

EVOTED THE FARM THE SHOP THE RES

KANSAS THE FARMER

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LEAVENWORTH, JANUARY 15, 1873.

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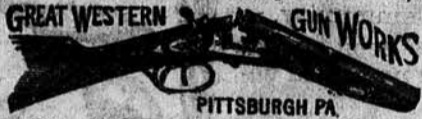
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To those who can afford it, and are unwilling to stay in the house, I recommend a visit during the winter months to Florida, well down in the State, where the temperature is regular, and not subject to such variations as in more northern latitudes. Palatka, Melonville and Enterprise are points I can recommend—a good hotel being kept at the former place by the Messrs. Peterman; while the accommodations and advantages of the latter place are also such as to facilitate the recovery of all who partake freely of my Preparations, and follow the advice I have here laid down, and which is more fully set forth in the circulars accompanying my medicines.

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THE KANSAS FARMER

DEVOTED TO THE FARM THE SHOP AND THE FIRESIDE

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LEAVENWORTH, JANUARY 15, 1873.

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The Kansas Farmer

GEORGE T. ANTHONY, Editor.

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B. S. CHASE, VETERINARY EDITOR.

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CO-OPERATIVE STORES.

The low price of farm products, and consequent hard times, have served to awaken thought and inspire investigation as to the cause of our financial woes, and the remedy therefor. As might be expected under such circumstances, theory and speculation often take the place of reason, and cheap expedient assumes the dignity of actual reform. One class of men assume that all the evident disarrangement in the relations of supply and demand, product and consumption, is due to "rings." They point to merchandising "rings," manufacturing "rings," and in the very breath that condemns them as unnatural and oppressive, they demand the organization of a farmers' "ring," telling us in glowing terms what great good is to come from multiplying admitted evil.

We have looked quietly on as this "ring" fever has worked its way up to the public brain, to see what shape the disease would assume. One form of it is evidently settling into a determination for co-operative stores, for the saving of the dealer's profits to the consumer. We have before us many letters asking information or advice, or both, as to past experience and future promise of such enterprises. To these we propose to respond with all the knowledge of observation and reading at command.

In 1848 the co-operative fever broke out in the eastern portion of New York State, where we then resided. It had been prevalent in many parts of New England for a year or more prior to this time. Many business men declared against the practicality of the scheme, but advice against only confirmed the people for the undertaking. If you want an American to do a thing, you must tell him not to, and portray the dangers of the task in such terms as to awaken curiosity. Then he will try it, if wading through a sea of molten lead is a part of the enterprise.

The plan of the co-operative stores was substantially this: A few corporators, or leaders, would organize upon the basis of say 250 shares, of \$20 each, giving a capital of \$5,000. Each subscriber was entitled to goods for the use of himself and family, at an advance of five per cent. on cost. Customers not stockholders had to pay an advance of ten per cent., thus reducing cost to shareholders by the amount of profit upon sales to outsiders.

Few of these stores lived a year, and many of

them might have laid under the cruel epitaph, over the resting place of a very young child:

If I was so soon to be done for,
I wonder what I was begun for.

We remember but a single one that lived more than a year, or that did not involve crimination and recrimination. The stock was usually a total loss, and often drew in after it an equal tax to meet liabilities. The radical defect of these undertakings was a forgetfulness that merchandising is a trade difficult to master, and when undertaken by the skillful, is often wrecked upon the shoals of contingencies hidden just beneath the surface. The managers were not thorough merchants, nor did they feel that interest in stopping leaks and saving pennies felt by a man whose own money is at stake. They were signal failures, from causes patent to the reflecting. The seeds of self-destruction will be found in every such effort, when it is not made a fundamental condition that no individual shall own more than one share at any one time. Without this provision, a few men absorb the whole thing in a short space of time. Change of residence, dissatisfaction and jealousy, will press shares for sale at large discounts, and the "manager" and his friends will soon be lords of all they survey.

Our failures in the past do not prove, however, that success is not attainable under more favorable circumstances and wiser management. In England they claim to have reached great success. A late account of a meeting of the North of England Co-operative Wholesale Society, held at Manchester, is quite interesting, as well as encouraging. This is a federation of co-operative societies, with a Central Board at Manchester, with wholesale stores, from which the various retail stores are supplied.

This federation was organized of fifty-four societies, and a capital of less than \$5,000, in 1869. At the date of this meeting there were 466 societies in the federation, with a paid up capital of £28,900, or \$144,400. The business of the quarter then just closed, averaged £28,000, or \$120,000 a week, and showed a net gain over expenses and interest on shares and loans, of £3,274; more than \$16,000 for the quarter.

So successful has been this federated society, that arrangements were announced for importing direct from other countries such goods as were required. They also resolved to enter upon the business of manufacturing. The Central Board was authorized to open a wholesale cloth warehouse, the demand of the local societies for this article alone for the past year amounting to about three-fourths of a million dollars, to enter into the manufacture of shoes and blankets, and to establish an extensive bakery.

It cannot be denied that in this instance, at least, the principle of co-operation has been vindicated by the most positive success. But the question will at once arise, whether this North of England Co-operative Wholesale Society does not bear the same

relation to co-operative merchandising, that A. T. STEWART'S business does to the world of merchandizing fizzes and failures around him.

THE NEW STATE BOARD.

At the annual meeting of the State Board of Agriculture, held in Topeka, January 8th, the following officers were elected: E. S. Nicollis, of Anderson county, President; Thos. Murphy, of Atchison, Vice-President; Alfred Gray, of Wyandotte, Secretary; Col. G. W. Veals, of Shawnee, Treasurer. The additional members elected, were Geo. T. Anthony, of Leavenworth; Geo. Noble, of Douglas; J. K. Hudson, of Wyandotte; S. T. Kelsey, of Franklin, and E. P. Edgington, of Butler.

MISSOURI STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

At the recent annual meeting of the Missouri State Horticultural Society, at Jefferson City, the following officers were elected: Henry J. Mudd, President; Daniel L. Hall, Treasurer; Isador Bush, Secretary.

We are not personally acquainted with Mr. Bush, the Secretary elect, but we know of no man in the West who would fill the office of Secretary more worthily, than D. L. Hall, the man chosen for Treasurer. However, he will guard the money bags faithfully, which is perhaps as important as to have an efficient Secretary.

FARMERS' CONVENTION.

It is known to most of our readers that the Farmers' Clubs, and other Agricultural organizations of Illinois, have united upon a project for a State organization, under the name and title of Illinois Farmers' State Convention.

The purpose of this Convention, which is to be a permanent thing, is to consider and discuss all the various questions which interest or affect the farmer; and by a united concert of action throughout the State, to relieve this large body of citizens from many, if not all of the ills to which it is now subject.

We can readily conceive what an immense power so large and intelligent a body of men as this will wield, and we admire their bold, manly action, in thus meeting in public Convention, extending as they do, a special invitation to the Railroad Commissioners of the State to be present, and take part in the discussion of "Railway Legislation and Railway Reform."

The first sitting of the Convention is to be held in Bloomington, January 15th and 16th inst., and we wish them every success. The proceedings will be waited with interest.

LYON COUNTY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The regular annual meeting of the Lyon County Horticultural Society, was held in Emporia, Saturday, January 4th inst., and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: A. D. Chambers, President; J. A. Newlin, Vice-President; Robt. Millikin, Secretary; E. W. Cunningham, Treasurer.

The Kansas Farmer

TAKING THINGS EASY.

In a very great majority of those financial failures that one meets on the farm and elsewhere, we mean those especially on the farm, that manage to eke out a bare existence by selling their fifteen or twenty acres of corn as soon as it is raised, and who have to dispose of their half dozen shotes and their one or two calves before Winter sets in, for the reason that they have not grain enough to winter them; we say in a very great majority of these cases—the whole trouble is due to the fact that they believe in taking things easy. "No clouds of care or trouble roll across their peaceful breasts." The visits of the tax collector cause no fear, for they have no taxes to pay. The support of their families causes little concern, from the fact that it consists for the most part of the corn "dodger" and bacon, the latter occasionally relieved by "possum" or "rabbit."

Taking things easy with them, means a pack of worthless hounds, the opportunity of spending two or three days of each week at the village store, neglecting their crops, and through the Winter season playing the fiddle (they are almost always fiddlers) for neighborhood dances. They can never pay their debts when due, always having for an excuse, "poor crops," the loss of a work horse or some other terrible visitation of Providence. This class of people live, move and have their being in almost every neighborhood, but they have a special fondness for wooded districts—timbered bottom lands, where the hunting and fishing are handier than upon the open prairie, and where fuel is obtained at but little cost of labor, and no expenditure of money.

We have known many of this class of persons, and we have known others of an intermediate grade of easy going people, who did not take kindly to fox hunting and dancing, but who could never summon enough energy to make more than a bare living, never adding anything to their farms, their flocks, or herds.

There is no more valuable advice that can be given to the young man just starting in life, upon the farm or elsewhere, than that he should, above all things, avoid taking things easy. Start out in life with the fixed purpose of moving things round. Put in your days at work, your evenings to mental improvement, and your nights to rest. If the foxes disturb your poultry yard, or the wolves your sheep fold, don't waste time in trying to exterminate them by hunting them with dogs two or three nights in the week. Make your poultry house fox-proof, and provide a tight fold for the sheep, into which drive them every night. Neither the fox nor the wolf will scale a very high fence, and unless you expect to look after the sheep daily, better not keep them.

Rise early. See that your stock is well provided for. Take the papers, that you may know what other farmers are doing. Waste no time at the village store. Start a farmers' club in your neighborhood. Improve your stock as fast as you can. Save and use all the manure possible. Cultivate every crop thoroughly, and ere many years are passed you will be in a condition to take things easy with an approving conscience.

FARMERS' CLUBS.

School District No. 87, Marshall county, Kansas, has recently organized a Farmers' Club, with the following officers: I. Cooley, President; W. H. King, Vice-President; I. Palmer, Secretary; N. W. Morgan, Corresponding Secretary; O. Cooley, W. B. Stanford and M. D. Coe, Directors.

Perrin Prairie Farmers' Club, elected the following officers for the ensuing year: A. C. Cook, President; Wm. Johnston, Vice-President; Michael Moorhead, Secretary. Parties wishing to deal with this Club, can address the Secretary, at Plattsburg, Clinton county, Missouri.

OVER-REACHING HORSES.

A prominent horseman of this city suggests, in answer to our correspondent's inquiry, in the last issue, that an over-reaching horse can rarely be entirely cured, but that over-reaching boots should be put on the fore feet; also, heavy shoes, to give momentum to the stride; and the hind shoes should be light, and set as far back as possible. He says that he has known the fore feet of a trotting horse to be weighted with lead.

We suggest to our correspondent, that he try it upon his horse.



INSECTS—NOXIOUS AND BENEFICIAL.

SKETCH OF A LECTURE BY PROF. RILEY, BEFORE THE STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

[REPORTED FOR THE KANSAS FARMER, BY C. H. CUSHING.]

It was not to be expected, he said, that we, as horticulturists, could all become scientific entomologists; but we can become sufficiently intelligent to know our friends from our enemies, so as not to make such a mistake as did a neighbor of Dr. FITCH, who, finding his currant bushes infested with lice, carefully destroyed all the lady-bugs upon them, supposing they were the old ones; and found to his surprise that with all his care, his bushes suffered worse than others.

