By the latest returns of the Agricultural Department, the leading farm products of this country amount to $1,014,000,000 yearly. That alone, independently of manufactures, fisheries, etc., represents an average income of $50 a year for every man, woman, and child in the country.

"Clocks are cheap enough nowadays for a house to have one in every room," says a Philadelphia jeweler. "A good timekeeper, nickle plated, can be sold for 90 cents at a profit. Machinery has worked this wonder, and Yankee clocks go to Mexico, South America and Europe by the thousands every day in the year.

The frequent train robberies in Texas have resulted in a decision to arm eight men on each passenger train. The Governor will have them sworn in to serve as regular rangers. They will be, so far as possible, regular train men, and will be armed and paid by the railroad companies. To put eight men on each train will require 400 men to be sworn in.

The railway system of the United States now aggregates in round numbers 141,300 miles. This is almost double the total mileage of the country thirteen years ago, and is more than three times that of twenty years ago. But it is not at all improbable that the end of the present century, twelve and a half years hence, will see our railway system increased to more than 200,000 miles.

In the highest court in New York State the law is declared that the milk seller must know that the product he sells is milk of the legal standard of purity. It is no defence for him to say or prove that he believed it pure. Commodities do not need to put up with impure milk, as the law is clear in their protection. Pure, fresh milk, supplied at reasonable prices, will gradually enlarge the amount consumed in cities and towns.

The longest street railway in the world will be that which is to connect a number of towns near Buenos Ayres, South America, and which will have a total length of 200 miles. The road will also be exceptional in that sleeping cars will be run upon it for the comfort of the passengers. Horses will be employed as a motive power instead of steam, because horses are cheap, fuel is dear and the people are slow. The price of two tons of coal will buy a horse with its harness. The sleeping cars and all the other equipments of the line are being supplied by a Philadelphia company.

In order to realize the extent to which agriculture by May bugs, an exchange paper gives the following collection of figures. In the season of 1850 a Frenchman named Hall collected 2,857 bushels, estimated at a number of 22,856,000, of the destructive insects. In 1861 the catch in the agricultural district of Lemans alone, measured in weight, was thirty-two times as great, about 280 tons. The largest catch known was that in the province of Cusy and the Arbois district in 1868, when an estimate of 40,000,000 insects was less than 1000 kilogrammes, representing fully 1,000,000 insects, most of which were killed by hot steam, and mixed with quicklime were used as manure. A record of May bugs is worth this to a farmer.

Speaking of the hay crop of the United States, the New York Times says: "The hay crop promises to be large, the best one of the largest crops in this city said yesterday that the average in grass is fully 10 per cent. more than last year. In the Southern States, where alfalfa is largely raised for fodder, it is better than last year. In the east, Pennsylvania and most of the New England States, the crop will be larger. In Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Wisconsin the drought has affected the crops, and it will be smaller than in 1882. In Canada there is an improvement, and most of the surplus of last year is yet unsold. The quality, however, is generally reported to be poorer than last year, but farmers hope that it may show a changed condition should the weather be good for curing. The expectation of good prices is said, leads the more intelligent farmers, especially those dependent on the New York market, to cut early and carefully, as the hay which is poorly cut carelessly made is rejected by buyers."

A Professional Ratcatcher.

It is no sight to see the ratcatcher arrive at the house at midnight. He does not register and generally enters by the side or servants' door. He carries a bull's-eye lantern and a bag in one hand, or he may strap the light to a belt, while in the other he wields a pair of tongs. He descends to the lower regions of the larder, the dairy, and kitchen, all now dark and deserted. The ratcatcher utters a low whistle or squeak, which is the intimation to one rat to the others that he has found good nibbling, and all the rodents run out from their hiding places in the direction of the familiar and welcome sound, and, dazzled thereby by the glare of the lantern, the man picks them up with his tongs and drops them into his bag with such agility that seldom any escape. Blinded and paralyzed by the light only the isolated ones attempt to run, and these are readily captured. The ratcatcher visits the hotel once or twice a week, and the same one is employed by several houses. It is whispered that he sells the rats to the Chinese restaurants, but he denies the insinuation. He says he sells the hides, which he properly cures and stretches.—[New York Times.

What It Signified.

Young wife (petulantly)—Well, even if I don't come to meet you every night as I used, what does it signify?

Young husband—That we have been married six months.—[Life.

FARM AND GARDEN.

Toads vs. Potato Bugs.

I am not surprised says a letter to the Rural New Yorker, that toads are reported as feeding upon the Colorado potato beetle. It has long been known that insects form their principal food. The Canadian Entomologist for December, 1869, quotes good-sized toads in good condition at one shilling (25 cents) apiece, or one pound sterling per dozen. Toads were dealt in quite extensively between France and England, and were kept in gardens, where they proved very beneficial in keeping off injurious insects. Toads always fix upon some spot as a home or hiding place and will never wander far from it. They may be located in any desired, shady place by penning them in for a few days; then they may be left partly or free and will always be found in the accustomed spot when not in search of food.

The Plow as a Fruit Destroyer.

