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THE KANSAS FARMER.

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

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Address all communications for the KANSAS FARMER to

E. E. EWING,
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Correspondence.

A Model Horse Barn.

The illustrations on this page are the elevation and ground plan of the barns of M. W. Dunham, Esq., of Wayne, Ill., the widely known importer of the Percheron-Norman horses. These barns and stables, with their connecting yards, are regarded by competent judges as being about as near perfect for the use they are intended to serve, as it is possible to construct. While there are few farmers or horsemen who require buildings on so extensive a scale as this, it will be seen from the fol-

lowing detailed description that the plan is one that can be adapted to suit various requirements.

Barn No. 1 is 160 feet long by 52 feet wide, with an awning adjustable 10 feet wide, to raise and lower. The foundation is of stone, laid below frost; bottom of wall 16 inches, top one foot in thickness. The wall is laid on the east, north and west side; and one wall of same dimensions is laid 16 feet from north wall and parallel to it. Cross walls 10 inches thick support the partitions of the box stalls. The south outside foundation consists of piers, 20 feet apart, 4 feet square on bottom, and 20 inches square on top, with cap of cut stone 20 inches square on bottom, and 12 inches square on top, to receive the post. Sixteen feet north,

with tight bottom, and drip back to the vat; in half an hour the other end of the bunch can be dipped and returned on incline. In one hour they will be dry. The cost is less than one dollar per thousand, and when prepared in this way, they will, with an occasional coating of oil, last indefinitely, as the water will not penetrate them in the least.

The squares indicated in plans are box stalls, 16x16 feet square, with one door, double thick, 4 feet 6 inches wide, and 8 feet high. Latch, a straight piece of 1/2 inch iron, 1 foot long, mortised into center edge of door, and protruding one inch, to catch latch hook. An iron plate, with slot for latch to play in, is screwed on the edge, and an inch hole is bored under latch to raise with. There is a window, twelve

that can be raised, leaving an opening in shoot on a level with the floor when desired. The bottom of shoot is grated with gas pipe 3 feet 6 inches long, set on incline from corner outside of bottom of shoot, which is 6 feet from floor to stall. These pipes are set 6 inches from centers at top, and one of them moves in a slot, so as to double the distance when required.

Barn No. 2 consists entirely of box stalls, made on same plan as those described above, and open into yards to the south. It is 16 feet long, 40 feet wide, with left for fodder.

No. 3 is 40 feet by 30 feet, 26 feet with 96 feet extension to the south. All are same as described. The single stalls are 6 feet wide, and built on the usual plan,

the grounds for drainage. Two stalls are 5 1/2 feet in the clear, and the partitions are 3-inch plank, dove-tailed together 4 1/2 feet high, and the front rises in an oval shape, and is barred. The stall posts are 6x6, oak; 3x12-inch joists run from stall posts to outside building, and 2-inch matched plank is used for floor above, so that the space over the horses' heads is perfectly smooth. The ceiling over the floor, back of the horses, is 12 feet high and 20 feet wide, with a 14-foot slide door at each end. Over each stall is a finished panel, set with pictures of Percheron horses. The stalls and ceilings are painted in nicely contrasting colors. The entire water system is supplied with a 2,000 barrel reservoir or cistern, constructed on a hill

60 feet higher than the barns, and 100 rods away, built of stone laid in cement, and completely covered from the frost. The water is forced into this reservoir by wind power, and is drawn by a 2 1/2-inch main to the buildings, and is distributed through them by 1 1/2 inch and 1-inch pipes, laid 5 feet under ground.

The wagon house has a self-supporting roof, and the entire front is composed of sliding doors. Carriage houses and sheds are ordinary frames. All yards are graded and graveled in such a manner that they are perfectly free from mud at all times of the year.

The arrangement of the yards can be seen from the diagram. All the manure, except from barn No. 1, goes to the elevated track indicated, and in winter time is dumped into wagons and hauled out. The total length of front shown in the diagram is 600 feet.

Some Questions.

I want to ask a favor through the columns of the KANSAS FARMER, and that is that some of your many readers will answer me a few questions.

I will begin by asking if Canada, or the common field pea, can be grown successfully in this part of the state? If so, how to plant—time and manner of harvesting?

I want to know all about rice corn; its value for feeding hogs as compared with corn; also time, best way, and distance to plant, and number of times to cultivate. Can it be grown on sod and what is the yield per acre? Would it be too late to plant it on wheat stubble if planted just after the wheat is taken off?

Will some one give me some information about chufas, or earth almonds, time and ways to plant and cultivate? Also their value for stock as compared to corn, and what is the average yield per acre?

Just one more: Will some one tell of what they call a model hog corral? Will it pay to grind, steam or cook corn and roots for hogs, with Kansas prices? How many pounds of fat will a bushel of good, sound corn put on a hog?

There has been a large acreage of wheat planted here, and the prospect is fine. Corn was a poor crop, owing to drought and chinch bugs. Old corn sells for 35 to 40c, new from 30 to 35c; hogs, \$3.50 to \$3.75.

Stock of all kinds doing well, and are in fine condition. The epizootic troubled some horses a little a few weeks ago, but it is abating.

Winfield, Cowley Co., Dec. 10th.

"Raised a Club of Ten Without Much Exertion."

The following letter, accompanying a club, is a sample of many, and illustrates how easily others may help the old FARMER and give a lift to the cause of the farmers by a little exertion among neighbors. Show them a copy of the FARMER and impress upon them the importance of sustaining the papers that are making the fight for lighter taxes on farm property and more protection to the rights of the agricultural class.

SIR: I have been taking the KANSAS FARMER for the last year, and am so well pleased with it that I thought I would try and add a few names more to your subscription list, so I went out through my neighborhood and have succeeded in raising a club of ten without much exertion."

A few volumes of Greeley's "What I Know about Farming," and Milton Briggs' Western Farmer and Stock Grower (for sale cheap, 75c per vol., by mail) at the office of the KANSAS FARMER. These books contain much interesting and valuable information for farmers.



FIG. 1.—PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEW FROM THE FRONT, LOOKING TOWARD THE SOUTHWEST, OF THE BARN OF THE NOTED PERCHERON HORSE IMPORTER AND BREEDER, M. W. DUNHAM, WAYNE, DU PAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

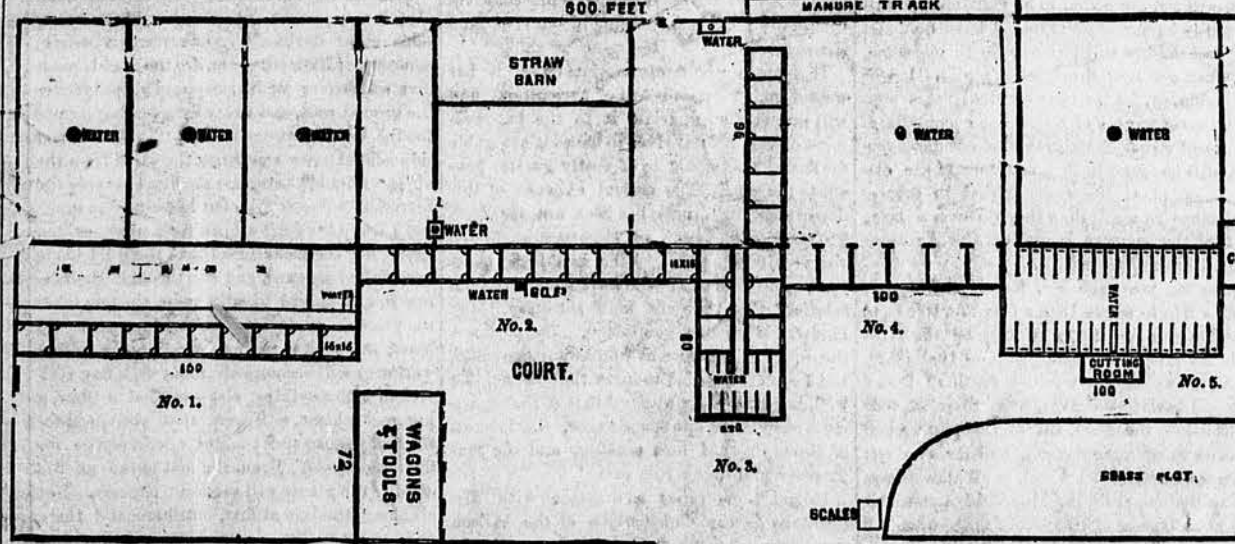


FIG. 2.—M. W. DUNHAM'S BARN.—GROUND PLAN.

lights 15x16, on outside, and one nine-light window, from stall to alley, for each stall, covered with No. 9 wire screening. The outside window is grated with inch refuse gas pipe, set three inches apart (cost about \$35 per ton). Windows hang on weights. The north and south sides of the stalls are sealed with 2-inch matched plank, 5 feet high, and from there to top with 1-inch matched stuff.

The partitions between the stalls are made by setting 2x4-inch studding flatwise, 6 inches apart on sill, and extending 5 feet high; both sides are then sealed with common matched and dressed flooring, even with top of studding, and an oak cap 2x6 inches, spiked on top. The top of this cap has 1 1/2-inch holes, 4 inches from center to center, and 1 inch deep, in which inch gas pipes, 3 feet long, are inserted, and capped with another oak cap firmly set on both ends. The floors are made of clay and gravel; an alley 8 x 6 feet wide runs the entire length of the barn, with manger on opposite side from stalls. The hay shoot is built in the outside corner, with 2-foot run, and extends 6 feet above the upper floor, and has a slide door on long side,

tion for location of windows, cupola, etc.) The boarding is of the best dressed and matched flooring. On north side and center is a cutting room, 20x24 feet, cutter standing on a level with second floor (see elevation). The basement is divided by three 6-foot alleys, running north and south, connected by one 4-foot alley, running east and west along the north side. On each side of each alley are four box stalls, about 12x14 feet, with plank partitions 5 feet high, and doors opening from one to the other, to the outside.

Hay comes from third story, through shoots opening in the alley, and is fed in mangers. The second floor is divided entirely into single stalls, as will be seen on plans, with an alley in front of each row for feeding grain and watering. Hay comes from above in shoots as in other stalls. The floors are 2-inch matched plank, tarred, and then covered with paper, two thicknesses. On top of this is laid 3-inch plank, bolted in oil and keyed, together every five feet. Between the two floors is an iron gutter, just at the back end of the stalls, with iron outlets running down the basement into

The Farm and Stock.

