

**Two Bee-Feeders.**

A writer in May Gleanings describes two home-made feeders as follows:

The first is a quart basin of cheap tamped ware with a 1/4-inch hole cut in the bottom, into which a tube is soldered. The top of the tube comes to within 1/2 inch of being even with the top of the basin. Now open the hole in your honey board, or remove packing and cut a small hole in the quilt, over which place the basin so that the bees can come up through the tube. Make a tube of coarse paper and push it into the tin tube to aid the bees in climbing up. Fill the basin with syrup as far as the top of the tube, place a float of cloth or anything to keep the bees from drowning. Now cover the basin over with paper and make it as warm as you please with packing. The bees will come up and take that feed in cool weather, and no openings have been made to allow the much-needed heat of the hive to escape.

The other feeder is made in this way: Take a Mason quart jar. Break the porcelain lining out of the cover; punch a dozen or more small holes in the cover with an awl. Now get a piece of pine board, 3/4 x 4 inches square; with an extension bit bore a hole through it large enough to receive 1/4 inch of the top of the jar. When the cover is on, fill the jar with thin syrup. Screw the perforated cover on tightly, place the block over the hole in the honey-board or quilt; insert the jar and insert in the block; replace packing, etc. The bees will suck the contents out of the jar in one or two days, though of itself it will not run out. I think this is an improved method of using the Mason jar as a feeder. Of course they are cheap, as you spoil only the covers, and every one has empty Mason jars not in use at this season of the year.

**Beets for Milch Cows.**

A bulletin of the Ohio agricultural experiment station gives the results of experiment in feeding sugar beets to milch cows, made during the past winter, with a summary of two similar experiments, one made by the station in 1889 and one by the farm department. In the last named experiment eight cows were kept under the test for eleven weeks; in 1889 twelve cows for eight weeks, and in 1890, twelve cows for nine weeks, the cows in each case being weighed daily, as well as their feed and milk. In each of three experiments the cows ate more hay and more total dry matter when feeding on beets than on other foods and in each case more milk was given from the beets than from the other foods, but it is not yet demonstrated that the increase of milk was produced economically.

For twelve years records have been kept on the farm now occupied by the station, which shows that the average yield of beets over this period has been nearly sixteen tons per acre, against an annual yield of about fifty-five bushels of shelled corn per acre. But a crop of fifty-five bushels of shelled corn with its fodder, will contain nearly twice as much dry matter as sixteen tons of beets, and these experiments indicate that, whether fed dry, as cornmeal and dry fodder, or as corn ensilage, the dry matter of the corn crop will be found as effective, pound for pound, as the dry matter of the beet crop. It is possible to raise much more than sixteen tons of beets to the acre. One crop of two acres is reported at thirty-seven and one-half tons per acre, and smaller areas have given still larger yields, but such crops require very rich land and thorough culture. Whether it is possible to produce a pound of dry matter in beets as economically as it can be done in corn is not definitely settled

but the probabilities are against it.

**Picking Geese**

The picking should be done in a close room, as every breath of air will scatter the feathers and down. The bird having been taken up, a long stocking should be drawn over its head and down upon the neck to prevent its severe biting. The wings must either be held or secured in some way, as they are powerful organs and capable of leaving black and blue marks where they fall. The bird might be secured to a table, as is recommended in fastening chickens undergoing the operation of coponizing. The small feathers should be removed, and all the large ones except four or five under each wing, which must be plucked to keep the wing from drooping, should be left. The down should be removed only in very warm weather.

The number of times it is advisable to pick geese will depend upon the climate, some seasons being more favorable than others, but will average about three. When the quill of the feather is ripe—that is, clear, not filled with bloody matter—picking may be employed, but at no other times. From three pickings about one pound of feathers will be obtained, and these will bring from fifty to seventy-five cents a pound,—not a small item of profit where geese are kept in large numbers. The goslings may be picked when about nine weeks old. At the first picking all the feathers on the back and shoulders, and the large ones on the hips should be left. In about six weeks they may be picked a second time and more freely. Personally we should prefer not to pick them more than once before arriving at a marketable age, and that once when they were about three and a half months old.—Poultry Yard.

**Tapeworms in Oleo.**

Col. Q. M. Littler, Secretary of the National Butter, Cheese and Egg Association, says that: "Anybody who says that butterine is healthful and wholesome, either does not know what he is talking about or else lies. Why are there so many tapeworms and so many cases of Bright's disease since butterine came into use? The embryo tapeworm exists very freely in leaf lard. This lard must be cooked if you want to destroy the animalculæ. It is not cooked, it is only warmed in the manufactories of butterine. I can show any one, by the use of the microscope, the animalculæ. When a hog has them bad, it is called measly. No matter how carefully it may be prepared, butterine contains acids that are not to be found in butter. There is a very easy way of proving this. Put calomel into butterine and you have corrosive sublimate. The Lord only knows how many people have been mysteriously poisoned by taking a dose of calomel after they have eaten butterine."

A great flax and hemp industry is growing in Minnesota. Over 400,000 acres were devoted to flax last year. At Huron lake, in southern Minnesota, \$60,000 have been invested in a hemp and tow mill, the owner of which grew 60 acres of hemplast year to be worked up in the mill.

It pays to give every sow full possession of a roomy compartment or of a pen when she farrows, and she should be placed in it two weeks before the event, that she may become accustomed to her surroundings. Otherwise at farrowing times she will be nervous—the thing to be avoided.

