

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

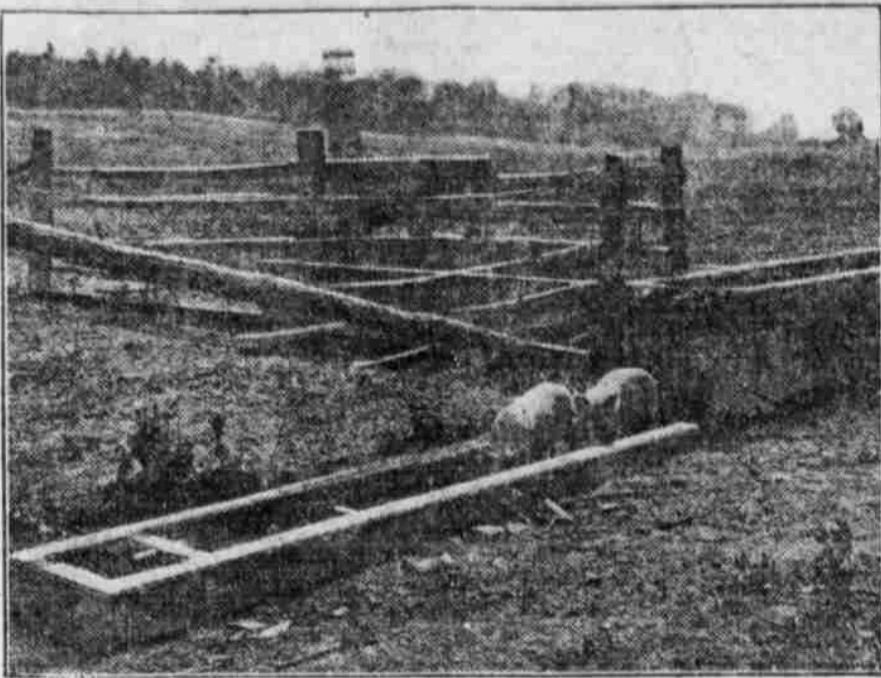


By William Pitt

A satisfied pig grunts.
 Watch your horse's breathing.
 Overfeeding the hens is harmful.
 Litter should cover the hen house feeding floor.
 Satisfied profitable pigs will grunt, but they do not squeal.
 Mill feed can in most cases be purchased and fed to brood sows at a profit.
 A horse will require more feed when allowed to run out, than if kept in the barn.
 Study your hogs. Hog growing, like any branch of live stock, cannot be learned in a day.
 There is never a time in the year when the fruit grower has no use for his pruning knife.
 The demand for the bacon hog is growing. The large Yorkshire is the favorite bacon breed.
 Shelter all the stock. The increased manure and thrift of stock pay big dividends for the trouble.
 If the screenings are fed the manure should be thoroughly composted, otherwise weeds will continue to grow.
 Brush out the heels of the horse at night. If dirt is allowed to cake, scratches and grease-heal may result.
 Don't begrudge the grain the poultry eats. They are returning a higher price for it than any stock on the farm.
 Farming is becoming a more systematized business. This is one thing that has removed the drudgery from the work.
 A mule never seems to be really frightened at anything. When he runs away he does it through pure love of mischief.
 Lounging along in the harness is bad for any horse, young or old. It is a sure sign of a stouchy driver. Either drive or let it alone.
 Keep the pigs busy from start to finish, i. e., making hogs of themselves. Afford comfort, plenty of feed and drink, and give it regularly.
 The ideal peach tree is one which has a spread of branches almost double its height and well feathered with fruiting branches almost to the ground.
 There is less talk in our time about the general-purpose cow and more about the utility cow. The latter sort can be depended upon to pay the rent when all else fails.
 Contrary to the general belief, it does not hurt a horse to give him water in moderate quantities, even when he is very hot, providing the water is not very cold.
 The brood sow is a pig factory, not herself a pork barrel filler. She is, or should be, a creator of strong, hearty pigs. Feed her then so she can fulfill her real mission.
 There is just as much danger in over feeding farm stock as there is in under feeding. You have to watch the animals in order to know when you have the right kind of a ration.
 Remember that the horse is the most nervous of all animals, and that little things annoy and irritate him. Remember that he will be contented or miserable accordingly as you treat him.
 Good housing is one of the essentials for egg production, and consequently should be given proper consideration. A hen that is comfortable and happy is more apt to be profitable than one that is uncomfortable.
 A recommended treatment for warts on cow's teats: Put some water in a bottle and add as much alum as the water will dissolve. After each milking touch the warts with this mixture and they will soon disappear.
 Ice water to drink when the mercury is on a still hunt for the bottom of the thermometer brings the shivers to the cow, and that means that her owner will shiver when he looks into his pocketbook for the profit from her keeping.
 The poor cow would complain against the short course if she had the opportunity to speak herself. She is the one that must fear lest her good fortune be destroyed when the boys return with a little better knowledge of dairy farming.