In answer to an inquiry about the plum curculio, he said that it winters over in the beetle state, generally about timber or old rubbish. They appear very early in the Spring, full a month before the plum trees blossom. As soon as the leaves appear, they commence to feed upon them. The chip process, invented by Mr. RANSOM, of Michigan, is useful at this stage, but after the fruit sets, it is of little value. This method consists in clearing a space of two feet round the trunk of the tree, and laying down chips and bits of bark. Under these the insects collect in the middle of the day, and may be collected and destroyed. The lecturer had proved by careful experiments that the curculio is single-brooded—that is, he begets no grandchildren in one season. A parasite of the curculio has recently been discovered, which may keep them in check soon. This parasite may be bred without difficulty, and disseminated among fruit growers, for the destruction of the curculio. Did not know why it had not multiplied naturally, according to the general law among animals, that as a given species multiplies, its enemies also increase, and keep them within due bounds. It may never have fed upon the curculio until recently; he believed in the law of development, and this parasite, having previously lived upon something else, may now have turned its attention in this direction, because its services were needed to check the destructive increase of the curculio.

The various useful methods for destroying the curculio were mentioned, such as jarring off, and keeping chickens and pigs about the trees. Also the useless means sometimes employed, such as surrounding the trees with offensive substances, smoking, syringing, &c.

The plum gouger also attacks the plum, but lives in the pit instead of the flesh.

The apple curculio is a different animal, and is not very dangerous. It bores a round hole, and undergoes its transformations within the fruit. It is single-brooded, and generally feeds upon the wild crab.

A new and dangerous enemy has recently made its appearance in the West—the bean weevil. It has been known for some time at the East and even in Missouri, but he was not aware that it had been found in Kansas, until Dr. CARPENTER, of Leavenworth, discovered it. The Doctor brought speci-

mens of the infested grain to this meeting, and he now exhibited them.* As we now know, the enemy has made a lodgment here, every farmer should be on the watch to guard against its spread. Unlike the pea weevil, it does not bore a hole through to the surface until its escape, but as only a thin skin covers its burrow, it is easily detected, and all infested seed should be at once destroyed. This insect is probably a native; there is one in France, but it is not the same.

The codling moth is one of our most formidable enemies. This insect is two-brooded. The first worms issue from the fruit about a week after the first Wilson strawberries ripen. They become chrysalids in about two weeks. The moths from these deposit the eggs for the second brood. These are not always deposited in the calyx. They pass the Winter invariably as a worm in the cocoon, and spin up in the first little crack they find. The larva covers itself with bits of the substance on which it spins; hence, it is difficult to discover. We can always distinguish it from the curculio by its having legs, while the curculio has none. When the worms reach the ground, they make directly for the tree, which instinct gives us the means of trapping them. The cheapest and most effectual way of doing it, is to take cheap straw paper, double it about four inches wide and wrap it around the tree. Under this the worm will spin. They should be visited as often as once in twelve days and destroyed. Old rags answer a good purpose, also. WEIR has patented a trap that will do very well, but it is not as good as one that goes round the tree. These remedies are for the first brood. The cocoons of the second brood, that are found in crevices of the bark, are generally destroyed by birds in Winter, and the supply is kept up by cellars and old barrels. Barrels infested with them are constantly imported from the East, which accounts for the fact that orchards in the vicinity of cities are the first to be attacked. If possible, every wormy apple should be used up in the Fall or early Winter, and in the Spring, all cracks in barrels and crevices in cellars should be examined, and the enemy destroyed.

In answer to an inquiry about the oyster-shell bark louse, he said it was one of the most destructive insects in the United States. It, however, moves very slowly—not more than a rod a year. It is propagated almost entirely by nursery trees, and is probably the greatest enemy of the fruit-grower.

Whole orchards are often totally ruined by it. He had supposed it would not be found south of a certain parallel, but found he was mistaken; he found it as far south as Mississippi. Washing with strong soap at the time of hatching, the latter part of May, will destroy them. The only difficulty is, that it must be done at exactly the right time, for in a few days a hard shell forms, which effectually protects them.

The woolly aphis, or root louse, is a difficult foe to manage. It is better to destroy a tree that is infested. A few may be saved by mulching, to bring the lice to the surface, where they may be destroyed by pouring on boiling water.

An inquiry was made as to a worm that has defoliated the soft maples in some sections of the State. They may be destroyed when small, as they congregate together. They are two-brooded, and it is the second brood that does the mischief. The time to destroy them is in May.

The above is but a meager sketch of a lecture brim full of interesting and valuable facts. To us, it was a matter of astonishment that so small a number received the benefit of it. Either the subject of growing and protecting choice fruit has no attractions for the people of the Capitol City, or they are sufficiently wise and need no instruction. It argues badly for science (or its devotees) when scarce a dozen persons out of eight thousand can

* This subject having been very fully treated in the Entomological Department in the last number, it is not necessary to give the lecturer's description in full.

be drawn out, on a pleasant evening, to such a treat. Perhaps Art has greater attractions in their eyes than Nature, for we noticed that the dance halls and billiard saloons were well filled.

INSECTS AND THE FRUIT CROP.

[By THOMAS MEEHAN, in Forney's Weekly Press.]

The comparative absence of insects injurious to vegetation, has been a marked feature of the season. Shade trees in towns and cities, and fruit and other trees in the country and rural districts, exhibit little of the usual insect ravages. Intelligent men, accustomed to compare cause and effect, are at a loss to account for this; while those that merely shut their eyes and open their mouths, receiving thankfully what God sends them, without seeking or caring to know more, still venture to hope that the insect age—in connection with fruit culture, at least—has passed away.

Some of our large cities regard the introduction of the English sparrow as having much to do with our freedom from insect pests; but though they have an undoubted influence, it must be very slight this season, for the insects are as scarce in those regions where the sparrow has not visited, as in those where it has not found itself at home. Other insectivorous birds are no more common than usual. It is not likely the bird question has much to do with our immunity.

At one time it was supposed that every plant had an attendant evil spirit in the shape of an insect, ever ready to prey on it as soon as it exhibited any signs of decadence or disease. It was believed that these insects must feed on the appointed plant, or cease to exist; but entomological science has shown that there is an evolution of taste in the animal world, as well as an evolution of form; and thus insects which in one generation seem to be associated with a certain plant, will in another get an acquired taste for something else; and frequently the form, as well as other characteristics, change with the food they select. We laugh at the modern philosopher who in his advocacy of vegetarianism, tells us that the animal passions are stimulated by the use of flesh as food, and that to be truly meek and mild-mannered, man requires a regular vegetable diet; and yet these students of insect life tell us that there is an undoubted change in insects with the conditions of their food.

That insects will change from one plant to another, we all know. When we thought special trees had special attendant insects, Philadelphians cut down all their linden trees because they had "worms." But the worms go to some other trees, and we have learned that our quarrel has to be with the insects themselves, rather than with the plants that support them. The present great scourge of the Western farmers, the Colorado potato beetle, Mr. SAY first discovered in what was then the great Missouri Territory, feeding on a wild weed of that country; but how he has left that plant for the potato, is but too sadly known to many a Western man.

Still, the question whether insects will only feed on vegetation with a declining vitality, is an open question to the scientific man. The practical farmers can scarcely believe it. The cabbage fields of Southern Pennsylvania were like snow fields, white with the cabbage butterfly—a rare insect visitation for this generally exempt season—and the larvae have pretty thoroughly destroyed the whole crop. It is hardly to be supposed that the cabbages were diseased, and thus invited the attack. There would have been a full crop without them; but on the other hand, the remarkable health and vigor of the fruit trees this season, together with the patience, if not pleasure, with which they seem to bring to perfection the most abundant crops, are in striking contrast with the comparative scarcity of insect life, and would seem to give some color to the scientific theory.

KILLING LICE ON CABBAGES.

[From the Grass Valley (Cal.) Union.]

We visited several ranches a few weeks since,

on which the entire crop of cabbages was being destroyed by the lice. One ranchman informed us that he had tried about everything to destroy the destroyers, without effecting the object.

We find the following recipe from a gentleman on the Tule River, who says he has proven its efficiency in ridding cabbages of lice, and wishes to make it public for the benefit of all concerned: "Two tablespoonfuls of kerosene mixed with a pint of water, and applied by rubbing it on the outside leaves. A couple of applications is usually sufficient."

A gentleman says that the generally maligned wasp proved very serviceable in his hothouse the past season, clearing out the mealy bug, even leaving the ripe grapes untouched in pursuit of this great pest of the vine.

It is said that the ornithological idiot, the peacock, likes potato beetles. Idiots often have strange tastes.

"Knitting and Talking."

PLAIN KNITTING.

EDITED BY ANN APPELSEED.

After the slight flutter of getting the yarn and needles ready, of deciding on the exact number of stitches, and then "setting up" the stocking, we reach that most tedious part, to most knitters—the plain knitting. No open work, only one seam on every third needle, to divert the mind, and all the rest that everlasting round and round of plain knitting. We get so tired of it, and long for the diversion of narrowing, at least, fancying a smaller round preferable for the sake of a change; but it is inexorable that the plain knitting go on. Fancy stitches, ribbed, waved, purled, may do for extra work; but the good, honest wear and tear of life comes on the plain knitting, and that we must do, and do well; no slackness or unevenness there, or it is sure to show and spoil the best work we can knit.

Step in to one of those palatial stores, and look at their best "Balbriggan" hose—no finer is made. We observe that, although they sell at a dollar and a half a pair, there is only the merest trifle of ornament—just a bit of silk over-casting—the main thing is that even-stitched, regular, good, plain knitting.

So it is in the life-web. The light and agreeable fancy work—parties, traveling, spending money, wearing best clothes, and the like—are only like the few silk stitches on the Balbriggan. The fine fancy stitches are for the birth, the bridal, the burial. All along between comes only round and round—to the office, the shop, the counter, the field, day by day; to the sewing, the baking, the brewing, the ceaseless round of sweeping and dusting, dish-washing, patching and darning; the never-ending war with dirt; the never-lagging hot pursuit of bread and butter.

It is tiresome to each and all of us. We long for a change, no matter what. We feel personally comforted, when BEECHER says that "content, in one sense, is animalism. Ideals make blessed discontent; not murmuring, not repining, but aspiration—a sense of the unfitness of things; and a love for that which is better is divine in a man."

Yet, while this sentiment may comfort us, we are never to lose sight of the fact that the plain, ceaseless round of duties allotted us is life's plain knitting; and if it is not faithfully done, the whole work is but awkward and ill-shaped.

We never see from our window those regular jogging men, who go to their business day in and out, three minutes before 7, A. M., without admiring them, and saying mentally, "There goes a good plain knitter." Such a lack of them as there is in the world, and such need of them too! Everybody longs for the fancy stitches—the purple and fine linen, and to be in king's houses, and to fare sump-

tuously. No one wants to do the plain knitting. A general discontent pervades Christendom. Ah! if we could but believe what is true, that if we do the plain knitting well, the curious figures, the rare devices, and the inwrought arabesques, shall shape themselves from our work in due time, perfect and praiseworthy.

FLYING CLOUDS.

MIXED GOODS.

