectangular and square box churns have no agency in this city. The former is manufactured by Cornish & Curtis, Ft. Atkins, Wis., who will answer all inquiries. The "End-Over-End" or Boss churn, is sold in this city by Lyman & Sheffer, who are agents for it and the Cooley Creamer, in the state of Kansas.

### A Tight Hedge at Small Cost.

I have been traveling considerably by team this summer, and I see that farmers have a splendid chance to make much permanent tight fence that will turn all kinds of cattle, horses and hogs. Even small pigs and rabbits. Any time when the bark don't slip. Take a hedge 10 to 15 feet high and cut it half off at the top of the ground; cut it as low as you can, lay it flat on the ground—you cannot lay it too flat. Do not trim it the first year. It won't look pretty the first year, but it will be a good permanent fence, and it will last as long as any man is likely to use it. It can be laid down in the manner described for five to seven cents a rod. This is the only way to make a tight hedge fence permanent. You can trim it the second year as nice as you desire, and it will be a better fence each year.

J. W. SPONABLE.

Paola, Miami Co., Kas.

It is not uncommon to hear individuals speaking in high terms of their cows—boasting of the immense quantities of milk or butter that they will produce, and also of the small amount of food they will consume. These men would have us believe that their cows were capable of producing something out of nothing. Cows simply extract the milk and butter from what they consume. It is true that if a cow comes in full of flesh and has a tendency to throw all she consumes, or nearly so, into the milk pail, failing to appropriate enough from her food to maintain the waste of her body, and falls off in flesh in consequence, she is then drawing upon what she had previously consumed; but under ordinary circumstances she has, from the food she consumes, to supply the waste of her body, besides furnishing this large amount of milk. When we talk of cows giving twenty quarts of milk per day, which yields over two pounds of butter, we must consider that this comes from the food they consume.

There was a time in the history of this country that farmers occupied the most prominent positions in the government, but they were gentlemen in mind and manner, such as any farm boy may become if he will devote the leisure he can make to study and reading. School is not the only way to attain an education; in reality it is but an auxiliary. Many well educated men and women never attended school a year.

In striking contrast to the inaction of our congress, the French government has recently allotted M. Pasteur 50,000 francs to continue his researches concerning contagious diseases in animals.

## The Farm and Stock.

## Farm Fences.

I observe in reading the FARMER barbed wire and posts recommended for fences. The grand object sought after in this western country is a fence, horse high, pig tight, and bull strong, and to construct a fence of that kind made of barbed wire would cost too much money for a poor man in this part of the country where timber is so scarce, and good posts (say cedar, or a good quality of oak). That kind of a fence, the material particularly, would be all cash—a hard thing for the majority of the poor men of this country to command for the purpose of constructing a fence. I cannot say how the people of Kansas as a general thing like the barbed wire fence. But judging from the amount in the state, and I do not think there is very much, as I have been across the state three times north and south, and west twice. I have seen very little of that kind of fence, and would judge the western people do not like it, or the cost of procuring the material at high figures, has been a drawback, and is not extensively used in the western country. There are two small pastures inside of two miles from where I live, and the only two in the township. One year ago a fine horse, accidentally loose on the highway, ran against the barbed wire fence and was in a manner torn to pieces, dying in about six hours from loss of blood. On the same fence, a little later in the season, two mules tore loose with a lariet hanging to them, ran against said fence. Both were hurt; one so badly the owner lost the use of him all summer. The second fence of that kind was constructed last spring. Two three-year-old colts, belonging to the party owning the fence, were turned into the pasture recently and both are badly damaged. One of the neighboring teams with a wagon ran into the same fence and was badly damaged. Furthermore, I have seen stock in the state of Iowa killed outright, and from the above causes would not advise the farmers of Kansas to invest in that kind of material for a fence. Fences are one of the greatest expenditures of a farm, and are something that must be used more or less on every farm. And in this western country where timber is scarce, wire high, a barbed wire fence is something only the minority could be possessors of, and I would recommend in this western country, particularly on our large prairies, hedge for a fence. Hedge in Kansas can be successfully grown in five years if cultivated for that period of time, the same as a corn row, and at such times as the farmer will not materially feel the cost of his fence.

Break out your hedge rows twenty feet wide instead of ten; commencing on the outside and throw the centers out, leaving a clean dead furrow without any sod. Break in good season so the prairie grass and roots will thoroughly rot. In the fall plow as much deeper as first breaking as possible and turn to the center; in the spring turn to the center again. This will double the soil the line where the hedge will stand. Set 6 pounds of hedge seed the spring you break out your hedge rows. That amount of seed will make plants enough, if properly sprouted, to set a hedge around 160 acres of land, and run two through the center, dividing into 40 acre lots.

In sprouting the seed, get a six gallon keg, bore a hole inside close to bottom; make a faucet, if you have none, dig a hole in the south side of a fresh stable manure pile. Put keg in and pack manure tight around it, cover with a board. When the keg is in position, put seed in, then pour on hot water, at night draw off the water and put on fresh water, say lukewarm, draw off the water twice a day and put on fresh of a tepid temperature, and you will have plenty of sprouts in 7 to 9 days. Have your ground ready and plant them in drills 3 feet 6 inches apart, cultivate thoroughly, and you will have plenty of plants for the purpose named. I have stated how to prepare hedge rows, and you have a deep rich seed bed; open out with a stirring plow deep, set plants six inches apart, on bar side of furrow, cover with hoe partially to keep plants in position, and with plow turn furrow back, then tramp the soil, or if you have a roller, roll down, and the work of cultivation will be the next thing in order. When the plants come up keep young hedge clean and it will make a fine growth, and if you want to make a hog tight fence, do not lay it down until six or seven years old. Then you have a body of timber just what you want. I have a hedge that I have handled in that way, and you could not drive a pig or chicken through it.

HENRY BUTLER.

Douglas, Butler Co., 140 miles SW of Topeka.

## In and Out of the Old Ruts.

If we only knew how we could get the ears (we only wish to borrow them for a short time) of men who are in the old ruts of farming—men who think they know all there is to be known about "farming"; men who discard, "won't have it" printed information about their business; men who think every man that writes for an agricultural paper is a theorist; men who will spend twenty-five dollars a year for tobacco, but nothing for books or agricultural papers; men whose fences are dilapidated, gates dragging, barn lots covered with rails, poles and remnants of old machines, whose manure piles are running to waste every rain; men whose stock is much after the scrub pattern, and unsheathed in winter, whose fields are worn, wet and undrained, who grow their own blackberries along the fence rows; men whose crops are always subject to mishaps, and who look upon success in farming as a matter of luck, something ordered from above; men who will

let the common wear and tear of things cover them over from the crown of their heads to the soles of their feet; men who when you talk to them of agricultural progress, the importance of drainage, of manures, of culture and the agricultural press, point with pride to old Jimmy Brown, and say, "Look at him; he can't read, and he's rich." But old Jimmy Brown is not in the ruts; look at his farm, his stock, his ground, his crops; talk with him, and he is a man of intelligence notwithstanding his want of education in early life. In the first place he is above the average in "mother wit"; he is a man of indomitable energy; he knows the disadvantages that attend his life and he consequently observes closely, thinks well, talks with men that do read, stores up in his memory every fact worth remembering that he may draw upon his storehouse when it is needed. Jimmy Brown drains his lands, manures them, rotates his crops with clover, increases his production, husband his resources, is orderly in his business and never depends on luck; in fact he is a close reader of men who do read.

It is not so with the man in the ruts; his base of success is "luck," and he is far from his base. Such men neither read, think or observe to their profit. They are clever enough in their way—they eat and sleep and wake, and work with their hands; they live and die like other men, and leave their seed to grow up after them. So far so good, but nothing more; the world is little better for their having lived—cabbages serve quite as good a purpose.

Such men are in the ruts; the world is whirling by them, they see it not, only in the lightning flashes here and there, which serve but to blind their eyes. If we could only get them out of the ruts, get them to read and think and act; if we could only get it into their heads some way or other that the great number of men who write for the agricultural press are men of large practical experience, and are anxious that others may benefit by it; they write that others may read to the best advantage as they run the race of life.

But, alas! the stupidity of men "in the ruts" is hardly to be overcome; they set all such men down as book farmers; they would think themselves imprudent to subscribe for an agricultural paper and blindly trust to luck. If we could only get a coal of fire hot enough to send its burning heat through their impenetrable shells sufficient to make them stick out their heads in the sunshine of progress and keep them there what a blessing it would be to them. They would mend up their fences, clean out their corners and waste places, ditch out their farms, right up their barn yards, mend the stable doors, hang their gates, provide stovewood for their wives, improve their stock, increase the yield of their products, take down the sign "For Sale," think better of mankind, and take their county and two or three agricultural papers.—*Drainage and Farm Journal*.

