

AGRICULTURAL.

Cause of Milk Fever.

Milk fever is said to be caused by the scaling up of the uterine vessels, after separation of the fetus, with blood clots, and their subsequent absorption and interference with circulation; but this view is not sustained by experience and post mortem examination. It sometimes occurs before calving, and hence before blood clots have been formed, and is very uncommon in connection with first or second calvings in aged animals, and in those that have been out of health or had difficult labors. The conditions under which milk fever exists, or is caused, are various. The disease is seldom observed in the cow before the age of five years. It is more frequently found to attack animals in a plethoric condition. It more frequently affects the pure breeds than others, and is also more fatal with them. It seldom occurs subsequent to three days before calving, but always occurs, as a rule, after calving, and previous attacks, favor its recurrence. Although the ewe is sometimes afflicted with the disease, and also the sow, and the mare occasionally, it is more prevalent with the cow than any other class of animals.

How to Rear Silk Worms.

The Kansas Industrialist gives instructions for the rearing of silk worms in a small way. The larva thrive on osage orange leaves, and the writer believes the product is nearly or quite as good if they be fed on the white mulberry. The eggs should be kept in a cool place—a cellar is good—until the young hedge leaves start, when, if they are brought into the temperature of an ordinary living room, the larva will soon appear. They are not inclined to travel, and may be kept on a pasteboard box lid, or even on a newspaper, from the time they come out small, black worms, until they are two and a half inches long, and are ready to open their cocoons. Lest refuse from their feeding should become moldy, and therefore damp, the worms must be placed upon new and clean paper. It must be remembered that the young larva are extremely tender, and must be handled with the utmost care. They can, however, be successfully transferred by letting them become quite hungry and supplying them with good, fresh leaves on the young branches; the worms will crawl upon these, and may be readily transferred. In no case should wet leaves be fed, whether from dew or rain; all drops of water should be shaken off the leaves. They should be fed three times a day; indeed, it will be found that the better the worms are fed, and the drier and warmer they are kept, the faster they will grow, and the larger they will become, and the sooner they will mature and spin their cocoons.

Fall Feeding.

There is nothing to indicate that either cattle or hogs will command exceptionally high prices next autumn or winter. The present indications are that the corn crop will be abundant and prices moderate, so that a fair profit may be expected from feeding either class of stock, if reasonable care can be used. As many farmers are situated, the best results may be expected from comparatively early feeding and sales. Either beef or pork can be more cheaply made in September or October than in December, where the conditions are such as are to be found on most western farms. Two things we count important in this matter—to commence feeding as early as practicable, and to sell as soon as the animals cease making fair gains. Both cattle and hogs that have been grass-fed during the summer will usually make great gain for weeks after the commencement of feeding new corn; and in our own practice we do not wait for the corn to mature. At the first both cattle and hogs not only eat but relish and are helped by the green corn-stalks, as well as by the ears. After about sixty days for the hogs, and ninety for the cattle, the increase is comparatively small. If one has a crop of grain well secured there is little loss in holding it, even if the price does not advance; but a fat animal, which is not daily gaining in weight, is a source of loss, unless there be an advance in price. In almost any large number of cattle or hogs there will be found a few animals which do not thrive, and which it will pay better to sell, even at a low price, than to feed longer, and especially with hogs, some animals will become fully ready for the market much in advance of others. There are some advantages in selling large lots, but generally sales can be made of even a very few animals at nearly full prices. A good average steer, thirty to thirty-six months old, fed thirty bushels of corn in 90 to 100 days, should gain at least 200 pounds, and add one cent per pound to the whole carcass, aside from helping fatten a hog from the undigested corn in his droppings, and this ought to pay. While this is a very different system from that pursued by the feeders who send the very best cattle to our markets, yet this fact does not make it certain that it may not be the desirable plan of feeding for many farmers. We wish to especially emphasize the fact, well known as it is to most farmers, that much better results can be obtained from feeding during the mild weather than during the storms of winter, unless provision be made to give unusually good shelter.

Wife on the Farm.

