

FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN
BY **F.ETRIGG**
CENTRAL POINT
ROGUE RIVER
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THE FARMER NOT RESPONSIBLE.

There has not been a time in the past thirty years when the prices of the necessities of life, and particularly foodstuffs, have been higher than they are today and no time when folks were looking into the cause of high prices more than now. It is very easy to take it for granted that the original producer—the tiller of the soil, farmer and gardener—is the person chiefly responsible for the high cost of living, but a close study of price conditions which is being made does not seem to bear out this contention. Investigators have found that of the dollar which the consumer spends for meat, breadstuffs, fruit and vegetables, the producer or grower, who does the bulk of the working and sweating and who bears all the loss in case of unfavorable weather conditions, receives the munificent sum of 35 cents, and out of this must come all expenses of production. The other 65 per cent is appropriated, absorbed, or whatever you want to call it, by the chaps who handle it after it leaves the producer's hands—the transportation companies, the commission or middle man and the retailer. On the supposition that these three factors in distribution share equally, they absorb close to 22 cents apiece on every dollar's worth of stuff which the consumer buys, but this is certainly not the case with many articles of consumption. However, in the case of meats, a recent investigation showed that the town and city retailer was exacting a profit ranging all the way from 20 to 55 per cent. On the supposition that middleman and retailer appropriate 10 cents each, the railroads absorb the balance, which is 45 cents. While feverish agitation may not result in lowering prices in an appreciable degree, the average consumer, out of sheer curiosity, if for no other reason, would like to know a little more definitely where that 65 cents goes to.

THE SCHOOLMAM AND TEN ACRES.

There is little doubt that the conservative purchase of favorably situated fruit lands in many sections of the west is a perfectly safe proposition, but such purchase ought to be made with a fairly comprehensive knowledge of the future contingencies, especially in some of the heavily timbered sections. The point we would make in this is nicely illustrated in the case of an eastern schoolm'am whose purchase was detailed to us the other day. This girl, who has saved a nice little nest egg, has thought to insure her material well being for coming years by purchasing a ten acre tract of raw land in a heavily timbered section, not seeming to have taken into account the fact that the cost of clearing the land alone before the little trees are set will range from \$125 to \$175 per acre, the word of zealous real estate agents to the contrary notwithstanding. At best there must be a wait of five or six years before the trees begin to bear, and then not enough to pay for their annual care. Of course potatoes, strawberries and other small fruit crops may be grown between the tree rows during the first few years, but this means a degree of hard and painstaking work that one who has not had experience in horticulture has little conception of. On the other hand, if the tract in question was bought as an investment only, to be sold to some one else to develop, the question is entirely different so far as the schoolm'am is concerned. When she starts to develop her tract she will doubtless consider it wise to sell.

"IN THE BARNYARDS."

A well known agricultural authority and student of conditions prevailing throughout the great cotton belt has recently said that the economic and agricultural salvation of the south in years to come lies in the barnyards of that section, meaning thereby the adoption of dairying and stock raising with attendant crop rotation in place of the present shortsighted, one line production of cotton which every year leaves the land poorer and keeps the cotton grower dependent on the outside world for his breadstuffs, meat and dairy products and for the grain and forage supplies needed for the few beasts of burden he does keep. In some sections of the cotton belt the force of the above agricultural truth is already being realized, and the "better way" is being inaugurated. What is true of the south is true, in less degree, of the east, west and north, of New York and Massachusetts, of Iowa and Minnesota, of Kansas, California and Nebraska, of Georgia and Mississippi. This doctrine of agricultural salvation needs preaching in season and out of season from every platform and in every newspaper and magazine in the country. It is the only way out, and the sooner we realize it as a people the better will it be for our own generation and those to follow.

READY TO TALK.

But Lecky Knew How to Choke Off His Opponent.

A very brilliant Irish lady some years ago arranged that Mr. Lecky should meet an able and famous Irishman of very advanced opinions in politics. It was intended that they should exchange views, and the Irishman had a good deal to say about Mr. Lecky's later work and was well able to put what he had to say in the most effective language. The door opened, and Mr. Lecky was announced. He was introduced to the Irishman, and before the latter had time to say anything the historian began a political harangue which he kept going without cessation the whole time he was there. The Irishman at first tried to break in with a word, but he was swept away, as it were, in the unceasing flow of Mr. Lecky's language, so after a time he sat in amused bewilderment, waiting until nature gave out. But when Mr. Lecky felt he was getting exhausted he rose from his chair and shook hands with the hostess and her guest, keeping on talking all the time. They came out with him to the top of the staircase, but could not get a word in edgewise even then, as he talked all the way down to the door and was even in an unfinished sentence when the door was shut behind him. They looked at each other and roared.

An Event.

Judge Nicholas Longworth, who used to sit on Ohio's supreme bench, looked unnaturally grave, and a neighbor, in recognition of his facial depression, named a pet owl "Judge Longworth." It was the very next day that an excited maid broke up his wife's garden party. "Oh, madam," said she—"madam, Judge Longworth has laid an egg!"

Burne-Jones' Joke.

Of Burne-Jones and William Morris Mr. J. Comyns Carr relates an amusing story. Morris had at one time a horror of growing stout. The poet went to bed at a Thames side inn one night, and Burne-Jones played a trick on him, taking a section out of his waistcoat and sewing the remnants together. The next morning he watched the terror and consternation with which Morris tried to make the garment meet around his waist. It was not until the smothered laughter of the painter reached Morris' ears that the poet was relieved from his anxiety.

