

AGRICULTURAL NEWS

THINGS PERTAINING TO THE FARM AND HOME.

After Producing Fine Fruit, Learn How to Sell It for the Most Money—Plymouth Rock Hens Have Many Points of Excellence—Brief Notes.

Fruit Growing. An apple tree will rarely care for itself, but the man who wants good trees in the future will thin his fruit. If a tree bore one hundred apples I should remove fifty. If the next year it bore two hundred I should leave one hundred to ripen, and the next, if it had a thousand I should leave six hundred. This will get the tree into the habit of bearing. A peach tree that will set a thousand peaches needs to have six or seven hundred thinned off. This you will get more bushels to the tree. The more you throw away the more you will have, and you will practically get \$4 for \$1.

After producing fine fruit learn how to sell it for the most money. The fruit which brings most is that which is earliest, fullest and most honestly packed. Pick your fruit carefully and in the cool of the day. Pack in a cool place and in tight packages, for the less air that reaches the fruit the better. Then put the crates in a cool place. In packing grade your fruit; the finest first, then medium, etc. The three or four grades should be uniform throughout. Ask your dealers what kind of packages sell best. Next get a good dealer and tell him you have a good thing. Have your commission man go and see your place. The business side of fruit growing means belief in your own trade believe in you. Finally, do not go into the business until you have thought it out and made up your mind that you will succeed.—Grange Home.

Profitable Hens. In my operations in the poultry line I have never found any breed to possess so many points of excellence, with the ordinary treatment of the average farmer, as the Plymouth Rocks. They pay me. I have had a flock of forty Plymouth Rock hens average me \$1.45 per hen for the year, with a country market for poultry and eggs. They had the run of the farm and barn, with an abundance of sour milk and such grains as the farm produced. This seemed to furnish all they desired, except grit, which was supplied in plaster scraped from the walls of an old house. Now, with a larger flock, I am feeding buckwheat mostly, raking it deep into chaff and straw, with bone and meat scraps obtained from butchers. The hens have plenty of warm water to drink, and they take lots of it, too. My hens are kept in what was once a hay bay, now fitted with windows and devoted to poultry. It is light, warm and roomy, joins the main barn floor by a sliding door, and the hens are let out a while each day and given the run of the entire barn, both for exercise and to save scattered grain. It works as well as a more costly arrangement and keeps the fowls in splendid vigor. Last spring there was scarcely an infertile egg in all my hatch.—Maine Bulletin.

Straw Stack Stables. Wherever grain is largely grown the straw left after threshing will make a cheap and warm stable for stock the ensuing winter. All that is needed is to set posts in the ground close enough together so that they will form a good support for a flat roof, and pile the straw over it and on at least three sides. The side not built up against may be used wholly as a door for stock to run in and out, or it may be boarded up, and one or two board doors made. Sometimes this straw stable is made against the side of a stack, and the animals are allowed to eat into it. This, however, is a dangerous practice, for late in winter stock may eat far enough so as to disturb the balance of the stack, bringing it over on them, and smothering them. Where the stack is built over a stout shed there is no such danger. It can be easily made as warm as any basement barn, and without much cost except of the straw.—American Cultivator.

Sowing Grass Seed. One of the questions being discussed at the farmers' institutes is whether the old-time custom of sowing grass seed on grain is as beneficial of good results as sowing the seed alone. It is true that the grain shades the growing grass, but the stronger root growth of the grain crop must to a certain extent affect the young grass. Then there is the advantage, when grass seed is sown without using grain land, of thorough preparation of the soil for the grass crop, which is not the case when grain is seeded in the fall and grain in the spring. It is possible that if grass seed is sown on land that is fine and ready for the seed it will make much greater growth than when sown on grain and thus escape the effects of the dry season, which usually comes in the summer. On sandy soil clover and the various grasses may be seeded down in August, but on clay soil the frost may throw the plants out during the winter. It is a mistake, however, to suppose that a grass crop can be grown from spring seeding without the aid of a grain crop.

Golden Rod. This native plant deserves a place in all gardens, and especially in those having a collection of American plants. It is so hardy, so showy, and so easily grown that it deserves more attention than it often gets. Each little shoot broken away from the old plant in the spring and planted in almost any way or place will become quite a plant by fall. A clump of it lights up the corner in which it grows like a bonfire. One of the chief merits of the plant is its late flowering quality. By its use we prolong the season greatly. With it should always be grown a variety or two of our late native asters. The two plants are boon companions, and one seems lonely without the other. Certainly the yellow glory of the golden rod is greatly heightened by the purple haze of the late asters, but equally beautiful flowers, and between them there is a contrast that is full of most harmonious effects.

