

"OLD STATE OF PIKE."

THE HOME OF THE STARK BROTHERS' NURSERIES.

One of the Biggest Institutions in the World—Its Trade Extends to Nearly Every Civilized Nation on Earth.

St. Louis Republic, January 7, 1896: One of the largest institutions in Louisiana is the Stark Bros' Nurseries and Orchards company. The trade of the firm extends not only throughout the United States, Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Hungary and other foreign countries, but it has a number of customers both in New Zealand and Australia.

Eighty years ago there came from Kentucky to Pike county the late Judge Stark, then a young man fresh from Old Hickory's New Orleans campaign. He started the nursery and planted the first grafted orchard in the state, having brought the scions on horseback from Kentucky.

The business has descended from father to son, and is now conducted by the third generation, assisted by the fourth. This firm has more than 1,000 traveling solicitors, and employs more people in its offices than would be necessary to run a large manufacturing concern. The extensive packing-houses of the company are adjacent to the city, connected with the railroad by special tracks. From these packing-houses hundreds of carloads of trees are shipped annually. The nursery grounds embrace a number of farms convenient to the city, and even extends to Rockport, Ill., where there is a plant of several million trees.

The peculiarity of the concern is the establishment of large orchards. These orchards in 24 states aggregate nearly 50,000 acres, and more than 3,500,000 trees on the partnership plan. The firm is also interested in as many more trees on the co-operative arrangement. The nurseries have been beneficial not only to their home, but Missouri owes no little of her prestige as a fruit-growing region to the progress and work of development of this firm. The exhibits of this firm, whenever made, attract great attention, and do much to advertise the state. The firm pays large amounts for new varieties of fruit, and conducts the largest business of the kind in America, if not in the world.

Louisiana firms have more traveling men upon the road for them than travel of any other city of the world of its size. This, of course, is largely due to the large number of men employed by the Stark Bros. Nurseries, who furnish their men the most complete, up-to-date outfit ever issued. They are increasing their force of salesmen daily and room for more.

Imitation Antiquities. The genuineness of antiquities is hard to vouch for, as has been proved by an English woman who recently returned home from Egypt. She brought with her a terra cotta figure of a cat which she saw with her own eyes dug up out of the ruins of Karnak. She paid a good price for it, and was delighted with her purchase. Unfortunately, the other day it was knocked down and smashed. Its head was then found to be stuffed with old numbers of the Birmingham Post.—London Times.

Hall's Cathartic Cure Is a constitutional cure. Price, 75c.

No Improvement. "Say, it was a great idea to put the district messenger boys on wheels. I saw one going like the wind today." "Huh! He probably struck a good bicycle road and was trying to complete a century run before delivering his message."—Truth.

Hogman's Camphor Ice with Glycerine. The original and only genuine. Cures Chapped Hands and Feet, Cold Sores, etc. C. G. Clark Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

The girl of the period is not the kind who captivate men.

FITs stopped free and permanent cure. No fits after five days' use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Free \$2 trial bottle and treatise. MARY KLINE'S REMEDY. DR. KLINE, 511 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Some distinction goes with the girl who does not ride a wheel.

An hour with the lawn mower every day is a desirable exercise.

I believe Piso's Cure is the only medicine that will cure consumption.—Anna M. Ross, Williamsport, Pa., Nov. 12, '95.

As soon as Adam named the animals, he had a language.



Gladness Comes

With a better understanding of the transient nature of the many physical ills, which vanish before proper efforts—gentle efforts—pleasant efforts—rightly directed. There is comfort in the knowledge, that so many forms of sickness are not due to any actual disease, but simply to a constipated condition of the system, which the pleasant family laxative, Syrup of Figs, promptly removes. That is why it is the only remedy with millions of families, and is everywhere esteemed so highly by all who value good health. Its beneficial effects are due to the fact, that it is the one remedy which promotes internal cleanliness without debilitating the organs on which it acts. It is therefore all important, in order to get its beneficial effects, to note when you purchase, that you have the genuine article, which is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only and sold by all reputable druggists.

If in the enjoyment of good health, and the system is regular, laxatives or other remedies are then not needed. If afflicted with any actual disease, one may be recommended to the most skillful physicians, but if in need of a laxative, one should have the best, and with the well-informed everywhere, Syrup of Figs stands highest and is most largely used and gives most general satisfaction.

DAIRY AND POULTRY.

INTERESTING CHAPTERS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

How Successful Farmers Operate This Department of the Farm—A Few Hints as to the Care of Live Stock and Poultry.



