

FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN
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CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED



Not a few farmers have invested in typewriters and find them a very useful adjunct to their business.

We once knew a man who could neither read nor write, yet there was not a man who could beat him figuring interest on a note.

A corn grower in Iowa last year had 4,600 acres in practically one cornfield, which averaged him fifty bushels an acre, making it really a notable crop.

The Hungarian brome grass is almost as hard to get rid of as quack grass and should not be sown as a rotation crop where clover and timothy will grow.

If corn is planted too thick, there will be few if any ears, and in this case it is not defective seed or seed which lacks in vitality which is the cause of the barren stalks.

Even in Ohio the farmers hardly dare try to raise a crop of wheat unless they use about 200 pounds of bone dust to the acre, and the farther east one travels the more they have to use.

Better butter than is now made will probably never be made, but there are lots of chances to make more of it. With modern facilities and knowledge it seems strange that there is so much poor butter still made.

We have two or three inquiries as to the changing of seed grain. It will always pay to change once in three or four years, getting the seed from the north of you and from sandy land if yours is clay, and vice versa.

It is estimated that country green-horns and suckers have dropped \$100,000,000 in Chicago the past year in connection with the various games of graft which thrive in that city, the board of trade chief among them.

The colored man has simply got to work out his own salvation, and he will never do it save through good hard work and economy. The easiest way out for him is through a bank account, for the possession of money will secure him a respect and consideration from the white race which he can obtain in no other way.

The farmer of fifty years ago was not supposed to be an educated man. In fact, it was commonly thought that the less education he had the better farmer he would be. Today the successful farmer is almost of necessity an educated man. The more he reads and thinks and the more he knows the greater his success.

A friend tells us that he rid a large field of cockle burrs which had complete possession of the land by repeated mowing during the late summer and fall. Another tells us that he got rid of them by pasturing the land closely with sheep. Another says that a summer fallow with two or three plowings and plenty of disking and dragging will finish them up.

There are three or four promising wheat propositions in sight today—one the winter wheat possibilities of the southwest, in Oklahoma and the Indian Territory; another, winter wheat on the dry lands of western Kansas and Nebraska, macaroni wheat on the semi-arid portions of North and South Dakota, winter wheat in the Alberta country and spring wheat all the way from Winnipeg, 2,000 miles northwest. Not the least promising of the lot is the macaroni wheat proposition.

An interesting fact in natural history is related by an observer—that of a colony of bank swallows which found a large horned owl hidden in a hole in a large tree and the united work of the little birds to destroy a common enemy by closing up the entrance to the hole with small sticks, mud and the glutinous matter used in the building of their nests, making the old pirate a prisoner to starve to death. It would be interesting to know just how this deep laid scheme was born and by what sort of bird telepathy all the birds of the large flock became inspired with the one purpose, which was accomplished between daylight and dark of one day.

A reader wishes to know why he cannot raise as good crops now as he did forty years ago, when his section was first settled. That's easy to answer. He would not expect to get as much work out of an old and broken down horse as he would from a young and vigorous one, and it is that way with the land. The soil has been worked out, is deficient in plant food and, like the old horse, will soon lie down in the harness and refuse to work any more. It need not have come to this had ordinary sense been used in the cultivation of the soil, but as it stands today the biggest problem which confronts the largest number of American farmers is how best to restore fertility to worn-out land.

A WONDERFUL PROOF.

The Burning Glass as a Demonstrator of the Sun's Heat.

"The sun's heat is so great!"—But an intelligent young woman interrupted the scientist impatiently. "After all," she said, "it is guesswork, this talk about the excessive heat of the sun. You can't prove any of your claims."

He was disgusted. "I can't?" he cried. "Why, it is the easiest thing in the world to prove that the sun is hot enough to melt iron, granite, the hardest substances known, into liquid, into steam."

"How would you make such a proof?" she asked incredulously.

"With the burning glass," said he. "A burning glass is slightly rounded. Thus it bends into a focus—it concentrates upon one point—a number of sun rays. The finest burning glass, catching only a few rays, will light a fire, set off a gun or bore a red hole in your hand."

"Yes." "The solar heat which the burning glass collects for us is the tiniest fraction of the sun's actual heat. We can prove this by focusing with our glass rays from a powerful lamp or a great fire. We get a small, bright spot, a little heat, but this heat is nothing to compare with the heat of the lamp itself."

