

The Chief Cause of Human Trouble.

Things wuzn't goin' right a-tall,
An' I wuz feelin' blue,
Although I didn't owe a cent,
An' there wuz work to do;
The home wuz jest the same old home,
The wife an' kids wuz well,
The stock wuz lookin' fat and slick
An' there wuz crops to sell,
But yit I wuzn't satisfied,
Ner nothin' I could see,
Er feel, er hear, er talk a bout
Seemed like it used to be,
I didn't like the things I et,
My liver felt like clay,
An' apple-pie might jest as well
Have been filled in with hay,
Ef there wuz sunshine on the flowers,
An' bees wuz on the buzz,
An' birds wuz singin' in the trees,
I didn't know they wuz.
Ef I had friends, they didn't seem
To be like friends no more,
An' I quit goin' down to loaf
At Grimes' grocery store,
Doc Simpson said he couldn't tell
What ailed me, an' I tried
So many things, the wonder is
I hadn't up an' died,
Till Susan, she's my wife, one day,
She said she couldn't see
What ailed me, yer where like that,
Unless it must be me,
That set me thinkin', an', by heck,
I say it now with shame,
'Twuz jest myself, my durned old self,
An' nothin' else to blame.

Control Apple Blight.

[J. B. S. Norton, Maryland station.]
The most effective treatment consists in cutting off the diseased parts. In young orchards and in nurseries where there is naturally but little blight and in old orchards in seasons when blight is not serious, by cutting out every blighted twig and canker as soon as possible, giving special attention to the body and base of the tree, a bad outbreak may be prevented in following years. It is also necessary to destroy all blight in the neighborhood on wild or cultivated trees, as the bees may carry it long distances. Bees are, however, necessary to pollenate the flowers.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN.

Raspberry and blackberry bushes suffer from lack of water during the growing season and also from excess of water. Well drained soil and plenty of water is the ideal condition for bush fruits.

After the ground freezes give fresh fruits, such as raspberries, blackberries, currants, etc., a heavy mulch of manure. Use straw if manure cannot be had. The mulch enriches the soil and prevents alternate thawing and freezing.

Dwarf fruit trees work in well in small gardens. Give them a trial. Fertilize the rhubarb if you want large stalks, large yields and large prices. Manure three or four inches deep may be applied any time from now until spring.

Time will be saved next spring if the asparagus roots which you grew during the summer are dug and graded ready for planting next spring. The small, weak roots should be discarded. Experiments show that profits are greatly increased by planting large, vigorous roots.

Keep a Record of Ewes.
In determining which ewes to keep over for another year it is well to keep a record of the performance of each individual so that it may be referred to at the time selections are being made for the next year's breeding flock. On this record should be noted the conditions, for sometimes ewes lose their lambs for no other cause than negligence on the part of the owner, and it is folly to discard a good ewe unless she is a failure under favorable conditions, as she is well worth another trial.

IN THE SCHOOLS

The literary program will be postponed from January 21st, until January 28.

Mr. Warner, May Klinger, Mrs. Revenue, Ruth Revenue and the bachelor girls were guests at Sabra Deaton's last Wednesday evening.

The two girl basket-ball teams will play a game against each other next Saturday night at eight o'clock.

Marjory Adams, Raymond Murray, Ned Mitchell, George Conper and Francis Meinig were absent from school last week.

May Klinger stayed in town last week on account of the bad weather.

The bachelor girls spent the week end at Mermol.

Many of the high school girls are enjoying themselves sleigh riding.

The high school is busy cataloging the library.

Please feed the birds.

KEEP THE OLD COWS.

Good Dairy Animals Valuable For the Calves They Produce.

There is a tremendous loss to the dairy industry in this state as in other states, we think, because of the sale of eight or nine year old cows, says the Kansas Farmer. These are sold because they are considered as having arrived at an age when they are no longer useful in the dairy. A ten or twelve year old cow which has not been overfed should be a profitable producer of milk if she has ever been profitable.

It is to be recalled that Mild Henry the famous Holstein of the Kansas Agricultural college, established a world's record in her thirteenth year. Cows of good breeding at this age are worth keeping for their offspring even though they are not profitable producers of milk.

The old cow is frequently sold at a low price and at a real sacrifice. The owner will the next day pay two or three times as much money for a younger cow of no better breeding. To make an exchange of this sort is foolhardy. A cow of good breeding and a liberal producer is worth keeping as long as she can eat well. After she passes this age, when it becomes necessary to sell her, she will bring as much money without teeth as with them, because she goes to the cannery.

RACHEL AT REHEARSAL.