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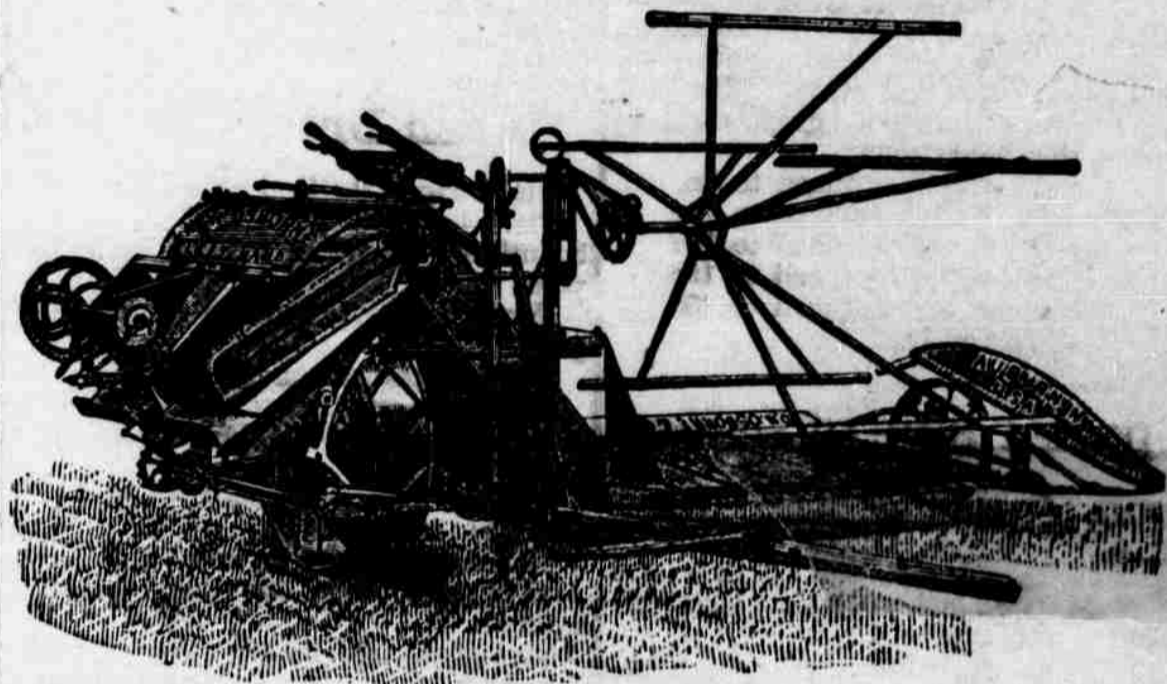
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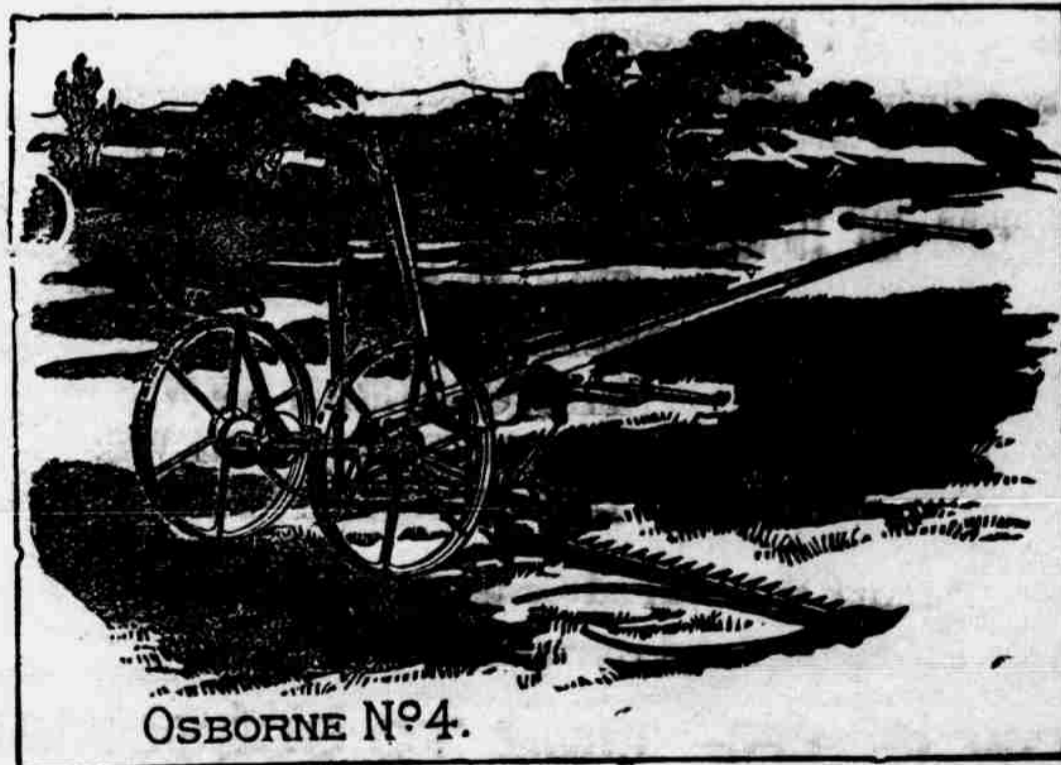
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