During these hot days, if there be any class of persons who claim our sympathy it is the wife and mother who is faithfully performing her duty during the busy days. Mrs. Gale truly pictures the wife on the farm: How pleasant these cool mornings are for an extra nap, after the heat and worry of the night. But the farmer's wife must be up with the birds while the dewdrops are sparkling and the eastern sky is aglow with its roseate hues, glistening the clouds with the coming sunbeams. But she must turn from all these beauties her soul loves to contemplate, for the men are wanting an early breakfast, so she must not linger to

look at them, but stifle every feeling of love for the beautiful, if she would be called a model farmer's wife. For the dishes are waiting and churning is to be done; duty before pleasure. The day is growing hot and her hands are so tired, and her head, oh, how it aches! If she could just bathe her head at the dripping fountain, so cool and clear, at the old homestead, where the bees used to hum and skim over the abundant clover blooms. Her heart is hungering for beauties, sublime and glorious. But she must get dinner and bake her bread; for the men are wanting their dinner just on time and plenty of it. The dishes washed, the churning done, the rooms tidied and dinner over, she sits down to sew, though her head aches; till supper time draws nigh. For her husband must have a change of linen these hot days, and her children must look as well as others. So she mends and darns, for no true mother can neglect her children. The husband comes from the field after the flies are driven out, and the room darkened, and thinks what an easy time the women have in the cool house; nothing to do but work in the shade. But what of her future life, when she starts over life's hill towards the sunset land. Will these same children for whom she toils so willingly now, in turn care for her, when the eye is paling with age, and the hair is blossoming for the winter of life?

And when the strife and weary toil are over, and she lies at rest, with hands crossed over once throbbing bosom, will not the fairest crown of all be given to the weary farmer's wife?

Successive Crops of Poultry.

Where labor is too costly, or where, as in a large family, no account is made of the labor of the children, it is possible to obtain a large income from a comparatively small flock of fowls. This is accomplished by raising successive crops of chickens during the season. The first crop should be out of the shell by February 1, and the last installment by June 15. We are speaking now of raising chickens for market. The first hatched will be ready for market by the 1st of May, and the last by Thanksgiving. The old fowls should be disposed of in July, or as soon as their services as layers and mothers can be dispensed with. The successive broods should be disposed of just as soon as they will command a fair price. The earliest will be in marketable condition in from eight to twelve weeks. They can never be more profitably disposed of than at that age, for as they increase in size prices decline, and so the extra food bestowed on them is actually thrown away. By this method of promptly disposing of the chicks as they mature, the premises do not become overstocked and the soil of the runs foul, as in the case when large flocks are kept throughout the season to be sold at the holidays. By selling off the old stock in July the greatest possible profit is obtained from them. After this date they lay but few eggs, begin to moult in the fall, and perhaps lay not a single egg before winter. The extra pound or two of flesh they put on does not pay for their food. By killing off all surplus stock by Thanksgiving the yards are cleared out and opportunity is given to feed and care well for the few that are to be kept over for next season's breeding. The extra care these few receive will induce early laying and broodiness in the spring, and these two points are essential to success. We have only outlined a method that is followed by many in the eastern states who have been successful in raising eggs and poultry for the food market. The plan will have to be modified according to locality and other circumstances.

The Beet Sugar Problem.

Our friends of the Ohio Farmer seem to differ from our recent remarks in regard to the present impossibility of making beet sugar in America. But the O. F. is clearly misinformed upon several points, and especially in two very important points; for beets are not sugar beets, and fifty tons of sugar beets per acre have never been produced in this country. Of field beets and mangels even, we doubt very seriously if 50 tons have ever been grown; 30 or 35 tons may have been, but this yield has been produced only by heavy manuring and high culture, such as would produce 80 or 100 bushels of corn per acre. Having had a good deal of experience in growing roots and sugar beets, we are free to say that 14 tons of sugar beets worth \$70 per acre may pay the farmer in some cases, as when the season is very favorable; but that he would do much better to grow 30 tons of mangels or common field sugar beets (not suitable for sugar, however,) just as easily, that would be worth \$3 a ton or more to feed to cows or beef cattle, or even to hogs to make wholesome sweet pork. And then it seems to have been shown by the repeated failures of the manufacturers that \$5 a ton is more than can be afforded for the beets. We are in favor of every industry that can be made available to add to the resources of our agriculture, but so far beet sugar-making in America has had so unfortunate a destiny that we feel it to be unwise to try to boom it up.

FARM NOTES.