Hog Raising.

The following article on hogs as a leading stock for the Kansas corn and grass farm is one of the very best articles we have published. While cattle and sheep are not within the reach of all farmers, who are limited in surplus capital any farmer can manage to buy half a dozen good breed sows and a boar, and by following the practice of Mr. Holmburg, make money rapidly and surely.

After a week of pleasant weather with 45 to 60 degrees in the shade, the wind again turned back north with zero this morning, Dec. 18. The winter has been dry and open here, and very favorable for putting up ice. The wheat is looking very well, and the prospect is very good for a heavy crop next year. The hard freeze has done no injury, as the ground was full of water when first freezing up.

The shipping of wheat, broom corn and hogs, has been immense from this county this fall, and with very good profit to the producers. Wheat has been sold at from 45 to 50c per bushel according to grade, and broom corn for \$45. to \$110. according to quality. The highest price paid for hogs this fall has been \$4.12 per hundred pounds—a very profitable price with corn at 25c per bushel. Almost all hogs have had the epizootic, and several have died from that disease, but other stock is doing well. Hog raising, if properly managed, is a very profitable business, as most farmers in our county have no range, or large enough pastures for other kinds of stock.

I keep from 200 to 300 hogs, mostly of the Berkshire and Poland China cross; have also the pure breed of both kinds; keep them most of the time in a fifteen acre lot, bordering on the Smoky Hill river, where they have good shelter in summer and pure water the year around. In winter they have my straw stacks and low, close sheds for shelter. My pasture is part in alfalfa clover, and part in rye and oats, and I feed only about one-fourth the regular feed in the summer months. My hogs average at 12 months old, about 300 pounds live weight. I keep my four boars, two of each kind, in pens by themselves all the time, and select my breeding sows after one year old; choosing from the largest and most gentle of the herd, and put them with such boar as I think suits them best, in order to perfect the breed. I put a fine, small boned Berkshire sow to a coarse Poland China boar and vice versa.

I keep them in shipping condition, and can sell and ship at any time when prices suit me, either in winter or summer. I feed mostly dry corn in winter, as it produces more animal heat but sometimes in fattening a separate lot I grind corn and rye, or corn and oats together, and put in barrels set in the ground, and fill the barrels with boiling water, cover them up and let it stand a few days in order to sour before feeding.

My breeding sows I put in separate pens when ready to have pigs, and at the time watch them closely, until they get used to their pigs. I get three and four litters from each sow. One great fault among our breeders of hogs, or other stock is, that they do not understand, or fully appreciate a good breed, but keep breeding in and in from miserable scrubs, in place of starting with a good breed and changing their boars once in two years.

L. N. HOLMBURG.

Lindsburg, McPherson Co., Kas.

A Few Suggestions Concerning Stock-Raising for Market.

A few days since, one of our shippers freighted four cars for the St. Louis market. They were a beautiful lot of fat cattle, very uniform in size and general make-up. They were all what is termed three year old steers. The point I wish to call attention to is, that thirty or forty years ago, such a lot of well developed cattle could not be found in any state.

In Ohio, I lived some twenty miles south of what was known as the "cattle trail"—that is to say, a state road which was used by drovers, purchasing cattle in Illinois and Indiana for the eastern market. In the spring months and in the fall of the year, thousands of fat cattle were by this slow process taken to our great eastern cities. If the roads became moist by frequent showers the road was cut up into hills or trenches which rendered it impassable for wagons or buggies; for the cattle would always tread in the same track.

I frequently visited this section of country, and in all these droves the cattle were never under four years old, frequently five and six. In one case out of several hundred head, the drover pointed out one, which was only three years old. This he remarked was an extraordinary animal, for it would weigh equal to some of the four year olds. This drover remarked that, the farmers would have to force their cattle to maturity, for it did not pay them to keep their stock two or three years longer for the extra weight they would gain. The demand for fat cattle was on the increase, and this would force cattle on the market a year sooner.

His prediction has been verified, as in most every case, for the last five or six years, cattle in Kansas have been fattened and sold to the shipper, when they arrived at the age of three years old. The great change in the gain of one year, is no doubt brought about by the improvement in the breed of cattle, and also by paying better attention to the raising of stock when young. The same remarks I think will apply to sheep raising—we hear of the extra weight of fleeces, and we are told by an old sheep

raiser that a lamb one year old at this day will frequently weigh as much as one two years old, did twenty or thirty years ago.

The improvement in the breed and management of swine, is still more visible.

It now becomes the interest of farmers to compare the quotations which are reported to the newspapers from Chicago, St. Louis, and other cattle markets. For example, choice hives weighing 1,400 to 1,600 lbs. \$5.75; below 1,400, \$5.25; medium grades, \$4.75; inferior, \$3.75. This strikes the farmer as a wide variation in the figures, but so it is.

The question I wish to enforce is, How can we secure the extra fifty pounds of beef on each head of cattle disposed of so as to obtain the largest figures? Many of our farmers seem to think that if cattle can be got through the winter months at the least possible expense and trouble, they are doing well with their stock. This is false economy and a very erroneous notion. There is no wisdom or humanity in permitting our domestic animals to decline in weight and condition during the winter months. A certain amount of food is necessary to sustain life; if cattle become poor and depleted at the close of winter, it will of course require a much longer period in the spring after grass becomes plentiful for them to regain what they have lost during the winter months. Cattle which are unsheltered during the cold and piercing winds and snow storms of the winter need at least one-third more food than if they had good winter quarters. But what do we sometimes find the facts to be in such cases. In place of an increase of food, it is rather diminished in proportion to the exposure.

We need reform in this department of industry. Cattle raising is the most profitable investment of agricultural pursuits; but we should study economy, not violate the laws of humanity; for economy and humanity are fortunately inseparably connected in the profitable raising of stock.

Let us illustrate this matter by a few figures from cases which have come under our observation. Mr. A. sold 15 head of fat steers, three years old, for \$4.25 per cwt.; they bring him \$700. Mr. B. sold the same number for \$3.75 per cwt.; they bring him \$590; that is, \$110 less. The 50 pounds of beef which each steer falls short of the former lot amounts to only \$1.87 per head, but the extra 50 lbs. on the first lot gives him 75 cents per head more on the whole weight—making the difference \$7.32 on each steer in favor of the extra 50 lbs. of beef. What do we learn by these figures? That by proper care and a little extra attention in growing stock for market we receive a large remuneration for the extra 50 lbs. of flesh we put on our beef cattle. When our stock during the winter months loses 10 to 15 per cent. in weight, we are pursuing a ruinous policy; on the other hand we are remunerating ourselves in the same proportion. The highest claim is that of humanity, the second that of economy.

JAS. HANWAY.

Lane, Franklin Co., Kas.

About Several Things.

I am pleased to see in the FARMER a letter from my old friend, S. T. Kelsey, on the subject of tree culture on the plains, and when we get the views and opinions of Mr. Kelsey on tree planting, we have the opinions of an expert. It would not, I am satisfied, be an exaggeration to say that he has planted more trees than any ten men in the United States, and being a man of hard, practical common sense, his observations on tree growing for over a quarter of a century, are bound to be valuable, and will generally be found accurate. I have no doubt that tree culture will be a success in one sense, on what are now the treeless plains. It will not, probably, for the next hundred years support a great variety of trees, but eventually, if the world stands, large groves, if not dense forests, will be found in that section. If the elements of plant life ever existed in greater abundance in a soil than they do over a large part of the country bordering the Arkansas river, I have never seen it.

Some ten years ago Mr. Kelsey and myself made a trip to where Dodge City now stands, to examine the feasibility of tapping the river with an irrigating canal west of that point, running two or three miles north of Dodge City and back to the river, some three or four miles below the Fort, and on this trip we had occasion to examine the soil, and for two feet down we found as rich a soil, to all appearance, as can be found in the Missouri bottoms, and this at a distance of two to four miles from the river.

A noticeable fact, and one that must be considered in tree growing on the plains, is that the last tree westward through the entire breadth of the state, is a cottonwood, and if other kinds are grown the cottonwood must be the nurse, and it is possible that rice corn will be found a good nurse for the cottonwood, to ward off the hot winds and scorching sun.

Mr. Kelsey explains the matter of tree growing in that section in relation to the Santa Fe railroad exactly. They only desired to demonstrate the fact that trees would grow. The same policy was pursued by the Kansas Pacific when they Mr. R. S. Elliott employed, with the highly complimentary title of industrial agent, but the niggardly policy of the road prevented his accomplishing any important results.

I am not sure that the government can afford, or indeed ought, to take this matter in hand. The railroads have vast grants of land given to them by the people, and it is the railroads that will be mostly benefited in the increased value of their lands if timber culture shall be made a success.

Owing to a lack of stock water, the most of the country between Salina and the foot-hills is

better adapted to large sheep and cattle ranches than it is to small farms, and I believe it will be better for immigrants and others seeking homes, to buy small pieces in the eastern part of the state or elsewhere, or work upon shares for others, than to risk making a home upon the extreme western prairies. It does not require 160, nor 80, nor 40, nor 20 acres of land, to make a good living upon, and this fact should be forcibly impressed upon the rising generation. Five or ten acres well farmed will produce more and give a better profit than forty acres usually managed.