"So, knowing, now, that the solar heat which the burning glass gives to us is but a fraction of the heat of the sun, we take a burning glass a yard in diameter—such glasses have been made for the sole purpose of convincing skeptical persons like yourself—and this glass concentrates many hundreds of sun rays for us, and it gives us a heat greater than we can obtain in any furnace, a heat that will melt rock into vapor."

The scientist smiled triumphantly. "There is your proof," he said. "The burning glass will only collect a tiny portion of a burning object's heat, and the tiny portion of the sun's heat that it gives us is yet sufficient to change in a jiffy a block of granite into a puff of steam."—Exchange.

A FEARFUL PEST.

The Ferocious Mosquitoes That Swarm in Scandinavia.

Hunters find the mosquitoes a terrible pest in parts of northern Scandinavia. One writes: "The warmth of the sun is rousing our deadly enemies, the mosquitoes, into active warfare. Attacked as we are by a few score of viciously piping skirmishers from the mighty host, we have before advancing to look to the joints of our harness and don our gauntlets; then in descending the long slope toward our bivouac the scores of the foe are gradually multiplied to hundreds, the hundreds to thousands, the thousands to myriads, till we are at length enveloped in a dense cloud of winged fiends. The horse is a distressing sight. From nose to tail, from hoof to withers, their unfortunate bodies are covered with what might be taken at a casual glance for gray blanket clothing, but which is really a textile mass of seething insect life, so closely set that you could not anywhere put the point of your finger on the bare hide.

"For such small creatures mosquitoes exhibit an astonishing amount of character and diabolical intelligence. They dash through smoke, creep under veil or wristband like a ferret into a rabbit hole and when they can neither dash nor creep will bide their time with the cunning of a red Indian. We wore stout dogskin gloves, articles with which they could have had no previous acquaintance, and yet they would follow each other by hundreds in single file up and down the seams, trying every stitch, in the hope of detecting a flaw."

And the same writer concludes: "The problem presents itself, Why are these vermin so horribly bloodthirsty and so perfectly formed for sucking blood? It is one of the great mysteries of nature. On the uninhabited stretches of Finmark they must as a rule exist on vegetable diet, the chances of blood so rarely occur."

Genesis of Cotton in America.

The first planting of cotton seed in the colonies was in the Carolinas in the year 1621, when seeds were planted as an experiment in a garden. Winthrop says that in 1643 "men fell to the manufacture of cotton, whereof we have great stores from Barbados." In 1736 it was cultivated in the gardens along Chesapeake bay, especially in the vicinity of Baltimore, and at the opening of the Revolution it was a garden plant in New Jersey and New York, but its real value seems to have been almost unknown to the planters until about 1780.

The Chameleon.

The American chameleon, a small lizard, inhabits various parts of the southern United States. The little animal has the remarkable habit of quickly and completely changing its colors, varying from brown to yellow and pale green. Its food consists of insects. The little animal is perfectly harmless to higher forms of life, is often kept as a pet and has been worn attached to a chain as an ornament. The toes are provided with adhesive pads, which enable the lizard to run upon smooth, vertical surfaces.

The Room at the Top.

"All the lower berths are taken," said the ticket seller. "You'll have to take an upper berth."

"Of course," grumbled the professor. "There's always room at the top."—Chicago Tribune.

In the British museum are books written on oyster shells, bricks, tiles, bones, ivory, lead, iron, copper, sheepskin, wood and palm leaves.

THE RISE OF A RENTER.

He was just starting for himself twelve years ago and was very poor—had only an old plug team of horses and a little secondhand farm machinery. He had a bright little woman for his wife, and both had the ambition to better their condition if hard work would do it. He was wise enough to see that it would be better for him to secure a good farm for a term of years than it would be to shift from farm to farm year by year, so he found an old man whose boys had all left him, the owner of a good farm, and got the old man to rent him the farm for five years, with the privilege of ten, and, further, got him to put on the farm twelve good cows, six well bred sows and twenty ewes, landlord and tenant to share equally in the profits and increase. The little woman said she was going to make the grocery and clothing bills out of her poultry, and did. Both worked early and late. At the end of the tenth year this was the result: The landlord had his farm in fine productive shape, better than it ever was under his system of managing it; the tenant after his sale found himself with \$5,000 in bankable notes and cash, three teams of good horses and a lot of good farm machinery, besides a lot of poultry, pigs and other things; he had had a good home to live in, had not had to worry over a big debt and was in good shape to buy a small farm of his own. This is no exaggerated picture, but has been duplicated over and over again. Had he become a one year renter, raising grain to sell, he would have been at the end of the ten years just about where he was when he started, while the landlord's farm would have depreciated in value several dollars per acre.