Osage orange should be pruned three times during the summer. Coal tar is one of the best materials known for hardening garden walks. The peach crop of Delaware is estimated to reach 10,000,000 baskets, the largest since 1875. The English wheat crop is estimated at 80,000,000 bushels, Spring grains and hay will be deficient. Enterprising gardeners are deliberating in regard to heating the soil by means of hot pipes placed under the ground. The growing tobacco crop is the largest ever planted in this country. Virginia, North Carolina and Kentucky planted more than ever before. The New Zealand wheat crop is 6,183,178 bushels, an average of 25 1/2 bushels per acre. The supply available for export is estimated at 4,000,000 bushels. The common garden or garter snake

is really a friend, but is usually regarded as an enemy. It performs excellent service in destroying insects and vermin.

Do not allow any of the vegetables to seed unless you desire the seed. Next season the seed will germinate in places where they are not wanted and become troublesome.

There is quite a difference between the hogs that are raised for food and those intended for soap grease. It is not a matter of rejoicing to kill a porker of a quarter of a ton in weight.

A judicious estimate of the irrigable lands of Colorado places the number at 5,000,000 acres, which, with ordinary farming, will produce sufficient food material for the support of 2,000,000 people.

Florida is destined some day to be a leading honey state. The bee pasturage is abundant, the honey manufactured of excellent quality, and the climate favorable. The only drawback at present is inadequate rapid transportation.

A splendid method of utilizing the oat crop for feeding is to cut it when in the milky condition, just before the grain ripens. It is then bundled, stored in the barn, and fed to horses by being passed through a cutter, straw and grain together.

An increase of 1,500,000 acres of corn over last year's acreage for the whole country is reported, the extension having been greatest in the area west of the Mississippi, and north of the Missouri, owing to the settlement and cultivation of new lands.

The rapid growth and dense shade which buckwheat makes gives it great value as a wheat destroyer. Even thistles can be kept down by it if the land is sown as soon after plowing as possible and the first thistles that appear are pulled or cut out with a hoe.

The Mobile Register makes the remark that a lot of designing deadbeats who hang around Washington city, and live off the government by their wits, have planned a bureau of silk culture to receive from Congress an annual appropriation of \$150,000.

Although ensilage has been tried in all sections of the country for over three years, the dispute between its advocates and those opposed to it grows stronger every year. There is no necessity for the warfare, as its use is certainly not compulsory on any one.

Sailing Among Glaciers.

We had already sailed past several glaciers larger than the Mer-de-Glace, of Mont Blanc, but they were so far away that we got no adequate idea of their extent. Nor did any of them push their way into the sea. This glacier to which our boat was now pointed, came down into deep water and stretched back into the mountains until its course was lost in fields of snow. As the steamer checked her speed to keep at a safe distance from the monster, we found that we had sailed up point-blank against a vertical wall of blue ice one mile and a half long, and 300 feet high above the water. As if to illustrate the grand scale and magnitude of everything, just as our boat rounded to, a chip of ice, safely estimated to weigh 1,500 tons, broke off from the face of the glacier and fell a distance of 100 feet into the sea. Of course, there followed a mighty uproar, and then a wave that rocked our steamer as do only the big swells from the Pacific. As the tide was ebbing, the mass that had just fallen into the water floated out past the boat, forming a field of broken ice several acres in extent.

The upper surface of the glacier was full of deep fissures, and at the water level there were mysterious caves which no one dared to explore. Pieces of ice, large and small, were constantly dropping into the sea; and, as the ice-wall acted as a sounding-board, there were constant volleys of sound as sharp as that of musketry or artillery—demonstrating to our satisfaction that the butt-end of a glacier, where icebergs are made, is a very noisy place.

Passengers were landed on shore, and, after climbing along the side moiraine to a height of some 500 feet, a few of us found ourselves at a point where we could overlook the stream of ice and get an idea of its deep fissures and impassable condition. High as we were there were yet peaks of ice between us and the water that were still above us, and we could only see a fraction of a mile inland. Everything was on a scale that could only be realized by the test of climbing. Alongside the glacier, in mid-channel, there were seventy-five fathoms of water; and, as the steamer approached shore to land us, the leadman reported no bottom at twelve fathoms.

Only last year did the boat make its first trip to this glacier. Farther up the bay four or five other glaciers come down from the Fairweather group of mountains, but very little is known about them. We only caught an occasional glimpse of the glaciers, and saw that but a small part of the floating ice in the bay came from the immense reservoir of ice that we had visited.

