

FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN
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CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED



Two Japs got hold of a small piece of land in Florida last year and made \$3,000 raising tomatoes.

The mission of a second wife is to make a man think more of the first one than he ever did when she was alive.

The United States will have about 200,000,000 bushels of the wheat crop of 1905 to spare, the crop last year being one of the largest ever grown.

The agricultural department places the value of the corn crop of 1905 at a billion dollars. No other crop grown anywhere on earth is worth so large a sum.

The intrinsic value of any soil lies in its ability to produce grass. If grass can be made to grow on any soil it is all right. If grass will not grow it is best let alone.

The country school where ten or fifteen little folks are taught by a bright woman is about the best kind of school to be found. It is better than a town school where thirty pupils are dependent upon the same woman.

The owners of those western Kansas cheap lands not long since considered almost worthless are making fortunes out of them from the fine crops of winter wheat which the unusual rains of the past three years have enabled them to grow.

Millions of people in the northern provinces of Japan are in danger of starvation. The officials of that country should get these unfortunates over into Korea or Manchuria, where they could find good land to work and a decent climate to live under.

The United States will never have to meet any foreign competition in furnishing the world's supply of cotton. The best efforts of European nations to find some part of the earth where cotton could be successfully grown outside of the United States have ended in failure.

The irrigating works planned for and many of which are already under construction by the government in this country are destined to become among the most noted engineering achievements of the century. To carry the life giving water on to worthless desert acres and make them worth \$100 or more each is a wonderful and beneficent work.

Cities which are located in the vicinity of mines of soft coal, where this fuel, because of its cheapness, excludes others, and which are usually befouled with the omnipresent soot and smoke, should devise some method of generating all the light, power and heat required by the city out at the mines and transmit the same in the form of electricity and gas for use. It would seem as though modern engineering skill was equal to the solution of this problem.

We note the hiring of a farm hand for a year at \$30 per month, board and washing. This is easily equivalent to the \$45 per month paid to the clerk in some city office or store with the added advantage that the farm hand can save up \$3 where the town man can one. We recall the time when the farmer could hire just as good a hand for \$12 per month, and there were more men after the twelve dollar job than there are after the thirty dollar one.

The other day we noticed a man unloading some crates of live poultry at a depot. They were piling the crates one on top of another, and as they swung them up some of the chickens' heads which protruded from the lower crates were torn off. A protest being entered against such a cruel method of procedure, the reply was that "it did not make any difference, as the birds were to be killed pretty soon anyway." There is altogether too much of this cruel, cold blooded barbarity prevalent in connection with our treatment of dumb animals. While they may have to be slaughtered for food, there is every obligation resting upon our modern civilization to see that it is done in the most humane manner possible.

The future of the millions of immigrants who came to this country last year is a subject of not a little moment. These immigrants are not of the class who have been heretofore gladly welcomed, but of that sort who shun the country and converge in our cities to still further add to the congestion of that ignorant and pauper class who are such a menace to our municipal life. It is going to be slow work and a hard job to make over this class into the kind of citizens whom America wants. They do not assimilate readily, as did the English, Scotch, Irish, German and Scandinavian. Clustered in centers in the cities they are given to the maintenance of their old world customs and language and are more and more becoming a dangerous element in the politics of the country.

Some of the Colorado apple orchards have returned their owners as much as \$500 per acre the past season.

It is very remarkable how many pedigreed cattle get killed by the cars. Scrubs rarely ever stray on to the tracks.

Oklahoma land of good quality would be cheap at \$75 an acre if used for cotton production at anything like present prices for the staple.

The falls of the Zambezi river, in Africa, known as the Victoria falls, would be utilized for the generation of power develop a power equal to that of \$5,000,000 horses.

The south is fast becoming a vast hotbed and winter garden for the north country. As a result we are getting both vegetables and fruits in season and out of season.

We know of one man who always feels good at this time of the year, and all because he makes it a rule to pay all his debts at this time and start the new year owing not any man.

