Agricultural.

Waste from the Barnyard.

Under the most careful arrangement and management some manurial matter is unavoidably carried off by rains from the barnyard. Though animals be kept in stalls there is always some waste about the lot, some droppings, some wastage in cleaning out the stalls, some scattered provender is generally present, in short, a barnyard is never a very clean place, and here want of cleanliness means manure. Where animals are confined in open lots the loss of manure is obviously much greater, and still the problem how to save it becomes very important. If the lot is sloping the manure-laden water runs down hill, finding its way into some gulley or hollow, and there into streams, and it is lost. But is there a necessity; cannot the water be checked and made to deposit its treasures on its way? The most obvious arrangement to bring this to pass, is to have a grass or grain patch immediately below the lot and have the water flow over it. This arrangement is often seen, but is generally defective in two important points: the water is allowed to choose its own path, and is usually concentrated on a very limited portion of the patch; the other, no contrivances are present to check the velocity of the water and allow the soil to get its valuable contents. The first may be obviated by building a low dam at bottom of lot, the top of the dam to be level so the water will not run over at one place, but along its whole length in a thin continuous sheet, or else openings made in the dam, and the water discharged first at one point and then another. By such contrivances every portion of the patch would get some of the fertilizing water. One very common error is to put the stables and barnyard by the side of the road so that all the wastage runs in to and down the road to the branch and so is entirely lost. Don't do this. Put the stable so that the drainage therefrom will be taken in by some part of the farm.

What Some of the Readers of the Rural New-Yorker Have Learned During 1887.

That the farm needs live stock and plenty of it.

That the cow-pea makes excellent pasture for the pig.

That one acre well cultivated and fertilized, is worth three half done.

That the farmer who will not take an agricultural paper, keeps so far in the rear of the procession that he can't hear the music.

That the trouble with the majority of farmers in seeding to grass and clover is they don't sow it early enough and don't sow enough seed. Skimping the seed means not only a skimpy crop of grass, but it gives weeds and other foul stuff a chance to grow up in the places left vacant in consequence of thin seeding.

That we must improve, or, better still, we must farm differently. We must study the care and applications of our natural resources, learn our soils, their needs and capabilities. Drainage must not be guess-work with us. Farm less, but farm better. Expenses of cropping and caring for stock must be reduced to a minimum by careful book-keeping, by industry and by approved farm machinery.

A Roadbed of Salt.

In the Colorado desert, near Idaho, there is a large bed of rock salt, and the Southern Pacific Railroad, in laying the track to the saltbed, has been obliged to grade the road 1200 feet with blocks of these crystals. This is the only instance where the roadbed is laid and ballasted on salt. The sea, which once rolled over this place, dried up and left a vast bed of salt nearly fifty miles long. The supply is inexhaustible and the quality excellent.

Grass is King.

I have convinced myself that grass is indeed the sheet-anchor of the farmer, South and North. If we keep up, or rather increase, the fertility of our land, we must grow grass and feed it out at home, and like the Eastern farmer utilize our corn stover. This means keeping more cattle. The raising of green crops to turn under is well enough if carried out, but in my experience the most profitable time to turn under peas, clover, and green rye is after it has passed through cattle. We cannot afford to do it before as a rule. Sow the land to rye in the fall, cut when ready either green or for seed, return an equivalent of manure broadcast, then with one horse turning plow, plow the land, letting a boy follow ever second or third furrow, and drop peas in the furrow, harrow lightly and roll, when you will, with an ordinary season, get a fine crop of peas and crab grass, which as a fodder is hard to beat when properly cured so as to not lose the leaves of the peas.—E. A. Bishop, in Rural New Yorker.

Cows Going Dry.

The fault in cows failing in their milk is probably more in the cattle than the food. Cows accustomed to having their calves suckle, and have not been weaned, would account for it, to some extent. A mixture of bran, corn meal, peas, and oats is the best feed in the world for milk; corn feed alone will lay on fat. Sweet potatoes, boiled with rutabaga turnips, cotton seed and bran mixed thin and fed warm will also give good results. These bought foods "come high," but the increased value of manure, especially if it is sprinkled with land plaster every day, will, it is estimated, repay the original outlay. Plant plenty of sweet potatoes, millo maize, drilled corn, oats and rutabagas, and you will have no trouble by another season. Enough salt should be put in the feed to make it taste brackish.

Free Wool.

Mr. Cleveland having just discovered that "the demand for the repeal of the tobacco tax comes from the farmers and not from the manufacturers, and therefore the appeal for free tobacco in its natural state cannot be ignored," there is hope that he will soon be able to see that the demand for free wool in its natural state comes from the few manufacturers who wish to increase their profits on woollen goods, and not from the thousands of sheep-raisers and wool-growers, whose business would be ruined, and therefore the appeal for free wool cannot be granted. The one proposition is just as evident as the other, and when the President begins to rectify his mistakes he might as well make a thorough job of it.—Richmond Whig.

Milk.

Don't set your milk in shallow pans or crocks; get a portable creamery, or, if you can't afford that just yet, have some deep flat cans made, and set them in a tank of cold water. Time, labor and cream saved will soon enable you to buy yourself a creamery.

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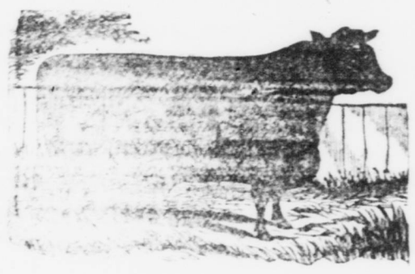

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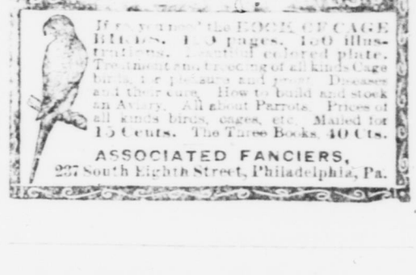

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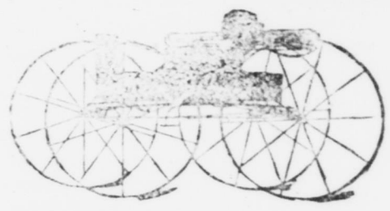

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