DEAR JOHN: I chanced to overhear you and Maria this morning, in the store of Blowem & Co., and I am sorry to say that I came home feeling that one of the flying clouds was over you. Maria felt so, I am certain; for I saw her slyly wipe her eyes, as the polite clerk cut off that miserable, cheap mixed goods—half or two-thirds cotton, and a bare suspicion of wool. The sun will fade it, the dew or rain will crinkle, everything will fray it; in fact, it is not worth a pound of very poor butter.

"Ah! but it was cheap," you tell me, "only thirty-five cents a yard."

Again I tell you it was a fraud, a delusion, and I wonder you don't see it so. That empress cloth, at sixty-five cents, would out-wear it four times, and then could be turned, and afterwards dyed, made over, worn out, and turned again; then would last several seasons for the children, and at last go into a good worsted comforter in patch-work, and to its latest day would look well. Your mixed stuff will be only fit for a mop in six months or sooner.

Maria had planned all Summer, too, for an all-wool dress. She had sold the neighbors a few eggs and a little butter, on the sly, until she had money enough; but you know, when you coveted that bay horse of John Grundy's, you petted Maria a little, and she was so melted that she offered to lend you her little hoard. Upon my word, John, I blushed this morning when I saw you take that roll of bills out and pay for that absurd dress. I advise you hereafter to give Maria, at home, what money she wants to spend (I know she has good sense, or you wouldn't have married her), and so let her buy pure stuff—all cotton or all wool, but never mixed goods. A well fitting calico dress looks better on Maria, when she comes in town, than one of cheap mixed goods, with the panier awry or the overskirt wrong side before.

For Winter wear, all-wool delaines, empress, merino or cashmere. For Spring, a wash-poplin or gingham, tastefully trimmed with twenty cents' worth of alpaca braid of a contrasting color.

Yours, in behalf of the pure stuff.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Mrs. DELIA B. C., of Hartford, will find inquiries about brackets answered in last number, in the article on "Boys." For lamps, the shelf would need two supports, and they tacked as well as glued. All holes, even for tacks, must be pierced, not driven, or the board will split.

"How to Make a Muff?"

If you have to piece the fur, be sure that it all lies in exactly the same direction, or the piecing will surely show on the right side. You can thus use the smallest scraps by sewing "over and over" on the wrong side. Make your fur twenty-two inches long and ten wide, and sew the ends together; then turn it right side out. Now, take a round stick, three inches in diameter; wind it three or four times tightly with wadding, the exact width of the muff; finish with a layer of moss or hair; slip it in the muff, and pull out the stick. Make these cotton layers two or three inches thick—so that they will fill the muff tightly in going in, or it will look limp.

Cut a silk lining twenty-three inches long and sixteen wide. Sew the ends together, and turn on the right side. Four inches from each edge run a shirr, holding inside the shirr as you run it, an elastic ring just large enough to run your hand through. Strong rubber cord will do, if sewed (not tied) neatly together. If you have a set of

tassels, with an uncut cord, take one and run a shirr over it, beginning at the seam. Put this shirr one inch from the edge, after the raw edge is turned down one inch on the wrong side. This will make the scant ruffle that comes next the fur.

Now stuff the lining into the muff; take strong silk thread, hold the end of the muff toward you, lay your ruffle an inch over the fur, turn the last shirr back, toward the fur, and sew around to the fur with stout stitches. Do this at each end of the muff. Now draw up your cord, and you will have the peculiar shirr that you always see at muff ends. If you have no cord and tassels, take candle-wickling doubled and twisted for the cord, and finish at the ends with a handsome bow of ribbon with long ends, to match in color the lining, or use two tails of the fur.

If your cotton is put in plump and full, you will now have a muff round and stiff and good as anybody's.

Fur boas and tippets are more in style than capes or collars, but not nearly so warm. They are simply strips of fur, four or five inches wide, doubled and twisted together, over a small fold of wadding. They may be one and three-quarters or two yards long, but are finished at the ends with two tails each, and fastened at the throat with two pretty buttons and loops.

Black and dark furs are much worn this season.

Larch is pronounced like arch, with an *l* prefixed.

Lella C.—The lid of your can burst off with a loud noise, because fermentation, though imperceptible, had really begun. New gases were formed, that finally escaped with the same noise that a champagne bottle is opened.

The best way of holding up any child's stockings is by a strip of elastic, reaching from waist to stocking. Finish each end of the elastic with a strong piece of linen doubled, and a button-hole in each end. Sew a button to the top and outside of each stocking, and to the bottom of the under waist, just over the hip. If you have stockings of various lengths, you can make two button-holes in one of the linen ends, and thus shorten or lengthen them at will. If stockings are thin, sew a piece of cloth under the button, to fasten it to.

Make baby's merino with three plaits in waist, before and behind; the front and back middle plait extending to the bottom, and having blue buttons on them. Scallop bottom of skirt and sleeves and pocket, and bind with blue bias merino, or even alpaca braid. We can procure you a pattern for thirty-five cents, if you will send the child's measure around its body just under the arms.

"*Iowa Girl*" sends us, with a pleasant letter, the following rule for making corn husk baskets, mats, &c.:

Cut pasteboard in the shape you wish for the basket or mat. Then take clean white husks, and cut them into long, narrow strips. Double one end back over the other (to form a point, we think), and sew to the pasteboard in rows. Line with worsted or silk.

We have seen pretty frames made in the same way. "*Iowa Girl's*" final injunction is:

Now, boys and girls, don't be stupid in the future. Take up your pens and write something—anything—to enliven our paper.

FASHIONS.

Girls in their teens wear dress skirts reaching to their ankles.

Sailor suits—a loose blouse—is popular for young girls; made of gray or black stuffs, with a square sailor collar, square pockets and cuffs, in scarlet or any bright color. Bias bands, of same color as trimming, are stitched on the dress skirt.

Cashmere blouses, like the above, are worn by ladies for morning. They are of colors blue, pink, buff, with double-breasted fronts with silk revers, or lappels, in contrasting color. Six buttons, in two rows, are used down the front. Belt of same color as revers and cuffs.

Vails are of black tulle, and cut in a deep point in front, with tabs behind edged with blonde or thread lace. Grenadine square, in pale gray or

dark bottle green, are used for ordinary. Blue black kid gloves are worn with black suits.

HOW TO COOK POTATOES.

Prof. BLOT has thirty-two receipts for cooking either Irish or sweet potatoes; and we have heard that the French cook these vegetables in no less than three hundred and fifty different methods.

Mrs. T. B. BLAKE sends ten receipts for cooking sweet ones. As for us, we could write a small volume on cooking this common vegetable—so rarely do we see it well treated. As a general rule, the smaller the eye, the better the potato. Never peel first. They are better steamed than boiled. If you must boil, have them of even size; cover them with cold water; when done, pour off all the water, cover them well, and set back on the fire five minutes.

1. Sweet potatoes may be peeled, cut lengthwise in slices a quarter inch thick, laid in a long shallow bake-pan, sprinkled with salt, pepper, and a little sugar—the pan filled half-full of water—butter or lard in small lumps scattered over all, and occasionally basted like meat. They will brown nicely.

2. They may be steamed, then mashed with cream or butter, and browned.

3. After steaming, put through a colander like pumpkin, and make into pies.

4. After mashing, shape into small cakes, roll in flour and fry, adding an egg if wished.

5. Or, add half flour to the above, and bake like biscuit.

AROUND THE FIRE.

A pretty group of children were sitting around the fire, and I with my knitting, sat listening to what they said; and this was what I heard: "Guess my riddle," said Susan. "There was a king who had twelve children; they each had thirty daughters, half white and half black—one cheek white, the other black. These sisters never saw each other, and only lived to be twenty-four hours old."

"A year!" said Sammy, promptly.

"Let us play Quaker meeting," said Jenny. She arose and, turning to her nearest neighbor, Lucy, said: "Wilt thou go to church with me to-day?"

"Yea, friend; yea," answered Lucy, as she arose, stepped behind Jenny, and put her hands on each side of Jenny's waist. Jenny went to each one and asked the same question, each child answering, "Yea, friend; yea," and taking a place behind, as Lucy did. When the children were all in file, and had marched several times around the room, they all knelt in a row, side by side, very close to each other, with their hands folded demurely before them.

After a few minutes' meditation, Jenny, who headed the row, leaned vigorously, with a sudden push, against her next neighbor, and the whole row fell flat on the floor. The game was a new one, and the final tableau so funny that the house rang with laughter.

After this, Sammy began to recite that pretty poem, "Little Benny and Santa Claus;" but he spoke so low, and so indistinctly, and in such a sing song tone, that my knitting dropped from my hands, and I slept in my chair.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ABOUT AGRICULTURAL PAPERS.

BY JOHN ENDSLEY.

EDITOR FARMER: It seems to be quite common to make frequent, loud and long calls for subscribers to papers. These calls are made not only by papers having a light subscription list, but the best supported periodicals do the same.

These calls are usually made by the editor or proprietor: they are seldom made by a subscriber. And why? Is it not principally because subscribers fall into the habit of viewing the paper as being published for the support of the editor and proprietor, and that it is *their* business to see that the subscription list is kept sufficiently large? If the manufacturers and vendors of an article are the only persons benefited by it, would it not be better if that manufactory was closed? If no one is benefited by a paper but editor and publisher, would

there not be much loss saved if the publishing of that paper would cease? But if the paper is in the interest of and a benefit to its readers and subscribers, is it not their privilege, and to their interest, to help keep up and enlarge their subscription list?

In whose interest is THE KANSAS FARMER published? Is it only to procure bread and butter for you, Mr. Editor? Ye sons of the soil! farmers of Kansas! is it not also published in *your* interest?

A year ago we were selling our wheat at a dollar a bushel, and THE FARMER raised a warning voice advising to hold our wheat; that we would soon get two dollars a bushel for it. Was not that good advice, and to our interest?

Again, is THE FARMER not pledged to our interest? If you don't remember that it is, please turn to page 349, and you will read as follows:

So far as THE FARMER is concerned, it has been, and always will be, while under its present management, strictly a class paper. Agriculture is our mistress, and we shall aim to crowd just as much of this kind of matter into our columns as possible.

But we need not select sentences. There is not a page in any single number but bears unmistakable evidence that it is in the farmers' interest, and pledged to it.

Now, if THE KANSAS FARMER as is much to our interest as to the editor's and publisher's, why not assist them in increasing its circulation? By making it a point to ask our neighbors to subscribe for it, and by writing a few words in its favor, we may do much to assist our editor in increasing the number of subscribers. As the number increases, in that ratio we may expect our editor to enlarge the paper, and make it more useful to us. He is pledged to this also.

There are yet a few, in this age of reading and progress, who say they don't want Agricultural books and papers; that if they had the capital with which to farm as well as they already know, they would be doing better than they are. These persons, perhaps, would not agree that it is because they do not read Agricultural papers that they do not have the capital. We must keep abreast of the times, if we would prosper. When I was about twenty-one years of age, on entering the store of an honest acquaintance of the Society of Friends, he exhibited some beautiful clocks, with brass works, and insisted on selling me one. With an air of independence, I informed him that I had a wooden-wheeled clock, that I believed to be better than his brass ones. He answered immediately, by asking, "JOHN, hasn't thee a wooden mold-board plow?"

The time once was when, with a wooden mold-board plow, people could get along somewhat evenly with others; but it is not to-day. The time once was when people could, or did, get along without an Agricultural paper; but we need not try it now, and expect to keep even with others.

