

Horticultural Department.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.

Annual Report of N. P. Deming, Commissioner, to Douglas County Horticultural Society.

Mr. President of the Douglas County Horticultural Society:—In making my annual report on entomology, I will take up the tree-cricket. I expected to have one on exhibition, but alas! a spider eat him up.

The tree-cricket is of a pea-green, about three-fourths to an inch long. It inhabits in and about the apple trees. It lays its eggs in the young limbs of the apple trees in rows, puncturing to the pith of the limb; remains there till spring. The damage it does is to eat holes in the fruit and cause it to rot.

These crickets are getting quite numerous. The best mode to destroy them is, find the limbs on which the eggs are laid and burn them.

The cottonwood borer is doing great damage to cottonwood trees. They have nearly ruined my fine grove. The larva that have remained in my grove two years will probably come out this spring in beetle form; shall watch with great care to see what kind of bugs they will turn to.

There has been enough said about the apple tree borer. A gentleman remarked at the state meeting at Ottawa that the Douglas Horticultural society knew as much about the borer as if it had made him. A good compliment for the society.

The codling-moth is quite numerous in the vicinity of Lawrence. The mode of capture has been described during our summer meetings. Two years ago Michigan flooded Kansas with her wormy apples. It was a noted fact, the consumers remarked the fine flavor the worms imparted to those apples, while the horticulturists throughout the state were indignant at the wholesale of these moths to be let loose to ravish our orchards; but through the influence of the horticulturists of the state, and the dealers of Michigan apples, they were obliged to keep their wormy apples at home this year. Thanks to the fruit dealers. Don't flood us again. Discard all wormy apples from market and you will confer a lasting favor to the fruit growers of Kansas.

Fruit Culture.

An Indiana correspondent of the National Index, of that state, says: "This is a subject apart from all others, and may be treated under its various heads, requiring volumes, and still be unexhausted. I shall therefore confine myself to a few ideas concerning this important branch of husbandry. First, I am frequently interrogated as to whether spring or fall planting is the better. My answer invariably is, that I have for many years practiced both, with about the same result, so far as apple, pear, quince and grape are concerned. But I always advised the planting of peach, plum and cherry to be done in the spring. Whether planting is done in spring or fall, the first and most important step is to have the ground in proper condition. Never plant when the ground is wet. For this reason the fall season is usually the most favorable, covering a longer period of time, and also because most farmers have more leisure then. The ground should be broken deep, the deeper the better, and well pulverized and thoroughly enriched. The best fertilizer ever found for all kinds of fruits is wood ashes. A good shovelful mixed with fine earth and placed around each young tree or vine will always tell favorably. The proper distance apart for apple trees is twenty-five feet each way.

"When your ground is all made ready to plant, the next thing is to know where to get your trees and what sorts to get. Perhaps you remember some favorite sorts that grew in your grandfather's orchard in the state of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, or somewhere else, and such you would love to plant but can't get them away out here in Indiana; and so you order by some fine-haired agent your Rambo, Ben Davis, Pippin and Janet apple trees, and Bartlett, Flemish Beauty and Howell pear trees, and pay twice as much for them, just as if such things were never propagated in this country. I venture the assertion that in less than ten years no less than ten thousand dollars has been expended by the farmers of Clay county for fruit trees, and where did

the money go and what have our farmers to show for it? Perhaps a few trees are growing, but are they any better than could have been procured close to home? And would it not have been wisdom to keep ten thousand dollars circulating as near home as possible? "Everybody" around here complains of the "money-sharks" of the East, but how many stop to consider what harm they are doing themselves and their neighbors by purchasing abroad and sending their money out of the country for just such articles as they could purchase of their neighbors, and perhaps not half so good?

"And as to the profits of fruit culture, we would love to say something, for this is where the good part of the story comes in. But space forbids. Suffice it to say that more money can be produced from an acre of land by judicious planting in fruits than in any other way. This we have tested, and are able to establish our position. Therefore, we say to one and all, whether the owner of a section or a few rods, plant fruits."

Horticulture for Farmers.

It must be self-evident to every thoughtful farmer, that a practical knowledge of the general principles of horticulture is of importance to a purely agricultural community. Observation has long ago taught us that it is either from a lack of knowledge or a lack of interest in this delightful science, that we find so many homes in the country presenting a desolate, unhome-like, unprotected, forbidding aspect.

Agricultural writers insist that the farmer should have an intelligent and thorough understanding of all the departments of labor on the farm; that brain work and science is needed for successful culture, increased production and general management of field crops; so, also, that care and thoughtful management of domestic animals is requisite; that taste, warmth and ability in farm buildings for the protection of these are evidence of an educated, thoughtful mind. If this be so, shall we deem it of less importance that the farmer should also possess a practical knowledge of the general management of orchards, timber culture, home adornment, hedge culture and the production of the various forms of fruit essential to health, comfort and enjoyment of country life? True, we have spoken and written much to our brother farmers on this subject, so much that we sometimes tire and get discouraged in repeating facts by which it is so easily demonstrated. How often we have persuaded our people to plant groves and shelter belts, by showing the great value of this in sheltering stock and preserving crops from the destructive effects of our violent winds; yet we, who realize the importance of the subject, and know from experience the certainty with which such protection may be rendered, should not relax our labors till the desired end is gained—until these terrible storms which so often sweep over these plains, destroying vast amounts of property and sometimes life itself, shall either be numbered with the things that were, or at least their force be broken that they will be comparatively gentle and harmless.