THE SOFT MAPLE.

The soft maple tree for prairie planting possesses two distinct merits—one is it will grow and do well more closely planted than any other tree, the trees seldom dying out by overcrowding; then it seems proof against the tramping of stock, something which insures the death of most other varieties of forest trees. We know of a large feed yard where 100 cattle or more are fed each season, and in this yard is a grove of soft maples planted about ten feet apart. The tramping and the shade prevent the growth of any grass or vegetation under the trees, and these trees are perfectly healthy and from thirty to forty feet in height. Had these trees been of any other variety three-fourths of them would have been dead long ago. Besides this, the maple is a very rapid grower, affords a fuel of the best quality of any of our soft woods, and if one has enough trees they may be very successfully and profitably tapped for sugar in the spring of the year, and no nicer flavored sugar was ever made than that made from the sap of the soft maple tree. The more that we see of this tree the more we are convinced that for northwestern conditions it is one of the best trees to plant.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMER.

The new year opens auspiciously for the farmers of the country. Crops have been good and the general level of prices for all farm products very satisfactory. Money is abundant and interest rates low. There is a more general attempt to apply science to agriculture than ever before, and it is being done with marked success. It touches the breeding of animals, animal diseases, crop rotation, drainage, irrigation, the storage and marketing of farm products, co-operative efforts among farmers. The new year finds most farm homes connected with the outside world by rural mail delivery and telephone and a broader field of effort opened to every man who tills the soil. Not the least important and significant thing is that more men than ever before are beginning to realize what an intelligent and scientific working and care of a small piece of land can accomplish and how such work may be made to materially increase incomes none too large. While floods, droughts, elemental destruction and unprofitable markets may conspire to reduce the farm income it is still true that never before has the average farmer been so well prepared to meet such misfortunes.

A DOWN EAST FARMER.

Here is the story of a down east farmer. When he married he took his father's old farm, which had been in the family for a hundred years. He did his best to make it pay, but the sins of the fathers were visited in an agricultural way upon the children of the third and fourth generations, and, work and plan as best he could, he could wrest from the poor, exhausted soil nothing but a bare living. At forty years of age he concluded that he had had enough and moved to the west, securing a homestead four years ago in one of the newly opened Indian reservations. In four short years he has made himself the owner, free of debt, of 320 acres of as fertile and productive land as can anywhere be found. He has a good home, fine buildings and his income from his farm, besides his living, of over \$3,000 per year. The funny thing about this is that when he goes down east to his old home and tells his old neighbors how well he is doing they think he is lying, and, as for coming west and likewise benefiting themselves, no argument will budge them an inch, so wedded are they to their old environment and traditions.

J. S. Trigg

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The Remnant Sale recently advertised in these columns was a greater success by far than we expected. Our customers swept our counters and shelves almost clear of all goods of this class.

Believing the ladies of Asheboro and Randolph county would appreciate the opportunity to select their spring dresses and furnishings before warm weather begins we have filled our counters thirty days early with the most complete and attractive line of

Dress Goods, Laces, Embroideries, Etc.,

ever shown by us. They embrace all the most popular fabric and patterns.

A few we mention which are popularized in fashion centres, and will be largely worn during the coming spring and summer are Taffeta Gingham, White and Brown linen for shirt waists. For more dressy suits Lansdowne, an imported fabric of wool and silk, has taken a lead; while shadow cheeks and printed Silk Tissue are becoming notably popular.

Besides our regular line of trimmings we have just received a large shipment of laces, hamburgs and embroideries, which were imported by New York dealers, and will only be on sale here for ten days.

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Large line of Hats in straws, furs and panamas, the shapes to be worn during the coming season are already on sale at our store.

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