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THE KANSAS FARMER.

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Weather Laws.—No. 9.

SUNSPOTS.

From Professor Loomis paper on Auroras, (Smithsonian Report 1865, page 243), I give a table of sunspot frequency, magnetic storms, and auroras, since the beginning of the present century:

Year.	Sun Spots.	Magnetic Disturbances.	Auroras.	Year.	Sun Spots.	Magnetic Disturbances.	Auroras.
1798....	2.8	7.44	.....	1832....	22.0	.....	.....
1799....	5.9	7.56	.....	1833....	7 5	.....	min.
1800....	10 1	7 14	.....	1834....	11.4	7.79	.....
1801....	30 9	7.74	.....	1835....	45.5	9 57	.....
1802....	38.3	8.28	.....	1836....	96 7	12.34	.....
1803....	50	9 16	.....	1837....	111.0	12 27	.....
1804....	70.	8 48	max.	1838....	82.6	11 03	.....
1805....	50.	8.72	.....	1839....	68 5	8 84	max.
1806....	30.	.....	.....	1840....	51.8	7.43	.....
1807....	10.	.....	.....	1841....	29 7	6.34	.....
1808....	2 2	.....	.....	1842....	19 5	6 57	.....
1809....	0.8	.....	.....	1843....	8.7	6.05	min.
1810....	0.0	.....	.....	1844....	13.0	6.99	.....
1811....	0 9	.....	min.	1845....	33 0	7.65	.....
1812....	5.4	.....	.....	1846....	47.0	8.78	.....
1813....	73.7	6 56	.....	1847....	79 4	10 75	.....
1814....	20.	7.62	.....	1848....	100.4	10.27	max.
1815....	35.	7.66	.....	1849....	95 6	9.97	.....
1816....	45.	.....	.....	1850....	64.5	8.32	.....
1817....	43.5	8 55	.....	1851....	61.9	8.09	.....
1818....	34 1	8.81	max.	1852....	52.2	7.09	.....
1819....	22.5	7.77	.....	1853....	37.7	6.81	.....
1820....	8 9	7.79	.....	1854....	19 2	6.41	.....
1821....	4 3	9.10	.....	1855....	6.9	5.98	.....
1822....	2.9	8.83	.....	1856....	4 2	6.95	min.
1823....	1.3	8.18	.....	1857....	21 6	7.41	.....
1824....	6.7	8.20	min.	1858....	50.8	10.37	.....
1825....	17.4	9.67	.....	1859....	96.4	10.05	.....
1826....	29 4	9 76	.....	1860....	98.6	.....	.....
1827....	39 9	11 31	.....	1861....	77 4	.....	max.
1828....	52 5	11.52	.....	1862....	59.4	.....	.....
1829....	58 5	13 74	max.	1863....	44.4	.....	.....
1830....	59.1	12 40	.....	1864....	45 6	.....	.....
1831....	38 8	13.17	.....	1865....	.....	.....	.....

The sunspots were maximum in 1871 and minminimum in 1876-7. The average aurora maximum (according to Tice) occurred again in 1871. Extreme minimum in sunspots occurred in 1755, 1784, 1798, 1812, 1823, 1833, 1843, 1856. Extreme maxima occurred in 1769, 1779, 1778, 1804, 1813, 1830, 1837, 1848, 1860.

But when we seek resulting maxima and minima, the periods become a little different. Of these intervals, Professor Loomis says, speaking of the magnetic variation:

"Upon inspecting this table the annual range of the magnetic needle exhibits periodic variations, and these variations show a remarkable regularity in the last twenty-five years, embracing a period during which the needle has been observed with much greater care than formerly. The interval from one maximum to another is a little more than ten years. We also perceive that the successive maxima are not equal to each other, but exhibit variations which indicate a periodicity, showing a tendency to attain their greatest value after an interval of five periods or from fifty to sixty years. The relative frequency of solar spots exhibits a similar periodicity and the maximum number of spots corresponds in a remarkable manner with the maximum value of magnetic variation. Indeed for the past forty years the times of maxima and minima of the two phenomena have been almost absolutely identical, and seem to favor the conclusion that the apparent anomalies occasionally noticeable in the earlier observations are due mainly to incompleteness of the observations, for it is only since 1826 that any one has undertaken to keep a continuous record of all spots visible at any time upon the sun's disk; and before 1818 the observations of the magnetic declination were for the most part only occasional, and are generally insufficient to determine the mean annual range of the magnetic needle. The observations seem also to indicate that the successive maxima are not all equal to each other; one period, from 1779 to 1839, comprehending a period of fifty-eight years." [I should call it sixty years].

"We have found that auroras exhibit a periodicity; the last period extending from 1779–80 to 1839–40, embracing an interval of sixty years; and during this period there have been indications of alternate maxima and minima, corresponding in a remarkable manner with the sunspot frequency, if we except the period from 1800 to 1820, during which the auroras were too infrequent to afford the basis for safe deduction."

"It seems pretty well established that these three phenomena—the solar spots, the mean daily range of the magnetic needle, and the frequency of auroral exhibitions, manifest two distinct periods; one period from ten to twelve years and the other a period of from fifty-eight to sixty years. The first of these corresponds to one revolution of Jupiter, and it has been suspected that Jupiter might be the cause of these periodical disturbances in the sun's surface. If Jupiter does, indeed, exert such an influence, then it is to be presumed that Saturn must exert a similar influence, which would have a period of about thirty years; and since five revolutions of Jupiter correspond to two of Saturn, embracing a period of fifty-nine and one-half years, at the end of this period the two planets return to nearly the same relative positions, and their joint action should exhibit a period of fifty-nine and one-half years."

"If Jupiter and Saturn do indeed exert such an influence upon the sun's surface, then it seems probable that each of the other planets must also exert an influence, (though perhaps inappreciable), and the earth may exert a direct influence upon the sun's surface, causing irregularities in solar spots whose period is one year; and Venus and Mercury may exert a similar influence of shorter duration." (And more often occurring).

"If we inquire for the mode in which the planets might exert an influence upon the sun's surface, we are left almost entirely to conjecture. One plausible hypothesis is that there are continually circulating about the sun powerful electric currents, which currents may possibly be the source of the sun's light; that these currents act upon the planets, developing in them electric currents, or modifying the currents developed in them by the action of other forces; that these currents circulating around the planets, react upon the solar currents with a force depending on the variable distances of the planet, and therefore having periods corresponding to the periodic revolutions of the planets. These disturbances may be the cause of the sunspots, and these solar disturbances may, by reacting upon the planets, produce magnetic disturbance and the unusual displays of the electric light in the aureras."

Turning again to Professor Richard A. Proctor's article, "Sun," in the American Cyclopedia, we see that Schwabe fixed the interval in sunspots to 10½ years, but that Professor Wolf, of Zurich, fixed upon 11.11 years, and that the long period, or "period of periods," is 59 years.

Professor Proctor has been quoted as having said in his lectures in this country that there was no connection between the planetary motions and the solar disturbances and the weather changes necessarily incident to any change in solar activity. He is quoted as having said that Jupiter in perihelion could exert no more influence upon the sun than the earth exerts all the time, and that the passage of a number of planets through a common syzygy* was a matter not calculated to produce any disturbance upon the sun, and hence no reactive effect upon terrestial meteorology. The article in the Cyclopedia shows that Professor Proctor has changed his mind or been misquoted.

As I have said, the question of whether the movements of the planets correspond in any distinct and appreciable degree, with any changes occurring in terrestial meteorology, is utterly separate and distinct from all question as to how it is done. There may be those "electric currents circulating around the sun," or it might be that the upheavals are the result of a demon cooling his broth, but this is certain, we shall never know of such an hypothesis being proven or disproven. There is, however, a mode of explaining these perturbations upon the solar surface, by perfect analogies translated from our terrestial experience to the central luminary.

The moon is known to raise up tides, in any fluid matter immediately between the earth's center and the moon's center, and also upon the side of the earth opposite to the moon. The sun is known to do the same thing, and a conjunction of these two influences is known to produce the highest tide, or "spring tide." When these two forces act at right angles to each other, then they partially neutralize each others influence upon the waters of the ocean, and the lowest tides are produced. When the moon and sun are opposite, spring tides are again produced, but they are not quite so strong as when the sun and moon pulled from the same side. As the moon goes around the earth, it is presently at right angles to the solar pull, and "neap tide" is again felt. These tides lie a little behind the point mathematically indicated for maxima and minima.

If the sun has fluid seas and is enveloped in a fluid atmosphere, the attractive forces exerted by the planets must thus raise tides upon those solar seas, and cause also centers of low pressure and high pressure in that solar atmosphere, as the molecular tensions are decreased and increased by those opposing and concurring attractive forces.

So far, then, as this hypothesis is concerned, we can say in advance of testing it by tabular data, that we can sit down and compute the period of time and the relative value of the pull of any planet upon the sun, or of any two of them, or of any three of them, or any four of them, and finally of all of them on the same side of the sun—half of them on one side and half on the other, or of part in conjunction and part in quadrant. If there is any relationship between these conjunctions and sunspots, some correspondence in the periods should exist, and the departures from maximum or minimum variations should correspond to some definite departure of the disturbing force from maximum and minimum effect.

If the influence exerted by the planets is electrical the response should be instantaneous, and the phenomena of terrestial meteorology dependent thereon should vary at once from maximum to minimum—up or down as the disturbing cause varies.

If, however, the disturbing influence is exerted by the medium first of augmented or diminished solar radiation, and hence of a change in the mean temperature of wind, water, and air, upon the earth, the responses cannot be instantaneous—the effect will lag a little and occasionally break, by the lagging becoming so great as for one wave crest to correspond with another wave trough.

Whatever be the disturbing element to break forth in these eruptions, and whatever hypothesis we accept as to the cause of periodic variation in auroras and magnetic storms, we will find that it must fulfill the following conditions:

1. It must have a period of more than two years and less than fifteen.

2. It must be a disturbing force which has major and minor maxima.

3. It must have a grand maximum and grand minimum of long period.

4. The disturbing cause must be such as gives for the weather variable results, both in intensity and in time.

If we look through the solar system, we can find nothing to cause these solar disturbances but the masses of matter revolving about the sun. Of these Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune have periods longer than two years. While the periods of revolution of these planets are very constant in time, not so with respect to their co-operative influence. At one time they are on the same side of the sun, and at another they are on opposite sides, and again they pull at right angles to each other. The planets fulfill all the required conditions for sun disturbers, and they are the only things in the solar system we know of, which could produce these disturbances.

*NOTE.—Two or more planets are said to be in "syzygy" when a line joining them passes through the sun.

Color Among Thoroughbred Short-Horn Cattle.

A good deal has been said in the FARMER during the past three months on this subject, and Mr. Waltmire has been pitched into with unnecessary severity by at least one correspondent. The editorial comment on the last article however is so just and truthful, that further comment is unnecessary.

Having been engaged in handling these cattle more or less for the past forty years it has been my privilege to see public opinion change more than once in regard to the color of this favorite breed.

In 1837, my father brought three thoroughbred cattle from Ohio to Illinois of an importation from England in 1835–6. The entire imported stock was a deep red, of a general good development, but much heavier in horn and tail, than prevailed in later years. (The practice of filing and all other artificial ornamentation was unknown in those days. The animal stood as nature made him.)

The first thorough-bred roan that came under my notice was in 1839, and was brought from Kentucky by Henry P. Dunlap, of an importation (I think) from England by Hon. Henry Clay; about the same date as our reds. But up to 1844–5 the reds outnumbered the roans largely. About this time A. J. Dunlap succeeding his father in business had enlarged his herd by a number of importations from Kentucky, among which was several roans, and John Wentworth was in the same business near Chicago in a small way.

I write this from memory as there was no "American Herd Book" up to this time, and copies of the English work was not in the hands of every breeder at that period.

In 1844 Lewis F. Allen published, or proposed to issue, a volume of an "American Herd Book of Short-horn Durham Cattle early in 1845 if sufficient encouragement was received." A copy of this proposal may be found in Vol. 4 page 194, *Prairie Farmer* of August, 1844. This proposal resulted in the establishment of our present S. H. Herd-Book.

In the fall of this year fairs were held in the counties of Kane, Will, Peoria, and perhaps one or two others. But among the thoroughbred cattle at these fairs I only know of two roans, and the committee was inclined to question the correctness of their pedigree, on account of their color.

A few years later however, I think about 1849, several other herds were started, prominent among them was Edward Byram, who brought a fine herd Kentucky, among which was a magnificent roan bull, which was subsequently famous for the number of state and county premiums taken by him. From 1850 to '55 the roans gradually grew in favor with the public, and at this time were about equal in number to the reds.

From 1857–61 they were in superior numbers at the Illinois state fairs, and as they ranked the finest animals in the state among their numbers, the reds became unpopular, and up to 1870 the reds were altogether overshadowed by the roans and white. About this time some prominent breeders imported some very fine reds, and as their descendants came into use among the herds, the red color again rose in popular esteem.

For the past few years, "Rose of Sharons," "Duke of Woolfords," "Duke Airdries," and other popular strains in red color has been all the popular rage, and as breeders have to yield to public demand, many fine roans and white stock animals have been sent to the "back pasture" and kept out of sight.

It is unjust and unfair to charge Mr. Waltmire or any other breeder with dishonesty, because he furnishes the public with what they *will have*, to the exclusion of better animals in a different color.

I have at this time a herd of 40 head of thoroughbred short-horn cows and heifers, fully three-fourths of which are red and white, the few roans in the herd contain some of the finest animals I own. They are continually passed by almost without notice by visitors, most of whom have an eye only for red color, and if their attention is called to a roan cow filling a breeder's eye with fine points, they generally reply, "Yes, she would be a splendid cow if it wasn't for her color."

I am pleased to see, however, that the color line is becoming less regarded than a few years back and an animal of fine points will be able to stand on his merit rather than color. As an evidence of this, I notice a pure Booth bull in Major Crane's herd which he was holding for his own service, that would have been objected to at once by these "true to coolr" breeders. It is true Major Crane's "Duke of Woolford" and 28th "Duke of Airdrie" are deep red, and he is largely in this color, but it is a good omen of the future to see such breeders as he setting color aside for merit in the future offspring of his herd.

When the time comes that a roan short-horn of superior merit will be able to rise above color prejudice, we may hope to see our thoroughbred herds take a higher stand in merit than at present. May that time soon come.

J. W. BYRAM.

Cedar Point, Kas.

The Philosophy of Farming.

The science of agriculture is perhaps less understood than that of any other species of industry; and I am inclined to think that this always will be the case from the very nature of the subject. There are so many factors enter into the problem that are beyond the reach of human foresight that no positive system of rules can be laid down, which if followed out will bring about certain results as in chemistry and the mechanical arts. Heat, cold, moisture, drought, hail, wind and insects, too numerous to mention, are all uncertain elements, any one which may destroy the hopes of the husbandman in spite of the best plans and the most careful cultivation of his crops.

Every intelligent man knows that crops well put in, in good season and thoroughly cultivated will in the long run be the most sure to produce good crops. But any observing man also knows that this rule has many exceptions. We have all seen good crops raised that were just scratched in, and left to take their chance, and we have seen failure when the most care and attention has been bestowed upon them.

Now this is not a fair argument against thorough farming which, like blood, will tell, but in support of my first proposition, that agriculture can never be made an exact science. We have seen twenty bushels of plump wheat to the acre raised here from the volunteer wheat left upon the land at harvest, simply plowed and harrowed. While for the last ten years the fields that have yielded that amount have been the exception, and five to ten bushels the rule under a very thorough and careful cultivation.

Previous to the present year, the wheat that was sown upon land that was plowed and sowed early in the season was almost sure to yield a good crop. This year the reverse is true. The early sown has failed and the late is the best crop. Thus overturning all previous experience.

It is such facts as these that lead so many farmers to deride all book farming, as they call any information that comes to them in print, while they will swallow whole all the dogmatic assertions of some neighbor who, having pursued a certain course and obtained one good crop, tells them that that is the way, and the only way, to do it.

The disposition to teach is much more common than the disposition to learn. The new comers that flock into Kansas are always ready to tell us why our crops fail. We do not farm as they did in York state or Ohio, and they will show us how to raise crops in Kansas.

Our agricultural papers are all valuable aids to the farmer, but to the KANSAS FARMER, the "Old Reliable," is worth more than half a dozen that are published east of the Mississippi, because it deals with our soil and climate, and gives the experience of men who have farmed for years here and have learned by dear experience the best modes and crops adapted to this location.

Every farmer must study his own soil and climate and the crops best adapted to them, and pursue a steady course, and not be induced to adopt new crops or modes rashly, or the advice of others, but follow those plans that have proved best in the average of years and he will have as few failures as the nature of his business will admit.

And when he has done his best and circumstances beyond his control prevent his reaping the harvest, let him submit to the inevitable with as good a grace as possible, remembering that disappointments and trials are the lot of humanity, and seem to show of what temper the man is made.

WM. PETTIS.

Saline Co., Kas.

Ring-Bone.

Can you give me a cure for ring-bone? Horse has been lame all summer and is getting worse. The horse is rather old but valuable.

JOHN BETHELL.

Concordia, Kas.

Ring-bone, when attacking old horses, and if not treated at the commencement of the disease, is doubtful of complete cure or removal, but we need not despair even here of relieving the pain of the animal and prolonging its usefulness. For recent cases, and on young horses, the following ointment used as directed constitutes the best treatment that has come under our notice: First—The treatment should be to the removal of all heat and inflammation by the application of woolen cloth bandages, wetted with cold water every two hours during the day, cloths to be removed during the night. The cloths should be of sufficient width to thoroughly cover the part affected, and long enough to admit of at least four wraps around the leg; use of bandages to be continued for three days, then remove them and procure at the drug store 1 drachm of biniodide of mercury or red iodide of mercury; mix it well with one ounce of lard and apply one-half of the mixture by rubbing it on and well into the part with the hand for ten or fifteen minutes; tie the horse's head so he will not be able to reach or lick or bite the ointment off. The next morning wash off the medicine with soap and warm water; anoint the ringbone once each day with linseed oil or lard for the space of a week, then apply the last half of the salve and proceed as directed for the first application. Should the above not have the desired effect, you might try the spavin cure and blister, manufactured and advertised by Dr. B. J. Kendall. It has a very extensive reputation as a ringbone and spavin cure, but not having given it a trial cannot recommend it. Kendall's spavin cure, or blister, can be procured of me by mail by enclosing in registered letter the price, which is $1.00 per bottle for the spavin cure and $1.00 per box for the blister. Dr. Kendall publishes a very excellent and practical little treatise on the horse and his diseases.

