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Co-operative Creameries in Ireland.
The New Zealand Dairyman says: Students of agricultural co-operation have, in the present wave of that movement which is passing over Ireland, a most interesting study. The way in which co-operative butter factories have extended is in strong contrast to the complete apathy displayed by the English dairy farmer in the same direction. From a one-time prosperous agricultural country the "Unhappy Isle" had dwindled down in rural population to such an extent that it seemed as if they would ultimately be a mere handful of people, barely enough to tend cattle for John Bull to eat. With the departure of so many of her best agriculturists to America and these colonies the quality of her produce became woefully poor; in fact, things were drifting into such straits that it was problematical what the end would be. Some thoughtful Irishmen came to the rescue, however, and, binding themselves together, preached co-operation—co-operation in every branch of the farmer's business. Success did not attend their efforts at first, and it was not until fifty meetings had been held that an attempt was made by the farmers to test the new doctrine. Once co-operation had proved itself, however, it rapidly spread; in fact so much so that whereas in 1890 there was only one co-operative factory, the number had increased to 125 at the beginning of last year.

The principal body at work is the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, which was formed in 1894, and, being quite non-political in its objects, men of all shades of opinion are on its committee. They have sensibly laid aside their differences in order to aid their unfortunate countrymen. The society employs about a dozen organizers and experts, who are kept constantly at work lecturing, organizing and instructing. As the Hon. H. Plunkett, writing on the subject in the *Mark Lane Express Almanac*, says: "They preach the doctrine of self-help and show the farmers how they can practically help themselves, and the manly spirit of the people has welcomed it in a wholesome reaction from the other doctrine which lays all their sins of impecuniosity upon the government."

Numerically the most important of the societies are the co-operative creameries. The establishment of these has led to an enormous improvement in the quality of Irish butter, and the suppliers have, as a result, obtained fully 20 per cent more profit from their cows than formerly. Then, of course, the profits of the undertaking have been also secured to the members, who utilize their societies in many ways, such, for instance, as the wholesale purchase of feeding stuffs, fertilizers and implements; also for the combined sale of cattle, pigs, poultry and eggs. A few of them are establishing credit societies and libraries as adjuncts. Then a number of the creameries formed a federation in 1893 to enable them to more effectually control the markets in their own interests and to establish a national brand of Irish creamery butter.

Care of Turkey Coops.

A turkey hates to get into her coop at night unless it has been moved during the day, writes Miss E. J. Pine in "Turkeys and How to Grow them." If it is changed every day she soon regards it as a safe place to keep her little family over night. Should it rain in the night, change it that it may be clean for the day. Filth is a deadly foe to a young turkey in confinement. I have always kept my coops on the ground. An experienced raiser who has tried floors prefers the ground, as it is more natural and healthful. I think it is a good plan to keep a box skunk trap set at night near the coops. When the turkeys get large enough to fly over a stone wall, they will wander further away, and there is danger from hawks and foxes. I keep track of their whereabouts as well as I can, which takes me outdoors no more than is necessary for my good health. I have had them so wild that they have caused me considerable trouble, but it was caused by introducing new blood through strange hens instead of the gobbler. The latter is the better way.

Ostrich Eggs.—The ostrich lays an egg every third day. The eggs are large, being five to six inches through the long diameter, and weigh from three to five pounds each. The shell is usually very thick, sometimes one sixteenth of an inch. The contents resemble that of a hen's egg, and amount to forty fluid ounces. The period of incubation is variously given at from thirty-eight to forty-two days and doubtless depends upon the vitality of development of the chick. The average in California is thirty-nine days. The young chick can be heard in its shell days before it appears. It is sometimes necessary to assist the chick in breaking the shell.—Ex.

Sugar Beet Seed for Illinois Farmers.—The Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill., proposes to furnish seed of sugar beet together with instructions for growing, free of charge so long as the supply lasts, to residents of the state who desire to become acquainted with the nature of the crop, and who will return samples of beets to us for analysis, samples to be taken according to directions and sent to the experiment station, all charges prepaid.—University Press Notice.

Evolution in Horsebreeding.