## Polled Angus Cattle.

The October number of the *American Agriculturist* contains a fine portrait of the famous Angus bull "Judge," one of the most famous prize winners of his breed in the world, crowning his many winnings by the gold medal at the Paris Exposition in 1877 when three years old. Judge has been bought for the model farm at Ronquaint, in the Province of Quebec, Canada. The *Agriculturist* in further speaking of this breed, remarks,

"The advantage which they offer to shippers of live beef in having no horns is of itself of great importance, but when we consider that they hold their own with the best families of the short-horn breed, which they rival in size, as economical beef producers and quick feeders, it seems certain that they are soon to become the favorite breed for the chief beef-producing regions of this country, especially for the great plains and Texas. A few years ago the experiment was fairly tried by the introduction of a fine bull or two of this breed in central Kansas, and all who have handled his progeny are anxious for more, and are taking steps to procure them. Half bred bulls impress their characteristics strongly, and few horns appear on either sex before the third generation. Of course in herding and handling in droves, they are not dangerous to horses or men, even should they inherit the disposition of the Texas cattle, which have a reputation for fierceness. The improved beef-breeds are the docile, gentle, and easily handled, and the Angus particularly. They are by no means defenseless, as some might think; but with the poll-knob, which is largely developed, they strike terrible blows and make a good fight if necessary."

## Creamery Butter.

The value and quality of butter does not depend upon the fact that it is made in a regularly established creamery, or private dairy. Its virtue depends wholly upon the manner the cows are fed, milked, the care of the milk, and the machinery in which it is set, the skill by which it is churned, paddled and packed. All these things can be done in a private farm dairy as well as a creamery. But all of the essentials must be had, and all of the care exercised. As this will seldom if ever be done, it is about safe to say that the reputation of dairy butter will never equal that of the creamery. And yet it might. But in a small way all of the conveniences cannot be afforded, nor can there be the same care applied unless the operator devotes his undivided attention to this exclusive business. No device of dairy, or reworked butter can ever pass inspection as creamery, though it be branded as such, and attempted to be passed off under the brand of an accredited creamery.

After having examined the submerged cans, studied the scientific principles upon which

they purify and sweeten the milk and cream, and having tasted several specimens of the creamery butter, we are satisfied no system of open can setting, even if done with the strictest neatness and skill, can equal the submerged system. The purifying virtue of the cans is the cause of the main superiority of creamery butter. But this alone will not insure success. There have been failures in the past, and there will be failures in the future, by unskillful, negligent and careless operators. Such fail, and they ought to. They have no claims to that success which attends the faithful, watchful and skillful operator. It is a good thing for this world that the ignorant and careless cannot prosper like the worthy. Amidst the darkness which frequently surrounds the providence of God, this unalterable law is comforting to the faithful worker. And no scheme or device can deceive the judge of good butter. The article which is made right carries within itself an unmistakable character. Milk, cream and butter, once deprived of their natural delightful aroma, never can have it returned by any device or skill. Neither drugs or deft machinery can ever restore its lost virtue.—*Iowa State Register*.

## Texas Cattle for England.

Wright, Lawless & Co., of Liverpool, are in correspondence with the governor of Texas with a view to shipping Texas cattle to England by the Great Eastern; and assumes that the stock raisers of Texas ought to take some action towards introducing their cattle into the English market, claiming that cattle that are worth from \$10 to \$15 in the southwestern counties of Texas, would be worth \$80 in England. These cattle for the Great Eastern could be sent to the coast of Texas and be purchased for much less than they could at the Atlantic ports. They think that the exhibition of Texas stock in England would invite a tide of immigration to that state that could not be expected from less representative objects.

If emigration to Texas is not popularized except through the introduction of Texas cattle to English markets, it will not soon become popular. The Texas range is the only part of the United States from which it is dangerous to import cattle. Texas cattle cannot be introduced into any other section of country, except their native home, without endangering the stock of that country by a disease—for which, up to this time, there has been no remedy—commonly known as Texas Cattle Fever. These cattle may be taken on to new ground, and to a climate subject to freezings, and under new conditions improved, but taken out during the time between the months of March and November they carry the disease to all cattle with which they come in contact, though themselves apparently healthy. These difficulties make them unfit for feeding in England. There is but one exception to these statements and that is, they may be taken from Texas to Colorado and other western ranges, at any time in the year, with safety, and after grazing there for a season, they can be moved with safety to any part of the country.—*Breeders' Live-Stock Journal*.

## Meal and Bran.

Mr. Isaac Eyre says he is often asked which is worth the most for feeding purposes, corn meal or wheat bran. He would answer by stating that very much depends on the manner of using the two articles. If they are to be fed separately the bran is not worth much if any more than corn meal. But if they are to be mixed together and fed to milk cows, the bran is worth the most by about fifty per cent. of the excess in the bulk of the bran, and being more than twice as bulky as the meal, the difference in favor of the bran will be in the neighborhood of \$5 or \$6 per ton.

Two quarts of corn meal and three quarts of bran, given at one feed, will produce quite as good results as four quarts of clear corn meal; and as the three quarts of bran will weigh about two-thirds as much as the two quarts of meal, the difference in favor of the bran is fully \$5 per ton. This would be his plan of mixing to produce milk, but if fed to steers for beef the proportions should be different. That is, three quarts of meal should be mixed with two quarts of bran, to produce the best results. But one of the most valuable uses for which coarse wheat bran can be applied is to feed it to laying hens about once a day, changing it on alternate days from the morning to the noon or evening feed, by mixing it with pure warm water or with milk. It has been found that hens fed about once a day on corn or oats, will lay more eggs in a given time than if fed entirely on one kind of feed; therefore, bran fed for that kind of stock is worth fully 20 per cent. more than corn or corn meal. But if the bran is to be the only feed, then the meal will be the more valuable.—*Mobile Register*.

## What is the Best Sheep?

The great question among sheep men at present is, which is the most profitable breed? To answer this we must take into consideration the mutton, the wool, and the adaptability to our climate. We find the Cotswolds not healthy in large flocks; that the Merinos, though healthy and great producers of wool, amount to very little as mutton sheep. Then the downs are splendid for mutton, but light, dry shearers. Now, by judicious crossing of these breeds, we get a sheep that fills the bill in every respect as the markets are at present—a heavy shearer of medium or delaine wool, which brings the highest price; the mutton is fit for any English market, while the active habits and improved constitution render them good feeders either on grass or grain. In getting up this cross, I would take the Cotswold ewe and use a large French Merino ram; then on the product of this breed a Shropshire or Southdown ram.

There was a test made of the different breeds, two years ago, by Andrew Oliver, of Stark county, Illinois. On a flock of Cotswold ewes he used a French Merino, a Cotswold and a

Southdown ram, and found that the lambs from Southdown took the lead till they were six months of age; then the Cotswold led till they were ten months old. But at a year old, the Merino cross was equal in carcass, and sheared 10½ pounds of wool of superior quality, while the others averaged 10 pounds.

Mr. Conley, the great sheep buyer at the stock yards, made the remark that the "Merino crosses were almost as fine formed as the Southdown."

I throw out these few remarks with the hope that others more able may be induced to give the public their experience in the matter of sheep breeding.—*H. H. Oliver, Toulon, Ill., in American Stockman*.

