

REAL RURAL READING

A DEPARTMENT FOR OUR LOCAL AGRICULTURISTS.

Farmers Should Carefully Consult the Markets—A Homemade Row Marker—Variety in Pasture—Cheap Feed Rack—Gooseberries and Currants—General Farm Notes.

Consulting the Markets.

To meet a demand for special products, one must know what the demand is, writes a correspondent of an agricultural journal. The special requirements of a market may be nothing better than a mere whim or caprice, but they must be met if a ready sale is expected. If the market requires brown-shelled eggs it is folly to offer those with white shells. The latter may be just as good as the former, but so long as the former have the call they are the ones to be furnished. Or if the market requires yellow legs and yellow skin on dressed poultry, it is unwise to offer poultry with white skin and dark or white legs. It is true that people do not eat the shanks of fowl, and some of the best table fowls in the world have white, or dark shanks and a white skin, but so long as the fancy of the buyer demands the yellow color, that is the color to supply. One cannot afford to spend his time educating people out of their whimsical notions, if he expects to make money out of his trade. So long as no principle is sacrificed, so long as their notions can harm no one, not even themselves, the poultry raiser is not bound to sacrifice his profits in attempting to remove the prejudices of his customers. He is raising fowls for business, not for fun, and must adopt business methods, always remembering there is some good reason for the public taste and fashion.

A Row Marker.

To insure straight rows in field or garden, the ground should be marked before planting. A convenient implement for this purpose is shown in the accompanying illustration, from the American Agriculturist. A six-inch pole twelve feet long, of red elm or white oak has a tongue pinned below it and braced by an old arch of a two-horse cultivator morticed through the pole and pinned above the tongue. A second pole four feet long is attached to the first by pieces of one-fourth by one and



A HOMEMADE MARKER

one-fourth inch strap of iron passing loosely around the front pole, but bolted to the blocks which are twenty inches long and six inches through, and pinned above the back pole. The hole for the marker pins should be bored where needed. Wood pins need one and one-half inch holes, iron pins one-half inch. These holes should be bored that the pins will slant back while marking. The pins which fasten the back pole to the connecting blocks should be made six inches longer for this purpose. A double tree can be attached to the tongue in the usual manner. By using a heavy back log, an excellent clod crusher, leveler, or weed and cornstalk breaker can be made.

Farmers as Speculators.

"Talk about speculators," said a produce dealer the other day: "The one isn't a greater speculator out than the farmer. If the price of any product goes up he never wants to sell; no matter how high the price, he always wants more. After the price begins to go down he wants to sell, and usually gets a lower price than he might have obtained." Unfortunately there is too much of truth in this statement. The dealer in question cited several instances in support of his statement. Every seller wishes to get all possible for his wares. This is natural and right, but it isn't always easy to tell just when the right point has been reached. It is generally better to sell on a rising than on a falling market. When an unusual high figure has been attained, it isn't reasonable to suppose that that price will be long sustained.—Rural New-Yorker.

Gooseberries and Currants.

Goose berries and currants do best when planted on a north or east slope. Too much sun is not good for them. But both gooseberries and currants must have good culture and the worm must be killed as soon as they are hatched. They hatch out on the lower leaves about blooming time, or a little later. The grower must keep his eye peeled, for it only takes these pests about two days to strip off every leaf, and that means no crop. There are several broods of them in a season. The first coming before the fruit is formed may be killed with paris green; later broods with hellebore. The successful growth of any of these fruits for market demands constant care and attention, and also knowledge and skill.

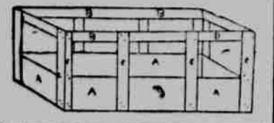
Over Manuring Grain Crops.

The fact that stable manure contains too much nitrogen and too little potash and phosphate makes it unsuitable for manuring the small grains. To furnish the mineral elements that grain crops require an overdose of manure must be given, and this makes an excessive growth of straw. If the stable manure is applied to corn and potato crops, the crops of oats, barley, or wheat grown the second or third years will need only mineral elements. This is especially true of winter wheat. It is sown after more or less summer cultivation which has developed

nitrogen from decaying matters in the soil.

An Idea for a Feed Rack.