At the present time, almost every profession and industry has its paper, as a medium through which people of a like profession or industry may communicate, to the mutual benefit of each other. Should Agriculture be an exception to this rule? Is it of so little importance among the occupations of the nation, that it is not worthy the same attentions and facilities as others? Or if it is, as is claimed, the foundation of all others, why not allow it all the assistance printers' ink can give?

At the present day should we not be ashamed to engage in any occupation not worthy the fostering care of the press?

I have heard THE KANSAS FARMER objected to because it was not made up of the choice Agricultural items, as well from good Agricultural papers as from writers in our own State. Let us make a comparison. We take our county and State papers to get our county and State news. If these papers would undertake to imitate our national papers, we would find that the news of the nation and world would crowd out our county and State news, and our object in taking these papers would be almost entirely frustrated. In like manner, should THE KANSAS FARMER extract from papers of other

States, it would be to the exclusion of matter from our own State, in which we are more deeply and personally interested. Farming in Kansas differs in many respects from farming east of the Mississippi and Alleghenies, and we need all the instruction and experience we can give each other, through the columns of THE FARMER, and cannot afford to spare the room for foreign matter. We need a paper devoted almost exclusively to our own interests, in our own State; and an editor capable of conducting it with ability and success, and with honor to all concerned. THE KANSAS FARMER, to a great extent, fills this need, and will, as has been said, fill it better as we give it the necessary support. If our editor will permit it, I will say that in him we have a man pre-eminently fitted for editing our paper; a man who has few peers in intellectual and literary ability; and our hopes are high that our paper will have attained that position of honor and usefulness desirable.

If I could practice my own preaching, and lay down a rule for the yeomanry of Kansas in the way of selecting papers, it would be about as follows: First, take a church paper, if we will; next, THE KANSAS FARMER; next, our county and State papers; next, a national Agricultural paper; next, a national newspaper. To these could be added papers and magazines, according to our various inclinations and needs. THE FARMER should be to us a kind of joint stock concern, in which we are each one stockholders; and now, let us all unitedly rally to its support, and extend its circulation.

Richmond, Franklin County, Kansas.

QUAILS AND CHINCH BUGS.

BY FUGH G. LISTIO.

EDITOR FARMER: We all have our hobbies—impressions that we have formed without sufficiently weighing the evidence for and against them. We think THE KANSAS FARMER is just now riding a very large hobby, and, with all due respect for the views of others, we beg to present our views of the question before the Legislature, and everybody else is induced to join in what seems to us a visionary scheme. We have been studying the chinch bug question for years, and these are our conclusions: 1st. We are convinced that no bird will eat chinch bugs, except, perhaps, as a cat eats grass, to serve as an emetic. We watched these bugs almost daily last Summer, marching into our cornfield and ruining row after row, but not one quail could we find along the "line of battle," morning, noon or evening. But we could find dozens of quails feasting on ripe strawberries and blackberries, or pecking and ruining our choicest bunches of grapes. We have failed to discover that quails do anything toward exterminating chinch bugs. We certainly never wish to see the time when the quails can be "numbered by millions" in our neighborhood. 2d. We can combat and destroy the chinch bugs successfully only while they are in a dormant state. They pass through no transformation. The few that survive the frosts of Winter come forth as soon as the weather is sufficiently warm, take wing and fly to some favorable spot, generally a nice wheat, rye or barley field, where they mate and proceed to lay their eggs. Here they secrete themselves most of the time in cracks in the ground about the roots of the grain, and are sometimes nearly all destroyed by heavy cold rains coming soon afterward. Many generations of them are probably produced during the Summer, as they increase by millions in a favorable season. When cold weather comes they hide away among grass cornstalks, &c., where, fortunately, most of them die before Spring. Cornstalks, especially, seem to be their favorite refuge, where we can now (Dec. 6) find plenty of them alive and well, though the temperature of the air has been below zero.

Right here is where we must fight them. Let all cornstalks, dead grass, &c., be plowed under or burned before the first warm days in Spring, and

chinch bugs will be scarce. This plan needs to be pretty generally adopted to produce the desired result, for one large field of stalks left undisturbed might stock the country with them for a long distance. We are convinced that the use of stalk cutters late in the Spring has materially increased our supply of chinch bugs in this part of the country, by leaving their principal hiding places undisturbed too long. While speaking of stalk cutters, we would like to inquire what (if anything) is gained by plowing cornstalks under? Does their analysis show that they contain any desirable elements not contained in their ashes?

We would not be understood to favor a war of extermination against quails. No doubt they do much good as well as some harm. The same may be said of most kinds of birds, including the despised and much persecuted crow. But we do earnestly protest against any legislation that will not leave the farmer or fruit grower free to decide whether any bird or animal is beneficial or injurious, and to act accordingly. We hope to hear more on the subject from those who have studied the habits of these bugs, for we agree most heartily with you that we should do all we can to stop their ravages.

Gardner, Johnson County, Kansas.

BURNING OUR PRAIRIES.

BY W. H. KNIGHT.

EDITOR FARMER: Evening after evening I see the lights of prairie fires. For this reason I expect another dry season. The ground being left bare, affords no shelter for the moisture of the night, or the water that falls in showers. As soon as warm weather comes, the ground becomes hot, causing the intruding wind, and soon everything becomes too dry for the accumulation of dew, and then as the winds from the South come in, the air gets so hot and dry that the people say hot winds, drouthy Kansas, &c. Is there no way to make the people believe that it will be better to have good seasons, than to have a few hours' reckless, wicked delight? If so, let us employ these means at once, even if it be to send a few from every neighborhood to the State Prison at Leavenworth.

European Correspondence.

OUR PARIS LETTER.

Wool vs Mutton—Parasites—Seed Wheat—Field Mice—Phylloxera—Agricultural Colleges—Timber Planting in the Pyrenees, &c., &c., &c.

PARIS, FRANCE, December 27, 1878.

In the hotly contested question of wool versus mutton, Dr. LANSON, Professor of Zootechny in the Grignon Agricultural College, has made some interesting experiments. He selected twenty five samples of wool, chosen from Merinoes of a precious breed, ostensibly reared for their flesh, and Rambouillet sheep, reared for the fineness of their wool. The microscope was the analytic agent employed. The Merinoes, though precocious, displayed no difference in the diameter of each fiber of the wool as compared with that when in a normal state; it sensibly varied, however, between animals of the same breed, being fluctuating alike in the case of the ram as well as the ewe. As a rule, the fiber was found to be longer and equally as fine as from the Rambouillet breed. The "locks" of wool were longer in the case of the Merinoes, but there was no difference in point of "curliness." Again, neither the quantity nor quality of the greasiness of the wool—which imparts to it its softness, tenacity or "nerve"—are modified by precocity, these depending rather more on the local aptitude of the skin, than activity of nutrition. The weight of the fleece was relatively as good, and its "combing" character irreproachable, as illustrated by a comparison of prices. The conclusion is, that there is no antagonism between the production of wool and mutton.

The prevalence of smut in wheat has drawn at-

tention to that disease, and Dr. PENNETIER, who has made the subject a life-long study, assures us it is owing to the presence of parasitical animalcules, not unlike the tiny cels that vines produce, and which exist in the smut ball as whitish filaments. Although dryness suspends the life of these worms, they immediately regain it on being plunged into water. The humidity of the soil effects the same change when the sound grain germinates; the larvae of the diseased seed are attracted to the young plant, live on its pulpy matter, forming tumors on the stem and leaves, and ultimately lodge in the ear. They are now in an adult state; the sexes become distinct, the female deposits her eggs—from twelve to fifteen hundred—as many thousand being found in a single grain of wheat. The new larvae remain in a desiccated state till the following season, and may be dried and restored to life several times with impunity. In France, when such grain is sifted, it is roasted in an oven, and given to fowls. Steeping the seed-wheat in solutions of arsenic, blue vitriol, or ammonia, kills the parasite effectively. Placing the seed for twenty-four hours in a solution of one part of vitriol and one hundred and fifty of water, is a favorite remedy.

The presence of field mice and their numerous cousins, is rapidly rising to the dignity of a plague. When the same little barbarians invaded France in 1856, BOUSINCAULT conquered them by steeping grain in an arsenical solution, two ounces of arsenic in one quart of water, stirring frequently, allowing the grain to soak for an hour, and then dry. Eight poisoned grains will settle a mouse—care must be taken that it does not do the same for barn-yard fowl or game.

The only very new remedy against the phylloxera is of boring with a gimlet the crown of the vine in Spring, as far as the medullary canal, when the sap is ascending, and injecting therein, by means of an india rubber bag, a solution of essence of turpentine and carbolic acid. The vine-growers are not all unanimous as to importing "stocks" from America to kill off the bug, and not a few persons believe the phylloxera to be a trans-atlantic disease even. A commission will be appointed by the Government to study the evil in America.

Great activity continues to characterize the various agricultural colleges and farm schools in this country. The students of the Grignon College to the number of thirty-two, have made a tour of inspection through Picardy and French Flanders. I have read the reports drafted by several of the pupils, on the result of the excursion, and the trip illustrates that such "object lessons" are worth a session's attendance in the lecture room. A professor of the same college informs us that he has going through the press a work on a new system of book-keeping, combining single and double entry, and being at the same time simple, safe and clear. We shall see.

A gentleman recommends, after long experience, the dipping of the ends of "slips" in collodium, before planting. The end of the cutting, after the moisture has evaporated, should be dipped in the collodium; a second afterwards, another plunge. The glazed surface promotes the striking of the slips.

The leaves of the common laurel reduced to a powder, mixed in small quantities and administered cautiously in drinks for cattle afflicted with the mouth disease, are said to produce gratifying results.

The government finds some difficulty in replanting the mountainous districts of the Pyrenees with larch, which is well adapted to the locality. As soon as the "nursling" is planted, the shepherds pull it up, and the inhabitants, high and low, sustain them, alleging forests to be the curse of their locality.

The Central-Agricultural Society has organized its first Club dinner. The adulteration and smuggling of home-made alcohol, was the question discussed.

The Kansas Farmer

MONEY LENDERS WANTED.

An esteemed correspondent, in renewing his subscription, submits the following:

Do you know of any way to induce capitalists to come into this (Montgomery) county, to loan money at a fair rate of interest—say 12½ or 15 per cent.? Money loans at 25 to 35 per cent., and some men have borrowed money to enter their homes, expecting to make it on their corn crops, but have failed to do so on account of low prices. If there is not something done, I am afraid the country is gone up. If you know of any capitalists that we could get to come and loan money at a reasonable rate, and how we could introduce them here, we would like to know it. We have got a good country, and can give good security.

Nothing could be more pleasing than to point out the means of relief from this condition of things, from which nearly the whole State suffers in common with the locality of our correspondent. High rate of interest is consuming the vitals of every industry dependent upon borrowed capital. This trouble is too deep-seated for removal by the importation of money-lenders, or any other temporary expedient.

It is unnecessary to say that no farmer can live who pays twelve to fifteen per cent. interest on the purchase fee of his farm, or the capital used in its cultivation. Hence, farmers cannot borrow money on real estate security, even at a much higher rate of interest than the business man secures it for on his own or commercial paper. No one better than the capitalist knows that money loaned on farm land will remain a permanent investment, until such time as the owner finds a cash market for its products at a living advance on the cost of producing. He knows that unproductive real estate is the poorest possible investment, and that nine-tenths of the lands offered in security for his money are absolutely unproductive in everything save taxes.