## Poultry.

## Large Turkeys for Breeding Stock.

The common practice of breeding only from second brood turkeys, and those that are not fit to kill at New Year's, is a very short-sighted policy. In nothing will a good selection pay better than in breeding this noble bird. In the wild state where "the survival of the fittest" is the rule, gobblers weighing forty pounds are not infrequent, and some are upon record weighing fifty pounds. The prevailing custom of breeding from the smallest and cheapest, keeps our markets full of birds that do not weigh over eight or ten pounds. The birds that are known in the Boston and Providence markets as Rhode Island turkeys, run at least a third larger, and lots of dressed gobblers averaging at least thirty pounds can be furnished by the dealers at New Year's, or later, on very short notice. We know of one breeder who killed four adult gobblers last year that weighed, dressed, 126 pounds, or 31½ pounds each. In all the districts from which these supplies are drawn, the farmers have found that it pays to take extra pains with the turkey crop. There has been a steady gain in the average weight of the flocks sent to market at the three great festivals for the last twenty years, and the limit of perfection in this bird has by no means been reached. A large bronze gobbler, the offspring of a pair weighing 62 pounds, that took the premium at the New York State Poultry Show, was brought into eastern Connecticut three years ago, and three large flocks have been raised from him, and nearly all of them have been sold for breeding stock. The unanimous testimony of breeders even in this district where large turkeys are common, is that their flocks have been greatly increased in size by this stock. Suppose there is only a gain of two pounds in the average size of a flock of one hundred birds, it makes a difference of two hundred pounds, worth forty dollars at the present price of poultry in eastern markets. This is nearly all profit, for the turkeys get the most of their growth in the pastures and woods, and are only fed freely six weeks before marketing. Why then do not farmers generally invest in better stock? The chief reason probably is the cost of the stock. It seems a large price to pay five, ten, or twenty dollars for a gobbler of extra weight, or for a hen weighing 15 to 20 pounds, though such a pair of birds would leave their mark upon the broods of a whole neighborhood, and add thousands of dollars to the value of the annual sales for years to come. The breeder of fine stock graduates the price of his birds principally according to their rapid development and weight. They will vary in weight quite a good deal even in the purest bred flocks. Gobblers weighing 18 to 19 pounds in December are common; a quarter of the flock may reach 20 to 21 pounds, and a few may add a pound or two to these figures. The extra price asked for the last two or three pounds seems unreasonable, and yet it is the cheapest part of the bird, for it is this which shows his better constitution and aptness to take on flesh and fatten. It is the same principle applied to poultry which has given such wonderful results in the breeding of Shorthorn cattle. The large, well-shaped gobbler, beautifully marked, and bred to hens of similar quality, will give you birds of good, strong constitution that will develop rapidly and make the most flesh out of a given amount of food. The cheapest bird we ever bought was a young gobbler of this character, for which we paid twenty-five dollars. Scores of flocks and thousands of birds have descended from him, and he has left his good qualities upon every one of them, so far as our observation has extended. A seven months' bird of three or four pounds extra weight is quite sure to make a thirty-pound yearling, and such a yearling gobbler is worth twenty dollars in any breeder's flock that understands his business. There is no bird among all our fowls more susceptible of improvement.—*American Agriculturist*.

## Apiary.

## Wintering Bees.

In wintering bees, as the art is practiced by different bee keepers, two radically different methods of ventilation are in use. Both methods are practicable and successful. If proper care is used, either may prove ruinous if the job is bungled. They are, however, too unlike to mix half and half. A witty writer has noticed that the man who shakes hands in pendulum style and the man who practices the pump handle style, don't get along well in shaking hands with each other, and it is just so in the present case. The first method is that of the bees themselves, practiced by them always, when not forcibly prevented, and consists in making all the upper part of the hive air tight, as far as possible, and compelling all currents

of air to pass through the entrance. This may be called the natural method. The second or artificial method is that practiced by the majority of apiarists. It consists in establishing a slow current of air directly upward from the cluster through some porous material, the supply current coming sometimes from the entrance, sometimes through cracks, and sometimes downward through the cold corners of the porous covering. I do not mean to say a word against this method, other than that I do not practice it myself, and do not feel qualified to write concerning it. My experiments have been in the line of perfecting the natural method.

Each way has its weak point. The artificial method, while keeping the brood chamber nice and dry, is liable to carry off heat too fast, and also to dampen what is put over the bees until it is changed from a non-conductor to a conductor. The natural method while economical of heat, is liable to condense water in the brood chamber. This water may become a mass of ice large enough to do serious mischief in preventing the bees from getting any relief during mild spells of weather. The thing to be desired is to have the moisture condense in one spot and run away. Perhaps we should rather say that the thing to be most desired is to have the bees so strong and so warm that there will be no surplus moisture. There is moisture to be disposed of only when the bees have to eat too thin honey to keep themselves warm. But in actual practice, with a moderate colony and zero weather, we can hardly avoid condensation, and it only remains to get the resultant water away where it will do no harm.

It occurred to me last fall that a vertical strip of bright tin placed in the hive against the back side would act as a condenser on which the moisture would gather and run down. Accordingly nine colonies were provided with these simple condensers to test their operation. They worked just as I anticipated; and although it is not easy to discriminate when hives not so furnished did as well as they did last winter, I felt pretty confident that there was a shade of difference in favor of the condenser.

Water on the floor of the hive, however, is not yet where it is wanted. Something more is needed to make sure that it will go out of the hive altogether. I chanced to notice, while moving a hive that had stood for sometime on a bed of sawdust, that the sawdust remained dry while the soil underneath was quite wet from fall rain. Sawdust appears to be nearly destitute of power to conduct moisture upward, although it passes it downward with great facility. Two hives were packed for winter, without any bottom board, with nothing intervening between the bees and the earth but about two inches of dry sawdust. This proved to be the most perfect arrangement I have yet tried. The sawdust continued beautifully clean and dry all winter. A half inch or so next to the condenser, was discolored by water running down so frequently, but that was all. A strip of thin stuff had been tacked to the bottom of the hive for a door step, and this sufficed to keep the entrance of proper shape and size. Besides keeping the hive dry, this arrangement has another important advantage. A board of any sort will be pretty sure to have a little crevice underneath it, through which cold air will come, while the sawdust bed alone more perfectly secures to the bees the benefit of the ground heat.

Wishing to see if there was any limit to the time a sawdust bed might be made to serve, I have left one hive without a bottom board until this day. Once in a while a hole has to be stopped which the bees have dug out where it is not wanted but that is all the trouble so far. Were it not for the mole, who would make quite a mess of it should he chance to burrow under a hive, bottom boards need not be necessary fixtures of an apiary at all. When greater safety is desired, a flooring of refuse boards can be settled into the ground, and an inch or two of sawdust placed above it as a bed on which to put the hive.

Entrances ought to be carefully kept open, except the apiarian is willing to close them temporarily during a gale in very cold weather, and then open them again; but I suspect that the prevalent custom leaves them considerably too large. Making them too wide, will not keep them clear of snow and ice but the contrary. Were a hundred men to pass the winter in an air tight room, with no means of warmth except by huddling together; and no air except from the door, how would they want it open? They would doubtless live through with it entirely open, if they had plenty of good food; but they surely would be more comfortable to leave it only a few inches ajar. I was led to adopt a small entrance by the following circumstances. When I bought the apiary, (about the first of October) it had been left alone for some weeks. Robbers had cleaned out several stands, and had begun to make furious onslaughts, which would cover the ground with dead, upon some of the strongest colonies in the yard. Of course the first thing I did on taking possession, was to make the entrances as small as they could safely be, that the hives assailed might defend themselves better. The entrances were ½ of an inch high and I made them about ½ an inch wide, some less and some more, according to the strength of the colony, but none, I think so much as inch wide. In this condition they remained through some pretty warm weather, with little apparent discomfort and very little clustering outside. When the weather got cold and the danger from robbers was past, it looked very absurd to make the entrances which had done very well for warm weather, wider for cold weather. For summer I have the entrances ten inches wide, and incline to think that space too small for very strong stocks; but to this day I can't see why a colony packed for winter, should have an entrance more than an inch broad.

For the double purpose of keeping snow from drifting in and keeping the bees from being enticed out by warm sunshine, a shelter board of generous size should be used. It should be placed against the front of the hive in such a way as to be easily removable, and yet tolerably secure from blowing away.—*E. J. Hasty, in Bee-Keepers' Exchange*.



## THE KANSAS FARMER.

E. E. EWING, Editor and Proprietor,  
Topeka, Kansas.

## TERMS: CASH IN ADVANCE.

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The greatest care is used to prevent swindling humbugs securing space in these advertising columns. Advertisements of lotteries, whisky bitters, and quack doctors are not received. We accept advertisements only for cash, cannot give space and take pay in trade of any kind. This is business, and it is a just and equitable rule adhered to in the publication of THE FARMER.

## TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers should very carefully notice the label stamped upon the margin of their papers. All those marked "41" expire with the next issue. The paper is at once discontinued at the expiration of the time paid for, and to avoid missing a number renewals should be made at once.

## CLUBS! CLUBS!!

Look at our offer for clubs. The greatest offer to club agents ever made. Cash and no trade in articles at high prices for work. Every agent who works for the KANSAS FARMER knows that he is working for Cash! And every agent gets something.

No Special Authority is needed for a person to form clubs. All that is necessary is to secure the names and remit the money.

In Giving Address, be careful to give the full name of individuals, the Postoffice, County and State, and do not write on the same piece of paper that communications for the FARMER are written on.

Club Lists with necessary instruction sent to those who contemplate getting up clubs.

## Post Office Addresses.

When parties write to the FARMER on any subject whatever, they should give the county and post office both. Some of the new post offices are not put down in the post office directory, and when the county is not mentioned, the post office clerks do not know where to send papers or letters.