A Stage Accident That Inspired the Great Tragedienne.

Let me relate to you a little reminiscence which Marie Laurent gave me of Rachel (Elsa Felix Rachel, famous French tragedienne). She said that once when she was rehearsing the sylvan in "Les Horaces" Rachel was distressed because she could not put sufficient expression into the curse that Camille pronounced on her brother after he had slaughtered her lover.

While she was laboring in that attempt, "getting dryer every moment," as she herself expressed it, an iron vise that was being turned at rapid pace by a large screw caught a finger of one of the stage mechanics and crushed it till the blood ran down. Every one screamed; Rachel fainted.

On recovering consciousness she said, "Some drops from the mangled finger of a stranger made me faint, yet I could look at a sword covered with the life blood of my dearest and only rant." She then hurled forth the famous imprecation de Camille in a way that brought every hammer on the stage to a standstill and "struck terror to us all."—Princess Lazarovich-Hrebellanovich in Century Magazine.

MADE IN AMERICA POTASH.

Comes now a new mineral to join with kelp and feldspar in the effort to supply the war made deficiency of German potash for American agriculture. It is alunite, described as sulphate of aluminum and potassium, and it is announced that a vein ten feet wide and 3,500 feet long has been uncovered in Utah, while large quantities exist also in Colorado, Nevada, California and Arizona. Two hundred tons of alunite have been put through the mill, producing two tons of 99 per cent pure potash.

Secretary of the Interior Lane declares that the production of this alunite potash in commercial quantities is one of the most important discoveries in years. So it is, if the price is not to be prohibitively high, as it seems to be in the cases of kelp and feldspar potash.

While the great war rages we are learning that America has the undeveloped means to be self supporting in practically every way. If we cannot get potash from the German mines we find it at home. But for the sake of our soils let us hope that alunite will be both plentiful and cheap.—Country Gentleman.

WINTER STORAGE OF CABBAGE

It is Important to Prevent Heating and Maintain an Even Low Temperature.

In storing cabbage the heads are generally pulled up when light freezing begins along in November, says the Rural New Yorker. Frequent freezing and thawing will not hurt the general appearance of cabbage before it is harvested. However, too much of it will impair the keeping qualities. In small quantities the supply may be stood on the bottom of a cool cellar with the roots turned up. Cover the single layer of cabbage with sand so as to exclude air and keep in perfect condition.

In large quantities cabbage is stored right in the field, provided the soil is well drained. Market growers prefer to open up a furrow with a two horse plow going down and back just once, leaving a space two or three inches wide between the furrows. This ridge is quickly leveled down or thrown out. The cabbage is laid in this one layer thick by turning the roots almost straight in the air. Gather the old leaves closely around each head and pack them in snugly. A few of the poor heads may be laid on top. Over this sprinkle a little hay, straw leaves; then throw a furrow from side on this material. This will vent the material from blowing and will leave a space possible inches wide not covered with this air ventilation will be prevented severe freezing weather. more soil or covering material may be applied. The important consideration in the storing of cabbage is to prevent heating and to maintain an even low temperature. Ten degrees below freezing does not hurt cabbage, provided it is thawed out gradually.

IMPORTANCE OF GOOD ROADS.

To have good roads everywhere throughout these United States will mean more to this nation than any other development since our Declaration of Independence. During all ages it has been of primary importance to provide a people with means of intercommunication. People, like water, must move or stagnate. They must run and play like the brook itself or become sluggish and dull—to themselves as well as to others. Of the seven modes of intercommunication—water, roads, post, rail, road, telegraph, telephone and wireless—only one—roads—is free to all the people of the earth. Roads are the most universally used and are therefore the most beneficial to the greatest number of people. The importance of good roads everywhere is paramount—their benefits are all embracing.—Charles Henry Davis, President National Highways Association.

POULTRY NOTES.

If you intend to build a poultry house for winter use the sooner you start it the better so that it may be good and ready when the chickens are ready for it.

Don't forget to have plenty of grit for your fowls. A want of it brings on indigestion.

Charcoal is an excellent thing to keep before the birds. It absorbs the gases and is valuable in bowel disorders. It will help to sweeten the crop that has become sour.

Early hatched pullets should be placed in pens for the winter long before they settle down to laying.

It pays to buy good stock if you are contemplating going into the poultry business even as a side line. A lot of poorly bred birds are worth just market price, while pure bred are worth many times the butcher's prices.

Sheep on the Farm.

It would seem that the average farmer has neither the skill nor the inclination to take up sheep raising. A writer in the Live Stock World suggests the thought that until the women of the farm divide their attention between poultry and the small farm flock sheep will have an inconspicuous place in live stock husbandry on our corn belt farms.

