

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

IMPORTANT AND USEFUL TOPICS BRIEFLY DISCUSSED.

Reasons Why Farmers Should Keep Bees - How to Keep Them - Agricultural Notes - The Household.

Why Farmers Should Keep Bees. The fact that bees are pollen distributors is sufficient reason why a place should be made for them on every farm. If kept for no other purpose than the benefit they do to growing crops and fruit bearing trees and plants by spreading the pollen among the blooms, these industrious workers would be a valuable adjunct. Testimony is abundant and conclusive as to the desirable effects of bees upon grape vines, fruit trees, and fruit bearing plants generally. Indeed, one prominent apiarist goes so far as to insist that a few hives of bees judiciously placed will revive a fruit farm from a non-paying to a profitable investment. Field crops, scientists tell us, and wide-awake farmers know from their own observation, are greatly assisted by the honey bee's manipulations. Indeed, their influence is required for the perfect floral fertilization of some of the cereal crops and the meadow grasses. Where the farmer is too busy to give his personal attention to the honey, it was suggested that he purchase a few hives and turn them over to his wife and daughters. They will find the pin money accruing from the sale of the honey a convenient and pleasant return for the labor and time spent among the bees. The outdoor occupation, too, will prove a welcome and healthful change from indoor drudgery, which they can afford to hire done.

Boys on the Farm. The decadence of farming of late years is largely due to the undeniable fact that city life has offered greater attractions as well as greater profits to the young. While it is true that farming does not now require so severe and unremitting toil as formerly, can it be said that young people on the farm have been encouraged to find their pleasures and relaxation at home? This is the only way to make farm life attractive to the average young man. If on each holiday he goes to the city, it will naturally soon seem to him that city life is all a holiday, while life on the farm is one of unceasing drudgery. It often happens that city boys kept at work in stores, and only allowed to go into the country for vacation, see only the holiday side of farm life, and acquire a love for it that those brought up on the farm too often do not share. Why do not farmers take a hint from these facts, and make as much holiday as possible for their sons at home? It is time that the old rule, which made the boy hoe his row and run for water, while the men rested, was superseded by a practice which would give boys the easiest tasks, and the little investments that give the largest profits, as the best means to interest them in farming and make this the occupation of their lives.

Feeding Fowls for Eggs. Injudicious feeding is one of the most frequent mistakes of beginners in poultry raising, and one that gives rise to much ill success. Hens that are too much fed take on fat, lay soft eggs or cease to lay any, get lazy, feverish, and are a ready prey to all sorts of chicken diseases. There should be fed only as much as will be eaten eagerly and no more. As soon as the least indifference to food is manifested the supply should be cut short; and after each meal all food left uneaten should be cleared away. Grown fowls should be fed only twice a day - at morning and evening. At noon, on our place, the different strains are turned out separately into their exercising ground, where there is a pile of earth thrown up and sown with grain. They scratch into this heap for the grain, and strengthen their muscles while doing it. The food furnished grown birds should be of a kind to make muscle without too much fat. In my case, I particularly designed to produce eggs. The greater variety of food the better.

Fighting Nature. This sort of warfare is (or ought to be) entirely monopolized by amateurs and greenhorns. The growth of all vegetation is governed by laws founded on scientific principles by the great author of all science. We may dodge the question in some cases, but we produce a monster invariably. To grow a plant in greenhouse, garden or on the farm in a superior manner, shows the grower to be a man of sense, a close observer, an honest observer of the law and gospel too. Such a man always succeeds, because the people, God bless them, encourage all efforts which are successful. There is no prouder moment to a good gardener than when he finds an appreciative customer who prefers his work to the chief coliner of Uncle Sam's mint.

Increasing Richness of Milk. Dear corn is usually followed in this country by dear butter. Hence it generally pays to feed cows giving milk as liberally of grain as they will bear, thus increasing not only its amount but richness. If the cow is bearing a calf while thus fed this will transmit the milk and butter tendency to the young. It is in this way, doubtless, that the foundations of the best dairy herds were originally established. The reverse of the good feeding will quickly produce a race of scrubs out of the best stock that can be produced.