On my farm I consider the plow an enemy to the orchards, says Colonel Greer in the American Garden. It has of ways been impossible to plow the orchard without damaging the trees. There is more injury than can be seen. The trees are always more or less bruised or scarred, resulting in decay, or they are girdled here and set back in growth. These injuries may be seen, but the breaking and tearing of roots, and the wholesale destruction of the rootlets is unseen enough. Some argue that trees will be better by having the grass turned in manure, but that is, at best, only temporary benefit. It checks the growth to reduce the feeding capacity of the trees, and this tends to produce fruit of the poorest quality. But it is better to wait a little longer and have a healthier tree and a larger crop for fruit of the best quality. The destruction of fruit trees by cultivating the land is enormous. Whole orchards are swept away in a few years, and the best of them are made short lived.

Thinning and Bagging Grapes

It is often necessary in order to have well ripened fruit on one vine, to thin the fruit. One fine bunch of grapes is worth more than twice or three small bunches, therefore the wisdom of taking away all the imperfect bunches and weak shoots. Sometimes it is necessary in the thinning of grapes that the poor, superfluous bunches be taken out and the good one left. In thinning out a bunch of grapes, it should be left in such a form that it will hang in a graceful position. If the bunch is too long, it may be shortened by cutting off the end. In thinning out the bunches, care is to be exercised that the foliage is not injured. The Horticultural Times suggests that the practice of putting a bunch of grapes into a bag to protect it from mildew, the cornsilk from the weevil, and the stem from insects, is a very good one.

As to the advantage of bagging grapes, it gives vigorous growth to the vine, and the fruit is not injured by the bag. The bag should be put on as soon as the fruit begins to form, and before the fruit has fallen and before the flower has fallen off. The bag should be left on as long as possible, and before the fruit is ripe it should be taken off, and the fruit left to ripen in the sun. It is better to have two bunches than one bag. The usual plan is to make a small hole in the bottom of each bag, so that it can not be filled with rainwater.—New York World.

Fast Walking Farm Horses.

Profits do not come all farm products, and the farmer who makes money on any one crop is fortunate. Instead of breeding or fattening stock, mind watch the market closely and prevent it passing, anything that portrays of the image of waste. The economy of time is one of the things to be looked after as well as anything else, and which the latest efforts that do keep for considerable needs sale. Compare the distance they would be able to go a strong, steady, fast walking team with that which is slow, creeping from well travel, and the difference will be surprising. If this difference of a few hours is noticeable, what may be the of a year, or the average life time of a horse be. If the slow team gets a length of drive a hard hot day's miles per day, while the other covers twenty five miles with as little fatigue, it is easy to calculate what the difference would be in a year, and how long it would take to gain a whole year's time by using the better method of the faster horses. As the most first farm work is done at the walking gait, it is then the duty of the farmer to look, after the walking qualities of the horses he breeds, as much as it is for those who breed fast horses to look after the speed-producing qualities of the horses they rear. While much depends upon the training of a horse as to whether he is a fast walker or not, there is a great deal in the breeding. Some horses are naturally fast walkers, and, like natural fast trotters or pacers, can travel to work at their natural gait much better than those which acquired the habit of walking fast by being pushed. As a rule, energetic horses, with an inclination for getting over the ground with a strong, square walk, will be more apt to produce colts that will be a success in this direction, than clumsy horses with slouch dispositions, and these points should be considered when selecting for breeding purposes.—[National Stockman.

Farm and Garden Notes.

Sprinkle hellebore and water on rose bushes to kill insects.

As a rule it is best to let a plant push a little before repotting.

Pet turkeys don't enough to induce them to return home regularly at night.

Carrots often receive great injury from a few days' neglect in weeding at this season.

Don't spend money in buying trees nor labor in planting them, unless you intend to care for them afterward.

Young pigs require little beyond a clover pasture. Those intended for early market should have extra feed.

One robin in a cherry tree or grapevine will do more damage than a crow would in a corn field in the same time.

Sluggish horses are generally made so by the way they are handled. A lazy man is pretty sure to have lazy horses.

There is no one thing that is so much required nowadays on the average farm as to the roughly systematize labor.

You cannot grow plants with "wet feet." Farmers had therefore better have tiles in the ground than on their heads.

A new, cheap and effective insect-killer is composed of one part muriate of potash in one thousand parts of water.

The stems of roses having borne bloom should be cut back to a strong bud, which will soon push out new stems.

Give the sheep all the clover hay they will eat after housing, with meal and quarter linseed, is the advice of a contemporary.

The demand for plum trees is very heavy from all over the country, showing that growers are clear value and plant accordingly.

Remember that seeds of pumpkins, cucumbers or melons cannot be raised upon the same shoots themselves exactly when planted side by side.

Another point in radish culture. When pulling up a radish, drop a seed or two in the same space and there seems a fresh crop the rest of the season.

All sour milk is not a complete food. It will make a calf look old, rough and moulting. Put sal soda and, when brown with the milk and the calf will be a beauty.

The Poultry Monthly advises caring for the droppings from the fowls, and suggests that these from a single hen, in a year, will more than feed the same.

Among the many practical reforms needed on the farm is the abolishment of cattle and horse shows by the blind men. A man who will kick a horse or cow should be discharged at once.

W. D. Philips says it is important to keep celery growing steadily. If stunted by a dry spell or very hot weather it is very subject to disease, which is seldom to make one where the celery comes to a stand and stop growing in dry weather.

Weeds will now grow apace, and the tube hoe and cultivator must be kept in motion. The supercyclops should not be forgotten for the potatoes. Keep up the work.

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