MRS. A. L. SMITH, Gibson county, Indiana.—I have had considerable experience with the fault mentioned above. I have tried a number of remedies, but have found nothing so effective as changing them to new quarters, and watching them closely for a few days, getting each egg as it is laid. Several years ago I broke a fine lot of Black Langshans of this habit. This year I had a lot of White Javas that got the habit and I broke them in the same way. The cause is chiefly confinement in close runs. I had to shut up my fowls for several days in the house and that is where they learned the habit. I put them into a new run and gathered the eggs as fast as they were laid for a few days and the habit was soon broken up. When I have a hen that is sitting and brings off an egg every time she comes from the nest I cover up her sitting place and take her out and feed and water her every morning, giving her meat scraps if I have any. I do this for several mornings and after that I have no trouble. I practice taking off my hens, feeding them, and putting them back on the nest, covering the eggs with a warm cloth while the hens are off. I use incubators but usually have some hens sitting toward the end of the season. I had one egg eater this season, but soon broke her as above. Hens will not eat eggs if they have proper animal food. A morbid appetite is the cause. If I should find one that could not be broken by the treatment that I have mentioned I would take her off the eggs for a few days and put another hen on them (as I generally have supernumeraries) and give the egg eater a few china eggs to practice on. She would forget her old habit in a few days. One way that hens learn to eat eggs is by having too many hens laying in the same nest. Some of the eggs are broken, and in this way the habit is begun. Whole eggs or half egg shells thrown to them will teach them to break eggs; that was the way my Langshans learned the trick and my Javas learned it by being kept shut up where they were idle. Now when I feed egg shells I always crush them. I now have about 400 chicks. Of the older broods there will weigh eight pounds. The next brood are three weeks younger, and I have two other broods (incubator) at intervals of three weeks in age. The four broods consist of White Javas, White Cochins, White Langshans, and White Plymouth Rocks with a few half-breed Javas with the latter birds.

Dehorning Calves. Cattle ought not to have horns. We all believe that today. It is best to breed them off. There are as good animals of the beef breeds that are polled as that have horns. It is time that horns were bred off the milk breeds. Next best is to prevent the horn starting on the calf. It is not five minutes' time, nor one cent's expense, to do it. I have dehorned many and never failed or made a sore head. After using patented fluids and caustic potash, I now use common concentrated lye, such as the women use for breaking water and making soap. When the calf is less than ten days old is the right time. Simply wet the bump where you expect the horn and rub on as much powdered lye as will equal three grains of corn. Do not wet elsewhere. Let the calf alone thereafter. The scabs will come off and the hair will grow out as nicely as on a natural poll. I do not see that the fighting or butting habit is developed in these dehorned calves. A Jersey bull four years old would have killed my brother had he had horns. He got him down in the pasture and no one was near to help. A shepherd dog came to the rescue. I ask Dr.

Oil in France. The French chamber of deputies has passed a very stringent measure by which it is made illegal for dealers in butter to keep oleo for sale, or vice versa; the fraudulent compositions are only to be sold at places especially designed by the municipality of each town. Moreover, all boxes, firkins, or other packages containing oleo, must bear the word "margarine" in large characters, and a full description must be given of the elements employed in making the composition. In the retail trade all oleo must be placed in bags, on the outside of which are to be found a description of the article with the name and address of the vendor. Full authority is given to the inspectors to enter butter factories and shops, and take specimens for analysis; in the event of the specimens being found pure the cost will be borne by the state. The penalties for an infraction of the new law will vary from six days' to three months' imprisonment, and a fine of \$20 to \$1,000, while in the event of the same person being convicted a second time within a year, the maximum fine will also be imposed. There will also be a heavy fine imposed on persons who place hindrance in the way of the inspectors.

Judicious Feeding of Cattle. In an address, E. P. Lee said: "If we would be successful breeders of cattle, we should give to our cows an abundant supply of healthful food, proper shelter and exercise; then select the best bull we can afford to purchase, for crossing with them; and when this is accomplished, we have employed more or less imperfectly all the processes under which the domestic animals of the same species develop into breeds. Good food, or the lack of it, exercise in moderation or excess, shelter or exposure, and selection or carelessness in crossing, these make up the sum total of the influences which modify constantly, for better or for worse, our horses and cattle, hogs and sheep. The form, constitution, and temper of every domestic animal is, aside from the characteristics of the species, the effect of the interplay of these causes. Judicious feeding, careful treatment in shelter and exercise, and skillful selection for coupling, are the key notes to the breeder's art. If one of these be lacking, breeding is nearly a failure. If all are defective, the animals that result are well nigh worthless. We must be careful in regard to mating. The breeder should notice the defects of the female he wishes to breed, and couple her with a male as nearly perfect as possible; and especially strong in the point where she is weak, and by so doing for a few generations, we shall have arrived at nearly perfection.