Brother Tipton wants to know why farmers cannot fix the prices to their goods and wares "as other trades and professions do." I think the answer lies in the fact that farming is neither a trade nor a profession. It is simply an occupation. We raise our horses, cattle, sheep and hogs, our corn, wheat and oats, sheep, etc., without any knowledge of the world's needs, and without knowing what any of the articles cost. For the three years last past, every bushel of corn that has been sold in the state, has been sold at a loss of from 3 to 11 cents per bushel. Under the most favorable circumstances in this county, corn costs from 27 to 31 cents per bushel, and if we sell for less than 33 cents we had better raise some other crop. Wheat costs \$7.50 per acre to place it in the bin, (counting seed at \$1 per bushel), and can be marketed for 5 cents per bushel if hauled fifteen miles or less. With good clover fields, hogs can be raised at a cost of \$2.50 per hundred, and without the clover it costs from \$3 to \$3.50 per hundred. Oats can scarcely ever be raised at a profit at market prices, though this year is an exception in this section, the price being 30 to 38 cents per bushel. Now what we need to give us partial control of prices is to make a "trade or profession" of farming. We must know, as the cotton and woolen manufacturer knows, about what the world's demand for our various products will be, and we must know, as the merchant and the mechanic knows, about what our wares cost to raise them. We must have our farmers' exchanges in every school district, township, county and state, and each state must be in correspondence with every other state. I am not sure but our state boards of agriculture, as now managed, are a positive detriment to the farmers. They compile approximate reports of the products of a state at great cost, but after they are compiled not every tenth farmer in the state can obtain one, as ordinarily (in this state) there are but 3,000 or 4,000 copies printed to accommodate 40,000 or 50,000 farmers. As a result, the pork packer, the cattle shipper, the wheat dealer, know at a glance the approximate products of the United States, and per se, know how to gauge his prices, as he has already approximated the world's demand.

The recent meeting of the secretaries of the various state boards of agriculture at Springfield, Ill., say, in their resolutions, "that the information so obtained be given to the associated press." Not one farmer in ten thousand takes or reads the daily papers, and this resolution shows clearly that the compilation of these reports and then publication in that shape, is clearly for the profit of the merchants and middlemen and their interests, and not identical with the farmers' interests.

The farmer must, as nearly as possible, be his own merchant. It is in the selling of our products that we mostly fail. To this end we must encourage water transit for our goods as much as possible. These great highways of nature's own making, are the farmer's best friend, if he did but know it, and whoever has influence with our senators and representatives should use it to the improving of our rivers and streams.

If Kansas would appropriate what it has wasted upon its state board of agriculture, and will properly appropriate it to the improvement of the Kansas river to make it navigable for flatboats, it would be of vastly greater benefit to the state. The annual expense of this department, in Kansas, has been not far from \$10,000. It has been in existence about ten years—\$100,000 gone! Who has been benefited, aside from those who have drawn the fat salaries? The present able secretary, Maj. Hudson, is a genial gentleman. He performs the duties of his office as well as any one could, and I am always glad to know that he is doing well, but I am fully satisfied that if the department was blotted out of existence, the farmers of Kansas would lose nothing, and the taxpayers would save a rich sum.

Friend Cone raises a question with Mr. Childs as to the classification of the Wilson strawberry. So far as published records are concerned, I think Mr. Cone is correct, but the unwritten history, so far as I have examined it, says that the Charles Downing and Downer's Prolific are ahead. In conversation with several growers (large ones, too), the past season, in the Leavenworth market, they stated that they had discarded the Wilson entirely. One of them, Mr. E. J. Holman, is one of the largest and most discriminating fruit growers in the state. Ten years ago, Mr. C. H. Cushing, of Leavenworth, frequently picked from 600 to 1,000 quarts per day for two weeks at a time, while the past season, I understood, (not from him personally), his beds were producing little or nothing from the Wilsons, and I understood from these gentlemen that after this year he would discard it.

I do not like your advice to Alex. Fletcher in regard to the sore eyes in his sheep. That advice would have done fifty years ago but not now. If the hide looks red and inflamed, and the blood vessels across the eyeball congested, take one pint of rain or snow-water, and add one drachm of sugar of lead and twenty grains sulphate of zinc. Put the sheep in a small pen so they can be caught without hurting them.

Using a small sponge, drop two or three drops in each eye once, daily, for three or four days. The sound sheep should be kept separate from the diseased ones, as some forms of this conjunctivitis are infectious. The salts are of little or no benefit, and is not at all necessary to a perfect cure, although it is used by many physicians for a similar disease among the human family.

Some one recently asked about celery culture. You rightly recommended some of the dwarf sorts if he has had no experience, but those who have learned the tricks of growing and caring for it, will do better to plant the standard sorts. Don't attempt to grow it in a trench. Sprout the seed in a small box in the house. Soak the seed in milk-warm water for two or three hours. Have the surface of the soil very fine. It is a good plan to sift the top of it. Sow the seed in rows across the box and press it in with a piece of lath or narrow board. It wants no other covering. Keep the surface moist until the seed sprouts, after that give the seed bed a soaking twice each week until the plants are two to three inches high. Transplant to open ground from the 10th to the 20th of May, in double rows, 15 inches apart, plants 6 inches asunder. If the season is not favorable water the bed. About the 1st of August set up 6-inch board (if for dwarf kind) along the side of the rows, and from 5 to 6 inches from the celery, and fill in with loose, moist earth up to the leaves, holding each plant together so the earth will not get between the stalks. About the middle of October dig a trench 8 inches deep and 1 foot wide, and in this set your celery, inverted at an angle of 45 degrees; cover with earth 6 or 8 inches over that stalks or mown hay to keep from freezing, and over all make a roof that will turn water. Put enough in the cellar for winter use. A. G. CHASE.

Horticulture.

Strawberry Culture.—The Plow and the Hoe.

A press of business has prevented me from continuing this subject from week to week. Matured and well defined plans, if carried out, will place the possessor head and shoulders above his neighbors that work without method, at hap hazard.

In strawberry culture, perhaps, more than in any thing else, it is absolutely necessary to know the end from the beginning, so that every hour's labor expended will count at the end of the season. In planting, the distance, width of bed; and alleys, all have to be taken into account, so that there will be nothing wanting when the season arrives for covering up in the fall. I think Purdy hit the nail on the head when he recommended thick culture, not crowded, but evenly set, all over the bed—no waste ground for weeds to spring up and choke out the week and tender plants. My experience has taught me that a bed well set with strong plants will effectually smother out all ordinary weeds and hold its own through ordinary seasons. I claim that a matted row should occupy from 24 to 32 feet, the latter the better width, with alley for mulch and pickers to walk in from 1 1/2 to 2 feet; making in all some five feet for bed and alley.

Assuming the plants are set very early in the spring, the work of tending will commence about the middle or latter part of April in this latitude. I have experimented with nearly all kinds of cultivators, and were I to choose a single tool to work out my strawberry bed, I should without hesitation, select the one horse diamond plow, it may not get over the ground as fast as some other devices, but one thing is certain, wherever it has run, wet or dry, the weeds must give way before it; it runs easily, pulverizes the ground well, and every enterprising farmer should be the owner of one. I run the land side next the row and throw the earth from the vines. Should the season be dry I reverse the process in a day or two, but in case of too much wet I leave the furrow open for a week or ten days. In the meantime I take the solid blade hoe, well sharpened, and run through the narrow row of plants; like the plow, the hoe takes the place of all devices for killing weeds by hand; the work is more thorough and a skilled workman will accomplish more in a day with it than with anything else—so that a plow, a hoe, and a horse, will be all that you need for the first season, and I might add, a scythe for the second year. From the first to the middle of May the plants will send out runners. Not all along the line at first, but here and there one, and what to do with them is a serious question, for the success or failure will depend upon how you treat them. I have seen large plots of vines allowed to run at random, and the owners considered the vines that first reach the center of the row the "Boss" plants. As far as the plants are concerned, in a wet season all would be well, but when a "Kansas drouth" comes on the hard baked ground will prove too much for the tender vines, and then comes the tug of war, the culture is changed from the horse labor to elbow grease, and horror of horrors, to the men or boys that have passed over the acres to think the process has to be repeated over and over again. No wonder the task is considered a hopeless one by the new beginner. There is a better way and you who try it will consider it rather a pleasure than a burden. My plan has been for years to take good care of these early runners and convert them to killing weeds themselves. The runners are made to take root up and down the row until the row is solidly set with old and new vines; this process leaves the center to be worked out with the plow almost up to the middle of summer which is much less expensive, and more agreeable, and what is of more

importance than either, the centers being worked backward and forward the earth retains much moisture and the plants drink it up and grow luxuriantly during a severe drouth. As fast as the rows fill up, I allow them to strike diagonally to the center, but no faster than the bed fills up. If the season has been favorable and the set good the runners will multiply so fast, that I usually run a plow shallow and cover them all up slightly which will cause them to strike roots at once, but it will not be long before the young plants buried with the plow, will break through and grow rapidly. By fall the work of culture is over, the bed well set, and after that the plow and hoe are hung up, never to be used again on that patch until after the third crop is gathered when a two horse plow turns them all over for other crops to follow.

It might be considered out of place for me to speak a word in regard to the treatment of the vines the second year, but as we all live by hope and our labor is materially lightened when we reflect that the after treatment is so much less, we can with spirit work faithfully one season, in anticipation of easier times to follow.

To sum up then, in few words, extend the borders of your row of plants no faster than the matted process takes place. What is worth doing at all is worth well doing. Thorough work the season through is the cheapest in the long run, and it costs less to work thoroughly than to half do the work. My neighbors seem to think I have cleaner soil than they have, for clear through the season, it is a rare thing to find a weed in my strawberry patch. The secret is, I try to destroy the weeds before they get a set. I have, in former times, been wood swamped. I know how it feels, and experience has taught me to avoid such a disaster.

I suppose I have written enough on the strawberry question to satisfy all enquiring minds. Should these thoughts awaken renewed interest among that class that have attempted their culture and failed, I shall feel that my experience has not been lost on the public. I feel willing to add such advice as may suggest itself to the grower of strawberries, from time to time, during our haphazard seasons. I keep back nothing the new beginner should know, trusting to skill and experience to hold a forward rank among the growers of this, the best of all fruits—the Strawberry.

F. A. CHILDS.

Columbus, Cherokee Co., Kas.

Advertisements.

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

40 Clydesdale Stallions

AND MARES—MOSTLY IMPORTED.

60 Hambletonian Stallions

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The New White Grape "PRENTISS." Early, vigorous grower, hardy. Very productive, best quality. Send for circular. The above is from an exact photograph of a branch by Godfrey, Rochester, N. Y. Also the largest and best stock of Grape Vines in the country. Prices very low to dealers and large planters. Also trees and small fruits. Send stamp for descriptive catalogue. Price list free. T. S. HUBBARD, Fredonia, N. Y.

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WILL SELL ON SIGHT TO EVERY HOUSEKEEPER. The success of our agents proves it to be the best selling article in the market. One agent made \$250 in 3 weeks, another \$200 in 10 days, another \$425 in 4 days. Selling and Freight Free to Agents. Send for circular to nearest address. SHEPARD & CO., Cincinnati, O., or St. Louis, Mo.