Give Pigs a Chance to Root. Pigs always kept in a small pen may fatten, but cannot be healthy. The pig needs to root. And it should not be earth that has already been contaminated by his own excrement, though except where piles of manure have lain the soil quickly purifies itself and converts even this into harmless humus after a few months of contact. In the orchard pigs rooting keep the codling moth in check by feeding worms that have escaped from apples into the ground.

Wash Fruits. To those who have grown their own produce on a farm, but little is required to be said, but there are many who have neglected these "doctor killers." No family of children can be successfully raised so well, so healthily, so cheerfully as when small fruits are so plenty that each child may pick its fill at all times during the season.

ing season and have a daily allowance all winter. The best of doctors, the best of medicine, the most loving kindness are absolutely a mere nothing alongside a berry patch open to the whole family. It is the gate to good health, kind hearts, ruddy faces, sound teeth, bright eyes and good little men and women.

Dehorning Valuable Bulls. One of the important reasons for dehorning cattle is to retain the service of bulls to a greater age than would otherwise be safe. Valuable animals have often times to be turned off to the butcher, or the worse alternative be taken and more valuable human lives be sacrificed to allow these useless appendages to be retained. Time was, perhaps, when the horns of domestic cattle were important to them as defenses against dangerous enemies. Now they only serve as dangers to their keepers.

Farm Notes. Doolittle says: If you wish a large yield of section honey keep prolific queens and let the brood combs alone after they are once filled with brood in the spring.

You notice lice on any of your stock give them a good dressing of tobacco tea. Give the stable a thorough cleaning and a good coat of hot white-wash to which has been added carbolic acid.

In the stables of the Adams Express company at Boston a five horse-power electric motor operates two machines for grooming horses. With the new machines two men can groom a horse in five minutes.

It was stated by a dairyman of long experience at an Auburn (Me.) institute that in feeding grain to stock it would be found as a rule the highest profit goes with the heaviest grain feeding, up to the point of safety.

Why has a dog the privilege of wandering at large over "all creation," while a sheep is to be kept on its owner's farm? If the owners of dogs could be obliged to keep their animals on their own premises and prevent them from trespassing upon the property of others, the sheep would have a fair chance.

Every year there are many complaints of poor seed corn. The best plan to avoid loss in this way is to test the seed in the house a few weeks before planting. It is not likely that so much will germinate in open ground as beside the fire; but the result will show clearly the proportion of seed that retains vitality.

Lard is no longer the prime factor in estimating the values of a fat hog. Medium-sized porkers, with plenty of lean meat, are now most in demand. Hogs, such as used to be fattened until they were too weak to get up and eat, cannot make healthful pork, and as they no longer bring a much better price than ordinary meat there is no reason for thus fattening them.

"I have never had hog cholera on my farm," says Theodor Lewis. "Whenever I buy hogs I quarantine them for some time at a distance to prove that there is no disease among them. I use only mature animals to breed from, and then keep them as long as they are profitable - the sows till seven or eight years old. These things are worth considering by farmers."

When the farm fails to produce the crops that once were easily grown upon it, the course to pursue is to restrict the acreage. Cultivate only half the space, or even less, and concentrate all your manure upon it. The crops will soon be larger than were secured from the entire farm, being a much better secured, the farm will improve in fertility and the portion which is unused will be benefited by the seasons of rest given it.

No seed needs such frequent changing as potato. If planted on the same farm year after year they soon run out and will bear only small inferior tubers. Careful selection of smooth, perfect potatoes every year for seed and changing every few years will improve both the quality and quantity. The scarcity of potatoes and consequent high prices will tend to make early crops high next season, and farmers should take heed and profit thereby.

Household Hints. A superior washing fluid is made of equal parts of spirits of turpentine and ammonia. Add two spoonfuls to the water in which in which the clothes are boiled.

