

DAY-DREAMS.

Just within the cottage door
Baby plays upon the floor,
While the mother, with her knitting,
On the low dais sits;
And the golden summer day
With the twilight slips away.

Building castles in the air,
Seeing visions bright and fair,
In that golden hour of haze,
Till the busy hands grow lazy,
And her work unheeded lies
'Neath her far-off dreamy eyes.

No more toiling day and night,
But a life as fair and bright,
That, without a stint or measure,
She is drinking deep of pleasure,
In that visionary sphere
Which her dreaming brings so near.

She is plinking at her case
Golden fruits her taste to please;
She is lifted in her vision
To the far-off bright Elysium,
While the twilight slowly dies,
And gray shadows fill the skies.

But hark! that merry song
On the night breeze ringing on
Sets the bright air-castles falling,
For the fisher's voice is calling;
And the mother's dreams are over—
She's the father's wife once more.

AGRICULTURE.

System and Economy in Farming—
Fertilizing—Irrigation—Wor-
derful Results.

Editor Nebraska Advertiser.

I have been so interested in perusing the paper, "Agriculture in Japan," by Horace Capron, printed in the annual report of the United States department of agriculture for the year 1874, that I have condensed some of the more important points by making the following extracts which I am quite sure cannot fail to interest your agricultural readers. One important matter to which I have given much attention and study for years, is presented so forcibly, I am anxious to have others who may, perchance, entertain doubts, read what those of more knowledge and experience have to say upon this subject. I refer to irrigation as a means of increasing the production of the soil. No region of country on the face of the globe is so admirably adapted to a general system of irrigation as that situated between the Missouri river and the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains. The fall between these points is just one mile—a distance of six hundred miles—commanding the waters created and fed from mountain snows and disintegration, containing more fertilizing properties than can be computed almost. Actual experiments have shown a yield of ninety-five bushels of wheat and nine hundred bushels of potatoes to the acre, by irrigation with these waters. But I am digressing.

General Capron, it will be remembered, was the immediate predecessor of the present United States commissioner of agriculture, and has a fame world-wide as a practical scientific agriculturist, and therefore what he says upon any subject connected with agriculture is not called in question by those who know the man. The General has been in Japan for a number of years in the employ of that government introducing American features of agriculture, and thinks in many respects he can learn much from that people. In this event General Capron's mission may prove of double value by receiving as well as imparting valuable information. In fact this is an agricultural characteristic everywhere. Much of the practical is learned of each other by intercourse and interchange of thoughts and experiences.

ROBT. W. FURNAS.
EXTRACTS FROM HORACE CAPRON'S "AGRICULTURE IN JAPAN."
The great antiquity of agriculture in Japan, the rigid adherence to the most ancient modes of cultivation, the incomparable cheapness of labor, the thorough character of the tillage, the economy and application of fertilizers, the extent and completeness of the system of irrigation, (which utilizes the whole water-system of the empire,) and the high and continued fertility of the soil after thousands of years of successive cropings, are all of the highest interest to the agriculturist in America. A general knowledge of the character of the soil and climate of any country is a conditional precedent to an intelligent comprehension of its agriculture.

* Agriculture in Japan occupies the same parallels of latitude that it does in the United States, that is, from the latitude of the capes of Florida on the south to the latitude of the British boundary on the north.

* Every variety of tree or shrub known in the temperate and tropical climates meet and blend so perfectly here that their influence upon the climate and rainfall must not be overlooked. In this connection it may be proper to say that these uncivilized people, as they are called, have adopted a policy the very converse of that followed in America and Europe in relation to these protecting coverings of nature. The Japanese government have preserved these forests, and in fact insured their increase. No license to cut down a tree is granted, except upon condition that three more shall be planted and grown in its stead.

Every month has its planting time for some kind of vegetation, and its harvest for others, generally of the simplest kind of food products.

It is these climatic influences, together with a perfect system of irrigation, high cultivation of soil, augmented by the application of scrupulous care and applied with a lavish hand, that enable the farmers of Japan, without foreign aid, and with half its agricultural capabilities untouched, to supply its dense population of over 33,000,000 of people.