Ventilate the stable.
 Clean up the farmstead.
 Pear blight is infectious.
 A horse is a very nervous animal.
 Sheep need salt in winter as well as in summer.
 Keep the harness soft where it touches the horses.
 If a horse bolts its food, have his teeth examined by a veterinarian.
 Never strike a horse on the head. Kindness will do more than brutality.
 Don't keep the breeding sows or the growing pigs on a plank floor all winter.
 Tramp the snow well about apple and plum trees to prevent injury by mice.
 Cut alfalfa or clover hay are good green feeds for hens at this time of the year.
 A mosquito netting will keep flies off the separator after it is washed—and before.
 Barn room is too expensive to stable cows that lay off work every time the wind changes.
 Strive to keep the sows in good flesh, but do not overload them with an excess of fat.
 The patient mule is not much for speed, but he keeps going and usually arrives on time.
 Many a horse stands up all night because its stall is not made comfortable to lie down in.
 The interior of the barn is the place where the milk is handled. Have this clean and kept in good shape.
 Never work a team of colts together until they are thoroughly broken, as they will worry each other.
 The fall born pig nearly always proves profitable, because he usually sells at a profit the following spring.
 The man with good brains and good cows goes steadily on towards prosperity. The beef man sometimes doesn't.
 The greater the variety and the richer the feeds given cows, the more and better manure can be had from the herd.
 The sow that catches chickens can be cured of the bad habit by feeding her well for a few weeks on a ration rich in tankage.
 The good road brings the market nearer your farm and adds materially to the value of the place whether you want to sell or live there.
 A scratching pen 10x10 feet will give a dozen hens plenty of room, and one 10x15 feet will be plenty large for 20 birds. It is a good place to provide.
 A shovelful of rock phosphate scattered in the gutters after each cleaning takes up a lot of the liquid manure and helps swell next season's corn crop.
 Cooling rooms adapted to the storage of small fruit and other quickly perishable products, even for a short time, could be used to advantage on every fruit farm.
 Watch your sheep and you will most likely see that some of them are apt to get more than their share if fed in an open trough or box, where all can put their heads in at once.
 Clover, alfalfa, blue grass, skim milk and mill-feed, with a very little corn, will form an ideal combination of foods to insure the young sow's usefulness as a breeder.
 In different varieties of apples the calyx remains open longer than in others, and on account of this the first spraying must be done rapidly on those which close most quickly.
 The farmer who arranges his work so as to be busy all the year around and to keep his men busy all the year around is the man that gets the largest profit and has the least trouble with help.
 Do not ask the cow to make milk and keep herself warm with the same feed. At least give her a fair chance to be protected from the storms and then let her use the feed for milk making alone.
 In the addition of manure to the garden, much will be gained if it is thoroughly decomposed, as then it is more quickly incorporated with the soil, and the plant food it contains is most readily available.
 The man who comes to your dairy farm and wants to buy the heifers from the best cows is not always your best friend. Be careful before you sell them to him. It is moving backward in the dairy industry to let these go.
 A well-kept flock of hens means a steady income—enough to keep you in spending money while you are waiting for your crops to grow. That one thing is enough to recommend poultry keeping as a suitable "side line" for the boy farmer.

HOG CHOLERA PREVENTION BY ALL OWNERS



Cement Trough for Pigs.