## A Waterway to the Ocean.

There is no more important question at present to western farmers than providing better facilities for reaching foreign markets with their heavy products, and nothing on which they can so profitably combine their influence in bringing about speedily as this. The general government should, without further delay, make available those great rivers, of the Mississippi and Missouri valleys, for commerce. It is committed to this work, and millions of dollars are annually wasted in clearing out creeks and other streams comparatively useless for purposes of navigation, mostly in the older states. This waste of the public money is caused through a species of log-rolling among congressmen, each one aiming to get an appropriation for his "district," which will assist a future nomination and election.

The farmers of the west should take the matter earnestly in hand and make it obligatory upon every member of the house of representatives and every senator, to give the improvement of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers their combined effort in having liberal appropriations made yearly for this purpose by the general government, in order that the work may be pushed steadily and systematically forward. Such a united effort of the members from the adjacent states to those rivers, will speedily result in the inauguration of the work so well begun by Capt. Eads, at the mouth of the Mississippi.

Kansas City seems to be the only place where an earnest effort is being made to organize such a movement as will eventually accomplish the much-needed result. The Board of Trade of that city, in August, last, issued an address on the subject of the improvement of the Missouri river, which has been followed by a convention. In the address above mentioned, the Board of Trade make the following significant statement:

"The capacities of the Missouri river, in this respect, have been tested, and even in its present, wholly unimproved state, it has been found far superior to railroads, although the dangers of its navigation are such as to make men hesitate to put their money into the necessary craft. In 1878 four tons of barges loaded with grain were taken from this city to St. Louis. The transportation of this grain, including insurance, cost the shippers five and a half cents per bushel, when the railroads were at that time charging thirteen cents on wheat and eight cents on other grain. There was a saving therefore of seven and a half cents on the wheat and two and a half on the corn to the shipper, but the most significant fact in connection with these shipments was that it cost the carriers but two and a half cents per bushel, including insurance, which enabled them to make a little over one hundred per cent. while saving the shippers the amount above stated. With this experience before them, the carriers estimated that with improvement of the river, grain can be carried at a handsome profit to carriers from Kansas City to New Orleans for seven cents per bushel. Now from New Orleans to the European markets it costs but three cents per bushel more than our Atlantic ports. The rates from Missouri river points to the Atlantic ports are usually about thirty-six cents per bushel on wheat and thirty-three on other grain. Thus it is found that the difference in favor of the river route is, to the seaboard twenty-nine cents per bushel on wheat and thirty-six cents on other grain. Deduct from these the three cents excess which it costs from New Orleans to European markets, and we find that the river route will save twenty-six cents

per bushel on wheat and twenty-three cents on other grain. These figures represent the additions that will be made to the present profits of producers, for the prices of grain at every railway station in the Missouri Valley are the prices in European markets less carriage, and the reduction in cost of carriage does not affect European prices. A reduction in that item makes a corresponding addition to the profits of the American producers."

The address further states:

"Two years ago one line of barges on the Mississippi river from St. Louis south, was found adequate, while now two are required. These are overtaxed with business, and have usually contracts for months ahead, notwithstanding they have so increased their capacity as to have enlarged the tons beyond all precedent, accompanied, of course, with an equally unprecedented increase in the amount of property conveyed. Such being the present tendency of commerce, the Missouri valley should be prompt to avail itself of it, and to take such measures as will secure its share of the benefits. The second reason is that the people of Kansas have subscribed nearly all the money required to put a line of barges on the Missouri river, and will soon organize a company for that purpose. This line of barges is proposed simply as a pioneer line, and if we can secure the improvement requisite to make it a successful venture the way will be open for successful enterprises from all points, which will fill the entire navigable river and make its advantages equal to all alike."

The following argument made use of is unanswerable and conclusive in favor of government appropriations for the contemplated work: "Our river being the only considerable stream in the United States that has not heretofore received attention, we feel, in view of the benefit to be derived from its improvement, that we have a right to claim that it shall now be done at public expense, the same as like improvements have been made elsewhere."

What is needed to push this most desirable work of making the great rivers highways to the ocean, cheap and navigable at all seasons, is an organization embracing all the states west of the Alleghany mountains, which will bring to bear such an influence that will compel every representative and senator from these states to work constantly in the interest of this measure, at the same time cutting off all such useless appropriations that are made ostensibly for dredging out creeks, but really for electioneering purposes in the member's "district."

There is water sufficient at all seasons in the Mississippi to float ocean steamers to the wharves of St. Louis, and in the Missouri to run lines of barges safely from Kansas City to the former place. In the movement forming to regulate railroad transportation, the improvement of these great waterways to the ocean should constitute a part. The facilities for western transportation will never be complete without perfecting a system of navigation by these rivers which will be both safe and convenient. In fact it is the greatest need of the whole western country. The immense and every year increasing products of these interior states must be disposed of in foreign markets and probably at prices considerably below present quotations, and to accomplish this the cheapest rates of transportation must be obtained, and this great volume of water flowing from the Rocky Mountains to the Gulf, offers ready facilities with the abundance of engineering skill we have at command, to speedily obtain this desirable object.

## Rainfall on the Plains.

Mr. Hilton enters the lists in an article on the important subject of a water supply for the plains, and advances a theory which differs in many essential points from the views of other writers on this subject. He boldly denies the dearth of moisture in the atmosphere which is the obstacle that is considered almost insurmountable by his fellow disputants in the same interesting field of science. He appeals to statistics prepared by the signal service to prove that the summer winds which sweep over the plains to the base of the Rocky Mountains, come from the southeast generally, and directly from the Gulf; that they are not bereft of their moisture in their long overland journey after leaving the Gulf, but form an upper current and are separated from the earth by a hot, dry strata of air caused by the radiation of the sun's heat from the almost nude plains, and that this strata of hot, dry air resting on the earth, serves as a complete insulator, preventing the upper, moisture-laden current from coming in contact with the earth. To counteract and change this climatic condition, he contends for a better protection of the earth from the rays of the sun by the cultivation of forests and the ranker growing grasses, and the prevention of prairie fires, thus mulching and cooling the earth's surface, and providing a condensing atmosphere on and immediately above the earth, in place of the present rarified and insulated one which prevails on that belt of territory lying directly east of the Rocky Mountains and reaching to the frontiers of cultivated Kansas, so that the moisture-laden strata above may be brought in contact with the earth, cooled and condensed into rain in place of being separated as at present by an impassable, insulated barrier, from it. This philosophy being accepted as the true one, the plains to the foot of the Rocky Mountains must become, by forest culture and agriculture, as well watered by frequent rains, as any part of the territory lying immediately west of the Missouri river. The history of the west, from the time of its discovery, west with the footsteps of civilization and agriculture, powerfully supports this theory, and if the steadily ascending grade of the country

does not play a counterpart to these influences, it is reasonable to expect the wet line to still advance westward.

Mr. Hilton's article will be found very interesting and full of encouragement to the firm believer in the future unsurpassed greatness of Kansas. Cool the earth by shading its surface and preparing it by the plow as a reservoir for the rains is the advice of all the doctors, but Mr. Hilton's philosophy declares the existence of a boundless supply of moisture in close proximity and ever present, and only separated from the thirsty earth by a thin, insulated strata of hot, dry air. Let this enemy to vegetation be removed and the desert blossoms as the rose.

## Strays.

The season of the year is fast approaching when the law makes it obligatory on all persons who find stray animals among their stock, to advertise them in the KANSAS FARMER, in order that the owners may know where to find their property. After having been properly advertised if not claimed within a certain prescribed time, the ownership of the stock becomes vested in the party having them in possession. If not so advertised, however, the party holding or selling such stray stock, becomes liable to prosecution for damage by the rightful owner, and the taker-up of the stock cannot recover for its keep.

There is doubtless a large amount of stock lost by straying that is taken up and never advertised. If the stray law were strictly complied with few animals would be lost.

A copy of the KANSAS FARMER for the next three months will prove a valuable investment for any parties having stock on the range, for the list of strays advertised, alone. A file of the FARMER is kept in every county clerk's office in the state, where it can be examined by parties who have lost stock, and may be the means of their recovery if it has been heretofore advertised. A good many strays are advertised all through the season, but by far the larger number in the fall months, when farmers gather their horses and cattle in from the range.

## In the Old Ruts.

A correspondent writing from one of the old states, describes the status of the farmers in the section he is visiting, and the picture he sketches is a pretty conclusive reply to the complaint that farming don't pay, which comes up from so many parts of the country:

"There may be some improvements," he writes, "in the methods of agriculture in the past forty years in this section of country, but they are not perceptible to me. I see the same old rotation of crops—the same plowing of half the farm for wheat, oats and corn, so as to get it into grass—the same never getting it in grass—the same feeding of six to ten bullocks, and so on, etc., to the end of the chapter. There isn't a farmer in this part of the country, so far as I can discover, with any intelligent ideas about farming, or with any ideas except those obtained from ancestors, or picked up accidentally. I can count over fifty farmers, the first that occur to me in the neighborhood, and not one of them takes an agricultural paper or reads anything on the subject. How is it possible for them to improve when they are content to remain in such ignorance as to not know how to raise strawberries, grapes, or any small fruit or vegetables, or to do anything in their calling except such things as they learned to do in a bungling manner when they were boys? So long as bees would live and make honey without attention or care, they kept bees and had honey. So long as grape vines would run over a tree or fence and produce grapes without pruning or training they had some grapes, and so on with dozens of other things they all ought to have but none of them have. 'The same old set still occupy the soil and move in the same old ruts that they stepped into fifty years ago.'"

