LISTED CORN.

The Lister and the Manner of Its Use Described—To List or Not to List.

What a lister is, what is meant by listed corn, and finally the question "to list or not to list" is thus considered by a writer in Farm, Field and Fireside:

A lister is a plow of which the point is in the center, the same as a shovel plow or a cultivator shovel, and the share and moldboard, instead of sloping backward only to one side from the point, slopes both ways. So it is much like a large shovel plow or a plow with two shares and moldboard, only, of course, not so large as where there are but single ones.

To list ground we commence at one side of the field and go forth and back just as you would lay off or mark out corn ground with the old single shovel plow, except the ground has not previously been plowed. The planting can then be done in the lists or furrows by single or double row planters. But a combined lister and planter is generally used so the plowing of the ground and planting of the crop is all done at one time.

But to list or not is the question. I will say that I always practiced plowing and planting until I came to Oklahoma, and now I list and plant at the same time. If I were in my old Iowa home, with its shallow surface soil, heavy clay subsoil, with usually much of cold, wet weather at corn planting time, we should certainly practice and teach planting corn. Here, with a deep surface soil and with a subsoil differing very little from that of the surface and with warm and dry weather, and especially as Kaffir corn, which is our main feed crop, is not usually planted until May or a month or more after corn planting and because the lists catch the rainfall better and listing is more quickly done and listed work more easily cultivated, we practice and teach listing for corn and similar crops.

It is proper to state that on the five farms with which I am connected we have never planted over 25 acres of corn in one season and this year but half an acre. But within five miles are a number of fine corn farms, and the owners all practice listing but one.

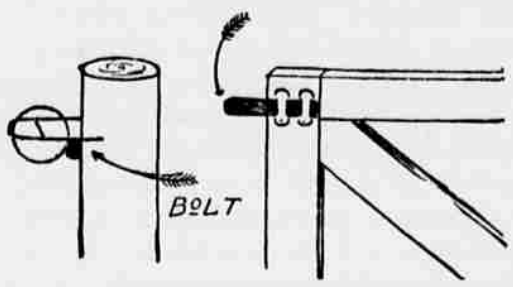
Feeding Value of Straw.

In ordinary farm practice in Utah the straw is considered of very little value. In many instances, instead of an economical use being made of it, whole stacks are burned, and instead of the plant food contained in the straw being returned to and thus enriching the soil it is wasted. Feeding trials at the state station, however, have proved conclusively that straw can be used advantageously for feeding in connection with our most common forage crop, lucern.

The old assumption that the crude fiber of straw is indigestible and that its digestibility as a whole is far less than that of other coarse fodders has been shown to be erroneous. Experiments made on the digestibility of straw show that two-fifths of the total nutrients, including the crude fiber, are digestible, at least by ruminants, thus making it very little below other coarse fodders as regards digestibility. Straw is rich in crude fiber and poor in protein; hence it is not suited alone to form a ration, but very desirable when fed with a fodder rich in protein, as lucern. Its value varies considerably, according to the kind, the manner of sowing, the soil and the time of sowing. Armsby says that oat straw stands first, barley next and wheat last in feeding value.

An Ingenious Device.

A very simple gate fastening, which seems also to be effective and durable, was recently illustrated and described in Country Gentleman: On the gate was a common iron bolt, made fast and projecting two inches. Into the gatepost was driven a long staplelike iron,



A SIMPLE GATE FASTENING.

with a crosspiece one inch from the rounded end. On the crosspiece loosely hung an iron ring. When the gate was shut, the bolt, striking the ring, threw it up and came against the post, where it was held by the ring as it dropped again. The ring could not be pushed out, as it bore against the end of the staple or bent rod. Nor could the gate be thrown open by lifting, as the bolt was under the staple. An upward pressure on the ring released the bolt.

Gleanings Here and There.

An Iowa Homestead writer says he has noticed recently that many hay loaders have gone out of use. The owners used them for a few years and then abandoned them. He thinks it is difficult to make the best quality of hay when using the loader.

The wheat crop of Nebraska is reported one of the heaviest in the history of the state. Indications are that it will exceed 250,000,000 bushels. The grain is sound and in every way excellent. Corn prospects are also fine.

Farm News says that Kaffir corn has been making steady progress in Kansas and other parts of the west for several years. It possesses the advantage that it may be planted very late and yield a full crop before frost in the fall. It also endures the dry weather of August and September, and in this respect is superior to corn.

The Pingree and the New White Beauty are among well recommended new varieties of potato.

The Oregon station has found pumpkins, on the whole, most satisfactory hog food.

The sale of the remaining works of the painter, the late Browne-Jones, brought at Christie's auction the great sum of $150,000. This is extraordinary, as it is not likely that he could have had on hand much of his own recognized great work.

Ministerial Vacations.

It has often been made a text of reproach aimed against churches and their pastors that the sacred edifices are shut, or at least their services greatly diminished in interest, during the summer months. The fact that many of the ministers, especially those of city churches and of the Protestant denominations, take a vacation ranging from one to three months is charged as a neglect of religious duty. Scoffers indeed insinuate that it is another proof that preachers of the gospel in heart look on their business as a trade, not as a sacred dedication wherein one must labor in season and out of season. This has a lack of sincerity which rings of malice. One cannot even labor intensely in saving souls for 10 or 11 months of the year without being pretty well pumped dry of vital force and needing rest. The pastor of a big city parish, if he lives up to his opportunities, is a very hardworked parson, quite as much so as the busy lawyer or doctor. He does not need become a victim of fanatical zeal to prove his clerical usefulness. It is to be regretted that there are those who expect too much of fallible human strength. Piety cannot ignore the need of physical energy. The editor of The Church Economist offers another consideration. He claims that the forces of evil are less active in the summer—as, for example, the theaters (he ignores the roof gardens)—and argues that even the devil grows languid under extreme heat, though he of the horns and hoof is ordinarily credited with a salamander constitution. But, whether or not the devil in going about under the summer solstice seeking whom he may devour is less voracious than usual, there is no question that his most redoubted opponents do not lessen their chance of victory by keeping themselves in the fittest condition for the crusade.

The public school system of the United States is about to be introduced into South Africa under the auspices of Cecil Rhodes and Earl Grey of the British South Africa company. Bishop Joseph Hartwell of the Methodist church will have charge of the movement, which bids fair to be an important one for African welfare.

There could not be a patent on the Jernegan method of extracting gold from sea water. The process is as old as the world, when humanity began to be differentiated into fools and knaves. The pockets of credulous gulls will always remain a mine richer than any in the Klondike.

Dr. Eastman, the educated Sioux who married a paleface poetess, gives the quaint reason for his Sioux brethren bearing a bitter grudge against Spain that it was she who discovered the continent and thus enabled the white usurpers to grind his people under the heel.