

AGRICULTURAL.

TOPICS OF INTEREST RELATIVE TO FARM AND GARDEN.

FLAVOR OF EGGS.

The flavor of eggs depends very much on the kind of food given to the poultry. When hens are fed largely or almost exclusively on milk the yolk is lighter in color, the white has a milky look, and the whole egg is watery and less firm in texture than those laid by grain-fed hens. The taste of the egg is also affected, being insipid and unsatisfactory.—New York World.

FARM CHEESE.

In Europe cheese forms a very important article of diet, but in this country it is greatly neglected, and on many farms its manufacture is never attempted, writes C. D. Bell in the New York World. This neglect is chiefly due to a very general impression of the laboriousness of the work and the need of a special education therefor. Of course this is true of many varieties of cheese, but there are other kinds which are easily made. The following is a simple recipe for rice, small cheese suitable for home use:

Strain the evening's milk into a deep can, which should be placed in cold water. This will prevent the development of bacteria and check the rising of the cream. The milk should be well stirred before retiring. In the morning the cream and a portion of the milk should be heated (never above 120 degrees), and then added to the remainder of the evening's milk, which has been stirred into the morning's. When all have been mixed the temperature should be from eighty to eighty-four degrees.

The coloring matter, diluted with water, should then be stirred in before the rennet is added. Rather less than an ounce of the latter is needed for every 100 pounds of milk. The vessel should then be covered and left for half an hour, after which time it should be closely watched, and as soon as the curd breaks or splits on passing a finger through it, it should be cut with a long-bladed knife into inch squares. This opens the pores of the whey. The cutting must be done carefully, so as to keep the whey clear. Some of the latter should be dipped off and water heated to 140 degrees and poured onto the curd so as to raise the mass to about ninety-six degrees. The vessel is kept covered, so as to retain the heat.

After half an hour the curd will be tough enough to lift without breaking. The whey must then be drawn as quickly as possible. The curd is torn into pieces with the hands and the whey carefully pressed out. When it is fine enough good dairy salt should be added at the rate of about four ounces to every hundred pounds of milk. During the salting and the subsequent cooling the curd must be kept from matting by constant stirring. A sewed bandage should be placed in the hoop and the curd pressed in firmly. When the cheese has settled in the hoop it is taken out in the cloth, placed on a shelf and turned every day during the first month and twice a week afterwards. To prevent cracking it should occasionally be rubbed with butter. The curing will require two or three months in a temperature from sixty to sixty-five degrees.

POLAND CHINA SWINE.

This variety of hogs is undoubtedly the most popular, as befits its American origin. In the West its great rival, the Berkshire, is outnumbered three to one, though in the South the Poland China is largely superseded by the Duroc-Jersey. The West, however, is the great pork-growing section, and the overwhelming popularity of the breed in that locality stamps the Poland China as possessing a very high order of merit.

In the early days of the country the pigs were of the racer type, with razor backs, long legs and little meat. They

were great eaters but poor feeders, requiring two or three years to mature. The admixture of a little Berkshire blood gave them the desired form and early maturity, and the judicious blending with the Byfield, Big China and Irish Grazier has resulted in producing the present Poland China breed.

This breed, now thoroughly established, possesses fixed characteristics, fine style and unquestioned good qualities and character. The best specimens have good length, short legs, deep sides, full, square hams and shoulders; they are hardy, vigorous and prolific, and combine in a high degree the excellence of both large



PRIZE POLAND CHINA SWINE.

and small breeds. They are docile, easily fattened, unsurpassed both as a corn-eater and fat-producer, their flesh is of good quality, and they give a good return for the food supplied them.

They do not adapt themselves so readily to climatic conditions as the Duroc-Jerseys, hence their lack of popularity in the South. These two breeds resemble each other very closely in nearly all points except color. Here the difference is striking, the Duroc-Jersey being red-haired, while the Poland China is black and white spotted.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Nervous horses require very careful handling.

It pays those having horses to sell to put them in the best possible condition for market.

To succeed with turkeys all that is required is good, healthy, vigorous stock and a little painstaking care with the young birds for the first week or two after they are hatched, after which they will take care of themselves and will need little or no food until time to fatten them in the fall.

A hint concerning big limbs to those who are about to trim orchards: "Instead of sawing under and then from the top, saw the limb far enough from the place you should saw smooth, to make a stick of firewood, let the limb go tumbling to the ground, then take time and saw the stub off smooth at one sawing."

There is no need of making butter at a loss with so wide a demand for a gilt edged article, yet plenty of people continually suffer this loss, and do not seem to know just how to locate nor remedy it. It is safe to say that ninety-nine farmers out of a hundred never have any right appreciation of the possibilities of intelligent dairying.