Sheep. The history of sheep husbandry dates back to almost as remote a period as that of man, and from that time to the present, has justly occupied a prominent position in the commerce of all civilized nations of the world, being a source of luxury, ornament and profit, and when John Randolph of Roanoke publicly proclaimed that he would at any time go a mile out of his way to kick a sheep, he virtually asserted that it would be a luxury to abuse his best friend. I do not propose in this brief essay to give the origin or history of the various families or kinds of sheep, but will view the subject as it exists in our country at the present time, as a branch of mixed husbandry. That a flock of sheep is a necessity on the farm I unhesitatingly assert. As laborers in the field they are industrious and thorough, feeding upon briars and many other species of vegetable vermin, consuming much of all kinds of forage, both in summer and winter, that is rejected by other stock and converting it into and distributing over the field a more valuable fertilizer than would be in a crude state.—C. C. Morton.

Feeding Vetch Hay. As a preliminary report for the purpose of answering some questions regarding the feeding of vetch hay, I present a brief summary of results of our experience in feeding this material. We have fed the vetch hay to fattening steers, and to cows giving milk, and in both cases the results have been very satisfactory. It was compared with clover hay in both instances. The steers made good gains when receiving vetch hay as the only dry food, except the grain. Two steers were fed 42 days on the vetch hay, and gained 3.07 pounds and 2.07 pounds respectively, per day. Those fed on clover hay gained 2.16 pounds and 2.56 pounds respectively.

The vetch when properly cured is pelished by all kinds of stock. It must

not stand until too ripe before cutting. When fed to milk cows the flow of milk and per cent of butter fat was maintained throughout the test, which extended over a period of 45 days. As a cheap substitute for clover hay the vetch seems to answer the demand very satisfactorily. It is an annual, consequently must be sown every year. In this respect it can not be compared with clover. As a fertilizing crop, it is not as good as clover for it does not root as deeply, nor loosen the soil as completely as clover.—H. T. French, Oregon Experiment Station.

Egg Eating Hens. I have had some hens eat their eggs where laid, but find that it almost always occurs in midwinter or early spring when the birds are short of grit. It generally commences by laying soft shelled eggs or laying off the roots at night, when they have an opportunity to roll the eggs around and peck at them. When the spring is fairly on and the laying season in full swing, I have never been bothered except by an occasional case, and if I can detect that hen off goes her head. My sitting hens never bother me by eating the eggs set under them, unless I happen to put in an egg that has a very soft shell and it gets broken in the nest, or in some case where the nest is made in such a manner that the hen has to drop into it from too great height, and thus accidentally break an egg. But those accidents I usually guard against after one experience. As to treatment, if it is an isolated case of egg eating and I can find the hen I chop her head off. But if in early spring or in the winter a mania seems to seize them for egg eating I scatter china nest eggs on the floor and in the nests, and keep all eggs picked up as fast as they are laid for a few days and find no difficulty in stopping the habit in this way.

Joseph Murphy, Delta County, Michigan.

Medium Hogs for Market.—Drovers' Journal: Big corn means big hogs. Big hogs means lots of lard, big hams and big pork, which is now, and is liable to remain a heavy drug on the market. The January flurry in the prices of hogs and provisions made everybody feel bullish, and the consequence was farmers and feeders held their hogs long after they ought to have been shipped. While cellars and storehouses have been crowded with heavy, fat stuff that nobody seemed to want, packers say they cannot possibly supply the demand for bacon and cuts of pork made from light hogs at prices considerably above board of trade quotations. There is nothing like supplying the demand with what it wants, and holding already heavy hogs to simply store more cheap corn into them is folly. Better sell the hogs when they are at the most desirable weights and save the corn, which will come in handy.

Silos.—Prof. Georson at the Kansas Dairy association convention said: "I would like to endorse the question of silos. We have had fifty-six head of cattle, which we wintered last year, and they were wintered for six months on the corn that was raised on twenty acres or a little less; all put in the silo. They were fed an average of forty pounds of ensilage per day. We began feeding it the latter part of October and it lasted until the middle of May. They got nothing else except a little corn stalks fed in the daytime. It kept them in good condition. The Shorthorns and those cows which we did not care to feed for milk did not get a grain of anything else."

