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BONDED DEBT, FRAUDULENT BONDS AND CREDIT.

In a letter written by Joseph Nixon, of Osage City (in last issue of the FARMER), on the subject of Fraudulent Bonds, I was glad to see the proper spirit manifested to oppose the payment of all bogus and fraudulent bonds. This class of indebtedness must be wiped out. The corrupt decisions of all the Supreme courts in the world, can't set aside the plain, constitutional rights of the citizens. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the constitution of Kansas, but I know sufficient of general law and the constitution of the United States (with which all state constitutions must harmonize) to know that "Private property can not be taken for public purposes without just compensation." What are public purposes? The construction of streets, highways, etc. Now it is a prostitution of the taxing power to levy taxes, and through the infernal grinding machinery of a usury that would make Shylock himself blush, sell the poor man's little homestead to some parasite that is growing rich by the fraud, and in violation of the constitutional rights of the private citizen.

It is full time for the farmers to unite as a class, and put a stop to this nefarious system of legal robbing. On them the burden rests, as they have to pay 85 per cent of the taxes. Fraud vitiates all contracts, and the holding of fraudulent bonds by innocent purchasers don't change the character of the transaction any more than the holding of a stolen horse. The original owner is the bona fide owner if there were a thousand innocent purchasers; and the same rule will hold good in respect to the title in real estate. Hence, the courts decide that if there is a cloud on the title, that cloud remains till removed, and the purchaser must investigate the character of the title or accept the consequences. Now this is common law and common sense. I am well aware that the decision of the courts are against us and in favor of the money power, but revolution will come (by revolution I mean change). When God's time arrived to wipe out the stain of human slavery from this great nation, it was done; where were the decisions of the courts? what availed they? There is no state in the Union more cursed with this fraudulent bond system than Iowa, and our courts all truckle to the power that can supply them with free railroad passes, etc. Here is a decision of the Supreme Court of Iowa, that I cut from a newspaper to keep as a memento of what a court could descend to:

"An important decision in the case of the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad Co., vs. the County of Osceola, particularly important to the northwestern counties, was recently rendered by the Supreme Court (Iowa). The company as a taxpayer, brought suit to restrain the county officers from collecting a tax which was levied to pay off certain judgment bonds. The company alleged that the bonds were fraudulently negotiated. The state constitution provides that no county shall issue bonds in excess of 5 per cent of the assessed value of property in the county, and the railroad company claimed that the bonds were issued in excess of this amount. This appeared to be the case, but the Supreme Court (Judge Beck

dissenting) held that judgment bonds in the hands of innocent holders, must be paid, and it cannot be set up as against their payment that the county has exceeded its powers in issuing them."

Comment is unnecessary; the decision from first to last is revolutionary and a usurpation of power unknown to the constitution. Now this is not an isolated case. There are a dozen different points where this contest is going on, and the trucking of the leaders of the present political parties have lost them the confidence of the people; all these monopolies must go down and the sooner the better. The farmers throughout the west should stop paying all those bogus taxes, and unite as one man to stop this system of robbing. There are counties in Iowa that have paid taxes for over 20 years, to meet interest on bonds that were issued to build railroads that were never commenced, and yet when the supervisors at one time refused to levy a tax for such a nefarious purpose, they were arrested, and an appeal being made to President Grant, they were informed that the whole force of the United States would be used to collect the swindle.

But we are in the midst of one of the grandest revolutions that has ever occurred on this earth. One hundred years ago the American nation was in rebellion against the divine right of kings; well, they soon knocked the divinity out of that ancient superstition, and there is not a civilized nation on earth that is not enjoying a larger amount of liberty to-day owing to that revolution. But the revolution of the present day is against the sacred claims of capital. We will have to demonstrate to the world that labor has rights superior to any claims that capital can put forth, but when capital seeks to enslave labor and cheat it out of its honest dues by chicanery and over-reaching, then capital must accept the consequences. This revolution will be accomplished through the ballot box; the hand-writing is on the wall. All this bogus and unconstitutional indebtedness must be wiped out or general repudiation will be the inevitable consequence. The ablest writers in the nation put down our indebtedness at the following enormous amount, and that don't include private debt:

National	\$3,320,000,000
State	\$375,000,000
Municipal	\$1,000,000,000
Railroad	\$3,300,000,000
Banks	\$1,000,000,000
Insurance Co's	\$500,000,000