It takes the first thirty bushels of corn produced on an acre of land to pay cost of production. So if you have not raised over twenty-five bushels to the acre you can tell just what is the matter with you.

Europe produced 2,150,000 tons more beet sugar last year than ever before. When we get the Philippine Islanders at work on sugar we will be virtually independent of any foreign country for our sugar supply.

One-half bale of cotton to the acre is to the southern farmer just about what forty bushels of corn to the acre are to the northern farmer. A few cotton growers get one bale to the acre, which corresponds to the few men in the north who raise eighty bushels of corn to the acre.

In Iowa, the great corn state, the interest taken by the farm boys in the improvement of the crop is one of the most helpful agencies at work toward this end. The enthusiasm of these boys is infectious, and many a man is learning how to grow corn from his twelve-year-old boy.

Western farmers have been altogether too much interested in teams of draft horses exhibited at the various state fairs purely for advertising purposes by a lot of old brewers. A fine horse never appears to greater disadvantage than when he is hauling a beer wagon or a man when he is carrying a load of the stuff.

The farm hand wanted today is not so much a seller of crude muscle as one trained in the handling of machinery and stock. More and more is the machine being made to do the work of the man on the farm, and the man who understands how to handle machinery to the best advantage is the man who is wanted on the farms of the country.

The temptation with the average meat seller is so great to make his sausage meat up of all sorts of scraps and odds and ends in our larger towns it is practically impossible to buy a pound of good sausage meat for love or money. It seems strange that this should be so when there is an almost unlimited demand for a fine article of sausage at big prices.

It is said that 5,000,000 of the people of England are out of employment, all on the ragged edge of poverty and many of them half starved. Could they only be sent to the United States there would be work and food in plenty for all. The women are wanted as domestic help, the men as laborers on farm and in factory and mine. Rich men with money to throw to the dogs might better turn their philanthropy in this direction than to the establishment of libraries and colleges.

We think that one reason why experimental plots of alfalfa in the states east of the Missouri river so often fail, turning yellow and dying out, is that the soil where sown is deficient in nitrogen and the plant, being a gross user of nitrogen, perishes for lack of it, while, like a calf, if it can be properly and adequately fed until it can take care of itself by getting its own nitrogen appropriating machinery into operation, it would become an easy matter to secure a field of this valuable legume. Assuming this to be a fact, as we believe it to be, it logically follows that an ample supply of nitrogen should be furnished the plant when young, which can best be done by thoroughly enriching the soil with a liberal supply of barnyard manure. It will pay any man who contemplates sowing alfalfa to heed this suggestion.

Through much of the west the feeding of beef for market has been attempted quite generally the past four years. Taking the four years, it may be said that as a proposition it has not been a success. Only the very few have been able to feed cattle with a satisfactory profit. The many have got nothing to show but a mortgage and a lot of valuable experience. For this reason we feel like commending the cow as a very much safer and more reliable proposition for the average farmer than the beef steer. With the cow the market for her product is practically assured at a profitable figure. The market for butter and cheese varies but little from year to year, while the making of beef is a speculation pure and simple, the price of the product being practically fixed at the caprice of one of the most arbitrary trusts in the country. For this reason we think it is safer for the man who wishes to feed cattle to feed cows rather than steers.

A REDEEMED FIELD.

We are just going to suppose that we have had turned over to us forty acres of poor, run down land to put into a productive condition in the easiest way and in the shortest time. We saw the land the other day. It was originally a piece of hazel brush land with a clay loam soil. The renter had had his way with it for nigh on forty years and had just skinned it to a finish—so robbed and maltreated it that for the past four years it has been abandoned to weed growth and vermin. The ridges marking the last crop of corn may still be seen, as well as here and there a bleached and puny cornstalk, evidence of the windup four years ago.