Shading Barn Doors. There should be no toleration of the old-fashioned swinging barn doors, which will soon break from their hinges, making it impossible to operate them except by lifting the door and carrying it around. The sliding doors on iron rollers are easily kept in order, and are worked so easily that a little child has power enough to operate one of them. They have also the advantage that the door may be slightly opened and kept in that position, which would be difficult to do with a door swinging on hinges. The sliding door came into use when basement barns were constructed. In such cases the doors on the lower side, where they were 10 to 12 feet above the basement, had to be put on rollers. The convenience of the sliding door now makes it more desirable on barns, however they may be constructed.

Stock that Gains in Value. One of the best rules for profitable farming is to always keep as much young-growing stock as possible, and to discard early that which because of age is declining in value. Food that makes growth is always much more productive than that given the fully grown animal which only requires to be fattened. In a hog the first 100 pounds cost less than the second hundred. After a hog gets to be 300 weight most of its food goes to maintain its present condition, and there is very little profit to the feeder.

Value of the Cow Pea. Analyses made at the Colorado Experiment Station show that pea vine hay is richer in protein than either clover or alfalfa. The pea vines contain materially more nitrogen than alfalfa, and are valuable for green manuring. There is a considerable amount of protein hay made in Colorado. The variety grown for that purpose is known as the Mexican pea.

WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

Trade Conditions in the Leading Cities of the World.

There was uniform strength in all speculative markets during the past week. Chicago May wheat sold from \$4.40 to \$5.50; May pork, \$10.50 per barrel to \$10.75; Liverpool and foreign markets up in proportion. The American visible supply decreased 388,000 bushels during the week and now totals 25,634,000 bushels compared with 26,658,000 bushels last year. In 1897 the decrease for the corresponding week was 1,227,000 bushels. The amount on passage increased 1,400,000 bushels, of which America contributed 3,420,000 bushels. The first of the year wheat stocks at Buffalo, Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore were 8,615,000. At the close of last week there were 6,092,000 showing a decrease of 2,523,000 bushels for the five weeks. During this time exports of wheat alone from the four points named were 6,018,000. These figures show that the four points received 3,495,000 more than can be accounted for, except on the theory that the wheat was shipped direct from Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, Virginia, and other territory immediately tributary to those seaports. It will surprise the trade to learn that Atlantic ports are receiving weekly about 700,000 bushels from points outside of the visible. All along the line wheat seems to be coming from unexpected sources. The movement in the Northwest is increasing and dumfounded even the bears. However, Mr. Leiter seems to hold prices up and we would not be surprised to see a further advance.

Portland Market. Wheat—Walla Walla, 74@75c; Valley and Bluestem, 77@78c per bushel. Flour—Best grades, \$3.75; Graham, \$2.30; superfine, \$2.55 per barrel. Oats—Choice white, 36@37c; choice gray, 33@34c per bushel. Barley—Feed barley, \$19@20; brewing, \$20 per ton. Millstuffs—Bran, \$19 per ton; middlings, \$24; shorts, \$20. Hay—Timothy, \$19.50; clover, \$10@11; California wheat, \$10; do oat, \$11; Oregon wild hay, \$9@10 per ton. Eggs—17@18c per dozen. Butter—Fancy creamery, 55@60c; fair to good, 45@50c; dairy, 40@50c per pound. Cheese—Oregon, 12 1/2c; Young America, 12 1/2c; California, 9@10c per pound. Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$2.75@3.00 per dozen; hens, \$3.00@3.50; geese, \$3.50@4.00; ducks, \$4.50@5.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 10@11c per pound. Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, 45@50c per sack; sweets, \$1.75@2 per sack. Onions—Oregon, \$2.00@2.40 per sack. Hops—4@16c per pound for new crop; 1896 crop, 4@6c. Wool—Valley, 14@16c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 7@12c; mohair, 20@22c per pound. Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 4c; dressed mutton, 7c; spring lambs, 5 1/2c per pound. Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, 4.00; light and feeders, \$3.00@4.00; dressed, \$4.50@5.00 per 100 pounds. Beef—Gross, top steers, \$3.00@3.25; cows, \$2.50; dressed beef, 4 1/2@6c per pound. Veal—Large, 5@5 1/2c; small, 6@7c per pound.