ROSS COOK, Veterinary Surgeon.

Spring Hill, Kas.

At a public sale of first-class Jersey cattle in England, June 19th, at which Mr. Thornton officiated, the average made by 26 females was £31, 19s., 3d.; that of 4 bulls was £26, 7s., 7d.; and the general average on the 30 animals was £31, 4s., 4d.

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Farm Stock.

Breeding a Flock of Mutton Sheep.

Some one of the mutton breeds must be selected, either for pure breeding or to cross upon the Merino or grade sheep. The latter must, of necessity, be the plan adopted, since there are not pure-bred sheep enough to be had within any practicable limit of price to set up any large number of flocks. It is therefore evident that we must breed our mutton sheep from the materials at our command, and we certainly have a pretty extensive variety of material upon which to engraft the Down, Leicester, or Cotswold blood.

If our breeders will follow the wise example of Bakewell, in reference to the style of sheep to be improved, it will much hasten their progress. In Bakewell's time, Leicester sheep were long-legged, rough-boned sheep, greatly wanting in symmetry of shape. He started out with the sound principle that the largest proportion of the value of a sheep was in its mutton, and he had also observed that the medium-sized, compact and symmetrically-formed sheep took on flesh much more readily than the larger and rougher specimens. He therefore selected from various flocks the most evenly and symmetrically developed animals he could find, that showed the greatest aptitude to fatten, and that he thought would produce the largest proportion of valuable meat and the least amount of offal. Having made his selections, he carefully studied the pecularities of the individual animals from which he bred, and never hesitated to discard those that did not come up to his ideal. It is true he selected all his animals from old Leicester blood, and that he did not scruple to breed those together that were related, but the animals bred were selected for their strong points of adaptation to each other.

Breeders of to-day may select on the same principle as did Bakewell, choosing the medium-sized ewes and those having the most even development, from the grade Merinos or the common bloods, and crossing upon these a good Down, Leicester, or Cotswold ram. But, as in Bakewell's case, the selection of the best must continue, and the defective be constantly weeded out. In-and-in breeding produced no evil effects in his case, because he constantly coupled such males and females as tended to remedy the defects that existed on either side. This mode of selection resulted in the most remarkable improvement in the Leicester sheep as a meat-producing animal that has ever occurred in the history of breeding. The change in external appearance of the old and new Leicesters was so great as to be regarded by some as a new variety of sheep, and led many to suppose that Bakewell had crossed different breeds in producing the result; but this is clearly disproved.

There can, however, be no doubt that if our sheep breeders will make such selections of ewes as we have indicated, and proceed to cross one of these fixed breeds of mutton sheep upon them, continuing with males from the same strain of blood, the result, in a few generations, will be an extremely uniform animal; and then males may be selected from the same flock.

Our readers must not suppose this to be an expensive plan of improving a flock. The ewes may be selected at a mere trifle above ordinary price. And a Leicester, Southdown, or Cotswold ram can be purchased or leased at a small sum. The outlay above purchasing an ordinary flock need not exceed $50 to $100, if a start is made with from 25 to 50 ewes. If such a system of breeding should be multiplied to any considerable extent, it would also produce a class of ram breeders, as it has in England; and the system of ram-letting would also be here introduced, which has many advantages, for this would enable the breeder to select a ram from a considerable number, and he could change the ram as often as he found advantageous.

The result of crossing the Southdown and Cotswold rams upon grade Merinos has been so well tested in this country as to be no longer regarded as an experiment. The progeny are found to feed nearly as well as the full blood, and the improvement on the first generation is considered a full return for the expense. The next generation approximates still closer to the type of the male, and, of course, the cost of this system of breeding becomes less and less the longer it is continued. There is no loss upon those discarded as breeders, for they pay their full cost when sent to the butcher. The temptation to keep defective animals for breeding will not exist in this case as in the case of pure breeding, for the value of the animal will be measured by its value for mutton and wool. There is nothing sacrificed here, either in carcass or fleece, for the mode of improving the one will also improve the other. The Merino blood will improve the wool, and the Cotswold blood will improve the meat.—*Nat. Live-Stock Journal.*

Poultry.

Turkey Raising.

E. D. Curtis, of Kirby Homestead, N. Y., has discovered something about raising turkeys:

We have had our share of tribulation with turkeys. Last year we had seven old ones and raised one. They all died when small by running in the wet grass. One morning shower killed a dozen. This year we thought we had made a discovery which would save the young turkeys—to wit, to confine the mothers in large coops on ground which had been plowed. We chose a cornfield convenient to the house, and here the young turkeys ran about freely without getting wet and chilled. They were fed eggs boiled hard and wheat bread soaked in milk three times a day. They found a great many worms and insects. They grew rapidly, and did well until they were able to fly around, when they began to droop and die. We could not understand for some time why, with the same food and care, our turkeys should do so well until they were almost able to take care of themselves, and then die without any apparent cause. After we had lost fully half of them it occurred to us that vermin might be the cause. A careful examination showed that they were covered with mites, which explained the mystery. A thorough sifting of powdered sulphur among the feathers destroyed the vermin and saved the turkeys. Another year we hope to profit by our experience, and with plowed ground and plenty of powdered sulphur put on the old turkeys before the broods are hatched, and a similar treatment to the little ones when taken from the nest, we expect to have success.

Poultry Notes.

Feed growing fowls generously.

Eggs and poultry are wholesome articles of diet.

A rural home is not complete without the crowing of cocks on the premises.

Guinea fowls are vigilant sentinels, giving prompt notice of the approach of marauders.

Don't be too heroic in dosing sick chicks. We have known doses given to *chicks* that would kill a full-grown man.

The best whitewash for fowl-houses is made by adding an ounce of carbolic acid to each gallon of plain whitewash.

The breeding season is about over now, and it is a good plan to separate the hens from the cocks, till after they moult.

Corn is the principal stand by for poultry food, but it should not be the only grain employed, or be fed whole, continuously.

The smaller or laying breeds are the most profitable when only a few are kept. The same is true even on farms near large cities, where eggs always sell at a fair price.

Buttermilk is very much relished by some persons in summer, and is considered very wholesome. Those who have tried it as a drink for young and half grown chickens pronounce it excellent.

Look out for "scaley leg" among your old fowls. The young chicks will catch it from the adults. Apply Stoddard's poultry ointment to this unsightly nuisance till a cure is effected.

In order to properly fumigate the poultry house, put into burning sulphur a pound of old tobacco leaves, or a piece of common resin twice as big as an egg, and close the house perfectly tight. Insects cannot live in this kind of atmosphere.

Vigorous, healthy fowls may almost always be detected by the rich color of the comb, which is a sure indication of health. The comb of a diseased fowl always loses color in proportion as the disease approaches its worst stages, in some instances turning black. We would advise those who suspect disease among their fowls to give the matter of the color of the comb a close study. As an index, it is to the fowl-keeper what the pulse of the human subject is to the physician.

One of the best tonics for chickens, and probably one of the simplest, is to keep a handful of old rusty nails—the more rust on them, the better—in each dish from which they drink. The rust is the oxyde of iron sold by the druggists, and the home made is as good as the sale article.

The first eggs of the litter are always the best for hatching. After a hen has produced twenty or thirty eggs in perhaps as many consecutive days, the strain upon her strength is very great, and consequently the eggs become impaired in vitality and capacity to produce vigorous chickens.

If chickens have sore eyes (though they ought not to, and won't if your management is correct from the beginning, before the eggs are laid and on), you can apply glycerine to good advantage, one small drop to each eye. This will soften the edges of the lids so that the bird can open them.

Young chickens drink a great deal of water, but they, in common with all animals, know just how much they need. Mix your corn and dough very dry and crumbly, therefore, and let your fowls drink fresh, cool, clear water after they are through eating. If your mess is mixed too thin and sloppy, you will force them to swallow more water than they need, in order to get at their feed.

Ground bone is excellent for growing chickens, if it can be procured very sweet; but this is so seldom the case, and it spoils so quickly in warm weather, that we have of late become disgusted with its use. The fresh pounded and fed as soon as rejected from the kitchen are much better. They are rich in both organic and inorganic matter. They contain oily and albuminous material for the growth of the birds.

Fowls at the moulting season undergo a great drain of the system, to supply the growth of new feathers. Deaths from this cause are, apart from a direct pecuniary loss, not looked upon as a misfortune. The sure eye of nature has picked out the very ones that you would be glad to be rid of, could you detect them, and has left you the hardiest individuals to breed from, the weakness of such particular ones, moreover, often consisting in some profound fault that does not show itself.

If taken as soon as she begins to be broody, it is not difficult to break up a hen inclined to sit; but after she has been that way for a week or two, the habit becomes confirmed. Our method is simple and effectual. We have a large coop kept for just such cases, and in it the candidate goes as soon as she shows a decided inclination to sit. Plenty of water is given, while the food is principally wheat or screenings. Into the same coop we put a young crower. This treatment soon cures.

The special capacity of women for caring for pets is so well established that it is a matter of surprise that a larger number do not make their natural inclination a matter of profit in the raising of poultry. There is no reason why woman may not be as successful as man in this branch of productive and profitable industry. Indeed, when it is considered that the business requires close attention to minute details, patience and gentleness of manner, woman seems to be peculiarly fitted for the business.

Those who are so situated that they can, will find it most beneficial to their fowls to shut them out of the poultry house and make them roost in the trees during five or six months of the year, at least; they are hardier, healthier and more growthy for it, and less likely to be infected with lice. Young stock, especially, as soon as left by the hen, should be encouraged to roost in the trees. They may be allowed to remain out until ice begins to form in the cool weather of October. It is very rare that fowls thus raised are troubled with roup or snuffles, or get their combs and wattles frozen.

A curious calculation has been made and published in a French paper, in regard to hens. It reckons the number of hens in France at forty millions, valued at $20,000,000. Of these about one-fifth are killed annually for market. There is an annual net production of eighty million chickens, which in market yield $24,000,000. The extra value to be added for capons, fattened hens and the like, is put at $2,200,000. The production of eggs is reckoned at an average of one hundred eggs to each hen, which are worth $48,000,000. In all it is reckoned that the value of hens, chickens and eggs sold in the markets of France amounts to $80,000,000 annually.—*Poultry World.*

Horticulture.

The Apple Orchard.

James Bundy, of Delaware county, N. Y., relates his experience in the *Tribune*, in growing an apple orchard:

When I began planting apple trees, I set them 25 by 28 feet apart. My later planting has been 30 by 30. I would not plant closer; I can get as many apples, and better grass and grain crops, while it is more convenient working between the trees at the latter distance. The Northern Spy pays the best of any variety I have. R. I. Greening and Baldwin stand next. The Spitzenberg is among the very best of apples, but the tree is short lived. Wagener is a first-class apple, but the man who plants very many trees makes a mistake; they "windfall" badly; not more than one-half are fit for market, and the best half are irregular in shape. I think no definite and invariable rules can be given for pruning, as the different varieties require very different handling. A Spy should be trained to branch quite low, say three feet from the ground, as the inclination is to grow quite straight up; it requires careful thinning in the center. The outer shoots also need shortening back, in order that at fruiting time the branches may be short and strong, and not liable to split down from the body of the tree, a thing which frequently happens to this tree if neglected while it is coming up to bearing age.

The Greening is quite different in its style of growth, and should not be allowed to branch at less than four feet, and then, after the first few years, its branches need pruning from the under side to keep them from drooping too much, while the top will need but little attention save the shortening in of here and there a branch and occasional thinning. I would train all other trees according to their habit of growth, keeping them evenly balanced, with plenty of room for air and sun.

The odd year, sometimes called the "off" year, or year in which most of the orchards bear but a small crop, may be remedied, I am sure, by girdling a part of the trees about the 20th of June of the even year—that is, take off an entire section of the bark four to eight inches wide just below the limbs, being careful not to injure the new forming wood. It checks the wood growth, forces the formation of fruit buds, and will not kill the tree. A few of my trees girdled some years ago, gave nearly a full crop the last "off" season. A barren tree may thus be brought into bearing.

Grape Vine Flea Beetle.

This insect, so well known to grape growers, devours the foliage of expanding buds early in spring, and later in the season the larvæ feed upon the leaves. It was described by David Thomas in Stillman's Journal half a century ago, and the remedy which he adopted for destroying the beetle was to catch them on their first leap in a tin vessel lined with molasses at the bottom. In a late number of the *Tribune*, Prof. Comstock, United States Entomologist, describes a much improved mode for their destruction, which he has adopted with success. The beetles are jarred down on spread sheets impregnated with kerosene. The jarring process in general is quite similar to that which we have frequently described for destroying the plum curculio. Pieces of sheeting a yard wide and two yards long are stretched by wooden roads. For taking the flea beetle, these sheets are then drenched with kerosene and placed on opposite sides and under the vine. A blow is then given with a heavy stick to the slats to which the vine is attached, bringing the beetles down on the sheet, where the kerosene kills them almost instantly. To be fully effectual the remedy must be used early in the season, before the insects have had time to multiply, and before they have done serious injury to the buds. The jarring process is easily applied to the curculio without the kerosene, as these insects "play possum" as soon as jarred, and remain motionless long enough for the thumb and finger manipulation on them.

Summer Pruning Grapevines.

It is an injury to any plant to take away much of its folinge when it is growing. Still, it is oftener a greater injury for some special object we have in view to leave the foliage on. For instance, in grape growing we want a few good strong canes to bear fruit next year, and not a large number of small and weak ones; or we need some strong branches low down on the vine; so we have to take away the branches we do not want in order to have the vine put all the strength into the branches we need. This is the principle involved in the summer pruning of grapevines. But not to weaken the vine by the loss of much green foliage, we should take the earliest opportunity to take out and shorten useless branches. By being taken out early in the season, there is not much injury to the vine, and there is more time for those which are left to profit by the absence of the useless ones.—*Meehan, in Tribune and Farmer.*

Apiary.

The Cyprian and "Holy" Bees.

It will doubtless be interesting to many of our readers who do not keep posted up very closely in the bee literature of the day, to learn that the latest bee excitement is an importation of bees from the island of Cyprus and the Holy Land. Mr. D. A. Jones, a wealthy Canadian apiarian, sailed last spring for the island of Cypress for the purpose of importing to the United States and Canada, Cyprian queens, the Cyprians having been represented as a superior race of bees. From the island of Cyprus Mr. Jones continued his journey to Palestine in search of the bees of that country, on learning that they were as far superior to the Cyprians as the latter to our common black and Italian bees.

The following letter published in the July number of the bee journals, gives a full account of Mr. Jones' bee-hunting enterprise. Since the letter was written he has landed safely in New York with large numbers of the new queens which are now being offered for sale at prices ranging from $10 to $15 each. After referring to his visits to the leading bee-keepers of Europe, the latter continues:

"I sailed down the Adriatic Sea, crossed the Mediterranean, and landed at Alexandria. From there we went to Cyprus, and, after visiting every point where bees were kept, we succeeded in purchasing a large number of Cyprian bees. We located our apiary at Larnica and prepared hives for over two hundred colonies. Mr. Benton started transferring and bringing over the mountains about one hundred colonies on mules and camels' backs, a distance of from thirty to forty miles; and the expense is very great transporting in that way, as there is only one wagon-road from Larnica to Nicosia, and only mule and camel paths where the bees were. So while Mr. Benton was collecting bees and getting everything in shape at the Larnica apiary, I went across to the Holy Land, and made a flying visit through Palestine and Syria, and examined the bees in all parts of that country, my object being to ascertain if they had any valuable characteristics worthy of notice. I was happily surprised to discover a most valuable race of bees; and I think I have struck the fountain-head of superiority. I was so wonderfully attracted by them that I ventured into some not very safe places to investigate and ascertain if there was any difference in the bees in the different parts of the country. I found them going double the distance, and in some instances more, for honey when necessary, than any of our Italians or blacks in America. They also fly very much faster, and dart from one flower to another with such rapidity that I found great difficulty in catching them, which I only succeeded in doing after they were very heavily laden. They seem to be able to carry immense loads, and fly wonderfully swift when so loaded. In numbers of instances I found them at an incredible distance from their hives. I secured a number for microscopic examination, as they have powers of locomotion not possessed by any races I have ever seen.

"That they are a pure race of bees that have existed there for thousands of years, and probably since the foundation of the world, I have no question. That they have valuable qualities not possessed by any others, I feel very sure. I may say I was so favorably impressed with them that I sent a cable message home to Canada from Jerusalem for a large sum of money to further enable me to import a large number of them, as well as the great Cyprian bee, which has proved its superiority over our blacks and Italians.

"I secured a large number of colonies of the 'Holy' bees, as the natives call them. I got them from the following places: Mount Lebanon, Mount Hermon, Mount of Olives, the Valley of Sharon, Bethlehem, the Hills of Judea, Jerusalem, Jordan, Ammon, East of the Jordan near the Desert, Galilee, Damascus, and various other places in Syria. I sent them to the coast on camels, mules, and donkeys, and the loss was very heavy. In some instances it took nine days to make the journey. When they arrived at the coast, and the expenses were counted, I was astonished to find some costing very many pounds.

"I had them transferred to steamers and sent to Cyprus, where I have my great Cyprian Apiary, as the natives call it, for raising queens, and they will be transferred from their hives, of various sizes and shapes, to my movable comb hives, and prepared for their long journey to Canada.