KANSAS

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Upon well Improved Farms and City Property at the LOWEST RATE. Money always on hand. No tedious waiting for papers to be cast. Four Millions Loaned in the state. Send in your application with full description of property. T. B. SWEET, President. GEO. M. NOBLE, Secretary.

THE KANSAS FARMER.

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

TERMS: CASH IN ADVANCE.

One Copy, Weekly, for one year, 1.50
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The greatest care is used to prevent swindling humbugs securing space in these advertising columns. Advertisements of lotteries, whisky blenders, 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 2 expire with the next issue. The paper is at 2 ways 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.

The Danger of the Hour.

One of the leading attorneys of Topeka who makes the practice of the law his main business and farming a "side show," epitomized the situation when speaking of the approaching session of the legislature, the farmers' convention, and the exciting questions of the hour, "I am," said he, "on the side of the railroads for three months, and after that I'll take the farmers' side." An hour's speech might elaborate, but could not more forcibly and clearly express the position which a large number of business men occupy and always have occupied. Corporations have never asked for longer grace than the time occupied by a session of the legislature. And being on "the railroad side," as this gentleman expressed it, three months during the session means two years in Kansas.

We mention this circumstance, not that it is a remarkable one, but to remind our rural friends that there is a serious obstacle immediately before them. Every town, and village, and city, and section of the state that is remote from a railroad, or is asking for one, or expecting one to come to them in the near future, if they will only "honey fudge" the head men, are on the railroad side for the next three months, and with the farmers after that. This is the same old programme. Topeka is expecting the Rock Island and Missouri Pacific roads to come to her, and the prospect is very good for their coming, because it is the interest of these roads to push their lines west and share in the business that is growing up so rapidly in central and western Kansas, Colorado, and the mining regions beyond. The time is not far distant when they will push their lines on to the Pacific and into Mexico, following up the Santa Fe road. He is a poor student of the times who supposes these great corporations will lie quietly with their western heads resting on the Missouri river, and become the mere feeders, in a few years, of the great through lines that reach the Pacific and the cities and provinces of the Montanmas.

But they are now coquetting with the cities of Kansas, and each of the rival localities and cities is told that those most friendly and will offer the best inducement in the way of liberal subscriptions for stock, right-of-way, and all other perquisites, will draw these lines of road to them, provided always, that no unfriendly legislation is had against railroads. Any legislation whatever on the matter of railroads, is interpreted to mean unfriendly legislation, and every aspiring town and neighborhood is threatened with the hot displeasure of the managers of the corporations if they are not allowed to do as they please.

Topeka, at present, seems to have the inside track and the ear of the roadmasters, and the weight of the social and business influence of the capital city, will undoubtedly be thrown on the side of no unfriendly legislation, which means, as we have stated, no legislation at all on that subject. This intimidation plan has served an admirable purpose in the interest of great corporations in all of the states, and in Kansas it has been potent beyond the dreams of avarice almost. Princely domains have been given the roads to urge them forward, and almost every county, township and hamlet in the state has been placed under heavy mortgages to coax railroads to come and come quickly. The stocks and bonds have about all passed out of the hands of the municipalities, but the debts and taxes remain for the people to pay—mainly the farmers.

We have placed the situation and facts be-

fore our readers so plainly that a wayfarer may understand them, and the fiasco which has been the result of all previous attempts by farmers to make themselves felt as a class, and to do something to afford their interests equal protection with other interests, by legislation, has created a multitude of doubting Thomases, who laugh at the idea, and say they can never stick together, but are divided up into factions and allow the seeds of dissension to be sown among them, when they are regarded with contempt, and speedily pushed aside with their measures, and bills asked for by other interests engross the time of the legislature. Those who talk thus are not unfriendly to the farmers either, but they have seen this result so often that they predict its repetition at the next session very confidently; and they pool pool the idea of their electing a speaker whom the corporations do not want.

Nast, in his cartoons, used to represent Uncle Sam as a great, good natured, sleepy elephant when the other animals imposed upon with impunity. In the opinion of the politicians and "knowing ones" Nast's cartoon applies very well to farmers. These prophets of the past may be deceiving themselves.

The Farmers' Convention of 1873.

In the spring of 1873 there was much excitement among the people of Kansas, and especially among the farmers on the question of railroad transportation, and a convention was called which assembled at Topeka, April 26th and 27th, of that year. This convention was under the auspices of the State Board of Agriculture, and a full report of the proceedings will be found in the Annual Report of the Board of that year.

There were many features of that meeting similar to those which will mark the proposed one to assemble at the capital on the 12th inst., but the meeting of the present year will have the advantage of starting, as it were, where the former adjourned. The convention of '73 culminated in a resolution to form associations of farmers for the purpose of educating and organizing them with a view of influencing future elections in the choice of members pledged to such railroad and other legislation as was believed to be in the interest of agriculture. The organizations proposed seem to have fallen through, and the meeting of the spring of '73 failed to bear any valuable fruits.

What was attempted then, without any well defined plan in the way of organization, has been accomplished in the Institution of Farmers' Alliances, commenced in New York, and spreading over the country till the organization has become national in its character, with headquarters at Chicago, and state organizations, similar, in some respects, to the Patrons of Husbandry, extending to several states, with numbers constantly increasing.

The Farmers' Convention of '73 was a new and untried experiment, whose object is above briefly stated; that which proposes to assemble here next week will have the advantage of organizations already in working order which its predecessor aimed to establish, with much light from experience in other sections of the country. The convention of '73 proposed to bring an influence to bear on the elections of the next fall; the present one will meet with the legislature in session and make known their wishes to the members already elected, free from all pledges on the subject. The question is, what will they conclude it were best to demand? Is there sufficient data in hand to frame a law that will dispense equal justice to all—corporations and individuals? Or will a commission be asked for with full powers to investigate the management of railroads and their co-ordinate rings, which, like the Credit Mobiler, are more oppressive to the business of the country than their parents—the railroads? Such a commission was created in the state of New York, and has done more toward shedding light on railroad management, and forming public opinion, than has been gained from all other sources besides.

One thing we trust will not be manifested at the approaching farmers' convention, which is a violent denunciation and wholesale abuse of railroads and railroad officials. Railroads will be the means of our future transportation and travel through all coming time. They are but in their infancy. They have taken and are taking the place of county and other public roads, which are as old as civilization.

It is not a crime of capital that it makes all it can out of railroads as out of every business it is invested in. It is not the fault of railroad managers, who are only hired officials, who are to-day and to-morrow are not. They are governed by the circumstances which environ them. They find no laws governing the details of the business they are appointed to do, and are compelled to make laws for their own and the guidance of their subordinates. In adopting these necessary rules and regulations (laws) they are not left wholly to their own choice or judgment, but are compelled to conform in a great measure to the influences exerted by other and similar corporations. A fair share of the carrying trade of a section of country must be secured and they are often compelled to fight violently for it. In a word, the railroads and their managing officials have been criminally created without protection by law, and they are compelled to resort to those violent proceedings which are so destructive to public interest, in order to protect themselves; and the history of the world proves that when the strong are left without the protection of law from cotemporary powers, and without restraint of law also, the weak and defenceless suffer from the struggle that they are compelled to maintain for their own existence.

The question—how to frame just and equitable laws so that capital shall feel itself secure in its investment in railroads and receive its just reward, and that productive industry shall not be robbed by the strong hand of capital, is the question which the American people are called upon to address themselves to, and in the discharge of that duty much counsel, much deliberation are necessary, together with a stern suppression of all communistic violence. Let it be always kept in view that railroads are the property of the public, and that the capital of individuals invested in them is a sacred trust which the government is bound to protect. It is individual in its existence and the property of the citizen; corporate in its management, and demands that the state shall regulate that management by just laws enforced by severe penalties.

Wool Growers Meeting.

There will be a called meeting of the Kansas State Sheep Breeders and Wool Growers Association at Topeka beginning on the third Tuesday in January at which a full attendance of wool growers whether members or not is desired, as the Association wishes to take steps looking to the protection of the wool growers interest of the state. Reduced rates may be obtained on all roads. Let every wool grower give this meeting his attention and be present. By order of the Association.

D. A. BECKWITH, Secretary.

In connection with the above we publish the names of the officers elected for the ensuing year at the last meeting of the State Wool Growers Association which met in Junction City Oct. 12th.

J. K. Wright, of Junction City, president; A. S. Eaton, of Russell, first vice-president from the state at large; Frank McGrath, of Beloit, for the first congressional district; motion to leave vice president from the 2d district vacant until next meeting; motion prevailed; E. T. Frowe, of Shawnee county, was elected for the third district; D. A. Beckwith, of Leavenworth, was elected secretary; Louis A. Mulholland, of Topeka, and J. McAnally, of Parker-ville, were elected auditors.

The New Year's "St. Nicholas."

The January issue of ST. NICHOLAS, "the New Year's number," will be published on Tuesday, Dec. 28th, giving the young people time to forget a little the glories of "the wonderful Christmas number." Among the contents are several capital things which were crowded out of December. "Bright Eyes," the young Indian girl, makes her first contribution to literature in a charming story of Indian child-life. There is an account of "The Children's Fan Brigade," another of the novel entertainments for children's festivals which have been suggested in the pages of ST. NICHOLAS; "Every Boy His Own Ice-Boat," describing a splendid new sport for all skaters; the first of Mrs. Clara Erskine Clement's "Stories of Art and Artists," which are to be one of the special features of ST. NICHOLAS during the coming year; one of Frank R. Stockton's funniest fairy stories, a poem by H. H. Boyesen, pictures grave and gay, continuations of the serials, etc., etc. The issue rivals the Christmas number in good things.

Col. Snoddy Declines.

Jas. D. Snoddy, who was talked of as a candidate for Speaker of the next Kansas House of Representatives, has published a card in which he declines the honor. This leaves the field clear to Mr. Johnson, of Topeka, and Mr. Munsell, of Council Grove, as far as we have been able to learn, no other names having been mentioned in connection with that responsible position.

Round-Trip Tickets to the Farmers' Convention.