What this country needs most is a railroad from some point on the Yukon, in American territory, to Prince William sound, on Cook inlet. Of course, I know nothing about the country to be traversed by such a railroad, or the engineering difficulties that have to be encountered, but I think that it might be safely presumed that they are not of a serious character. The mountains in the northern portion of this continent are so insignificant that the whole country may be considered one vast plain. The same may be said of the northern part of Asia and also of Europe, where I have traveled, explored and prospected, and it would seem strange, indeed, if the country between here and Cook inlet was an exception to every other part of the world in this high altitude. Besides, enough has been found out from actual observation to make it pretty certain that there are no serious difficulties. There is sufficient timber along the line for all the purposes of construction and operation, and the snowfall is not such as to seriously interfere with railroad traffic, and to my mind a railroad is needed in this country more than was ever needed in the whole history of railroading throughout the world.

"This country possesses an abundance of what all the rest of the world needs, and all the rest of the world possesses in abundance what the people are sorely in need of here, that is, something to eat. There never was a winter in this country when there was a sufficiency of food, and this winter promises to be at least 100 per cent worse than any preceding one, and it is more than likely that next winter will be still worse in this respect.

"From what I can learn it seems impossible that the supply of food can keep pace with the increase of population, and I cannot see how there can be any doubt but that a railroad over the route mentioned would be taxed to its full capacity, as the country produces nothing but gold, and all the necessary comforts and luxuries of life and anything else that may be wanted must come from without. One of the results of the construction of such a railroad would be an enormous increase in the production of gold."

Not the Only Riches. Unless the Canadian government repeats its regulation of last fall, restricting the size of claims to 100 feet, there is not likely to be very much prospecting on British territory this year. The miners regard a double claim to the discoverer, and a 100-foot claim to each subsequent locator as inadequate compensation for the risks which they take in the Klondike country. If the mission of the committee recently sent to Ottawa with a petition for a modification of the regulations proves unsuccessful, there will be a big exodus of miners to American territory. As a result the vast area westward from the Behring sea, northward to the Arctic ocean, and southward to the Pacific, will be thoroughly prospected.

The miners will be overlooking some rich British ground in the basins between the headwaters of the Klondike and the Mackenzie, and in the vicinity of the Big Salmon, the Stewart, the Pelly, and the Hootalingu, but there is just as rich ground on the American side, and the more liberal American mining laws promise larger results. Already, there are 1,800 men on Minook creek. Other Alaskan streams which will receive attention from disgruntled Klondikers are Birch creek, Tanana river, Koyukuk river, Copper river, Porcupine river, Kookwuk river and their tributaries and the streams flowing into Kotzebue sound.

The advice of William Ogilvie, the Canadian surveyor, that miners who start over the passes between March 1 and 30 will reach Dawson as soon as those who start now, will be unheeded. Nothing can stop the mad rush. Mr. Ogilvie is mistaken in his opinion that miners who start in March will reach Dawson as soon as those going in now. What he meant to say is that miners who start now have no advantage over those who wait for decent weather. Miners are reaching Dawson every day, but they are gaining nothing by their extraordinary expenditure of physical force and money.

When they get to Dawson they find that work is not so plentiful as they had imagined. One man may be worth \$15 a day where another would not be worth \$5. The demand for labor is not so great as may be imagined.

COOK INLET TO THE YUKON

Need of a Railroad to the Interior of Alaska.

Among the many railroad schemes projected for the Yukon and the interior of Alaska this season, the one that is receiving careful consideration among promoters is a line from Cook Inlet over the glacier and down the Tanana river. The subject is one that engages the attention of railroad men of the Coast. Several surveying parties, it is reported, will be sent early to the North for the purpose of ascertaining as soon as possible the most feasible route from the coast to the interior. The Lake Teslin and Stikine river route has received a good deal of attention recently, and every move of the surveying parties is closely watched by the Canadian Pacific. This road will certainly be among the first to penetrate the wilds of Alaska at the first favorable opportunity. It is not expected that any of the great transcontinental systems are contemplating an extension, but any traffic connection, it could form would, it is understood, be most welcome. It is not unlikely that if an overland route to Dawson should ever become possible, the British road would be the first to offer its help in backing the project.

The Portland Telegram says that P. J. Stone, a prominently-known man of the Northwest, who is now in Alaska, after looking over the situation carefully, believes that it is quite practicable to get a line through to the river in American territory. The importance of a railroad in developing the vast resources of the interior, increasing the output of the mines, insuring an adequate food supply to the miners of the Yukon, and, incidentally, helping to make the entire country tributary to the Coast cities prosperous, is treated in a recent letter. As a route he suggests from Prince William sound to some point on the Yukon, within American territory, and advises that the value of such a construction be immediately brought to the attention of congress by memorial.

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CHICKS IN A HUSS.