"I think, after my losses are taken out, I will have left at least one hundred and fifty queens from Palestine, but as the combs are so badly broken in the hives, I cannot tell until I get them all transferred and in shape.

"I will start from here with a large number of colonies for Canada, about the 12th of May, stop in London, to give them a purifying flight, then proceed to America, where I hope to arrive with all safety."

Dairy.

A Milk Room for Hot Weather.

Mr. S. Taylor, of Pennsylvania, writes as follows: "In 1878 I built a milk house; first dug four feet in the ground on a slope of about three degrees; stoned up around on all sides, and put a frame over it 12x16 feet, 8 feet high from stone to plate; put on a roof of shingles; boarded up on inside and outside, leaving a space of three inches between boardings. But I find that it is not cool enough in the warm weather to keep the milk a sufficient time for the cream to rise. I have no spring to have water in it. Will it make it cool enough to put up another frame around it, eight or more inches, and board it up and fill between with sawdust and put on over the shingle roof another roof, leaving a space between the two roofs of ten or twelve inches?"

The plan suggested would make the room very much cooler than before, but it would occasion a needless expense. It would be better and cheaper to cover the inside of the walls with a coat of ceiling paper, and then ceil over this with sound and narrow matched boards. An inch furring should be put under the paper where the edges lap, and another under the middle of each strip of paper. Then outside of the paper another set of furrings should be put right over the first, and drawn down snug with large nails so as to make the lap of the paper air-tight. It is better to put the paper up and down the walls. The furring will then come right to put the boards on horizontally. Thus by adding three inches to the thickness of the walls, there will be two dead air spaces of one inch each, which, with double door and windows and a good floor overhead, will need nothing more to give a sufficient refrigeration to keep milk sweet long enough for the cream to rise in the hottest weather, if the milk is not set more than three inches deep. It would not be cool enough for deep setting. With the air kept pure and dry, such a room is well suited to the production of choice butter.

PROF. L. B. ARNOLD.

Prof. Arnold's plan—the Professor is the dairy authority for the agricultural column of the New York *Tribune*,—would work reasonably well in Pennsylvania, but his house would scarcely pay for the expense of lining as protection against Kansas south wind, which is one of the worst penetrators of dairy rooms. If such a building as described by the owner had the addition of a windmill pump to supply water, it would make a very fair dairy room, and in a large, deep tank filled with cold well water twice—or three times in the warmest weather—a day, the deep setting plan for milk could be practiced. With the addition of a Cooley Creamer and wind-mill pump, such a dairy house would be perfect for saving the cream and making butter. With a screen of a double row of trees planted on the south and west sides, the house would be materially improved. Every farm might and should be provided with such a dairy room. It would add to the profit, and greatly to the comfort of the family.

Miscellaneous.

Rice Corn.

The last six months I heard and read so much about rice corn that I put in some 12 acres. Some I put in broadcast and some in drills. I intended it for fodder, but it is growing so nice, and heading very nice, and would make a very heavy crop to all appearance, but now I am stuck and don't know whether to let it get ripe or cut it now. I have asked several men about it. Some advise me to cut it now. They claim that when it matures that stock won't eat the fodder, that it gets too hard; others advise me to let it get matured, I will then have the corn and nice fodder, so I have come to the conclusion to write the FARMER and have your advice on it.

It will be a great help not only for me, but many others in Sequoyah county.

We have had a big rain here, and crops are growing nicely now, and along our Egyptian ditches we can show crops that are splendid.

F. F.

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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 Appropriation Bill.

Extracts from a speech of Hon. D. W. Akin, of South Carolina, on the appropriation bill presented by the committee on agriculture:

It is not asked that government assistance should be substituted for individual exertion in developing the agricultural resources of our country; but the farmers demand that the government shall secure by adequate salaries such talent in the agricultural department officials as can and will guide and direct them when groping in the dark after scientific truths; for be it remembered, Mr. Chairman, agriculture is a science, and it would be no panegyric to call it the mother of sciences. We know it is the source of all our national wealth, and the very bed-rock of our national prosperity. Some may style this the poetic phase of the question, but not so with me. I speak for those who feed the cotton-gin and the grain-thresher and walk between the plow handles, and not for these who write rural poetry and chant georgies and bucolics, when I assert that agriculture is a science, and the most occult of all sciences, the successful evolution of whose truths not only requires a consumption of time and expenditure of labor, but a disbursement of money far in excess of the accumulated wealth of private individuals.

An appropriation is asked for in this bill to continue the recent experiments made by the agricultural department in the manufacture of sugar. Since the days of John Adams it has been known to the American farmers that both molasses and rum could be made from the juice of the corn stalk; and twenty years ago hundreds of unsuccessful efforts were made to manufacture sugar from sorghum. But failure attended every effort until the government, by oft repeated and costly experiments, established, beyond a peradventure, that there is but little less crystallizable sugar in the juice of sorghum than there is in the juice of the sugar cane of the West Indies; and after carefully conducted experiments in the laboratory of the department the computation has been made that less than one-fifth the cultivated area of Illinois, if grown in sorghum, could be made to produce annually more sugar than we import. Nay more, sir, the unquestioned conclusion has been arrived at, from successful experiment and legitimate computation, that Illinois might produce and crib her millions of bushels of corn, and from the stalks manufacture annually more sugar than we have ever imported in a single year. To my mind, sir, this is one of the grandest discoveries of the nineteenth century, and should immortalize the parties who made it.

Last year we imported over one billion seven hundred million pounds of sugar, worth abroad $70,000,000, but costing the consumers over $110,000,000, by reason of the excessive import duty levied for the protection of less than a score of sugar refineries in two or three of our large cities.

Ponder well these facts, ye farmers of the northwest, whose lands, though they be as fertile as the delta of the Nile, have within the past fifteen years decreased in productiveness 20 per cent. Reflect upon your own extravagance, when it is a well ascertained fact that by properly utilizing the stubble of the corn fields of one of your states, the tax payers of the country might be relieved annually of a burden of forty millions of dollars.

Mr. Speaker, the countries whence we import this vast amount of sugar are nearly all slave-holding. The recent abolition of slavery in some of them, and the gradual emancipation of the slaves in the others, will, in all probability, in the near future, materially reduce our sources of supply, and for this reason, if for no other, this discovery of the agricultural department is most opportune.

An appropriation is also asked for to aid the agricultural department in encouraging the growth of the tea plant, and manufacturing the commercial article, so that we may become the producers, and no longer remain, as we are, the purchasers of twenty millions of dollars' worth of tea annually. Thirty years' experience has satisfied individuals in more states than one in the south that tea can be grown successfully; but it has been left to the agricultural department to prove that any state south of the latitude of Washington, by devoting the same attention to the culture of tea that is now given to its staple crops, might obviate the necessity of importing a single caddy of foreign tea.

The following points are taken from the annual oration delivered before the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, by Hon. W. W. Lang:

If it is true, then, that the body of our people are to live by tilling the soil, and their occupation is to be taken up and followed by their children, the reason why scientific and practical agriculture, including in this term horticulture and stock-raising, should be taught together with general literature, is manifest. We thus accomplish what, in my judgment, is the grandest achievement of human government, we fit the great body of our people in their entrance upon the threshhold of the business of their lives, aided by a scientific training that is tantamount to actual experience to grapple successfully with its most difficult problems.

AMOUNT OF EDUCATION FOR AGRICULTURE.

There is no calling followed by man that requires a larger fund of information, a clearer and better trained judgment, greater versatility in capacity, a larger abundance of mental resources, greater familiarity with the operations of the laws of nature, than agriculture. In agriculture, as practiced in the United States, there is but little room for such division of labor and knowledge. On each farm, all the knowledge and labor needed on all farms, are required. The growing of hay, the cereals, cotton, the various garden vegetables, and the fruits of the orchard and the vineyard, the breeding and rearing of horses, mules, cattle and sheep, and domestic fowls, fattening such as are desired for food; provision against wind, rain, storm and drouth; the proper preparation, seeding and cultivation of the various kinds of soil; the protection of the crops against insects; the making and application of manures; the erection of fences, out-houses and dwellings; the caring for and growth, and the preservation of valuable kinds of timbers; the ventilation and disinfection of all buildings; the care for the vigor and health of all kinds of live stock, and the proper remedies for those that are diseased, and the prevention of the spread of infection among them; the making of gates, bridges, ax and hoe handles, stocking of plows and harrows, drainage and landscape gardening, all are the business of the farmer and should be understood by him.

To do this work intelligently and well, besides the manual labor necessary to give skill, involves a knowledge of chemistry, physics, mechanics, civil engineering, zoology, entomology, botany, metallurgy and geology. I do not mean that the agriculturist should thoroughly understand all that is embraced in these branches of human knowledge, but I do mean that a knowledge of the general and elementary principles of each is, if not essential, at least highly advantageous; and that the continued study of them, in connection with the practical operations of his calling; furnish the farmer a wide and useful field for high intellectual exercise.

England discusses the welfare of her tenant farmers. Even the deplorable condition of her Irish subjects, so long unheeded, is now an important object of her care. Russia earnestly considers the condition of her recently emancipated serfs. France is interested in the prosperity of an industrious, frugal body of small landholders and cultivators. The American goes further, and inquires: How can the American farmer and mechanic be best fitted to discharge his duty to the state as a voter and a tax payer? How shall he, by the speediest and surest plan, be endowed with the mental power to conceive and determine what he should do, and how it should be done, and with a trained hand to work out practically his own conceptions?

Speculators, politicians, all those classes of people who make a living by their wits rather than by labor, and find the ready means of doing so out of the farmers, have been, and are yet, engaged in telling the old, old story that "The grange is dead." Their wish is the father of that thought. Why do they wish that the grange should die? Because they see that if the grange prospers their occupation is gone. The grange is a farmers' school. It teaches the farmer to think for himself, and hence to act in accordance with his own interests, without trenching upon the interests of others. At the same time it teaches him that his interests are not to be trenched upon by others.

The grange is a farmers' family, and like the individual family, each member feels an interest in the welfare and well-being of every other. Hence, grangers are taught in the grange to co-operate, each for the good of all. The grange not only teaches to build up, but also to preserve, to prevent from being torn down. Now, the worst enemies of the farmers are those who prey upon the products of their labors, who filch from them the rich profits derived from their capital and industry. This, in effect, is tearing down, for the reason that it prevents from building up. But the grange is building up; it is increasing and prospering in every state in the Union, and this, too, with more of health and stamina than ever before. It is not only increasing in members, but, what is better, it is extending its usefulness upon a broader platform than ever before. It not only teaches farmers how to sow and reap and sell, and buy, but it teaches them to teach their children, so that these, as they grow up and take rank in conducting the affairs of life, may gradually more and more become able to cope with those of the so-called "learned professions," who now neither toil nor spin, yet array themselves from profits derived from the labors of the industrial classes, without laboring themselves. All this the grange is doing and will continue to do. The grange, therefore, is not dead, nor is it dying.

We have gained the respect and are exerting an influence in the different departments of our national government, which, if followed up properly, will positively lead to good results. Many thousands of farmers, through the instrumentality of this organization, are now united and determined to work together to advance the agricultural interest, and place it where it of right belongs—in the front rank of all interests and professions, and secure for it a just proportion of representation in the halls of legislation and in the affairs of government, state and national.

Patrons, I can assure you that the order can accomplish all it has promised, and all that is desired, if we, as members, do our part. Our duty, our interest, our self-respect and our manhood demand that we do this, and if we do, all will be well and success secured. At no time in four years have the prospects of the order been as good as they are to-day. More and better work is now done than ever before. Encouragements were never better. The social and educational success has united the membership, and they work together for the same good object now within reach.—*Lecturer National Grange.*

Senator Beck, of Kentucky, who was a member of the house committee on ways and means, recently said: "I saw all the great monopolies and protected interests of the country struggling there to perpetuate their privileges. I have seen the ablest lawyers argue their cases for pay, day by day—some for salt, some for iron, some for blankets, some for cotton, and for every thing that is produced; but I never saw one human being come here yet to argue for a reduction of taxation in the interests of the producers and tax payers of the country."

It is the opinion of the grange leaders that the grange will, by and by, prove to be the "Moses" whereby the producing classes will be elevated, as it were, from out of the "wilderness."

The principles of the grange put into intelligent practice, we believe, can alone protect the agricultural classes from the constantly increasing dangers with which they are surrounded.

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THE KANSAS FARMER.

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

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

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers should very carefully notice the label stamped upon the margin of their papers. All those marked '81 expire with the next issue. The paper is always discontinued at the expiration of the time paid for, and to avoid missing a number renewals should be made at once.

A PREMIUM OFFER.

The Farmer For 75 Cents.

The KANSAS FARMER will be furnished from the first of July till the end of the year 1880, to single subscribers for 75 cents, and every old subscriber forwarding a new name with the money will have his own subscription extended one month. Now, friends, let us see if the list of subscribers to the "Old Reliable" cannot be doubled by January 1st, 1881, so that we can start a boom for clubs with the New Year. Every farmer and grange patron should feel it a religious duty to assist the publications, which are enlisted in their cause, and fighting the gigantic usurpations and monopolies which are springing up on every hand. Postage stamps are convenient for small remittances.

A Constitutional Convention.

At the next fall election the proposition will be submitted to the voters of Kansas whether or not a convention shall be called for the purpose of framing a New Constitution for the state. This is one of the most important propositions which will be submitted to the people, and yet it is safe to say that not one in ten of the voters is aware that such a propositon is to be submitted. The majority, probably, will become apprized of the fact for the first time on the day of election—when a slip of paper is handed to them with the words—"For, or Against, a Constitutional Convention."

For the calling of such a convention some reasons, doubtless, will be adduced. But the question for the people to decide in casting the ballot is, whether on the whole the reasons adverse to the proposition are not the more weighty.

After a careful consideration of the whole subject we must confess that our own judgment is that it will be decidedly for the interests of the people of Kansas that the proposition in question be defeated, and that for several reasons:

1st, The state cannot afford the expense which such a convention, if called, would necessarily involve. The costs would not probably fall below $30,000, and might exceed $50,000. This expense, at a time when a large number of our people, especially on the frontier, are struggling against the poverty entailed by successive failures of crops, would certainly seem unwarrantable.

2d, In the present status of the population of our state, the calling of a constitutional convention would be premature. Kansas, as all know, is settled by people from every state in the Union. They have hardly become assimilated in their views as to what constitutional provisions would be most desirable. The part of prudence as well as of economy, therefore, would seem to dictate that the present, at least, is not the time for a constitutional convention. Ten or fifteen years hence will be soon enough to call such a convention, if even then it should be at all necessary.

3d, Our present constitution, with its amendments of nearly twenty years, is in all probability, certainly as valuable as any new constitution which we could reasonably hope to get. The United States constitution has served the nation for over one hundred years. It has been perfected by additional amendments as exigencies required. Our state constitution for one-fifth of a century, has been undergoing a similar process of adjustment to the broadest precedents of law and equity. If there are valuable features in it, as all must admit, let us not jeopardize these features by committing them to the manipulations of a hastily convened convention. If there are defects in our state constitution let these defects be corrected by distinct amendatory propositions submitted one by one directly and squarely to the people. This, on the whole, is the safest, the most economical and best method of perfecting the constitution of a state. We trust, therefore, that on November next the people will say so, and that, too, by such an overwhelming majority as to prevent legislative assemblies from being annoyed for years to come, by the incessant cry of infantile expounders for a new constitution.

Kansas Insurance Report.

Mr. Orvin T. Welch, superintendent of the insurance department of the state of Kansas, has issued the 10th Annual Report of the State, ending December 31st, 1879. This report is very full and complete of the business done in Kansas by the several insurance companies (fire and life) licensed to do business in the state. In addition to a review of the business transacted by the companies, the report contains much valuable information respecting the working of insurance companies, suggestions and recommendations by which insurance companies could be made more responsible, safe, and hence useful to the public. The report contains a large amount of information on the too little understood subject of insurance. Especially is this so in the case of life insurance companies, which are managed on the most vague, loose and unsafe business principles conceivable.

The number of fire insurance companies doing business in the state is 60. Number of licenses issued to agencies 2,523, which is 746 more than for same date previous year. Premiums paid for fire insurance during 1879, $509,327.70; losses paid in same period, $158,211.13; increase of business in 1879 over that of 1878, above 42 per cent. The average rate in the state paid on premiums is 1½ per cent., while the average on business of the entire country is a fraction less than 8 mills. The per cent. of losses to premiums received in the state is 31.06 per cent., while the percentage of loss on the entire business of the country averages 62 per cent. By this showing it will be seen that property in Kansas is assessed enormously high on premiums as compared with the entire country, while the losses are scarcely above 31 per cent. as against 62 per cent., the average of the entire country. Or, in other words, the rates of insurance average over 75 per cent. higher, while the losses are nearly 100 per cent. less.

The superintendent finds, on examination, that some of the companies are not as honest as they might be in making their reports, but deliberately falsify under oath to make for their companies a good showing before the public.

On the first day of January last there were sixty regular life insurance companies doing business in the United States. These companies had, on that day, policies outstanding to the number of 722,422, covering risks to the amount of $1,542,909,011. The assets of these companies were $449,537,793.

The chapter on "Contingent Life Insurance Interest of the Country," contained in the report, reveals the startling fact that there is no absolutely safeguard thrown round this vast sum of money which belongs to the policy holders, but at any time it is liable to be appropriated by an officer or officers of the company. The loose, insecure system on which our life insurance system is based and conducted, is in violation of all sound business laws, and is one of the things which calls loudly for a speedy remedy, and the protection of the people by adequate laws. This paper of the report is very instructive and should be read by every individual holding a life insurance policy, and all others contemplating life insurance. Thousands have already been swindled by this loose system of life insurance, and thousands more will be if a remedy is not speedily supplied to check the evil.

Rice Corn.

