

AGRICULTURAL.

Acquiring a Select Trade.

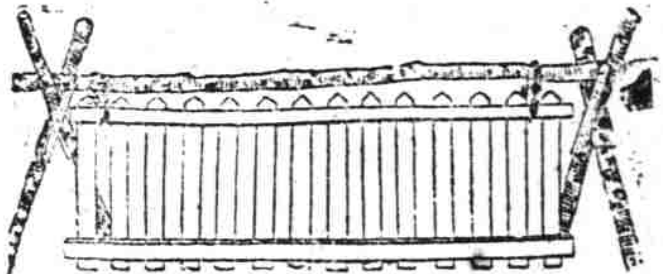
It will surprise any farmer who has depended upon the dealer to take his milk how much can be gained by making good butter and feeding the skimmed milk to pigs. Consumers have faith in the farmers, and any farmer who will aim to secure customers by supplying the best will have no difficulty. Those who buy the choice articles are always willing to pay good prices whenever they are assured that the quality will be maintained.

Result of Planting One Potato.

An interesting agricultural item printed in the London Times is as follows: "A Mr. Vacher, of Heckford farm, near Poole, last year planted one potato, which produced him 335 in number, and there would have been still more had not a boy lost one of the eyes after the potato was cut in pieces. The farmer, having saved the whole of them, had them planted, and he has now dug the crop, and finds they have multiplied to the number of 9236, and weigh 13 cwt. 3 qrs., which certainly is a very great increase from one single tuber in two years."

A Flood Gate.

I wish to explain the following to the people that live along small streams who have trouble in keeping their water gaps up. Take four ties, mortise them half through near the middle in a slanting direction. Put two of the ties together so that they will fit tight, then nail a strip of plank on each side of your frame so they



cannot come past. Be careful in cutting your ties so that when put together they will be in the shape of a letter X. Fix both pair alike, placing a frame on each side of the creek, then sink them down in the bank of rock bar about a foot which makes them solid, then lay your pole between the forks of the ties and you are ready to hang your gate. This is a much cheaper gap than the old way of putting a pen on each side of the creek and filling it with rock.—Charles S. Keen, in The Epitomist.

Material For Manure.

There is always a large amount of coarse material in the barnyard that has little or no plant food in it, especially if it has been exposed. Such manure is not worth taking to the fields, and if turned under it will make the soil dryer in summer. Such material should be made the foundation for a new heap, so as to rot it down to less bulk, but also to use it as absorbent matter for fresh manure.

Personal interest, of course, has been a factor in all this, but genius and commendable desire for betterment and the accomplishment of good in the world have been great factors in this wonderfully advanced movement. American manufacturers lead the world in these great economic strides, and the demand abroad for their products, constantly increasing, verifies this claim for their skill and ingenuity. No other country in the world has been able to advance the price of labor fifty per cent., and yet reduce the cost of production more than 200 per cent. A people who can do that expand the area of their industry necessarily. The parts of the world that won't improve or advance in human betterment simply have to get out of the way of those who do. It is the order of inevitable law, not fate.—Indiana Farmer.

Where Good Horses Are Scarce.

Those States which have rolling lands, with large amounts of limestone in their soils, with short, sweet grasses and pure water, are the ones which have led in the production of high class horses. The Morgan family was a natural product of Vermont, and the sound feet, clean bone and excellent lines were the sure result of the natural conditions under which this family of the horse were raised. It required good feet to travel over the hard, stony soil, and good lungs to travel all day up and down those steep hills. These conditions eliminated all animals of too great weight, with soft bone or poor feet, and by the law of natural selection they became extinct in that State through discrimination against them in breeding and exportation.

It is the same with the American trotter and thoroughbred. New York and Kentucky have been recognized as the natural home of the trotter, and Kentucky and Tennessee as that of the thoroughbred. Natural conditions had more to do with this than the enterprise of breeders, for as much enterprise can be found among breeders in other States. We should never select horses raised on the flat lowlands of Illinois, even if they had a greater growth and weight than those raised

under the conditions referred to above. Horses raised on corn land in the prairie States, and fed largely on corn, may show well in the ring, but they will never have the stamina and usefulness, either for work or in the stud, as those raised on limestone soils, with blue grass pastures and oats as their usual food.—Michigan Farmer.

Drinking Water on Farms.

Drinking water on farms is given but little consideration as to its purity when it is derived from springs, but many farms are supplied with water from open wells, and its purity in such cases depends largely upon the mode of protecting the well and the surroundings. Wells being deeper than ditches or drains, and the tendency of water being downward, much soluble matter goes into the well that is unknown to the farmer. The water may appear clear and pure, be free of odor, and yet contain impurities. Farmers who do not consider the matter have no conception of the many sources from which their drinking water is obtained. It comes from the clouds, of course, but it does not fall into the well, only reaching it after passing through the surface soil, and dissolving the impurities. Because the water passes through sand it is not filtered of the soluble matter. If salt is dissolved in water, the salt is not removed by filtering, as the dissolved salt will go with the water to the lowest place. If the well is open there may be toads and insects in the water, which drown and decompose. The wells should be covered and the surroundings kept clean, with good drainage in all directions. Driven wells are better than those that are open, and should be used in preference.

