

FACTS AND FIGURES.

It is stated on good authority that there are 12,500,000 horses in this country, the aggregate value of which exceeds \$600,000,000.

The oldest deed in America is in possession of Major Leland, of New York. It is dated 1510, 18 years after the discovery by Columbus, and conveys Fisher's Island, in Long Island Sound, from certain Indian Chiefs, to John Cabot, whose signature it bears.

The City Assessors of Pittsburgh, Pa., have completed their work, and announce the following as the amount of business done in that city for the year ended April 1, 1882: Iron and steel, \$24,828,800; glass, \$5,505,600; sundry manufacturers, \$33,288,120; general business, \$46,784,520.

According to the report of the Scottish herring fishery for 1881, the yield consisted of 1,111,155 barrels of cured herrings. This number has only once been exceeded—in 1880, when 1,473,600 barrels were obtained.

Eight million three hundred and sixty-six thousand bushels of salt were made in the Onondaga reservation during the fiscal year ended September 30, 1882, being the largest production of any year since 1871, and an increase over last year of 732,000 bushels.

Cincinnati has received about 1,500,000 baskets of peaches this season, and about 500,000 went direct to New England cities. The Baltimore and Philadelphia canners are said to have used up another million and a half baskets.

The present issue of the Year Book of the Young Men's Christian Association states that there are in the United States and Canada 779 associations, and 82,375 members. The property owned by these associations is valued at \$3,350,000, and their annual expenditures aggregate \$500,000.

The number of pieces of mail matter handled during the last fiscal year by nine of the largest cities was as follows: Baltimore, 30,495,159; Boston, 82,389,760; Brooklyn, 29,435,154; Chicago, 114,832,007; Cincinnati, 27,285,207; New York, 238,578,203; Philadelphia, 144,894,869; St. Louis, 41,665,249; San Francisco, 23,046,513.

WIT AND WISDOM.

A miner fell in love with a girl at first sight, she was equally smitten with him, and the entire courtship was: "My pet?" "You bet!"

"When are we going to get our Gilt-Edged Tonic?" asked a prisoner in the Austin jail of the jailer. "What do you want it for?" "I read in the papers that persons of sedentary habits ought to use it."—Texas Siftings.

"Never let go of a good thing that you really have for a better thing about which there is some doubt. The dog in the fable who dropped a piece of meat to snap at a shadow went hungry the rest of the day."—N. Y. Herald.

A wife wanted her husband to sympathize with her in a feminine quarrel; but he refused, saying: "I've lived long enough to learn that one woman is just as good as another—if not better!" "And I," retorted his exasperated wife, "have lived long enough to learn that one man is just as bad as another—if not worse."—Bohemian.

"As you are going past the grocery store," said Mrs. Brown to her son, "it will save time if you step in and get a pound of tea." "What do I care about saving time?" replied young Brown, contemptuously. "I guess I shall have all the time there is as long as I live, and I ain't a-going to hoard up any for my heirs to squander."—Boston Transcript.

"Grandpa, does hens make their own eggs?" "Yes, indeed they do, Johnnie." "An' do they always put the yoke in the middle?" "Guess they do, Johnnie." "An' do they put the starch around it to keep the yellow from rubbing off?" "Quite likely, my little boy." "An' who sews the cover on?" This stumped the old gentleman, and he barricaded Johnnie's mouth with a lollipop.—London Society.

"Do you mix anything with your candies?" he asked, as he laid his money down and picked up the package of gum drops. "Well, ahem—a little glucose, perhaps." "Anything else?" "Perhaps a little clay." "Any chalk?" "Only a very little—not enough to speak of." "It's of no interest to me, you know," continued the stranger; "but I was wondering why you didn't have your candies made at a regular brick-yard, of the regular material, and have something you could warrant to your customers."—Wall Street News.

Costumes.