A correspondent in the present issue of the FARMER, from Sequoyah county, has twelve acres of Rice corn, some of which was sown broadcast and some of it put in with the drill, and he wishes to know how he had best proceed to get the most of his crop. Mr. J. H. Foster, of Livingston, Stafford county, has raised rice corn for four years, and he gave us the following information in reference to the best way to handle the crop:

The seed will ripen while the stalk and leaves remain green. As soon as the seed ripens and before it is dry enough to shell, go through the field and cut the tops off about half an inch below the head. The stalks may then be cut up and shocked to cure like Indian corn fodder for winter feed for stock. If the fall is wet, the stalks, if allowed to stand, will throw out branches and form a new crop of heads, producing nearly as much grain as the first crop. The grain after being gathered, must be spread so that it will dry and cure without heating. Mr. Foster has raised on old ground as much as fifty bushels per acre of rice corn when he only got two bushels of Indian corn planted on similar land on account of dry weather. He thinks that 125 bushels of clean seed can be made on an acre if rice corn is planted early, and the fall is wet enough to keep it growing so as to make a second crop, but he says 50 bushels of clean seed is sure from an acre no matter how dry the season. The grain is ground and bolted precisely as Indian corn, and sold in the local market last year for the same price as corn meal, people having their choice generally preferring the rice meal. It is made into bread in the same way that corn meal is treated, in every respect.

Mr. Foster gave us the following hints on gathering the crop: A sack is suspended in front of the gatherer by a strap over the neck and a belt to tie or button round the waist, the sack being so adjusted that the mouth will fall open. The gatherer proceeds with a sharp knife to top the stalks and drop the heads in the sack till full, which will contain a bushel or more. The sack, as fast as filled, is emptied into barrels which are placed in a wagon driven through the field as the topping proceeds. The grain will ripen and be ready to harvest while the stalks and blades are perfectly green, and as previously stated they may be cut up and shocked to dry for fodder, or if the season is propitious and the first crop ripens early, the canes may be left to grow and mature a second crop, when the stalks can be cut up and saved for fodder, which make good fodder if cut up and properly cured while they are green and growing.

Mississippi Agricultural College.

Good examples are infectious. The Michigan and Kansas agricultural colleges are attracting attention all over the country, and their example of training boys for practical farm work is destined to work a wonderful change in the system of education.

Mississippi, in organizing her agricultural college, has determined to take the Michigan institution as her model. The President of the Mississippi Agricultural College, Gen. S. D. Lee, has visited the Michigan college to investigate the course of study and management of that institution. In some remarks by Gen. Lee, while visiting the Agricultural College at Lansing, he informed his audience that he had found in the statistics that 50 per cent. of the graduates engage practically in the agricultural and mechanical arts. Of our literary institutions generally not more than 1½ to 2 per cent. engage in these callings, but it speaks well for this institution that it sends 50 per cent. of its students into agriculture. This fact shows that the students are here taught not only science and belles letters, but that the true spirit of American industry is inculcated in leading them to choose the agricultural and mechanical arts as an avocation in life. In this he saw the great value of the institution to this commonwealth clearly shown.

President Lee chose two graduates of the Michigan college as assistants in the Mississippi institution.

Thus Mississippi proposes to cure existing evils by giving her young men an education suited to young men raised in an agricultural country. The south and west are eminently agricultural, and their schools should be organized with this important fact kept prominently in view. What is most needed in these divisions of the country are the education of the boys and girls to make the most of the undeveloped wealth which is so profusely distributed around them and beneath their feet. When others than *lesson* teachers take the management of our schools in hand, better results will be achieved. The great mass of those employed in teaching have no ability for improving on the systems and forms which have been given to them to follow and copy. They are not original thinkers but followers and imitators, who pursue the business of teaching from sheer necessity. But there is a perceptible advance being made, and in the reformed agricultural college the dawn of a brighter day to farming is clearly perceptible.

"The Primaries."

We have urged farmers to be prepared for these important meetings. Few realize the true nature of these small and apparently insignificant local gatherings. If they are studied and examined carefully, and their acts traced up to crowning results, they will be found to be the very germs of our political system. Here our system of republican government renews itself annually. The power that is delegated by the people which becomes the symbol of government and nationality is virtually laid down, reclaimed, as it were, by the people, and redelegated to other servants. It is renewed and revitalized by coming back to the people. The primary meeting is the incipient stage of the new government, and from that point the power of the people may be traced as it proceeds and divides into the several departments, placing its servants in the numerous positions they are to occupy and clothing each with his allotted power, prescribing his duties, from the lowest on up to the president of the United States. If these apparently insignificant "primaries" were to cease our government would speedily become a usurpation or an anarchy. Unless the citizens of each neighborhood designated whom they wished to hold the reins of power and authority, our elections would be chaos, resulting in nothing. One neighborhood would not know the wishes of another; a thousand candidates for the same office might be voted for, with no choice, no majority, no minority recognizable.

We have urged the good citizens to be prepared for these seemingly insignificant neighborhood meetings, and especially farmers, who have so much at stake and so little influence in shaping the policy of the government and making the laws which spend their money and so mercilessly tax them, to be prepared to advance their best men at these meetings. Here is, in reality, where the mantle of power is conferred by the sovereign people, which clothes the servant and ruler with the dignity of office. The election is but another and more manifest development of growth. The primary has virtually selected the future ruler. Farmers, if you have harkened to our advice and counciled together you will designate men of your own class and calling in all the country places where primaries are held. In the towns and villages of any size, professionals—professional office-hunters and holders—will put in men of their own household. No farmer will ever be chosen by them. If you expect representation and influence in the legislature you must choose your men from among yourselves and in all the country districts. It is too late for the approaching elections to form alliances or other co-operative societies for the purpose of exerting greater power politically, but the liberal use of a little common sense will go a great way in filling the next legislature of the state with solid men chosen from the ranks of the farmers. See to it that your strongest men are placed on the tickets, and then put them through by a united effort. Do not expect them to go out and beg and button-hole the public to insure their election over some worthless sealawag set up by the office-hunting ring of the town, but do the work for him; and he will feel that his arms are upheld and strengthened, and will go forth free and untrammeled to perform his duty.

In one of the counties of Kansas the census enumerator found three persons, and in another fourteen, and the cost to the government for counting these seventeen persons, was $75.

Jersey Cattle Bred at Beech Grove Farm.

Such is the title of a neat and very tasty pamphlet published by the proprietors, Messrs. F. M. Churchman and George Jackson. Beach Grove Farm is in Marion county, Indiana, near Ingellston, which is the name of their post office. The proprietors assure the public, in their pamphlet, that this herd is bred solely with reference to the performance of the cows at the pail, regardless of color or points. The record of these cows as butter makers is something astonishing, ranging from 12 to 17 pounds of butter in one week, and the milk yielding from 25 to 33 per cent. of cream. We clip the following paragraph from the pamphlet:

"It will be observed that the per cent. of cream as shown by the graduated glass, varies greatly in different animals. It is well known that the longer the time after calving the richer the milk, and a heifer that produces 20 per cent. one month after calving, stands very high as a rich cream producer, and the probability is that at six months from that time she will yield 30 or 35 per cent. cream. The average yield of cream for the year by the *whole herd* is 25 per cent., or one-fourth, as shown by the graduated cream gauge. It is not unusual for some of the cows, at certain stages of milking, to throw up 40 and 50 per cent. cream."

Pamphlets and Catalogues Received.

THE YELLOWSTONE VALLEY.

A neatly printed volume of 138 pages, paper cover, by Thomson P. McElrath—"a handbook for tourists and settlers;" a description of the Yellowstone Valley; is issued by the St. Paul Book and Stationery Company. The "Guide" tells all about this wonderful country and how to get there. For 50 cents the publishers will mail the book to any address.

The premium list of the Twenty-eighth Annual Illinois State Fair. Fair will be held at Springfield, Ill., Sept. 27 to Oct 2d. S. D. Fisher, Sec., Springfield.

Premium List of Fifteenth Annual Fair of Southwestern District Agricultural Society, to be held at Cape Girardeau, Mo., Oct. 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16. Wm. Parr, Sec., Cape Girardeau, Mo.

A Brief History of the Standard Oil Company—a pamphlet that every one ought to read: It is a history of the greatest robbing monopoly of the age.

Cotswolds and Southdowns.

The KANSAS FARMER had a pleasant call last week from Mr. J. W. Jones, of Stewartsville, Mo., breeder of pure Cotswold and Southdown sheep. Mr. Jones' flock has been bred and selected from flocks of the leading breeders of Canada, and he claims to be able to exhibit some of the finest specimens of those famous mutton breeds, that are likely to be produced at the Bismarck Fair, where he proposes to have some representatives of his flock. Mr. Jones was on his way west for the purpose of purchasing 3,000 stock sheep. Kansas is rapidly becoming one of the most interesting objective points for breeders of fine stock of all kinds.

In noticing the Connell sickle grinder in last week's issue we stated that Mr. E. A. Goodell was agent for Douglas and Shawnee counties only. He has taken the agenny of the whole state of Kansas, and we may add has a good thing.

Defence of Hamilton County.

In the KANSAS FARMER of July 14th, I notice J. H. Oyster, in giving a short account of a trip to the Rocky Mountains, takes occasion to state that Hamilton county, among several others, looked very dry, and as though the people living in it were entirely destitute of subsistence.

I desire to state, for the doctor's information, as well as others who may read his article, that in this county there is not a destitute person, unless it be some eastern tramp; not one family that is not living better and at less expense than they ever did east. And, notwithstanding the unusual opportunities he thinks he had of learning these facts, as he calls them, I am bound to say that the person who travels through here over the Santa Fe trail, and bases his opinion on what he sees, is very much more likely to be wrong than right in his judgment. He can only see a small portion of the country, and that the highway of immigration, this season immense in its proportions; of the cattle and sheep drive, which has also been unusually large. What can you expect to see of grass, or vegetation, where for three months in the spring and summer an average of a hundred teams are passing daily, over which more than 100,000 head of sheep have been driven and more than 20,000 cattle wintered?

It is true, as the doctor states, that no rain had fallen for a long time, and that we had no snow. Our last rain was, I think, in November, 1879; our first May 14th of this year, followed by others on the 19th, 21st and 28th, June 5th, 12th, 22d, 23d, 24th, 25th, 29th and 30th, July 4th, 5th, 12th and 16th, and the face of the country is entirely changed. None of these were petty showers, but copious and widespread rain-falls; and I doubt if eastern Kansas can show a much better record.

It does seem to me that this section of our state is as little known for what it really is, as any porton of the United States. It seems to me that it is only written about by flitting travelers, who think because it is not like the country where they live, that it is good for nothing. And visionary theorists, who believe that beyond some imaginary line all is to be forever waste and desolation. One thing is certain, it is no place for either theorists or doctors. Here their "occupation would be gone." I know, as well as any one can know, that it is not now an agricultural country. Perhaps that never will be its chief industry, but it is not beyond either possibility or probability. I know people come here and fail, as they have failed before, and will fail again in other states and climates. The fault is in themselves, in their ignorance of what to do to succeed, in expecting too much. They read the flaming posters, the ornate and eloquent circulars of land grant railroad companies; they pull up stakes and start, bag and baggage, for the land of promise. To their great disappointment, they find when they arrive at their destination, that the oranges have fallen from the cottonwood trees, and no one about who is anxious to give something for nothing, and henceforth the country is in their eyes accursed.

I will not, however, continue this line of remark, but will venture next week to write you of matters and things more interesting to the readers of the FARMER. HAMILTON.

Syracuse, Hamilton Co., Kansas.

A Fraud.

The *Farmer* feels in duty bound to expose frauds whenever they arise in such a way as to threaten injury to its readers and the farming public generally. We therefore call attention to an advertisement of the American Barb Fence Co., now being extensively circulated, and we are sorry to say in some of our leading agricultural journals. In the first place there is no such company. One F. C. Taylor, of Chicago, is advertising under the above firm name solely for the purpose of swindling the trade. He does not manufacture a rod of barb wire, but depends upon buying some off-brands of worthless wire like that of the American Fence Co., of New York City, to fill such orders as he may feel disposed to fill. We would therefore warn farmers against buying barb wire either of F. C. Taylor or of the American Barb Fence Co., as they will get none other than the American Fence Co. wire, or some other poor article.

There are plenty good reliable barb wire manufacturers, such as the Thorn Wire Hedge Co., I. L. Ellwood & Co., H. B. Scutt & Co., and a number of others that are known to be responsible, and to such firms we advise our readers to send for their wire in place of patronizing such frauds as F. C. Taylor or the American Barb Fence Co., at the risk of being unmercifully swindled.—*Nebraska Farmer.*

We know nothing about the wire that F. C. Taylor, or the American Barb Fence Co., sell, but if it is as big a fraud as F. C. Taylor is, we would advise our readers to shun it as they would a case of small pox. Taylor is the most unmitigated, cheekiest dead-beat in the west, and as he has swindled the publisher of this paper, we have no doubt he would swindle any of our friends that would send him an order for his goods.—*Journal of Agriculture.*

The KANSAS FARMER was swindled by the same party, and to the above says ditto.

Post Office Addresses.

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

Messrs. H. H. Warner & Co.: Gentlemen, Without solicitation I desire to express to you my high appreciation of your remedy. Sometime since my attention was called to a gentleman who had for a long time been a great sufferer. After making a thorough examination of the case, I found that his kidneys and liver were badly affected. Not without hesitation I prescribed your safe kidney and liver cure. The result, after taking two bottles, has been satisfactory in the extreme. Without hesitation, I would prescribe the same remedy to all similarly afflicted. Yours truly,

Rochester, N. Y. R. CAULKINS, M. D.

As a Cure for Piles,

Kidney-Wort acts first by overcoming in the mildest manner all tendency to constipation; then, by its great tonic and invigorating properties, it restores to health the debilitated and weakened parts. We have hundreds of certified cures, where all else had failed. Use it and suffer no longer.

Cause and Effect.

The main cause of nervousness is indigestion, and that is caused by weakness of the stomach. No one can have sound nerves and good health without using Hop Bitters to strengthen the stomach, purify the blood, and keep the liver and kidneys active, to carry off all the poisonous and waste matter of the system. See another column.

In the Whole History of Medicine

No preparation has ever performed such marvellous cures, or maintained so wide a reputation as Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, which is recognized as the world's remedy for all diseases of the throat and lungs. Its long continued series of wonderful cures in all climates has made it universally known as a safe and reliable agent to employ. Against ordinary colds, which are the forerunners of more serious disorders, it acts speedily and surely, always relieving suffering, and often saving life. The protection it affords by its timely use in throat and chest disorders, makes it an invaluable remedy to be kept always on hand in every home. No person can afford to be without it, and those who have once used it never will. From their knowledge of its composition and effects, physicians use the Cherry Pectoral extensively in their practice, and clergymen recommend it. It is absolutely certain in its remedial effects, and will always cure where cures are possible. For sale by all dealers.

The List of Fairs.

We publish, this week, a list of the fairs to be held in the state of Kansas this fall. The list is as complete as it could be made, some of the counties not having reported to the State Board of Agriculture. We have had a great deal of inquiry for this list, which shows that much interest exists regarding the fairs of the state:

Allen County Agricultural and Mechanical Association, Iola, no fair.

Humboldt Agricultural and Mechanical District Association, ——, ———.

Anderson County Fair Association, Garnett, no fair.

Atchison Industrial Exposition and Agricultural Fair Association, Atchison, at Atchison, Sept. 6 to 12.

Central Kansas Fair Association, (Barton), Great Bend, no report received.

Brown County Agricultural, Horticultural and Mechanical Association, Hiawatha, no report received.

Butler County Exposition and Horticultural Society, Augusta, no fair.

Cherokee County Agricultural and Stock Association, Columbus, at Columbus, Sept. 22, 23 and 24.

Spring River Valley Agricultural, Horticultural, Mechanical and Stock Association, (Cherokee Co.,) Baxter Springs, no fair.

Cloud County Agricultural and Mechanical Association, Concordia, no report received.

Walnut Valley Fair Association, Winfield, no date stated.

Crawford County Agricultural Society, Girard, at Girard, Sept. 7, 8 and 9.

Kansas Central Agricultural Society, (Davis Co.,) Junction City, at Junction City, Oct. 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Dickinson County Agricultural Society, Abilene, at Abilene, Oct. 13, 14, 15 and 16.

Doniphan County Agricultural, Horticultural and Mechanical Association, Troy, at Troy, Sept. 28, 29, 30, and Oct. 1.

Kansas Valley Fair Association, (Douglas Co.,) Lawrence, no fair.

Ellis County Agricultural Society, Hays City, no fair.

Ellsworth County Agricultural Society, Ellsworth, no date stated.

Franklin County Agricultural Society, Ottawa, at Ottawa, Sept. 29, 30, and Oct. 1 and 2.

Greenwood County Agricultural Society, Eureka, at Eureka, Oct. 6, 7 and 8.

Harper County Agricultural and Mechanical Association, Anthony, no report received.

Harvey County Agricultural Society, Newton, at Newton, Sept. 29, 30, and Oct. 1.

Jackson County Agricultural and Mechanical Association, Holton, at Holton, Sept. 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Jefferson County Agricultural and Mechanical Astociation, Oskaloosa, at Oskaloosa, Sept. 28, 29, 30, and Oct. 1, 2.

Valley Falls, Kansas, District Fair Association, (Jefferson Co.,) Valley Falls, at Valley Falls, Sept. 21, 22, 23 and 24.

Jewell County Agricultural and Industrial Society, Mankato, no report received.

Johnson County Agricultural and Mechanical Association, Olathe, no report received.

Labette County Agricultural Society, Oswego, at Oswego, Sept. 14, 15, 16 and 17.

Lincoln County Agricultural Society, Lincoln, no fair.

Linn County Agricultural Society, LaCygne, at La Cygne, Sept. 28, 29, 30, and Oct. 1.

Linn County Agricultural and Mecoanical Association, Mound City, at Mound City, Sept. 28, 29, 30, and Oct. 1.

Lyon County Agricultnral Society, Emporia, at Emporia, Sept. 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Marion County Agricultural Society, Peabody, at Peabody, Sept. 21, 22 and 23.