The Egyptian Lentil.

It is in Egypt that the lentil crop is of the most value, for in the land of the Pharaohs the lentil forms one-sixth of the food of the people, besides being extensively exported to other countries. It is well suited to the soil and climate, as it requires little irrigation save what the Nile provides. The Egyptian lentils are reputed the best and most nutritious in the world.

From Cairo to Assouan, the farmers of the Nile Valley regularly rotate the crop with wheat or maize, gathering it in about the end of April. Every peasant grows enough for his own consumption, making it into porridge, which he finds both wholesome and sustaining, and the cheapest food he can obtain. In Cairo, Alexandria, Ismailia, Suez, Port Said and the other towns the consumption in soup is very large. Most of the export goes to London, there to be converted into invalid or "patent" food, under some fanciful name at a fanciful price.—Chambers's Journal.

Western railroads are hauling seed grain free to destitute farming communities.

A CLEVER BANK ROBBERY

Plainfield First National Bank Loses \$22,765 in a Mysterious Way.

TAKEN IN BROAD DAYLIGHT.

One of the Oldest Institutions in Northern New Jersey Victimized—Supposition That a Stranger Engaged a Clerk in Conversation While His Confederates Reached the Vault.

The citizens of Plainfield, N. J., were astounded to learn that bank robbers had stolen \$22,765 from the vault of the First National Bank of that city, and had accomplished the theft so skillfully that the hour of the robbery was not certain; neither was there any good clue to the identity of the guilty ones. The money was supposed to have been taken in broad daylight, while all save two of the bank employees were at luncheon, and this fact, with one or two unusual circumstances, led Inspector Byrnes to believe that some of the most skillful robbers in the country had made Plainfield the headquarters of their operations.

The bank is located at the corner of Front street and Park, in the business center of the city. The banking offices are on the first floor, and there are law offices and other business offices on the upper floors. The money was in two packages. One contained \$20,000 in new bills ranging in value from \$1 to \$1000. The other contained \$2,765 in mutilated bills. The theft was not discovered until the bank was about to close for the day. Then Thomas Curran, a bookkeeper, asked Cashier Runyon for the mutilated bills, and a search revealed the fact that they had disappeared, together with the other money.

The bank employs seven persons. They are F. S. Runyon, Cashier; D. M. Runyon, Assistant Cashier; Adelbert Vail, Thomas Curran, William Day and Fred Haynes, bookkeepers, and Bert Steiner, assistant bookkeeper. There were nearly one hundred persons who entered the place during the noon hours on the supposed day of the robbery to transact business. At 12:15 o'clock p. m. Cashier Runyon went out. He had hardly reached the lower steps of the bank when a man passed him and entered the bank. The latter went up to the window and said to Vail: "There is a gentleman outside in a buggy who wants to talk to Mr. Haynes." The man then turned around and went out.

Haynes found a man sitting in a country wagon dressed like a farmer. The man had a patch over his eye. When Haynes asked him what he wanted he replied by saying that he understood that Haynes had a little bookkeeping after banking hours, and asked him if he could go to Scotch Plains, where he had a farm, and straighten out his books. Haynes refused and returned to his desk.

It is supposed that the man was one of the thieves, and thought that he could hold Haynes in conversation long enough to allow his confederates to carry out their scheme. Haynes, however, entered the bank so quickly that they did not do anything at that time.

A quarter of an hour afterward a well dressed man walked up to the window where Assistant Cashier Runyon was writing and said to him: "Can I have your attention a few moments? I want to transact some business with the bank." He told the Assistant Cashier that he wanted to know about depositing some trust money.

While the stranger was talking to Runyon another man went to the window where Bookkeeper Vail was at work. He asked Vail some questions regarding the computing of interest on three notes bearing different dates. Vail explained to the man about the interest, but the individual seemed to be rather dull and asked the question over again several times. While the strangers were in the bank Haynes went to dinner and Steiner was out on an errand. It was then the robbery was committed, according to the supposition.

The vault is located back of the clerks' office in the directors' room. It was supposed that the thief slipped in through another door to where the vault was, and quickly carried off the packages, while his accomplices were talking to Runyon and Vail.

The bank directors held a meeting and summoned Bank Examiner George Stone to meet them. The bank has a capital of \$200,000, and the surplus is \$50,000. After the meeting the directors issued a circular stating that the loss would not in any way interfere with the business of the bank.

Ships for Nicaragua.

