

## AGRICULTURAL

### TOPICS OF INTEREST RELATIVE TO FARM AND GARDEN.

#### STORING BUTTER.

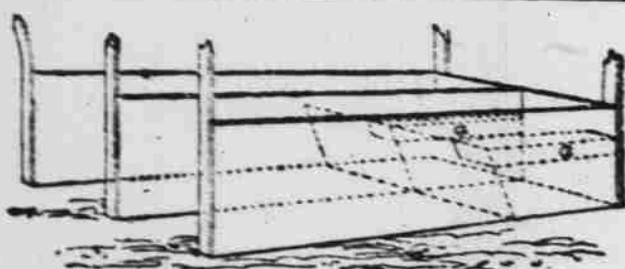
If butter is properly kept it will not deteriorate in six months if it be perfect in quality when it is made. Everything depends on these two conditions, for if it is not good at the first it will contain some elements of decomposition, due to milk left in it, or the oversourness of the cream, or other faults that will tend to further decomposition during the time it is stored. But the manner of storage too must be unobjectionable, that is, the place should be clean, cool and dark, and the packages must be airtight and perfectly clean, too. Then the slow internal change in the butter, due to the chemical alteration of whatever unavoidable impurities still exist in it, and the effect of these on the butter fat, will go on so slowly as not to injuriously affect the quality, and it may be six months before there will be any appreciable deterioration. But as butter is a perishable substance it is always best to dispose of it while it is in good condition, and not to keep it, even in a cold storage, longer than can be helped. As a rule, money is lost by depreciation of quality when butter is kept longer than a few weeks. —New York Times.

#### CLIMBING VINES.

Climbing vines have many different methods of attaching themselves to their support. Some encircle a branch of the host by twining their main bodies around the support. A hop vine is a familiar illustration of this. More delicate ones cannot twist around their stakes, but have to have string or some similar material to cling to. The ordinary morning glory is an illustration of this class; but there are some which simply climb by twisting the leaf stalk around the support. This is especially true of the different kinds of clematises, yet it is not unusual in some gardens to see stakes as thick as walking canes put for the clematis to run up on; but, as it is unable to do this, they have to be tied to this pole by twine, while the leaves go on twisting themselves in order to find something to cling to, and as a consequence the vital powers of the plant are exhausted. In many cases the clematis, especially the variety known as Jackmanni, will die completely and suddenly from the attack of a minute fungus; but it is more likely that this occurs oftener in cases as described for want of the proper means of support. Thread or twine for the leaves to twist around, or even a little brush wood, such as we would give to a crop of peas, is much more likely to produce healthy and vigorous clematises than when they are deprived of all means of using their leaf stalks as tendrils. —Meehan's Monthly.

#### RAISING DAIRY CALVES.

Dairy farming in this part of Wisconsin (Jefferson County) is practiced to the exclusion of almost all other kinds, a few hogs of course being kept for the purpose of consuming the skim milk, says F. H. Everson. To be successful the farmers must have good cows, and to have good cows they must begin with good calves.



IMPROVED STALL FOR CALVES.

We select the calves produced by the most profitable cows, taking into consideration not only the quantity of milk, but the quality also as determined by the Babcock test. Our herd, consisting of forty-six thoroughbred cows, is headed by a full-blood bull. When a calf is born that we wish to raise, we allow it to run with the mother one day only unless the cow's

udder is in bad condition. In that case we believe it is best for the calf to suck. After the first day teach it to drink, giving the milk from the mother. Give about eight pounds night and morning for a month. The past season after the first month we began giving ten pounds of skim milk in the morning and about the same amount of sweet milk at night. At this age also begin to feed a little fine hay.

