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AGRICULTURE.

Doubtful Economy.
Junata (Neb.) Herald: Many a farmer in Adams county who is farming, or trying to farm, at least 100 acres, has but one cow, and not to exceed two. This may be economy, but we doubt it. There is not a farmer in the county but what can keep and manage at least five good cows. The expense and labor of caring for them would scarcely be noticeable. On the other hand, the products from the cows would add materially to the income of the farm. Five good cows, well cared for, in connection with a flock of poultry, can be made to pay almost any farmer's grocery bill the year round. Thus leaving the proceeds from the crops to be used in paying for the farm machine debts, or be laid aside for a rainy day.

Cultivating Too Much.
Clay County (Neb.) Journal: Farmers would learn wisdom from past experience and not plant more ground than they can cultivate and cultivate well, for it is the worst policy in the world to slobber over a hundred acres of ground and not gather as much grain as they would from fifty acres, well cultivated. These facts have been demonstrated here every year, that it is a wicked waste of time and ground to see it go less than half cultivated, growing up with weeds and foul stuff to curse the owner and every other man in the neighborhood. Plant all that you can cultivate and handle well, but no more; even if you have to let it lie entirely idle, you will make by it in the quality as well as the quantity of grain besides the extra expense of harvesting over a large acreage of ground. But there is little need of letting any ground lie entirely idle, because a judicious dividing up and diversifying of the crops, a large amount of ground can be utilized with a comparative small amount of labor, but this must be done in the beginning of the season, and the different kinds of seeds sown so as to conflict as little as possible with the main crops, either in cultivation or harvesting.

Sheep in Southern Nebraska.
Indiana Courier: The stock and sheep men all unite in saying that this has been the latest winter for their business for many years. The percentage of losses will be the best ever known, even should we have a rough spring, as the cattle and sheep are now in a better condition than at the beginning of winter.

Sheds for Sheep.
Central City (Neb.) Courier: The sheep men tell us that the saving in feed this winter over the amount used last winter will make a handsome addition to their profits in itself. The warm weather has greatly diminished the amount of food needed. This fact affords a very instructive lesson, by the way, to those who are accustomed to let their stock stand out in the weather during the winter. An experiment in shedding their stock will demonstrate that the cost of the sheds will be more than balanced by the feed saved, while the comfort of the stock and those who take care of them will be very much increased. Try it.

Objections to Sheep.
Philadelphia Record: With all the advocacy that has been made in favor of sheep breeding by those who have found it profitable, the one single objection that is so common to farmers has stood in the way and been an obstacle almost since the settlement of our country. The objection to sheep arises from the fact that they graze too close. Farmers are willing to risk all the foot rot, grub and other diseases, but this great terror of close grazing is too much for them. In vain have the large yields of wool from the Cotswolds and Merinoes been displayed, and unless have been the exhibits of the marbled carcasses of the Southdowns. The close cropping of the pastures cannot be borne, and the consequence is that the most useful and easiest-kept animal we have is pushed aside for those that often do tenfold more damage.

This very objection, so strenuously held forth, is one of the highest merits possessed by sheep. It is this quality of being able to crop off the scantiest herbage that grows on profitless places that makes them desirable as farm stock. Their ability to endure great thirst, or rather, to better state it, do with less water, enables us to keep them in fields not adapted to other stock. It is true they crop down to the very roots, leaving but little; but the weed, as well as the useful plant, receives the same treatment, and the waste matter that is rejected even by the hog is an item in favor of the keep of the sheep. There never has been a pasture, nor a cultivated field, nor a barren waste that has not been benefited when grazed upon by sheep. The evenness with which they spread their droppings, the treading of it into the ground with their feet, and the constant motion kept up by the flock that facilitates this disposal of droppings, prevents not only the slighting of any portion of the land, but enriches it to a degree beyond even the supposition of those who are aware of such advantages. The close grazing is thus not an actual loss of grass, for by a frequent change of pasture and reseeded the sheep leave the land in a condition to produce a much greater quantity than before.

In claiming that sheep are more profitable than other stock, this assurance will be doubly fortified if farmers will cross the sheep with thoroughbred rams. If great carcasses and long wools are wanted use the Colawold; but this breed needs a little better pasture than other. If the fineness and weight of the wool is desired try the Merino, but do not expect large sheep from them, as they are the smallest breed, but the best, and very hardy. If mutton is needed, with good middle quality of wool, try the Southdown, with its dark face and legs as its badge of purity, and the result will be satisfactory. The flock will be improved, the prices greater and the weight of carcasses and fleece increased. Sheep will pay even when badly treated; sometimes; but like other stock care and attention bring their reward, the farmer being more than repaid for any trouble they give. Give them the pastures, keep large flocks, and let them crop close if they wish, for they

will pay their debts in full at the proper time.