## S. E. V.

Mr. Thos. Cane, Burlington, Osage county, Kansas, writes the KANSAS FARMER, "I decided to take advantage of the liberal offer made by Prof. J. Wilkinson, through the KANSAS FARMER, last spring, offering the right to use sub-earth ventilation on his patented plan and to furnish plans and specifications to one person in each county of the state of Kansas, for the nominal sum of ten dollars. The professor sent me the necessary plans, etc., and they are full and complete, and I am engaged in making the underground duct, and installing a part of my house cellar, which is designed for a milk-room. I expect to use my new dairy room next summer, and when the weather gets hot and we have had one of our long spells of those violent, hot winds, I will tell the readers of the FARMER how the sub-earth plan works. I have never seen S. E. V. in use, but I am a strong believer in it, and I am satisfied that the patentee is a liberal, honorable and very capable man."

## Kansas Horticulturist.

The proposed publication of the Kansas Horticulturist, at Topeka, was issued some time since, not meeting with sufficient encouragement to warrant the large outlay that such a publication would require, has been abandoned for the present.

## Stawnee County Agricultural Fair.

The fair is in full blast this week on the Society's beautiful grounds south of the city of

Topeka. Up to noon yesterday the entries were over one thousand. The stock entries are very large. The exhibition this year is far superior, in every respect, to any previous fair, which is very encouraging to the Society and the farmers of Shawnee county. The business men of the city have manifested much interest in the fair this season, and have aided the Society very materially by the offer of special premiums.

## Circulars and Catalogues.

Descriptive circular and price-list of new white grape, "Duchess," Farlee & Anderson, Cayuga Lake Nurseries, Union Springs, N. Y. A. W. Williams & Sons' wholesale catalogue for autumn 1880, Batavia, Ill., of greenhouse plants, nursery stock, small fruits, ornamental trees, etc.

Price-List of Asylum Hill Nurseries, E. M. Patten Proprietor, Kalamazoo, Michigan. Exhibition catalogue of the "Elizabeth" herd of registered Jerseys, the property of the estate of G. Dawson Coleman, Brickville, Lancaster county, Pa. Colin Cameron agent.

Catalogue of Monmouth Nursery for fall of 1880, J. T. Lyett, proprietor, Little Silver, Monmouth county, N. J. The "Pocklington," a new white variety of grape, is given special prominence in the catalogue.

## Important Sale.

We call attention to the Breeders' Great Combination Sale of Short-Horn Cattle advertised in another part of this paper. Ranchmen, breeders and farmers are especially interested to attend this sale, as it comprises a large number of bulls, ready for service, representing fashionable and substantial families. Be on hand at Sedalia, Mo., Fair Grounds, Oct. 27th, rain or shine, and secure some fine animals.

## Rowell's Newspaper Directory.

The last Directory issued by Geo. P. Rowell & Co., New York, the pioneer in this business, is a complete work of its kind, and is one of the most useful works to advertisers and newspaper men published. The editor has taken much pains to have the work accurate and has succeeded to a degree that will be most satisfactory to all who have occasion to consult its pages.

The National Sheep and Wool Show held at Philadelphia last week was not a great success. There were a number of fine sheep on exhibition, but scarcely enough to entitle the show to a national character. There were no sheep from the plains or Texas. There were representatives of a few of the best breeding flocks of various breeds of sheep from a half dozen states.

The great Mississippi valley horticultural display held at St. Louis, and for which much was expected and hoped by horticulturists, did not realize the expectations of its promoters. The cold storage which was relied upon failed, and in consequence the best fruits of the southern states and California were prevented from adding a most important feature to the exhibition.

A joint public sale of high-bred Short-horns will take place at Delaware, Ohio, at the fair grounds, October 21st. The popular auctioneer, L. P. Muir, will conduct the sale. This sale will comprise a very choice selection of over one hundred head from the herds of C. Hills, Hon. T. C. Jones & Son, and Hon. T. F. Joy, of Delaware, Ohio, and from the herd of T. L. Harrison, of Morley, N. Y.

Trumbull, Reynolds & Allen, the live agricultural implement men want several car loads of millet and grass seed, beans, peach-pits, etc. Read their advertisement in the FARMER.

## Reply to Mr. Poor.

ED. FARMER: In looking over your valuable paper of September 15th, I noticed a communication from E. W. Poor, Myrtle, Phillips county, Kansas, and as I believe you wish and expect your correspondents to state facts rather than to get up a finely sounding letter, I would be glad of the privilege of correcting his statements in regard to the crops in this county. In doing so I will try to be very exact and give an impartial statement of facts as they exist. I will give a statement of the condition of our own township, which I believe will give a fair average of the county, as some of the townships can give a little better report and some not so good. Mr. P. and myself live in Walnut township, Phillips county, about 2½ miles south of the Nebraska line. I am well acquainted with the township, having lived here for more than seven years, being one of the oldest settlers.

In the first place your correspondent states that perhaps one-third of the number of acres of spring wheat sown, threshed from four to eight bushels per acre; the truth is that a great portion of the spring wheat was not cut at all, and what was cut did not pay for the cutting and threshing. The best piece of wheat in the township yielded 5½ bushels per acre. Mine was considered good and yielded 3½ bushels; others threshed 3, 2½ and 2 bushels per acre. I think I am safe in saying that there has not been as many bushels of wheat threshed as was sown in the spring, to say nothing of the winter wheat—that being a total failure. You can judge for yourself whether there is wheat enough to bread the population until spring. Where one man has a few bushels of wheat there are five who have none.

Mr. P. states that corn, the county over, will be an average crop. Now for the facts. On

old ground it is entirely burnt out, and many had the most and some all of their corn planted on old ground, consequently they have no corn. On new ground it is better, yielding from 5 to 15 bushels per acre. As for Mr. P.'s forty acres of corn which he estimates will yield 30 bushels of "good No. 1 corn" per acre; I have heard the opinion of a number of practical farmers in regard to the field, and none give it a greater yield than 15 bushels, some give less. The late rains revived the corn but failed to make the ears fill—it made cobs, nothing more.

As for potatoes and garden truck, they are almost a total failure; no vegetables of any kind save a few squashes and potatoes. I know of but two or three families in the township who have any potatoes for winter use or for seed. All planted more or less. I planted one acre; have three in family and have had what we wanted to use since July 1st, and can probably dig enough now to last another month. Very few were as fortunate as we. If this can be called an average crop it is useless for us to spend our lives here in trying to make a living. But it is not the case. We can raise good crops here, for I have proved it for myself; but this has been an exceptional year, and I do not write for the purpose of running down the county, for this is my home and all my interests are here, and I believe I think as much of this county as Mr. P. with all of his fine rhetoric in its praise, but when a man from purely personal motives makes such glaring misrepresentations we feel as if we ought to make "our little speech" also.

He says that all can make a live of it in this county without outside aid, which is far from being the case. I have paid considerable attention to the matter, being appointed by the County Aid Society one of the agents to distribute aid in this township, and therefore feel that I can speak with certainty in regard to it. Frequent inquiries are made as to when we may hope to receive the aid promised to the settlers on the frontier who have lost their crops. Application has been made to the County Aid Society, but as yet we have received nothing. I suppose enough has been sent in to supply all who are in need.

Many settlers have come in here within the last year or two and taken government land. They spent all they had in coming here and getting settled; they failed to raise anything; winter is coming and no provisions or clothing to keep them from suffering; many have large families and are so situated that it is impossible for them to go to a distance to get work, and they must suffer unless they get help from some source. I am not speaking for myself but I do speak for those of my neighbors who are in actual want and who will suffer this winter for necessary food and clothing; and for these I hope something will be done, as those who are the most forward will have all they can do to get through the winter, as last year we had but half a crop and this year still worse.

We join with Mr. Poor in rejoicing over the re-nomination of Gov. St. John, for we believe he has the interests of the people at heart; also believe we are as much in favor of temperance as Mr. P., but at present the suffering people are more interested in the subject of something to relieve their wants and drive the wolf from the door, which is but natural.

GEORGE T. GRUNDY.