At about two months of age they are put into winter quarters, where they are fed skim milk entirely with a good supply of hay and grain. Begin with eight or ten pounds at a feeding, and gradually increase the amount until it reaches fifteen pounds. Feed regularly and heat the milk to ninety degrees before giving it to them. Always treat them kindly. The exact amount and kind of grain feed will be governed by circumstances largely and by the capacity of the individual animal. Our calves are given ground oats with a sprinkling of old process oilmeal; probably no two receive the same amount. In feeding grain be careful to not overfeed at first. Begin with a light ration and gradually increase it. Some farmers in my vicinity give calves constant access to grain feed after they have become accustomed to it.

We stable our calves in a warm barn, each one having a separate stall, two of which are shown in the accompanying illustration. Each stall is two and one-half feet high, two feet wide and four feet long from manger to drop. In front of the calf is a manger for hay two feet high, one and one-half feet long, and just as wide as the stall. In one corner, a, is a little box in which to place grain feed. At the back end of each stall partition is a two by two inch timber running from the ground to the ceiling, for support. At the front every four or five feet is a two by four answering the same purpose. A strap on which is placed an iron ring is fastened around each calf's neck. A rope with a snap at one end is tied to the manger and by it the calf is secured. In spring when the grass is started the calves are turned out to pasture and not again taken up until they are yearlings. —American Agriculturist.

#### FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Brown Leghorns seem to hold their own against all comers, and anybody who has once kept the pure stock, hankers after them forever after.

If you have no pigs slop should be given to cows or horses. Either can be taught to drink it if you will be patient. But always keep some pigs.

This is a busy month on the farm. Planting should begin in a small way. However, it is better to wait until the ground becomes warmer before you plant much seed.

It is a waste of time and money to undertake to grow profitable crops on lands which have been impoverished, without putting into the ground something to enrich it.

#### Cruelty to Gold Fish.

Sir Herbert Maxwell has written a letter to the London Times protesting against the cruelty of illuminating bowls of gold fish with electric lamps. Fish, he explains, are so sensitive to light that some of them (trout, for instance) can alter their coloring, according to the ground on which they swim. But the peculiarity that renders exposure to strong light intolerable to fish, is that they have no eyelids, so that to confine them in the neighborhood of a brilliant lamp is to inflict upon them indescribable torture. —Chicago Times-Herald.

#### A Dog Commits Suicide.

Peter Snyder, of Demarest, N. J., met with a painful accident two weeks ago and was confined to his bed. His faithful water spaniel, missing his master's company, became despondent, and on Friday was found drowned in the village lake near the depot.

It is believed the dog committed suicide. No other reason can be given for his death, as he was an expert swimmer. —New York Recorder.

## CHINA'S BARRIERS DOWN.

### Other Countries Profit by the Terms of Peace Exacted by Japan.

### TREATY SIGNED BY ALL ENVOYS.

#### Anybody May Introduce Into China Factories or Machinery and May Lease Warehouses in the Interior—Intimation That European Powers Will Attempt to Revise the Concessions.

The treaty of peace between Japan and China was signed at Shimonoseki by the Peace Commissioners of both countries. The provisions of this treaty of most consequence to outside countries are these:

China agrees to no longer impose upon foreigners the odious tax known as likin, levied upon goods and sales.

A uniform standard tael is to be adopted by China for her currency. Much confusion is caused in money calculations, because there are the Haikwan or customs tael (usually meant when Government computations are made), worth about seventy-five cents; the Tientsin tael, worth about seventy-three cents, and the Shanghai tael, worth about sixty-nine cents.

All foreigners are to be permitted to introduce into China factories and machinery, and to lease warehouses in the interior.

Japan takes Formosa, the Pescadore Islands and Manchuria from Yingkow, on the Leao River, to Anping, on the Yalu, including the Leatong peninsula.

No other part of China is to be occupied by Japan, even as a temporary guarantee that China shall abide by the provisions of the peace treaty, except possibly Weihaiwei.

The indemnity which China is to pay to Japan is fixed at 200,000,000 taels in silver (equivalent to about \$150,000,000 in American gold).

The important commercial concessions made by China are to be shared by all Nations.