Hints on Bean Culture.
Chicago Times: The ground intended to produce a crop of beans should have good natural or artificial drainage, and sandy soils are preferable to those that contain considerable clay. It is desirable that the soil of the entire field be of nearly uniform character as regards fertility so that the crop will be uniform and all the beans mature at about the same time. It is not best to apply rank manure to ground intended to produce beans, as it tends to make a large growth of vines and foliage. If any stable manure is applied it should be well rotted and well distributed. The soil of a bean field should be free from weeds and grass, or the work of cultivation will be great. It is the general practice to plant the seeds in drills far enough apart to allow a narrow cultivator to pass between them. Sometimes a good crop of beans may be raised on the inverted sod of an old pasture by sowing the seed broadcast and covering it with a cultivator or harrow. In the New England states it is customary to raise beans in connection with corn, three beans being dropped in each hill. As the corn raised there enables them to grow well and their production is attended with little trouble or expense. This plan might be followed in those parts of the west where the smaller varieties of corn are raised. Beans should not be planted until all danger of frost is over. Pains should be taken to see that all the beans planted are of the same variety, as mixed lots never bring the highest price. The seed germinates quickly and the crop requires little cultivation if the ground is quite free from grass and weeds. The crop must never be worked when the vines are wet with rain or dew, as rust will attach the foliage if it is disturbed when wet.

Cheese Factories and Creameries.
Beatrice Express: The rapidly increasing number of cheese factories and creameries in Nebraska is an indication of a better day that is coming for the farmers of the state. There is more money in milk than in wheat, and when our farmers come to fully understand and appreciate the great value of the principle of condensation, in every branch of their industry, the day of their greatest prosperity will have dawned. Let milk be condensed into butter and cheese; corn into pork and beef; that shall be packed or canned at home; wheat into flour by Nebraska mills; wool into cassimere and yarns by our own looms and spindles; then will every citizen of the state be prosperous in the fullest sense and not until then.

Miscellaneous Notes.
Connecticut established the first agricultural experiment station in America.

Poland China pigs are being sent from Illinois to Germany for breeding purposes.

Horn and horn shavings contain more than twenty-five times as much nitrogen as is contained in average stable manure.

Onions will soon be "the first on the ground," followed closely by green peas. Now is a good time to sort out and select seeds.

This is a good month in which to draw out manure and top dress around fruit trees; also currant bushes, which latter should be mulched.

Sheep fed on dry feed are frequently troubled with sore lips. An application of sulphur and lard once or twice will generally effect a cure.

A writer of experience and reputation has stated that the fence tax on the farmers in the state of New York is three and a half times greater per acre than the state, county and township taxes on the land.

An easy method of salting stock is to place a large lump of rock salt at different locations, to which the stock can resort whenever desired. It can also be placed in the troughs of the stables to good advantage.

The best of forage may not always furnish in suitable proportions all the elements necessary to produce the best milk, therefore give a large variety of food, but guard against anything that will taint the milk or butter.

It is as necessary to use precaution in cutting off limbs from trees, as in amputating the leg or arm of an individual, and it can only be done safely when the tree has sufficient strength to bear the shock. Trimming of trees should be done gradually, instead of cutting off all the diseased limbs at once.

Cows purchased from rich lands and carried to poor soils seldom do well. It is far better to buy a good cow from a poor farm, in which case improvement is almost certain. There is no good reason, however, why a poor animal should be kept on a poor farm. Keep better stock if you have to keep less of it.

Raspberry and blackberry vines, if they have not been pinched back the previous summer, when in a growing condition, must be cut back now within the next six weeks. Long canes are useless, as the most valuable fruit-bearing spurs break from the ends of the cane, and as a pretty general rule the lower they are cut the stronger the side shoots will push, and, consequently the finer the fruit.

Quincy, the well known writer on bee culture, says of catnip for bees: "It is far better to buy a good cow from a poor farm, in which case improvement is almost certain. There is no good reason, however, why a poor animal should be kept on a poor farm. Keep better stock if you have to keep less of it."

Beets of Down Feed Hard.
All beds seem hard to the rheumatic. Then harken, ye peevish sufferers! Apply Dr. THOMAS' EUCALYPTIC OIL to your aching joints and muscles. Rely upon it that you will experience speedy relief. Such, at least, is the testimony of those who have used it. The remedy is likewise successfully resorted to for throat and lung diseases, sprains, bruises, etc. feb28-eod1w

The Pine of the Rockies and Sierras. To the Editor of The Bee.