To procure onion juice, which is called for in many recipes, grate a peeled onion, holding it under a partly raised window where the air is blowing to save the eyes during the process.

Long for cake may be prevented by freezing when cut by adding one tablespoonful of sweet cream to each unbroken egg. Stir all up together, then add sugar until as stiff as can be stirred.

It is a very common mistake to mend gloves with sewing silk. Thread of different shades made for the purpose, and glove needles may be bought at small cost. Manufacturers never use silk.

It is stated that glycerine washed into flannel after it is wrung from the warm rinsing water will render it most agreeably soft. Half a spoonful of glycerine to a pound of dry flannel is the usual allowance.

We read that freckles may be obliterated by carefully touching pure carbolic acid to the spots. This cauterization or burning produces a scale which falls off in about ten days. Any one wanting to make the experiment had better try one at a time.

Tin cans may be opened easily by putting a live coal on the top round lid in the center of one end of the can and blowing it for a minute, when the piece of tin can be readily removed. The same can may be used again by sealing with putty after the lid is put on.

It is an undeniable fact that soothing syrups have killed thousands of children and ruined the constitutions of thousands more. The latter, instead of growing up healthy men and women, are ill and delicate; and of the two, those who are killed are really the more fortunate.

Common dry salt is said to be one of the best agents for cleaning marble, such as wash basins, sink fixtures and the like. It requires no preparation, and may be rubbed directly upon the tarnished surface, removing any incrustations or deposits at once, leaving the marble shining and clean. This is well worthy of remembrance, as it is often found to be provokingly hard to clean the marble thoroughly without injuring the surface.

Loaning Money on Land One Hundred and Fifty Years Ago in Pennsylvania.

David Home, the Scotch historian, who died in 1776, is considered among literary men as a reliable historian. In a letter to the French economist, Andre Morelet, written a few years prior to his death, he says regarding the issue of paper currency to the people:

"In our colony of Pennsylvania the land itself, which is the chief commodity, is coined and passes into circulation. A planter immediately on purchasing land can go to a public office and receive notes to the amount of half the value of the land, which he employs in all payments, and they circulate through the colony by convention. To prevent the public being overwhelmed by this representative money there are two means employed: First, the note issued to any one planter must not exceed a certain amount, whatever may be the value of the land; secondly, every planter is obliged to pay back into the public office every year one-tenth of his notes. The whole is, of course, annihilated in ten years, after which it is again allowed him to take out new notes to half the value of his land."

This was the monetary system under which the American colonists prospered to such an extent that Edmund Burke said of them: "Nothing in the history of the world is like their progress." It was a wise and beneficent system, and its effect was most conducive to the happiness of the people. Take the case of a family, industrious and enterprising, driven by misfortune or persecution to seek a refuge in the wilds of the new world. With their scanty means they purchase a tract of land. Many years of hard labor, privation and anxiety would have been necessary to bring that family into a state of decent competency had they been required to purchase their own silver in the market, the product of labor before they could effect other improvements on their property. But half the value of his land was advanced to the real head of the family in notes which circulated as money. With these notes he can purchase seeds and necessary implements of husbandry and cattle, and thus where without these notes one acre would not be cleared, cultivated and stocked in a year, ten would, by assistance of the paper money advanced, be reclaimed from the forest and rendered productive. This happy enterprise, the dwelling of the poor emigrant. Ten years found him with the whole of his debt to the government discharged, the proprietor of a happy home, and the kind hand of a paternal government was stretched out still to advance to him again one-half of the increased value of his land, and thus enable him to clear away more of the forest and settle his children in new homes. Such was the system by which the British, "a set of miserable outcasts," were converted, in a short space of time, into happy, contented and prosperous colonists. A prosperous and happy people, generally satisfied with the government under which they live.