Total.....\$7,595,000,000
Interest at 6 per cent \$443,700,000, or about \$33,700,000 more than the net profits of all the industries of the nation. This running in debt is the curse of the times, but bad as it is in the individual, it is ten times worse in the state, and I believe that nothing short of the preservation of the life of the nation can excuse placing a debt on posterity. But there is a very simple remedy; give us an ample supply of cheap money in sufficient volume to carry on the business of the nation. Let there be national loan offices opened where the industrial classes can obtain the national money (on good security) at 2 per cent, and it will put a stop to all this grinding usury. But instead of this being done, the government gives the national currency into the hands of the worst class of middlemen a nation was ever cursed with; they obtain it as a gratuity, and then loan it out to the industrial classes at such figures as their greed may determine. Is it any wonder that times are hard and money scarce? But the people have nothing to blame for this state of things but their want of manhood. Now the farmers are more to blame than any other class; they hold the power in their own hands and quietly submit to be robbed and plundered by bogus taxation. But the end has come. Within three years every one of those bogus bonds will be quietly wiped out and the people will be master of the situation. Such is the honest belief of your correspondent.

SAMUEL SINNETT.

Muscataine, Iowa.
By referring to the table of debt compiled by our correspondent, the neat where hard times are bred may be readily seen. We feel somewhat skeptical of his prescription for the cure, which is a recommendation to go a little more in debt with a lighter interest. The tapering off process has always failed to reform the drunkard. The man who is in debt had better not borrow any more, even without interest, but fight it out on the line of economy and cash down. If these fail to bring him through there is no hope for him.

TO THE "KANSAS FARMER."

I have read, for many years, the Kansas FARMER with pleasure and profit. I have admired the spirit of candor and liberality

which allowed all shades of opinion, on the money question, to be presented to the people. As a general thing the FARMER suited me exactly, finding little to condemn and a great deal to commend. But lately it published two editorials which I cannot approve, and which I would like to see discussed in the paper; so I write this to call the attention of the public to them, hoping that some of your correspondents, better able to handle the subject than I, will take them up and give more light on them.

The first I allude to was in the issue of July 3d. I have it not before me now, and can only speak of the impression left on my mind. The writer, in order to protect the commercial and industrial interests of the country, endangered, more or less, as he thinks, by repeated presidential elections, advocates a term of eight years, instead of four, as the constitution provides now.

If I remember well, many of the authors of the constitution were opposed to having any president at all, fearing that the focus of monarchy, as very aptly they called the president, might in four years grow up to be a monarch. Yet, as the constitution was a kind of compromise between the royalist, like Hamilton, and the true democrat, like Jefferson, the executive power was intrusted to a president for a period of four years. Do you think, Mr. FARMER, that a term of eight years, with the immense patronage with which the president dispenses, would be less dangerous now that our population commences to be divided into classes,—one composed of a small number, possessing an enormous amount of wealth, in railroads, mines, bonds, etc., and whose influence is powerful in congress and the legislatures of most of the states; and another, nearly all the people, making barely a living, by an incessant and hard toil? Do you really think that the president would not become a danger to our republican institutions?

The other article I object to is entitled "Our Criminals," and is printed in the last number of the FARMER. It looks to me as if it had been written by a man living many centuries before Jesus appeared in the world. It is completely devoid of Christian charity or human feeling. It proposes no other remedy for the evil of pauperism, than the surgeon's knife, and thus by a simple and humane operation, protects society by preventing paupers from perpetuating their species.

An Englishman, Malthus, a respectable minister of the Gospel, wrote this: "When a man comes into this world, without any property, and the rich do not need his work, he has no business here. In the banquet of life, there is no place for him. He must leave." That is the best illustration of the so-called law of supply and demand. It is very plain. The existence of the laboring class is subordinate to the necessities of the rich. They have no right whatever. It is the rich cannot increase their wealth by employing them, they must go out of this world.

I can not see how the humane operation recommended by the FARMER, would settle that question. The tramp would not be disposed of. He would be living yet, and would need bread as much as before. It is true that a steer is more tractable, more easily managed, than a bull, yet a steer must eat. What provision can you make for him, when all the pastures are already taken up by somebody? Try to find better?