No matter how healthy and vigorous your hogs may be, it pays to watch for news of a possible outbreak of the cholera anywhere in your neighborhood.
 The sturdiest hogs will curl up and die when the germs of this hog pest are introduced into their system. Clean quarters, pure water, dry quarters and good breeding are worth while for themselves, but they will not keep cholera out of a herd.
 The only preventive of cholera is the serum treatment. Most states are preparing a serum for their farmers, says an Illinois writer in the Farm Progress. All should do so. The state veterinarian is the man you should appeal to as soon as the cholera appears in your neighborhood. It makes no difference whether the disease is among your hogs or not. It may be, and that very soon, unless it is checked.
 When cholera gets among hogs on my place I separate the healthy from those that are ailing just as quickly as I can. The next move is to notify the state agricultural college, or its nearest experiment station.
 While waiting for expert relief, either at the hands of the state experts or some local veterinarian, the hogs should be watched, and any new cases that develop should cause the well part of the herd to be moved once more.
 Of course, all animals that die of cholera should be buried as quickly as is convenient. Leaving them lying in the open will cause the cholera germs to be spread by buzzards, dogs and other carrion eaters.
 Burial of the bodies is satisfactory only when the are sprinkled with quicklime and buried at a depth of three to four feet. Many herds have been wiped out by disease carried into their ranges by prowling dogs carrying bones and pieces of carrion through the fields.
 There are no breeds of hogs that are immune to the cholera. There are certain individuals among a herd that show great resistance to the disease, but they are few in number. So far the efforts of breeders to produce such a strain have been failures. As to rearing, feeding and caring for a herd so carefully that cholera germs cannot hurt them, it is impossible.
 Anything moved from an infected farm to a place that is not infected may carry the seeds of the disease. Of course hogs are most apt to carry it, but the utmost precautions should be taken that no animals, implements or foodstuffs should be brought from an infected place and left where the hogs might be exposed to contact with them. Sick hogs are the most common of disease carriers.
 State veterinarians are always anxious to be informed of the outbreaks of cholera. The sooner they know of it the better chance they have of keeping it isolated in one community. It is a duty that every hog raiser owes to himself and neighbors, to get word to the proper authorities as soon as possible that the necessary steps may be taken.

FEW PRINCIPLES OF BEE-KEEPING

Essence of All Profitable Work is to Keep the Colonies Strong and Vigorous.

The importance of scientific apiculture is being slowly but surely recognized. With a wider knowledge of the part bees play in the pollination of fruit blossoms and the spread of rural education generally, beekeeping cannot any longer be regarded as merely a hobby, but as one of the most important of the minor branches of the science of agriculture.
 Although conditions differ, the principles of beekeeping are the same the world over. The following axioms should be noted:
 1. Bees gorged with honey never volunteer an attack.
 2. Bees may always be made peaceable by inducing them to accept liquid sweets.
 3. Bees when frightened by smoke all themselves with honey and lose all disposition to sting, unless they are hurt.
 4. Bees dislike any quick movements about their hive, especially any motion which jars their combs.
 5. In districts where forage is abundant only for a short period, the largest yield of honey will be secured by a very moderate increase of colonies.
 6. A moderate increase in colonies in any one season will, in the long run prove to be the easiest, safest and cheapest mode of managing bees.
 7. A queenless colony, unless supplied with a queen, will inevitably dwindle away or be destroyed by the wax moth or by robber bees.
 8. The formation of new colonies should ordinarily be confined to the season when bees are accumulating honey, and if this or any other operation must be performed when forage is scarce the greatest precautions should be used to prevent robbing.
 The essence of all profitable beekeeping is contained in the one golden rule: "Keep the colonies strong." If anyone cannot succeed in doing this the more money he invests in bees the heavier will be his losses, while if his colonies are strong he will prove a bee-master as well as a bee-keeper, and may safely calculate on a generous return from his industrious subjects.

- Variety for Sheep.** Sheep are partial to a change of diet, consequently the greater the variety of feed, the better the results.
- Lime for Chickens.** Air-slaked lime, freely dusted everywhere, is cheap, and will destroy lice, gapes and roup germs.

TREATMENT FOR GAPES IN CHICKS

To Eradicate Disease, Affected Birds Should Be Isolated—Burn All Dead Fowls.