Where We Got the "Cue."

The game of billiards was invented about the middle of the sixteenth century by a London pawnbroker named Wm. Kew. In wet weather this pawnbroker was in the habit of taking down the three balls, and with the yard measure pushing them, billiard fashion, from the counter into the stalls. In time the idea of a board with side pockets suggested itself. A black-letter manuscript says: "Master William Kew did make one board whereby a game is played with three balls, and all the young men were greatly recreated thereat, chiefly the young clergymen from St. Paul's; hence one of ye strokes was named a 'cannon,' having been by one of ye said clergymen invented. The game is now known by the name of 'bill-yard,' because William, or Bill, Kew did first play with a yard-measure. The stick is now called a 'kew,' or 'kue.' It is easy to understand how 'bill-yard' has been modernized into 'billiard,' the transformation of 'kew' or 'kue' into 'cue' is equally apparent.

POPULAR SCIENCE.

The heart of a Greenland whale is three feet in diameter.

The net profits of the Suez canal for 1883 reached 35,000,000 francs.

The comb of the bee is hung vertically; that of the wasp is horizontal.

The skeleton of the carion crow weighs, when dry, only twenty-three grains.

The human skull contains fewer bones than the skull of most animals excepting birds.

The crocodile is said to swallow stones sometimes, like birds, to aid the gastric fluid.

The amount of coal shipped from Wales to foreign and British ports recently in one week was 278,378 tons.

The large, prominent eyes of the brilliant dragon flies or devil's darning-needles are each furnished with 28,000 polished lenses.

Pigeons have a double crop. In the crop of the common fowl vegetable food is detained sixteen hours, or twice as long as animal food.

The intestines measure 150 feet in length in a full-grown ox, while they are but three times the length of the body in the lion and six times in man.

It is difficult to crown an insect, as the water cannot enter the pores of the skin; but if a drop of oil be applied to the abdomen it falls dead at once, being suffocated.

The number of flowers produced by the palm is astonishing, no less than 12,000 having been counted in a spathe of the date, and 207,000 in one of a species of *Alfonsia*.

Continued observations made since the year 1875 at the Meudon Observatory have confirmed the conclusion that the rings of Saturn are extremely variable, and do not retain a fixed form.

Solutions of chloral should be kept in dark glass bottles. Sunlight decomposes it into chloroform. The change is not easily perceived, and has caused a number of accidents in the past five years.

An ordinary spider's thread, just visible to the naked eye, is the union of 1,000 or more fine and delicate threads of silk. These primary threads are drawn out and united by the hind legs of the spider.

Professor F. A. Forel, of Morges, who has for many years recorded his observations on the Mer de Glace, reports that the glaciers of Mont Blanc are advancing again, after a long period of decrease.

An electric horse chronometer has been invented. The movement is controlled by a current opened and closed by the breaking of an almost microscopic copper wire stretched across the track. It is said to record to the 1-500 of a second.

Jurubeba, a drug that is quite popular in Brazil, has been recently introduced into the United States. It belongs to the Solanum or tomato family, and is said to possess all the virtues and none of the vices of mercury. Dr. Carvalho, of Rio de Janeiro, and Dr. De Champs, of Paris, call it "the vegetable mercury."

RARE STAMPS.

The Mania for Collecting Postage Stamps—How They are Obtained.

New York Sun. The announcement that \$300 had been paid for a cancelled Brattleboro' postal stamp calls our attention to a mania which has gradually increased until it has reached an extent which is really extraordinary. Some may inquire what leads people to collect postal stamps. The only reply is found in another question, what leads people to collect anything? The fact is, that a disposition to make collections of some kind has always been a feature in our race. One of the strangest of these collections, which in one instance at least became a mania, is mentioned in the life of Tom Moore. While through England he met a man who collected hangmen's ropes, and who had 200, each ticketed with the name of the victim. The postal-stamp mania is of modern date, but it has during a brief period reached such an extent that it is impossible to foresee any limit to prices.