This feed rack, described in Farm and Home, is simply a square box, no bottom in, and open at top. It is 10 ft. long, 3 1/2 ft. wide and 4 ft. high. The letters A show the lower part boarded up 20 in. The letters B show the top boards 1x6 in. The letters C are the upright boards 1x4 ft. long, all well nailed together with wrought nails and clinched. Each side of the rack is made separately, then hooked together with hook and



staples at each corner above and below. The feed is thrown in at the top. Cattle reach in through the spaces between the boards C to eat. This rack is intended for hay, corn, fodder or feed of such kind. It is far better than the old X rail racks, as cattle do not need to reach overhead to eat and get their eyes full of dirt, but reach down, which is natural. Neither can they run over their feed and dirty and waste it. If intended for sheep made the spaces for reaching the feed smaller or the sheep will jump inside.

Variety in Pasture.

Farmers do not either for meadow and pasture need down with sufficient variety to make the best feed. Only amateur wealthy farmers sow the sweet-cented vernal grass. Yet who has been over a field that has had even a little of this in hay time, who has not been delighted with its fragrance. It is good, too, in the hay now, for the sweet perfume permeates the entire mass, and stock of all kinds eat it better. Besides, with a variety of grass there is sure to be a good stand, one succeeding where another has failed. It is far better to have a variety of the best grasses in pasture than a scattering of timothy and clover and all the bare spaces filled with weeds.

Clean Cultivation of Small Fruits.

Strawberries, raspberries, and other small fruit plants require frequent and clean cultivation to produce the best results. When grown in large quantities, they should be so planted as to admit of horse cultivation. On land free from stones, a careful man with a steady horse and the use of the improved cultivators the work can be so neatly and closely done that but little use of the hand hoe is required. The great point is to commence the cultivation early, when the weeds are small and easily destroyed with shallow stirring, which disturbs no roots.

Work for Rainy Days.

It is so often necessary to work over hours in pleasant weather that when a rainy day comes in summer the farmer may profitably devote it partly to intellectual improvement. He can at least then take time to estimate carefully what needs to be done and plan as to the best way of doing it. This will require study and prove the best possible intellectual exercise. It is at least requires as much executive ability to keep everything on a large farm in order and working smoothly as it does to manage a manufacturing or commercial business.

Rapid Cooling of Milk.

The housekeeper always sets milk in a cool place, not merely as she says "to keep it better," but to insure the more rapid separation of cream from the water and casein with which in milk it is always mixed. The creamery does this by enclosing the milk in ice, so suddenly cooling it that the cream rises without having the milk soured. Its process is patented, but the idea is not, and explanation of the principle will help housewives to make more and better butter, even though they cannot afford to buy a creamer.

Cause of Sour Silage.

One of the principal causes of sour silage is cutting corn too green. Dr. Miles tells us that sour silage may often be caused by too rapid filling, excluding the air, so that the temperature is not allowed to rise high enough to kill the bacteria causing the fermentation. Cases are cited where slow filling and loose packing have resulted in excellent sweet silage. It is probable, however, that the maturity of the corn has more to do with its acid condition than the manner of filling.

Poultry Notes.

Dust is death to lice, and the fowls should have free access to it. ONCE a week parch a little cracked corn quite brown and feed to chickens. CHICKENS, like sheep, cannot be crowded together in large flocks without breeding disease and becoming an easy prey to death. A PEKIN duck lays from 120 to 150 eggs in a year, and it is not hard to make a pair of young Pekins weigh ten pounds when ten weeks old. They are a profitable fowl.

LINKED meal is excellent for poultry, containing, as it does, portions of nitrogen that is of benefit to fowls. It is not intended as a regular daily food, but once a week is not out of place. THE annoyance of having too many males among the flock of hens ought to cease soon after the egg for early chickens are dropped and set. Few people make anything from the late-set eggs, and the hens will produce more eggs if not made fertile than they will if the rooster is always in their company.

You can Economize

By using Royal Baking Powder to the exclusion of all other leavening agents. The official analysts report it to be 27% greater in leavening strength than the other powders. It has three times the leavening strength of many of the cheap alum powders.

It never fails to make good bread, biscuit and cake, so that there is no flour, eggs or butter spoiled and wasted in heavy, sour and uneatable food.

Do dealers attempt, because times are dull, to work off old stock, or low grade brands of baking powder? Decline to buy them. During these times all desire to be economical, and

Royal is the most Economical Baking Powder.

Wild geese fly from Florida to Connecticut in 14 hours.

Oldham, England, has a furnace for the destruction of the town's refuse which burns at such a high temperature that its heat, applied to raising steam, furnishes sufficient power to more than cover the cost of the collection and burning of the refuse.

There is now a ventilated boot, the ventilation being effected by means of a small bellows attachment to the leg of the boot and connected by a tube with a perforated extra insole, the act of walking keeping the bellows active.