The A., T. & S. F. railroad company will issue round-trip tickets for one and one-quarter fare, on the 10th and 11th inst., to persons attending the Farmers' Convention at Topeka, on the 12th, good till the 17th to return. We have been informed that the other railroads in the state will also issue round-trip tickets at same rate.

Controlling the Sexes.

We will commence the publication, next week, of a very able article on the above subject, prepared by F. D. Coburn, author of "Swine Husbandry," for the FARMER, which will not fail to attract the attention of breeders.

Our correspondents and contributors will please exercise patience, if they find us a little tardy in attending to them at once. This is our busiest season, with part of our clerical force detached from the desk by sickness.

We have received a pretty illustrated seed catalogue from H. R. Stumway, Rockford, Ill. Send your address to him and get it free. His prices are away down. See his advertisement.

MOUND CITY, Linn Co., 100 miles southeast of Topeka, Dec. 16.—What looks well and the acreage is larger than last year. The Fultz wheat takes the lead here now. It yields better than any other variety I have tried. I have tried timothy, clover, blue grass and orchard grass, and none of them do as well as they do east, unless it is the last named. I find clover pays for hog pasture, but oats sowed for that purpose are nearly as good. Have had good success in raising potatoes in drouthy Kansas, and will give my plan in the spring, if you wish it.

W. A. D.

Caucus or no Caucus.

The following correspondence will not fail to interest the majority of the citizens of Kansas at the present time. Why the Legislature, which is composed almost entirely of Republican members, should hold a caucus, is not easy to understand. The Legislature, when in session is virtually a Republican caucus, except that in open session a bare majority that may favor any special project, man, or men, cannot bind and gag the minority, which latter is the unwritten law of king caucus.

TOPEKA, Dec. 16, 1880.

HON. O. M. OSBORN, Greenleaf, Kans.

Dear Sir:—The republican party is held responsible, as I think it should be, for the legislation and government of this state. In several instances in our history a minority of the party acting with the opposition has opened the way to corruption, and made us responsible for acts that have brought disgrace to our door. Recognizing this, an ever increasing evil, our last state convention unanimously recommended that the republican members of the next legislature determine in party caucus the persons to be chosen to official position in either body, and all officers to be elected by joint convention of the two bodies. All the republican newspapers in my county (Cowley), are in favor of establishing this precedent this winter. I think they are right, and I am willing to be bound by a party caucus in determining the organization of the House, in the election of state printer, and, should Col. Plum be made Secretary of the Interior, in the election of his successor. Will you please oblige me by letting me hear from you in regard to this matter.

As I shall be at the state capital most of the time until the convening of the legislature, I hope to receive a call from you should you visit the city. Very truly yours,

ALLEN B. LEMMON.

88th District.

An Open Letter to Hon. Allen B. Lemmon.

HON. ALLEN B. LEMMON:—Dear Sir: Your favor of the 16th inst., setting forth that the "republican party is held responsible for the legislation and government of this state," reciting "that in several instances in our history a minority of the party, acting with the opposition, has opened the way to corruption, and made us responsible for acts that have brought disgrace to our doors," and expressing your willingness to be "bound by a party caucus" in determining the organization of the house, electing a state printer and a U. S. senator, should a vacancy occur. As you have expressed a desire to hear from me, I hand you, herewith, my views on the subject, and, inasmuch as it appears probable that copies of your communication have been addressed to other members, I take this means to place my answer within their reach.

Our party is certainly justly held responsible for the legislation and government of the state, as it is evidently strong enough to legislate wisely and govern well with or without a party caucus. But with 169 republican majority in the house, and 33 in the senate—a majority over all on joint ballot of 142—a party caucus appears to me to be not only superfluous but cowardly—or worse. I do not think there is imminent danger that the ten democrats and five fusionists in the house will capture the speakership; or that, reinforced by the three opposition in the senate (one ragged sergeant and two abascs), they are likely to devour the state printership, or gobble up a seat in the U. S. senate. If you do, discretion of course would dictate the course you are pursuing in the matter.

I am not reliably informed touching the "opening of doors to corruption" and bringing disgrace upon our party by combinations with the opposition, further back than the last session. But I find from the journal that on the occasion of the last election of a U. S. senator, when, according to indisputable record evidence, the "doors of corruption" were at least slightly ajar, a large majority of the opposition voted against a consummation that has probably brought more disgrace upon our party than any recent act of our history. I also find from the journal, that on general legislation in matters of vital importance—notably the Riggs railroad bill—the opposition, like our own party, divided on locality, venality, or issues other than political. I allow no man to exceed me in devotion to republican principles or fidelity to the cause of republicanism, but I cannot go as far as Andrew Johnson's admirer, who "endorsed all that President Johnson ever had said, all that he was then saying, and all he ever would say." I am a firm believer in the aphorism—He serves his party best who serves his country best,—and if a republican caucus should select, as a candidate for a speaker, a tool of the railroad companies, or a champion of the whisky ring, I should very respectfully but positively decline to be bound by it.

Finally, my dear sir, I favor a caucus, but not a party caucus. Kansas, in my humble judgment, is ripe for a law that shall set bounds to the expansion of corporate power; that shall give the laborer the fruits of his labor untaxed by tribute to chartered monopoly. Our first official act, our oath to support the constitution of Kansas, will make it incumbent on us to give effect by statute to the amendment recently adopted. Both of these measures will meet with determined, even desperate opposition, and the sympathy of the Speaker, in committee appointments and rulings, is a very important adjunct.

I judge from the professional card enclosed in your note that you have never staggered under the crushing weight of railroad extortion and discrimination. I infer too from the spotless reputation you bear that you have not shared the degradation of intemperance; may I not also indulge the hope that you have been spared the misery of seeing those bound to you by closest human ties go down to their ruin through the portals of the dram shop. In these respects many members elect have been less favored than yourself. Perhaps a majority of us belong in one of those classes, and it is with those men, who have an experimental knowledge of the evils they are seeking to correct, that I am willing to go into caucus to select for speaker a man who is of us and with us, and who can bring into the contest that seal born only of a community of interests.

When you reflect upon the important question which must be dealt with this winter, and remember that, owing to the political complexion of the house, any caucus strong enough to accomplish anything must be overwhelmingly republican, I trust you will recognize the expediency of applying other tests than party affiliation in the selection of a speaker.

Very respectfully yours,

O. M. OSBORN.

104th District.

HAYS CITY, Ellis Co., Dec. 16.—222 miles west from Topeka. The winter thus far has been mild most of time, although the mercury at one time indicated six below zero, which insured a good ice harvest, ice being six to eight inches thick. Since the cold spell the winter has been spring like and warm, so that some commenced ploughing. Yesterday quite a shower of rain fell much to the joy of those looking for a wheat crop. There is a large amount sown, and also a good prospect for a fair yield this coming harvest. Owing to the drought and chinch bug the corn crop is generally light, although some farmers of the southern part of the county expect a good yield. Rice corn was raised to a large extent this year, for the first time, one planting as high as two and three hundred acres. As but a small portion has been threshed, a correct estimate cannot be given to the yield per acre. But it is considered a profitable crop to raise, as well as a sure one; and is valuable as food for all kinds of stock, especially for horses and sheep. For the latter it seems peculiarly adapted as it is easy to harvest and needs no threshing. Stock of all kinds prefer it to other corn. Broom corn has been quite extensively raised this season in some portions of the county, which gave quite satisfactory and profitable results. Cattle beans were also experimented with to some extent but with what profit to the grower, we are unable to state. Stock never looked better at this time of the year. Some herds have had no feed except what they pick on the prairie. Sheep are being introduced into this part of the state, and we believe will prove profitable and that the numbers will be greatly increased in another year. The buffalo grass in which this part of the state abounds seems just the thing for winter as well as summer feed for sheep. Quite a number intend bringing sheep from Colorado in the spring.

The loss of coal has been the source of great uneasiness, dealers not being able to get a supply on account of the railroad company not furnishing cars in which to ship, so that many have come near the freezing point, although the company deserves much credit for shipping supplies to those who suffered loss of crops by reason of the drought, free, and at reduced rates. Yet it seems to us they are undoing much of their good by causing suffering in not furnishing transportation for coal as we are informed by the mining company is the case.

R. K. COLE.

LYNDON, Osage Co., 80 miles south of Topeka, Dec. 23.—The weather is quite cold and damp, making it unpleasant for farmers to gather corn, which is worth about 30c; wheat, 60 to 75c. The corn is not solid and heavy this year, in general, although there are some very nice fields on the bottoms which yield very good corn.

Cattle look well. Horses are in good condition. Hogs are doing very well and are worth \$4 per hundred. Cows that are dry and fat are worth 2½ to 2¾c. Good, fat steers are worth about \$4; hay, about \$4 per ton. The grass was very short in this locality, and when put in stacks it settled more than usual, and being wet a great deal of hay was damaged.

The cold weather stops building for the present, and Christmas trees, presents, and roasted turkeys are being thought of. A good time is anticipated during the holidays.

L. H. D.

OLIVER, Osage Co., Dec. 21.—I suppose my subscription to the FARMER has expired, as I do not get it. It does not pay to do without the FARMER. Enclosed find subscription for another year.

We are here—along the Marias-des-Cynges river—just now about to vote for bonds, \$3,000 per mile to aid in building a R. R. from Kansas City to Emporia, Osage county is filling up with people quite fast, on account of its coal, in part; and its farming lands are also desirable and their value is increased by the abundant and cheap coal.

There is said to be over 12,000 sheep in this county, but the main live stock interest is in cattle and hogs.

Corn now sells at Osage City for 35 to 40 cts per bushel, on account of the coal mining and stripping business. So of butter, eggs, &c. The mining business gives us a good price for such articles.

GEORGE PRINNEY.

Farm Letters.

RAY, Pawnee Co., 31 miles southwest of Topeka, Dec. 10.—In issue of Dec. 15th I notice an inquiry made by M. M. McCormick, of Zendale, Riley Co., in regard to a disease among his cattle and hogs, which was answered by F. D. Carr in such a way that it seems to me that further inquiries through the FARMER will receive a serious answer. He says: "I never saw or heard of calves or hogs affected as Mr. McCormick says his are. I doubt whether any one else ever did." I must confess that I know nothing of the diseases spoken of by Mr. McCormick, but I have no doubt in my mind that the cases spoken of are as he stated, and seems to me that he is dealt with rather harshly by Mr. Carr. I do not know Mr. McCormick or Mr. Carr, personally, but have read some very good communications in the FARMER from both, and I regret that such implication and such strong language should come from any correspondent of the KANSAS FARMER. It will have a tendency to check correspondence, and thereby many a valuable suggestion will be lost to the readers of the "Old Reliable." It was my intention to describe a disease in my horses and ask for a remedy, but I dare not do it for fear Mr. Carr, or some one else, may not have seen the disease and pronounce them possessed of the devil.