Perhaps you will claim that you do not intend to apply your heroic remedy to the pauper, or tramp, but to the criminals only. But who are the criminals? Here is your answer; I quote—

"When society was working its way up to its elevated plane, criminals were provided for with little ceremony. As fast as caught and convicted, they were turned over to the executioner." I ask you who caught, convicted, and turned them over to the executioner? Was not the world then ruled by robbers, everywhere?

The Franks having conquered Gaul, and the Normans England, and having stolen the property of the inhabitants of these countries, would turn over to the executioner a Gaul or a Saxon guilty of the odious crime of taking back even a small part of the property stolen from him by the conquerors. It is not very long since, in England, the stealing of a few dollars was a capital offence. And yet, at that same time, the royal family, a few nobles, and some parasites, without doing any work, were spending, individually, millions produced by half-starved and half-starved people, whose labor enriched the idle.

It is always the eternal—*Sic vos non vobis*.

When Vanderbilt, by downright stealing, had accumulated one hundred millions of dollars, and died, a preacher praised, in the most beautiful language, the virtues of that thief, and presented him as an example and model to the rising generation. The will of that great sinner has provided a legacy of \$35,000 for the preacher. I do not suppose that you would use the surgeon's knife for Vanderbilt or the preacher; you would reserve it for some tramp, out of work, stealing a ride on some railroad belonging lawfully to Vanderbilt. The laws must be respected!

Now, Mr. FARMER, to close this letter, already too long, let me tell you that language like yours, is very imprudent. Its effect will be to widen the chasm between the rich and the poor. It might prepare a conflict in which, if it takes place, rich and poor would suffer dreadfully.

In 1860, many southerners talked very loud, expecting to frighten the abolitionists. "The Yankees will not fight," said their leaders. Before they knew it, peaceful men, opposed to secession, were dragged, by the fire-eaters, into a war which cost both sections thousands of millions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of human lives. Let that be a lesson to us.

We are living in critical times. Let us use all the moderation and charity we can muster. Let us all be ready to make concessions, in order to have peace. Revolutions can be guided and moderated by the privileged class, but cannot be stopped. You could as well keep the Mississippi river from flowing to the Gulf of Mexico.

Do not be too severe on tramps and communists. Remember those who were tramping in Galilee, following the Savior, and who afterwards founded a society where everything was in common.

I wish that Rev. John D. Knox, since he contributes to the FARMER, would favor us with his views on the second chapter of Acts, and those parts of the Bible which denounce usury and extortion. The eighteenth chapter of Ezekiel would be a good text.

Let us be cautious. We are not sure that the tramps, seeing nothing before them but death, or the surgeon's knife, would submit, willingly.

Until the end of the last century, the Gauls were turned over, by their masters, to the executioners, under the least pretense and without a murmur. But a day came when, in spite of the efforts of the preachers of the time, who, well paid by the oppressors, consigned to eternal damnation those who refused to submit to the ruling robbers; the people arose in their might, and the executioner plied his trade on the necks of kings, nobles, and bishops, and the race of the conqueror disappeared from the French soil, drowned in their own blood. The coalition of their friends all over Europe, although strong, on account of the ignorance of the masses, did not save them.

JACQUES BON HOMME.

KEEP THE BALL ROLLING.

I am much pleased at "A Farmer," of Saline county, about the wheat crop, "Farmers to the Front," etc. His suggestions on heading and stacking wheat are good; also as to time of threshing.

Our farmers, as a general thing, put their wheat on the market before it is properly cured or dried; hence the low and unsettled prices for it. Also, on the subject of legislation. We have those who are capable, and let us put them forward. They are too modest to ask for the place, for they have to come in competition with some political demagogue in most instances.

We want our next legislature to pass an act to so regulate freights on the railroads of this state, that they may not lower their charges at some points, and extort higher rates at others where there is no competition to make it up. Now we want laws so regulating freights that there may be no extortion; that the freights may be equally distributed along the lines of road so that it may work equal justice to both the road and shipper. We wish to live and let live, and wish only to prevent extortionate rates. Such laws may be framed so no injustice may be done the railroad companies.

These regulations should have been included in the charter to build these roads, but since they were gotten up by the companies for their own advantage, we must look to the

law-making power for redress, and want it understood by those who may aspire to be our representatives, that this is to be worked up, without fail.

