

THE FARM AND HOME.

A HINT CONCERNING THE EUROPEAN MARKET.

The Best Breed for Choice Bacon—Young Beef for Profit—Scab on Fruit Trees—Farm Notes and Domestic Dots.

The Best Breed for Choice Bacon.

I believe a much greater quantity of bacon is consumed in Great Britain and Ireland, and perhaps also on the Continent than of fat side pork, both fresh and salted. It is quite important therefore, to the American farmer who wishes to export, writes A. B. Allen in the Country Gentleman, to grow that breed of swine which shall produce the most desirable quality of flesh for smoking. A hog for this purpose must be abundant in tender, lean, juicy meat rather than fat, as the latter quality is entirely unsuitable for bacon, and fit only for salting to pack in barrels for commercial dealing. The shape of such swine should be rather long than short in body, full on the back of extra depth, wide shoulders and broad thick hams, head and neck of moderate length and fine legs the same active in movement, and completely free from all sluggishness.

Swine destined for bacon ought to have moderate exercise in the open air. In summer a grass or clover pasture with pure water running in it is preferable; in winter a dry yard with warm room, well bedded pens attached for shelter whenever desired by the animal to resort to them.

For food, aside from pasture, give wheat bran or shorts, or oat or barley meal, as required, mixed with a pint to a quart of cracked or cottonseed meal, according to the size of the animal, morning and night. Early in autumn add sugar beets or other roots, or pumpkins, as much as will be eaten; and three to four weeks before slaughter, give Indian corn or meal, from one-third to one-half the proportion of their other food. More of this grain should not be used, as it would tend to make the flesh too fat.

The late opening of European markets for our hog products will require an immense additional quantity of live and dead meat to supply them—a rich boon to our farmers, of which they should make haste to take advantage. Swine of medium size are decidedly preferable, and cheapest and quickest to breed and rear. These may be grown suitable for market in nine to twelve months' time from birth. This is so much faster than rearing cattle that it enables small farmers and those possessing little capital to go into the business as well as as profitably as those of much larger means; in fact, gives the poor man as good a chance to gain a fair percentage in his occupation as the rich.

In regard to the best breed of swine which is possessed in America to produce choice bacon and hams, the Berkshire is superior, as he turns out the largest percentage of tender, lean, juicy meat. His nearly equal, perhaps, is the Duroc or Jersey Red, or what is called the Tamworth in England. This is supposed to be descended from the old unimproved Berkshire of the present day, for some of them are nearly spoiled by breeders in the quality of their shoulders, hams and side-pieces. They have shortened the head, length and depth of the body, given them a pug-nose and fat jowls like the Chinese, and fed them almost entirely on corn. The result is that the largest percentage of the flesh is fat, instead of tender, lean, juicy meat, totally unfit for bacon. All such breeding should be stopped at once, not only in Berkshires, but other classes of swine that are reared expecting to make bacon of them.

Most of the portraits of swine appearing in our agricultural papers are of this very fat shape—mere caricatures of what a good bacon animal should be, and the additional misfortune is added that the shows of agricultural societies in appointing judges who know nothing of the desirable points necessary to form suitable bacon animals, and the result is prizes are awarded to unsuitable animals, to the injury of breeding good ones that will sell more quickly at a higher price.

Young Beef for Profit.

The progress of ideas as connected with farm practices is far more rapid than farmers get credit for as the work goes along, says the Texas Live Stock Journal. We have only to look back over a few years of time to learn that great changes in methods and practices have taken place and have settled down into the position of common practice. This change has been very marked in the business of growing and fattening beef. This change is more plainly illustrated in the West with their large operations, though the change has taken place here as well as there. It was but a few years ago that it was the general understanding that an animal must be four years old or more before it was fitted for the butcher and for the consumer. Professor Santborn showed that a pound of growth could be made on less food and at far less cost on a growing animal than on an old one; in fact, that it was a law of growth that the younger the animal the greater the growth per day, and the less food per day called for. He further showed to the satisfaction of all feeders that the growth of steers the third year and later on did not pay its way. The Chicago fat stock show soon adopted the lion's share of the new idea of offering no price on beef cattle so old as four years, thus taking the ground that there should be no encouragement given to keeping steers up to that age. Growers soon caught up with the idea and came to accept the action as wise and proper.