Our condition is an unnatural as well as unfortunate one. The tide of capital is ever ebbing, and never flowing. Every article and implement of necessity, comfort or luxury, is imported; and our money goes out in the very track formed by this incoming supply. Our friend, we venture to say, wears boots made in Massachusetts, by Massachusetts labor; his clothes are from Eastern cloth, made by Eastern hands from Western wool; he sits in a chair, eats from a table, and sleeps on a bedstead made in the East, and brought to him, at a cost of transportation and middlemen's commissions, equal to their original cost. The sides, floor and roof of his domicile are of imported lumber, put together with imported nails, driven by a foreign-made hammer. Its doors, sash and blinds, if he has any, are made in Chicago; and we are enabled to tell the story by the aid of Cincinnati paper, New York type, and a Chicago printing-press.

The backs and mouths of all this vast army of artists and artificers, who administer to our tastes and wants, are to be covered and filled at our expense; yet, they are so far removed that nothing we raise or make can be used for that purpose until trade and commerce have each exacted their pound of flesh from the lean ribs of the producer, for its handling and transportation.

Our staple crop, corn, will not bear transportation. To convert it into flesh requires capital not at command of the great mass of producers. Hence, the rich grow richer and the poor hold their own with wonderful tenacity.

We see but one means of relief—*Home manufactures*. We must bring the producer and consumer closer together. The East, suffering for that which is our burthen, excess of food, cries for cheap transportation. It demands of Congress a regulation of inter-state commerce, that it may still hold the West in bondage. Let us seek emancipation from this old-time thralldom, by bringing manufacturers and mechanics to us. Let us at once bring the hungry mouth of the East to the full bosom of the West. Let us have the skilled hands of the weaver

within reach of the backs his nimble shuttle works to cover.

When we cultivate Kansas soil with Kansas-made implements; when we wear home-made cloth, sit in home-made chairs, eat from tables, warm our shins at stoves, and dream on beds made in Kansas, then, and not till then, will the unfortunate cry cease to come up for more money-lenders—more leeches to consume our blood.

The will, only, is required to accomplish this. A concerted action, aided by wise legislation, would very soon carry us over the "dead-center" which holds the wheels of our progress in check. Exemption of capital and product of manufactures from taxation for a period of twenty years will accomplish it, if our people will make it a part of their religion to buy nothing from abroad that can be made at home. The existence of the manufactories in our midst would produce two dollars of taxable property where we exempted one dollar. The increase in cost of home production, if there should be an increase, would be doubly compensated by the enhanced value of that wherewith we buy.

THE FRUIT PROSPECT.

Mr. C. H. CUSHING, of this city, informs us that after a careful examination of the fruit prospect, he finds the Crawford peach all gone; Early York, Hale's and Troth's Early, appear to have three-fourths of the buds killed, and others somewhat injured; but unless further damaged, there will be a fair crop. Kittatiny blackberry, and Philadelphia raspberry canes are still sound. Clarke's are gone. The "seedling" peach buds are comparatively uninjured, and that there are enough for a full crop.

QUAILS AND CHINCH BUGS.

PUGH G. LISTIC (he's a fighter) takes us to task on the above question, and handles us without gloves. Who is right? The question seems to be now, do quails eat chinch bugs?

We supposed we had taken them from the craw of the quail by dozens. But from what our pugnacious friend says, it seems they only eat these bugs when they want to "puke," and very sparingly then; and that their regular diet consists of strawberries, grapes, &c., in their season. If this latter be true, we can at least commend their taste; but we have evidence enough to satisfy our own mind that the quail is a large consumer of chinch bugs, and if PUGH G. LISTIC will take the trouble to examine the craw of the quail in "chinch bug times," he will find it so. But we trust that this discussion will not draw the minds of our readers from the valuable suggestions contained in our correspondent's article in regard to disposing of the chinch bug question. There is no doubt but bushels of these insects could be destroyed in the manner there suggested.

The silicates of the stalks are set free by the act of combustion, and these are essentials to the proper strength and growth of the stalk; but the resulting potash unites with the silica in the soil, of which fortunately there is plenty, and new silicates are formed for the succeeding crops, so that little if anything is lost by burning the stalks.

THE MANURE HEAP.

Not long since, we wrote a short article under the above title, but a farmer's wife, and a mother, writes us: "Won't you please say something to boys in general, and mine in particular, upon this subject. That man of mine would insist on building his barn on the high ground by the side of a hollow, so as to have a handy place to throw his manure."

Our lady correspondent may find some relief in knowing that that man of her's is not the only one who has built his barn handy to a ravine or hollow, in which to dispose of the manure without trouble.

We don't mind so much to see the old farmers waste their substance in that way, but we are sorry to know that there are any young farmers in Kansas following in the old, well-worn path of slim

crops, and incessant grumbling about the unprofitableness of farming.

Remember, young farmers, that every fork-full of manure wasted, is an ear of corn thrown away. Every load of manure that is permitted to leach out, and run down the hollow, is a load of corn thrown into the river. Remember, that every time you raise fifty bushels per acre, when you might have raised seventy-five, you add fifty per cent. to the cost of producing your crop. This fifty per cent. is what makes the rich farmers.

THE AUSTRIAN UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION.

On the 1st of May next, there will be inaugurated at Vienna an Industrial Exhibition, which promises to be the grandest affair of its kind the world has ever seen. On another page will be found an accurate illustration of the main exhibition building, with its ground plan and surroundings.

The main exhibition building consists of a main gallery or nave, 3,000 feet long by 650 feet wide, connected with 48 transepts, each 250 feet long and 46 feet wide, separated by courts, which in our ground-plan are marked No. 1. In the center is the dome, or rotunda, which is the largest canopy-shaped edifice, without central supports, ever constructed, having a diameter of 320 feet, and a height of 250 feet, entirely of iron. On the upper half of our illustration, a perspective view of the rotunda, with the main entrance, gives a better idea of the colossal size of the building, of which this rotunda is only a small portion. The main entrance is in the ground-plan marked 22, the side entrance 23.

The Machinery Hall is a separate building in the rear of the exhibition building proper, and is marked 2; it is 2,600 feet long, and about 100 feet wide; it is separated from the main building by a garden and open space for pavilions, marked 24, and connected by galleries, marked 9. Other open spaces for pavilions are seen in front of the building, while the main entrance to the grounds is marked 18, and situated on the new Grand Avenue, where the railroads put passengers down at the station, 13, exactly at the entrance. At the side of this main entrance, at 8, are the post, telegraph, and custom-house offices, and at 7, the pavilion for the jury. Different restaurants on the ground are marked 17, 10, are guard houses, 14 the exhibition building for horses, in the rear of which, 25, the agricultural exhibition grounds, not all contained in our plan, 11, the barracks for the engineers, 15 is the plan for hot-houses, 16 the horticultural exhibition building, while at 3 is the gallery of fine arts, and at 4 the "Exposition des Amateurs," or loan collection, where the aristocracy of Imperial Vienna will give the loan of their art treasures for the gratification of the public.

The Commissioners appointed by the Austrian government, having had opportunity to study the working of the World's Fair, of London, in 1851, and in turn, each of the succeeding ones, we have a right to anticipate a distinguishing advance on all preceding exhibitions. Indeed, it has been true of each one, since the first, that it greatly improved upon the one before it.

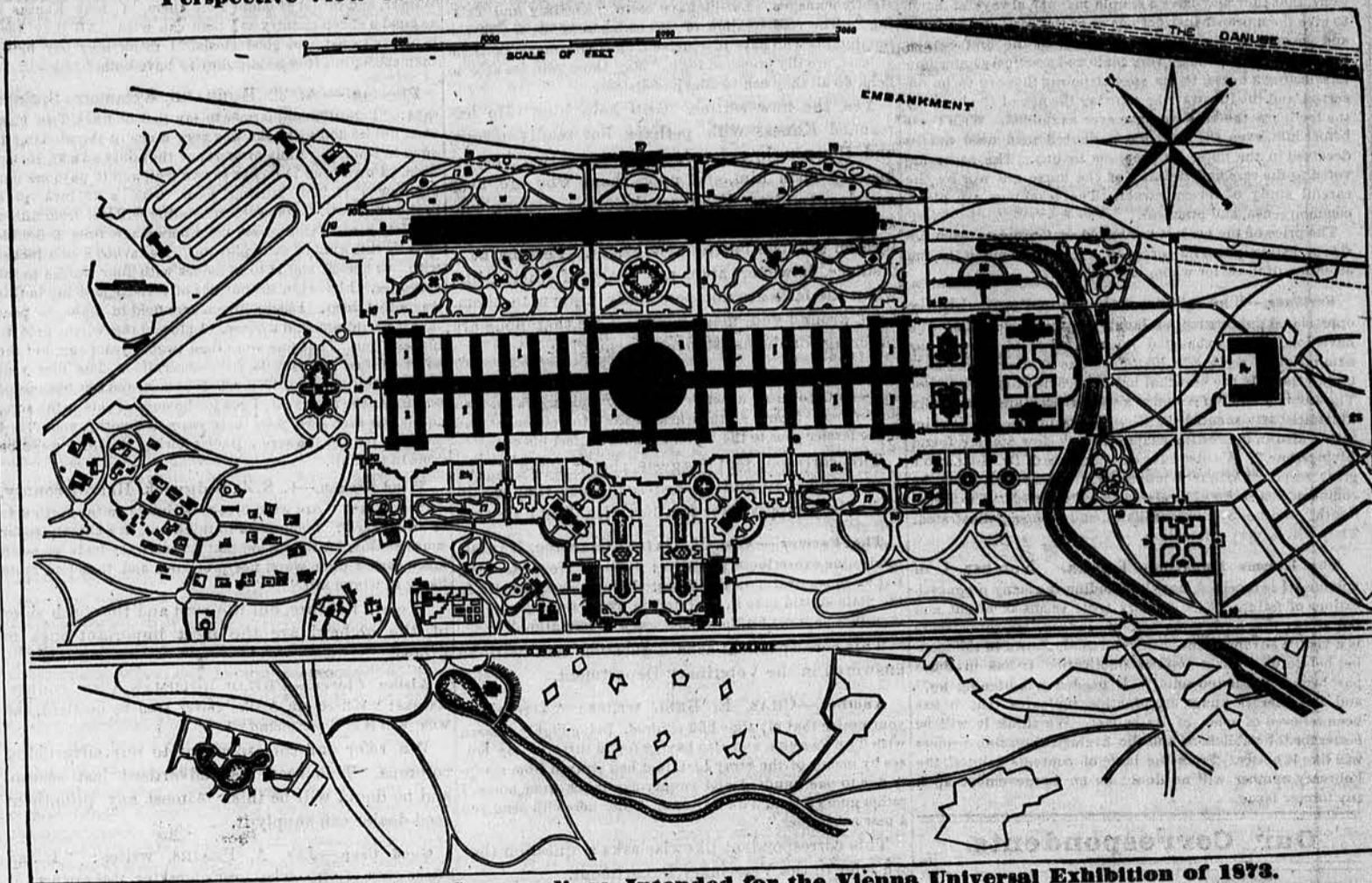
In arranging the twenty-six groups and divisions of space allotted to foreign countries, they are situated relatively, as the territories are geographically, in the direction of East to West. All the important lines of machinery are to be exhibited in such a manner as to show an illustrated history of their invention and improvement. The engine of to-day, for instance, will stand in line with like machines of ten, fifteen, and twenty-five years ago. The commerce and trade are to be epitomized. Samples of every article of trade from every important port and harbor of the world are to be brought together here; and each sample exhibited will show its origin and value.