It may take a persistent effort to get such a law passed. Let us go to work in earnest. Let us select such men as we have confidence in for efficient work, and not for some pique, or other end in view, to the exclusion or neglect of working for such a law.

We want good and wholesome laws, in every respect, for all classes, that we may prevent extortion and unequal rates in all business, as far as possible, so that all trades and business may be done with justice to all parties, and not give exclusive privileges to some parties, or corporations, so they may oppress others.

We want men of judgment for these positions, and not babbling politicians that have only their own aggrandizement in view; men who will work for the greatest good to the greatest number, and then those laws lived up to.
J. L. HART.

Dickinson Co., Kansas.
We heartily commend the advice of Mr. Hart to his brother farmers in the choice of men for office, and the selection of the most intelligent and trustworthy farmers to represent them in the legislature.

The regulation of railroad tariffs by state legislation, is not altogether practical without the co-operation of neighboring states. Railroads are sometimes compelled to discriminate against local points on account of many circumstances, but no doubt they are generally very willing to have a pretext.

A national law, which would bring the whole system of railroads throughout the country under its control, would seem to be the only feasible plan; but the question is surrounded by many difficulties, which will require a great deal of careful investigation, legal ability and statesmanship to surmount.

A BIG SWINDLE.

People of Kansas, Beware!

In the winter of 1876-77, some men came from Canada with grain they called Bohemian Hullless Oats, which they sold to farmers in quantities of not less than five bushels, entering into an agreement with them to sell their crop for them, when raised, at ten dollars per bushel, they to have twenty-five per cent. for selling. They disposed of about 400 bushels on these terms. They came back in the summer and got out printed certificates of their great yield. One man, who is now an agent, certified that he raised seventy-five bushels to the acre, when to my knowledge he did not raise over forty, and some did not have over twelve bushels per acre. The agents took some orders on fifteen months, which they sold to the farmers for twenty-five per cent. of the face, those buying the order delivering their own oats, but the most of the oats the agents bought at sixty-six cents to \$1.25 per bushel, and some have their oats on hand that did not get them sold even at that price, notwithstanding the lying certificates which the agents had.

Now they, the agents, or swindlers, are out. I think two of them have gone to Kansas to humbug people there. It will be well to give them a wide berth and have nothing to do with them.

The Toronto Globe says it was the most stupendous swindle ever perpetrated on the people of Canada, but it has been entirely exploded. I am credibly informed that the oats can be bought in Canada for twenty-five cents per bushel.

They make a poor yield here this year. It is a hard grain to save in the stack, and the worst stuff to clean that I ever had anything to do with. The fuzz is worse than the "Scotch fiddle." One crop will satisfy an ordinary farmer.
H. N. M. RAYNER.

Enterprise, Wisconsin.

In the list of Normal Institutes published in last week's FARMER, that of Woodson county was omitted. The Institute of that county opened at Yates Centre, on the 5th inst., with a membership of 70.

By an oversight, the Practical Farmer did not receive credit for the article on "Horse-Hoing Wheat," published on second page of this week's issue of the FARMER. Also, in the article "More Russian Apple Fraud," in last week's FARMER read "more" in place of "none" in the following sentence: "But I do know that the varieties of apples mentioned by D. R. P. or G. W. K., are none of them American."

SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Apiary.

BEES IN AUGUST.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dairy.

THE FARM DAIRY.

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

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

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

A TEST FOR THE CAPACITY OF COWS.

A commission has been appointed by the Governor of Pennsylvania, to examine and report on the merits of a system which undertakes to determine in advance the probable yield of milk of cows, by certain marks upon the animals. The marks are chiefly in respect to the disposition and mode of growth of the half near the udder, and a prediction can be made with certainty, it is said, as to whether the future cow will be a large producer of milk, if the observation is made on the young calf, even shortly after birth. The discoverer of this peculiarity was a French stock-raiser, M. Francis Guenon; he first promulgated it about forty years ago. Since then the theory has found favor with several French agricultural societies; M. Guenon has received medals and pecuniary rewards, and many stock-raisers in Europe are said to base their estimates of the value of cattle upon this system.

The mark on the animal is called an ecutcheon. The mode by which the value of the system will be tried in Pennsylvania, is first to have the State Commissioners inspect the marks on a series of cows in several states, and make a record of the indications, without communicating any facts they may observe to the owners of the animals. These records are to be sent to the Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture. The owners of the cows will

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

Farm Stock.