We, the undersigned, citizens of Walnut township, have read Mr. Poor's letter to your paper, also Mr. Grundy's answer, and endorse what Mr. Grundy has stated as being the truth in regard to the crops in our township and in the county, as far as we know; also in regard to the necessity for aid for a part of our population, and would be glad to have it published in your paper, together with our endorsement and names:

A. R. Drake, Peter Basquin,  
Samuel Lovell, Francis M. Rosencrutz,  
Zeb. Baker, Charles Hackel,  
James Clutter, R. E. Heth,  
H. E. Bueckley, Bill Hummel,  
Frank M. Buckley, L. D. Paynter,  
E. Hertz, James J. Miller,  
Daniel Higgins, Joseph Gipe,  
C. S. Lewis, William Gipe,  
F. W. Harlan, George M. Case,  
L. M. Crosbie, M. W. Gipe.

—David S. Gipe.

## For Sale Cheap.

A Health Lift of the most approved manufacture. Apply at the KANSAS FARMER office.

Lice on cattle may be easily got rid of by sprinkling earth on them freely. Fill the hair full once in three or four weeks during the winter. It must be dry and dusty. If a barrel of road dust be saved in summer when the roads are dusty, it is just right; but any earth can be dried in an old pan under the stove, so that we need not be without the remedy at any time in winter. Calves will not thrive if they are lousy—neither will larger cattle.

It has been a late practice at some of the fairs to label animals or articles on exhibition so as to give no clue to the awarding premiums. This is a good idea, but not altogether practicable, because the owner, in a large number of cases, would be guessed or known by the committee.—Vermont Farmer.

## Multitudes Using It.

The following is cut from the columns of the "Hebrew Leader," N. Y. city: "Multitudes are using Warner's safe kidney and liver cure, diabetes cures safe pills, safe nerve, safe bitters, safe tonic, and are benefited by them; that this is true is stated by tens of thousands over their own signatures."

Kidney wort is nature's remedy for kidney and liver diseases, piles and constipation.



## Literary and Domestic

## Companions on the Road.

Life's milestones, marking year on year,  
Pass over swifter as we near  
The final goal, the silent end  
To which our fated footsteps tend.  
A year once seemed a century,  
Now like a year it hurries by;  
And doubts and fears our hearts oppress,  
And all the way is weariness.

Ah me! how glad and gay we were,  
Youth's sap in all our veins asir,  
When long ago with spirits high,  
A happy, careless company,  
We started forth, when everything  
Wore the green glory of the Spring,  
And all the fair wide world was ours,  
To gather as we would its flowers!

Then, life almost eternal seemed,  
And death a dream so vaguely dreamed,  
That in the distance scarce it threw  
A cloud-shade on the mountain blue  
That rose before us soft and fair,  
Clothed in ideal hues of air,  
To which we meant in after time,  
Strong in our manhood's strength to climb.

How all has changed! Years have gone by,  
And of that joyous company  
With whom our youth first journeyed on,  
Who—where are they? Alas not one!  
Love earliest loitered on the way,  
Then turned his face and slipped away;  
And after him, with footsteps light,  
The tickle Graces took their flight.  
And all the careless joys that lent  
Their revelry and merriment  
Grew sadder, and, ere we knew,  
Had smiled their last and sad adieu.

Hope fluttering then, with doubtful mind,  
Began to turn and look behind,  
And we, half questioning, would fain  
To follow with her back again;  
But Fate still urged us on our way,  
And would not let us pause or stay.  
Then to our side with plaintive eye,  
In place of Hope came Memory,  
And murmured of the Past, and told  
Dear stories of the days of old,  
Until its very dress seemed gold,  
And Friendship took the place of Love,  
And strove in vain to us to prove  
That Love was light and insincere—  
Not worth a man's regretful tear.

Ah! all in vain—grant 'twas a cheat,  
Yet no voice ever was so sweet—  
No presence like to Love's, who threw  
Ruefuliment over all we knew;  
And still we listen with a sigh,  
And back, with fond tears in the eye,  
We gaze to catch a glimpse again  
Of that dear place—but all in vain.

Preach not, O stern Philosophy!  
Naught we can have, and naught we see,  
Will ever be so pure, so glad,  
So beautiful, as what we had!

Our steps are sad—our steps are slow—  
Nothing is like the long ago.  
Gone is the keen, intense delight—  
The perfume faint and exquisite—  
The glory and the effluence  
That hallowed the enraptured sense,  
When Faith and Love were at our side,  
And common life was defiled.

Our shadows that we used to throw  
Behind us, new before us grow;  
For once we walked toward the sun,  
But now, Life's full meridian done,  
They change, and in their chill we move,  
Further away from Faith and Love.  
A chill is in the air—no more  
Our thoughts with joyous impulse soar,  
But creep along the level way,  
Waiting the closing of the day.  
The Future holds no wondrous prize  
This side Death's awful mysteries;  
Beyond, what waits for us, who know:  
New Life, or infinite repose?

## Simon and Susan.

## A Very Romantic Elopement of a Very Romantic Couple.

BY KERN E. REXFORD.

When Simon Bings told Susan Hart that he loved her, he did it in such a romantic way that her romantic heart was filled with rapture. It lifted their betrothal entirely beyond the level of ordinary betrothals. It took place in this wise:

Simon was sitting on the sofa. Susan was also sitting on the sofa. Something had been said about the hard and cruel world. That suggested an idea to Susan, and she proceeded to make sure of it before it could take wings.

"I wish the world could always be as pleasant to me as—this sofa is," she finally managed to say, quite at a loss for a simile, after she had got well under way.

"You mean because it's so soft, I suppose?" said Simon, inquiringly.

"Well, yes," admitted Susan, but somehow the word took some of the poetry out of her idea. She wished he had chosen some other term by which to express the peculiarly pleasing quality of the furniture in question.

"Then, Susan," cried Simon—reaching out for her hand—"dear Susan, let me be like this sofa to you for life. Let me keep you from coming in contact with the hard world. Oh, Susan!" and here the sentimental young man dropped upon his knees before her, to the last novel, and cried in touching accents: "If you refuse me this boon I shall have no faith in womankind. Oh, Susan, can you tell me no?"

Now Susan hadn't the faintest idea of telling him no. But it did sound so romantic to have him say that! Her heart beat with ecstasy. Here was a leaf from a real romance—and that romance her own! She put her handkerchief to her face, and tried to sob.

"Speak, Susan!" implored Simon. "If it cannot be, tell me so; but spare me this suspense!"

"I will be yours!" murmured she, and fell into his arms.

Wasn't that very far from being an ordinary proposal?

Naturally the question of marriage came up.

Both agreed that it would be the proper thing to elope. Not that there was the slightest necessity for doing it, however. Susan's father and mother and Simon's father and mother had seen how things were going for six months past, and were perfectly willing that they should enter the matrimonial state if they wanted to, and had talked the matter over between themselves.

But, being romantic, the young people naturally wanted to be consistent, and have their marriage as much removed from the ordinary as possible. So they talked it over, and decided on an elopement, and after awhile they really got to imagining that no other way of getting married would do.

"To-morrow night!" whispered Simon, as he clung fondly to Susan's hand, in the shadow of the back entry, "meet me by the old chestnut tree, at 3 o'clock, and we'll walk to Dover in time to catch the stage. Oh, Susan, be careful, and—don't fail me!" The last in a very tragic tone.

"No, Simon, no," answered Susan, reassuringly, "If I live, I will be there. No cruel parents can keep me from making good my promise, unless—"

Susan left the sentence unfinished in a way that hinted at dark transactions on the part of the aforesaid "cruel parents."

"Then good-by until 3 o'clock, my dearest Susan," whispered Simon, pressing a kiss upon her lips. "Sleep, dearest girl, and dream of me," he sang, in a very thin tenor, without regard for time or tune, but very conscientious regarding expression; "Oh, sleep and dream of me—e-e!"

"Sleep!" cried Susan, "You don't know my heart, Simon. Do you imagine I can sleep when such a step is about to be taken? No, Simon, no. I shall not close my eyes to-night. I wish—and here she heaved a great sigh—I do really wish, Simon, that your name wasn't Bings. It sounds awfully common. Don't you think so?"

"I—I don't know but it does," said Simon, in a tone which seemed to convey an apology for the fact, and the sigh which accompanied it said as plainly as words that he didn't think he ought to be held responsible for something he had nothing to do with. "I s'pose we might spell it B-y-n-g-s, if that would do any better."

"Yes, we might do that," said Susan. "I never thought of it before. And you can spell your first name C-y-m-o-n. That'll be real nice, won't it, lovey?"