F. J. Berry says: "Notwithstanding the great depression of 1893 to 1897, while prices ruled so low that it drove farmers and breeders nearly out of the business, within the last year great changes have come and breeding has commenced in earnest, every one beginning to feel and realize the necessity of breeding and raising the best quality of horses for the market. Carriage and coach horses are as high as they ever were; also the best grades of heavy draft sell for as much money as they did in high-priced times, with a strong demand and good prices for blocky, smooth horses from 1,100 up. While these great changes have been going on during the last ten years, the horse-breeding industry has been entirely revolutionized. Since 1893 the great export demand has been introduced for the best classes and quality of American horses, and this demand which has been the life of our trade and has been a great outlet for our horse market, has at the same time fixed a specific type and defined the different classes that are in demand for export horses, and as the American demand has so changed through the evolutions of the last ten years, or since the early 90's, the same classes that are in demand for export are the only kinds that are profitable to raise for American as well as export markets. Thus the great evolution of the last ten years has changed the whole horse-breeding problem, and although a costly object lesson to farmers and breeders of horses, it has not been altogether without its benefits—it has taught us a lesson. While in former times breeding was done promiscuously, without proper consideration or forethought of the kinds of horses the market demanded, and in this way all kinds of horses were produced, from the best down to the most worthless, the small and ordinary horses comprised the larger per cent of the numbers produced. The American horse breeders have had a severe lesson. It has taught them that every horse should be bred for a certain purpose and of a certain type and of a specific class, with all the size, shape and quality that the market demands. The small horse is a thing of the past. It has proven a failure and an unsatisfactory investment. The grade has been raised every year during the last few years, and each successive year requires a larger horse and one of better quality to meet the demands of the market, and he must be a horse of his own class and be an up-to-date market horse."

The Treatment of Hogs in England.

In England the brood sows are usually given plenty of run on grass in good weather; they have very little to be called severe, so that practically the brood sows run out most of the time. This exercise and freedom give them a very healthy, thrifty appearance, and as a rule you find them right up on their toes, strong on their legs and regular breeders of two litters per year, says a contributor to *Swineherd*. The stock boars there are as a rule kept in thinner condition than they are in this country, and thinner than their brood sows. Usually after a boar has been shown one season—or seldom more than two seasons—he is reduced down thin and turned in with sows especially selected as being suitable to breed to him. After those sows are bred he is put in a pen (or what they call a sty), and kept on a low ration, so as to not increase his flesh. They seem to depend more on "active condition" in their boars than they do in "breeding boxes" (as we do here with our heavy boars)—hence the necessity of keeping the boar as thin as possible, so he may not be encumbered with flesh in his duties at the head of the breeding herd. And while speaking of this way of using their herd boars, we would also say we admire one feature of their breeding there, and that is when they find a sire that has proved a good one and a producer of winners, they keep him, instead of changing sires every year, as so many do in this country.

The Profitable Feeder.—The characteristics that make the profitable feeder are naturally more difficult to detect in animals in stock condition than when fattened, but notwithstanding this there are a number of indications that are fairly reliable. Though the young steer may be comparatively thin in flesh and temporarily lacking the thick, even covering of the back and ribs so essential in the finished carcass, he must nevertheless present that blocky frame and stoutness of build, accompanied by short, straight legs, wide back and loin, well-sprung ribs, fullness back of shoulders and in flanks, prominent brisket, full neck vein, wide chest and well-rounded barrel, together with a good, soft, mellow handling skin and fine, silky hair, giving what is termed the thick, mossy coat, without coarseness, and with it all a good strong, vigorous head, clear, full eye, and quiet temperament. The importance of an even covering of flesh and good handling quality can hardly be overestimated.—Prof. C. F. Curtis.

Fattening a Sow.—A two-year-old Jersey Duroc sow at the Oklahoma Experiment Station made gain of 125 lb. in six weeks, an average of 2.2 lb. daily. During this time she was fed 700 lb. Nabr meal, making gain of one pound for each 3.24 lb. fed. In 31 days following she made gain of 40 lb., reaching weight of 350 lb.

Seal out the drinking vessels regularly at least once a week.

Photographs of churches decorated for Children's Day services are published in the June Ladies' Home Journal. The pictures shown are striking and attractive, and appropriate to the occasion, and will be useful in the suggestions they offer for the coming Children's Day.

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Pruning and Transplanting Young Trees
From Farmers' Review: A large proportion of the trees that are lost in resetting die because they have been injured when they were taken up. In digging up the trees the surface soil should be removed to the root system, then a trench dug around the tree outside the mass of roots; then by cutting under the roots with a sharp spade on each side, the tree may be loosened from the soil with a good supply of young, growing roots. If the tree is large, the trench must be made around the roots to the depth of the lowest, and the roots gradually loosened and freed from the soil. No matter how carefully a tree is dug, many of the young feeding roots will be injured or destroyed. Thus only a small amount of sap can be supplied to the branches and buds, which nevertheless continue to evaporate a large amount of water; thus the tree often starts very slowly, and sometimes falls entirely. By removing the branches and buds in proportion to the injury of the roots a balance is maintained. All injured roots should be cut off clean with a knife, and the wounds of large roots should be painted over with some waterproof covering. When trees are planted the roots should have a fine, mellow bed of soil, which should be pressed firmly in contact with every fiber, leaving no air space around them, and all should be spread out in natural position. The soil should be pressed very firmly around all the roots, so that the new roots will be encouraged to make a rapid growth. If the soil in which the tree is planted is the same as the one from which it is taken, the tree should be set the same depth as it was before it was removed. If the soil is heavier, the tree should be shallower; if lighter, it should be placed deeper. The surface of the soil which is over the roots should be fine and light, because the capillarity is then broken up and the moisture cannot escape.