The autonomy of Korea is recognized. No pressure from Western Powers was brought to bear upon Japan during the peace negotiations.

A dispatch from Shimonoseki says that Li Hung Chang, China's peace envoy, has started for home, having conceded all of Japan's demands.

A despatch from Tientsin, China, says an imperial proclamation has been issued authorizing Li Hung Chang to sign a treaty of peace with Japan guaranteeing the payment of 200,000,000 taels indemnity. By the proclamation Li Hung Chang is empowered to cede to the Japanese the island of Formosa and the peninsula of Liao Tung to the fortieth degree of latitude, to sanction the opening of five new commercial ports, including Peking, and to give Japan the power to open cotton factories and other industries in China.

Germany objects to the conditions of peace only so far as they encroach upon German commercial interests, and regards the whole question as one to be settled between China and Japan as long as European interests are not affected.

The French and Russian Governments are about to convoke a meeting of the Powers for the purpose of revising the terms of peace agreed upon by the Chinese and Japanese representatives.

The Pall Mall Gazette, a leading British paper, commenting on the terms of peace between China and Japan, as defined by the imperial edict just issued in Peking, says the cession of Formosa will surely displease England, while the cession of Port Arthur will be objected to by Russia. "Our Government," the Gazette says, "may safely be depended upon to do nothing, however, unless the other Powers take action."

The St. James's Gazette says: "If Japan declines to be frightened Russia may come to the conclusion that she would better not try force. Meanwhile England is benevolent and has no feeling of anger toward Japan. The opening of factories in China by Japan does not mean that she will have a monopoly of such industries, as England could also open a factory if she chose."

The Russian journals are more vigorous in their utterances than the English papers, and sound the warning that the signing of such a treaty of peace will be only a prelude to a wider though unnecessary armed conflict.

Japan will place in England at once orders for several warships, to be built on the lines suggested by her experience in the war.

A despatch from Tokio, Japan, says that peace ratifications will be exchanged within three weeks, and that the armistice has been extended to midnight on May 8.

#### Estimates of the Income Tax Returns.

Commissioner Miller, of the Internal Revenue Bureau has sent a letter to Secretary Carlisle in which he estimates the returns from the income tax at about \$14,365,000. The total expenditures on account of the work, including necessary salaries and allowances to the end of the present fiscal year, will not exceed \$135,000.

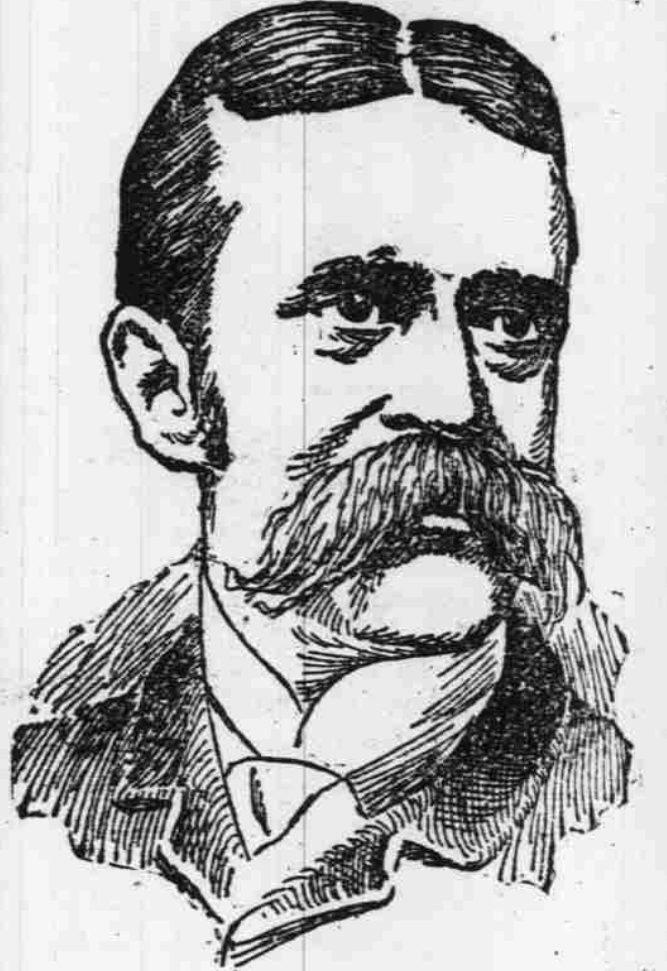
The best judgment of the Treasury officials is that but for the adverse decision of the Supreme Court the amount carried by the returns would have been about \$30,000,000, the first estimates of the department.