Whatever may be the matter with China and other countries, it is said that for the reason that most of them have no little to feed upon and so very much hard work to do they suffer greatly with ostrichs.

It is doubtful if they could suffer more than the people do, owing at times to the extremely damp, chilly atmosphere in winter, which seems to have a peculiar influence upon the nervous system so as to produce this affection, but happily for our comfort and the cure of the pain, St. Jacobs Oil is recognized as its sovereign remedy. With pain produced from cold there is an absolute loss of the warmth and strength which St. Jacobs Oil gives, and through this means it performs its office promptly and surely.

An Egyptian dice before noon the funeral must take place the same day. If death occurs after noon, the funeral may not be delayed after the next day.

THE POWER OF Schilling's Best baking powder is wonderful.

SHAKE INTO YOUR SHOES. Allen's Foot-Ease, a powder for the feet. It cures painful, swollen, smarting feet and instantly takes the sting out of corns and bunions. It's the greatest comfort discovery of the age. Allen's Foot-Ease makes tight-fitting or new shoes feel easy. It is a certain cure for chilblains, sweating, damp, callous and hot, tired aching feet. We have over 10,000 testimonials of cures. Try it today. Sold by all druggists and shoe stores. By mail for 25c in stamps. Trial package FREE. Address Alier S. Olinsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

AN OPEN LETTER TO MOTHERS. We are asserting in the courts our right to the exclusive use of the word "CASTORIA," and "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," as our Trade Mark. I, Dr. Samuel Fitcher, of Hyanis, Massachusetts, was the originator of "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," the name that has borne and does now bear the fac-simile signature of CHAS. H. FLETCHER on every wrapper. This is the original "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," which has been used in the homes of the mothers of America for over thirty years. Look carefully at the wrapper and see that it is the kind you have always bought, and has the signature of CHAS. H. FLETCHER on the wrapper. No one has authority from me to use my name except The Centaur Company of which Chas. H. Fitcher is President. March 3, 1897. SAMUEL FITCHER, M.D.

The largest hotel in the world is the Waldorf-Astoria, in New York city, a \$10,000,000 establishment, built by millionaires for millionaires.

Permanent Cure. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Send for FREE 64-page trial book and treatise on N. K. KLINE, M.D., 153 Arch street, Philadelphia, Pa.

To prevent trolley accidents the trucks are provided with forked frames, which extend on each side of the wheels and end in small wheels, resting on the track to push a person out of the way if he falls under the car, the wheels being so small that they will not pass over anything lying on the track.

A fibrous preparation of steel, made in the same manner as the so-called "mineral wool," by passing an air-blast through molten steel, is coming into use for cleaning, polishing, etc., instead of sandpaper.

Two New York men have invented an electric dental mallet for use in hardening tooth filling, the tool having a central bar, which slides back and forth as the current is made and broken.

WOMAN TO WOMAN.

Women are being taught by bitter experience that many physicians cannot successfully handle their peculiar ailments known as female diseases.

When the woman of to-day experiences such symptoms as backache, nervousness, lassitude, whites, irregular or painful menstruation, pains in groin, bearing-down sensation, palpitation, "all gone" feeling and blues, she at once takes Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, feeling sure of obtaining immediate relief.

Should her symptoms be new to her, she writes to a woman, Mrs. Pinkham, Lynn, Mass., who promptly explains her case, and tells her free how to get well.

Indeed, so many women are now appealing to Mrs. Pinkham for advice, that a score of lady secretaries are kept constantly at work answering the great volume of correspondence which comes in every day.

Weak Kidneys, Lumbago, Rheumatism and Sciatica Are Cured by Dr. Sanden's Electric Belt.

It conveys a steady, soothing current of electricity into the weakened muscles, giving them a healthy nerve power which revives them. It makes them strong. It is curing hundreds every month.

Double End Toe Clips. Double-ended toe-clips are being made in England for use on bicycles, the toe pieces extending on opposite sides of the pedal and balancing in any position.

With local applications, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease, Castor is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take internal remedies. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces. Hall's Catarrh Cure is not a quick medicine. It was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years, and is a regular prescription. It is composed of the best known ingredients, combined with the best blood purifiers, acting directly on the mucous surfaces. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing catarrh. Send for testimonials, free.

Lake Erie is the lake of the "wild cat," the name given by a fierce tribe of Indians exterminated by the Iroquois.

Yellow Label Baker's Chocolate, celebrated for more than a century as a delicious, nutritious, and flesh-forming beverage, has our well-known Yellow Label on the front of every package, and our trade-mark, "La Belle Chocolaterie," on the back.

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