"Just the checker," answered Cymon, as I shall henceforth call—or spell—him, forgetting that the expression he made use of wasn't strictly romantic. "But the clock's striking 12, and I must go. At 3, remember, by the chestnut tree."

"I will be there," answered Susan.

And then they parted. Three o'clock, at the old chestnut tree. "A shadowy form" stole along the road, and stopped beneath the wide branches by the trusting place.

"Is that you, Cymon?" asked a voice which had an anguish sound in it, from behind the trunk of the tree.

"Hark! I hear a voice!" cried Cymon, dramatically. "Tis hers!"

"Yes, it's mine," answered Susan, while her teeth chattered with the cold, as she came up to him. "I've been here half an hour. It must be that our clock's faster than yours. I'm awful chilly. I've got another of them colds in my head, I'm afraid (and if I have my nose 'll be as red as a poppy," she added, mentally). "Are we ready, Cymon?"

"Yes, we're ready," answered Cymon, who, not having been obliged to stand waiting for her, was in a much more comfortable frame of mind and body than she was. "Lean on my arm, dearest, and we'll go."

She tried to follow his advice, but it proved to be difficult work to get over the road while leaning on his arm, and pretty soon, to his great relief, she concluded to walk without any assistance from him.

"How the stars smile upon us!" remarked Susan, as the exercise warmed her up and caused her spirits to rise. "That awful big one—oh, Lord! Cymon!"

The sudden termination in her apostrophe to the big star was caused by her walking into a mud-puddle in which the water was half-knee deep. Cymon rescued her, doing it with as important an air as if he were saving her from a watery grave.

"My feet are just soaking wet," groaned poor Susan. "I'll have another spell with my teeth. I wish I had a pair of dry stockings." This she wished to herself. Cymon began to reply, but a violent fit of sneezing nipped his remarks in the bud.

"I think it's awful disagreeable weather," said Susan, shivering all over, "especially for June. How far is it to Dover?"

"About four miles," answered Cymon. "I'm afraid we won't get there in time to catch the stage. Hark! there's a wagon coming down that cross-road. Maybe we can get a ride."

"I hope so," said Susan, forlornly. The truth was she was beginning to get over her romantic ardor.

Pretty soon a man came in sight driving a rickety old horse before a rickety old buggy.

"Hallo!" called out Cymon. "Can we ride?"

"Wall, I dunno but you can," answered the man. "This 'ere waggon ain't the stoutest I ever see, but maybe it'll kerry three."

Cymon helped Susan in, and climbed up after her.

"Goin' to visit some relatives, I shouldn't wonder!" said the man. "Where monnt you be bound fer?"

The sentence was never finished, for at that juncture the buggy gave a kind of shiver, and

then one of the wheels lopped over, and down went one corner of the old box, and with it the driver and both his passengers, bringing up in a demoralized condition on the ground.

"That air old thing's gi'n out at last, I vum!" exclaimed the man, as he picked himself up. "I've been afeard on't, some time. I guess ye'll hev to foot it, arter all."

Cymon and Susan started out, in anything but a comfortable frame of mind. He was beginning to feel decidedly cross. She felt chilly and dragged, and the need of something to fill that "aching void" in her stomach.

Wow! wow! wow! A great dog came tearing out at them as they came opposite a house. Susan screamed and made for a great rock by the side of the road. Cymon followed suit. Here they were safe, but the dog was evidently inclined to consider them his prisoners, for he kept marching round their rock of refuge, growling and showing his teeth in anything but a pleasant manner.

"Poor doggy!" and "Good doggy!" said Cymon, in a wheedling tone. But the dog couldn't be won over by any such chaff as that.

"Dear me! I'd like to know how long we've got to stay here!" said Susan, rather peevishly. "Can't you get a club and drive him away, Cymon?"

"Where's the club to come from?" asked Cymon, casting a discouraged glance about the rock. "It wouldn't be safe to try to get one, Susan. That dog'll bite, I should judge. The sun'll be up, pretty soon, and then it'll be quite comfortable here; and somebody'll be along most likely before a great while, and I'll get 'em to drive him off."

There was a rumble of wheels up the road. A man drove around the turn, and when he was within hailing distance, Cymon sung out:

"Hello, there! Hey!"

"Wall, I s'pose!" exclaimed the man, bringing his horse to a halt. "What's up, mister?"

"I declare, it's father!" groaned Cymon. There being no way of escape, he resolved to put on a brave face, and answered:

"We're in a little difficulty. Can't you drive off this dog?"

"Land o' deliverance!" exclaimed Mr. Bings, in much surprise. "Is that you, Simon? What on airth got ye up an' out at this airly time o' day? I s'posed ye was abed, an' would be for two hour yet. An' is that you, Susan? You look 'most bent out, I s'pose! Git out there, you old houn! Make yerself scarce, or I'll lay this 'ere hoss-whip onto ye!"

The old dog made a hasty retreat, and Cymon assisted Susan to descend.

"We were going to Dover," explained Cymon. "We thought—"

"I see through it all!" declared his father, chuckling. "Goin' off to git married, to s'prise us, I'll bet a cooky! Jump right into the wagon. I'm goin' to town arter some soap an' things, and you can hunt up a parson an' hev the job done up while I'm tradin', an' be ready to ride right back with me. Guess ye'll hev quite an appetite for suthin' to eat, by the time we git hum. Lucky yer mother baked up suthin' yist'day. Git up, Jim, g'lang!"

It was very different from what Susan had anticipated—this wedding journey of theirs; but her wet feet, dragged dress, empty stomach, and general sense of demoralization were antagonistic to all romantic sentiment, and she concluded that it would be well to accept her prospective father-in-law's advice.

Half an hour later he drove out of town with his purchases and Mr. and Mrs. Bings—Mr. and Mrs. Cymon Byngs, I ought to say, perhaps—in his wagon.

"How good them vittels do seem to taste to the poor thing!" declared Simon's mother to her husband, as Susan sat at her wedding breakfast. "Simon, pass her some o' them sassaige."

## Domestic Life.

Man has a certain amount of physical energy which, when expended, renders him almost as weak and helpless as a child. This can only be restored by rest. A great many men become prematurely old because they do not husband their strength. Man should always cease to labor before his energies are entirely exhausted, or if he pursues the course of drawing out all the force nature has endowed him with, he may rest assured that premature old age will be the result. Some good old philosopher has said that a good hearty laugh was better than a dose of medicine at any time; but it is utterly impossible for any one to have a very cheerful disposition whose energies are continually exhausted by extreme labor, for nervous exhaustion will follow physical exhaustion. But it requires much longer to recuperate from nervous exhaustion than from physical weariness.

Our business men and literary characters know little of physical prostration; nervous exhaustion is the demon which tracks their footsteps, and too often overtakes them, compelling a refuge in some asylum for the insane. This class of men require more time for rest than those who are engaged solely in physical labor. Yet, for both, rest from their different kinds of labor is absolutely necessary, and it should be a relief not only to their families, but also to their friends, were this relaxation oftener indulged in. It would bring more sunshine into the dwellings of the farmers, it would banish to a great extent corroding cares from the houses of men of business, and would dispel that gloom which too often hovers over the abodes of the literati. It would make them more pleasurable companions. Men never should engage in labor of any kind till sleep ceases to visit their pillow.

But it is not only want of sleep and overtaxed energies that are cause of failing health. It not unfrequently happens that poor and ill-cooked food has as much to do with it as over-

labor. In too many cases poorly devised and badly cooked meals are hastily gulped down, and then, without any rest, followed by excessive labor. One meal a day at least ought to be a social one, both with merchant, author and farmer. The latter should at least spend a good portion of an hour at the dinner table, sandwiching the food with pleasant conversation. Our great object should be so to live as to make life enjoyable, and what is there that can throw over man's prospects such a gloomy aspect as a badly digested dinner? To laugh and grow fat means good healthy food, well cooked and supplied to a healthy stomach, and the health of that organ depends upon the manner in which we use it. Half-cooked meats, food of questionable quality and only partially masticated will soon impair the most digestive functions. The soundness and vigor of the mind depend as much upon the wholesomeness of the food we eat as does the muscular energy of the body.

Badly cooked food and improper diet have been the cause of suicides innumerable. Dyspepsia is a demon whose destructive powers are equal to that of the party who is said to go about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may destroy, only it does not roar or make a noise, it works silently and slowly, but with terrible certainty. It is not produced by an occasional excess at a convivial feast; the bounds of prudence at these occasions may sometimes be overstepped, but from these slight attacks the

stomach soon attains its normal condition. It is the constant attacks from bad cooking and bad food wherein the danger lies. And if we would be a really happy people there must be as great or perhaps greater reformation in this respect than in any other, either political or social.