A Russian General, who now holds a very important command in the far East, complained, when some five or six years ago, he visited London, that it was impossible to understand on what principle the English dressed themselves. A few male friends had invited him to dinner; and on appearing among them he found himself the only one of the party who wore a frock coat. The next morning he was to breakfast with a few more friends; and, determined this time to be on the safe side, he presented himself in a dress suit. We have met with a novel in which one of the principal incidents was the refusal of a cheek taker at the Royal Italian Opera to admit a distinguished foreigner who, with the regulation evening coat, wore a pair of light-colored trousers such as, in a like connection, would be accepted on the Continent (at least in summer) as quite appropriate to a festive occasion.

Fashions in Calico.

Bright colors and large patterns—loud styles of prints, foulards, cambrics and brocades—have had a remarkable run during the past season, and what is more curious still is that the demand for these goods still continues. It was supposed that as the summer waned and sober-tinted autumn came on people would, in sympathy with nature or from a proper aesthetic taste, adopt less loud styles and more sober colors; but the taste for the loud styles still persists. The trade, however, knowing how quickly the public taste may change, is beginning to be more cautious in handling its goods and looks for a reaction and demand for the smaller patterns and more tasteful, or at least more reasonable, shades, and modest styles. The prices of last week are firmly maintained, and there is no reason why they will not hold throughout. Dress goods continue to demand attention, and the demand for several popular styles is ahead of the supply. In imported goods, especially, the trade is better than it has been for several years. Choice imports are becoming quite scarce in some varieties. Ladies are taking to wearing woollens more and more every year. Plain goods in all the staple colors and new shades are very active. The shades most in demand are myrtles, garnets, bronzes, navies, olives, browns, plums, terra cottas and electric blues.

The "Milk-Cow Racket."

During his wanderings through the yards yesterday the reporter stumbled onto another little scheme which it was thought was exterminated a few months ago, but while there are "suckers" in the world scarpers and other not over-scrupulous persons will always do a "rushing business." The "milk-cow racket" is the term used by those who are posted, and from the profits derived therefrom the racket is a profitable one. Milk cows are always in demand, and the prices obtained approximate sixty dollars. When the demand exceeds the supply the "scalper," in order to "accommodate" the customer, goes to some remote pen and purchases a cow called a "stripper"—that is, one whose days of usefulness as a milker are over. A calf a few days old is then purchased for a few dollars and tied in a pen along with the cow, which is supposed to be its mother. The customer soon makes his appearance and a trade is effected—the purchaser takes the bogus cow and calf and the accommodating "scalper" the sixty dollars. The trick is soon found out, and the buyer makes a strenuous complaint, but there is no remedy, and he has to accept the inevitable. The trick was practised yesterday, and came to the surface shortly afterwards. The buyer on this occasion made an unusually strong break, which was subsequently settled by a compromise.—Chicago Tribune.

Among the passengers on the mail express leaving Pittsburgh for the East recently was a one-legged man who occupied a seat without any company. He spoke to no one, and attracted no attention. About seventeen miles east of Pittsburgh a loud report was heard, and the one-legged man was seen sitting upright in his seat at a corpse, blood and brains oozing from his right temple. Pension papers were found from which it was learned that his name was George P. Helm, that he was about forty-five years of age, and that he had lost his leg at Gettysburg.—Chicago Times.

Newspapers throughout Kansas claim that there is an unprecedented scarcity of male help on the farm and female help in the kitchen.

The Methodist Book Concern has purchased the subscription list and good will of the New York Methodist, which will be transferred to the Christian Advocate.

USEFUL AND SUGGESTIVE.

When danger from frost is apprehended, carefully pull the tomato vines that are yet loaded with fruit and hang them up in the cellar, as many will ripen sufficiently for use.

A guest-chamber should always be furnished with a hand-glass, button-hook, pins, hair-pins, brush and comb, clothes-brush, and also needles, thread and scissors.—Harper's Bazar.

Give one day to a thorough cleaning of your cellar. Throw away all dirt, rotten wood and decayed vegetables, if any. Brush down the walls with an old broom and apply a good, thick coat of whitewash.—N. Y. Herald.