Marshall County Agricultural Society, Marysville, at Marysville. Sept. 21, 22, 23 and 24.

McPherson County Agricultural Society, McPherson, no report received.

Miami County Agricultural and Mechanical Association, Paola, at Paola, Sept. 29, 30, and Oct. 1, 2.

Northwestern Agricultural and Mechanical Association, (Mitchell), Asherville, no report received.

Montgomery County Agricultural Society, Independence, at Independence, Sept. 30, and Oct. 1, 2.

Morris County Agricultural Society, Parkerville, at Parkerville, Sept. 20, 21 and 22.

Morris County Exposition Company, Council Grove, at Council Grove, Oct. 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Norton County Agricultural Society, Leota, no report received.

Seventh Judicial District Agricultural and Horticultural Society, (Neosho Co.,) Chanute. at Chanute, Sept. 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Burlingame Union Agricultural Society, (Osage Co.,) Burlingame. at Burlingame, Sept. 20, 21, 22 and 23.

Osborne County Agricultural Society, Bloomington, no date selected.

Ottawa County Agricultural and Mechanical Institute, Minneapolis, at Minneapolis, Sept. 22, 53, 24 and 25.

Pawnee County Agricultural Society, Larned, no fair.

Phillips County Agricultural and Mechanical Association, Philipsburg, at Philipsburg, Sept. 14, 15 and 16.

Pottawatomie County Agricultural Society, St. George, no fair.

Reno County Joint-Stock Agricultural Society, Hutchinson, at Hutchinson, Sept. 22, 23, 24 and 25.

Reno County Horticultural Society, Hutchinson, no report received.

Riley County Agricultural Society, Manhattan, at Manhattan, Sept. 28, 29, 30, and Oct. 1.

Republic County Agricultural Society, ——, ———.

Russell County Agricultural and Mechanical Association, ——, ———.

Sedgwick County Agricultural, Mechanical and Stock Association, Wichita, at Wichita Sept. 14, 15, 16 and 17.

Shawnee County Agricultural Society, Topeka, at Topeka, Oct. 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Smith County Agricultural and Mechanical Association, Smith Center, ———.

Waubansee County Agricultural Society, Alma, no fair.

Washington County Agricutural Society, Washington, at Washington, Sept. 15, 16 and 17.

Wilson County Agricultural Society, ——, ———.

Woodson County Agricultural Society, Yates Center, not decided.

Neosha Valley District Fair Association, Neosho Falls, at Neosho Falls, Sept. 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25.

Broom Corn.

I would like to ask a little information in regard to broom corn. I have ninety-seven acres. Would like to hear from some of the broom corn raisers how much should I pay per acre for tabling and cutting, or how much per acre if I should let some one have the crop to gather, delivered to me in the bale ready for market. Any information will be thankfully received.

Farmers are happy over the late rains.

J. A. GRAYSON.

Hutchinson, Kan., July 31.

The Improvement of Corn.

Corn is undoubtedly *our* king, and while every ten-year-old boy in the country thinks he understands all about its cultivation, the lamentable failures to produce profitable crops of this cereal in every neighborhood, indicates that there is something to be learned, hence I read with pleasure intelligent articles, such as John M. Stahl's, in a late issue, upon this subject. One or two points I thought were not elaborated quite sufficiently:

First, the *variety* of seed. It is true to a limited extent, if not entirely true, that *white* corn roots deeper and stronger than colored varieties. This may be because white corn grows larger stalks and larger ears (if you will allow me to put the cart before the horse). Have corn raisers generally noted this fact? I *think* it is true. I have been for three years growing the *largest* corn I ever saw, and the stubble is worse than sorghum to get rid of (its only objection) and its strong tap root and its equally strong fibrous roots are proof against any wind short of a hurricane. This I consider one of the most important factors in profitable corn-raising in any prairie country.

The number of stalks to be left in a hill, in my judgment, must depend upon the specific soil and upon the season. As a rule, our farmers fail to have a sufficient number of stalks on the ground. First, owing to the difference in the size of the kernels none of the planters will drop a given number every time. If some genius will get up a set of hand riddles so that we can grade our seed corn by its size before it goes into the planter, a part of the difficulty will be overcome. After this, field-mice are the greatest enemies to a good stand. We *must* use more energy in fighting these pests, and good rat-terriers offer the most success.

The selection of the seed is too much neglected and less judgment is shown than in any other part of our corn-raising. The *possibilities* of the corn crop have never been proven. I had hoped that our agricultural colleges would have taken up this matter ere this. There is no *physiological* reason why a stalk of corn should not produce an ear at the foot of each leaf stalk. Can it be made to do it by proper selection of seed and cultivation, and, if so, is it desirable? I mean if we can make a stalk produce two, four, or six ears, will our soil and average seasons mature them? These are questions yet to be proven. I am now raising the third crop from seed selected from stalks bearing two good ears. My present crop has from *two* to *seven* shoots on at least three-fourths of the stalks. If many of these make what I call good ears, and the time of ripening is not materially retarded, I shall consider the question partly answered.

I have Blunt's Prolific field corn growing, so that I can have something to compare my own seed with. Judging by the grain only, for I have not seen it on the ear, the Blunt's Prolific will not be highly esteemed, as the grain I obtained from Jas. J. H. Gregory was very shallow.

I hope to be able to allude to this subject later in the season.

A. G. CHASE.

Deep Plowing for Corn.

EDITOR FARMER.—If you will grant me a little room in your valuable paper I will endeavor to answer an article written for your paper in issue of July 7, 1880. Said article was written by John M. Stahl, Camp Point, Ill. I will not undertake to answer all of his assertions, as that, in my opinion, would be useless. The gentleman states that the application of manure is injurious to corn, and at the same time admits the manure will start the corn to growing in the spring, and that is all, and will not pay for the bother. He admits he has got into trouble in some of the eastern journals by advocating the theory of shallow plowing, and so he will in any civilized country, east or west. "Poor Richard's" theory, as he calls him, is a grand one, and I will endeavor to show that Richard is right: "Plow deep while sluggards sleep, if you want corn to sell and to keep."

In the first place, deep plowing has all the advantages over shallow plowing. It matters not, hill or valley. It cannot be denied that ground plowed ten inches deep will hold double the amount of water that ground will plowed five inches deep, consequently will retain the moisture twice as long. Secondly: Deep plowing has another advantage over shallow plowing—the deeper the ground is plowed the less it will wash; and that is one of the great principles of farming—to save your soil. Now, as to the manure starting the corn to growing in the spring, the gentleman is *right*; and as to it not being of any benefit in midsummer, as he states, he is emphatically wrong, as I will endeavor to show. Any crop, that stands on a rich foundation, has the advantage of any and all that stand on a poor foundation. The faster the corn grows in the fore part of the summer the quicker the stalk is made and the sooner the ear is forthcoming. It is a self-evident fact as I have observed it all my life, and I am almost 49 years old, that the richer the ground the sooner the crop is matured, and where the richest ground is, is always the mellowest; and there is where the gentleman will look for the greatest quantity of corn per acre. The gentleman states that corn is a shallow feeder. Undoubtedly it is, planted on shallow plowing, as the roots cannot get down, and in times of drouth must perish for want of food. I have lived in Butler county, Kansas, between nine and ten years, and I have seen my neighbor's corn wilt where they plowed four and five inches deep with their pony teams, while those who plowed nine and ten inches deep had a fair crop of corn, and those that plowed with pony teams had, in a manner, nothing. If the gentleman will examine—and he says he has—he will find he is mistaken as to corn being a shallow feeder, particularly on deep plowing. I plow with two mules that weigh 2,300 pounds, and one mare that weighs 1,100, and I breast them on a 14-inch plow, turn up my ground nine to eleven inches deep, and do my measuring on the bar or land side of the plow, and not on the turned-up soil as a great many do. I raised eighteen bushels to the acre on land that faces the north six years ago, or at any rate the year we had so many grasshoppers and chintz bugs; while my neighbors, who plowed shallow, had none. I have raised seventy bushels per acre at various periods since that time, and my land is only medium for quality. I could take some of our Kansas bottoms and produce one hundred bushels to the acre at the depth I plow.

So I say to the farmers of Kansas, or any other country, "Plow deep while sluggards sleep, and you will always have corn to sell and keep."

Threshing has commenced in earnest in Butler county and wheat is shelling at from twelve to twenty bushels per acre, and never has there been a finer prospect for corn. Corn is now in fine roasting ears.

Early potatoes, $1.00 per bushel; old corn, 35 cents; fat hogs, 35 cents per 100 pounds; good milch cows, $25.00 to $30.00; butter, 12½ cents per pound; and the people of this part of the country are happy.

HENRY BUTLER.

Douglas, Butler Co., Kas.

Cure for Sweeny.

Oil of spike, oil of organum, aqua ammonia, spirits of turpentine, spirits of wine, and olive oil of each two ounces. Mix; rub into th shrunken muscles one-fourth of the amount every alternate day, making four applications in eight days.

Our subscribers are requested to examine the slip attached to their paper and not allow their subscriptions to expire without renewing. Every subscriber to the FARMER could easily obtain the name of one or more neighbors to add to our subscription list. From the first of July till the first of January, 1881, we will furnish the FARMER to single subscribers for 75 cents, and every old subscriber furnishing us with a new name and enclosing that amount in postage stamps, will have his subscription extended one month.

One thousand six hundred and thirteen miles of new railroad have been built thus far this year, against 682 miles for the same time in 1879, 432 miles in 1878, 583 in 1877, 687 miles in 1876, 312 miles in 1875, 570 miles in 1874, 1,271 miles in 1873.

The world affords no more happy circumstances than those which surround the American farmers. They are the freest, most independent, and might be the most enlightened class of people on the face of the earth.

Proclamation by the President.

Fault-finding is seldom indulged in by those who use the medicines manufactured by the World's Dispensary Medical Association, that the President of that corporation, the Hon. R. V. Pierce, M. D., has issued a special request or proclammation to any and all persons, if there be any such, who may have taken or shall hereafter use any of the family medicines now made and sold by the said association, in all countries of the world, and who have not derived full benefit from said medicines, that if they will write the said association a description of their maladies the faculty of the dispensary will advise them with respect to the successful treatment of their diseases. Dr. Pierce's golden medical discovery is guaranteed to cure, all humors from the common blotch, pimple or eruption, to the worst scrofula or king's evil, and those virulent poisons that lurk in the system as a sequel or secondary affection resulting from badly treated or neglected primary diseases. It also cures bronchial, throat and lung diseases. Favorite prescription is guaranteed to cure female weaknesses and kindred affections. Extract of smart weed cures bowel affections, colds and all painful, rheumatic and neuralgic affections. Dr. Pierce's pellets, (little sugar coated pills), are the giant cathartic. Address, World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N.Y., or Great Russell Street Buildings, London, Eng.

Don't Spoil Your Butter.

Farmers, do not run the risk of spoiling your butter by using carrots, annatto or other cheap colors, when Wells, Richardson & Co.'s Perfected Butter Color is so much better. It is harmless as salt, and never gives a dull reddish color or any taste or smell. It is made in a strictly scientific manner by a skillful chemist, and can always be relied on.

When exhausted by mental labor take kidney wort to maintain healthy action of all organs.

Candid Talk.

We have something to say, and want to say it plainly and frankly. It is this: We know it to be a fact that Hunt's Remedy, the great kidney and liver medicine, is the only real cure for diseases of the kidneys, bladder, liver, and urinary organs. This is the plain, unvarnished truth. We do not believe as much can be said for any other medicine. You who suffer and doubt, have faith enough to try Hunt's Remedy. It will cure you. It cures everybody.

Sold by all druggists. Trial size, 75 cents.

A Lady's Wish.

"Oh, how I do wish my skin was as clear and soft as yours," said a lady to her friend. "You can easily make it so," answered the friend. "How?" inquired the first lady. "By using hop bitters, that makes pure rich blood and blooming health. It did it for me, as you observe." Read of it.

"No medicine can be compared to Marsh's golden balsam for the throat and lungs. It has cured me of a lingering cough and sore lungs, after vainly using everything else."—[G. F. Thompson, Sedalia, Missouri.

Marsh's golden balsam is for sale by every druggist in Topeka, and by prominent dealers everywhere. Large bottles 50 cents and $1.00. Don't fail to try it.

8 and 9

Eight and nine per cent. interest on farm loans in Shawnee county.

Ten per cent. on city property.

All good bonds bought at sight.

For ready money and low interest, call on

A. PRESCOTT & Co.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

I am a candidate for the office of Probate Judge subject to the decision of the Republican primary election. D. A. HARVEY.

I am a candidate for re-election to the office of Probate Judge, subject to the Republican primary election. G. W. CAREY.

Markets.

TOPEKA MARKETS.

Produce.

Grocers retail price list, corrected weekly by W. W. Manspeaker. Country produce quoted at buying prices.

LETTUCE—per doz bunches	.25
ONIONS— " "	.25
ASPARAGUS— " "	.25
RADISHES— " "	.30
NEW CABBAGE—per doz	.30@40
NEW BEETS— " "	30
PEAS—	.60
BUTTER—Per lb—Choice	.08@.10
CHEESE—Per lb	.09@10
EGGS—Per doz—Fresh	.10
BEANS—Per bu—White Navy	1.90
" Medium	1.75
" Common	1.50
NEW POTATOES—Per bu	.40
P. B. POTATOES—Per bu	.40

Butchers' Retail.

BEEF—Sirloin Steak per lb	12½
" Round " " "	10
" Roasts " " "	10
" Fore Quarter Dressed, per lb	6
" Hind " " "	7
" By the carcass " " "	6½
MUTTON—Chops per lb	10
" Roast " "	10@12½
PORK	8@10
VEAL—	12½@15

Hide and Tallow.

Corrected weekly by H. D. Clark, 135 Kansas Ave.

HIDES—Green	.06
Green, calf	.07
Bull and stag	.04
Dry flint prime	.12
Dry Salted, prime	.10
Dry damaged	5@7
TALLOW	.05
SHEEP SKINS	.25@1 00

Retail Grain.

Wholesale cash prices by dealers, corrected weekly by Edson & Beck.

WHEAT—Per bu. No. 2	.70
" Fall No 3	.65
" Fall No 4	.60
CORN — White	.25
" Yellow	.25
OATS — Per bu, new	.18
RYE — Per bu	.40
BARLEY—Per bu	.50
FLOUR—Per 100 lbs	2.90
" No 2	2.75
" No 3	2.50
" Rye	2.90
CORN MEAL	.90
CORN CHOP	.60
RYE CHOP	1.25
CORN & OATS	.90
BRAN	.50
SHORTS	.00

Poultry and Game.

Corrected weekly by McKay Bro's., 294 and 92 Kansas Avenue.

CHICKENS—Live, per doz	2.00@2.75

Chicago Wool Market.

Tub washed bright 45 to 46c per lb; do dingy and coarse 40 to 42c: fleece washed medium 40 to 45c; do fine 36 to 40c; do coarse 35 to 37c; unwashed medium 27 to 30c; do coarse 20 to 25c; do fine bright 24 to 26c; do heavy 17 to 22c; bucks' fleece 16 to 18c. Consignments from western Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas sell at about 2c per lb less than this range, and burry and poor conditioned lots at 3 to 5 cents less. Colorado wool (unassorted) is quoted at 25 to 28c per lb for medium to fine; at 22 to 24c for coarse to medium; at 22 to 24c for black.

St. Louis Wool Market.

Tub-washed—medium 43 to 45c, No. 2, 40 to 43, low and dingy 35 to 38; Unwashed—medium 29 to 31, fair do 26 to 28, low or coarse and dark do 22 to 24c, medium combing 30 to 32c, low do 24 to 29c, heavy merino 20 to 22, light do 23 to 25c, burry black and cotted ranges from 5to 15c per lb less.

Kansas City Produce Market.

WHEAT—Receipts, 7,888 bushels; shipments, 5,656 bushels; in store 72,330 bushels; market opened steady but closed weak; No. 2, 85½c; No. 3, 76c; No. 4, 69c. bid.

CORN—Receipts, 9,124 bushels; shipments, 880 bushels; in store, 79,270 bushels; market quiet; No. 2 mixed, 26¼c bid; No. 2 white mixed, 29c.

OATS—No. 2, 24c.

BARLEY—Nominal.

RYE—Nominal.

EGGS—Market dull at 6c per dozen uncandled.

BUTTER—Steady at 11 to 12c in round lots.

Markets by Telegraph, July 27.

New York Money Market.

MONEY—2 to 2½ per cent.

GOVERNMENT BONDS.

Coupons of 1881	104
New 5 5's	103½
New 4½'s (registered)	111½ to 111¾
Coupons	111½ to 111¾
New 4's (registered)	109½ to 109¾
Coupons	109¾

SECURITIES.

PACIFIC SIXES—95; 124.

MISSOURI SIXES—$1 06¾.

ST. JOE—$1 05.

C. P. BONDS—$1 12¼.

U. P. BONDS—firsts, $1 12¾.

LAND GRANTS—$1 13¾.

SINKING FUNDS—$1 19.

St. Louis Produce Market.

FLOUR—Unchanged.

WHEAT—Active, lower; No. 2 red, 96½ to 99c cash and July; 88⅝ to 88⅞c August; 88 to 88⅝ to 88 September; 88½ to 87⅞c October; 87¼ to 87½ year; No. 3 do, 85 to 86½c, according to location; No. 4 do, 79 80½c.

CORN—Lower; 36¼ to 36c cash; 36 bid July; 34½ bid August.

OATS—Lower; 23⅝c cash; 23¾ to 22⅞c July; 21¼ to 21c August.

PORK—Slow; $14 25.

Liverpool Market.

BREADSTUFFS—Market unchanged.

FLOUR—10s to 12s.

WHEAT—Winter wheat, 11s to 10s 4d spring wheat, 8s 6d to 9s 4d; California average, 8s 10d; club, 9s 9d to 10s 4d.

CORN—New, 5s 2d.

