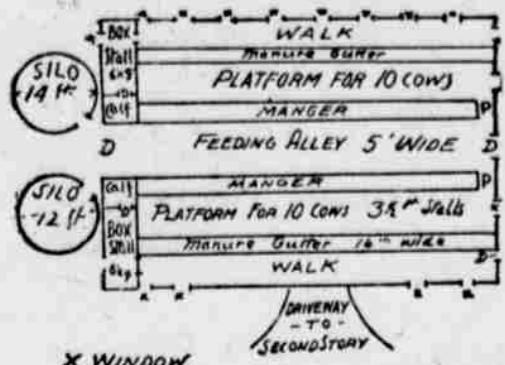




BARN FOR TWENTY COWS.

New York Editor Answers Question of a Farmer Who Wants to Build One for \$800.

The specifications in this question are somewhat meager, and in answering it I am forced to take some things for granted. There may be storage room for hay, straw, etc., already on the farm, and only a barn, one story high, or a stable, is needed; but I have supposed the idea is to have a barn floor overhead, with mows on each side of it. With this in view, I submit the accompanying crude sketch, trusting that our correspondent may get some helpful suggestions from it, if he does not care to follow my plan closely. If a driveway, or, as we call it here, a barn bridge, is to lead to a floor over the cows, if the building can be placed on somewhat sloping ground and an



AN IDEAL DAIRY BARN.

excavation of two or three feet be made at that side, it will make the bridge less steep. This would necessitate building a wall to come above the ground; but for the sake of the stable, it should be no higher. Let none of the other foundation walls be higher than necessary to just keep out surface water and protect sills from decay. Woodwork is less expensive than masonry, and will be dryer and more healthful for the cows. The stable should be at least eight feet to ceiling, and the storage part of the barn above the stable 16 feet to square. If built with a hip roof, more storage room above will be had than under a common pitch roof. A hay hole directly over the feeding alley, and a similar hole behind each row of cows, for putting down hay and straw, will serve the additional purpose of ventilation.

At least four ventilating flues, of capacity equal to about six inches in diameter, should start about a foot from the floor, two back of each row of cows, and against the outside of the stable, made preferably of galvanized sheet iron and end in one or more discharges, well above comb of roof. I have made provision for a number of windows in the cow stable, where there should be all the good sunshine and light possible to secure. There are two box stalls for cows to freshen in, or, in case of sickness; also, two calf stalls and two silos, as calves from good cows should be raised and they and their dams fed good corn silage the year around.

The framework of this barn should be of plank designs, saving for the builder, in comparison with the old heavy framed structure, time, money and timber. The cost of the building will depend, of course, upon the cost of material and labor; but by using the plank frame and as much ordinary labor as possible in nailing up frame, I should expect to build such a barn as I have suggested, and at least one of the silos, for the \$800.

The mangers, or troughs, should be built low, so the cow, when standing or lying, would have her head over the trough. It is quite a labor for a cow lying on a platform short enough to keep her clean to get up if the trough is so high that her head goes under it. I prefer the bottom of the trough two inches from the floor, so air may circulate under it. The side of trough next the cow, if ten inches high, will not interfere with her lying, and will be high enough to hold her feed of silage and meal or fodder and hay. From the feeding alley to the side of the manure gutter should be seven feet at one end of the stable and six and a half at the other, for medium cows; the longest cows being put at the seven-foot end and the shorter graduated to the other. The manure gutter should be ten inches deep next the cow and six inches next the walk; 14 inches wide and cemented to save all manure. I cement two feet from gutter under the cows, allowing their front feet to be on clay. This allows me also to build stall partitions by putting posts firmly in the ground to save an objectionable wilderness of posts and braces running to ceiling, where they obstruct the view, the sunlight and the freest circulation of air. — N. Y. Tribune-Farmer.

THE BROWNLOW BILL.

State Legislators Like the Measure and Think It Will Solve the Road Question.