The Lost Crop.

From Farmers' Review: The losing of this year's crop may not be an unmitigated calamity to the fruit grower. If he gives his orchards the right kind of treatment, in a year from now he will see that they will be in better condition for further bearing than they would have been had they been allowed to go on and bear their usual heavy crop. But this will largely depend upon how the orchard is managed, and there are a number of things that must be attended to.

First, all the dead wood must be cut away, and some that is not dead, in order that the remaining parts of the tree may be able to make a more vigorous start in the spring.

Second, all the pruned-off wood, whether in the orchard or small fruit plantation, should be burned to destroy any insect or disease that may infect it.

Third, the spraying must not be abandoned because the crop has failed. Begin in time and spray just as faithfully as though expecting a big crop of fruit. Spraying is likely to be very effective this year, if the directions on pruning and burning are carried out, because the parts of the tree carrying the diseases and insects have been largely destroyed. There will be, consequently, fewer enemies left to combat.

Fourth, the cultivation should be thorough and good. This is necessary in order that the tree may have sufficient food supply for the vigorous growth which it should make.

These attentions are all necessary to assist the tree in its recuperation.

Kedzie's Spraying Mixture.—The spraying mixture formula by Professor Kedzie of the Michigan agricultural college is as follows: Boil two pounds of white arsenic and four pounds of soda for fifteen minutes in two gallons of water. Put into a jug and label "poison," and lock it up. When you wish to spray slake two pounds of lime and stir it into forty gallons of water, adding a pint of the mixture from the jug. The mixture in the jug will cost 45 cents, and this is enough for 500 gallons or 20 barrels of spray. These 20 barrels will require 40 pounds of lime, which will cost 20 cents more, making the total cost 65 cents for 20 barrels, or 3 1/4 cents per barrel.

Beauty as Well as Profit.—I think many people fail to obtain pleasure in cultivating their gardens because they regard their plants only from a business standpoint, and do not appreciate them as objects of beauty. As long as it costs but little, let us cultivate the love for the beautiful, or the aesthetic side of our nature. While perhaps the most of us must work our farms and gardens for the pecuniary profit, yet we may often, when planting for profit, so plan that it will be ornamental in appearance. We shall get more enjoyment from our work, and our life will be better for having cultivated a taste for the beautiful and attractive in nature.—Michigan Farmer.

Grafting.—Plums and cherries should be grafted as early in March as it can be done, regardless of the weather that follows. I have grafted them in February and the weather went below zero afterward. Apples can be grafted later, just before the buds start.—J. Weston.

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- 25 pieces 32 inch Percale, regular 7c, sale price, per yard..... **50**
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75c Hammocks, sale price..... **670**
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24 pairs kid lace ladies shoes, tan, patent tip, coin toe, 3/4 to 8, regular \$3, sale price, per pair..... **\$1.60**
27 pairs ladies kid, lace and button, stock and patent tip, coin toe, 3/4 to 7, regular \$2.50, sale price, per pair..... **\$1.98**
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Complete line of Ladies' Opera slippers and Lace Oxfords, ranging in price from..... **\$1.00-\$2.50**



BARGAIN COUNTER.

Assortment somewhat broken, but still a good many sizes left; very cheap. Child's lace Oxfords, 5, 6, 6, for only, per pair..... **500**
Child's lace Oxfords and Strap Sandals, black and tan, a pair..... **700**
Misses' lace Oxfords and Strap Sandals, black and tan, a pair..... **980**
Cadies' lace Oxfords, 3 1/2 to 4 1/2, were \$1.25 to \$1.75, now..... **980**
Men's Gr. Congress spring heel plow shoes at reduced prices.
Men's plow pants, a complete assort ment.

SOME STRONG ITEMS IN HOSIERY.

If you could have the goods before you as you read these prices, you would get an understanding of what is being offered.
25 dozen Child's ribbed hose, good quality, sale price, per pair..... **50**
50 dozen child's seamless, double heel and toe, 5 to 9, regular 6 1-2c, sale price, per pair..... **70**
50 dozen child's hose, double heel, 5 to 9, regular 10c, sale price, per pair..... **8 1-30**

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- \$22.50** We will sell a limited number \$27.50 wheels at \$22.50
- \$30.00** As a leader, a few Imperials fitted with G. J. Tires.
- \$35.00** We have one new pattern 30-in. wheel at this price.

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1011 Mills the Great Father. RAPID CITY, S. D., May 30.—Lena Bonta, aged 14, and a younger brother, children of Frank Bonta, a Burlington, Ia. contractor, are under arrest, the girl being charged with murdering her father. She shot him through the head while he slept. The man was cruel to his family, who lived self-starved much of the time.

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