(By H. L. KEMPSTER, Missouri Experiment Station.)
 Gapes is a disease affecting certain birds, fowls, and particularly chicks one to four weeks old. It is caused by a small worm, called the gape worm which attaches itself to the windpipe of its victim.
 The symptoms are frequent gaping, sneezing, a whistling cough, with discharge of mucus and worms, drowsiness, weakness and drooping of wings. Dead birds will show forked worms attached to the windpipe.
 The adult female gape worm is much larger than the male, her body being filled with eggs and embryos. These embryos appear in the droppings or are coughed up. So the trouble is spread by contamination of runs, feed and drinking water. Embryos are often found in earthworms.
 To eradicate the disease, isolate affected birds, treat drinking water with potassium permanganate, burn dead birds and remove chicks to fresh ground which is not infected. Cultivation of infected ground is said to eradicate the worms in three years.
 Individual cases may be treated in one of three ways:
 By confining the chick for a short time in a box which has air-slaked lime on the floor. The lime is said to cause the worm to release its grip and the chick to sneeze it out.
 Stripping a feather, leaving a small tuft, moistening with turpentine and introducing into the windpipe, care being taken not to lacerate the windpipe or suffocate the chick.
 Two horse hairs tied together, the knot trimmed, run down the chicken's throat and removing in a twisting manner will also remove the worms. Gape worm extractors are also on the market.
Disposal of Manure. The most important part of the stable sanitation from the other fellow's standpoint is the disposal of manure.
 The liquid manure should be absorbed by the bedding and the bedding changed every day. The solid manure should be cleaned up morning and evening and thrown in a fly-proof box or vault. If possible, have it hauled away daily.
Rye Meal for Cows. The Pennsylvania experiment station has found that rye meal as a part of properly balanced ration for dairy cows is sufficient in milk and butter production to an equal weight of corn meal.

THIRTEEN AT TABLE

By FRANK FILSON.

Although the New Year of his own people was celebrated more than three months earlier, Isaac Mandelstamm rejoiced in keeping festival upon the New Year of the nation of which he felt himself to be an integral part. It was more than forty years since he had arrived from Russia and opened a little tailor's shop on the lower East side. His sons and daughters had prospered and had moved uptown, but old Isaac and his wife Rebekah still lived in the modest tenement in which their children had been born and had grown to manhood and womanhood.
 Every December 31 there was a reunion like this one. Abraham and his wife Yetta had motored down from their country home near Yonkers, with their children, Morris and Frank. Isidor, part owner of a department store, had brought his wife and daughter, Rachel, the school teacher, had brought her fiance, Meyer Seidnitz; and there were Philip, the rising young lawyer, and Marcus, the architect, who had only begun to prosper after several years of obscurity. Only one child was absent—Lawrence, the youngest, and the Benjamin of his father's old age.
 No matter what the passing year had brought forth, each child of the aged couple made it a point of honor to pay respects to his parents by dining with them in the little flat. Every-body looked forward to this annual gathering. They were the happiest people in the world as they took their places at the table. Isaac, a hale octogenarian, sat at the table, wearing his black skull cap, and began sharpening the carving knife. At the foot his wife sat facing him, her wrinkled face smiling, her eyes beaming with love as she gazed upon her children. Abraham, the financier, and Isidor, the merchant, fraternized on equal terms with Marcus, who was just beginning to emerge above the horizon of success, and Rachel and Philip, who had not seen each other for months, were so preoccupied that Meyer Seidnitz felt a pang of jealousy, in spite of the fact that they were brother and sister. The turkey was sizzling in its rich brown



"I Know What You're Thinking of, Father."