New York Milk.—Mr. Van Valkenburg, assistant commissioner of agriculture for New York, said to a reporter for The World, in relation to milk as the farmers send it in: "About four cans in one hundred show adulteration. They show an average of about 10 per cent of adulteration by watering or skimming. This represents only about sixteen quarts of water added to 4,000 quarts of milk. I claim that there are no two cities in the United States that are supplied with milk so nearly up to the standard made by the state legislature of New York as in New York and Brooklyn."

Fast-Walking Farm Horses.—Any good breed of trotting horses, or any horse which has thoroughbred blood in its veins, can by practice be made to walk fast. No common-bred animal can be made a fast walker. A fast walker is made by careful exercise in that gait and it is a delightful one for a traveler if his steed walks four or five miles an hour. It is also very important to the farmer to have a fast walking team; but it depends much on the rider or driver whether a horse ever attains this highly esteemed quality.—Farm and Home.

Danger in Holding Stock.—The farmer who "holds for a rise" does not always get it. He loses a double interest, for the farmer who has money in hand can save twice the legal interest by buying all his needed winter supplies in bulk and by paying cash for them. After stock is ready for market there is a probability that the added cost of feeding will offset any increase in value.

Air Space for Cows.—The department of animal industry considers that each cow should have at least 600 cubic feet of air space.

A diet of fruit and milk. It is said, will reduce flesh at the rate of five pounds a week.

It has been found impossible to build a lighthouse on Diamond Shoal, off Hatteras, but the government will put in a lightship at once, and she will be the strongest ever made.

The Loneliness of Wealth. Ferry—I doubt if riches bring happiness. Some of our rich men seem to be the most lonely people on earth. Hargreaves—And I don't doubt that they are. I know I would be awfully lonesome if it weren't for the company I find in the bill collectors that call on me.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Valuable Franchise Secured. The franchise of easy digestion—one of the most valuable in the gift of medical science—can be secured by any person wise enough to use Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, either to suppress growing dyspepsia, or to prevent it at maturity. Bilious, Rheumatic and fever and acute sufferers, persons troubled with nervousness, and the constipated, should also secure the health franchise by the same means.

No man of refinement is ever interested in unwomanly women.

If the Baby is Cutting Teeth. Be sure and use that old and well-tried remedy, Mrs. Winslow's SOOTHING SYRUP for Children Teething.

An excellent thing to remember is that every story has two sides.

Naked Pills

are fit only for naked savages. Clothes are the marks of civilization—in pills as well as people. A good coat does not make a good pill, any more than good clothes make a good man. But as sure as you'd look on a clothesless man as a mad one, you may look on a coatless pill as a bad one. After fifty years of test no pills stand higher than

AYER'S Cathartic Pills
SUGAR COATED.

FREE HOMES

From Uncle Sam.

Nearly 2,000,000 Acres of Government Lands Now Open to Settlement

IN NORTHERN ARKANSAS.

They are fertile, well-watered, heavily timbered, and produce grains, grasses, fruits and vegetables in abundance. North Arkansas apples are noted. The climate is delightful, winters mild and short. These lands are subject to homestead entry of 160 acres each. NOW IS THE TIME TO GET A HOME. For further information address

E. V. M. POWELL, Immigration Agent, Harrison, Ark.

"Cut Down Expenses."

BattleAx

PLUG

A woman knows what a bargain really is. She knows better than a man. "BATTLE AX" is selected every time by wives who buy tobacco for their husbands. They select it because it is an honest bargain. It is the biggest in size, the smallest in price, and the best in quality. The 5 cent piece is almost as large as the 10 cent piece of other high grade brands.

"Out and away the most popular."

The New York Telegram recently organized a monster bicycle parade in New York, offering a bicycle each to the best lady rider and the best gentleman rider in the procession. The prizes were selected by popular vote of The Telegram's readers, and, as was to be expected, the result was another triumph for

Columbia

Bicycles

STANDARD OF THE WORLD.

In the language of The Telegram, the Columbia was declared to be "out and away the most popular wheel in America." Of course. No other bicycle has such quality or gives such satisfaction.

You can have a Columbia at once if you place your order promptly.

\$100 TO ALL ALIKE.

POPE MFG. CO., Hartford, Conn.

Branch Stores and Agencies in almost every city and town. If Columbia is not properly represented in your vicinity, let us know.