When, in 1776, Benjamin Franklin was examined before a committee of the whole house of commons, he was asked "what was the temper of America towards Great Britain before 1763," he answered: "The best in the world. They submitted willingly to the government of the crown, and all their courts paid obedience to the acts of parliament. Numerous as the people are in the several old provinces, they cost you nothing in forts, citadels, garrisons or armies to keep them in subjection. They were led by a thread. They had not only a regard for, affection for Great Britain, for its laws, its customs, its manners, but even a fondness for its fashions, that greatly increased the commerce. Native of Britain were always treated with particular regard; and to be an old England man was of itself a character of some respect, and gave a kind of rank among us."

The British government took away from America its representative money, commanded that no more paper bills of credit should be issued, that they should cease to be a legal tender, and collected the tax in silver. This was in 1773. Now mark the consequences. "The contraction of the circulating medium paralyzed all the industrial energies of the people. Ruin seized upon these once flourishing colonies; the most severe distress was brought home to every interest and to every family; discontent was urged on to desperation, till at last "human nature rose and asserted its rights." In 1775, the American congress first met in Philadelphia; in 1776, America became an independent state.

A Sample of Railroad Robbery. A farmer who lives near Bancroft, Neb., sends to the World-Herald a good illustration of the iniquity of the present railroad charges in Nebraska. He is the owner of 400 bushels of corn. Practically this is a car load. He asked for the car load rates to get his 400 bushels to the Omaha market, and the railroad agent informed him that it would cost him \$42. The distance is seventy-two miles. This charge is equivalent to 10 cents a bushel.

Does anybody need to be told that is an outrage? Just across the river in Iowa the same amount of corn, that is to say, one car load, would be transported seventy-two miles for about \$13. In that state the farmer stands some chance of getting his corn to market without being bled and robbed.

Another case which comes from Lyons, Neb., illustrating the Nebraska phase of railroad extortion in Nebraska, shows how communities are robbed by the railroads on goods which they are compelled to buy. A man in Lyons recently paid \$18.50 freight on a car load of lumber, containing also a little building hardware from Omaha. The distance is sixty-five miles. A car load of lumber shipped the same distance from one Iowa point to another would not cost to exceed \$12.

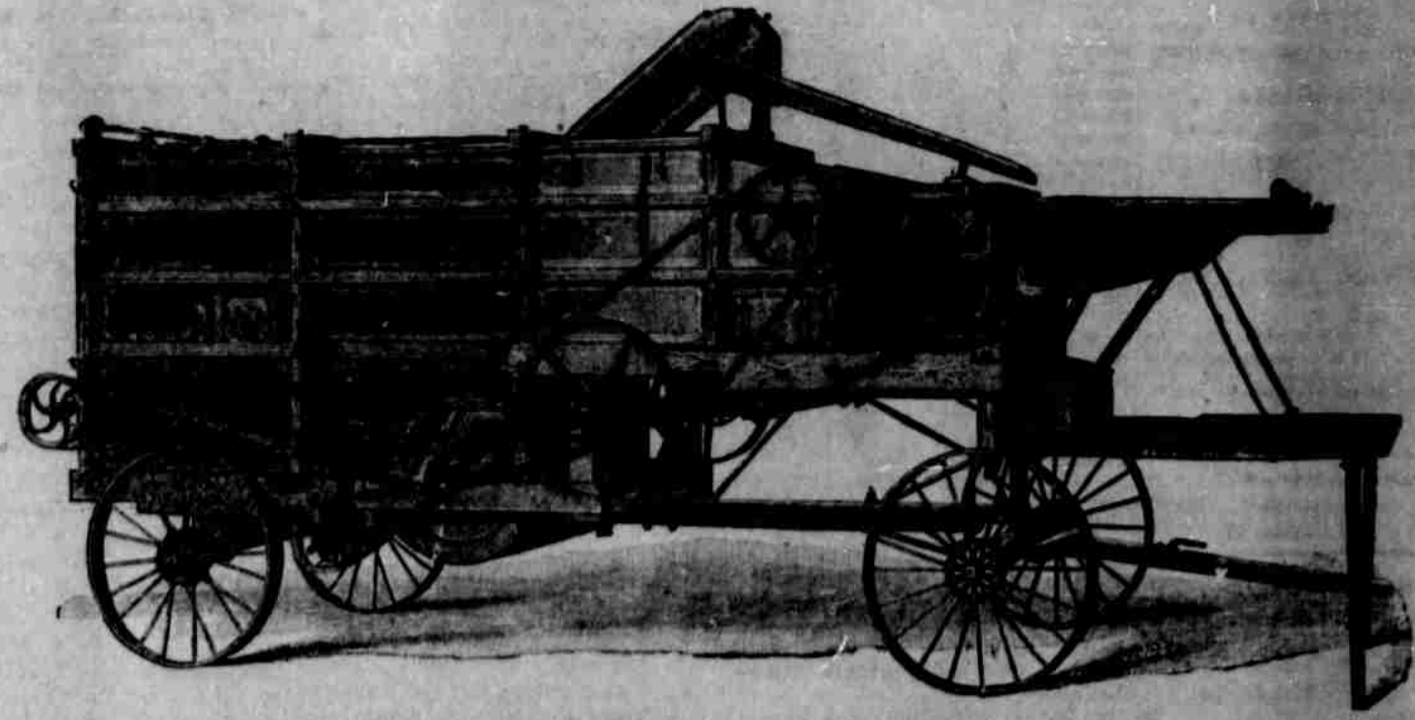
The meaning of these extortionate charges is simply this: Lyons and Bancroft are at the mercy of one railroad. Neither is a competitive point. Everything that they sell must go out on one railroad and every thing that they buy must be brought in over the same road. The law places no limit on the charges this railroad can make, and its rates are made so as to squeeze the last cent that can be wrung from squinting farmers and struggling townpeople.