No occupation in life affords higher advantages for the enjoyment of table luxuries than that of the farmer. No avocation affords such opportunities for charming homestead scenery. No other pursuit presents such favorable opportunities for the intellectual of studying the beauties of nature. But, if the farmer has no knowledge of the care and management of trees, and the cultivation of fruits, he and his family are deprived of luxuries they might cheaply enjoy. If he has no cultivated taste or practical idea in regard to beautifying his home, how plainly this will be seen in the barren, slovenly appearance of his homestead. In short, for want of practical horticultural knowledge, his homestead is barren of any evidence of higher culture, and his children, if imbued with the characteristic spirit of American ambition, will probably incline to some other vocation of life.

How often too, from a want of this knowledge, have our farmers been led into injudicious purchases from tree peddlers, and have also sustained losses by unskillful management. His purchases at high prices of Russian apples, blight-proof pears, or French peaches and hardy Canada peaches, will only bring regret and disappointment. If not about the farmer's home, where should the air bear the odor of fruits and the fragrance of flowers? Where should we see the pleasing scenery of green lawns, beds of flowers and groups of evergreens? Where should we hear the carol of birds, mingled with the merry voices of happy children? If not in the farmer's home, where should we seek evidences of comfort, taste and refinement? To aid in the attainment of these enjoyments, will be the object of these papers, hoping they will be received and read in same spirit in which they will be presented to your readers.

John W. Robison, in Dickinson County Chronicle.

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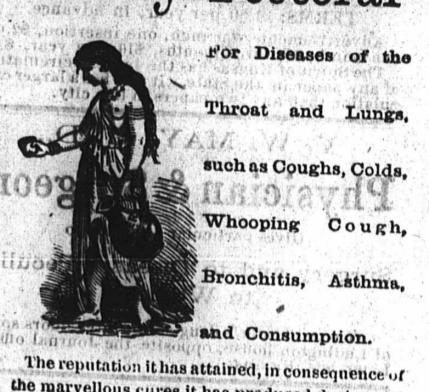
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Farm and Stock.

Farmers in Congress.

What business have farmers in congress? Are there many there? How many? And yet President Hayes, in his message, has wisely called the attention of congress to the fact that we have such an industry in our country as agriculture, that its products are being exported as a great aid towards helping to pay the debts of the ruin of war, commerce and trade, and railroad extortion, speculation and wreck.

For the one-half of the people of the United States engaged in agriculture, congress, in all its sessions to the present day, has done many things it "ought not to have done," and has "left undone those things which it ought to have done." What are those things? Let us have them.

What has congress to do with the custom-house officer of New York? Much, every day. Since the one-half of the people of this nation have no cabinet officer to attend to their interest, they should have sent a marshal for that collector, and have explained to him that they united in the tariff bill that when dirt was mixed with fine wool to bring the price low and get a low tariff, it ought to be considered a fraud, and have impeached him, or told the president to try again and get a man who knew what a fraud was when it was so plain.

And yet we have no cabinet officer in that very high, important and influential council of our nation, to look to the greater branch of industry, the most productive, the most reliable in all times of trouble and distress. No tariff law was ever passed but it affected the farmer more or less; no government land bill was ever passed but the farmer was directly interested; and it appears to me that no great interest of our country was ever more unwisely managed than the disposal of the government lands.

One way to assist the interest of the farmer is for the present congress to provide for a cabinet member, whose duty it should be to carry out the spirit of Mr. Davis' resolution, by looking after the interests of agriculture. It matters not whether he is a farmer, or doctor, or merchant, provided he knows how and is capable of discharging that important duty.

"Congress shall have power to regulate commerce among the several states." What has it done to assist the farmer to get cheap transportation, and thereby assist the producer and consumer, both classes, and commerce of every sort? The time was when New Hampshire refused to grant a charter for railroads between Massachusetts and Vermont; and when New Jersey refused to charter railroads between Pennsylvania and New York; Illinois to charter railroads for transportation from St. Louis east and north.

Nearly all classes of large horses have been tried—the English draft, the Clydesdales, the Belgians, and the different families of French horses—but none have seemed to "knick" so well with the ordinary stock of our country as a smboth bull, clean limbed, powerful muscled, vigorous and active Percheron horse of France. Some of the coarser and clumsier animals imported have not given good satisfaction, but wherever one of the above named quality has been introduced, he has gained a reputation at once.

Reclaiming Farms.