Last Saturday the farmers of the south side met in convention to organize a farmers' club, when the Alliance was brought to notice. After considering the matter, a committee was appointed to communicate with the Illinois Alliance, and the meeting was adjourned to Wednesday, the 24th, when undoubtedly an organization will be effected. The people are getting waked up and will organize for protection and equal rights.

Wheat is looking well after the freeze. Corn is selling at 30c; blue or Egyptian corn, 25c. F. F. Downes.

NICKERSON, Red Co., Dec. 12.—198 miles S. W. from Topeka. Farm stock of all kinds are doing well. No disease excepting among horses, and that a mild form of epizootic. It has been very cold most of the time since the middle of November, colder than we usually have at this season of the year. Wheat is in good condition, with the prospect of a good crop next harvest. The ground was quite wet when it froze up and is so yet, as moisture does not escape rapidly when the ground is frozen. Corn is from 24 to 28 cents with an upward tendency. Pork, goes, \$3.25 to \$4; potatoes, \$1.00; green apple, \$1.20; eggs, 25; butter 30 cents.

The sheep interests are increasing, I think there are five or six times as many sheep in this county as there were in June. Many more would engage in the business if they could get the sheep. It pays well, without any doubt. I am glad the FARMER has come to the conclusion that it is not profitable to discuss purely agricultural subjects at the time. Every agricultural journal should boldly abandon the old rut and discuss political economy in all its bearings, and teach its readers not only how to make two blades of grass grow where one formerly grew, but how to say that extra blade from the leeches who fatten off of the sweat of other men's brows. The simple discussion in agricultural journals of "hog and homing," has prevented many a farmer from taking a paper devoted to the advancement of his interests. The tariff question is not a party question, but is one which will be earnestly discussed in the next few years. Farmers are very much interested in it.

Will Mr. Claven tell us why it is that wool is so low, while we have such a high protective tariff. The ad valorem duties on woolen manufactures is from 54 per cent. to 77 per cent. Is it not singular that Mr. Claven's 22 cents wool can be sent to England made into cloth, brought back to Kansas, and after paying an average duty of 66 per cent. sold as low or lower than the same quality of goods made at home? Is not a protective tariff a fraud? Does it not protect a privileged class at the expense of the masses. Has the government any right to foster and protect one industry at the expense of all others? Does the wool grower get a fair price for his wool with a high protective tariff? I am a republican but I want to learn the truth in regard to everything in which I am interested and I do not defend the party when I believe it to be wrong. Give us a tariff for revenue only, instead of a tariff to make a few rich at the expense of the many.

W. F. HENDRY.

The tariff question has always been a tough one to manage, and "right smart" can be said in favor of "protective tariff," but it has doubtless been applied to bad use. A proper revenue tariff will incidentally protect many manufactures. A protective tariff made the cotton and iron manufacturing interest in this country possible, without that they would have had scarcely an existence here.

WAKEFIELD, Clay Co., Dec. 21.—Horses have been suffering from epizootic, but are recovering. Cattle looking well. Hogs in demand at \$3.80 to \$5. There seems to be less sickness among them than for years before; and yet we hear complaints from across the waters of American pork being full of trichina. How can the farmer know whether or not his pork is healthy? It seems to me that now pork, or perhaps I should say, trichina, chinch bugs and locusts, demand the close attention of the entomologists. The chinch bug is sleeping, not dead, at the junction of the cornstalks and leaves, and when he awakes to propagate other

millions what are we to do? Acres of corn and fields of wheat were as nothing last year. Will they devastate the country this year?

Notwithstanding the many drawbacks, corn yields this year from 30 down to 6 bushels per acre. Wheat on new land is splendid, on old land needs rain. As compared with last year the outlook is more encouraging.

M. S. L. BURT.

GARNETT, Anderson Co., Dec. 23d.—Crops have been good. Farmers are in good spirits and in good fix. We do not anticipate a scarcity of rough feed. There has been an unusual amount of prairie hay put up in the south and west part of the county. The fine weather of the past few days has been improved by the farmers in gathering corn. The wheat is in fine condition and bids fair for a good crop. There is at least 50 per cent. more sown than the previous season. The market price for which is 75 to 80c, corn 30, oats 30, potatoes 60. Our county is fast passing into the hands of actual settlers.

E. HAMPSHIRE.

Read This.

Every farmer needs Purdy's Fruit Recorder to teach him how to grow small fruits and all kinds of garden plants; and he also wants a package of small fruit or berry plants of choice varieties and that he is sure will be just what are promised. Purdy in this branch of business is the standard authority of the United States. What he sends out may be relied upon to be genuine. In ordering give No. of package desired, and the plants in that package will be sent you.

Free Plants to Subscribers.

Having made arrangements to club the KANSAS FARMER with Purdy's Fruit Recorder and Cottage Gardener, we announce that we will furnish each of our subscribers with a plant to each yearly subscriber under this clubbing arrangement any of the following numbers he or she may select; postage prepaid on plants and papers—plants to be sent in open spells through the winter or in early spring:

1. Six plants each of the two new famous seedling strawberries, Longfellow and Warren.
2. Twelve plants of either of the following new choice strawberries: Sharpless, Miner's, Great Prolific, Glendale and Cowen's Seedling; or, to accommodate those who want an assortment, six each of two kinds, or four each of three kinds, or three each of four kinds, each sort properly labeled.
3. Three plants of the famous new black raspberry, the Tyler, the earliest and most productive large black cap grown; or three plants of the Gregg, the most prolific and largest late black cap grown; or two plants of each.
4. Six plants of the hardest and most prolific red raspberry grown—Thacker, Turner or Brandywine; or two of each.
5. Six plants of the hardest and most prolific blackberry—Taylor's Prolific and Snyder; or three of each.
6. Two strong grapevines of any of the following: Concord, Hartford, Ives, Isabella, Catawba, or Rogers' 4 or 15 or 19; or one vine of the Worden's Seedling—similar to the Concord every way, but two weeks earlier.
7. Two strong, well rooted Roses—most beautiful and hardy sorts.
8. One Hellenia Honeysuckle—the most beautiful sort grown having a mass of flowers, white and yellow, for six to eight weeks in the spring, and filling the air with its delicious perfume and holding its green foliage until spring, thus making it a splendid screen.
9. One pound of the Grange potato—one of the most productive and finest sorts grown.
10. Ten papers choicest Flower Seed, that all responsible seedsmen charge \$1.00 for.
11. One back bound volume of "Purdy's Fruit Recorder."
12. "Purdy's (64-page) Small Fruit Instructor," which tells how to plant and grow all kinds of small fruit plants for drying houses; hot beds and green houses, illustrated with valuable drawings on nearly every page.

The "Fruit Recorder and Cottage Gardener" is a 16 page monthly paper, exclusively confined to the subjects of fruits, flowers and vegetables, and is edited and managed by A. M. Purdy, a life long, practical grower.

Thus for the sum of \$2.00, you get this valuable fruit and flower paper, with the KANSAS FARMER, and one of the above numbers, post paid. The price number must be ordered at the same time the papers are subscribed for. A specimen copy of the "Recorder" may be obtained by addressing A. M. Purdy, Palmyra, N. Y., and a free specimen copy of the KANSAS FARMER can be obtained by addressing KANSAS FARMER, Topeka, Kansas.

E. E. EWING, Proprietor.

P. S. Club agents can make use of the above offer in securing names for their clubs, and the FARMER will be credited to their lists.

A Cough, Cold, or Sore Throat

should be stopped. Neglect frequently results in an *Incurable Lung Disease or Consumption*. BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES are certain to give relief in *Asthma, Bronchitis, Coughs, Catarrh, Consumption and Throat Diseases*. For thirty years the Troches have been recommended by physicians, and always give perfect satisfaction. They are not new or untried, but having been tested by wide and constant use for nearly an entire generation, they have attained well merited rank among the few staple remedies of the age. *Public speakers and Singers* use them to strengthen the *Voice*. Sold at twenty-five cents a box everywhere.

Wool Growers.

Ship your Wool to W. M. Price & Co., St. Louis, Mo. They do an exclusive commission business and receive more wool than any Commission House in St. Louis. Write to them before disposing of your wool. Commissions liberal. Advances made. Wool Sacks free to shippers.

W. A. Titus, 62 Ashland Avenue, Toledo, Ohio, says: "My wife is now as strong as ever, her regained health being directly due to the use of the Excolessor Kidney Pad. We can heartily recommend it to all kidney troubled persons."—See Ad.

READ THIS!

THE BEST OFFER EVER MADE.

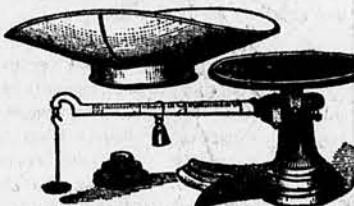
Must Be Accepted Within Sixty Days.

One of the Best of Newspapers One Year for Nothing.

And a Splendid Family Scale, Weighing from 1-2 Ounce to 240 Pounds, for Half Price.



Believing there is not a family in the country who would not like one of these convenient Scales, if they could be obtained at a low price, we have made arrangements with the Manufacturers, so that for the next 60 days we can furnish one of these Scales and the KANSAS FARMER for one year, for \$7.00, being one-half the usual price of the Scale alone. Every Scale is made of the very best material, nicely finished, and fully warranted by the Chicago Scale Co. to be accurate and durable, and is particularly adapted to the use of farmers or others to whom it is desirable to know the correct weight of any article from 1/2 ounce up to 240 pounds. Upon receipt of the above amount the FARMER will be sent regularly, (postage paid), for one year and the Scale shipped by freight, securely boxed, to any address. All old subscribers who want one of these Scales can send us a new subscriber or have an additional year added to their subscription. Be particular to give full directions for shipping. As this is an opportunity never before offered and may not be offered again, we advise all who would be weighed and not found wanting to send in their orders at once.