The Parson Wins as Usual.

Annie Thomas is the only woman in Kamahia county, state of Washington. She is a squatter and lives in Rattlesnake Hills. There has of late been a great strife for her hand in marriage among the rough settlers of that region. Hank Monley and Jerry Woods seemed to be the highest in her favor, and so it was finally agreed that these two men should settle the question between them by a duel with bowie knives. After a desperate fight in which both were wounded the battle was declared a draw. It was then agreed that the matrimonial question should be settled by a game of seven-up. The fortune of cards favored Monley, and he was declared the winner of the squatter bride. A parson was called in to assure him his prize. The fickle Annie had a long talk with the parson, and, though she had never seen him before, she at last announced her intention of marrying the parson himself and not Monley. In vain did the hero of the bowie knife duel and the victor in the game of seven-up object to this proceeding. The woman was firm in her intention, and the upshot of the matter was that the parson got the woman.

A Moorish City of Today.

Seville is today as much a Moorish city as it was 300 years ago, at the expulsion of the Saracens. The arrangement and plan of the dwellings are the same as on the Euphrates and Tigris, but they are more beautified and embellished by art and by the wealth which these Moslems in Spain and Sicily had at their command. It is a remarkable fact that the Arabs, who in their native land have never risen above the lowest stage of civilization, but have always been a nomadic, pastoral people, became in Europe the bearers of knowledge and refinement. Poetry and history, mathematics, astronomy and architecture flourished with them when the Christian west had sunk into dark barbarism.

There is no more beautiful poetry than their lamentations for their lost paradise of Granada, and in their encounters with Christian chivalry they often displayed a romantic valor and generosity which served their enemies for a model.—Moltke.

Mrs. Hodgson Burnett and her sister picked and sold wild grapes to get money to pay for paper, envelopes and stamps which took her first stories to an editor from the Tennessee mountains, where they lived.

John Ruskin, the new laureate, wrote his first book, "Modern Painters," not, as he said, for fame or for money or for conscience sake, but of necessity. Yet it brought him both fame and money. The ship canal across the isthmus of Corinth will probably be ready about next September.

A Little Red Spot

Appeared on my left leg below the knee, and it gradually spread until I was covered with blotches and patches, which the physician called psoriasis, itching and burning terribly. Rev. Mr. DARRIS, Father Cantelver urged me to take Hood's Sarsaparilla. I did so with wonderful results. The large scales peeled off, the itching and burning subsided and I am perfectly cured." THOMAS DARRIS, Green Bay Wisconsin.

Hood's Sarsaparilla Cures
HOOD'S PILLS are the best after-dinner Pills, assist digestion, cure headache. 25.

Roundsmen—We ought to peric charge against Officer O'Houlihan.

Captain—What for?

Roundsmen—For conduct unbecoming an officer.

"It was awfully clever of baby. He had never been told what flowers were, but the minute he saw them he said 'Bwoob!'"

"But what does 'Bwoob' mean?" "Flowers, of course."—Bazar.

E hel—"But you were well off before you were married."

Maud—"Yes; but I didn't know it."—Litt.

The Meager Pay of a British Private.

While the nominal pay of a British private is 1 shilling a day, or 24 cents, he really does not receive much more than half that in actual cash. Deductions are charged to his account for extra supplies of rations and for washing, which bring the net amount placed to his credit down to about 4 shillings or \$1 per week. Most of the table supplies which the ordinary citizen would rate as necessities are "extras" in the soldier's bill of fare. Butter, tea, coffee, sugar, any excess of meat above half a pound daily, vegetables, fish and everything beyond his pittance of meat and bread have to be paid for out of his 24 cents. From the same slim source also has to come the cost of repairs to his clothing and the amount of the practically compulsory, though nominal, optional, subscriptions to the cricket shooting and athletic clubs connected with the regiment. A still further deduction of 10 cents per month is taken off his diminished pay for the cost of "repairs to barracks," a mysterious item charged in accordance with a venerable custom, of which no one in the army can give any satisfactory account other than established custom.—Philadelphia Times.

The Same Then as Now.

Where are the croakers who say the "everything was all right in the good old days?" Here comes along a diarist written by a lady of fashion some fifty years ago, and among other complaints which are like echoes of those we hear very day, are these: "Our streets are not wide enough for the carriages, no the week long enough for one's engagements. There isn't enough money, enough time to spend it. In short, such a mess!" Also, the writer of the diary, Lady Georgiana de Ros, says: "No wonder girls are delicate if they eat nutmeg chops before dinner!"