A correspondent of the New England Farmer says he doesn't see how farmers can find time to be idle at any season, and especially in summer or fall, when there are bushes to be cut, stone to be picked, fences to be built and repaired, buildings to be erected, wood to be cut and land to clear. Time is money, to the farmer as to every one else, and he is a spendthrift who idles it away.

Always select good ears of corn for seed—the best you can find. Take them from the stalks bearing two or more ears. "A perfect ear," says the American Agriculturist, "has all rows perfect, a small butt end, the cob well tipped out with grain and covered with husks, the kernel uniform and well ripened." The careful selection of ears is one of the ways of improving the quality and increasing the quantity of future crops.

A man who once gets thoroughly into the work of breeding fine stock is seldom willing to abandon it for some other pursuit, no matter how lucrative the new venture may be. The field it offers for the study of scientific physiology, the possibilities of combination and development, and the broad opportunities for experiment, are afforded in no other business. There is a fascination in the production of fine stock which no other industry can claim.—New England Farmer.

For chicken pie make the crust like baking-powder biscuit, only a little shorter. Have it half an inch thick and line a four-quart pan with it. Broil two small chickens until tender, and place the pieces smoothly in the pan; sprinkle salt, pepper and a little flour over them and add about a large tablespoonful of butter; pour over all a little of the liquor the chickens were broiled in and spread on the top crust about half an inch thick, cutting air-holes in it. Bake until the crust is thoroughly done.—Chicago News.

Raised Doughnuts: At noon take a bowl that will hold a good large pint, put into it two cups of sugar, then pour boiling water on until the bowl is full, add a piece of butter the size of a large egg; as soon as cool enough add one cup of yeast, putting all into a larger dish or pan, nutmeg or cassia, a little salt, and flour to make a stiff batter, let it rise until morning, stir in flour to knead, let rise again, then roll and cut out before the fat is put on to heat, as it gives them a chance to rise a little before frying. Set them into the oven to warm before eating.—Prairie Farmer.

Floor Coverings.

It is a mooted question whether matting should be taken up and laid away or left on the floor under the carpet. Under an ingrain the seams in the matting undoubtedly wear the carpet, unless three or more thicknesses of paper are laid between them. Tapestry and Brussels carpeting are but little affected by the matting which undoubtedly keeps better upon the floor. Indeed, if it is left down and covered with coarse brown wrapping paper, such as grocers use, put between it and the carpet, it will be found nicely cleaned by spring. We have found stains which resisted all other applications disappear entirely under such treatment.

Carpets which have been laid away for the summer should be carefully examined before putting down, and if the moths have invaded them, should at once be sent to the steam-cleaners. Ingrain carpets may be nicely mended by slipping a patch under the hole and pasting patch and carpet together with stiff flour paste, taking care that the figures match, and ironing with a hot iron to make the edges lie smooth and adhere properly.

The popular fancy for rugs and mats is an economical one, since it renders it easy to hide any worn or faded spots in the carpet under their friendly shelter.

A faded carpet may often be much freshened by washing with beef's gall and water—one part of gall to three of cold water. Rub this into the carpet either with a clean flannel or a soft brush; rinse the latter off with cold water, and rub the carpet dry with a soft cloth. If there are any very dirty places wash them with gall only. It will be wise to speak for the gall a few days before it is needed. Light-colored Brussels or velvet carpets may be dyed to form the center of a large rug, or for a carpet with bright border. Dyeing will expose any worn places mercilessly, for the carpet must necessarily be dyed all one color; but where the carpet is a good one, and the light color is objected to, the experiment will probably prove satisfactory in the highest degree, giving an entirely new effect, well suited to the fashion of the day.

Stained floors with large rugs in the center of the room grow constantly in favor, and some handsome new houses have floors of costly woods highly polished for the purpose. Elegant Turkish and Persian rugs are used on these, but the fashion obtains also in cheaper fabrics, and ingrain and tapestry rugs are shown in abundance at the carpet stores, along with the pretty Smyrna rugs which imitate the Oriental carpets.—Philadelphia Press.

How to Learn Farming.