But we have not space at this time to enumerate the many new and novel features that are to contribute to make this a World's Fair in fact, as well as name. Already the nations of the earth are sending in their applications for space; Germany

alone having asked room for nearly 800 exhibitors, and applications from other nations are coming in in like proportion. as a nation, and not simply as a collection of individuals. Should the appropriation not be granted, it will be incumbent upon our manufacturers and inventors to see that American skill is brought in competition with that of other nations, and the products of our farms and shops, our spindles and looms, our genius and handicraft, should be there, that the claims that have been made, that America takes rank with the first in all these things, may be substantiated.



Perspective View of the Central Rotunda of the Vienna Universal Exhibition Building.



Plan of the Building and Surroundings, Intended for the Vienna Universal Exhibition of 1873.

The United States has appointed THOS. B. VAN BUREN as the Commissioner from this country, and an effort is being made to get an appropriation from Congress, that we may be represented there

turers and inventors to see that American skill is brought in competition with that of other nations, and the products of our farms and shops, our spindles and looms, our genius and handicraft,

Sound Advice.—Our esteemed correspondent, J. W. SPONABLE, of Gardner, Kansas, in bewailing the negligence of some of his neighbors to subscribe for THE FARMER, says: "Now, when farmers need all the information on economy, best methods and best markets, they say they are too

poor to subscribe. Just the time when they cannot get along without the paper, is the time they neglect to take it." We commend this advice to the attention of our readers.

It Pays.—An old advertiser in THE FARMER sends the following tribute to its merits as an advertising medium:

LAWRENCE, KANSAS, December 16, 1873.
GEO. T. ANTHONY: Enclosed please find postoffice order to pay for advertisement accompanying. . . . I regard THE FARMER as an advertising medium worth all the rest of the papers in the State put together, if you want to reach the farmers generally. My advertisement last Spring—Sweet Potato Plants—sold all I had and more too, and it was really provoking that the orders would come faster than the plants would grow. I have tried several other papers who claim to have "the largest circulation in the State," and it never sold me enough plants to pay for the advertisement.
 Yours, &c.,

Arbor Day.—An esteemed correspondent privately suggests that we change our recommendation from an Arbor Day to an Arbor Week. That inasmuch as we cannot control the weather, it would be better to have a little sea room, and that more trees would be planted if the time was extended to a week.

We accept the suggestion, as one eminently practical, and now let us go at the Legislature for an Arbor Week, as though we meant business.

Horticulture at Home.—F. F. V. writes us a very lengthy, and he will pardon us if we add, fulsome article, under the above head. It is too lengthy for our columns, and in our estimation, gives the subject too high a place. We are lovers of fruits, and fruit culture, but for a steady diet, give us cabbage and potatoes.

Overight.—By some means, the advertisement of the Ad Astra Nurseries was left out of our last issue. It appears elsewhere.

BOOKS AND PAPERS.

Hand Book on the Treatment of the Horse; by CHAS. WHARTON. That old and well known house, J. B. LIPPINCOTT & Co., of Philadelphia, have given us under the above title an excellent little work of 137 pages upon the Horse, well illustrated and neatly bound.

The author tells us in the introduction that the work is designed especially for gentlemen who keep a horse in town, and who have to depend upon others for the care of the same, that they may have a simple manual always at hand, to give them proper instructions as to the care of the horse and the cure of his simpler ailments. In the first chapter the author gives us some very plain and practical suggestions in selecting a horse, to the special points that are to be observed, and the illustrations showing the age of the horse by the teeth are the best we have ever examined. With these before him, even the most inexperienced man need not be deceived in the horse he proposes to buy. The pages devoted to the care and training of the horse are worthy the careful study of every owner. The teachings are plain, common sense, and practical.

The price of the book is not stated, but presume from its size and style it is \$1.25 or \$1.50. We commend it to the attention of those for whom it is written.

Scribner.—The above well known and highly appreciated publication for January is upon our table. We have long since exhausted the adjectives to express our admiration of Scribner's Monthly. The number before us is unquestionably the best that has ever come from their press. The January number contains a well written and beautifully illustrated article entitled "New Ways in the Old Dominion;" also an interesting chapter from "How Stanley found Livingstone." We also have chapter three of Dr. HOLLAND'S great serial, "Arthur Bonnicastle." There will soon be commenced a series of twelve articles entitled "The Great South," written by EDWARD KING, and profusely illustrated. They will be very interesting.

The Kansas Magazine, Topeka. Number 1, of volume III is received, notwithstanding the many prognostications of failure. The January issue seems as bright and fair as any that have gone before. Indeed, we think there is a visible advancement—a step forward, shown in the number before us. For a popular publication it has in times past been a "little too solid." It needed "lightening up," and the number under examination indicates that it has been relieved of some of its ballast. We think it will be better for the publishers, and the average magazine readers will like it better. From the table of contents printed, the February number will no doubt be an improvement upon any former issue.

Our Correspondents.

LETTERS.

We, in common with everybody else, have a passion for letters. How in the world does a man live that don't get letters? Does he live? We doubt it. Letters are both food and raiment, with

apple dumplings and pumpkin pie thrown in. Then how—how we ask—can anybody live without letters? Well, if our proposition is proved, and it is, we wish the readers of THE FARMER could see our table as we write. We are sure they would conclude that we are neither "naked nor hungry," and for the present, this is true. How long it will hold out, we cannot say; but trust it will last at least through the present "cold spell."

Before it is too late, permit us to qualify what we have said above. A letter saying "please remit that little amount you owe me," isn't half as digestible as one which reads "enclosed please find ten dollars." Since we come to think about it, we don't believe there is any heat or substance to these short, curt, dunning letters. At any rate, we never could feel any. But bless me, how those other kind do warm one one up! When a man receives them, he feels—he feels—well, he must feel just like an alderman after a state dinner; and as everybody knows how he feels, we will let that stand for a simile of our condition just now, for nearly every one of the letters before us have brought with them pleasant reminders, that THE KANSAS FARMER was wanted in thousands of households throughout the West.

But we are keeping the good folks waiting who seek admission into this column, and however much we would like to talk about the long letters and the short letters, the sweet and the sour letters, the honest letters and some that ain't so honest, the affectionate, loving letters, and the letters that, as the boys say, rake from "long law"—however much, we say, we may feel like writing about these, we haven't the time to do it now, but shall walk right into the pile before us:

Happy New Year!—A reader sends us pleasant greeting, and asks, "why are the lady readers of THE FARMER so backward in writing for the Household Department? Variety is the spice of life. It is just as important to have the household duties well performed, as to have the farm rightly managed. Let us have more "Knitting and Talking." The cold weather of December reminds me of the immigrants who have just arrived, and who, many of them at least, are illy prepared for it. May those who are able to help, do all they can to alleviate distress."

Yes, the new settler. GOD help him. He has reached Kansas with perhaps but scanty means, and the rough, rugged, unusual weather has set heavily upon him, and upon those who are near and dear to him. We trust the older settlers, who are upon the ground, will do what they may to lighten the load for the new comer. Persons at a distance, however able, are chary of their gifts, when the facts are not personally known to them. Look around you, neighbors, and see that none are suffering for the assistance you can give.

Time of Holding Fairs.—Mrs. DELIA B. CRIPPEN, suggests October as a better month for holding Fairs, than September. Nearly all the wheat is sown in September, and if the farmer goes to the Fairs, he must neglect his crop.

This correspondent suggests, that if some of the men would chew and smoke less tobacco, they would feel able to supply their families with THE FARMER.

The Farmer.—WM. M. DAHL, Osawkee, Kansas, sends nine subscribers, and says: "Times are quite hard, but we must read THE FARMER. I think every family in the State should take it, for I find in every issue some one item that pays me for the whole year's subscription."

This correspondent asks a question that will be answered in the Veterinary Department.

Another.—CHAS. E. BELL writes: "I received your notice that my time had expired. Being highly pleased with THE FARMER, and also having found three of my horses by means of the Stray List, that had strayed from seventy-five to one hundred and twenty-five miles from home, I rather guess I want THE FARMER. I also herewith send you a new subscriber."

This correspondent likewise asks a question that we refer to the Veterinary Department.

How to Break Prairie.—J. B. F. wants to know "the best way to break prairie. Should it be subsoiled, or should we use the common plow?"

For corn, break next June, cutting the sod not more than one and one-half to three inches thick.

We prefer to lay the sod over nearly flat. Some, however, prefer to leave it at an angle of 45° or more. For potatoes and small grain, it must be broken earlier and perhaps deeper, but we are not so sure about this matter.

Illinois Reports.—ISAAC COLBURN, Secretary Loyal (Ill.) Farmers' Club, writes: "I report cold weather, and neither rain nor snow to make water for the stock at this date (December 16). Wells are falling and streams are drying up. Wheat is selling at \$1.10 to \$1.20. Corn, 15 to 20 cents. Oats, 12½ to 15. Potatoes, 25 to 75. Hogs, 8½. Cattle, 8½. Money very close."

Holding up milk, &c.—M. F. T. PERRY, Jefferson county, Kansas, writes: "We do not know of any remedy for cows holding up their milk, but we believe if a cow is never fed until after she is milked, there will never be any trouble from this cause. I have practiced this for years, and never had any trouble with cows of my own breeding. The Farmers' Union at Chetwood, numbers now about one hundred members, and other districts in the county are organizing. Until cold weather set in, crops never looked better. Since then, it has been too dry for the wheat crop. Our surplus-corn was mostly fed to hogs. The bulk of the hog crop went off at 3 and 3½ cents gross. Cattle of all grades bring fair prices, but no surplus to sell in this neighborhood. Many potatoes were frozen in the ground. Corn fodder is so dry that the blades grind to powder in the feeding, and hence much is wasted. Water falling. We propose to have a protracted rabbit hunt in this neighborhood soon. Two companies are organized, and the one that brings in the most scalps in a two weeks' hunt, is to receive three bushels of apples from the other company. Some of our young (male) FARMER readers have taken a great fancy to your 'Hoosier Girl,' and we hope she will come often with her sensible, spicily articles."

"Hoosier Girl" will come as often as she can find time to write, but we don't want any of our FARMER boys to coax her away from us. As a writist, she will yet make her mark. We hope M. F. T. will keep us advised in agricultural matters from his neighborhood.

Flax—Sheep.—ED. PINNICK, Louisville, Kansas, says: "I have raised flax here for two years. It has the finest 'lint' of any flax I have ever raised. I am in the sheep business on a small scale. I wintered 94 head last Winter, and raised 84 lambs from them. I think Kansas is as good a sheep country as a man can wish. All they need is plenty to eat, and good sheds. I think they pay better than cattle, but it is good policy to have both."