HORSE-HOEING WHEAT.

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

UTILITY VS. FANCY IN SHORT-HORNS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LARGE VERSUS SMALL BREEDS.

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

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

SHEEP HUSBANDRY.

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

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

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

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

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

FATTING SHOW ANIMALS.

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

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

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

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

Topics for Discussion.

TRANSPORTATION.

Class Legislation.

By the official statistics of the state of Kansas, the number of persons engaged in agriculture are a fraction over 71 per cent. of our population; 8 per cent. in professional and personal service; 4 per cent. in trade and transportation; and 9 per cent. in manufacturing and mining. This ratio of persons engaged in these industries, will not vary much throughout the United States.

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

In a letter received from the department of the interior, Hon. J. A. Williamson, U. S. land commissioner, says: "Under the several congressional grants, six railroads are provided for in the state of Kansas, viz: The Kansas Pacific, Central Branch Union Pacific, Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, Missouri, Kansas & Texas, Leavenworth & Galveston, and St. Joseph & Denver City, and the lands thereby granted make an aggregate of 6,540,953 acres." Add to this the celebrated 500,000 acres donated by the state to four railroad corporations, then the counties of Crawford, Cherokee, and one-third of Bourbon, known as the Cherokee Neutral lands, and sold to T. F. Joy, in violation of every principle of justice, we have a sum total of about eight millions of acres of land, which otherwise (except perhaps the Indian lands) would have been subject to free homesteads for the cultivator; but these lands being now in the hands of these arrant speculators, who are selling this, our public domain, at prices from three to twelve dollars per acre, the sum of over one hundred millions of dollars (interest and capital) is directly taken from fifty thousand families who purchase the railroad land, for the benefit of a half dozen soulless corporations.

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

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

In an argument before a congressional committee, T. F. Rushing demonstrated the existence of a monstrous and "satanic" scheme to plunder the grower of stock, called the "eveners," (a kind of a patent pooling concern). The railroad officers and the owners of stock yards, from which alone the farmers of the west can ship cattle east, have organized an association and placed the power to control this trade in the hands of "select" men, called "eveners." They agree, 1st, that railroad companies shall charge \$115 per car on all live-stock from Chicago, or St. Louis, to New York. (Live-stock is not transported by lake or canal) 2d, The railroad companies agree to pay the "eveners" \$15 per car. 3d, The railroad companies agree to divide the remaining \$100 per car among themselves, no matter which line does the transportation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EDWARD BALLAINE.

TRAMPS AND LEGISLATURE.

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

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

Patrons of Husbandry.

OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE.—Master, Samuel E. Adams, of Minnesota; Secretary, O. H. Kelley, Louisville, Kentucky; Treasurer, F. M. McDowell, Wayne, N. Y.

KANSAS STATE GRANGE.—Master: Wm. Sims, Topeka, Secretary: P. B. Maxon, Emporia.

COLORADO STATE GRANGE.—Master: Levi Booth, Denver. Lecturer: J. W. Hammett, Platteville.

MISSOURI STATE GRANGE.—Master: H. Eshbaugh, Hanover, Jefferson county. Secretary: A. M. Coffey, Knob Noster.

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

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

THE POWER OF THE GRANGE.

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

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

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

TRI-STATE PICNIC.

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

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

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

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

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

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Sheep.

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

Great Public Sale.

50 Head of

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

20 Head of Thoroughbred

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

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

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

Walnut Grove Herd.



S. E. WARD, Proprietor.

Breeder of Pure bred Short Horns. 1st Duke of Walnut Grove, 3518 S. H. Record. A. H. Book \$36.412 and Mazurka Lad and 5 513 S. H. Record at head of Herd. Young Bulls and Heifers. The get of the above sires for sale cheap. Inspection of my herd and correspondence solicited. Six miles south of Kansas City. Address, S. E. WARD, Proprietor, Westport, Jackson Co., Mo.

SHORT-HORN CATTLE.

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

"HIGHLAND STOCK FARM." Salina, Kansas.

THO'S. H. CAVANAUGH,



BREEDER OF

HEREFORD CATTLE. COTSWOLD SHEEP. BERKSHIRE and DORSETSHIRE FIGS.

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

Breeders' Directory.