CHEESE—55s.

OATS—6s 2d.

PORK—61s 6d.

BEEF—58s.

BACON—Long clear middles, 36s 6d; short clear 38s 6d.

LARD—Cwt. 37s 3d.

TALLOW—Good to fine, 34s 6d. P. Y. C. London, 41s.

Chicago Produce Market.

FLOUR—Dull and nominal.

WHEAT—Dull, weak and lower; No. 2 red, 92½c; No 2 spring, 91 to 91½c, cash; 91½c July; 88¾ to 88⅞ August; 86c, September; No 3 spring, 80 to 84c; rejected, 60 to 61c.

CORN—Dull weak and lower; 35¾c cash and July 35c August and September.

OATS—Dull, weak and lower; 25c cash and July 22⅝c, August 22½c September.

RYE—Steady and unchanged.

BARLEY—Steady and unchanged.

PORK—Active, firm and higher; $14 00 to 14 25 cash; $14 85 to 14 90 July and August; $14 82½ to 14 85 September.

LARD—Strong and higher; $6 90 bid cash; $6 92½ to 6 95 August; $6 97½ to 7 00 September.

BULK MEATS—Dull and a shade stronger; Shoulders, $4 70; short ribs, $7 25; short clear, $7 45.

St. Louis Live Stock Market.

HOGS—Higher; Yorkers and Baltimores, $4 65 to 4 75; packing $4 70 to 4 80; butchers to fancy, $4 80 to 4 90; receipts, 1,400; shipments, 2 300.

CATTLE—Good demand, but the only supply was about ten car loads of grass Texans, which sold at $2 70 to 3 25, an advance; receipts, 150; shipments, 1,300.

SHEEP—Unchanged; receipts, 400; shipments, none.

Chicago Live Stock Market.

HOGS—Receipts, 7,500; shipments, 3,800; active and strong, 5 to 10c higher; mixed packing $4 60 to 4 85; light, $4 70 to 4 90; choice heavy, $4 90 to 5 12½.

CATTLE—Receipts, 1,500; shipments, 3,600; active and strong; shiping, $4 20 to 5 00; corn fed westerns $3 90 to 4 40; grass Texans weak, 5 c lower, $2 65 to 2 75; steers, $2 90 to 3 30; greasers during the week were $3 50; native butchers quiet and weak, $2 00 to 3 50.

SHEEP—Receipts, 500; dull and weak; all sold; common to medium, $3 75 to 4 00; best, $4 20 to 4 40.

Kansas City Live Stock Market.

CATTLE—Receipts, 1,053; shipments, 1,371; market firm and active for grass Texans; native steers averaging 1,160 lbs. sold at $3 85; cows, 2 25 to 2 75; grass Texas steers, $2 50 to 3 00.

HOGS—Receipts, 811; shipments, 125; market active and firm, 10c higher; sales ranged at $4 25 to 4 50; bulk at $4 30 to 4 35.

SHEEP—Receipts, none; shipments, none; market steady and unchanged.

Denver Market.

FLOUR, GRAIN AND HAY.

HAY—Upland, 25 to 28; second bottom, — to 25; bottom hay, — to 22; Kansas baled, 18 to 20.

FLOUR—Colorado, 3 25 to 3 40; Graham, 3 10 to 3 25; Kansas, 3 25 to 3 50.

MEAL—Bolted corn meal, 1 55.

WHEAT— — to 2 20 ℔ cwt.

CORN—1 15 to 1 20 ℔ cwt.

OATS—Colorado, 2 00 to 2 25; state, 1 70 to 1 90 ℔ cwt

BARLEY—1 75 to 1 85 ℔ cwt

PRODUCE, POULTRY VEGETABLES.

EGGS—Per dozen, ranch — to 20c; state, 19 to 20c.

BUTTER—Ranch, ℔ lb, 27 to 30c; creamery, 28 to 33; poor, 8 to 15c.

ONIONS—4½ to 6½c ℔ lb.

CHICKENS—Dressed, — to 18c ℔ lb; ℔ doz 4 00 to 5 50.

New Advertisements.

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

Strayed or Stolen.

From Snokoma, July 18, **ONE BAY MARE**, branded O I on the left shoulder, with bald face brown horse colt. Any one letting me know where she is will be rewarded by OLIVER IOTT.

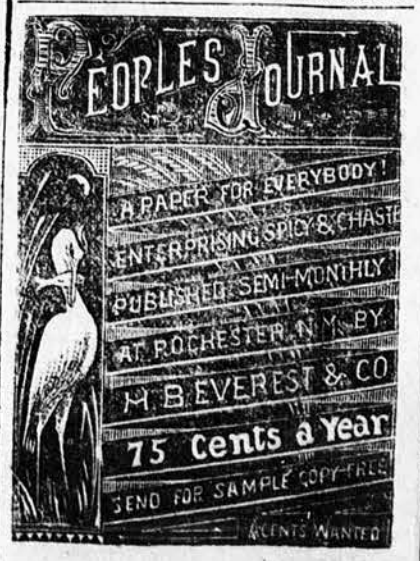
Snokoma, Wabaunsee Co., Kas.

To Swine Breeders.

We believe that the Manhattan Herd of Berkshires is justly entitled to be called the prize herd of Kansas It having now not not *less* than **25** premiums *at three* different fairs last fall, including both of the grand $50 and diploma sweepstakes premiums at the great Kansas City Expositien, for the best boar of any breed and for the best collection of swine, (not less than 12).

The best pigs of early litters have been sold, and we now offer some very choice pigs of later litters, at reasonable prices. Send for Catalogue.

A. W. ROLLINS,
Manhattan, Kas.



Literary and Domestic

Yankee Girl at Her Old New England Home.

Some two months have passed since I left my home in Kansas, and came to visit the scenes of my childhood home in New England. The various subjects of interest in my travel were numerous but time will not allow mention of all. The route I chose was an almost air line route from Chicago. Coming by the way of the Michigan Central and Great Western through the Queen's dominions, I was much interested in the very small farms, log houses, and high rail fences, made in every conceivable form—stump fences too in abundance, the stumps all put the tops inward; and so close that nothing could get between, and I do not think anything would try to go over them. I only saw one farm fenced with wire, and that had six wires—three of which were barbed.

We came through scenery, towns and cities that had some beauty peculiar to themselves. But when we arrived at the Suspension Bridge over the Niagara river I felt to behold, with wonder. It was, to describe it, *awfully grand*. Those deep, green waters, raging in their rapid fury; such a distance below us, and only confined in their channel by those high solid-rock banks. I heard some say, "shut your eyes now, we are going over Niagara," but I felt that I needed mine then more than ever; I could never afford to lose that view, so grand.

Arriving on the American side I stopped off to visit the Falls, and if the view on the bridge was grand, this was magnificent. I stood alone watching the mighty volume of water pour over those falls; sending up their roar as if to say to all: no other voice here shall be heard but mine; stand in *awe* and fear not, I'll do you no harm; it is enough, this is *my realm*; I bear away within those rock-bound walls. I made no reply. Thoughts came,—and yet I stood in silence; lost in admiration! viewing nature's wonder!

When I after visited there, those museums of art, I felt they had lost their power; so tame, when compared to that grand natural scene.

I came on in the New York Central train to Troy, taking there the Fitchburg route so as to come through the Hoosac tunnel in the day, (though I should not be so particular again, for they light up the cars before entering) and I rather enjoyed the cool atmosphere, after coming through the various villages, (cities they would be called west,) in the heat of the day. I did not suffer with fear as some tell about. I was too much interested in sight-seeing, so I opened the window, and kept my eyes open too. I saw in the center a place large enough for a table, used as a telegraph office and operator by it, so I said to him, "Do you live in here?" "Yes, call when you return.". I saw the blue light of the centre shaft.

In fact, among the different routes east I prefer this; as one of varied scenes of interest, and not the least in importance is a trip through the Tunnel. Four and three-quarter's miles under a mountain of eleven or twelve hundred feet, is no vague idea, it is quite real; it is just the opening up an almost entirely straight route from Boston to Chicago.

After I left the tunnel I soon found myself viewing the familiar scenery of my childhood days. The mountains looked far higher and closer together than they used to. Old Pocumtoc so grand among them, with the Deerfield river winding its way, so clear, that I might even count the stones in it. I can hardly describe the feelings of joy and sadness, that came over me as I came among these old places; recalling scenes and people of other days; some that left twenty-five years ago, active in life; now lie in yonder churchyard, and I there visit them, only I read "In memory of." Others that were but children then, are the men and women of today, and while many of the places, have changed occupants, and new lords make new laws—tearing down old buildings and putting up instead new modern dwellings, thus improving the general appearance. Still, I really enjoy my old home—the old red brick house, better, for the reason that change, "passed by on the other side" and left it to its own protection, everything being as it was when I left, even to the "Old oaken bucket that hangs in the well."

The same brick school house too, with its rows of benches, speak of my early pastimes and trials with Olney, Colburn, Murry and Watts, and still later, with Adams, Mitchell, Cutter and Wells. The Clessons river also, is the same musical stream. Around it, cluster the memories of many early associations, and as I now view the school children, playing on its banks, and in its clear waters; it carries me back to the days when *we children* used to play, as they now play. No river ever has *the* same musical ripple; none that can give to me such a record of marvellous and interesting events of youthful sport, in water in the summer, and on the ice in winter as this.

These old New England mountains covered with forests are really grand, and the hill-sides and valleys cultivated for farms; speak of the persevering energy of an industrious people; and now, more than ever, I can realize, that the "hand of the diligent maketh rich," for really I can hardly see how they can honestly get a living, and yet most of them are well off. This economy and prudence in saving, is what tells well for their character and purse. I believe if our own Kansas people were here, to make money farming they would hardly get an honest living; so much more pains to be taken to get a little, to make the most of it; make it count in dollars and cents. I believe I may feel safe in saying, that if these same New England farmers, were in Kansas as farmers, using the same care, they manifest here, they would probably be better off than they are here. But as some need to remain, to keep "the old land marks," I will say for their encouragement, "leave well enough alone."

I do so much wonder that having so many Franklin county folks in Kansas, that the people here, do not take a Kansas paper, and I know of none that I think could give better information with regard to all parts of *our* state, than the FARMER. I hope to inspire an interest in all here that our state is no *weak sister*, and hope that hereafter we may as sister states, compare notes on topics of equal interest to both. YANKEE GIRL.

Buckland, Mass., July 16, 1880.

Brain Work—A Necessity to Physical Health—The Latest Physiological Theory.

A remarkable proof of the harmlessness of using glasses, even a single glass, is furnished by watch makers who appear to enjoy an enviable immunity from eye diseases. It is uncommon to see a watch maker in an ophthalmic hospital. The habitual exercise of the eye upon fine work tends to the development and preservation of its powers. This is in analogy to the truth now getting currency that brain work is necessary to physical health. This idea is this remarkable passage from a book by Robert Brudnell Carter, on "Eyesight, Good and Bad:" The man who would preserve the full integrity of his functions to a ripe old age must avoid excesses of every description, and must endeavor to employ the higher facilities of his mind somewhat more energetically than is now always customary. A time comes to every one when the physical powers begin to decay, and then, unless the brain has been kept active and recipient by exercise, there is nothing left to live, and the man perishes. We say that he died of gout, or of overeating, or of heart disease, or of kidney disease, or of the particular organ which was first to exhibit symptoms of the approaching end. In reality he has died of stupidity, artificially produced by the neglect with which he was endowed. That which is true of the organism as a whole is true also of its parts; and the eyes, among others, are best treated by a systematic use which preserves the tone of their muscles and the regularity of their blood supply. The acuteness of sight, moreover, is in a great degree dependent upon the mental attention habitually paid to visual impressions; and I have often observed this acuteness to be below the natural average in agricultural laborers, who, if able in some sense to read, were not in the habit of reading and who were not accustomed to look carefully at any small objects. I have even had reason to think that the wives of such men were indebted to their household needlework for the maintenance of a higher standard of vision than that of their husbands; and I have no doubt that idleness of the eyes, and if I may use such an expression, is in every way hurtful to them, and that proper and varied employment is eminently conducive to their preservation in beauty and efficiency.

What Men Need Wives For.

It is not to sweep the house, and make the bed, and darn the socks, and cook the meals, chiefly that a man wants a wife. If this is all he wants, hired servants can do it cheaper than a wife. If this is all, when a young man calls to see a lady, send him to the pantry to taste the bread and cakes she has made; send him to inspect the needle-work and bed-making, or put the broom into her hands and send him to witness its use. Such things are important, and the wise young man will quietly look after them. But what the true man most wants of a wife is her companionship, sympathy and love. The way of life has many dreary places in it, and man needs a companion to go with him. A man is sometimes overtaken by misfortunes, and meets with failures and defeat; trials and temptations beset him, and he needs one to stand by and sympathize. He has some stern battles to fight with poverty, with enemies and with sin, and he needs a woman that, while he puts his arm around her and feels that he has something to fight for, will help him to fight; that will put her lips to his ear and whisper words of counsel, and her hand to his heart, and impart new inspiration.

All through life—through storm and sunshine, conflict and victory, through adverse and favoring winds—man needs a woman's love. The heart yearns for it. A sister's or a mother's love will hardly supply the need. Yet many seek for nothing further than success in housekeeping. Justly enough, half of these get nothing more. The other half, surprised beyond measure, have obtained more than they sought. Their wives surprise them by bringing a nobler idea of marriage, and disclosing a treasury of courage, sympathy and love.—*London Christian Union.*

Boys and Small Fruits.

Boys on farms, like boys in other places, want spending money, and are often sorely troubled to obtain it. They scarcely like to ask their parents for money to buy articles that please their fancy, and they have few opportunities to work out, for when neighboring farmers wish to hire help, there is plenty of work on the farms where they belong. Their best chance to earn money appears to be in cultivating some crops at home that requires small capital to engage in, a small amount of land for its production, but which produces a considerable amount of money. The small fruits are excellent in these respects. They may be set out at times when the soil is too wet to be of good advantage, and may be cultivated at odd hours when there is little to do in the fields. They require but a small amount of land, and produce more money from an acre than any farm crop.

Whipping Children.

A parent who does not know how to govern a child without whipping it, ought to surrender the care of that child to some wiser person. Sportsmen once thought it was necessary to lash their dogs in training them for the field. They know now that the whip should never be used. Horsemen once thought it was necessary to whip colts to teach them to start on the spot at the word, and pull steadily. They know now that an apple is better than the lash, and a caress better than a blow. If dogs and horses can thus be educated without punishment, what is there in our children which makes it necessary to slap and pound them? Have they less intelligence? Have they colder hearts? Are they lower in the scale of being?

We have heard many old people say: "If we were to bring up another child we would never whip it." They are wise, but a little too late. Instead of God doing so little for children that they must be whipped to goodness, He has done so much for them that even a whipping cannot ruin them—that is, as a rule. But, alas, there are many exceptions to this rule. Many childaen are of such a quality that a blow makes them cowardly, or reckless, or deceitful, or permanently ugly. Whipping makes children lie; whipping makes them hate their parents; whipping makes them distasteful—makes the boys run away, makes the girls seek happiness anywhere and anyhow; whipping is barbarous. Do not whip.

My Bulbs.

"And the dinner, mum! It's yourself always looks after it on the wash-days, but I'll be doin' my best to plaise you."

"Yes, indeed," I sighed, trying to lift my head from the pillow, but it throbbed so I fell back in despair. At that moment I remembered that Henry asked for it about an hour earlier than usual, as he was to take the train, so there was little time to spare.

"And the vegetables, mum?"

I remembered that the canned tomatoes were all gone, and no potatoes, and no time to send out, so I told Biddy:

"Mr. Lovejoy is to go on the train and wants dinner at two. He is very fond of fried onions; it don't take long to cook them, and there are some small ones in a paper bag on a shelf in the cellar. Pick out the largest, slice thin, and fry them with the steak. Get anything else you can find, Biddy."

As the willing Biddy went clattering off I remembered with dismay that the smell of the onions would be almost unbearable to me, but I was too ill to ring the bell and call her back; and with my over-sensitive ears and that clairvoyant state a nervous headache always brings, I knew every step of the progress of that dinner, though I wondered vaguely as I heard the onions frying, that they did not sicken me as usual, and was thankful for the respite. Before dinner was ready in came Henry. There was a hasty preparation for the inevitable trip, inquiries for my welfare, a very hurried bolting of his dinner when he found train-time had been changed, a kiss of good-by, and he was off.

Having recovered during the night, and, next day (again interested in life), when my neighbor, Mrs. Boss, called, we got to talking about bulbs; and, boasting of my superior ones, I went to the cellar for mine, but, behold! of all my beautiful large gladiolus and hyacinth bulbs, lately purchased, not one was left—only a few refuse bulbs of my own raising were in the bottom of the bag. Greatly I wondered, until I espied the bag of onions on the same shelf, intact, and asked Biddy about it.

"An' faith, mum, I thought it quare they didn't make my eyes to water when I was a peelin' of 'em, but thought my eyes was a gettin' stronger than they was."

When the whole story had been told to Henry, after he had recovered from his fit of laughter, he said: "They looked like onions, and I laid their want of taste to my epizootic!"

"Oh! Henry, three dollars' worth of bulbs at a meal! It's as extravagant for us as Cleopatra's pearl drinking was for her."

"Never mind, it can't be helped now, and we'll have to make it up out of something else. Here's a V to get some more," and Henry went away, still laughing.—*Vick's Monthly.*

The Hair.

The people of Paris and London alone use twenty car loads of other people's hair. Convents usually furnish large amounts for the French, Spanish and Italian markets, and it is known to the trade as "church hair." The price of hair ranges from five dollars to twenty cents a head, though the finest of golden hair will bring two dollars an ounce, white hair five dollars an ounce. In such cases a head of hair is worth from twenty-five to fifty dollars. Some nationalities have a peculiar odor in their hair; the Chinese hair has a musky smell, and the odor of violets has been detected in one or two instances. The dealers detect the quality mainly by the touch, can tell whether its color is dyed or bleached, and whether it comes from the living or the dead. As a rule hair growers are a degraded race whose riches consist not in their flocks, but in their own fleeces, which they never pin up or comb, but wear in closely-fitting caps.