To the horticulturist, who has experimented, and tested, and studied the kind of trees adapted to the west Missouri regions, the sight of this grand tree seems an inspiration. All who have studied the matter know that the high and dry prairies lying between the Missouri and the mountains, have peculiarities of their own and must have a system adapted to them. The hardy evergreens which will flourish a thousand miles north, will succumb to the dry winters of Nebraska. While in York I persuaded the horticulturists of the east to send on trees to be tested in our dry climate. The favorites of Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois, would die in spite of everything. They would do well enough in summer, but the warm sun and dry winds of winter would be too much for them. The red cedar did well, the Austrian pine next, and then the Scotch, but their success was uncertain. Beautiful trees, which made a growth of two feet the summer before, would be killed by the dry winds of February and March. I used to get desperate sometimes in this war against nature, and it was painful to see my favorites give in and I be powerless to help them. Last summer, as I approached Pine Bluff on the Union Pacific, I was astonished to see pine trees perched high on a series of rocky bluffs, flanking their pines in the air and waving defiance to wind and drought, and that too in the driest portion of the American continent, where the rain falls very so precarious that you might have a shower in three months or a year. Further on I saw these same trees crowning the crest of some precipice, or growing out of steep walls of rock, clinging like birds by their claws.

This tree will live and thrive where the Norway spruce would not live twenty-four hours. A gentleman told me he saw one growing on the top of a rock, which rested on another rock, and there in its defiant hardihood, it challenged sun and storm. A bird had probably dropped a seed in a crevice and it grew and flourished. This tree accommodates itself to circumstances. If born among rocks and desolation, it will be stunted, but if in rich or congenial soil, it will be a tree of noble proportions. It is a native of Nebraska. The pine of the Niobrara is of this species. You will find it there, thriving in the sands, or growing on the summit of barren bluffs. It has long tough and slender needles, on which the hopper (that scourge of evergreens) can make no impression. It is therefore invaluable for Nebraska, and would make wonderful growth on our rich prairies. Robert Douglas & Son of Warsaw, Illinois, the greatest evergreen growers in the world, have been for some years testing this tree, and finds it a success. There is this peculiarity about them: Trees raised from seed from the Pacific slope will not stand the winters, but trees from Colorado seeds will stand anything. The yearly rings of this tree show that it is quite thrifty. Here in this growing town of Pueblo, probably millions of feet of it are used in building. It is not as good as the white pine; having a greater tendency to warp; yet it answers a good purpose for rough lumber. It is one of the most symmetrical and beautiful of trees. In some of the valleys among these mountains you will find grand forests. When one grows out by itself, its straight trunk, dense, well-balanced head, make the most favorable impression, and one wishes he had that tree in his door-yard.

The tree is hard to transplant from the forests, and people in the northern part of the state say it cannot be done, and yet it can. I sent my team from York to the Niobrara and procured 1,200 of them, but they were packed in sand, and sweat till they were yellow, and of course they died. Take them from exposed places where the sun and wind have toughened them, pack in boxes with the tops out, let the tops have air or they will smother, pack the roots with mould or sand, and never allow them to get dry; once dried and there is no resurrection. Plant them in a close bed and cover with boards. Keep them wedged clean. Don't plant near other trees, plant near a well and keep well watered. Leave them covered the first winter; in the spring keep well hoed and cultivated, and the second spring transplant just as the buds begin to swell. It is a pity some heavy nursery firm could not go heavily into this business and raise the trees from the seed by the millions. What a pleasing effect they would give in winter to our dull prairie landscapes.

A traveler tells us that on the western slope this tree grows to the height of 200 feet, with a diameter of five to six feet, enough in a single tree to build a good house. A writer in Scribner's Magazine says: "I have sometimes feasted on the beauty of these trees when they were towering in all their winter grandeur, laden with snow—one mass of bloom in summer, too, when the brown staminate clusters hang thick among the shimmering needles, and the big purple burrs are ripening in the mellow light; but it is during these cloudless wind storms that these colossal pines are most impressively beautiful. Then they bow like willows, their leaves springing forward all in one direction, and, when the sun shines upon them at the required angle, entire groves glow as if every leaf were burnished silver." It will not be long ere this tree will find its place on our vast prairies where in summer and winter it will add beauty to the landscape and give protection to man and beast. In Illinois the Norway spruce makes splendid evergreen hedges, giving ample shelter for stock, and this noble tree will serve a like purpose in Nebraska and all the great parched west. C. S. HARRISON.

Escaped from the Tolls.
John Bacon, Laporte, Ind., writes: "Hurray for SERGE BLOSSOM; it's all you recommended it to be. My dyspepsia has all vanished. Why don't you advertise it? What allowance will you make if I take a dozen bottles, so that I could oblige my friends occasionally?" Price 50 cents, trial bottles 10 cents. feb28-eod1w

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