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

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

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180,000 Apple Stocks, 1,000,000 Osage Plants, 80,000 Fruit Trees, 25,000 Small Fruit Trees, &c. Apple Root Grafts put up for by experienced hands. Send for Price Lists. J. F. OADWALLADER, Miami County Nursery, Louisburg, Kansas.

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Literary and Domestic.

EDITED BY MRS. M. W. HUDSON.

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

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

A DISCUSSION ON APPLE DUMPLINGS, PRACTICAL AND OTHERWISE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AUNT SAMANTHA.

Cowley Co., Kansas.

LETTER FROM MARION COUNTY.

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

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

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

MRS. J. E. BROWN.

Peabody, Kansas.

RECIPES

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

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

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

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

HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY.

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

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

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

NEWLY ITEMS INTERESTING TO WOMEN.

The forty-seventh exhibition of the American Institute will open September 11, in this city.

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

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

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

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

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

FINE NEEDLE-WORK.

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

FOR DEAF PEOPLE.

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

A YOUNG LADIES' COOKING CLUB.

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

THE MATTER WITH THE MOUNTAIN.

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

COUNTRY HOMES.

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

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

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

REMEDY FOR POISON IVY.

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

A FLY'S FLIGHT.

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

FARMERS, SUPPORT THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

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

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

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References: H. A. Forks, Esq., Pres. Knox Co. Fair, Vincennes, Ind.; Rev. J. H. Trowbridge, Riverside, Ill.; S. L. Bardwell, Esq., (Banker) Belle Plaine Iowa; J. D. Rexford, Esq., Pres. First National Bank, Jansville, Wis. USE CALCICAKE! or prepared calcimine. Fricatives and sample cards showing beautiful color of both PAINT and CALCICAKE furnished free by mail. THE AVERILL PAINT CO., 171 Randolph Street, Chicago, Ill.

HOW TO POST A STRAY.

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

THE STRAY LIST.

Strays For Week Ending August 14, 1878.

Atchison County—Chas. H. Krebs, Clerk.
HORSE—Taken up by Mathias Glem, Kapiola Tp. (Aringford P. O.) June 28th, 1878, on dark bay horse, collar mark on right shoulder, 16 hands high, 6 years old. Valued at \$80.
Brown County—Henry Isely, Clerk.
PONY—Taken up by J. F. Babbitt, Blawatha Tp. (Hawatha P. O.) March 25th, 1878, one sorrel mare pony 13 years old, large white star on face, hind feet white, white hair scattered over the body. Valued at \$15.
COW AND CALF—Taken up by S. H. Dean, of Hamlin Tp. (Sabalia, Nemo Co.) (P. O.) April 2nd, 1878, left hind white cow with better calf, cow 7 years old, marked with underbelly in right and crop in left ear, branded on right hip with brand resembling J. I. Cow with calf valued at \$25.

Crawford County—A. S. Johnson, Clerk.
MULE—Taken up by Moses F. Beard, of Washington Tp. (Girard P. O.) July 16, 1878, one brown mare mule, three years old, white nose, about 15 1/2 hands high. Valued at \$75.
MARE—Also, one pony mare, four years old, light bay, stripe from forehead to nose, both hind feet white, black ring around right pastern joint, about 12 hands high. Valued at \$20.
HORSE—Taken up by P. O. Wood, of Crawford Tp. (Girard P. O.) one bright chestnut sorrel horse, bald face, left hind foot white, also has ring tone on same foot, about 5 years old. Valued at \$30.

Jefferson County—J. N. Inley, Clerk.
MARE—Taken up by Herman Newman, Delaware Tp. May 25th, 1878, one black mare, 4 years old, 14 hands high, star in forehead, white scar, saddle girth mark. Valued at \$25.
PONY—Taken up by E. M. Hutchins, Delaware Tp. July 13th, 1878, one sorrel horse pony, 3 years old, blaze face, 3 white feet, right eye (P. O.) April 2nd, 1878, left hind foot white to ankle with scar as of rope. Valued at \$20.
PONY—Taken up by Jerome Kunkle, Kentucky Tp. June 3rd, 1878, one brown horse pony, about 7 years old, left hind foot white, some white in forehead, scar on right shoulder. Valued at \$25.