Do the railroads think that the people of Nebraska will tolerate a condition of things so atrocious and so destructive to the prosperity of the state? Will the people of Nebraska not insist on having a law to curb the avarice and check the extortions of these powerful corporations?

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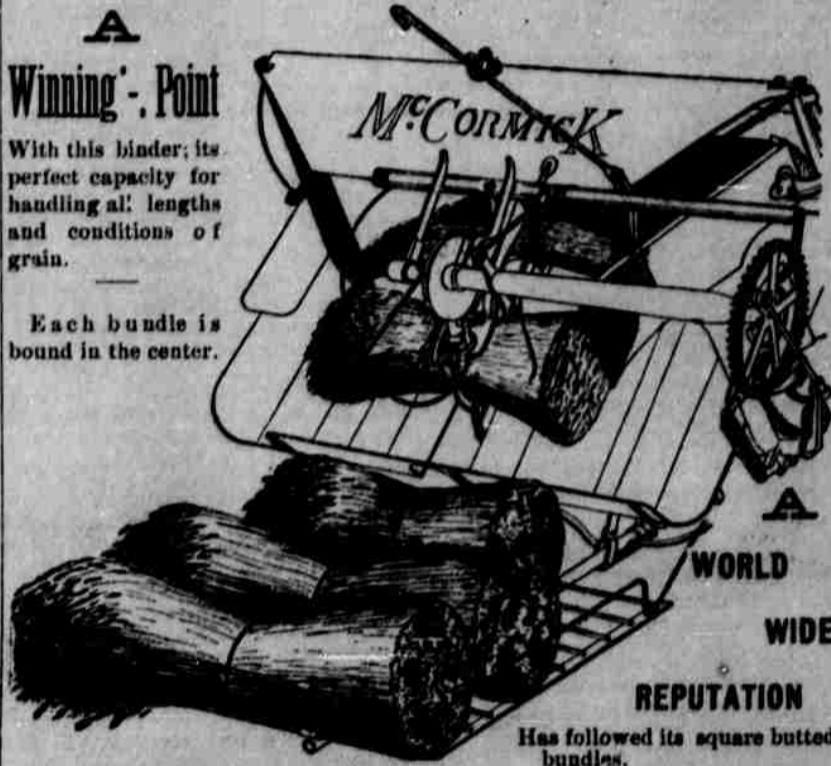


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