Formerly payment of postage was made in money and was marked with pen and ink; at present, however, 200 governments use stamps. In 1840 the latter were adopted in the British post-office, and seven years later our own government made a similar change. The example thus set on both sides of the Atlantic was gradually followed until the use of stamps has become universal. The mania for collecting them soon began, though at first it was very limited. It grew like all other forms of mania until it became a regular traffic and was reduced to a system. The value of rare stamps is now generally fixed, and they are collected in all parts of the world. The highest price ever paid for a postage stamp is \$500. The one referred to was issued on the French island of Re Union. The original cost of this stamp was 15 centimes and thirty centimes (3 cents and 6 cents), and the immense advance is solely due to their rarity and the fact that they are necessary to complete a collection of foreign stamps. There is not one for sale at any price. The next highest is the Brattleboro' stamp, which is mentioned in the paragraph above referred to as having been sold at \$300. This statement is evidently incorrect, and perhaps its author has one of these stamps for sale, and therefore takes this method to bull the market. The best quotation that I can obtain for the Brattleboro' stamp is \$100, which certainly seems high enough when the first cost was from 6 to 18 1/2 cents. The origin of the Brattleboro' stamp, as I am informed, is as follows: In 1846 the postmaster of that place had some stamps made in order to obviate the necessity of using the pen. It was merely a private convenience, and its sole importance is due to the fact that it is the first stamp ever used in America. The first New Haven stamps are also of high value for a similar reason. The next year stamps were ordered by the

government, and we now wonder how they ever got along without them.

The demand for stamps is now so general that clerks in houses engaged in foreign commerce carefully remove them from all letters, and this affords a large supply. The foreign correspondence of the Herald is sufficiently large to form an item in the stamp trade. The same statement applies to all the great journals, and in fact as soon as any office boy gets hold of a foreign letter he strips the stamp off and carries it to some dealer. Among the greatest varieties are the Philippine and Peruvian stamps, while on the other hand the Porto Rico stamp is very cheap. Madeira and British Guiana, however, are high, and the law of supply and demand prevail in this as in all other commodities. As soon as a stamp becomes rare the maniac collector increases his bids until fabulous prices are obtained. There are a number of stamp dealers, the most extensive being the Scott establishment in Broadway. Mr. Scott is a native of London, but has been in this country a quarter of a century. He issues an international postage album, which gives samples of a very extensive range, the price being \$250. Some may think this a large sum to invest in such a volume, but there are as many purchasers as the supply will permit. There is an all-sufficient abundance of common stamps for which they pay 5 cents per 100 and sell the same quantity for 10 cents. German stamps are very abundant owing to the immense amount of correspondence with that country. Hence, they are very cheap, and the quotation at present is 1 cent per hundred. Scott sells 600 assorted stamps for \$10, but as soon as one gets into the varieties fancy prices must be expected. Scott has customers who are ready to pay almost anything that may be asked for the fancies. He operates boldly when he sees a good opening, and hence when the Madeira stamp was issued he sent orders for all that could be obtained from the authorities. He also ordered at one time \$5,000 worth of Porto Rico stamps. One of his patrons is a member of the princely Vanderbilt family, whose collection has already cost \$10,000. These facts show the immense extent which this specialty has reached and also those fanciful prices which are the result of so widespread a mania. Stamp collectors are found in all large cities, and one of the most liberal of this class is a Bostonian, whose collection fully rivals that of Vanderbilt.

New Mexican Wonders.

New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Mr. Paul Langhammer, the energetic commissioner from New Mexico, arrived in the city yesterday to see the location on the grounds which will be allotted to him for the extraordinary exhibit he intends to make of his territory's resources.

In an interview Mr. Langhammer said: "I don't wish to boast; so I will limit myself to simply saying that we shall surprise you."

"Tell us one of your surprises." "Well, what do you say to two petrified trees over twenty-five feet high? That's not so bad, is it? But we can beat those with living things out in New Mexico. We shall show you one potato that would feed an Irish family for a whole day."

"How many pounds will it weigh?" "Only five. We are rather small on potatoes as yet, but we will send you your beets from fifteen to twenty pounds apiece. Still, they are not equal to our cabbages, which weigh from thirty to forty pounds."

"Rather tough, are they not?" "Yes, inclined to be so. A man in Jemez bet another last October that he could not fire a pistol ball through one of his cabbage heads, and he won the bet, for the ball lacked three inches of going through."

"What else will you show?" "Well, I can promise you cactus, from the smallest variety nestling 12,000 feet up in the snow to the largest on the Mexican line."