Scab on Fruit Trees.

To prevent the scab on fruit trees the Ohio experiment station recommends the following: Formula No. 1.—Copper sulphate, 4 pounds; lime, 4 pounds; water, 1 barrel. Formula No. 2.—Copper sulphate, 4 pounds; Paris green, 4 pounds; water, 1 barrel. No. 1 is used for apple and pear scab and to prevent the leaves of plum and pear trees from dropping prematurely; also for raspberry cane scab or anthracnose. Apply once before the leaves open and about three times thereafter. Not to be used on plums and early fruits later than

July 1. It is not necessary to use it on any fruit later than August 1. It should not be used on raspberries after the blossoms open and care should be taken to direct the spray to the young growth and avoid the old canes after the first application.

No. 2 is used on the pear, apple, plum and cherry trees after the blossoms fall for the purpose of destroying insects. On plum and cherry trees the applications should be made once in two weeks, and often if the weather is rainy, up to within six weeks of the ripening time. For the last application on these fruits, it would be well to dilute the mixture one-half, or more, so as to avoid lime coating; or the following may be substituted: Paris green 2 oz., copper carbonate 2 oz.; dissolve in three pints of ammonia; add one-half pound lime and one barrel of water.

Ice Not Wanted.

A noted butter maker who lives 600 miles west of New York, said to the writer, "I now no longer use ice in butter making, relying upon an abundance of cold spring water, and have stopped working over butter; packing at the time of churning, and my butter now reaches a New York in fine condition, which it would not do when it was used and re-worked. I believe that it is a positive injury to re-work butter, if it is to be kept any length of time." An out west expert lays it down that "letting butter set" and then re-working it, does injure the grain of the butter, and any injury causes it to more quickly go off flavor." There is much to be understood about these disputed points. Has the grain been broken down and injured, or is it simply pressing out more moisture? The dryer butter having this shiny look, owing to the absence of a certain amount of moisture and the "stick" or salty quality arises from the same cause. Is it not a fact that butter when worked should be subjected to pressure, rather than subjected to the operations of any machine that has rollers or levers with sharp edges, or a cutting process of working. The butter should have its buttermilk washed out, and the surplus moisture pressed out. That these corners and edges and fluted rollers should be used very little, in butter making, is the opinion of the dairy editor of the Practical Farmer.

Feed More Bran and Less Corn.

A mass of bran is always beneficial. Bran contains more phosphates and mineral matter than ground grain, and it also assists in regulating the bowels, especially when a small quantity of linseed meal is given with it, but in the summer season a mess three times a week may be allowed only. It may be fed by scalding it and feeding it in a trough, or it may be sprinkled over potatoes or turnips, cooked. No other grain food need be given if bran is used in the summer season, if the fowls have a range. In fact, no grain is necessary at all; but should such food be given, let it be bran.—Farm and Fireside.

Care of the Eyes.

Avoid reading or sewing by twilight. Reading in a moving car is a great strain on the eyes. The best turkeys for breeding are those that are 2 years old. Diseases of the eye are often the result of general weakness. The eyes are often troublesome when the stomach is affected. Do not read or sew when recovering from illness, especially fever. When the eyes are at all defective, avoid working at fine needle-work, drawing, etc., longer than half an hour at a time. Slippery-elm water is very soothing when applied externally to inflamed eyes. A sty on the eye will sometimes yield to an application of very strong black tea.

Domestic Dots.

Ammonia is excellent for cleaning the spots off from clothing. It should be diluted with a little water before using. Balmie sack and wool shawls and fascinators can be cleaned by rubbing through cornmeal several times and shaking out in the wind. Embroideries should be ironed on the wrong side after laying them over a piece of white flannel. This brings out the pattern distinctly. A mild white soap is considered the best for washing white silk handkerchiefs, tray cloths, dillies and center-pieces that are embroidered in wash silks.