Plowing.—A. T. HUBBARD, Sycamore Springs says: "Permit an old farmer to say that he likes THE FARMER, but he don't like the way very much of the plowing is done in Kansas. Many farmers say they only own 2½ inches deep. I own from 14 inches to two feet, and it pays me too. I follow a 14 inch stirring plow, with a 12 inch plow in the same row. One such subsoiling will last from fifteen to thirty years. One of my neighbors made fully a double crop by this kind of deep plowing. He turned 8 or 9 inches with two horses, and 15 to 18 inches with four horses to the subsoiler. I have got 100 bushels of corn by plowing in this way a foot deep. I had a fifteen acre field in Ohio, so poor that it would not feed a horse. I plowed the whole field 20 inches deep. That was more than twenty years ago, but the effect of that plowing is still discernible. The first year after subsoiling, I got 100 bushels of corn and 300 bushels of potatoes; the next year, I got 100 bushels of oats to the acre, and it was then seeded for three years to timothy, and turned off three tons to the acre. Deep plowing should always be done in the Fall."

Wind Breaks.—C. S. Z., Sedgwick, Harvey county, Kansas, asks: "Are wind breaks desirable on the north side of an orchard? Some seem to think not, in a climate so far south as this, for the reason that it causes the buds to swell much earlier than when not protected, and therefore more likely to winter kill."

We are not sure, but the west and the south sides of the orchard are the most important ones to protect.

Alsike Clover.—PHILIP ROTHMAN, Clay county, Kansas: "Where can Alsike clover seed be obtained, and what will it cost per pound?"

We refer our correspondent to our advertising columns. This seed was advertised last season, and no doubt will be this. Almost any prominent seed dealer can supply it.

Good Crop.—JAS. A. PEAIRS, writes: "I had fifteen acres of corn on last year's breaking, that averaged 75 bushels per acre. Will that do? We have a Farmers' Club in this district (Johnson county), and we meet every two weeks. We have discussed several important topics, and each one is called on to express an opinion. The meetings are very interesting."

Tanna from Sumac.—J. G. CLARK asks us to tell

him how to extract tannin from sumac leaves, with cost of apparatus, &c., and also asks if "there is a tannery in the State of Kansas?"

To the latter question we would only say that we do not know of a single one. As leather is now tanned, we know of no reason why this business may not be profitably conducted here as elsewhere. The sumac leaves are sold in market in bales, and we doubt if private enterprise can compete with organized companies in extracting the tannic acid. We have no means of ascertaining the cost of the necessary appliances.

Cranberry Culture.—F. G. CORNISH, Denver, Colorado, asks for information in regard to cranberry culture.

The prime requisites are, a rich sandy loam, that can be overflowed and drained at pleasure. For the minutia of the business, we must refer you to some of the works upon this subject. WHITE'S Cranberry Culture, price \$1.50, is perhaps the best. We can furnish it from this office.

Potatoes.—Fence.—A Reader asks: "What is the best time for planting late potatoes, and what are the best kind? Are there any portable fences in the State, how constructed, what the cost, and who the patentee?"

Our personal experience justifies us in saying that all potatoes should be planted early, as a rule. The Peachblow is a popular potato, but we cannot recommend it as a very prolific one. The Peerless is perhaps as good, all things considered, as any other, and yet we doubt not you will find neighbors who will tell you it is worthless. On no other crop is there so much difference of opinion as upon this, and we attribute this more to the difference in soil, situation, manure, &c., than we do to the seed or variety. There are many portable fences in use in Kansas, but are generally used for fencing small inclosures. A gentleman at Paola has one of the best of this kind of fences, and proposes to sell farm rights very cheap. We do not remember his name. The cost of his fence, as near as we can recollect, was \$1.25 per rod. Perhaps some of our readers can give us the plan of a good, cheap, portable fence, that is not patented. If so, we will gladly publish it, if furnished with a drawing.

Deep or Shallow Pans.—E. W. HORTON thinks the idea contained in an article on page 298 of the last volume, is wrong. Hear him:

You claim that the animal heat will come out of the milk sooner if we set the milk in cans eighteen to twenty inches deep, than it will in the ordinary milk crock. Now, as the animal heat must evaporate, and if we have pans with a large surface, it looks to me that it works on the same principle of a sorghum evaporator, but if I am wrong I want to know it.

Our correspondent can very easily test the question for himself, by using a thermometer. But we simply aimed to present the fact in the above quoted article, that certain butter-makers in the East, who are making fancy or "gilt-edged" brands of butter, and who are getting from seventy-five cents to a dollar and twenty-five cents per pound for it, are using the deep cans of which we spoke; and it is natural to infer that, unless they got more cream or made more or better butter, they would not use them. That was the idea we wished to convey. But we hope our correspondent will test the radiation of heat, and which parts with the animal heat first—the deep or shallow pan. The comparison of the evaporator is not just correct.

About Timber Raising.—W. H. KNIGHT is opposed to the ideas advanced by our correspondent from Belleville, in a late number, in relation to securing an appropriation for the benefit of those who plant trees. Mr. KNIGHT says:

I live in a county which has no coal mines, and upon a claim without timber; but I am opposed to any kind of appropriations, as I believe them to be a curse to both State and Government. It is enough, I think, for the Government to give the land, without paying them to improve and beautify it. I would favor the idea of giving a deed to each settler who has twenty acres of trees two years old and over, and also to withhold the title until the claimant has five acres of timber upon his claim. This will make the speculator, who proves up on his land and leaves it, a public benefactor, instead of a drawback to the country.

Co-Operation.—A. T. LANE likes the suggestions

contained in a late article entitled, "Going to Market," and offers some remarks upon co-operation:

Farmers must have cheaper transportation and better markets, both for selling and buying. Will not co-operation among farmers accomplish this? What do you think of a branch of the Patrons of Husbandry?

We have no opportunities of knowing what the workings of the Patrons of Husbandry are, beyond what we see in the published documents; and in them there is little that is objectionable, to our mind. There is an opportunity for a few men to make themselves rich, if they can get control of either State or National organizations.

Local Co-operative Societies can be conducted very cheaply, and will, perhaps, accomplish all that the more expensive organization of Patrons of Husbandry proposes to reach. But we confess we have no very well digested ideas upon the subject, and shall be glad to hear the views of our readers.

Profits of a Dairy.—M. M. WINKLER writes:

For the benefit of J. F. BARRY, Houston, Texas, I will say that, from twelve cows I have sold \$306 worth of cheese and \$100 worth of butter, the past season; and raised fourteen calves, two of which I sold for \$16 each. They are all half-breed Durhams.

Flaxseed and Castor Beans.—W. M. N. REED asks an opinion as to the profitableness of flaxseed and castor beans culture, as a regular crop. We answer the question by inserting here the pith of an article just received from J. W. HUNTER, of Olathe. He says:

I have been raising flax for the seed alone, with very good results. If the fiber could be used, it would be a very profitable crop. I prepare the ground as for small grain, taking care to have it well pulverized, and level with a seed-sower. Sow eleven quarts of seed to the acre. I cut it with a self-raking side-delivery machine. Heretofore I have always stacked it, but it is a good plan to haul it to the thrasher at once. Pitte's Patent gives the best satisfaction of all the threshers I have tried. We threshed out over 1,500 bushels of seed last Fall. The average yield was nine bushels per acre, and the seed brought \$1.30 per bushel. The cost of threshing was twenty cents per bushel.

We have no data as to the profitableness of castor beans. Perhaps some of our readers will be kind enough to answer this part of the query.

Black Caps.—The same correspondent wishes to know where he can get plants of the Black Cap raspberries. Write to any of the nurserymen who advertise in THE FARMER. They all keep them.

To Protect Fruit Trees.—J. B. DOBBS writes: "I have found soot from a wood fire, mixed to the consistency of thick paint with sweet milk, and applied to the trees, a sure preventive against rabbits."

Practical Experience.—A Practical Farmer writes sensibly, as follows:

In August, 1870, myself and neighbors threshed our grain in the fore part of the month, when we should have been plowing for wheat, the ground being in fine order. When we were ready to go to plowing, the ground was dry and hard, and no wheat was sown till October. Result: No wheat raised! I sowed six bushels of English Club Spring wheat on 27th of February, 1872, on my Fall wheat ground. Sowed broadcast, on seven acres of ground, and shoveled it in. Cut July 8th, and threshed August 9th. Yield, 156 bushels. Soil, bottom land. Sowed four bushels Tee wheat on five acres of upland. Cultivation same as above. Cut two or three days earlier. Yield, 64 bushels.

I made a hot-bed, and planted early vegetables. From this source I find placed to my credit \$66.66. [It may be one hundred and sixty-six dollars.—ED. FARMER.] One variety of oats yielded with me a little over forty bushels per acre, and another thirty bushels.

For early potatoes I plant Early Rose, and for late the Peachblow. The latter I plant in the dark of the moon in May. Both varieties yield about 150 bushels per acre. I drop two eyes in a place, two feet apart in the furrow, and cover with a plow, and harrow just before they come up.

Black Walnut—Wild Goose Plum.—J. B. DOBBS asks: "Is it true that a black walnut grove will injure an orchard, if planted near it; and if so, how far away should it be?"

The black walnut is a strong feeder, and ought not to be nearer than thirty or forty feet from a fruit tree. If it injures an orchard in any other way, we do not know it. The same correspondent asks "if the Wild Goose plum is superior to other plums, and if Spring rye is a profitable crop." The Wild Goose is a good plum, but not superior to many others. Can any one answer the question in

relation to Spring rye, from their Kansas experience?

Berry and Fruit Culture.—W. H. PARSONS wishes to know "if berry and fruit culture can be made profitable, with Leavenworth and Kansas City for a market? Will strawberries yield from one hundred to one hundred and fifty bushels per acre? What varieties are best suited for this section, and for extensive cultivation? Are there any parties, say within fifty miles of Kansas City, engaged in the fruit and berry business, exclusively for profit?"

To the first question we answer, Yes, if the party engaging in it can command the necessary skill, time and money. We do not believe that strawberries will yield from one hundred to one hundred and fifty bushels per acre. If they yield half of either amount, they will prove profitable. Wilson's is the standard variety. Yes, there are, perhaps, hundreds in the circuit you name engaged in the fruit and berry business for profit.

Rubber Boots.—W. W.—There is no preparation known to the trade that will mend rubber goods. A new pair will cost five dollars.

Good Crop.—ISAAC COLBURN writes: "R. J. & G. COLLINS gathered 1,008 bushels of corn from ten acres, upon the farm of W. Coar (near Loami, Ill.), and gathered an average of eighty-three bushels per acre on fifty acres upon the same farm."

Quails—Tree Planting.—S. EVANS likes our ideas on the above subject, and says:

I have few leisure hours, having five hundred head of stock to feed, but I have found time to plant 300 apple trees, 500 peach trees, and other fruit in proportion. I have fifteen acres in fruit and forest trees.

Meteorological Reports.—W. D. FARRAR, Corresponding Secretary Dragoon Farmers' Club, writes:

Our Club is in receipt of Prof. MAURY'S Address upon a plan for a World's System of Meteorological Reports, and with it a blank, upon which we are requested to send names, petitioning Congress to make an appropriation for Prof. MAURY'S project. What is your opinion?

Our opinion is, that we would have nothing to do with it. Our Government is feeling its way in this matter, slowly but surely, and we are quite willing to leave the matter in the hands of those men controlling it, who have shown that they understand the matter fully as well as Prof. MAURY; and by so doing, we run no risk of lobby fees or jobs, to be paid by the people.

Timothy—Apples.—A. W. C. wishes wishes to know "if timothy grass does well in Kansas, and if so, on what kind of ground."