Cut Both Ways.

"I want my hair cut and no talk," said a great man with an I-own-the-earth air as he walked into a barber's shop and sat down.

"The"—commenced the man in the apron.

"No talk, I tell you!" shouted the heavy man. "Just a plain hair cut."



SURVEYED HIMSELF IN THE GLASS.

"I've read all the papers and don't want any news. Start away now!"

The man in the apron obeyed.

When he had finished the man who knew everything rose from his chair and surveyed himself in the glass.

"Great Scott!" he exclaimed. "It's really true then? You barbers can't do your work properly unless you talk."

"I don't know," said the man in the apron quietly. "You must ask the barber. He'll be in presently. I'm the glazier from next door."

The Way They Read it.

The handwriting of Horace Greeley was something to inspire awe in the beholder. Mr. Greeley undoubtedly was the great master of illegibility. It was to him the compositor averred that if Belshazzar had seen his handwriting on the wall he would have had cause to be terrified.

In response to an invitation to attend a gathering of newspaper men on one occasion Mr. Greeley wrote: "With a weight of years, I feel obliged to decline any invitation that takes me a day's journey from home," and this is all they could make of it: "If eels are blighted, dig them early. Any insinuation that brick ovens are dangerous to hams gives me horrors."

English Humor.

At a recent dinner of the Authors' club in London Walter Emanuel, member of the staff of Punch, referred to the fact that the man with the largest sense of humor he had ever struck was an Englishman, a dentist. He went to him after suffering long with a toothache. He refused to have gas, and the dentist pulled out a tooth, leaving him writhing in pain, and took the tooth to the window, where he laughed quite heartily.

The victim groaned, "What's the joke?"

"Wrong tooth," said the dentist.

CARE OF SHEEP

IN SUMMER.

It is a good thing to wean early spring lambs during the latter part of June. Some sheepmen advocate allowing them to continue to run with the ewes, but it has been found that the latter will do much better without the lambs, and with plenty of good pasture the lambs will make better growth if they are separated from the ewes.

Of course food requirements of the ewes and lambs are very different at this time, which makes a separate box more necessary. Always try to have plenty of good pasture for the sheep, as this is a very important feature, without which the animals will not do well.

Do not fatten the ewes, but put them into a plump condition preparatory to



A WELL REARED SHEEP.

[By courtesy of Iowa State college.]

entering the breeding period and the winter. The lambs, on the other hand, should be pushed rapidly, as quick maturity is a matter of considerable importance, if a good profit is to be made from them.

The lambs make a better growth while young, at less cost a pound, and, taking all things into consideration, it is more desirable to get them off to market at the earliest possible moment.

Good Mixed Pasture.

Allow ewes the run of a good mixed pasture, with access to a little clover. They will do exceedingly well with this and a little grain. The flock should be provided with a plentiful supply of good, pure water, which is very essential, as a discouraging outcome is apt to be the result if they are allowed to drink water that is impure. Feed the lambs a small quantity of oats mixed with some bran as an appetizer and allow them the run of a fresh clover pasture, which will keep them growing nicely.

Frequent change of pasture is a great help with sheep, particularly with the lambs, which are rather particular about what they eat. If they are turned into a new range after a shower it will be surprising to see how thoroughly they will go over the grass again, even though it has been cropped closely before.

Watch ewes and lambs closely for any indications of stomach worms or other insect pests. Keep the stable darkened and accessible, so they may get away from the flies in muggy weather. Flies are more annoying to sheep than many would suppose, and every possible precaution should be taken to prevent the attacks of these pests.

Watchful Eye Necessary.

To make sheep profitable the ever watchful eye of the flockmaster is most necessary. Some farmers give their sheep good pasturage during the summer, but they overlook the importance of going among the flock two or three times a week to see that all are on foot and doing well and have plenty of good water to drink. It is just as necessary to see that sheep have a plentiful supply of water, especially during summer, as it is to supply plenty of suitable and palatable food.

The flock should also be regularly supplied with salt. Salt is an element of food, and a flock of sheep salted regularly do far better, remain in a more thrifty condition and make greater gain than those which are supplied with this element at irregular intervals.

Docking the Sheep.

Methods employed in cutting the tails from sheep in the division of animal husbandry at University farm, St. Paul, are best to place the lamb on its back, pushing the skin on the tail back toward the body as far as possible so that enough skin will remain to cover the stump of the bone when the tail is cut off. In operating on lambs several months old draw the skin back closely to the body and tie a ligature tightly around the stub of the tail until an hour or two afterward to prevent excessive bleeding. Place the lamb in a clean pen bedded with clean straw. Cleanliness prevents infection, and in such an inclosure bleeding can be detected. Rams should be castrated at time of docking, while in the hands of the operator, if proper physical development of the organs has been reached. This condition occurs about ten days after birth.

Keep the Horse's Skin Clean.

If the skin of the horse is kept clean he will sweat more freely, which is necessary to keep him in good condition.

Calendars



KID CAUTION—Trotting Stallion.
(Property of R. P. Schuerer, Madras, Oregon.)

1910		JULY						1910	
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT			
					1	2			
3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
31									

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