Farm Notes.

Sheep give back to the soil as much as they take from it. More, indeed, since it is a well known fact that they enrich the pasture in which they feed. "Farming for a living" is a poor way. Make a business of it. Read, study, think, experiment, practice. The way to make a success of anything is to be earnest and energetic, and to learn as much about it as circumstances will permit, and then to put into practice all that you learn. The broad-headed horses are the cleverest. In the army cavalry the horses with broad foreheads learn their drill more quickly than others. A gentleman measured the heads of all his hunters, and found that their intelligence and good sense was in proportion to the width of their foreheads.

If all those who have made money with sheep were to give the reason for their success, they would say that the chief factor was the care they gave the flock.

Successful sheepmen are a unit in saying that, no matter what breed is kept or for what purpose kept, painstaking care in great and small things is the only way to make sheep business profitable. Many a man is farming a half section of land, who, if he put the same energy and same amount of work on an eighty, or at most a quarter section, would take a great deal more pleasure in living and every year lay by more of this world's goods, to insure rest when still joints and weakened muscles make rest grateful to the most industrious. Among the many things which have conspired to make farming unprofitable in the past, the practice of running a large farm has been one of the greatest.

The Farmer's Crisis.

Nothing will be gained for us, either from an economic or political point of view, says Prof. E. J. James in his address before the economic section of the American association, by belittling or deriding the views of western farmers on the money question, on the tariff, or on railroad policy, taxation, and other topics.

The American farmer has a grievance—a real and true grievance—one that will not become less by pooh-poohing it, but one that must be carefully studied by students of economics and statistics to ascertain, if possible, how far it is justified and whether it can be remedied, and if so by what means.

As a matter of fact the wealth of the United States is flowing away from its farms into factories and railroads; from the country into the city; from the rural into the urban districts. The policy of our railroad companies has borne hard upon the individual farmer and upon the farmers as a class. It has altered all the conditions of agriculture in many sections of the country, and in nearly all of them in such a way as needlessly to burden and embarrass the farmer.

Our system of taxation rests most heavily upon him; and there is no doubt that the financial policy of the country, including the whole system of monetary transactions built up by the combination of governmental and private initiatives, discriminates directly and keenly against the farmer and farming class, by discriminating in favor of other classes.

Nor can it be said that the tariff policy of the country has been managed as much to the farmer's interest as to that of other classes. The way to improvement lies, in the first place, in the direction of altering these adverse influences.

This policy, however, is merely palliative, and does not go to the root of the matter. The forces that are crowding the American farmer to the wall are world wide.

Thoughts of Thinkers.

The attitude of capital toward labor is a gigantic blunder because it is opposed to Christianity, which most capitalists profess and which few of them or any other class practice.—Kate Field.

A crank is always the other fellow. Wendell Phillips said: "The men who cannot be answered are mobbed." So to-day the men who cannot be answered are called cranks and anarchists and fanatics.—George C. Beecher.

Most of our so-called public teachers, ministers, authors, editors and college professors have slipped into sloth and rotund lives by accepting plutocracy's retainers and becoming its sycophantic apologists or lying panegyrists.—Lester C. Hubbard.

Within a short time, and happily before the energy of youth is past, I have been awakened from a state of aristocratic prejudice to the clear conviction of the equality of human rights, and of the paramount duty of society to provide for the support, comfort and enlightenment of every member born into it.—Harriet Martineau.

Civilization recognizes the necessity and rights of every child to the means of developing intelligence and the training of a few faculties. It is beginning to recognize the necessity and rights of the child to industrial training. But it is equally important that the structure of all social and economic systems should furnish equal opportunity to each and every unit to achieve both subsistence and integral development.—Lucinda B. Chandler.

Signs of the Times.