Congressman Brownlow, of Tennessee, says that his good roads bill is the most popular measure introduced in congress since the civil war. He says that even the democratic legislature of his own state has indorsed it, and that the legislatures of Minnesota, Missouri, Alabama and New Mexico have taken similar action; and that he believes the bill will be indorsed by the legislature of every state in the union, if that is necessary, in order to press upon congress the importance of the measure. The following is a copy of the resolution as adopted by the legislature of Minnesota:

"Whereas, the burden of improving and maintaining our highways according to the general prevailing system in this country rests entirely upon the agricultural lands and people living in the rural districts, and

"Whereas, the state-aid plan for constructing highways, as practiced in the states of New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts, has proven satisfactory in its operation, and has offered a partial solution of the road question in that it distributes this burden of cost so that one-half is paid out of a general fund supplied by the state, and

"Whereas, it is desirable to extend this principle of cooperation and distribution of the burden of cost to a still greater extent, so that the government of the United States shall bear a share of the cost of construction to be paid out of the general revenues of the United States, and

"Whereas, one-half of said revenues, aggregating during the last two years \$1,000,000 per annum, is derived from the agricultural states and rural districts, while only ten per cent. of the total amount is appropriated for public buildings and other uses pertaining to great cities, and

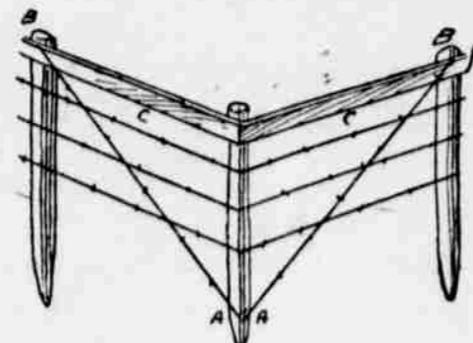
"Whereas, Hon. Walter P. Brownlow, member of congress from Tennessee, has introduced a bill in the United States house of representatives, providing for a system of national, state and local cooperation in the permanent improvement of the public highways, according to the provisions of which the sum of \$20,000,000 is appropriated, and the United States government is to pay one-half of the cost of improving any public highway when requested so to do by, and in cooperation with, any state or civil subdivision thereof; therefore, be it

"Resolved by the general assembly of the state of Minnesota, that we hereby heartily indorse said Brownlow bill, and recommend its passage by congress, and that we request the representatives from the state of Minnesota in congress, and instruct the United States senators from this state, to vote and support said bill."

BRACING CORNER POSTS.

The Device Here Described is Designated by Its Inventor as Superior in Every Way.

I have used several methods, but have discarded all of them for the one illustrated herewith. I regard it as being superior in every way. It is thoroughly effective, is easily made, is neat and wholly devoid of dangerous features. It is made as follows: Drive or set the corner post and four to eight feet from it on each side put an additional post. Put on stay wires first from bottom of corner post to top of brace posts and after drawing them tight, staple securely in position. Next nail on six-inch fence boards or poles at top so as to leave the stay wires perfectly tight. It is then ready for the wires and if it has been well made the corner post will never pull up. — Z. T. Russell, in Orange Judd Farmer.



KEEPS POSTS FROM SAGGING.

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Best Is None Too Good.

It pays to have a good dairy barn. Money is well invested in such an improvement. We have known farmers that were well-to-do and yet all their lives never owned a decent barn for the housing of their dairy cows. Barns dark in summer and cold in winter are not places in which the cows can be comfortable or their keepers happy while they are working around them. — Farmers' Review.

Gooseberry bushes should be pretty severely trimmed. It is the only way for growing large berries in sufficient sunlight to produce a good flavor.

Marriages That Are Criminal

By DR. JOHN S. SCUDDER,

Pastor First Congregational Church, Jersey City, N. J.



