

FARM AND GARDEN.

When to Water Hogs.

Always water hogs before feeding, never afterwards. If this is practiced and the animals are given ear on a feeding floor, fourteen pounds of corn will produce two pounds of pork. In other words, every bushel of corn ought to produce ten pounds of pork. If this is not being accomplished something is wrong.

Cost of Milk Production.

You ask for the approximate cost of producing milk at the prevailing prices of feeds, etc. This is a difficult question to answer, depending on whether the cows are fresh or strippers. Assuming that they are good, ordinary cows, and as the ordinary dairy goes, fresh and some strippers. We will take a good average dairy, say of twenty cows, all in milk, no boarders, they will produce not to exceed two quarts apiece, or 200 quarts per cow. This is the average dairy, remember, not pure-breds.

Hay and wheat feeds average \$30 per ton, \$10; silage, \$3 at least. We will take each cow as follows per day: ten pounds silage at \$3 would cost 30 cents; ten pounds hay at \$10, five cents; ten pounds grain at \$30, fifteen cents; hired labor, two cents. Thus making a total per cow per day of fifty-eight cents, or \$7 per day for fifty-five cows. On the assumption that these cows produce 200 quarts of milk per day, the cost of production is one and one-half cents per quart. I would let the good farmer work for himself and board himself, and have nothing for the use of the cows, feedings, etc., considering only direct cost of feed and labor.—H. T. Coon, in American Agriculturist.

Geese and Ducks.

Although many farmers refuse to keep ducks or geese to be kept on the farm because, as they say, they are troublesome, nevertheless both are easily kept and exceedingly profitable when rightly managed. During the spring and summer months both will gather their food in any old pasture where hogs or cattle would starve. They do best when allowed a pond or stream of water to swim in, but they can be kept with only sufficient water for drinking. The young grow rapidly and after the first few weeks they require no care except to feed. They are never troubled with mites and need no warm house such as chickens must have. They are healthy and seldom die from any disease.

They do not lay during the winter months, but from February to August will average from 100 to 125 eggs each. Dressed ducks and geese always bring good prices during the fall and winter months, and the feathers, which may be plucked during the spring and summer, will more than pay for the cost of raising. They are great foragers, but any kind of a low fence will keep them in bounds. We are inclined to think that the prejudice against them is mostly due to the fact that farmers have not tried the pure breeds of the present day. Every farmer should possess a flock of both ducks and geese.—Home and Farm.

Using Weeds and Litter For Bedding.

Such forms of vegetable production as weeds, vines, stalks, etc., if gathered and burned return but little value to the farm. If allowed to remain on the ground they hinder plowing. Weeds will grow, and they are productions of our lands and have removed from the soil a portion of its fertility. How to return this to the soil in the most convenient form and get other benefits from this refuse should be considered by every farmer.

Near large cities straw has become almost too expensive an article for bedding. Shavings and sawdust are not entirely satisfactory. Upon the farm we have that which can take the place of these for stable litter. By a little extra labor and care weeds and rubbish can be gathered and secured for bedding. Although not as soft as straw, they are clean, absorb much of the liquid manure, and soon decay in the manure pile. When the seeds of weeds have matured they had best be burned, but rather than have the weeds scattered on the ground I would chance them in the compost heap, where a large portion of them will be destroyed. The leaves from trees can be easily gathered and stored for stock bedding. These may be considered by-products of the farm that have been going to waste. Utilize them by returning them to the soil and let them carry in their tissue some fertility from the stable.—J. H. Bowerman, in New England Homestead.

Sorting Potatoes.

Good order and execution are meritorious in any and every kind of work we have to perform, and invariably they have their reward, yet a phase of neglect or absolute slouchiness seems to characterize much that many do, and encroaches more or less on what we all do. To know an evil well is to suffer the inconvenience of our own failures, so we feel confident to portray the shortcomings of others.

During the time of potato digging I had occasion to drive past several fields where potato digging was going on, and talk with several about their crop. I asked the question of several, if they sort their potatoes when they pick them up. In most cases the reply was, "Oh, no! I expect to have more time when I market them!" This idea may seem plausible to some, but if there are 100 bushels of small potatoes among the 500 bushels put away, then there are 100 bushels that must be handled over twice if they are not sorted out in the field at the time of picking up, and is it not easier to separate them at that time than when indiscriminately mixed in the bulk of a pit or bin of a cellar? Yes, and even when sorted in the field there will still be enough to exclude when you come to sell. Then, if you have your potatoes in a bin with a floor, the end of which bin is removable, you can shovel out into crates a load and get to market with despatch, avoiding the inclemency of the weather, while if you await a fine day to take out your potatoes, it will take you that day to sort and prepare your loads, and as you are aware, in winter time the next day after a fair one is apt to be stormy. If potatoes are kept until nearly spring without sorting, if it occurs that they are all mixed, it takes a pretty good eye to tell this from the other, and the sorting will be a little uncertain, so if a man be not so conscientious as to what he sells, he is liable to injure himself with what he plants. We think that there is one way to do work which is a little better than any other way, and it pays well to learn which way that is, and while doing it, see that you have it done.—Farm, Field and Fireside.