One of the most striking and convincing facts of the solidity of the Alliance that impresses a reader of as large exchange list as the Herald processes, is the remarkable change in tone, style and expression of the Alliance papers of the union. One year ago most of them seemed to be feeling their way to secure a prudent and cautious position on the Alliance demands from which they could repel attacks easily and without danger of much of a conflict. Now the same papers, with hundreds of others added to them, are so bold, aggressive and anxious for a fight on the demands, that one can almost fancy that he can see the editor prancing around his sanctum begging some fellow that opposes the Alliance to please step on his coat-tail and accommodate him with a discussion on anything about the Alliance. This change illustrates the prevailing sentiment among Alliance men. The more the demands are discussed, the stronger they appear. The more they are studied the deeper the conviction that each and all of them are not only right and just, but the very best that could be adduced as an answer to the problem the condition of the people presents. The fact that the opposition does not attack the great principles involved in these demands, and the equity and justice of the basis upon which they rest, shows that the conviction is also pressing its way into them that this answer, or something better, must be assured in the policy of the government. No other plan or policy seeks to answer the questions, how shall the three billions indebtedness of the farmers be wiped out? How shall the country be furnished a safe currency on a solid basis? How shall that currency be made sufficiently large to meet the demands of the country? How shall trusts and combines be destroyed? How shall robber syndicates be annihilated? How shall railroad barons be stopped in their robberies by watering stocks and bonds and exacting exorbitant tolls from the people? How shall the people be raised from the slough of despondency and despair and be placed on the high road to prosperity and independence? The Ocala demands answer these questions. That is what they were formulated to meet—to answer the problem the situation presents. It is the only answer offered that has any practical or possible chance of success, even if all that is claimed for it should be accomplished. Those who are studying these questions are becoming stronger and more zealous in this faith. The country is fast realizing the justice and equity of the demands, and the people are growing in the faith and becoming more earnest and zealous in pressing them. Let every Alliance man feel encouraged and know that his cause is daily growing in strength and the principles and policies it embodies are founded on justice and equity and that God is on the side of the right.—Alliance Herald.

JAPANESE FLOWER SHOW.

People Who Have Exquisite Taste in Arrangement and Colors.

In Lafayette Hearst's paper in the Atlantic, "The Chief City of the Province of the Gods" he describes a Japanese flower show. He writes: "Often in the streets at night, especially on the nights of sacred festivals (matsuri), one's attention will be attracted to some small booth by the spectacle of an admiring and perfectly silent crowd pressing before it. As soon as one can get a chance to look one finds there is nothing to look at but a few vases containing sprays of flowers, or, perhaps, some light, graceful branches freshly cut from a blossoming tree. It is simply a little flower show, or, more correctly, a free exhibition of master skill in the arrangement of flowers. For the Japanese do not brutally chop off flower heads to work them up into meaningless masses of color, as we barbarians do—they love nature too well for that; they know how much the natural charm of the flower depends upon its setting and mounting, its relation to leaf and stem, and they select a single graceful branch or spray just as nature made it. At first you will not, as a western stranger, comprehend such an exhibition at all; you are yet a savage in such matters compared with the commonest coolies about you. But even while you are still wondering at popular interest in this simple little show the charm of it will begin to grow upon you, you will become a revelation to you; and despite your occidental ideas of self-superiority you will feel humbled by the discovery that all flower displays you have ever seen abroad were only monstrosities in comparison with the exquisite natural beauty of these few simple sprays. You will also observe how much the white or pale blue screen behind the flowers enhances the effect by lamp or lantern light. For the screen has been arranged with the special purpose of showing the exquisiteness of plant shadows, and the sharp silhouettes of sprays and blossoms cast thereon are beautiful beyond the imagining of any western decorative artist."

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Says "The Money Monopoly" is for utility, the best book now in print—a cyclopedic almost priceless. HON. D. C. DRAVER, of Omaha, Neb., writes to "The Farmers' Alliance": "The Money Monopoly has made many converts here. I give my word and honor that every man who reads it has become an independent." The Journal of the Knights of Labor says: "We heartily recommend 'The Money Monopoly,' as it is without exception the best exposition of labor financial principles we have seen. Wonderful clear and forcible." It has passed by the State of N. Y. Address this office or E. R. H. KERR, Sidney, Ia. The author will send a sample copy of the book to any Alliance or Assembly at the wholesale price.