A smaller scale exactly suited to the kitchen, the pantry and farm dairy, weighing 1/2 of an ounce to 25 pounds, is nicely finished and fully warranted to weigh exact, will be furnished, if preferred, with a copy of the KANSAS FARMER for one year for \$4.00.

Mothers! Mothers!! Mothers!!!

Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with the excruciating pain of cutting teeth? If so, go at once and get a bottle of Mrs. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately—depend upon it, there is no mistake about it. There is not a mother on earth who has ever used it, who will not tell you at once that it will regulate the bowels, and give rest to the mother, and relief and health to the child, operating like magic. It is perfectly safe to use in all cases, and pleasant to the taste and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States. Sold everywhere. 25 cents a bottle.

S. H. Irwin, of Ute Creek, Colfax Co., New Mexico, says: "My wife has been cured of a cough of thirty years' standing by wearing an 'Only Lung Pad.'—See Adv.

8 and 9

Eight and nine per cent. interest on farm loans in Shawnee county. Ten per cent. on city property. All good bonds bought at sight. For ready money and low interest, call on A. PRESCOTT & Co.

An Old Doctor's Advice.

It was this: "Trust in God and keep your bowels open." For this purpose many an old doctor has advised the habitually constive to take Kidney Wort—for no other remedy so effectively overcomes this condition, and that without the distress and griping which other medicines cause. It is a radical cure for piles. Don't fail to use it.—[Translated from the New Yorker Zeitung.

CANVASSERS Make from \$2.50 to \$5.00 per week selling goods for E. G. RIDGOUT & CO., 10 Barclay Street, New York. Send for Catalogue and terms.

Markets.

TOPEKA MARKETS.

Produce.	
Grocers retail prices list, corrected weekly by W. W. Manspeaker. Country produce quoted at buying prices.	
NEW CABBAGE—per doz.	50c@60
NEW BEETS—do.	40
BUTTER—Per lb—Choice	20
CHEESE—Per lb—	15
EGGS—Per doz—Fresh	30
BEANS—Per lb—White Navy	1.50
Medium	1.75
Common	1.50
E. R. POTATOES—Per bu.	75
P. R. POTATOES—Per bu.	75
S. POTATOES—Per bu.	75
TURNIPS—do.	40
APPLES—do.	60c@75

Butchers' Retail.

BEEF—Strain Steak per lb.	12 1/2
" Round "	10
" Roasts "	10
" Fore Quarter Dressed, per lb.	8
" Hind "	7
" By the carcass "	6
MUTTON—Chops per lb.	19
" Roasts "	10c@12 1/2
PORK "	7c@10
VEAL— "	12c@15

Hide and Tallow.	
Corrected weekly by H. D. Clark, 185 Kansas Ave.	
HIDES—Green	06
do No. 2	05
Green, calf	07
do No. 2	05
Bull and stag	04
Dry salt prime	12
Dry salted, prime	10
CORN CHIPS	56 1/2
damaged	55
TALLOW	25 1/2
SHEEP SKINS	25c@30

Poultry and Game.	
Corrected weekly by McKay Bros., 245 and 90 Kansas Ave.	
CHICKENS—Live, per doz.	2.00@2.50
PRairie CHICKENS	2.25@2.50
QUAIL	90c@1.15
WILD DUCKS	
MALLARD, per doz	1.75@2.00
TEAL	1.00@1.25
SQUIRRELS	75
CABBITS	75
JACK RABBITS	2.40

Grain.	
Wholesale cash prices by dealers, corrected weekly by Edson & Beck.	
WHOLESALE.	
WHEAT—Per bu. No. 2	80
" Fall No. 3	75
" Fall No. 4	70
CORN—White	28
" Yellow	28
" New	28
OATS—Per bu. new	30
RYE—Per bu.	50
BARLEY—Per bu.	50

RETAIL.	
FLOUR—Per 100 lbs.	2.90
" No. 3	2.70
" No. 4	2.40
" Rye	2.90
CORN MEAL	1.00
CORN CHOP	75
RYE CHOP	1.25
CORN & OATS	1.00
BRAN	40
SHORTS	70

WOOL MARKET.

Chicago.

Tub-washed, good medium, 44 to 46c; tub-washed, coarse and dingy, 35 to 42c; washed fleece, fine heavy, 34 to 38c; washed fleece, light 38 to 40c; washed fleece coarse 31 to 38c; washed fleece, medium, 40 to 42c; Unwashed, fine 34 to 37c; unwashed, fine heavy, 18 to 22c; unwashed medium 28 to 31c; unwashed coarse, 21 to 30c.

St. Louis.

Quiet and easy. We quote: Tub washed—choice 47 to 47 1/2c; fair at 44 to 46c; dingy and low 37 to 40c; lamb 42 1/2 to 43c; fleece washed at 32 to 34c; choice—choice 20 to 30c; inferior at 18c for very poor to 18c for fair, Kansas at 23 to 26c Texas 23 to 26c, merino light fine at 20 to 22c, heavy do at 17 to 18c. Southern burry sells at 12 1/2 to 13c. Burry, black, cotted, etc., 5 to 10c off.

Markets by Telegraph, January 4.

New York Money Market.

GOVERNMENT BONDS.	
Coupons of 1881	104
New 5's	110 1/2
New 4 1/2's registered	111 to 112 1/2
Coupons	112 1/2
New 4's registered	111 1/2 to 112
Coupons	111 1/2 to 112 1/2

SECURITIES.	
MISSOURI SIXES—\$1.10	
ST. JOE—\$1.08 1/2	
CATTLE SIXES—95, 180.	
NEW—\$1.30	
CENTRAL PACIFIC BONDS—\$1.14 1/2	
UNION PACIFIC BONDS—first, \$1.14 1/2	
LAND GRANTS—\$1.12 1/2	
SINKING FUNDS—\$1.12	

Chicago Live Stock Market.

The Drovers' Journal reports as follows: HOGS—Receipts, 25,000; shipments, 2,500; receipts for the week, 25,000; the most ever received; some sales lower, mixed pack, \$4.30 to 4.60; light, \$4.30 to 4.50; choice heavy, \$4.50 to 4.80; closed weak. CATTLE—Receipts, 3,500; shipments, 4,500; receipts for the week, 35,000; market steady; good to choice shipping, \$4.90 to 6.00; common to fair, \$3.50 to 4.50; butchers steady and easy; common \$2.00 to 2.50; good \$2.50 to 3.00; Texans, \$2.50 to 3.15; through Texans, \$2.80 to 3.00. SHEEP—Receipts, 200; common to medium, \$2.20 to 3.60; good, \$3.90 to 4.15.

Chicago Produce Market.

FLOUR—In good demand and at full prices. WHEAT—Active firm and higher; No. 2 red 92; No. 2 spring, 96c to cash; 1 03 1/2 November; CORN—Active, firm and higher; 36 cash; bid December; 40c to 40 1/2c January; 40 to 40 1/2c May. OATS—Active, firm and higher; 32 1/2 to 32 3/4 cash; 32 1/2 to 32 3/4 December; 33c January; 34 1/2 to 34 3/4 May. RYE—Strong and higher 81 1/2. BARLEY—Active but lower 1 12 1/2. PORK—Active, firm and higher; \$13.00 to 13 75 cash \$12.49 to 12.45 November, and December; \$13.90 to \$13 1/2 January. LARD—Active, firm and higher; \$8.80 cash; \$8.30 December; \$8.20 asked a year; \$8.25 to 8.35 January. BULK MEATS—Steady and unchanged.

Kansas City Produce Market.

The Commercial Indicator reports: WHEAT—Receipts, 12,931 bushels; shipments, 8,078 bushels; in store, 879,680 bushels; market steady; No. 1, 92c; No. 2, 88 to 84 1/2c; No. 3, 74 1/2c bid. CORN—Receipts, 10,829 bushels; shipments, 18,642 bushels; in store, 75,551 bushels; market firm and higher; No. 2 mixed, 27 1/2 to 27 3/4c; No. 2 white mixed, 28 1/2c asked. RYE—No. 2, 77c bid. EGGS—Market steady at 27c per dozen. BUTTER—Receipts moderate and choice firm at 18c.

St. Louis Produce Market.

FLOUR—Higher; XX, \$3.90 to 4.10; XXX \$4.50 to 4.65 family \$4.90 to 5.10; choice, \$5.15 to 5.40; fancy \$5.50 to 5.75. WHEAT—Higher; No. 2 red, 97c to 97 1/2c cash; 1 06 1/2 to 1 09 1/2 December; 1 06 1/2 to 1 06 1/2 January; 1 10 to 1 09 1/2 February; No. 3, 84c to 84 1/2c. CORN—Easier; —to 30c cash; 30c December; 30c to 30 1/2c January; 30 to 30 1/2c February; 41 to 42c May. OATS—Firm but slow; 34c cash; 33c bid December; 35c bid January. PORK—Dull; \$13.00.

Denver Market.

FLOUR, GRAIN AND HAY. HAY—Upland, \$— to 25; second bottom, \$22 to 23; bottom hay, \$20; Kansas baled, \$19 to 19 50. FLOUR—Colorado, \$5.00 to 5.60; Kansas, \$5.25 to 5.35. Graham, \$5.10 to 5.25. MEAL—Bulleted corn meal, \$1.60. WHEAT—New \$2.20 1/2 cwt. CORN—No. 1 15 to 1 15 1/2 cwt. OATS—Colorado, \$2.00 to 2.10; state, \$1.85 to 2.00 cwt. BARLEY—2 25 to — cwt. PRODUCE, POULTRY VEGETABLES. EGGS—Per dozen, ranch 57c firm; state, 52c. BUTTER—Ranch, \$8, 30 to 32c; creamery, 36 to 37c cooking, 10 to 20c. ONIONS—do 4c 1/2. CHICKENS—der doz, old, \$4.40 to —; young, 12 1/2c per lb.

THE PLANET JR. GOODS.

Let all interested in working the soil send now for our Catalogue. We want all Farmers who value labor-saving tools to study out combined Horse Hoe, Cultivator and Cover; Market Gardeners who have acres upon acres on each of which our Double Wheel Hoe will save its cost yearly, to examine the merits of our fine garden tools; and every one who has even a small vegetable garden, to read closely what the Firefly Hoe and Garden Plow will save them.