It does well. Any good corn ground is good ground for timothy. Sow it.

What varieties of the sweet apple are best for Winter? Bailey's Sweet and Bentley's Sweet are good, and fill the season pretty well.

Is the Ben Davis a good cooking apple?

No. It is largely cultivated, because it is a good bearer, tolerably hardy, and its fine appearance sells it readily.

Cloud County.—Uncle GEORGE writes: "Corn is plenty at 25c. per bushel, and potatoes scarce. Stock doing well, except horses. Water somewhat scarce. Timber and coal within reasonable distance. Our soil is a rich vegetable mold, abounding in shells and other remains of the fossil kingdom."

Claims for Sale.—HERBERT CAPPER, of Elk City, Kansas, writes us, "that there are many good claims for sale in that section, at very reasonable prices. He has a good claim, with sixty-five or seventy acres in cultivation, that he wishes to rent on the shares to a good tenant. The neighborhood is well supplied with water and stock range, and schools are handy."

Cottonwood Cuttings.—R. M. HOSKINSON says that eight or ten inches is long enough for cottonwood cuttings, and they should be set in a rich, loose soil, leaving but one bud above ground. The willows, boxwood and lombardy poplars all thrive under the same treatment.

Potato Bugs.—A. C. THOMAS, writing from North western Kansas, says:

The weather has been very cold here. But little snow as yet. The Winter wheat that was sowed early, looks well. [The universal testimony.—ED. FARMER.] That sowed late

did not come up. Corn good: yield from fifty to sixty bushels per acre. Potatoes almost a total failure, owing to the bugs. Is there any remedy for this kind of potato bug? They are not the Colorado beetle, but are a straw-colored fly, about half an inch long.

We do not recognize the potato bug described. Can any of our readers give a preventive?

Timber Planting.—JOHN LOUGHMILLER urges the following very sensible plan, to secure the planting of forest trees:

Let the State Board of Agriculture offer premiums to the county that plants the largest number of trees within a given time, and let the County Societies offer, say, ten premiums to the ten individuals who, within the given time, plant the largest number of trees.

Mr. LOUGHMILLER speaks very favorably of the soft maple as a rapid grower; and says the seed can be transported hundreds of miles. The plan suggested above is good, and can, only perhaps be improved by the State Board offering five or ten premiums, instead of a single one. This would give the less densely populated counties a fair show.

General News.

THE farmers of Linn county, Kansas, are now discussing the question of co-operation, and it seems likely that a society will be formed.

BELOIT, Kansas, according to the *Gazette*, has invested during the past year \$92,500 in buildings, bridges, &c. A pretty good showing for a new town.

SOLOMON City has just completed a mill 26x52 feet, three stories high, with a capacity for grinding 500 bushels per day, and a very slight expense will double the capacity.

CAPT. J. B. SHANE, of Abilene, planted an orchard of forty acres this Fall near that town, and in addition, a large number of fruit and forest trees.

THE *Chronicle* says that a little daughter of T. L. Marshall, Treasurer of Osage county, aged eighteen months, recently passed from her bowels a sharp, flinty stone, three inches in circumference, and one-quarter of an inch thick. It is not known at what time she swallowed it.

THE *Chronicle* says that Mr. A. Packard, living near Enterprise, Dickinson county, has a peach orchard of 10,000 trees that will come into bearing next season, and has a smaller orchard that has been in bearing several years, the fruit from which has sold as high as \$3,000 in a single season.

DICKINSON county is working hard for a woolen mill, to be located at Enterprise. \$10,000 or \$12,000 have already been subscribed. The Abilene *Chronicle* is doing valuable service for the county in this and other respects.

GEORGIA has a law exempting from all State taxation all woolen mills that may be built in that State for a period of ten years. The Holton *News* favors a similar law for Kansas, and to embrace paper mills.

THE Osage county *Chronicle* publishes the County Treasurer's notice, "that all lands sold for taxes in said county May 3d, 1870, will be deeded to the purchasers May 5th, 1873, unless redeemed by the owners previous to that time.

THE Blue Rapids *Times* says, "no more bonding the county to build up the towns." Some railroad wants \$100,000 of Marshall county bonds.

TEN of a dozen reliable firms at Blue Rapids issue a circular in which they propose to furnish suitable court rooms and offices, and in time build a good and substantial court house, without expense to the citizens of the county, provided the county seat is changed from Marysville to Blue Rapids.

TWO horses recently trotted at Beloit, Wisconsin, fourteen miles for a wager of \$100. The time made was 59:40½ and 60:18½. Both horses were fresh from the farm.

COL. CHANUTE says the L., L. & G. R. R. will bear one-half the expense of boring for coal at Ottawa, Kan. It is thought that \$1,000 will determine the presence or absence of coal at that point.

THE building to be used for the American Centennial Celebration will cover fifty acres of ground. Quite a large building.

THE *Union* says the Hon. C. B. Lines recently paid into the treasury of Wabaunsee county as taxes, the sum of \$1,000; \$500 of it being on his own account. We don't know whether that item is in favor of Mr. Lines, or against the county.

PLANET, the old race horse, won \$78,000 for his owners while upon the track. He is still in good health, living upon Woodburn Farm, near Lexington, Kentucky.

THE average price at which the yearling colts sold at Mr. Alexander's last annual sale in June, was over \$300 each.

J. H. KRISSENGER, of Clarksville, Missouri, recently sold to a California man three heifers, one a three-year-old, sired by Sweepstakes 6280, for \$1,800; the others, one year old, got by Starlight 11,018, for \$600. Good prices.

Our Boys and Girls.

A MAN'S THEORY.

BY "MOOBIE GIRL."

"Talk about the drudgery of housework," said a fine looking young farmer, "why its nothing but mere fun. Stay in the house out of the broiling sun, nothing hard to do, lots of time to read and visit and gossip. I'd like to know what the women are talking about. Tell you what, I would like mighty well to have a chance."

About a week after this remark, his wife became sick. He did not seem very anxious to try his talents in the housekeeping direction, but inquired far and near for a girl. Luck seemed to be against him. Girl number one wanted to know if she could come into Mass every Sunday morning at nine o'clock. Mr. JAMES said he hardly thought she could, because it was too far to walk, and there were great fears of the epizootic in the way. She then said perhaps once a month might do, and wanted to know if he had water handy, how many hired men he kept, and if she would have to do their washing; how many children there were, if she would be allowed to entertain "followers," if there was milk to attend to, &c., &c., which disgusted Mr. J. so much that he politely referred her to the door.

Girl number two was not accustomed to get up and have breakfast earlier than nine o'clock; which likewise did not suit Mr. J.'s notion of housekeeping.

Girl number three had just arrived from Sweden, and could not speak more than half a dozen words of English. Besides, she was not versed in the ways of Americans, and would have to be taught. Mr. J. did not quite fancy teaching a green girl, and she too was allowed to go in peace.

No desirable girls wanted to go so far from town, and so, poor man, there was no help for him but to do the housework himself.

This was on Tuesday. Wednesday morning bright and early, up jumped our hero and commenced operations. He chuckled to himself, as he thought about the three months' experience he had had in housekeeping in his bachelorhood.

"Well, first thing on the programme is breakfast," said he. Just then the baby woke up, and must be attended to the first thing. By the time baby was washed and dressed, and tied in the high chair, with the best teaspoons and a tin pan to amuse him with, the other child, a little boy of three summers, also awoke; then he must be dressed too. By the time this was finished, he found it to be about six o'clock, and breakfast not yet commenced. He began to think that things looked rather dubious for having breakfast ready at half-past six. It seemed to him that he was not quite sure about making the coffee, but then it would not do to ask MARY, after making so many boasts. So he ground the coffee in a trice, and poured it into the coffee pot, which was about half full of cold coffee, and put it on to boil. Then he went to work and made some biscuits, fried some potatoes and ham, and announced to the hired men that breakfast was ready. They sat down, and Mr. J. with much exultation, proceeded to pour out the coffee. It struck him that it did not look quite as clear as usual, but he put in lots of cream and sugar. The biscuits seemed to be of a very golden color, and when it came to eating them, they did not seem to taste just right, but the ham and potatoes were very good. Nothing was said about them, but on clearing the table he found all the cups full of coffee, and a goodly portion of the biscuits left. Next thing, MARY must have something to eat; so he made her some tea and gruel, and took them into her bedroom. She seemed to relish the tea, but the gruel, she said, tasted scorch

ed, and was lumpy. Mr. J. bore it all with remarkable sweetness of temper, and said that "he was watching the baby meanwhile." Next thing, the dishes wanted washing; he went at them bravely, and soon had the satisfaction of a house all cleared up. Then he looked at the clock. Whew! eleven o'clock already! He could not imagine where the time had gone to. Eleven o'clock, and nothing but the ordinary housework done, and dinner must be ready by twelve. So he gave the children some things to amuse themselves with, and went down cellar to get some vegetables. He prepared them, put them on to cook, and hurried around as fast as possible, but then did not have the dinner ready until one. The potatoes were hard and watery, the cabbage tough and not half done, and Mr. J. began to think it must require some knowledge to do good cooking after all.

After the dinner work was done, MARY complained so much that he thought he had better go for the doctor. He could not leave the children alone, so he took the children with him in the baby carriage over to the next neighbor's, to try and get a little girl to come and stay with them. By the time he got a few yards from the house baby began to show signs of rebellion at having so much of his space occupied by another, and he was obliged to take GEORGIE out and lead him. He made slow progress, but succeeded in getting there at last, and was informed by Mrs. JONES that "SALLIE might go, but she must take JIMMIE along, for she could not work with him no how."

He left them in her charge and went for old Dr. BLUNT, who came out with him, and said there was nothing the matter with MARY but biliousness, and gave her some pills and departed. He then came out into the dining room and found Miss SALLIE snugly enveloped in his wedding coat, much to the delight of the assembled company, and JIMMIE with his white satin neck tie on. Baby with his tooth brush was scrubbing the floor, and GEORGIE was vainly trying to extricate himself from between the chair legs.

Baby held up a badly blistered hand for inspection. "Why, SALLIE! how did that happen?" exclaimed Mr. JAMES.

"Indade, sir, and I just went for a drink, and the first thing that I knew, the baby was scrachin', and there he was all burnt."

"I think you can go home now, SALLIE," and giving her a quarter to reward her for her trouble, she took her departure.

He then began investigating things, and found that his white neck tie was all over small black finger marks, and GEORGIE's frock all torn. His overcoat lining was torn into shreds, and things generally were in the same beautiful condition.

He had thought while in town to get enough baker's bread for supper, so he just made some tea and put on some preserves, and had a much better meal than the two previous ones. Well, things went on in the same way for two or three days, when MARY began to feel quite well again, and to inspect the housekeeping. The first place she examined was the kitchen.

"Why, WILL JAMES, if you haven't got all the skillets hung up unwashed!"

"To be sure! what's the use in washing them every time? I have not washed them since I began housekeeping."

"I don't wonder, then, that you think housekeeping so easy."

"Well, I don't see what on earth's the use. I hang them up with the inside toward the wall."

"Yes, and here isn't a clean dish of any description to be seen."

"Well, I just calculated to get them all dirty (I found it must be too much trouble to wash them all up every time), and then have a grand wash up."

"I would just like to know how you would like it if you should bring company out here some day, and I should have to go to work and wash up a lot of dirty dishes before I could do anything."

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