

IN SECRET ORDERS.

On Tuesday the Relief Corps of Meade post met in K. of P. hall with lunch baskets will filled and entertained the members of the grand army. Cards and lively conversation made the evening a most enjoyable one.

Several entertainments will occur at K. of P. hall on the week beginning February 19th upon which date Achilles lodge will celebrate in appropriate manner the 30th anniversary of the founding of the order. A suitable program has been arranged and is being prepared. On the evening of the 20th the Woodmen will give a social to their members and friends, the ladies of the Relief Corps have kindly given way for that evening and will hold their regular meeting on Wednesday evening, February 21st.

At their last meeting Willamette Falls camp of Woodmen had 16 applications for admission to the order. This camp started with 16 members a few months ago and is now well up to 50 with good prospects for many more. The boys are pleased to learn that there is to be no assessments for February.

Last Saturday evening was a gala time for Falls City lodge of Workmen, there being no less than 7 members taken into the order. There was a large attendance present and ever one seemed bent on having a good time. W. T. Whitlock read an essay on character which was well received. The other members down for entertainment were not present so several brothers present were called upon for contributions.

The Redmen had an interesting meeting last Tuesday evening with the Hunter's degree to engage their attention. This is one of the young lodge of the city and is intended as a social and sick benefit order. It is growing and prospering.

Oregon lodge No. 3 of Odd Fellows held a special meeting on Wednesday evening to confer degrees and to prepare for a trip to Aurora on Thursday evening to institute a lodge.

Eastern Star Chapter. The meeting held at Masonic hall Monday evening of this week to consider the advisability of arranging an Eastern Star Chapter was well attended. It was decided to organize at an early date and the following officers were elected: Mrs. H. S. Strange, worthy matron; T. F. Ryan, worthy patron; Mrs. T. A. McBride, associate master; Miss Addie C. Jennings, secretary; Mrs. P. Paquet, treasurer; Miss Erma Lawrence, conductor; Miss H. M. Wetherell, associate conductor.

On Monday evening a telephone message from E. L. E. White of the Portland press club stated that the Chicago press representatives were to be in Portland, and asked if it would be convenient for them to come to Oregon City. They were told to bring them along and a lunch was engaged for them at the Electric restaurant; and the following morning the following named committee was appointed to represent the board of trade and meet them, viz. George C. Brownell, E. E. Charman, George A. Harding, Dr. W. E. Carril, Col. R. A. Miller, H. E. Smith and E. M. Randa. They met the press representatives and escorted them to the electric station and mills on this side of the river. Then crossed the locks and mills on the west side. All were favorably impressed with the falls and mills including the new power station. They then returned to the Electric hotel for lunch after which the party returned to Portland and the last seen or heard of them were exclaiming in chorus, "Well, well, well, this beats Chicago all to—well! well! well!"

Arrangements have been perfected by the committee of the mock senate for imposing inaugural ceremonies of President J. T. Apperson on Friday evening. He will be sworn by Chief Justice McBride, and will deliver his inaugural address in regular form. After the ceremonies incident to the inauguration there will be an interesting meeting of the senate to consider Senator Shaw's amendment allowing women to vote.

Ayer's Hair Vigor keeps the scalp free from dandruff, prevents the hair from becoming dry and harsh, and makes it flexible and glossy. All the elements that nature requires, to make the hair abundant and beautiful are supplied by this admirable preparation.

The Best Kind of Exercise. There is no single exercise which combines so many health giving qualities as riding. It is peculiarly valuable to children, for it is the most certain and gentle developer of the back and stomach muscles and imparts a tone to the entire system that cannot possibly be attained in any other way. Even football, the hardest of all games, falls short of having the same invigorating effect on the boy. If this be true for the boy—and such it is now generally admitted to be—how much more necessary is riding to the young girl who has no game but lawn tennis, which falls to exercise the most important parts of her body?

Few boys and girls, and almost as few men and women, think twice of the value of different kinds of exercise to them, or would know much about it if they did think. Any exercise of course, moderately taken, is better than none, but the exercise which acts upon arms and legs only is of not one-half the value of that which acts on the body, the chest, stomach and back. When, then, an exercise is found that acts on all, its value is apparent without further argument.—Harper's Young People.



CORNCOBBS FOR CATTLE FOOD.

Opinions Expressed by Several Authorities on This Ever Recurring Subject.

Professors Stewart, Wolf and others give the assurance that there is nutrition in corn cobs, but a writer to The Country Gentleman contends that, while this is true, it doesn't pay to feed corn cobs. Here is his argument:

The chemists in their laboratories may be able to extract the nutrients from cobs, for they have the command of implements and acids that will dissolve hard substances, which the gastric juice in cattle's stomachs is unable to accomplish. Take a cob and try whittling it with a knife; you will find that on each side of the cavities where the kernels stood, extending to the pith, it is full of small, thin plates hard as a hemlock knot. These plates compose the greater portion of the cob, and no mill ever ground them fine, and no animal's stomach ever digested them. Examine the dung of animals fed on cornmeal, and you will see these hard sharp plates are there, still as hard and as sharp as ever. It is not easy to believe that such tough, stubborn substances can pass through the long tortuous route of the intestines without producing irritation, if not laceration and diarrhea.