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Fair Warning From a Burglar.

Robert D. White, of Georgetown, Del., lately received a letter from a party calling himself a professional burglar, signifying his intention of entering the attorney's house six months from date and carrying off what valuables he can safely take. He says his intentions are merely burglary, and that no arson, murder or other crimes will be attempted. The burglar coolly admits in his lengthy epistle that it is not customary with him to notify his subscribers of his actions. He says he knows that if he is caught it may be three years, to stand one hour in the pillory and receive twenty lashes, as did John Cummins, the Baltimore burglar.

The writer continues: "I saw John Cummins whipped at New Castle yesterday with twenty lashes. It is a very barbarous institution, and I can only say that I am glad to see it abolished by your law. I want to make a daring burglary in this state, and show you you are powerless to arrest a burglar of first class. I am leaving Wilmington for the West and will return by the line of Delmar and Georgetown. So I select your city as the first place to operate. I will show the people of Delaware that there is no danger of arrest as long as the police of Paris, London, Chicago and Baltimore could not arrest me. I mean to keep my word, and my stake is a big one. I confess I have not the least ambition to the pillory or whipping post. If you can pull me in I agree to receive ten lashes more. I will walk to the pillory and whipping post barefooted, but I would advise you not to anticipate such a pleasure."—Baltimore American.

Hook and Crook.

About a century ago two celebrated king's counsel flourished, whose names were respectively Hook and Crook (pronounced "Crook"). They were generally opposed to each other in all important cases, and people said: "If you can not win your cause by Hook you will by Crook." Hence arose the idiom which is so firmly grafted in the English tongue.

A Missionary's Work.

One of the missionaries of the Seaman's mission in England has during the year visited 3,000 vessels and read the Scriptures in English, Danish and Norwegian. He has distributed 2,900 New Testaments and 700 gospels to English and foreign seamen and emigrants.

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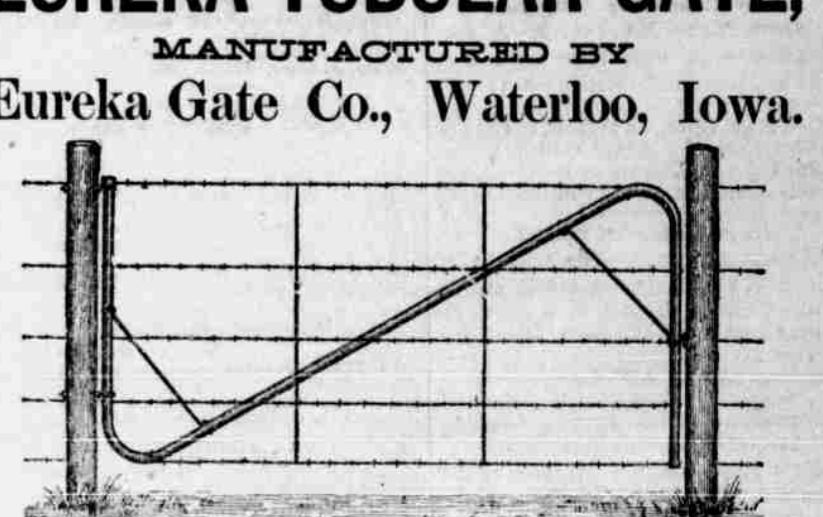
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Cheap Farmers.

Hear what Jay Gould's estimate of a farmer legislator is: "I can buy the vote of a farmer member of the legislature for the price of a ball can!" say about seven dollars and a half.

He says again: "I can hire one-half the farmers of the United States to shoot the other half to death."

Farmers are cheap according to Jay Gould's notion. They always will be cheap in the eyes of these men until they have the manhood to stand out on independent ground.—The Sentinel.