New Faith.

Augustus Ihms, a German who owns a farm across the river from Dubuque, Ia., has announced his purpose to found a new religion. He is getting ready a new book of revelations, and will shortly open headquarters in Dubuque. He calls it a natural religion; does not believe in any hereafter, but will strive to provide a heaven on earth, as there is no room for any other. He already has several proselytes who will join him in preaching the new faith.

The Comtesse de Mirabeau Martel, more widely known to fame by her pen name of Gyp, and accredited by one critic at least with being the cleverest newspaper writer of her sex in Europe, is a blond and no longer young. She is of medium stature, with wavy hair and large, brilliant eyes.

Miss Florence Marryat, daughter of the famous writer, has always made literature a profession. She lives alone, attended by two servants, at a pretty little house in West Kensington, London, where she has a remarkable collection of "pets"—dogs, birds and flowers.

Ario Bates, the Boston novelist, has been elected professor of English literature in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mr. Bates is not only a writer of books, but an experienced journalist as well, having been editor of the Boston Courier for several years.

Sir John Gilbert, president of the Royal Society of Painters in Water Colors of Great Britain, has not sold any of his water colors or oil paintings for many years past, intending to build a gallery for them and present the gallery and pictures to the public.

Do not make too many visits, and where you go be sure that your visit is a convenient one.

Nobody ever knew what became of the Yuruk dead, as no one has ever seen a cemetery. All I am able to say is that the body of the deceased is placed on a black mule, destined exclusively for that use, and thus carried to a mountain. There I am not aware whether it is cremated or buried; but as I was told that they also take a heap of firewood, it is safe to believe that cremation takes place.—A. T. M. Andria in Popular Science Monthly.

Press towels folded as usual through our clothes wringer and save your laundress.

Faith as an Element in Curing Illness.

It may be asked whether I am not a believer in the faith cure. Unquestionably I am, as every physician is forced to be before he has been many years in practice. But I believe in the faith cure only when it is subjective. I have not a grain of belief in it when it becomes objective. An more than that, I believe in it only as an aid, as one of the remedial agents which help the patient. I have no belief in it alone except in a small class of nervous diseases. It is perfectly well known that the physician who is most successful with a patient is he in whom that patient has the most confidence, and it is equally a fact that the belief which the majority of patients have in the power of physicians to help them is one of the most important, if not the most important, factor in the successful practice of medicine. What are these but variants of the faith cure?

Every physician has seen cases in which the patient was convinced he or she would die, and this frame of mind is of all the most dreaded by medical men, for when it appears drugs lose much if not all of their power to aid. But while we recognize all these things we can yet condemn and laugh at the practice of the faith curists, for they declare their power to be objective, and they claim for it an extent and range which are absurd.—Cyrus Edson, M. D., in North American Review.

HALL'S CATARRH CURE is a liquid and is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Write for testimonials, free. Manufactured by F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

Bolivia is not printed on any English maps, and no representative is sent there from Great Britain. The cause of this is that some 39 years ago a dinner in that country the Bolivian ruler forced the English minister to kiss the foot of an actress who had been invited to the dinner. The minister returned home and reported the case with the above result.

Dobbin's new Perfect Soap retails for 5c, and is unapproached in purity, quality, and appearance by any 5c soap made. Your grocer will get it. Try at once, if you are using 5c soap.

Palgrave describes a plant growing in Arabia which produces peculiar seeds. Any one taking them begins to sing loudly and boisterously and then sings dances and cuts all kinds of fantastic capers, the effect continuing for about an hour. When the excitement ceases, the exhausted individual falls into a deep sleep.

B. F. ALLEN Co., 365 Canal St., New York, are sole agents in the United States for Becham's Pills. 25 cents a box.

Before going for a midday stroll your face, neck and hands with simple cream and powder gently with cornstarch. Wipe the powder off, and returning wash the complexion well in warm water and with castile soap.—Ladies' Home Journal.

N. K. Brown's Essence Jamaica Ginger is the perfect pain killer. None better. Try it. 25 cents.

A worker in the Youngstown iron mill has hair that is naturally white, but after working in the mills a few hours and becoming heated it turns a brilliant red. When the man leaves the mill and cools off, his hair assumes its natural color.

If one holds his breath he is against the sting of a bee. I have said the bee may be held by the legs and he will try to sting, but will never succeed until the breath is expelled, and then he will accomplish his purpose with speed and certainty.