Next spring we are going to plow this land well, not too deep, and then give more disking and dragging than it has had for twenty years past. When we have got it worked down fine we are going to sow fifteen pounds of mammoth clover seed to the acre and nothing else. As soon as the weeds get four or five inches high we will run the mowing machine over it and six weeks later will run over it again with the mower, which will pretty effectually dispose of the weeds. After this second clipping the clover should begin to show up in good shape, when we will pasture the field until winter, putting not over twelve or fifteen head of mature cattle in. The next spring, along in the fore part of May, we will run the machine over the field just to hit the weeds; then we will let it alone until the middle of September and turn the crop under, which will return a lot of needed humus to the soil; the next year plant with corn, expecting fifty bushels an acre; then a crop of oats, which will be self seeded with clover; then repeat, and in six years our worthless field is the best field in the neighborhood. No theory about this; just common sense, that's all.

COUNTRY LIFE IN THE FUTURE.

Country life in the west and north-west fifty years from now will be a very different proposition from what it is today. By that time the greed for more land will have been abated and the time come when men will not care to own more acres than they can properly care for. This will insure a more thickly settled country, more neighbors, better country schools, enlarged social privileges. There will then be a greater regard for all those things which make a country home attractive and pleasant. The bad road will be the exception and the good one the common thing. There will be more paint used and more trees planted. It will be the rule to sow only good seed and keep well bred stock. So attractive will become life in the country that the mad rush to the cities will cease and men will generally realize that there is no business on earth which will more certainly insure a comfortable living, better health and more pleasant environment than that of working a piece of land in an intelligent and scientific manner. The most delightful homes in the old countries of Europe are the country homes, and it is going to be the same way here inside of fifty years.

HOG CHOLERA.

Hog cholera as a disease may be directly traced to immature breeding, insanitary care and poor feeding. The common conception of the pig is that it does best amid filthy surroundings and that it should largely obtain its food as a scavenger, when the truth is that there is no more cleanly animal on the farm than the pig. Immature breeding lays the foundation for a lack of vitality and constitutional vigor. Coupled with this is the poorly balanced ration which is so common among hog raisers. It is probably true that if the pigs were insured a parentage never less than a year old and were then raised on alfalfa, clover, skim milk and other nitrogenous foods, the cholera as an epidemic disease would entirely disappear from the country. While corn is an admirable fattening food, it is about the worst food to be obtained for the young and growing pigs, and it would be well for them if they never saw an ear of it until they are at least six months old.

CARE FOR THE QUAILS.

As an insect destroyer we have no bird which equals the quail. This bird is very prolific, frequently rearing two broods in one season. It further is the only one of all our game birds which takes kindly to man and our modern methods of civilization. It might be the most common of all our birds were it not that it is very fine eating, the most sought of any of our game birds with the exception of the ruffed grouse. Then it is pursued by a host of natural enemies—the crow and the hawk break up the nests, the house cats lay for the birds when they come around the homestead, while the deep snows and the excessive cold make bad work with them. Farmers are quite generally shutting out the pot hunter in order to protect these best friends of his, and many are now taking the trouble to provide food and shelter for the birds during the winter. This is a good work and should be generally taken up.

A GREAT COW.

The Wisconsin experiment station has brought to the front a very remarkable cow, the Guernsey cow Yeksa Sunbeam, which under a carefully recorded test the past year has produced 14,920 pounds of milk, testing 5.74 of butter fat, giving a total of 837.15 of butter fat for the year. This converted into butter would equal 984 pounds of butter. It would be hard to put a price on a cow of this type.


J. S. Trigg

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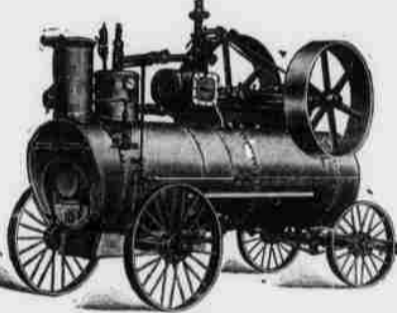
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Spring Styles Are Here.
The Remnant Sale recently advertised in these columns was a greater success by far than we expected. Our customers swept our counters and shelves almost clear of all goods of this class.
Believing the ladies of Asheboro and 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 checks 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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