It is impossible to learn farming in a few easy lessons. Years of practical experience are required, and though such a teacher may be the dearest, yet it is unquestionably the best. There are at all times in this country many individuals who fancy that they would like farming, and are anxious to learn its best methods. Unfortunately, few of these are young men, and fewer still are willing to commence at the beginning and plod upward, as one must in so prosaic a business as farming. Most of these persons have high notions of the improvements they can make in the common farm methods. All these facts tell against the probability of success. It was, we believe, one of the best of Dickens' characters, good, honest Joe Gargery, who advised Pip that the way to be one an uncommon scholar was first to make one's self a good common scholar. There is sound philosophy in this advice, and it is especially applicable to farming. Not to underrate the good work done by amateurs and fancy farmers, it is still certain that most of the great improvements in farming methods have been introduced by those born and bred on the farm and dependent on it for their livelihood and success. John Johnston, who introduced tile-draining in this country, is, perhaps, the best example of this type of farmers. If he had been a man of wealth taking up under-draining as a favorite hobby upon which to spend his surplus money, he would have had few followers. Being a poor man, heavily in debt for his farm, and paying for it by the judicious and liberal use of money in tides and sheep, his example proved contagious. The great majority of enterprising American farmers were in his condition, hence, that which was good for him was presumably good for them also.

Probably the best method of becoming a good farmer, for one who has had no practical experience, is to serve an apprenticeship, working with and for the best farmer in the vicinity, and studying his methods. Of course few or no wealthy men will do this, though so distinguished a personage as Peter the Great, of Russia, worked for years as an apprentice at sheep-raising, until he had thoroughly mastered the art. But successful farming is much more complex than any trade, and demands more constant thought than most branches of professional life, together with executive ability equal to the management of any business. Is it to be wondered at that success rarely crowns the efforts of those who begin farming after middle age and with little knowledge of its details?

It must be remembered that farming is now, in most localities, a much more complicated art than it was thirty to fifty years ago. Knowledge gained then will not avail now. In some sections the substitution of mixed husbandry in place of one or two staples has driven from their farms the original occupants, who could not, or would not, learn the new methods. It is no longer possible anywhere to farm in the old rut, as was done by nearly everybody when the country was new and the successive crops of wheat, cotton or tobacco were the sole rotation until the soil became too poor to produce a crop. There are few localities now where some effort is not required to restore, or at least to maintain, fertility. Such efforts require thought and investigation.

It is, of course, quite unprofessional for an agricultural writer to depreciate the value of what is called "book-farming." But such teaching certainly needs to be taken with due consideration and caution. It requires a good practical and thoughtful farmer to get the most benefit from agricultural books and newspapers. There is not a periodical in the country that will not be worth many times its cost, by its practical hints and suggestions, to the thoughtful mind. On the other hand there is none, however carefully edited, that will not result in heavy losses if its advice is implicitly followed without due regard to varying conditions. There is, in fact, no method adapted to all times, all localities and all circumstances. The main office of the agricultural paper is to incite thought, to prompt action and to stimulate investigation.

It may be added, however, that there is no young, able-bodied man, of fair natural shrewdness, who may not hope to become a successful land-holder and farmer in almost any section of this country, if he sets himself to work with that end in view. It is not necessary to go with us to Horace Greeley advised, though undoubtedly that section has its advantages, yet, dear as land is in some of the Eastern States, there is no place where judicious management with certain crops will not pay for an acre in a single year with the crop grown therefrom. This is emphatically true of market gardeners in and around large cities. It is not for tyros, but for men who thoroughly understand their business, that such successes come. Many of these successful cultivators of the soil began in poverty and worked their way to financial prosperity. While it is true that rose-colored views of the farmer's life may lead to sad failures, yet opposite views which exhibit success to farming as attainable only by those already in possession of accumulated wealth are scarcely less deplorable.—Boston Cultivator.

A Missouri sheep-grower advises breeding from polled rams. The animals, he says, fight less, are never fly-blown around the horns, are more conveniently sheared, keep easier and grow larger. This is his opinion, after nine years' experience.—St. Louis Globe.

Virginia has 172 tobacco factories, which consume 48,000,000 pounds of the weed annually.

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