The enormous strength of the hair is hardly appreciable. A healthy single hair will support four ounces. A single head of hair in an audience of two hundred people will support the entire audience; and the hair of all the people in Detroit would support a load which would require 5,000 locomotives to draw, and the hairs of the people of the globe would support a planet against the gravity of the earth. Samson's hair was evidently a fitting emblem of his strength.

The shape of the hair, looked at as one would look at the end of a stick of candy, is an oval in the European and light-haired races, and in the Semetic races more or less angular. The hair of the negro is elliptical or kidney-shaped; it has no central canal, and will "felt." The European's will not; but, although the negro's hair, as a whole, seems coarse, perhaps on account of its curliness, a competent observer avers that the individual hairs of this race are finer than the hairs of the European. The curl in the negro's hair is caused by the effect, during thousands of years, of a hot sun, which has acted upon it like a perpetual crimping-iron.

Hairs do not, as a rule, penetrate the scalp perpendicularly, but at an angle. When the angle of the different hairs is the same, it is possible to give to it the easy sweeps and curves which we generally see it take; but if they are by some freak of nature misplaced, "we have the rebellious 'frizzle-tops' that are not susceptible to the influence of the brush and comb." Many a poor mother has half worried her life out trying to train her Johnny's rebellious locks into better ways, believing it was Johnny's perverseness of manners that induced such dilapidated-looking headgear, when it was really none of Johnny's fault at all, but simply a freak of nature in misplacing the radical centers of his "hisrute covering."

Sometimes fowls suffer from a contrariwise placing of the feathers—they run the wrong way. The author's father had a hen whose leg-feathers ran up toward the body, those on the body and neck toward the head. This gave her a perpetual "out of sorts" look and she could never fly. The erection of the hair of animals during anger or of human beings in fright, is caused by a change in the skin and the angle at which the hair enters the head or body.—*Ex.*

Mrs. Ellen E. Dickinson contributes to the *Midsummer Scribner* an account—including affidavits, a statement from Thurlow Weed, etc.—of the origin of the Mormon Bible, which, it is claimed, was written, in the form of a novel, by her great-uncle, Rev. Solomon Spalding. It is said this MS., with a few slight changes, was appropriated by Joseph Smith and his associates.

Experience of a Practical Butter-Maker.

We make the following extracts from a paper read before the Northwestern Dairymen's Association, by I. H. Munger, an authority on butter making among the Illinois dairies. His practice is worth careful study by every one who attempts to make butter.

First, we must have clean milk; without this, good butter cannot be made. Butter made from filthy milk may pass, when fresh from the churn; but as the seeds of destruction are sown in the process of milking and its delivery to the factory, the butter soon loses its fresh taste, and is classed as a poor article.

In order to obtain the best results, the milk should be cooled, within one hour after milking down to 65 degrees, and at this temperature delivered at the dairy house. When received at the creamery, it should be at once brought down to 60 degrees, and there kept during the cream raising. If the milk is held at this temperature while the cream is rising, then the cream, when taken off, is just where we want it in temperature, and at this point it should be kept until it has taken acid enough to be churned. Avoid all transitions from hot to cold, and from cold to hot. When churned at the temperature above mentioned, the butter is firm enough to be worked without bringing ice in contact.

The practice of cooling cream by the introduction of ice is, in our opinion, a bad one; also the practice of warming cream by setting the vessels containing the cream in hot water. In the latter case, the cream upon the outside of the vessel becomes melted, and thereby reduced to oil, causing a flat, insipid taste in the butter. The habit of some, of setting their cream around the stove in the cheese room, should be condemned; the heat is not equalized unless the cream is constantly stirred, and, to add to this, it is continually taking up the foul odors thrown off by the curing cheese.

We have, in the last two or three years, changed our ideas in regard to the construction of the churn that should be used. The old fashioned dash churn, that we formerly used and recommended to others, has many objections. Among them, the greatest is the trouble experienced by butter makers from the adherence of the cream to the cover and sides of the churn; if the cream is thick, the more it sticks. Now, all that adheres to the churn, of course, is not agitated; in other words, not churned; and if not churned, is lost. It is usually scraped down, when the butter shows signs of gathering. But what becomes of this portion of the cream, which is no small amount in a large factory churn? This unchurned cream is either taken up by the gathering butter, or goes to waste in the buttermilk. If taken up by the butter, it is worse than lost; it carries with it the seeds of destruction; for the union between the cheesy and buttery portions of this cream is not broken; if not broken, it is not separated, and all is incorporated in the butter, where it is sure to work mischief.

Another serious objection to the dash churn is, that it requires three times more power to run it than to run any of the revolving churns, which by their construction and motion, prevent the cream from adhering to the sides, and are, therefore, more easily cleaned. I am using, with good satisfaction, the square revolving churn.

When cream is churned at 62 to 64 degrees the butter will begin to gather in little pellets of the size of kernels of corn or peas. Then the churn should be stopped, and after standing ten minutes, to allow the particles of butter to rise to the top, the buttermilk should be drawn off, and clean cold water added, at the rate of one-half gallon to each pound of butter; set the churn again in motion, making about twelve revolutions; then draw the water off, put in fresh water, and churn again as before, when the butter is ready to be taken out and salted. We use one and one-eighth ounces of salt to one pound of butter.

The water used to wash this butter must not be taken from a well that is in any way influenced by the washings of the factory, nor drawn from a cistern. We think that as much butter is spoiled from being washed in impure water as from any other one cause.

It is of the greatest importance that we use good salt—that which is free from shells, scales, and dirt; the finer the better in our opinion. Fine salt dissolves quickly, and leaves no gritty taste. Our butter stands twenty hours after being salted, when it is re-worked and packed for the market. If it stands longer, it becomes set, and, after working, has the appearance of re-worked butter. As to package, we cannot always suit ourselves, as different markets want different packages.

Absolute cleanliness in every department of the creamery is necessary. The accumulation of filth in drains, in corners, under stairs, or even in the immediate vicinity, outside of the building, soon develops bad odors, which are taken up by the cream, working sure destruction to the butter.

Advertisements.

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

62 Golden Chromo, Crystal, Rose, Damask, Navy, &c. Name in gold and jet 10cts. Winslow &Co., Meriden, Ct.

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18 Elite, Gold Bow, Bevel Edge cards 25c. or 20 Chinese Chromos, 10c. J B HUSTED, Nassau, N Y

ELEGANT AUTOGRAPH ALBUM, gilt covers, 48 pages, illustrated with birds, scrolls, etc, in *colors*, and 47 Select Quotations, 15c: Agent's outfit for cards, (over 60 samples), 10c. Davids & Co, Northford Ct.

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50 Gold, Chromo, Tortoise Scroll, Marble and Bow CARDS, 10c. SEAVY BROS., Northford, Ct.

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A Book for the American Farmer and Stock Grower,

Maning's Illustrated Stock Doctor.

A live stock encyclopedia, including horses, cattle, sheep, swine and poultry, with all the facts concerning the various breeds, of their characteristics, breaking, training, sheltering, buying, selling, profitable use and general care. 400 illustrations and two charts illustrating the ages of horses and cattle. Send for circulars, terms, &c., to THOMAS PROTHERO, Emporia, Kansas.

ELGIN WATCHES. All styles, Gold, Silver and Nickel, $6 to $125. Chains, etc., sent C. O. D. to be examined. Write for Catalogue to STANDARD AMERICAN WATCH CO., PITTSBURGH, PA.

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Send stamp for Catalogue. Rifles Shot Guns, Revolvers, sent c. o. d. for examination.

Rent paid two-and-a-quarter years buys one.

MASON AND HAMLIN ORGANS BEST CABINET OR PARLOR ORGANS IN THE WORLD; winners of highest distinction at EVERY WORLDS FAIR FOR THIRTEEN YEARS. Prices, $1, 57, 66, 84, 108, to 500 dollars and upward. Also for easy payments, $5 a month, or $6.38 a quarter and upward. Catalogues free. Mason & Hamlin organ Co., 154 Tremont St., Boston; 46 East 14th St. (Union Square), New York; 149 Wabash Avenue, Chicago.

XX COT (not painted, White Duck) $2.

Makes a perfect bed. No mattress or pillows required. Better than a hammock, as it fits the body as pleasantly, and lies *straight*. Folded or opened instantly. Self-fastening. It is just the thing for hotels, offices, cottages, camp-meetings, sportsmen, etc. Good for the lawn, piazza, or "coolest place in the house." Splendid for invalids or children. Sent on receipt of price, or C. O. D. For **50 cts extra** with order, I will prepay expressage to any railroad station east of Mississippi River and north of Mason and Dixon's Line. For **75 cents**, in Minnesota, Missouri and Iowa.

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CHEAPEST HOUSE IN AMERICA. 1st-class instruments, all new, for cash or installments; warranted 6 years. Illustrated catalogues free. Agants wanted. T LEEDS WATERS, Agt., 28 West 14th st., New York

An Irish Butter Factory.

A writer in the *Country Gentleman* describes a co-operative butter factory which has lately been established in Ireland:

Strong efforts have been made of late to introduce into Ireland some of the modern improvements for butter-making, and cooperative factories on the American plan have been urged; but a change so radical did not at first seem to meet with much favor among the Irish farmers. The continual agitation, however, of the question, together with the fact that Irish butter had already lost its prestige, and that an attempt at least must be made to regain an equality in the markets, has at least resulted in the opening of a cooperative dairy society in the county of Waterford. We learn from the London Provisioner that premises have been obtained outside Dungannon, and that the butter making commenced on the 18th of May in well-ventilated apartments, 32½ by 24½ feet.

The plan, though on the co-operative system, differs in some particulars from that usually practiced in America. The chief difference in the Irish system consists in receiving the cream at the factory and churning each patron's delivery *separately*, crediting the weight of butter made from each mess of cream, and then measuring together all the parcels of butter, working and packing it in a uniform manner, and sending it to market. In the description of the establishment and its operation, it is stated that six Holstein churns have been erected on the premises, and these, with Ahlborn's butter-workers, are all driven simultaneously by a simple four-horse horizontal engine. For the present it is proposed to limit the churning to six churns.

"Ten churnings," it is said, "can be easily made from each churn daily, each making, on an average, about thirty pounds of butter at the time; the total produce for the day amounting to 3,000 pounds. The mode in which the business is being carried out, which is purely co-operative, is as follows: Some thirty persons have already agreed to send in their cream daily. Sweet and high-class butter being the object, none is received older than twenty-four hours. The cream of each person is churned separately, and the amount of butter produced at once placed to his credit. The several lots are then amalgamated by means of Ahlborn's large butter-mixer, and converted into a uniform mass, after which it is packed up into kegs of various sizes and modern improved patterns for the London and other cross-channel markets. Each producer is to be paid weekly, and a *higher price is guaranteed* than can be obtained in the local market; and, at the close of the year, it is proposed to divide the surplus profits, after paying the attendant expenses.

The Danish mode of manfacturing the butter is at present adopted. The butter will be, for the most part, mild-cured. The most heavily salted will not have more than half an ounce to each pound of butter. No coloring matter is to be employed. The butter is to be sent to the large provision stores in London, Manchester and Liverpool, and it is stated that should the Dungannon factory prove successful, similar establishments will be opened in several other districts in the south of Ireland. Thus a new departure in butter-making has been inaugurated in Ireland.

I believe a factory somewhat on this plan—so far as the delivery of cream and churning it separately for each patron is concerned—has been put in operation in Madison county, N. Y., and possibly there may be others in the country. The system differs essentially from the Fairlamb plan which is now largely adopted in some parts of the west, and is said to be much liked. In this latter plan the cream is raised at the farm, and the factory sends out teams to collect it, paying for the same according to its measurement, the cans in which the milk is set being all of the same size, and constructed with a glass side so as to show the depth of the cream. When these cans are set in cold water, on a uniform plan, one inch of cream on an average, on the Fairlamb plan, will make one pound of butter, and the price paid for the cream is averaged on this basis.

The advantage, if any, of the Irish cooperative plan, is that every patron gets just what his cream will produce, which of course does away with all suspicion that any one patron is getting undue advantage over another, as is sometimes claimed at the cheese factories by reason of difference in the quality of milk delivered by different patrons. The churning of each patron's cream separately must make more work at the factory, which perhaps would be objectionable if there were a large number of patrons each having few cows. Where the dairies, however, are of fair size, and the number of patrons not too large for the capacity of the factory, the plan, it would seem, possesses many advantages worthy the attention of butter dairymen.

Transportation.

State legislatures, comprised of men chosen by themselves, pass laws which impose upon them an unjust share of the burdens of taxation, and grant special privileges to corporations, which are no sooner organized than they begin to prey upon the products of the farmers' industries. Congress expands this systematic plunder over a field as broad as the territory of the Union. Steamships, which carry the farm products of the country to all climes, are subsidized with millions of dollars, and railroad companies with acres of fertile lands, exceeding in extent empires on the eastern side of the Atlantic.

And these enactments are made under the specious pretence that they are designed for securing "cheap transportation" to the east, and to the markets of the world, of the enormous crops of wheat, corn, cattle, the products of all animals, food of every description, brought into existence by the toil and sweat of western husbandmen.

As a rule, with numberless exceptions, transportation of these products is reduced in cost below what it was forty or fifty years ago, but it is a misnomer to call it cheap. Cheap it rarely ever is, and never, except when these subsidized corporations fall out with one another, and each adopts "a cut-throat policy," with a view to injure or destroy a rival monopoly. At all other times transportation is relatively dear.

In the management of the business of these common carriers, the creatures of public bounty, the question is never suggested—"What is it worth to do this or that?" On the contrary, it is—"What charge will the product bear?" If the farmers' wheat, or corn, or cattle, or swine, brings only a low price, there must needs be low freight charges, or the one or the other must remain where it is produced. But this low freight is not relatively cheap. It is measured by the rule—What charge will it bear? If these products, or any of them, bring a remunerative price, much more a profitable, instantly up goes the cost of carriage!—*Journal of Agriculture.*

Ensilage.—Advice of Francis Morris.

This gentleman was the first in this country, we believe, to undertake the preservation of corn fodder in silos, and some account of the experiments on his farm in Howard county, Md., has appeared in our previous volumes. We observe the following letter from him on the subject in the Maryland *Farmer* for July:

I made use of Indian corn as winter food for stock as long ago as the winter of 1876, and I have used it in each succeeding winter with great success. The earlier it is sown the better; its growth is more rapid and luxuriant in May and June than in July and August—a bushel of corn to the acre in drills twelve to fifteen inches apart. The crop should be worked twice, and, when in tassel, should be cut by a mowing machine, carried from the field in wagons to the feed-cutter, cut up in pieces of about three-quarters of an inch and put into the silo prepared for it. The building of the silo is thoroughly explained in T. B. Brown's work on ensilage, but any one who will make a trench ten feet wide and six feet deep, and cover it with earth eighteen inches deep, after the cut-up maize is put into the trench, and then keep the earth carefully pressed upon the maize, so as to exclude the air, will accomplish what is required. The trench should have a shed over it, or a shed thatched with straw. Water should be kept from the cut-up maize, as it would doubtless injure its quality, if not destroy it.

Maize or Indian corn requires from forty-five to sixty days to ripen it into tassel, and therefore it can be safely sown up to the 15th of July. If the land is in good condition, it will yield twenty tons to the acre; it requires a ton a month for each cow, and all animals will improve and do well upon it. By the use of superphosphates the crop can be doubled, but this is a matter subject to the will of the farmer. Ten acres of maize will feed thirty cows during the season that they cannot feed out of doors, and will furnish a quantity of manure to give a wheat or corn crop. The advantage of this crop is so great that it must change the agriculture of every corn-growing country. Cattle and sheep will be raised on every farm to an extent heretofore not thought of. Wheat, today, by all our best farmers, is followed by clover, the clover is cut and made into hay, and this is fed to the stock. Maize will take the place of clover hay, and the clover will be grazed off the land, and the animals will return it to the land better prepared to act as a manure than if the clover was cut, made into hay, carried to the barn, and then fed to the stock. The advantage of grazing clover off the land is very great, as it at once returns to it all that the clover takes from the sod.

We recommend every farmer who reads these suggestions to sow an acre of land with corn or maize—if you have no drill, sow it broadcast and when in tassel use any old mowing machine you may have to cut it down, and then if you have no feed-cutter, buy or borrow one and cut up the fodder, as ordered—bury it in the ground, and when winter comes feed your stock upon it, and when you try it once you will never be without it again. I have used it for four seasons, every time with complete success, and I know that it multiplied the value of our land three or four times over.—*Country Gentleman.*

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THE STRAY LIST.

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 f said strays, the day on which they were taken up, their praised value, and the name and residence of the taker up, the KANSAS FARMER, together with the sum of fifty cents each animal contained in said notice."

How to post a Stray, the fees fines and penalties for not posting.

Broken animals can be taken up at any time in the year.

Unbroken animals can only be taken up between the 1st day of November and the 1st day of April, except when found in the lawful enclosure of the taker-up.

No persons, except citizens and householders, can take up a stray.

If an animal liable to be taken, shall come upon the premises of any person, and he fails for ten days, after being notified in writing of the fact, any other citizen and householder may take up the same.

Any person taking up an estray, must immediately advertise the same by posting three written notices in as many places in the township, giving a correct description of such stray.

If such stray is not proven up at the expiration of ten days, the taker-up shall go before any Justice of the Peace of the township, and file an affidavit stating that such stray was taken up on his premises, that he did not drive nor cause it to be driven there, that he has advertised it for ten days, that the marks and brands have not been altered, also he shall give a full description of the same and its cash value. He shall also give a bond to the state of double the value of such stray.

The Justice of the Peace shall within twenty days from the time such stray was taken up, (ten days after posting) make out and return to the County Clerk, a certified copy of the description and value of such stray.