Johnson County—Jos. Martin, Clerk.
HORSE—Taken up by Geo. W. Ridge, in Oxford Tp. July 18th, 1878, one bay horse, 3 years old, saddle and harness marks, 15 hands high, and both hind feet white.
HORSE—Taken up by Henry Rhoades, living three miles west of Gardner, in McManis Tp. July 2nd, 1878, one bay horse, 14 1/2 hands, scar on right hip. Valued at \$25.

Labette County—L. C. Howard, Clerk.
MARE—Taken up by M. P. Logan, of Fairview Tp. May 17th, 1878, one 14 mare, about 14 hands high, 8 or 10 years old. Valued at \$20.
HORSE—Also, one sorrel horse, 3 years old past, 14 1/2 hands high, white hind feet. Valued at \$25.

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

Montgomery County—Jno. McCulloch, Clerk.
HORSE—Taken up by Sarah Mason, of Lonsburgh Tp. June 10th, 1878, one gray horse, blind in left eye, about four years old. Appraised at \$25.

Morris County—A. Moser, Jr., County Clerk.
MARE—Taken up by E. W. Moon, in Elm Creek Tp. June 24th, A. D., 1878, one brown pony mare, about 15 hands high, with small scar on left shoulder. Valued at \$20.

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

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

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

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

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

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

STRAYED!

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

Strayed or Stolen!

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

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No Bar.
There's music in the big dog's bark
And in the rooster's strain,
When they together after dark
Walk up the streets and lanes;
Then, too, the town-cow's melody
Is something rather rich;
Still, we don't like it, for you see
We've got no ear for such.

BENEATH THE STARS.

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

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

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

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

When married men complain of being in hot water
at home, it turns out half the time that it's cold.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

An Irishman and his wife quarreled, and she started
out of the house, swearing she would never come
back. Her husband went to the door and said:

"Mary, Mary, would yez be afther leaving the
nice house?"

"Divil take the nice house, Pat."

"Mary, Mary, would yez be afther leaving me and
the childer?"

"Divil take yez, and the childer too, Pat."

"Mary, Mary," cried he, unbuckling his coat
and exhibiting a bottle of whisky, "would yez be
afther leaving the likes of this?"

"Aha," said she, coming back and smiling, "ye
coaxing roger; yez could coax the birds out of the
bus-shes."

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

Most of our farmers have commenced plow-
ing for wheat.—*Chetopa Advance.*

The oats crop, owing to the rust in some lo-
calities of the county, will make a light yield.
Some fields reported the yield large.—*Holton
Recorder.*

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

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

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

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

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

SADDLEBAG NOTES.

NO. XXXV.

Going southeast from Edwards county I
passed through Pratt county again, this time
across the southern part of it. Not being or-
ganized, it is attached to Reno county for ju-
dicial purposes and assessed as one of the
townships of that county. There was raised
here this year 3601 acres of wheat which will
probably yield 15 bushels per acre. There
was 3703 of corn planted in the county this
year. There are 234 horses, 91 mules, 486
head of cattle, and 4495 sheep in the county.

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

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

Near Saratoga I noticed a flock of 2150
Mexican and grade merino sheep. They were
brought from New Mexico in September 1876.
The fleece averaged 2½ lbs apiece in 1877 and
this year nearly 3½. They are owned by
Messrs. Potter & Co.

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

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

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

It can neither be taken under the home-
stead law nor under the timber culture act. It
is only sold to actual settlers on a year's time.
The only money required to be paid in ad-
vance is \$2.00. This is for the necessary pa-
pers.

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

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

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

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

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

WHEAT ON VIRGIN SOIL.

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

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

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

COST OF FENCING AND BREAKING PRAIRIE.

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

Breaking 160 acres,	\$320.
Fencing, as above,	250.
Total,	\$570.

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

BLUE STONE, AND ITS USE IN WHEAT.

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

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

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

From Franklin County.

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

Wheat in three places has been threshed;
one in Linn county, in the northwest corner
of the county, reports from three farms; it
ranges from 18 to 22½ bushels. Another in
Anderson county, only three miles from my
residence, yielded 39½ bushels acres; this
field was estimated at harvest time, about 30
bushels. In the other case the average is 23
bushels. You will see from the above that
one of your correspondents was under the real
estimate in place of over. It is, perhaps, too
soon to place much reliance on even these
statements. Very little has been done at this
date in threshing. Will report progress.

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

From Douglas County.

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

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columns, you will confer a favor by stating
you saw it in the KANSAS FARMER.

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