Professor Sanborn says, "Close observation of finely ground cornmeal convinces me that it has a very high feeding value, and that the coarse cornmeal has very little value." He is speaking of the meal made by grinding corn in the ear, and its value in his opinion depends almost entirely on its fineness. It is well known that in the fall and winter when farmers wish to feed the most corn, and generally have to begin on the new crop, there is so much moisture in the cobs that it is utterly impossible for any mill to grind them down fine.

About 40 years ago a cornmeal craze broke out in northern Pennsylvania, and the proprietor of the mill at Sugar Run incurred considerable expense to put in a new waterwheel and the necessary machinery for reducing corn in the ear to meal, and nearly all the mills in the country followed his example. For awhile they did a good business at grinding cobs, but gradually the corn cob custom fell off, and in three or four years had ceased entirely. What was the cause of such a surprising downfall in the popularity of cornmeal and cob mills? It was because the farmers, having given the meal a fair trial, had become convinced that the actual value of cobs was so little that it did not pay to have them ground, and that corn in the ear could not be ground so finely as shelled corn. It is not possible to grind corn and cobs as finely as they should be ground at the season when farmers want to feed the most.

Professor Stewart cites the Connecticut experiment station as finding by analysis that cobs have a value of 44 cents per 100 pounds, or slightly more than cornstalks. Did they ever give their cattle their choice between cobs and cornstalks to see which they prefer? The value may be in the cobs, but no animal ever got it out, John M. Stahl, who is good authority, says, "I have fed cornmeal—made three trials of it—and have not been able to get much feeding value from it." Waldo F. Brown is an advocate of cornmeal, but admits that at one institute in Ohio he found but few advocates for it in a large audience and did find many who considered it unfit to feed.

What Crop Statistics Teach.

The crop statistics of today compared with the reports of the agricultural colleges of the west show that the yield per acre in many of the western states is less than a year ago. On the other hand, the yield is found to be larger in the east both as compared with the west and that of 10 or 20 years ago. The cause of this is obvious, as is hinted at by several of the recent bulletins. There are better tillage and cultivation in the east where land is expensive. Formerly the west had virgin soil, and good wheat crops could be grown without much cultivation. Today this is not true. The soil has degenerated, and the farmers of the west are not making the most of their farming lands.

Material For Making Eggs.

Eggs are a substitute for meat, but The American Cultivator thinks that it is a mistake to suppose that animal food, except such as fowls running at large will pick up, is necessary to produce them. The white of the egg is albumen, and this is mainly nitrogenous, but only the lean of meat is nitrogenous, and it is not more so than is the whole wheat grain, which also furnishes the lime required for the egg's shell. Peas are excellent food for making eggs, and so, too, would beans be if fowls could be induced to eat them. The grain may be supplemented with chopped clover, which contains much egg material and is excellent for keeping fowls in good health.

Measuring Corn in the Crib.

For western dent corn in a crib that flares both ways, says The Prairie Farmer, multiply the mean breadth by the height of corn and again by the length of the corn in the crib. Multiply this product by .63 for the heaped bushels of ears or by .43 for the number of bushels of shelled corn, estimating three heaping half bushels of ears to the bushel of shelled corn. Of course, all rules for measuring grain of whatsoever kind are approximate, but near enough to enable the owner to know the quantity fairly of the grain.

At the Pennsylvania station, in tests of varieties of oats, the most desirable sorts were Japan and improved American.

HOLLOW HEARTED POTATOES.

The Cause and Preventive of This Peculiar and Injurious Characteristic.

"What causes hollow heart in potatoes?" This query was recently answered by a number of agricultural authorities in the columns of The Rural New Yorker. A large percentage of their correspondents admitted that they did not know, but each expressed opinions, both regarding the cause and the prevention. Professor L. H. Bailey said that he had always supposed hollow heart to be due mostly to overgrowth, although some varieties are more subject to it than others. He thought that firm fleshed varieties of medium size, grown on soil only moderately rich in nitrogen, would be most free from the trouble.

Dr. W. C. Sturgis of the Connecticut station named as the cause of hollow heart Pythophora infestans, a potato rot fungus. He said nothing but absolutely sound seed should ever be used. It is not a peculiar characteristic of certain varieties, though, as a rule, early varieties are less liable to attack.

Dr. Sturgis doubted the accepted theory that there is greater frequency of hollow heart in large than in small potatoes. Dr. Byron D. Haledet did not know the cause nor the reason why large potatoes are often hollow hearted than small ones. He thought probably large tubers were oftenest affected because the excess in size permits all this absence of tissue at the center, not altogether for the same reason that a large tree is often hollow, while a small one of the same kind has a sound center.