TRUMBULL, REYNOLDS & ALLEN, 1311 West Thirtieth Street, Kansas City, Mo.

St. Louis Live Stock Market.

HOGS—Fairly active; Yorkers and Baltimores, \$4.00 to 4.15; mixed packing \$3.90 to 4.50; butchers to fancy, \$4.50 to 4.75; receipts, 10,000; shipments 700. CATTLE—Fair demand for all grades above common and prices steady; supply small and altogether of butchers' stock, which sold readily at \$2.25 to \$2.35 good cows bringing outside figures; good to choice butcher steers command \$3.50 to 4.00; Texans range \$2.50 to 3.25; best shipping steers wanted at firm prices, say at \$4.50 to 5.00; receipts, 700; shipments, 350.

Kansas City Live Stock Market.

The Commercial Indicator reports: CATTLE—Receipts, 618; shipments, 1,412; market firm for good to choice; common slow; native shipping steers, averaging 1,320 to 1,447 pounds sold at 4.50 to 5.00; stockers and feeders, 3.50 to 3.75; common to good, 2.50 to 2.75; Texas steers, 2.50 to 2.75; Colorado steers, 2.80 to 3.50. HOGS—Receipts, 4,367; shipments, none; market weak but active; average, \$3.90 to 4.50; bulk at \$4.35 to 4.45.

New Advertisements.

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

The Daily

experience of every one is that neglect of the bowels is the prime cause of ill health. It is so easy to become irregular and so difficult to rectify the system to its natural health that many despair and doubt every remedy. But with a right at hand is to be found Simmons' Liver Regulator; there is no excuse longer to delay the influence of medicine; and after awhile all remedies can be dispensed with, for this medicine establishes the health and permanently creates regularity of the bowels. "I have never seen or tried such a simple, efficacious, satisfactory and pleasant remedy in my life as Simmons' Liver Regulator." H. H. HAINES, St. Louis, Mo.

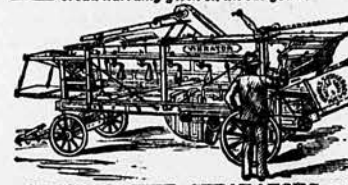
NICHOLS, SHEPARD & CO

Battle Creek, Michigan, MANUFACTURERS OF THE ONLY GENUINE

VIBRATOR

THRESHERS, Traction and Plain Engines and Horse-Powers.

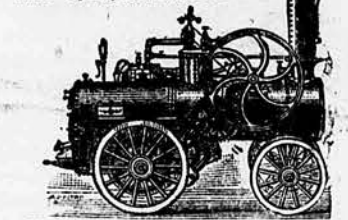
Most Complete Thresher Factory Established in the World. 1843. 32 YEARS, without change of name, management, or location, to "back up" the broad warranty given on all our goods.



STEAM-POWER SEPARATORS and Complete Sifters of various capacities. Finest Traction Engines and Plain Engines ever seen in the American market. A multitude of special features and improvements for 1891, together with superior qualities in construction and materials not dreamed of by other makers. Four sizes of Separators, from 6 to 12 horse capacity, for steam or horse power. Two sizes of Mounted Horse-Powers. 7,500,000 Feet of Selected Lumber constantly on hand, from which is made the incomparable wood-work of our machinery.

TRACTION ENGINES

Strongest, most durable, and efficient ever made. 5, 10, 15 Horse Power.



Farmers and Threshers are invited to investigate this machine Threshing Machinery. Circulars sent free. Address NICHOLS, SHEPARD & CO. Battle Creek, Michigan.

NORTHERN TEXAS

Offers greater attractions in way of good, cheap lands, healthy country, mild climate, abundance of timber and water than any other section now open to settlement. The TEXAS AND PACIFIC RAILWAY is now being extended westward over one mile per day, and is now for sale at low prices and on easy terms over 4,000,000 acres of land. For descriptive circulars and maps giving truth in full, send for them to the Land Commissioner T. & P. Ry., Marshall, Texas.

SEEDS

I will give you the best Seeds for the least money of any firm in America or refund. In most cases are best. Mine take the lead. Gardeners say they never had such good seeds. I used 5,000 lbs. paper to print my pretty Catalogues illustrated with 2,000 worth of engravings. It beats the world. Worth many dollars. FREE. Prices below all. R. H. SHUXWAVY, Rockford, Ill. Free.

FREE. Elegant Illustrated Book sent to all for two 3 cent stamps. BURT & FRIEND, 46 Be

Farm Letters.

El Paso, Sedgwick Co., Dec. 15.—150 miles SW from Topeka. The weather I suppose is a never-failing, always-allowable topic for both tongue and pen. Well, Kansas for the past week has been redeeming herself; is giving us some of her standard winter weather. The reign of the ice-king is intermitted for awhile; the Manitoba wave has rolled over us and away.

Wheat looks badly just at present. The cold weather combined with the dry condition of the soil has given it a yellow cast. A good rain and ordinary winter weather, would improve its appearance.

Corn as a rule is "chaffy," especially out of the "bottom." The dry weather just at earing made the ears short, and later, a continued drouth prevented "filling" properly. Still, Sedgwick with her area of fifty per cent. bottom land, is well off, and can hold up her head with any county in the state on the corn question.

Hogs are thriving unusually well this winter. The farmers of this county have learned that winter wheat is not injured but rather decidedly improved by grazing; so hogs, calves, and even cattle, are allowed the range of the wheat fields.

The epizootic has been all over the county, but in no case to my knowledge, causing more than a slight hacking cough, with no falling off in appetite.

Prices of hogs have encouraged us. Corn appreciated in price during the cold spell; partly because farmers would not take corn to market in the cold, or had not husked it; partly because they feared the heavy draught continued could make upon their cribs, in extra feed.

Hay is an object with us this year, a short allowance being put up.

I would like to see the question of cultivating corn discussed in your columns, as to shallow or deep cultivation; the number of times it should be cultivated; how late in its growth it is best to cultivate; the effect of tearing the roots of large corn, etc.

One of my neighbors was prevented by some circumstance from plowing his corn wholly the third time; that plowed but twice made much the largest and best yield. The season was very dry. What is the philosophy involved?

J. M. C.

HARVEYVILLE, Wabash Co., Dec. 15.—Now that the time has come that fruit trees should be protected from rabbits, and seeing a great many in my travels that are not protected, I will make some suggestions to those that have neglected to wrap their trees. Take an armful of hay and dampen it; when it is well settled take a brace and bit, the bit should not be less than three-fourths of an inch, with one to turn the brace and one to regulate the size of the rope to be twisted. It is but a small job to make the ropes and tie up an orchard of two or three hundred trees, and a great many of them will last two years. But after trees get to be two inches in diameter I would paint them with white lead, but they should be painted every two years till they get too large for rabbits. As the tree grows the paint will crack and leave the bark exposed in places.

SEPHUS.

RAY, Pawnee Co., 191 miles southwest of Topeka.—We once thought that Pawnee county was the paradise of the west, and our belief was strengthened year by year by the fact that our climate is of the best, and our soil very rich and productive, and for five years we have been encouraged to hold to the same opinion, notwithstanding the two past years a severe drouth has been upon us, but with this and other difficulties in the form of the army and out worm and the chinoh bugs, we have been enabled to make a fair showing, and have kept our heads above water, and we had about come to the conclusion that we could stand any and all the ills that could befall man. But alas! how weak is man. Judge not, for after all of the calamities that have been visited on western Kansas, there was one still to come that we little dreamed of—a coal famine. We can stand a bread famine, or a water famine, but to sit out on these broad prairies with their cutting and piercing winds blowing so hard that it would be advisable to yoke the little ones to keep them from blowing through the cracks, without any coal to burn, and all the buffalo chips burned up long ago, why it is just unbearable. And why is it that we have a coal famine at Larned every winter? Is it because Pawnee county has so many inhabitants that the A. T. & S. F. railroad cannot freight coal enough for our use? If this is the case then there is but two ways to remedy the evil and save the original settlers from perishing—either immigration must be stopped and no more settlers be allowed to come here, or else we must have a new line of railroad running through the state to haul the coal that is to-day standing loaded at the coal mines ready for some railroad to haul to Larned or some other place.

Now, Mr. Editor, is it the inability of the railroad to transport the coal to Larned, or has the railroad a bone to pick with Pawnee county? There is a cat in the bag somewhere, and we want it let out. It seems to me that if the patrons of the railroad let the railroad have their own way and charge what they please for transportation, that the railroad ought to be willing to put on rolling stock enough to meet the demand for freight. This coal famine is no new thing for it happens every winter.

F. F. DOWNS.

LENORA, Norton Co., Dec. 13.—Lenora is located on the north fork of the Solomon river in Norton county, two hundred and twenty-eight miles west and forty-two miles north of Topeka, on the line of the Central Branch R. R., 25 miles west of Logan the present terminus of the road. It is surveyed to this place and undoubtedly will be completed the coming spring. Lenora is splendidly located and is about eighteen months old; has two general stores, one grocery store and two restaurants, one hotel, one blacksmith shop, one livery and feed stable, two drug stores, one meat market and one grist mill. The soil is very productive. The valley is level, but high lands are rolling. The river is skirted with timber, also the tributaries, which makes fuel cheap. Wood is two dollars per cord.

The prospect for a good wheat crop is exceedingly flattering. The early sown being very good. The most of the farmers sow their wheat too late. The varieties sown are the White and Red May and grass wheat. The latter can be sown in the fall or spring. There is as much wheat if not more, sown than last year. On account of its being so dry last spring, our small grain was almost an entire failure. This fall ground is in good condition to go into winter quarters. We had no rain this year until about the 15th of June; corn, that was in the ground at that time will average about twenty bushels to the acre; rice corn about twenty-five. Potatoes did very well where the bugs were kept off, but our farmers mostly decided to let the bugs dig them.

Potatoes are worth one dollar per bushel; corn, 25c; prairie hay, three dollars per ton; millet, five dollars in stack.

We have had some cold weather and some snow, but there is none at present and it is quite warm and pleasant.

Stock is in good condition except a few cases of epizootic among the horses.

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