In building up an unprofitable farm, the first aim should be to stop the process of running down; to make it pay first, expenses, and then a slight, yet increasing profit, and to this end both thought and labor must be directed. No matter how cheaply the family has been living, if possible to reduce expenses, do so. Cut off everything except plain food, coarse, warm clothes, a single newspaper. Raise your own vegetables, and save on the meat bill. Pay cash as you go. Everything has to be paid for in the end, and the whole credit system is a delusion and a snare.

On every farm, but especially on one which is doing poorly, there must be a scrupulous saving of all the manurial substances. Barn-yard manure, decayed animal or vegetable matter, refuse of every description, bones gathered up in waste places, leaf-mold hauled from the deep ravines—all these must be utilized, and their effects will soon be evident.

Horses that Pay Best.

It is a generally accepted fact that the breeding of what are termed fancy horses cannot be successfully bred by the ordinary farmer.

With rare exceptions, breeding for speed is so uncertain, even when those engaged in the business are possessed of the very choicest animals adapted to that purpose, that it is only those that have a fortune, and are able to pursue the object as a matter of pleasure, that can successfully continue the business for any great length of time. The mania, that for years past has possessed our people for breeding fast horses is rapidly leaving them, and they are beginning to realize that if they are to make any money in breeding horses of any kind, it must be in producing animals that will have a specific value in themselves, whether trained or untrained.

How to produce this class of horses is something that interests every farmer throughout the country. A few years since, when there were no pure bred, large sized stallions to be found in the country, it was a practical impossibility to do so with any degree of certainty from our ordinary sized mares; but latterly, the importation of heavier classes of stallions from foreign countries has made the hitherto unattainable object easy of accomplishment.

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rons, besides quite a large number of grades, have been brought to Nebraska and are doing the country valuable service. This is very flattering to the clear-sightedness and perseverance of our farmers, and we cannot urge too strongly the continuance of such a worthy enterprise, as every one of these animals that are brought to our state will add greatly to its future wealth.

Occasional feeding of salt is very important to the health and vigor of animals.

"Occasional feeding of salt is very important to the health and vigor of animals. One-half of the ash of animal blood consists of salt, without which the vital fluid cannot be in a natural or healthy state."

"It is difficult to make people understand that food in animals as well as in plants is largely derived from the air, and that good, pure air only can supply what nature demands from the atmosphere. Muddy and filthy barns turn out lean cattle."

"At a recent meeting of the British Bee-Keepers' association, held at South Kensington, near London, there was exhibited three supers of honey made in one hive sixty feet from the ground, in one of the most populous parts of London. The exhibitor termed the product 'chimney-pot honey'."

"In 1872 the consumption of meat in Paris was 137,000 tons, and in 1877 it reached 152,000 tons; equivalent to a consumption of 163 pounds per head in 1872, and 167 pounds in 1877. The consumption of poultry and game in 1872 was about 20,000 tons, about 2,000 tons going to private houses and the rest to the public markets; and the returns show but little change in 1877, though there has been a material increase in price. Paris levies an octroi duty on these products, and hence is able to give exact figures."

"It may afford a crumb of comfort to American agriculturists who are dreading the results of overproduction, to know that English writers like Mr. Caird have forcibly summed up the broad view of the present state of matters when they tell us that quite one-half of each loaf consumed in England is of foreign origin, that one-fourth part of their whole meat and dairy produce comes to them from across the sea, and that almost the entire additions which may hereafter be sought to fill the ever-multiplying mouths of their dense population must be drawn from other lands."

The corn crop of Nebraska this year is estimated to be 25,500,000 bushels, and the number of hogs at 175,500. The total receipts for our surplus products of all kinds this year will not be less than \$30,000,000.

Veterinary Department.

Erysipelas Carbacinorum.

I have lost nine head of last spring's calves. They first get lame in one leg, and in eight or ten hours the shoulders or hips swell up, then they get stiff all over, lie down and can't get up, and die in twenty-four hours afterward. When I first noticed them being lame they were all in good order. They have been on pasture all the fall until the last ten days. I now feed them with hay and raw corn. What would you do for them, and what is the disease?

ANSWER.—Though your description is meager, we are inclined to think that the animals were subjects of anthrax—a blood disease, the pathology of which we are as yet but imperfectly acquainted with. It is always found in animals of a plethoric disposition, and we have no doubt the promulgation of the disease is entirely due to the decomposition of organic substances, decaying a septicemic influence over or in the blood. Young animals are more subject to it than older ones—the latter, probably, being better able to throw off the effects of its poisonous influences. Treatment: When the animal is once effected it is very doubtful if medicines will be of much account. However, we would recommend giving a saline cathartic. To calves a year old, seven or eight ounces of sulphate of soda in a draught will be sufficient; also three drachms of spirits of nitrous ether, three times a day, and half an ounce of sulphite of soda, twice a day. It would also be well to introduce a santon in the dewlap. They should be removed to high and dry ground, and those that are affected isolated from the others. It would be well to give all of them a purge and stint them in their feed.

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