LIVE STOCK NOTES.

Keep selecting and pushing the hogs off to market as soon as they are fit.

Be sure that the colts go into winter quarters in the pink of condition, for there is where the profit comes in.

If you see a low class, nondescript buck running with a flock of sheep, you know at once the owner is behind the times.

It pays to raise two litters a year, but it is not every man who has the gumption to do it.

The stored up feed for the winter feeding of the flock should be clover or alfalfa hay, oats, wheat bran, linseed meal and roots.

A little thoughtfulness for the colt every day is what he needs. See that he is made comfortable and kept growing. These things are essentials.

Feeding the Molting Hen.

The molting season opens in August, and the fowls are anything but attractive. This is a time in a hen's life when she must undergo a severe strain to her system. Experience has taught us that during this period, which requires 100 days of the fowl's annual life, she must be kept in the proper condition by feed. She must be neither too fat nor too lean. Consequently a ration is called for that will be pretty nearly balanced in nitrogenous and carbonaceous materials.—Farm Journal.

Curing Goose Feathers.

After picking geese the feathers may be placed loosely in cheap muslin sacks and hung in a light, airy place. Sunlight and an occasional shaking up are helpful. The feathers are kept in sacks from three to six months, after which period they are thoroughly cured and free from animal odor.

Look For Injured Hens.

When chicks or fowls are injured and blood shows, take the injured one away from the rest of the flock until the wound heals or it is liable to be devoured alive, for when chicks once taste blood they will never let up on picking at the wounded one.

KEEPING UP MILK FLOW.

Grain Ration to Supplement Alfalfa Hay and Corn Silage.

Alfalfa and clover hay and corn silage form the basis of a splendid ration. When concentrates are not too high in price, it is well to feed them freely with silage and alfalfa, says Hoard's Dairyman. There are times when feeds are so high in price and dairy products comparatively low that it is better to let the corn silage and alfalfa or clover hay form the entire roughage of the animal. In such cases we would feed from forty to forty-five pounds daily of corn silage and all the alfalfa and clover hay each cow will consume without waste.

In making a mixture to supplement these feeds to obtain the best results we would select at least three kinds of feeds, all of which would be palatable and can be purchased at the most reasonable prices. If alfalfa is used plenty of protein will be supplied to the ration so very little attention need be given whether the ration is rich in protein or not. As it is, the protein will take the place of carbohydrates.

It will be found that ground barley will supplement the silage and alfalfa nicely, or a mixture of ground barley, bran and shorts with a little cottonseed meal, enough so that the animals will get one pound per day, will also go well with the silage and alfalfa.

If corn silage and alfalfa are fed alone it may be found that the milk flow will not be sustained, especially if the animals are not accustomed to eating a large amount of roughage. If animals are used to consuming large quantities of silage and alfalfa and with very little or no grain it will be found they will do exceptionally well when fed upon this combination, but most animals are accustomed to grain and will not sustain their yield unless they have become accustomed to going without concentrates. It will probably be found that about one pound of grain for each three and one-half to four pounds of milk produced will prove profitable.

A CURIOUS ANIMAL.

The Sea Cow Gave Rise to the Legend of the Sirens.

The dugong, or sea cow, is a peculiar animal. It resembles the familiar seal, but it has no hair on the body and is more nearly related to the porpoises and whales.

This animal is found on the shores of the Indian ocean, about fifteen degrees on each side of the equator, from East Africa to Australia, and also in the Red sea. It is a marine animal which never ascends the rivers, its food consisting chiefly of seaweed and the algae found in the water. Years ago it was reported to have been found in large herds of several hundred individuals and to have been so fearless as to allow itself to be touched with the hand of man. In recent years, however, it is met with only in twos and threes and has become very shy and wary. Its flesh has been regarded as a delicacy, and it is stated that the Malay kings claim as royal property all those taken within their domain.

Its habit of raising its round head out of the water and its great affection for its young, which it carries under the fore fin, are thought to have given rise to the legend of the mermaid, in allusion to which the name sirenia was given to this order of mammals. It is recorded that it was with the skin of the dugong, or sea cow, that the Jews were directed to veil the tabernacle and not with "badger" skins, as translated in the authorized version of the Bible.—New York Post.

Banish Poultry Mites.

Mites bother poultry. The mites are very small and do not stay on the fowls in the daytime, but secrete themselves in cracks under the roosts. At night they suck the fowls' blood. Henhouses infested with mites do not turn out large quantities of eggs. Treat the fowls, roosts and henhouses with insecticides and lice killers.

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