PROFITS IN RAISING TREES.

Forestry Experts Point to the Telegraph and Cross-Tie Markets.

It has been estimated that the telegraph lines of the country require nearly 600,000 new poles every year. The cost of these is more than \$1,000,000.

It is also estimated that there are more than 620,000,000 cross-ties in use by the railroads and that 90,000,000 ties are required every year for renewals.

The telephone and light companies use nearly as many poles as the telegraph companies, and the street car systems of the cities use nearly as many cross-ties as the steam railroads.

To awaken the farmers of the West to the need of raising plantations of wood to supply these needs of telegraph, telephone and railroad companies, the forestry division of the Agricultural Department has issued a bulletin to show that such work is profitable.

The prices of pole and tie timber have gone up nearly fifty per cent. in the last ten years. J. Hope Sutor, of the Ohio and Little Kanawha Railroad, an expert on the tie question, told the Central Association of Railroad Officers in Louisville, a year ago that in ten years more the prices of ties would be fifty per cent. greater than at present. He also said:

"No material has yet been found as a substitute for the wooden tie, and no satisfactory economical method of preserving the life of the wood or prolonging its durability has yet been discovered, and, excepting the minor questions of properly seasoning and piling, the use of the tie plate, suitable ballast and perfect drainage and incidentally climatic conditions, no serious consideration of the future tie supply has yet been had."

It is for this reason the experts say: "From every reasonable point of view it appears that great profits are to be made in the growing of forest trees in the next twenty-five years."

It is declared that operations should begin in the middle West. There has already been a great deal of tree planting on the treeless prairies of the central West, especially in Kansas and Nebraska. The forestry experts have found one plantation near Hutchinson, Kan., planted with catalpa trees which in ten years has produced a net value of \$197.55 to the acre.

In Iowa, near Menlo, a twenty-five-year-old plantation of red cedar showed a net value of \$200.54 to the acre. Osage orange, locust and hardy catalpa are the best trees to grow for these commercial purposes.—New York Sun.

The Heat of Australia.

Australia is the hottest country on record. I have ridden for miles astride the equator, but I have never found heat to compare with this. Out in the country in the dry times there appears to be little more than a sheet of brown paper between you and the lower regions, and the people facetiously say that they have to feed their hens cracked ice to keep them from laying boiled eggs.—Sydney Telegraph.

Why He Wept.

The extensive authority of parents under the Chinese laws is well known. A Chinaman of forty years, whose aged mother flogged him every day, shed tears in the company of one of his friends.

"Why do you weep?" he was asked. "Alas! things are not as they used to be," answered the devoted son. "The poor woman's arm grows feebler every day!"—Sporting Times.

POPULAR SCIENCE

The exploitation of the Ganz system of alternating current trolley propulsion, while not resulting in the official adoption of the system anywhere, has been successful in bringing it to the attention of the scientific world. It is universally looked upon as containing the germ of the future systems of electric traction.

A report from Constantinople is to the effect that the Sultan has engaged the services of Mr. Spurr, an English engineer, for the purpose of having a geological survey made in Turkey. The work will be started in Macedonia and Albany. Mr. Spurr has traveled extensively in European and Asiatic Turkey, and is a well-known geologist.

During the past year the practical application of the light of electric arcs to the treatment of lupus and other skin diseases was a noteworthy feature of electro-therapeutics. The alleged discovery of the efficacy of the X-rays in the treatment of cancerous growths is one of the most promising contributions of electrical science to medicine that has yet been made.

The extension of long-distance electrical transmission in California to an actual span of over 200 miles, and the general employment of voltages as high as 60,000 in that State are epoch-making events. The experimental transmission of power at 80,000 volts is worth recording. This year will probably witness work pushed in this direction to the limit of possibilities of electrical engineering.

According to the Lancet, the essential oil which forms the basis of all perfumes is a powerful antiseptic, and possesses disinfecting properties equal to those of carbolic acid. For this reason a scented handkerchief may not only please the sense of smell, but prove a guard against infection, and it is suggested that this fact may tend to reconcile those who do not like perfumes to their free use by those who do like them.