Japan has a rain fall as great, and in some localities greater, than in Alabama and Oregon, (which have by far the greatest precipitation of moisture in the United States.) In Japan the annual rain fall along the seacoast is 55 inches. In the interior, at the foot of the mountain ranges, the fall is much greater, in some places amounting to 75 inches.

With their great rain-fall, three times as great as the average of the United States, and with their abundance of living streams and springs, these agricultural people have found irrigation so useful and beneficial that they have constructed a vast and universal system of irrigation by immense labor. Reservoirs have been built everywhere on the higher grounds, from which a perfect network of great and small canals radiates to all the tilled land. The system of irrigation known to us as practiced by the Moors in Spain, by the Aztecs in Mexico and Peru, and by the ancients in Egypt and India, was confined in limited districts; here it is in every valley and on every hill side, and is as old as their occupation of the islands.

What a lesson is there here for us in America! With only one-third of their rain, with a country comparatively easy to irrigate, and with such an inland water-system as is unknown elsewhere, we allow immeasurable volumes of water to be carried to the ocean unused year after year, while our crops fall each season far short of the possibilities of the soil, and fail almost entirely often as every seventh year.

Wheat is sown in November in drills 16 inches apart, one and a quarter bushels of seed to the acre. In three or four weeks a row of peas, turnips, onions, cabbage, or some other kind of vegetable, is planted between these drills, and then the wheat is regularly hoed and irrigated with the vegetables.

In April and May the wheat is ready to harvest. It has a short, but compared to the straw, a heavy head. The stalk seldom grows higher than two feet, and often not more than 20 inches. The Japanese farmers have brought the art of dwarfing to perfection. They claim, and truly, I believe, that the straw of their wheat has been so dwarfed that no matter how much manure is used, it will not grow longer, but that the length of the wheat head is increased. Certain it is, that on their richest soils and with the heaviest yields the wheat stalks never fall down and lodge on the ground, to the great injury of the crop, as in the United States.

Fruits of some kinds are grown in all parts of the empire. The soil and climate are especially adapted to the growth of semi-tropical fruits. The former exclusiveness of Japan prevented the introduction of the better varieties. Isolated as they were, they contented themselves with half a dozen inferior varieties. Oranges, limes, lemons, grapes, persimmons, pears, and some blackberries, all very inferior, (excepting one variety of orange and one of grape,) were all they had. They have wonderful skill in dwarfing fruit trees. All kinds are dwarfed without diminishing the size of the fruit. I think our fruit growers could learn much from the Japanese in this matter. I have seen acres of pear trees not more than four to six feet high. These trees were set out in rows, about the same distance intervening. At the height they wanted the trees to grow, say four or six feet, a lattice work of small bamboo poles is built over the whole orchard. As soon as the shoots of the pear tree grow to this lattice, they are trained to run along it horizontally, and are confined to the poles by hempen strings. When first seen it looks like a grapevine. The wind cannot shake the trees to disturb either the flowers or the fruits. "The most perfect system of training and control over the new growth is in use, so that the sap of the tree, instead of being consumed in the production of a superabundant growth of new shoots, is directed to the growth and perfection of the fruit.

American farmer may be gathered from a careful consideration of the agriculture of these people! The whole area of the settled portion of the Japanese Islands is not much larger than the New England States. Upon this concentrated a population nearly as great as that of the whole United States.

No Norwegian girl is allowed to have a beau until she can bake bread and knit stockings; and as a consequence, every girl can bake and knit long before she can read and write.

A man in using a preacher in England for refusing to give him the sacrament, the latter's reason was that the parishioner does not believe in a 'personal devil!'

A gentleman said to an old lady who had brought up a family of children near a river, "I should think you would have lived in constant fear that some of them would have got drowned." "Oh, no," responded the old lady, "we only lost three or four that way."

Hard Money.

The talk about the good 'old times of hard money' is gabble of the most infantile sort. Andrew Jackson is quoted by the so-called 'Hard Money' Democrats as the man who gave the people of the United States metallic currency in place of rag currency. No more silly mistake could be made.

Do it well.—Whatever you do, do it well. A job slighted because it is apparently unimportant leads to habitual neglect, so that men degenerate, insensibly, into bad workmen.

DELINQUENT TAX-LIST.

Table with columns for Name, Lot No., and Tax amounts. Includes entries for Hildale, Glen Rock, St. Germain, and Sheridan.

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