President Cleveland, Secretary of State Gresham and Secretary of the Navy Herbert have taken official action with regard to the situation in Nicaragua. After several hours of consultation they decided to send three warships to Nicaraguan ports, ostensibly for the purpose of protecting American interests in the event of a conflict between the Nicaraguan forces and the British troops now in possession of Corinto. The Montgomery and Raleigh go to Bluefields and the Alert to San Juan del Sur.

THE LABOR WORLD.

London has 260,000 factory girls.

Woman station masters are employed in some Austrian railways.

Lake Superior miners expect to ship 10,000,000 tons of iron ore this season.

Wages in the Cocheo Mills, at Dover, N. H., are to be increased five per cent.

The invention of the typewriter has given employment to half a million of women.

Eugene V. Debs says that the talk of unemployed railroad men migrating to Venezuela is a fake.

London bootmakers are making violent objections to the introduction of improved American machinery.

The number of women employed at the collieries in South Staffordshire, England, has fallen since 1875 from 1221 to 168.

The strike of the Paris omnibus drivers for higher wages and shorter hours has increased. The strikers have been rioting.

Now there is in New York City a Chinese union. D. A. 49 has organized the laundrymen, with 1500 members and a scale of rates.

The 1500 employees of the Stater Woolen Company, of Massachusetts, are the latest woolen operatives to receive notice of an increase of wages.

The wages of berry-pickers in the strawberry regions of Delaware have been reduced from two to 1 1/2 cents per quart. Thousands of people are affected by this cut-down.

It is proposed to utilize the labor of the unemployed upon the vacant lots of Brooklyn in filling them upon the Detroit plan, which is also being adopted by other cities with success.

At an elevation of 15,645 feet above the sea level on the Peruvian Central Railroad it was discovered that 160 men were required to do the same amount of work that fifty would do on a sea level.

Mrs. Josephine S. Lowell found in stores in New York City 347 women working with seats but for thirty-four. Mrs. Nathan found one big store in which the girl who sat down was discharged.

The Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners have decided to wage war upon the Baltimore Baseball Club, and from now until the trouble is settled all union men affiliated in any way with the Federation of Labor are requested by the carpenters to taboo the champions. The trouble grew out of the construction of the new grandstand by non-union men.

Several Sundays ago some fifteen union carpenters assembled in San Francisco, Cal., and put up a house for one of the union, Patrick Hughes, who was in need of some assistance. By night the modest cottage was practically finished and ready for occupancy. The union could not give money, but its labor was at its own disposal and it gave it freely and voluntarily.

According to the ninth annual report of the relief department of the Pennsylvania Railroad, there is a surplus of \$273,751 in the treasury of that organization. During the year \$606,015 was received from 4112 depositors. Benefits have been paid to members since 1886, disabled from accidents, aggregating \$722,565. The sums that have been paid out in death benefits amount to \$1,279,215.

COTTON-DESTROYING INSECT.

A Mexican Pest That Has Just Arrived in the South.

The Department of Agriculture has just issued a circular to cotton planters relative to a new and very destructive insect that has been brought across the Rio Grande from Mexico into the cotton belt of Texas, and which during 1894 seriously injured the cotton crop over a territory of about 5000 square miles. It is a weevil, which attacks the cotton bolls. It punctures the bolls with its beak and lays eggs in the hole thus made. The grubs hatch and ruin both the seed and fibre, thus destroying simultaneously both products of the cotton plant. The Department of Agriculture has appointed a skilled agent, who is located at Brownsville, Tex., and who will study the life, history and habits of the new pest and experiment extensively with remedies during the coming season, under the direction of Mr. L. O'Howard, chief entomologist of the department.

A REMARKABLE SCENE IN COURT.

Catherine Nolan Triumphant Acquitted of the Charge of Murder.

The trial of Catherine Nolan on the charge of poisoning her brother John in Waterford was concluded in Ballston, N. Y., the jury rendering a verdict of not guilty.

She and her sister Elizabeth were thereupon discharged from custody. There was great excitement in the court room upon the announcement of the verdict.

Juror Goff mounted the Judge's bench, made a speech and called for contributions for the friendless, penniless and homeless prisoners. Instantly bills fluttered in the air and silver rained into Catherine's lap, while Foreman Goff pleaded. Such scenes are sometimes described in novels, but judges and lawyers declare that they never had seen one like it in real life before.

The jurymen were among the first to put their hands deep into their pockets. Counsel and experts followed. The opposing counsel contributed also, and even the Judge himself sent a crisp "V" to the bewildered girl. Roses and pinks were torn from the bouquet that Catherine had carried and every juror decorated himself with one.