The rights of unborn generations is a branch of ethics which has been largely ignored, but which ought to form a part of our moral philosophy. If a man has no right to poison his child with arsenic or strychnine, he certainly has no right to bring a child into the world with the poison of hereditary disease in his blood. In either case he is equally responsible and reprehensible. We call ourselves a civilized people, and yet what monumental ignorance exists in regard to life, what criminal indifference respecting the welfare of coming generations!

In the absence of suitable conscientiousness on the part of parents, the State should intervene and rigidly make an examination of all couples tending to marry, and give licenses only to those who are healthy and fit to be fathers and mothers. The State has a right to place restrictions on marriage. Drunkards, incorrigible criminals, insane and idiotic people, and such as are afflicted with consumption, scrofula and other diseases likely to injure the next generation, should be denied the privilege of wedlock, or certainty of reproducing their kind.

A BIRTH FORBIDDEN BY LAW SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE, AND THE PARENTS SHOULD BE PUNISHED BY FINE OR IMPRISONMENT.

Science, not caprice, should be the arbiter of life, and domestic sentiment in some cases must be sacrificed in behalf of the general good.

The limitation of offspring when parents are competent to marry is as yet a question for the parents to determine themselves. Poor people in our overcrowded cities, who allow themselves the luxury of six or eight children when they know their income is not sufficient to properly feed, clothe and shelter them, are positively cruel. The ambition of a man of small means should be to rear two children, instead of ten as heretofore, and give his children an opportunity to taste a few of the good things of life. Let the rich have large families! They ought to have them, for they have the means to provide for them.

John L. Scudder

SCHOOL AND CHURCH.

North Carolina and Mississippi have state schools for the study of textile fabrics.

Poor students at the University of Fez, Morocco, make their living by making copies of the Koran, reading aloud from it in public places, and writing letters for the illiterate.

On the subject of his preaching the late Dean Farrar used to quote with much amusement the judgment of one of his critics that he was "a poor mixture of Spurgeon and Dr. Cumming, without the robust humor of the one and without the Scotch accent of the other."

A Presbyterian minister in London, the Rev. R. Westrope, proposes to establish a new "third order" of the "Brothers and Sisters of the Common Life," who are to be in the twentieth century what the Franciscans were to Europe in the thirteenth. His motive is to convert England to Christianity.

The twentieth century crusade of the Methodists was to achieve a double object—the collection of \$20,000,000 and the conversion of 2,000,000 souls. The dollars have been secured, but not the conversions. From this fact it would seem that it is easier to save ten dollars than one soul.

One of the most elaborate educational systems in the country is that of the Young Men's Christian association, which embraces the following lines of study: Association libraries, reading rooms, practical talks, educational lectures, study clubs and evening institutes. The system embraces class work of the public schools and the lecture and library work of technical schools.

Dr. Patton was delivering a lecture recently in his course on ethics at the Princeton Theological seminary and experienced much annoyance because some of the students ate peanuts instead of attending to him. Finally, he administered this rebuke: "Gentlemen, I have delayed starting this most important part of to-day's lecture hoping that the stock of peanuts would be consumed and a restful quiet be restored. As the quantity seems ample to meet the demands and the supply appears inexhaustible, I feel constrained to request that your appetites be restrained until the conclusion of the lecture. I would be greatly pleased if in the future anyone wishing to conduct a 5 o'clock tea in the class-room would confine the refreshments to sponge cake."

Coffee-Drinkers and Alcohol.

A traveler has made the observation that coffee-drinking people are very seldom given to drunkenness. In Brazil, for instance, where coffee is grown extensively and all the inhabitants drink it many times a day, intoxication is rarely seen. The effect is not only noticeable among the natives, but the foreigner who settles there, though possessed of ever such a passion for strong drink, gradually loses his liking for alcohol as he acquires the coffee-drinking habit of the Brazilian. — Detroit Free Press.

What They Indicate.