If such stray shall be valued at more than ten dollars, it shall be advertised in the KANSAS FARMER in three successive numbers.

The owner of any stray, may within twelve months from the time of taking up, prove the same by evidence before any Justice of the Peace of the county, having first notified the taker up of the time when, and the Justice before whom proof will be offered. The stray shall be delivered to the owner, on the order of the Justice, and upon the payment of charges and costs.

If the owner of a stray fails to prove ownership within twelve months after the time of taking, a complete title shall vest in the taker-up.

At the end of a year after a stray is taken up, the Justice of the Peace shall issue a summons to the householder to appear and appraise such stray, summons to be served by the taker up; said appraiser, or two of them shall in all respects describe and truly value said stray, and make a sworn return of the same to the Justice.

They shall also determine the cost of keeping, and the benefits the taker-up may have had, and report the same on their appraisement.

In all cases where the title vests in the taker-up, he shall pay into the County Treasury, deducting all costs of taking up, posting and taking care of, one-half of the remainder of the value of such stray.

Any person who shall sell or dispose of a stray, or take the same out of the state before the title shall have vested in him shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall forfeit double the value of such stray and be subject to a fine of twenty dollars.

Strays for the week ending July 28.

Butler county—C. P. Strong, clerk.

COLT—Taken up by David Reed, Chelsea tp, June 25, 1880, one dark bay gelding colt 3 years old, branded O on left shoulder, valued at $40.

Crawford county—A. S. Johnson, clerk.

COW—Taken up by M B Groove (Girard P O) one large mi ch cow, speckled red and white, 5 years old, smooth made, valued at $18.

Cowley county—J. S. Hunt, clerk.

MARE—Taken up by J B Graves, Otter tp, June 28, 1880, one light bay mare, black mane and tail, small scar on left hip and left side, small white spot on nose, colar and saddle marks, about 15 years old, valued at $37.50.

Greenwood county—J. W. Kenner, clerk.

PONY—Taken up by L T Dean, (Virgil P O) Lane tp, one dark pony mare about 10 years old, 13 hands high, saddle and harness marks, no other marks or brands perceivable, valued at $50.

Jefferson county—J. N. Insley, clerk.

MARE—Taken up May 18, 1880, by L B Noggle, Oskaloosa tp, one bay mare, 10 or 12 years old, 15 hands high, white on both hind feet, spavin on right hind leg, small lump on neck near the head, valued at $15.

Jewell county—W. M. Allen, clerk.

HORSE—Taken up by F R Warberton, Prairie tp, one sorrel gelding pony, 5 or 6 years old, white face, hind legs white valued at $50.

Linn county—J. H. Martin, clerk.

HORSE—Taken up by S W Applegate, Valley tp, June 18, 1880, one bay pony branded with the letters C and O on right hip, left hind foot white, small white spot in forehead, four years old, valued at $20.

Labette county.—W. H. Keirsey, clerk.

MARE—Taken up by Frank Hildinger; Elm Grove tp, June 23, 1880, one bay mare 13 hands high, 8 years old, star in forehead, branded C A on left shoulder, valued at $25.

Leavenworth county.—J. W. Niehaus, clerk.

MARE AND COLT—Taken up by A C Harlow, Delaware tp, June 19, 1880, one pony mare and colt, mare dark brown saddle marks, 16 years old; colt light sorrel, blaze face, and weaned since taken up, one year old, both valued at $25.

Marshall county.—W. H. Armstrong, clerk.

MARE—Taken up by Joseph Shirley, Blue Rapids tp, one pony mare and colt, bay, black mane, tail and legs, small white spot in face, about 6 years old, valued at $50.

Miami County—B. J. Sheridan Clerk.

MARE—Taken up by P Bishop, Osawatomie tp, June 30, 1880, one small chestnut sorrel mare, blaze face, both hind feet white half way up to gambrel joints, shoes on fore feet, saddle maks, C branded on near side shoulder partly enclosed in circle, a lariat attached to a leather halter, also a lead rope, 7 or 8 years old, valued at $25.

Russell county—C. M. Harshbarger, clerk.

HORSE—Taken up by Albert Banker, Russell tp, one black gelding horse 12 years old, brand on left shoulder, valued at $40.

MARE—Also by the same one bay mare 13 years old, branded on right shoulder, valued at $35.

MARE—By the same one bay mare 2 years old, branded on left shoulder, valued at $40.

Strays for the week ending July 21.

Butler county—C. P. Strong, clerk.

HORSE—Taken up by Joseph Y Wright, Hickory tp, June 14, 1880, one yellow (nearly bay) horse about 9 years old, star in forehead, white stripe on nose, right eye gone, branded T B on left hip, shod all around, 14½ hands high, valued at $25.

MARE—Also by the same one roan mare about 6 years old 14 hands high, little white in forehead, shod all around, L branded on both shoulders, valued at $20.

Davis county—P. V. Trovinger, clerk.

HORSE—Taken up by Miller Brothers, Milford tp, June 9 1880, one sorrel horse, left hind foot white, scar on left side neck, branded L V on left shoulder, white stripe in face, and collar marks, valued at $60.

HORSE—Also by the same one bay horse, black mane and tail, branded on right flank with an inverted D, collar marks, valued at $60.

Franklin county.—A. H. Sellers, clerk.

MARE—Taken up by A J Lyman, Appanoose tp, one dark bay mare, supposed to be seven years old, star in forehead, collar marks on top of neck, no marks or brands perceivable valued at $35.

MARE—Taken up by H Weist, Ohio tp, one light bay mare 3 years old two white hind feet, one glass eye, no other marks or brands perceivable, valued at $25.

Johnson county—Frank Huntoon, clerk.

MARE—Taken up by James M Foster, Aubry tp, June 21, 1880, one sorrel mare, 15¾ hands high, 14 years old, small star in forehead, collar marks, right hind foot white in front, valued at $40.

Marion county.—W. H. Hamilton, clerk.

HORSE—Taken up by Wlb Frantey, Clear Creek tp, July 14, 1880, one dark bay horse, blind in right eye, small star in forehead, both hind feet white, no brand perceivable, valued at $30.

Neosho county—A. Gibson, clerk.

MARE—Taken up by Jacob McCune, Tioga tp, one dark brown mare about 10 years old, 16 hands high, heavy with foal, no marks or brands.

MARE—Also one dark roan mare, 1 year old past, no marks or brands.

COLT—Also one bay horse colt 1 year old, blaze face and four white feet.

COLT—Also one brown pony mare colt 1 year old, star in forehead, 4 white feet.

Riley county—F. A. Schermerhorn, clerk.

MARE—Taken up by John M Locke, Madison tp, June 28, 1880, one bay mare 10 years old, black mane and tail, white star in forehead, small gash cut in right fore knee, no other marks or brands.

Sumner county—S. B. Douglass, clerk.

PONY—Taken up by Chas W Viers, Morris tp, May 14, 1880, one bay pony horse, 4 years old, 3 white feet, indescribable brand.

PONY—Also one sorrel pony horse, 4 years old, 3 white feet, blaze face, indescribable brand on left shoulder. The above two strays valued at $25.

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Farm Letters.

Give the Direction and Distance.

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

OUR CARTER, Stafford Co., 220 miles southwest of Topeka.—It is generally the custom of correspondents to say "farming is booming," but one would not be justified in using that term in writing from Stafford, at this date. But the recent rains here have made a great change. Some pieces of Indian corn look fine, while others are an entire failure. Rice corn, which was not planted too early, will be good. Early plowing and planting gave the weeds the advantage.

We don't live near enough to the railroad, and trails, to see many prairie schooners going east, but have witnessed the departure of a few from our own county. None have gone who were not compelled to go. Everybody likes the soil, and all show a sanguine disposition to stick; but two successive seasons of drouth is enough to conquer a Spartan, especially if he had come with limited means just as the drouth began.

Will some farmer please tell when is the best time to plow for rye, and whether it should be sown early, or late, if pastured during the winter? The ground is sandy, well coated with weeds, and is being pastured with sheep.

I, too, have often wondered why it is that a bachelor is taxed on all his personal property, clear down to the last item, box furniture and all, while two hundred dollars of the married man's personal property is exempt from taxation. So long as the country is under an experiment, and he chooses to remain single because he can not give a wife a decent home, the bach. shows more pure pluck and sound sense than any of them. And while it cannot be denied that he does his share toward developing these broad fields, he should be encouraged by being allowed at least an equal show with his married neighbor. BACH.

CLAY CENTRE, Clay Co., July 14.—Will some of your numerous readers tell me through the columns of the KANSAS FARMER what I can do for my chickens, some of them have, what appears to be, canker of the mouth, and others have what I suppose is cholera. The former sometimes get well, but the latter never. They purge, but still the food remains in the crop until they die. Sometimes they die in 10 or 12 hours, others will linger two or three days. I have looked every week in the poultry essays for these symptoms but have never seen them described. This disease is only among the very young ones. If they get over the first month they are strong and well. I have already lost over one hundred, so am quite anxious to know if there is any cure. I have tried copperas water, but it failed to "touch the case." I feed them the first week or two on bread and sweet milk or hard boiled eggs, after that on boiled corn meal, which when cold is quite crumbly, as advised by one of your correspondents.

Wheat harvest is over. Threshing has commenced. The average yield in this neighborhood will not be more than five or six bushels per acre; oats about half a crop; early corn looking well; no fruit of any kind; all kinds of stock are doing well considering how much they have to contend with, the mosquitoes, &c., I never saw so many in my life.

We kave plenty of rain now; the ground is quite soaked and the creeks running, with every appearance of more.

If my letter is not already too long, I would like to say a word about that letter of T. W. Hey's, in your issue of June 30. It pleased me exceedingly. We are so accustomed to see Kansas, and everything belonging to Kansas "colored too highly." It would be quite a treat to hear things spoken of "as they really are." I am glad one man has had the courage to come to the front in this respect, and hope the good advice he has given will be followed by many. It is quite provoking to me, a farmer's wife, to read in the local papers, "everything looking well, could not be better," &c., &., when I look around and see such is not the case. There would not be so many "dissatisfied ones" if the accounts given were more truthful.

In conclusion let me say, we have not taken your paper long, but we give it a hearty welcome when it comes, and sincerely wish it the success it deserves. "AUNT JUDY."

It is probable that vermin is the cause of sickness among your chickens. If young chicks become polluted with lice, the only sure way to remove them speedily and effectively, is with a fine comb, from the top of their heads. A bath of dry ashes and sulphur will clear the vermin from the old fowls. We commend the careful perusal of Mr. Marsh's article published in the FARMER of July 21. The first and most important step to take is to remove the sick from the well fowls and thoroughly cleanse and sweeten their roosting quarters. No cure is possible without this preliminary work.—[ED.

BELLE MEADE, Meade Co., July 11.—275 miles south west of Topeka. As it seems to be order of the day to publish through the columns of the FARMER all fortunate events, so I, with your permission, will advertise the fact that, although west of the 100th meridian, we *have* had abundant rains and our crops *are* promising.

There was no wheat made in this county, although there was a little seeded last fall, the failure owing to entirely dry fall and winter. Rice corn is flourishing as is also Indian corn, although we can count but little on the latter, no matter how favorable the season, because of the certain attack of the worm on newly broke prairie.

Millet, where got in before the rains, is doing finely. With the soil containing so much moisture, and with every lagoon, bayou, buffalo wallow and all other depressions on the prairie, full of water to overflowing, I think we may count on rain in quantum sufficit for this season at least.

Tree planting (fruit and ornamental) has so far been attended by satisfactory results.

We have, Mr. Editor, a grand country out here in the south west, open to entry under the homestead, pre-emption and timber culture acts. A plenty of room for thousands of settlers. To those who contemplate settling in Kansas I would suggest as worthy their attention the fact that Meade, although an unorganized county and consequently without the usual eleemosynary institutions, societies, *et id omne*, does not need and does not ask aid or assistance from abroad for its needy citizens. We have none such. Not a family in our county without the means of subsistence. How many counties in our state can say as much?

Your advice on the question of mixed farming is wholesome and is being impressed on the majority. Cattle or sheep or both ought to be found on every farm, and here let me call attention to the superior inducements offered by this section for sheep husbandry. The short but nutritious buffalo grass affording the very best pasturage, good water, favorable climate and indeed almost everything desirable as evidenced by the immunity from disease enjoyed by sheep in this region. If capitalists intending to embark in wool growing would "give us a call before purchasing elsewhere" they would learn of something to their interest.

Numbers of our citizens, industrious men of sound judgment are anxious to undertake the management and care of sheep on shares.

That's the kind of aid Meade county wants, something where there's a *quid pro quo*, at the same time lauding the acts of the state aid society in every case of relief afforded the needy and destitute—only.

I write on the spur of the moment, had the act been premeditated, subject matter might have been collected for an interesting communication.

I will report weather and crops at some future time. JOHN WERTH.

We thank Mr. Werth for his communication from far away toward the setting sun. It is the first encouraging word we have had from that quarter in a long time. We trust so fine a scholar will write often for the FARMER.

MT. CARMEL, Crawford Co., July 17.—No doubt but what the KANSAS FARMER is read by a great many lawyers, pettifoggers, merchants, and a host of agriculturalists throughout the state, and who can read the timely suggestions that have appeared in its columns in regard to "nominating good practical farmers" to fill the offices of the state, men who are not noted for their "legal trickeries," men who are not so full of deceit and whitewash as to stoop to anything that would have a tendency to "stuff their purse." Let us be ready for the emergency, "be ready for the conventions" this fall, and see that good, honest, sober, representative men are taken from our *ranks* and elected to office. That our young commonwealth has a mania for "honors," we would most respectfully cite you to Pomeroy, Clarke, Ingalls, Hossack, and several others, as a fair sample of the "*peoples'* candidates," as they style themselves on certain occasions. The "investigations" are expensive, and the taxpayers have to foot the bills.

Now, brother farmers and laborers, one and all, let us commence a reform; let us heed the advice the KANSAS FARMER gives us, and see if we cannot create a wholesome name for our noble young state. I, being a thorough reformer, am in for a thorough cleaning out of the "Augean" political stables of Kansas. What if we cannot endorse a man because he is not one of our party, if he be a farmer, a laboring man, he will prove a blessing, no doubt. We need men in congress who will stand up for our rights, as did Mr. Gillett, of Iowa, and hope he will not yield or shrink from duty.

Do not take a man who is known to be addicted to the use of strong drink. If you do, he will come the "Hossack" on us. Take men who are strictly temperate; we have hosts of them all over the state. I fully endorse the FARMER's advice, and so "pass it around," and keep the idea before the people.

We have had plenty of rain of late. Crops in good condition. Wheat and oats in stack. "Everything is lovely and the goose hangs high." Success so the FARMER.

E. B. COOK.

OMIO, Jewell Co., (165 miles northwest of Topeka,) July 19.—July has been a very favorable month so far. The corn crop now looks very promising, and farmers are in better spirits. The wheat crop, which is about all harvested, is the lightest we have ever had. The acreage of corn is almost double that of any previous year, and corn will no doubt be very low this fall, making this part of the state a good point for feeding cattle. The chinch bug did some damage to cornfields joining wheat, before the rains.

Farmers in this county are discouraged by the failure of wheat, and very few will sow any this fall, and will depend principally on corn and stock hereafter. Hogs will no doubt claim more attention, as they have brought a fair price this season, and are in good demand. We have some very good Poland China hogs in this county, but I am somewhat prejudiced in favor of the Berkshire, and would like very much to get a pair of thoroughbreds.

The "star of empire" of the western counties is moving eastward. Many who are going have taken the benefit of the "extension act" and will return, while others are bidding Kansas adieu forever.

The correspondent from Osborne county who thought beans could not be grown in Kansas, should come up to Jewell county this fall and see if "any good can come out of Nazareth." Last season I saw some very fine beans, grown in different parts of the county, and now we have a very flattering prospect.

The FARMER is recognized by all as the leading agricultural paper of the west, and is doing a great deal to make the homes of Kansas what they should be, and to make the life of the farmers more pleasant and profitable. Success to every power that tends to elevate and ennoble the laboring classes.

W. S. THOMPSON.

The trouble with most persons who keep horses, no matter whether on farm for farm work or for driving purposes, is they feed too much hay; and to this can be attributed the general sluggishness often manifested by the horses until they have been working a couple of hours, while their wind is also much impaired. Night is the only time when hay should be fed, especially to animals used for quick work; even the slow plow team should have but little hay at the morning and noon feeds, but give them a generous supply at the evening meal. By doing this your horses will keep in better spirits and condition, and free from any tendency to "pot belly," which horsemen so much dislike to see.

From a late Paris journal we learn that the French Forestry Department have arrived at the conclusion that forests greatly increase the water supply wherever found. From close observation made it is found that rains fall much oftener and more abundantly in wooded tracts, and that, while the leaves and branches give back the water quickly to the air, they prevent rapid evaporation from the ground, and are thus favorable to the formation of springs.

You may easily ascertain what it has cost to raise a bushel of wheat, corn, or other grain, by keeping a proper record of the labor, seed, interest on the land, and value of the crop. You may knw what it costs to produce a pound of pork, beef, mutton, milk, or wool, by keeping a strict account of the food and labor that enters into each of them. This is no more difficult than for a manfacturer of cloth to determine the exact cost of a yard.

The crop reports attest this season, as in former years, the advantage of drilling wheat—in the quicker start, more vigorous growth, exemption from injuries by frost and flood, and an earlier harvest. Rarely is an exception noted to the economy and safety of drilling in preference to broadcasting, at least in the winter wheat region. The practice is not so common in the districts where spring wheat is grown.

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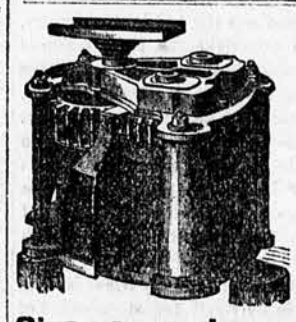

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