Many a good book has been written in prison. Socrates, Cervantes, Bunyan, Defoe, Lovelace, Tasso, Beranger, Raleigh, George Wither and James Montgomery all continued their literary labors while suffering from a curtailment of liberty.

A scientist says that 363 species of spiders have been found in the Upper Cayuga lake basin, 370 in the District of Columbia and 340 in New England. From the polar regions 292 species are reported.

IT COVERS A GOOD DEAL OF GROUND

Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. And when you hear that it cures so many diseases, perhaps you think "It's too good to be true."

But it's only reasonable. As a blood-cleanser, flesh-builder, and strength-restorer, nothing like the "Discovery" is known to medical science. The diseases that it cures come from a torpid liver, or from impure blood. For everything of this nature, it is the only guaranteed remedy. In Dyspepsia, Biliousness; all Bronchial, Throat and Lung affections; every form of Scrofula, even Consumption (or Lung-scrofula) in its earlier stages, and in the most stubborn Skin and Scalp Diseases—if it ever fails to benefit or cure, you have your money back.

The worse your Catarrh, the more you need Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy. Its proprietors offer \$500 cash for a case of Catarrh in the Head which they cannot cure.

N. K. U. No. 241-30 New York, Neb. WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS, please say you saw the advertisement in this paper.

Oscar Wilde is giving sittings for his bust to Henry Teixeira de Mattos, the well known Dutch sculptor, some of whose work has found a place in the Royal academy exhibition of this and past years.

John Burroughs, the author, has 10 acres of grapes on his country estate over-looking the Hudson. The preparation of the fruit for market he scrutinizes as carefully as he does a proofsheet of one of his new books.

Allow double the amount of time in catching boats and trains that you do in winter.

"August Flower"

Miss C. G. McCLAVE, School-teacher, 753 Park Place, Elmira, N. Y. "This Spring while away from home teaching my first term in a country school I was perfectly wretched with that human agony called dyspepsia. After dieting for two weeks and getting no better, a friend wrote me, suggesting that I take August Flower. The very next day I purchased a bottle. I am delighted to say that August Flower helped me so that I have quite recovered from my indisposition."



KNOWLEDGE

Brings comfort and improvement and tends to personal enjoyment when rightly used. The many, who live better than others and enjoy life more, with less expenditure, by more promptly adapting the world's best products to the needs of physical being, will attest the value to health of the pure liquid laxative principles embraced in the remedy, Syrup of Figs.

Its excellence is due to its presenting in the form most acceptable and pleasant to the taste, the refreshing and truly beneficial properties of a perfect laxative; effectually cleansing the system, dispelling colds, headaches and fevers and permanently curing constipation. It has given satisfaction to millions and met with the approval of the medical profession, because it acts on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels without weakening them and it is perfectly free from every objectionable substance. Syrup of Figs is for sale by all druggists in 50c and \$1 bottles, but it is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only, whose name is printed on every package, also the name, Syrup of Figs, and being well informed, you will not accept any substitute if offered.

SWIFT'S SPECIFIC

For removing the entire system, eliminating all poisons from the blood, whether of scrofulous or malarial origin, this preparation has no equal.

THE S.S.S. REMEDY

"For eighteen months I had an eating sore on my tongue. I was treated by best local physicians, but obtained no relief; the sore gradually grew worse. I finally took S. S. S., and was entirely cured after using a few bottles."

C. B. McLAUGHLIN, Henderson, Tex.

Treatise on Blood and Skin Diseases mailed free. THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., ALBANY, GA.

Bile Beans

Positively cure Bilious Attacks, Constipation, Sick-Headache, etc. 25 cents per bottle, at Drug Stores.

Write for sample dose, free.

J. F. SMITH & CO., Prop.-New York.

LEWIS' 98% LYE

Powdered and Perfumed. (PATENTED.) The strongest and purest Lye made. Unlike other Lye, it being a fine powder and packed in a can with removal in lid, the contents are always ready for use. Will make the best-perfumed Hard Soap in 30 minutes without boiling. It is the best for cleaning waste-pipes, disinfecting sinks, closets, washing bottles, paints, trees, etc. PENNSYLVANIA, U. S. PAT. OFF. Gen. Agts., Phila., Pa.

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Pico's Remedy for Catarrh in the Best, Easiest to Use, and Cheapest.

CATARRH

Sold by Druggists or sent by mail. Dr. S. S. Hession, Warren, Pa.