"And what else?" "Professor Langhammer laughed quickly, and answered: "I have been at work, as you know, for five months, and besides stirring up my people to such an enthusiasm that I now have to cut them down in the amount of exhibits they offer, I have succeeded in collecting a very decent menagerie. I have three bears, one cinnamon and one black; two wildcats, one coyote (prairie wolf), two swifts (that's a cross between the wolf and fox—very rare, indeed), one red fox, two antelopes, four deer and two beavers. I have given orders to some of my Indians for two wild sheep and two elk. Besides these I have four golden eagles, two old and two young; and seventeen owls that look wiser than any collection of congressmen you ever saw. This menagerie is the territory of New Mexico will formally present to the city of New Orleans at the close of the great exposition as the nucleus to start a zoological garden. Yes, sir; New Mexico has now only a population of 125,000, but she is coming in for the glory as well as the benefits."

President Washington's Accounts. Washington Post. A copy of George Washington's sundries account during his eight years as president, from 1789 to 1796, has just been brought to light by Mr. H. M. Zimmerman, of No. 410 Ninth street northwest. Among other curious items in the account, which are written in Washington's own handwriting, are: "Two dogs, weight 35 pounds, from Farmer Basset, to guard the president's house;" "13 patent lamps to illuminate the president's premises;" "damask curtains for the state dining room;" "a massive desk for the president's office, £121 10s." Besides these items the account includes various amounts loaned by President Washington to different parties, besides amounts paid for at least 100 looking glasses and French mirrors. A "Franklin stove" for Mrs. Martha Washington's room cost £4 and a French painting for the main parlor cost £13.

Keely, the motor man, has now guarded his "secret" nine years, and the stockholders are getting tired.

STOCK DIRECTORY.



DENNIS M'KILLIP.

Ranch on Red Willow, Thornburg, Hayes County, Neb. Cattle branded "J. M." on left side. Young cattle branded same as above, also "J." on left jaw. Under-slope right ear. Horses branded "E" on left shoulder.



W. J. WILSON.

Stock brand—circle on left shoulder; also dewlap and a crop and under half crop on left ear, and a crop and under bit in the right. Ranch on the Republican. Post-office, Max, Dundy county, Nebraska.



HENRY T. CHURCH.

Osborn, Neb. Range: Red Willow creek, in southwest corner of Frontier county, cattle branded "O. L. O." on right side. Also, an over crop on right ear and under crop on left. Horses branded "8" on right shoulder.



SPRING CREEK CATTLE CO.

Indianola, Neb. Range: Republican Valley, east of Dry Creek, and near head of Spring Creek, in Chase county. J. D. WELBORN, Vice President and Superintendent.



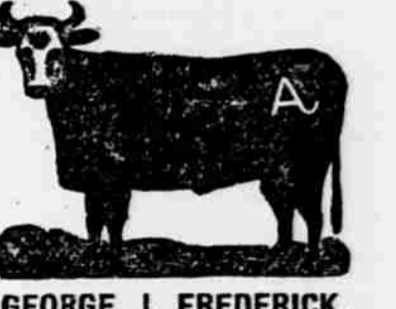
THE TURNIP BRAND.

Ranch 2 miles north of McCook. Stock branded on left hip, and a few double crosses on left side. C. D. ERKANBRACK.



STOKES & TROTH.

P. O. Address, Carrico, Hayes county, Nebraska. Range: Red Willow, above Carrico. Stock branded as above. Also run the lazy brand.



GEORGE J. FREDERICK.

Ranch 4 miles southwest of McCook, on the Driewood. Stock branded "A. J." on the left hip. P. O. address, McCook, Neb.



JOHN HATFIELD & SON.

McCook, Neb., Ranch 4 miles southeast, on Republican river. Stock branded with a bar—and lazy on left hip.



J. B. MESERVE.

Ranch, Spring Canyon on the Frenchman River, in Chase county, Neb. Stock branded as above; also "777" on left side; "777" on right hip and "L." on right shoulder; "L." on left shoulder and "X." on left hip. Hat under-crop left ear, and square-crop right ear.



JOSEPH ALLEN.

Ranch on Red Willow Creek, half mile above Osborn postoffice. Cattle branded on right side and hip above.

FOR SALE—Improved Deeded Farm and Hay Land, Timber and water. Two farm houses, with other improvements. Convenient to No. 1 school, near south of Red Willow creek. Call on J. F. Black, on premises, or address him at Indianola, Nebraska.