## IS DR. NANSEN ALIVE?

### Rumors That the Intrepid Explorer Had Found the North Pole.

A Paris paper publishes a rumor that Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, the Norwegian explorer who was reported lost, is alive and has discovered the North Pole. Dr. Nansen sailed from Christiania, Sweden, on the 24th of June, 1893, in a small steamer, the Fram, with the intention of boldly entering the ice pack in the vicinity of the New Siberian Islands, expecting to be carried by the drift, previously ascertained to be toward the northwest, over or near the North Pole, and southward again by the current that comes down between Spitzbergen and Greenland.

If Dr. Nansen should come back successful from his novel and wonderful voyage, no



DR. FRIDTJOF NANSEN.

one can doubt that he will be the most famous man of the century.

Dr. Nansen is quite a remarkable man in many respects. At the age of twenty-one he was appointed curator of the Museum at Bergen. Six years later he headed a party of six young men, which, landing on the east coast of Greenland, was the first to cross that continent over the great mer-de-glace that had baffled many older and more experienced explorers. He is now but thirty-four years old.

The prestige derived from this brilliant achievement enabled him to secure friends and funds for putting his present expedition in the field. The Norwegian Parliament appropriated about \$52,000 toward the expenses of the expedition and many private contributions were made, among them \$5000 from the King.

The Fram is so designed that it was believed she would force all the ice she met to pass under her bows and lift her up, instead of crushing her, as often occurs to other vessels.

The entire crew of twelve persons, carefully selected from the many volunteers ready to risk their lives in this enterprise, occupy the cabin with the commander. This cabin is heated by a petroleum stove and is lighted by electricity generated by the turning of a capstan, around which the members of the crew are required to march a certain number of times each day for exercise, while the vessel is imbedded in the ice, and all ordinary labor is suspended.

#### GENERAL M'COOK RETIRED.

### The Last of the "Fighting McCooks" Returns to Private Life.

After having been continuously in the service of the United States for forty-three years, Major-General Alexander McDowell McCook has been retired from the army, a step made necessary by the law, as he has reached the age of sixty-four years. For the first time in nearly half a century the army is without a McCook on its active rolls, and with the retirement of Major-General McCook the last of the "fighting McCooks" goes into private life.

McCook was a Major-General in the war times, and before his thirtieth birthday was commanding a brigade, had fought in Shiloh, and won the highest praises from General W. T. Sherman. McCook's war record was an enviable one, and that it was not a magnificent one was due to lack of opportunity. In every engagement in which General McCook took part he came out with the highest honors of the day, from his campaign against the Muscogean Indians in 1855 in New Mexico, when he was only a brevet Second Lieutenant, all through the war and up to 1894, when, without firing a gun or charging a bayonet, he opened 10,000 miles of railroad during a labor strike of National importance.

#### Dull Season in Muskrats.

The season just ended has been a dull one for the muskrat catchers on the Delaware marshes. The catch is a valuable one in good seasons, and marshes are rented for the muskrat catching privilege. All cross-roads storekeepers deal in the pelts, and the Delaware Legislature was once asked to enact a law for the protection of the muskrat, so that the species might not become extinct. The meat of the creature is sold in the Wilmington street market and served as marsh rabbit.