Bulls of John Bull.

In the making of bulls Ireland has without doubt attained pre-eminence, but she has by no means established a monopoly. Indeed, John Bull is not often able to poke fun at her upon that score without being promptly reminded of his own achievements in the same line. A recent newspaper controversy has called forth some fine examples of the purely British bull, of which two were contributed by members of Parliament, although not within the walls of the House. They occurred, however, in the course of the campaign eloquence which admitted the speakers to its precincts.

"Expenditure on so vast a scale," proclaimed one of them who was urging national economy, "will in time empty even the inexhaustible coffers of Britain, and convince her reckless legislators too late, when the mare is stolen, that they must close that barn door through which for years the flood of extravagance has poured unchecked."

The second speaker did even better, although it is fair to allow something for a man who, hooted down by a derisive opposition, is naturally too excited and indignant to carefully consider his words.

"Gentlemen, gentlemen," he protested. "The cry of the cat, the crow of the cock and the hiss of the gander are not argument. True, they may for the time overwhelm the feeble voice of one man in the roaring tide, but not all their leaguered forces, howsoever armed and arrayed for combat, shall avail finally to extinguish that beacon torch of experience, still gripped fast and held high in his unflinching hand to guide safely through the breakers the straining eyes of posterity!"

Modern Newspapers.

There never was a more superficial view taken of any important field of labor, or falser deductions drawn, than to say that because new methods control in journalism the influence of the press has been weakened, declares Marcellus Foster, in the Houston Post. We might as well say that the influence of trade and commerce upon the masses has waned because the universal individualism of some years ago has given way to the great co-operative movements and processes of the present.

Journalism has, indeed, changed in the past two decades, especially in the past decade—changed as rapidly as any other great force or agent of progress has changed. The facilities for making papers have been so multiplied and improved that we see now more elaborate establishments, larger use of capital back of the paper, a greater subdivision of labor, more system consequent upon this very expansion, and last but not least, the substitution of corporate for individual proprietorship, of collective force for individual opinion.

The great paper of to-day no longer depends on the individuality or reputation or personal influence of any one man. The development of modern life and progress has introduced new forces in the newspaper offices just as in the industrial and commercial world.

Attar of Roses From Bulgaria.

One of the most profitable products of Bulgaria is the oil or attar of roses, which amounts to more than \$1,000,000 annually. The town of Shipka, where was fought the decisive battle of the Turko-Russian war, on July 7, 1877, is the centre of the rose gardens.

Many a man is a chronic kicker because he has corns on his conscience.

FIRE AT ARP'S HOUSE

The Alarm Made Bill Get a Move On Him.

CHIMNEY SOOT CAUGHT ON FIRE

Water Poured on Soon Put Out Blaze in Kitchen—Arp Gives Some Fire Statistics.

Fire and water and air. The three things that cost the least and are the most necessary to our existence are the most dangerous when unrestrained. Last Sabbath evening my wife and I walked down to Jessie's house to comfort her in her sick bed, and play with the little girls and help nurse the little baby boy. Suddenly the fire bell gave an alarm and my wife walked out on the veranda to find out where the fire was. In a moment she came hurrying back and almost screamed, "It's our house—It's our house; run quick. Oh! mercy!" I threw the baby down on the floor—no, I didn't either—and departed those coasts with salacity. Firemen and people were hurrying that way. I struck a fox trot for awhile, but soon relaxed into a fast walk, and then a slow pull up the hill, for I felt my palpitation coming on. Before I reached the mansion I met some of the advance guard returning, who said the fire was out. So I sat down on the front steps to blow for a minute. When I went through the hall to the kitchen where the commotion was, I found our daughters and some good friends still drenching the smoking walls and pouring water down the flue up in the garret. The accumulated soot of twenty years had caught on fire and somehow got to the lathing and then to the ceiling and dropped down to the floor. Nobody was at home. The cook was in her cabin asleep. Her little boy was sitting on the back steps and when our girls arrived he very quietly pointed to the kitchen and said: "Dar's a fire in dar." Then they heard the cracking flames and saw smoke pouring through a broken pane. On opening the door they were astounded, for the whole room seemed ablaze. One ran to the front door and screamed "Fire, fire, fire," and the other went to the telephone and then they flew to the water faucet and good neighbors gathered in and filled the buckets and went to work. They were just in time, for a delay of ten minutes would have caused the loss of the house and all of our time-honored furniture and pictures and books and my wife's fine clothes and golden wedding presents. When I left Jessie's house my wife hailed me on the run and said save something, but I am not certain whether it was her fire dresses in the wardrobe or her silverware in the dark closet or her Bible. I reckon it was the Bible that she has read a chapter in every night for all these long years. I had a good old Baptist aunt in Rome and when her house caught on fire away in the night and the firemen came running she ran out in her night clothes and begged them to save her Christian Index. She had a stock of them and treasured them more than anything else.