gravy, the potatoes seemed ready to melt inside their jackets, the celery was crisp and dainty, the olives gleamed lusciously, and there was an inviting sparkle of cut glass and silverware.
 Just as old Isaac took up the carvers his wife held up her hand.
 "We are thirteen at table," she exclaimed.
 Each looked at the other. Nobody believed in the foolish legend of disaster, and yet somehow the discovery cast a gloom over the gathering.
 "What's the odds?" asked Abraham. "Who believes in that, I'd like to know?"
 But old Rebekah had been falling, and to continue with the meal seemed impossible. If this was to be her last New Year's dinner each would feel like a murderer. Meyer Seidnitz jumped out of his chair.
 "I'll get somebody to make the fourteenth," he said.
 "Whom?" asked Rachel.
 "The first person I meet," answered Meyer, and departed amid shouts of approval.
 Old Isaac put down the carvers and sighed deeply.
 "I know what you're thinking of, father," said Rachel, patting his hand. "Poor Lawrence!"
 Isidor and Abraham exchanged glances. Lawrence was the black sheep of the family. Success had never come to him. Time and again his father or his brothers had made good defalcations and dishonesties on his part, until at last Lawrence had embezzled a large sum of money from a business firm for which he worked. Isidor had got him that position. He paid cheerfully, but Lawrence had received six months' imprisonment. He had written pitiful letters to his parents and brothers after his release, but nobody had trusted him again or answered him.
 "The boy's no good," Isidor declared emphatically. "He's just crooked by nature."
 "A bad lot," Abraham sighed.
 "Still," said Rachel, "those things are largely a matter of temptation. I think he ought to have had one more chance, Isidor."
 "No," said Marcus, emphatically. "I had to struggle for nearly ten years before I could even be assured of my next month's rent coming in. If one is bad, one is bad. Don't you agree with me, Philip?"
 Philip stirred uneasily in his chair. He looked toward his mother. The smiles had gone from her face and tears were streaming down her withered cheeks.
 "I wish the boy were here," burst out old Isaac. "He ought to have one more chance. He's paid for his folly. Don't cry, mother. I'm going to find him and tell him so. I guess we can do something for him yet."
 "Well," said Abraham, reluctantly, "maybe one chance more. But who would employ him? Who'd give him a chance, with such a character as he's got?"
 "I will," said Isidor. "I'll take him on in my store if he really means to run straight."
 "I knew you would, Isidor," said Rachel, patting her brother's hand.
 "Well, I didn't quite mean what I say," admitted Marcus. "After all, he's our brother, and one ought to stand by one's own through thick and thin."
 "That's right," said Philip. "Besides, this is New Year."
 "Children," said old Isaac, addressing the bearded men in vehement tones, "I stand by what Phil says. This is New Year, and no matter what has happened during the past year, all of you meet here as friends and in mutual forgiveness. Cheer up, mother, I'm going to find that boy, cost what it may, and do the right thing by him."
 "And he shall start in with me at once," said Isidor.
 "Gee, that turkey smells good!" said little Frank. "Why don't we begin, pa?"
 "I wish Meyer would hurry up," said Rachel; and just then they heard Meyer Seidnitz come bounding up the stairs. Outside the door he halted and a heated discussion appeared to be taking place.
 Meyer flung the door wide open and the altercation changed to a scuffle.
 "Here he is," he yelled triumphantly. "First man I met—I saw him standing near the water front, looking as though he was about ready to throw himself in. Come in, you donkey. Don't you understand that you're invited to dinner?"
 He dragged him inside.
 "Lawrence!" cried each one, rising; and then there was a scuffle to get to the fugitive. But old Rebekah had him in her arms, and she was crying over him, as though he were a child again.
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RELICS OF PONCE DE LEON

Collection of Extraordinary Interest, Belonging to Illinois Man, Has Been Enriched.

A collection of relics, not related in any way, but each object of which is particularly interesting in itself, is that of Michael Robinson of Shawneetown, Ill., to whose treasures was recently added a piece of the coffin in which Ponce de Leon was buried in the old cathedral at San Juan, Porto Rico.
 When the leaden coffin of the explorer was examined before it was transferred from the old cathedral to the new one, it was found to be in a very poor condition. So insecure did it appear that it was decided a new coffin should be provided. The old one was then discarded and cut into pieces, which were given to persons of prominence who attended the cathedral ceremonies. Cardinal Farley, who was in charge of the celebration, gave one of these pieces to Capt. O. P. Townsend, who commanded the guard of honor for the body, and Captain Townsend gave the relic to Mr. Robinson to add to his already interesting collection.
 From coins and gems further back in the history of this continent comes another interesting relic which Mr. Robinson treasures, a block of sandstone bearing the clear imprint of the human foot. It was taken from "The Rocks," a short distance from Shawneetown, but over the border line in Kentucky. It is believed in the neighborhood that the imprint is that of prehistoric man.
 A third era of the continent's history, that which brings the collections down to the modern world, is represented by an old silk revolutionary flag.
He Capitulated. His wife met him at the door, says the Chicago-Record Herald. His dinner had been waiting for thirty minutes, but she was smiling sweetly. Her hair was done up in a becoming style, and she looked ten years younger than usual.
 She put her arms around his neck, drew his head down and kissed him sweetly.
 "Give me your hat and coat," she said. "I will hang them away, for I can see that you are tired. Have you had a hard day at the office, dear?"
 "Yes," he replied. "I'm all fagged out."
 "I'm sorry, but never mind. I feel sure that things will take a turn for the better soon. I've got a surprise for you—the maid has prepared a nice chicken stew, the kind you like so well. Shall I run upstairs and get your slippers?"
 "Never mind, little woman," he replied, pushing his hand into his pocket, "how much do you want?"
Ark-ai. Inquisitive Little Boy—Were you in the ark?
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