Intoxicating drinks may not be without their share of the blame, but let us look at these things fairly and with well-balanced mind, and we shall find the evils we complain of arising from other sources than intoxication. Resort to intoxicating drinks is not unfrequently caused by the first insidious attacks of dyspepsia; they are used to aid digestion, but not unfrequently increase the malady they are employed to circumvent. Our life, our health and our enjoyments are of the highest importance, and these can be only secured by moderate labor, whether physical or mental, accompanied by good and healthy food, while perfect digestion depends upon a cheerful disposition. Nothing tends to retard digestion more than mental disquietude. Few are aware what a sympathy there is between the mind and the stomach. Some would have us think that mind was something that transcended all low-born ideas of drink and food, but it is in vain we look for strong, healthy and vigorous thought when the stomach cannot digest a sirloin steak. Then let us see to it that we labor, eat and sleep judiciously, and that we wisely enjoy that life which comes to us but once.—Cultivator.

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Address all communications for the KANSAS FARMER to

**H. H. EWING,**

Editor and Publisher,

**Topeka, Kansas.**



## Farm Letters.

## Give the Direction and Distance.

It would be often a satisfaction to strangers, and persons in the east, if correspondents would state, in their farm letters, the distance and direction from Topeka at the point from which they write.

EVERETT, Woodson Co., Sept. 18.—I would say to Mr. Stahl, of Illinois, that my experience has been the opposite of his in regard to plowing, both in Illinois and during the four years I have been in Kansas. When I have plowed deep and cultivated deep I have raised good crops, but on the other hand when I have only stirred the surface in plowing and cultivating I have not had more than half as good crops, science to the contrary notwithstanding, and if Mr. Stahl will come to Kansas and farm for three years, we will convince him by actual experiments of the truth of our assertions.

I was well pleased with what the "Old Farmer" had to say, but I think that unless one has some practical knowledge of farming, and considerable common sense the "book farming" alone will not pay very big returns, but if it can be united with a practical knowledge of farming, I think it is a great advantage. My father came to this country and commenced farming for himself in 1845, with no knowledge of book farming and with scarcely any means, but he worked hard and looked carefully after the pennies as well as the dimes. He quit farming in 1870 and at his death in 1875 was worth between \$70,000 and \$80,000. I could give several other similar instances of old settlers in northern Illinois. I merely speak of this to the boys who can not have the chance to farm according to "book method" may not feel discouraged.

I feel proud that we have some papers in our land that are opposed to monopolies and are working for the farmers' interest. In this connection I may mention the KANSAS FARMER, Western Rural, Rural New-Yorker, and last, though not by any means least, the Chicago Tribune.

I think it would be a good thing if we could have a farmers' convention in this state, like the one to be held in Chicago in October. My reason for thinking so is this: This spring I visited the lumber yards at Leroy, Iowa, Burlington, and Neosho Falls, to ascertain the price of No. 1 shingles and feg. flooring. No. 1 shingles were \$2.75 per thousand. They said they had no feg. flooring, but would sell me 21 com. at \$3 per thousand, (and, by-the-way, their 21 com. was only knotty fence flooring). I sent to Chicago and got No. 1 shingles (better quality than theirs) at \$1 per thousand; feg. flooring, \$15 per thousand; ceiling, 2d com., \$16 per thousand, (here it is \$25 per thousand). I got 80,000 shingle, 1,000 ft. flooring, 1,000 ft. ceiling, 1,000 ft. siding, and 10 kegs of nails, in one car load, and saved about \$90 by the operation. Here they want their pay before the lumber leaves the yard. The Chicago firm give sixty days time. The lumber business in this state is a monopoly, and I think it is for the interest of the farmers to know how they are being overcharged.

I was amused at the FARMER's getting on its car about the county papers, but must endorse it. We have two in our county that are hardly worth reading, but once take them, if only for a month, and there is no telling when they will stop sending them.

I am glad to see that there are more contributors from this county now than in the past; hope more will join the ranks.

JAS. J. DAVIS.

Our correspondent's suggestion of a farmers' convention is an excellent one and worthy of grave consideration by them, and conference on the subject throughout their clubs, granges, alliances, and other organizations.

NAOMI, Mitchell Co., Sept. 21.—The past three weeks has been dry, and farmers had just begun to ask "where are we?" Are we going to have a dry fall?" when behold! a small cloud arose in the north last evening and before morning we had several very gentle showers. This forenoon was rather drizzly, but this afternoon it is just one general pour-down; no wind; mercury 54°.

Considerable wheat has been sown, and some is up nicely. Farmers are much encouraged with the prospect for fall wheat, as it will certainly get a good start now, and this rain is so cold that we think the chinch bug will hardly do any damage to the young wheat.

This season has been one of almost constant disappointment in our county. Wheat and rye made but a very poor return. Oats were an entire failure. Gardens and Irish potatoes have not paid for the labor, though we would not like to part with what little we have got. Sweet potatoes have generally done well; with me they seem to all run to top. I have the red and white varieties. They were set out in reasonable season on ridges; ground rich; cultivated with hoe; mulched with straw lightly; when they began to run I cut off the runners at first, then when they got very large I rolled them up on the ridges; then the vines got so large I cut off large bunches of them, still the vines are very dense, with small potatoes. What is the reason?

As far as I can learn, corn will not average over ten bushels per acre; though some fields of late planting are good; with others it is a failure, and there is not corn enough in this township to feed the stock that is owned in it. Since June 30th there has been rain off and on so as to keep feed pretty good, but not enough at the right time to make hay, so most people have to depend on corn fodder.

Stock of all kinds look well now. Milch cows that are properly cared for are doing well. As butter is worth 15c per pound it pays to care for them well. Hogs, \$3.75 to \$4. The stock sold off low.

The crop of sorghum is fair and is now being made up into syrup, worth here 40c to 50c per gallon. Broom-corn having paid better than cane this year, a good many talk of planting some next year. We hope it will become a general crop here, and a more profitable one than wheat has been for some years back.

F. W. BAKER.

Sprinkle some lime in the rows, incorporating it with the soil when forming the rows for your sweet potatoes. Slake the lime to a powder by using not enough water to make it sticky.

AGNES CITY, Lyon Co., Sept. 28.—The Lyon County Fair was a success in almost all of the departments. The display of farm products of all descriptions was good. The display of horses was extra, showing that the breeders are keeping up with the times. The cattle that were shown were all shorthorns and grades and some were good specimens of that excellent breed. In swine the display was the best ever shown in Lyon county. The leading families shown were Poland China and Berkshires, and there were some Chester Whites. The Poland China's carried off the first premium in sweepstakes, which speaks well for them, for there were some good Berkshires exhibited by Mr. Stone, also by Randolph. The Poland Chinas were shown by Randolph & Co., and E. C. Edwards.

Puck, the young Poland sow owned by Edwards, carried off the first premium in sweepstakes. The show of sheep was very poor, only two small lots shown.

Running and trotting was fully represented. Would it not be to the best interests of all agricultural societies to increase the premiums on cattle and swine and farm products, and reduce that on horse jockeying. Such is my opinion.

Newell Brown showed some fine Chester White pigs, and has some of the pigs for sale at Emporia, Kansas. Some correspondents were wanting to know who had Chester Whites for sale.

J. C. EDWARDS.

## Sheridan County, Kansas.

We are rejoicing that the drouth is at an end, but the rains came too late to be of material benefit to this season's crop. The ground is now in fine condition for receiving fall wheat, of which there will be considerable sown, both in this and Gove counties. The farmers are preparing as best they can for winter by saving a little hay from patches of wild grass, and some of the late sown millet. There will be some corn fodder to cut up that has been made by the late rains. Many will have little or no feed, and much of the stock here will have to get their living in part or in whole by grazing this winter. One J. G. Leeds, living in the south part of this county, reports that a Condor has been seen near his place lately.

G. M. B.

There are some points in a steer that are requisite to make him a good beef animal. Whether he be a Hereford or Shorthorn, he is either a good steer or a poor one.

If an animal is slack behind the shoulder, and has a peaked chine, with fore ribs flat, not sprung out round and full, but destitute of good thick meat, we can tell at a glance, whether his owner calls him shorthorn or not, that the high priced meat in the fore quarters is lacking, and necessarily the fore quarter is not as valuable as the hind quarter.

It has become the custom to consider farming an occupation of all work, and an outlay in ornamenting the farm is considered so much time and money wasted, anything not yielding a return being ignored as useless. This is not right to the farmer himself, and most unjust to his family. Besides, the community have some rights which are not respected when untidy and unsavory premises are presented to their view.

If farmers would only comprehend that fresh fruits and vegetables, as articles of food, promote healthfulness, lessen the butcher's bills and the doctor's visits, as well as expenses of living generally, gardening would take a prominent place among the duties and work of the farm.

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