Our good old professor, Charles F. McCoy, of Franklin College, his favorite subject was "The Regularity of Irregular things," and he satisfied me that the longer my house escaped a fire the more I was liable to have one. The chances against me increased as the years rolled on, and so I have been expecting a fire. The insurance companies understand this and base all their calculations and rates upon it. They will tell you what is the average life of a dwelling, a store, a gin, a planing mill or a church. The professor illustrated with a dice box and said if you cast the dice a dozen times the six spot might come up three or four times in succession and the ace several times, but if you cast the dice a thousand times, each number from one to six would show up about an equal number of times. That is according to the calculation of chances and proves the regularity of irregular things. So it is with the rainfall which, however uncertain in its coming, amounts to about the same every year. Since 1833 the losses by fire in the United States have averaged \$105,000,000 a year, the lowest being \$100,000,000 and the highest \$110,000,000, and yet in 1871 the loss in Chicago alone was \$200,000,000.

But where did fire come from and who gave it and when. There is no mention of fire in the Mosaic account of the creation nor for two thousand years after it. Until after the flood there was not much need of fire, for the people were not permitted to eat meat. Their food was the fruit of the earth. But I reckon they did have fire and blacksmith shops and made hammers and hoes and nails, etc. Noah could not have built the ark without tools and nails. The presumption is that the Creator supplied Adam with tools to dress the garden and Abel with knives to sacrifice the firstlings of his flock, but there are Indian tribes in our day and negroes in Africa and Esquimaux in the Arctic regions who have no knowledge of iron or its uses. A thousand years before Christ, Homer wrote that Jupiter only possessed the element that we call fire and when man was created man he refused to give him fire. But Prometheus stole some from heaven and gave it to man and it made Jupiter so mad that he chained him to a rock and sent eagles to eat his liver out and as fast as they eat it by day the liver grew again by night, but finally he was unchained and the eagles driven away. It seems that Prometheus was a friend to mankind, and by the command of Jupiter actually created man out of the mud that was left after the flood—not No-

ah's flood, but the flood of Deucalion away, back in the ages. He was a god nearly as powerful as Jupiter and was always in a quarrel with him. He taught mankind architecture, astronomy, figures, medicine, navigation and all the arts that adorn life. At Athens and other ancient cities, temples were built to his honor. They believed that the very fire that he brought down from heaven was still preserved and was always burning on an altar in the temple of Vesta. It is called the sacred fire—the Vestal fire—the fire of the hearthstone and must not be allowed to go out. If it does go out from accident even the family who loses it must go to the temple of Vesta and get a new supply.

Of course all these stories about the gods are superstitious, but they are very fascinating ones and old Homer still stands as the greatest poet, and ranks as the equal of Shakespeare or Milton. That reverence for sacred fire is not yet extinguished, and it is said that the Roman Catholic priesthood burn candles in their cathedrals day and night because the custom was handed down from the ancient churches and those churches probably got it from Grecian and Roman mythology. Anyhow, we know that the Jews had great reverence for fire, for they had to use it in their sacrifices, and God appeared to Moses in a burning bush and descended on Mt. Sinai in fire and the Israelites were guided through the wilderness by a pillar of fire by night, and fire came down from heaven and destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah and many other important events were marked by fire. In our young days when there were no matches it was no sure or certain thing to find fire on the hearthstone every cold morning that came. Some times the live chunk that was buried in the ashes at bed time went out or was burned up, and then one of the boys had to go to a neighbor's and borrow fire. It was always called borrowing fire, for it was reasonably expected that the neighbor would sometimes find himself in the same condition. The Cherokee Indians made fire by rubbing two hard dry sticks together with great rapidity. I have seen little Indian boys do it very quickly, and I tried to imitate them, but I failed.

But if the good pure vestal fire came from heaven I reckon old Satan got some of it when he fell and took it down below. That's the kind that concerns us most. The old preacher who used to go around preaching about the "Mountains of Heptidam where the lion roareth and the whangdoodle mourneth for its first born, and he played on a harp of thousand strings—sperets of just men made perfect," also had a few broken remarks about fire. "My impatient hearers, there are several kinds of fire. There are fox fire and camp fire and fire and fall back, but the kind that concerns you most are the fire that is not quenched and is called hell fire for short."—Bill Apr in Atlanta Constitution.

Texas is 740 miles long and 825 miles broad—a large area than that occupied by the German empire, with England and Wales thrown in.

New Use for An Ice-breaker.

"The attempt to reach the north pole with a Russian ice-breaking vessel has been abandoned," remarked Tenterhook.

"I didn't know that such an attempt had been made," said Hammersmith. "That's because you don't keep up. This happened some time ago."

"Then that's the reason. I knew of it at the time, doubtless, but dismissed it from my mind. You see, Tenterhook," Hammersmith went on, "my mind is not like yours, a receptacle for all sorts of unimportant information. It's you who don't keep up, not I. Forget a few things."

"Much obliged, I'm sure, for your kind words. But it seems a pity that a vessel of great crunching power should fall to do the work expected of it."

"Oh, that's all right. The ship will still be of use."

"How?"

"In winter it can keep the ice in one of the Russian harbors pounded up, and in summer it can be used to break off the final jagged syllable of Russian proper names."

A rich man's foolish sayings pass for wise ones.

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