As to a half way answer in the matter he suggested that the central portion of a potato is the most nonliving portion, it being the storehouse for material to be used by the young buds when they unfold, these buds and the vital parts associated with them lying somewhat midway between the surface of the potato and its center. In the development of a potato we can see that there might be a cavity developed in the center by the failure of the sufficient development of storage tissue to occupy all the space. As to the breeding cut, it would seem probable that it could be done to some extent, because anything like hollow heart is likely to be somewhat a matter of inheritance—call it a weakness if you please—and therefore one should use strong instead of weak seed.

Professor W. F. Massey hazarded the opinion that hollow heart is due to an excess of nitrogenous food in a moist soil. There may be some fungous growth connected with it, but he cannot think there is any fungous cause for it. The potato tuber is the plant's reservoir for the storing of starch for the food of the plant another season. If the excess of nitrogen stimulates the vital principal of the plant to an activity in cell formation in advance of the supply of mineral food needed for building materials, there is sure to be a gap somewhere, and usually where there is greatest activity. He does not believe there is any heredity about it. With an abundant supply of potash he thinks there would be little of it. With plenty of nitrogen and a deficiency of potash there will be hollow hearts usually.

Planting Sugar Cane.

Sugar cane may be planted either in the fall or spring. In planting, two or three canes are laid side by side in these rows, "breaking joints," as a bricklayer does in building a wall. The canes are then covered with earth to a depth of three inches by means of hoes, or under certain conditions a plow may be used. After the cane is covered, a heavy roller is passed over it to pack the earth close to the stalk and prevent dry rot in case of drought. Spring planting is conducted in a similar manner. At each joint of the cane stalk there is a bud or eye from which the young plant springs. As the plants develop, the plowmen go through the fields with cultivators and gradually throw the soil up to the stalks. At the time the cane is ready to lay by, the ridges are very high. The cane is laid by when the plants are large enough to thoroughly shade the space between the rows. This period is usually about the middle of June to the first of July. The stubble cane grows rapidly early in the spring, owing to its being thoroughly rooted and ready to take advantage of the early rains and warm days.

The Cotton Farmers.

Cotton farmers in the south are designated as plantation farmers; one, two or three horse and ox farmers. Plantation farmers are those who own from 1,000 to 4,000 acres and furnish all the supplies and hire the labor, or rent the land in small portions, generally to negroes. The others are small farmers who furnish their own supplies and rent their land only, either at a stipulated rent or for a certain share of the crop, generally three-fourths.

On the Country Road.

Goubers, called in the north peanuts, are sometimes called ground peas in the south. They are not profitably raised for market north of Kentucky and Tennessee.

Fanny Field in The Prairie Farmer says: Build one house that will accommodate 100 fowls. Put a partition through the middle, and keep your fowls in two flocks of 50 each. Divide one acre into four yards and use the yards alternately.

H. Stewart says that there is no part of the corn plant but is digestible when rightly fed. And if the whole plant could be torn or crushed into shreds—"shredded" would be a good term—there is no doubt of the far greater economy of feeding it.

So that the calves have proper care. Give them choice bits of clover hay and a little meal every day, if it is only a handful. It will pay if given regularly. Much depends upon the first year's growth.

Advertisement for S.S.S. (Swiss Skin Cream) for curing running sores, the serpent's sting, and contagious blood poison. Includes a small illustration of a snake.

Advertisement for FERRY'S SEEDS, featuring a circular logo with a figure and text describing the seeds' quality and availability.

Advertisement for THE NEW YORK MUSICAL ECHO CO., offering sheet music for various instruments and genres, with a 'FREE \$100' offer.

Legal notice from the County Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Clackamas, regarding the estate of Reuben Root.

Advertisement for KARL'S GLOYER ROOT, a medicinal product for curing blood and skin ailments.

Advertisement for C. N. Greenman, a pioneer transfer and express company, offering freight and parcel services with reasonable rates.

CLEARANCE SALE.

List of items for clearance sale including tubular lanterns, gal. jug, milk par, matches, mixed tea, mixed candy, flour, good roast coffee, liquid shoe dressing, good green tea, New Orleans molasses, white wool yarn, shaker flannel, blankets, shawls, corsets, dress goods, boys hip rubber boots, ladies' low rubbers, storm rubbers, silk thread, needles, pencil sharpeners, misses gloves, cotton socks, overshirts, hammers, boys' caps, misses' cloaks, boys' Barlow knives, brooms, zephyr, maple syrup, and ladies' skirts.

Hamilton & Allen, OREGON CITY, OREGON.

Advertisement for MARVELS OF CHEAPNESS, featuring The New Peterson Magazine and Arthur's New Home Magazine, with a \$1.00 a year subscription offer.

Advertisement for Printers' Ink, stating that if interested in advertising, one should be a subscriber to Printers' Ink, a journal for advertisers.

Advertisement for NOBLETT'S STABLES, offering livery, feed and sale stable services in Oregon City, located between the bridge and depot.

Advertisement for George C. Ely's POSTOFFICE STORE in Elyville, Oregon, where customers can get the highest cash price for butter, eggs, and other farm produce.

Advertisement for GOOD SEEDS, featuring a list of various seed types and prices, and a 'FREE CATALOGUE' offer.