A London physician tells the Times, in a letter, that he has noticed among patients taking the open-air treatment for consumption beneficial effects procured by riding in motor cars at a speed of from thirty to fifty miles per hour. The swift motion through the air is credited by him with causing, along with a marked feeling of exhilaration, increased appetite, improved sleep, a healthy glow tending, after a few days' treatment, to become permanent, and a diminution of the tendency to cough.

One of the English astronomers, J. J. Atkinson, who visited Sumatra to observe the total solar eclipse last May, made the acquaintance of an old Malay, living on a little island near the Sumatran coast, who owned a huge monkey which he had trained to work for him in gathering coconuts. The monkey's business was to climb the gigantic coconut palms and throw down the nuts; "which he did," says Mr. Atkinson, "in the most artistic manner, by screwing the nuts off with his powerful arms while he hung by his legs seventy to 100 feet from the ground."

Soldiers and Sewing Machines.

How is the lonely British soldier amusing himself at the South African blockhouse? A writer in the Navy and Army surmises that in nearly every blockhouse would be found a sewing machine. "Above all things, Tommy's heart loves a sewing machine. Although he must know that he can never succeed in getting it home to England, yet if he finds one on a farm he will tow it along with him, overburdened as he already is, upon the march. Wherein the exact fascination lies is a mystery, but grizzled Reservist and callow recruit alike cannot resist this housewife's help." There is a quaintness in the idea of the warrior amusing himself with the mysteries of the sewing machine in his melancholy loneliness. But he that sews in tears will doubtless reap in joy.

The Chaperon in Samoa.

The chaperon is becoming extinct in the United States, but she is an important person in Samoa. She is the constant companion of the taupou, or village guide, who is appointed to entertain strangers, and show them the various sights. Each village in Samoa elects a girl for this office, and it is necessary that she should be the daughter of a chief. Her house is provided for by the village, and she is surrounded by a court of native girls. No man who lives in the village is allowed to enter the sacred precincts, and the taupou goes nowhere without an elderly woman. If the taupou resigns her office, the chief can appoint another damsel of high degree.

Truth About the Burglar.

The industrious burglar is generally doing something, even if it's only time.—Philadelphia Record.

RAM'S HORN BLASTS.



THE child can belong to God as soon as he can to the devil.

He who drinks much thinks little, and he who thinks much drinks little.

The saved soul will be found steering for heaven no matter which way the winds are blowing.

To refuse a right responsibility may be to reject a great reward.

When you have made a child glad you may have made a man good.

He who can be trusted to do his own work will trust God to do His.

The name of Jesus opens the door to the church and the gate to heaven.

When you have the devil under your heel don't be scared by his bellowing.

It is better to be a good man in a bad place than a bad man in a good one.

It's a poor plan to promise to pray for your pastor and then to pinch on his pay.

It is better to grow into a place of power than to be blown into one of popularity.

It was the brotherhood of man rather than the sisterhood of the saints that Christ revealed.

The power of perfecting the present is worth more than the power of prophesying the future.

The light that blesses the wise man burns the foolish moth.

True riches must be measured by what is given to others instead of by what is ground from them.

The great man is he who realizes the limits of his abilities and the possibilities of his capacities.

Long American Tunnels.

The Pennsylvania railroad company has decided to construct a tunnel seven miles long to avoid the great Horse-shoe curve, which is one of the most notable features on the line. It will be the largest enterprise of the kind in railroad construction so far attempted on this continent. The Hoosac, the longest at present in operation, is less than four miles in length. The Cascade tunnel of the Great Northern railway is two and one-half miles long and the tunnel projected through the Sierra to reduce 1,500 feet of grade on the Central Pacific railroad will be only one and one-half miles in length. The proposed Pennsylvania railroad tunnel will shorten the line only three miles and reduce the time in transit three minutes, but the lessening of wear and tear on the rolling stock, which must be very heavy on the present curves and grades of the Horse-shoe, will doubtless compensate the company for the investment.

Her Promised Doll.
This is the story they tell of a cunning little 5-year-old girl whose nurse had been promising her all summer a little coon doll when the family reached the city, if she would be very good and obedient. This was a delightful promise, and the little girl was as good as a little 5-year-old could be. Then the family came back to the city a little earlier than usual, and something interesting happened—a brand-new baby came to the house. It was a funny, red-faced little creature, which only a loving mother and experienced nurse could possibly consider beautiful, but it was a great thing for the little girl, who had never before in her short life seen a real live baby. And the little girl was as much pleased as every one had expected she would be. She gave the nurse a big hug as she cried: "Oh, nurse, is that my coon doll?"

Many a man who tries to be a rascal finds he is only capable of being a fool.
The general worthlessness of advice is exhibited in the fact that the average man would rather give it than take it.—Life.

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