A phrenologist says that the bumps on a married man's head frequently indicate the possession of a strenuous wife. — Chicago Daily News.

JAPAN OF MODERN TIMES.

Comparison with the United Kingdom in Size, Population and Other Particulars.

Concerning the United Kingdom the following points of resemblance between it and Japan are remarked by the Anglo-Japanese Gazette: Japan consists of a group of islands lying to the east of the continent of Asia, as the United Kingdom consists of a group lying to the west of the continent of Europe. Both groups extend from north to south; the main islands of the Japan group are about the same length as the United Kingdom—viz., about 700 miles; both groups have a similar population—Japan 44,000,000 and the United Kingdom 42,000,000; both groups have a similar area—Japan 147,000 and the United Kingdom 120,000 (English) square miles; both groups are washed and their climates modified by important ocean currents—the British Isles by the gulf stream and Japan by the Japan current.

The resemblance ceases, however, when the two are contrasted as empires. The one is the land of the rising sun, the other that on which the sun never sets, while the population of the British empire is about 400,000,000, nearly a quarter of the population of the globe and nearly ten times that of Japan.

The revenue of the United Kingdom is more than four times that of Japan, but the foreign trade is 17 times and the national debt 12 times greater. The marked contrast between the national debts of the United Kingdom and Japan is that the former has been raised almost entirely for carrying on the wars in which that country has been engaged during the last 200 years, while that of Japan has been chiefly for public works and industrial enterprises.

In the United States the population is, roughly, twice the number in Japan, its size is 23 times as large, its revenue four times as great, while the foreign trade of the United States is nine times and its national debt seven times that of Japan. Russia covers one-seventh of the surface of the globe, is 60 times the size of Japan, but its population is less than three times greater, consequently population in Japan is 20 times thicker than in Russia. France has an area nearly 40 per cent. larger than Japan, but a population 10 per cent. less, and not growing. Its national debt is enormous—the largest of any nation in the world—nearly double that of the United Kingdom and 20 times that of Japan. Germany, which now aims at becoming a world power, is about the same size as France, or 40 per cent. larger than Japan, while its population is one-fourth greater. A striking feature of the population of Germany is that it is growing at a much greater rate than that of the United Kingdom or Japan, and justifies, in some measure, the desire for expansion.

NO BUCKET BUSINESS.

When Sam and Bill Met There Was No Hugging or Any Other Nuisance.

"On the train, as I was going to Chicago the other week," said a Detroit, according to the Free Press, "I fell in with a man who was on his way to visit his brother in a certain town. The two had not met for 30 years, one having lived in New Hampshire and the other in Michigan all that time. I became somewhat interested in the affair, and in imagination I pictured the greeting between them after such a long separation. Indeed, I was more enthusiastic than the traveler. He had given no notice of his coming, but when we reached the town he picked up his satchel and looked out of the window and said:

"I think I see my brother right out there on the platform now."

"I followed him out and he walked up to the other and queried:

"Ain't your name Sam Blank?"

"Yep, and ain't your name Bill Blank?" queried the other in reply.

"It is. Howdy do, Sam?"

"Purty well, Bill."

"Come to visit me?"

"Yep."

"Then come along to the house."

"That was all," sighed the narrator

— "no hugging—no tears—no lingering handshake—no old-oaken bucket business whatever.

"After 30 long years Sam had happened to be at the depot as his brother Bill got off the train, and Bill went home with Sam. It made me so vexed that I didn't enjoy the rest of the day at all."

Took It Literally.

Once upon a time a very nervy man called on his physician and asked him for medical advice.

"Take a tonic and dismiss from your mind all that tends to worry you," said the doctor.

Several months afterward the patient received a bill from the physician asking him to remit \$18 and answered it thus:

"Dear doctor, I have taken a tonic and your advice. Your bill tends to worry me, and so I dismiss it from my mind."

Moral: Advice sometimes defeats its giver. — Cleveland Leader.