

Diversified Agriculture.

Coleman Younger, one of the most experienced and successful stock growers on the Pacific coast, contributes to the *Press* the following on the above theme: The great interest of our farmers should be to know what to do and how to do it, to make their labor and capital give the largest return.

They have tried wheat and barley raising until many of them have been compelled to mortgage their farms. This single cropping can succeed only in isolated instances, and then only when the crops are good and prices high. Meat, bread and vegetables have to be provided for families, either by raising them or by purchase. Any farmer in any portion of Pacific Coast can produce meat, bread and vegetables in great abundance for family use; in some sections with but little labor, and in others it will require more, but it can be done, and ought to be by every farmer on the coast; and the sooner this course is adopted will prosperity follow. The three articles of food mentioned above will cost a family of six or seven persons from \$300 to \$500 per year. In most cases farmers can raise them cheaper, and a better article than can be purchased from other parties.

No farmer can be said to be independent or prosperous who refuses to raise all or most of such articles of food as are required for family use. In doing this the younger members of the family are educated in all the industries of the farm, which is very important. When boys learn how to handle, to feed, and to manage all kinds of stock, they learn to love it. It keeps them at home; it gives them constant employment; it teaches them patience, method and perseverance, and in a large majority of cases they become good and prosperous citizens.

What a pleasure to see the farm stocked with the highest type of horses, cattle, sheep, hogs and poultry. In breeding, feeding and cultivating this class of farm stock in connection with other farming, to my mind is the most interesting as well as pleasurable, that men can follow. It is the parent of good habits; it is the foundation of good living; keeps the family together; is interesting in its details; moral in its associations; and leads to prosperity.

The occupation of the farmer cannot be overrated or overstated. They feed the millions. Let them cease their labors for a single year, and famine ensues. From their ranks the mighty intellect is drawn that governs and controls the United States in all its departments. All the presidents and most, if not all, the distinguished statesmen and generals of this country, from its foundation up to the present time, were at one time farmer's boys, and learned their first lessons in life's business on the farm and at the farm hearth. Their occupation and habits at out-door work ensure a vigorous constitution. This gives a good foundation for the intellect to grow and ripen. The country supplies the great commercial centers with brains, muscle and energy that has astonished the world in all the departments of industry. It is the daily inquiry where was so and so from? The time honored answer is: Born in such a county, and in such a State; a farmer's son; worked his way from small beginnings up higher and higher, until the great people seeing his worth have made him a general, judge, a senator; and every four years they select one from among them, and make him President. Then take courage, farmers. All the world have to draw their drafts on your ranks. Then make farmers out of your boys, and if they have talent to fill high stations in life, they will find their way up.

All the improved breeds of stock are more or less valuable to breed and raise on the farm, and especially so in regard to cattle. They fill a larger space in supplying families with the good things of life than any or all other stock. It may be said that any class of cattle is valuable to the farmer. This is true. But still there is one tribe which is pre-eminent in my opinion, taking beef and milk of a superior quality, early maturity, besides other valuable considerations. The Short Horn is the grandest and noblest animal of the bovine tribe. The history of the Short Horn, for generations back, is full of interest. The perfection of the early breeders brought them to, by the exercise of common sense in breeding and feeding them for a long series of years, until they had established the perfect type, both in form, pedigree and color; and that type has been maintained by succeeding breeders with the utmost care up to the present time. Their early maturity, the quantity and quality of marbled beef they produce at any age is most encouraging to farmers; and when they are bred for the dairy they are as much esteemed for their milk and butter qualities as they are for their juicy and succulent beef. They have the quality of crossing to great advantage with all other breeds to an extent that no breed of cattle can claim or are entitled to. It is safe to say that all farmers can and ought to keep more or less stock in connection with other farming; and that class of stock ought to be selected that will be most suitable to the farm, and will yield the largest income to help support the family.

I think it is a safe rule to lay down that any farmer of ordinary capacity can, in a reasonable time, learn to manage to good advantage all kinds of domestic stock; for the education the farmer gets, makes him jack of all trades. This being a fact, then the first consideration is to select that class of stock that will give the greatest return.

The trouble with our farmers is to change their mode of farming; to commence adding other industries to single cropping that will ultimately keep the sheriff from the door. Now of all the

domestic animals, I would select the Short Horn Durham to place on the farm to be certain to get the largest return for money and labor expended. Most farmers are compelled to keep cows. Then the first thing to do is to buy a Short-Horn bull to grade up. If you have but a half dozen it will pay; and the larger the herd the greater the profit. The great secret of success in this business is patience, and good care, generous keep, will ensure success. Remember, you can't squat on a large herd, nor can you own one without large means; but you can, by patience, grow one, and by that time you will learn to handle them. While on the other hand, starting with a large herd without experience, you are most likely to make a failure, at least for a time.

Suppose a farmer has a small herd of common cattle, I would recommend him to buy a thoroughbred Short Horn bull and two or more heifers from a reliable breeder, breed up the common cattle, save the thoroughbred and grade heifers, and almost before he knows it he has a fine herd of pure bred heifers, besides his high grade heifers. Short horns are now in the reach of most farmers.

Farmers should awake to their interest and add this important industry to their other farming. Is there any good reason why such a county as Santa Clara and many other counties in this State should not be able to sell 30,000 or 40,000 head of good fat beef steers annually? With our virgin soil and mild climate can we not equal any county in Scotland with her worn-out soil and cold, and to us inhospitable climate? Well, some counties in that old country export to England 40,000 beaves annually, besides supplying their own people. Go with me to old England and see what the tenant farmers are doing to make both ends meet. To aid them in making bread and meat and pay rent, they select the best bred of all kinds of stock, and especially the Short Horn, for beef and dairy purposes. Now if they can breed and grow the finest quality of beef, and make butter and cheese of good quality, and get rich at it, where they feed six months in the year with fog two miles deep, then why can't we do the same in this California climate and no rent to pay?

I will give an incident in my small boyhood days to show how easy it is to impress the young mind and shape his course through life. When my father moved to Missouri—the gentleman—he purchased a farm that had a large lot of hogs. To keep them from going wild, he promised me a sow-shote if I would feed them twice a day until he took them away. So at the appointed time he gave me a beautiful sow shote about six months old. I gave her such attention as a boy would who thought he had a fortune in this little sow. In time she had ten pigs, eight of them sow pigs. They were all blue, with a white list around the body. I have never been as proud of any property since as I was of that sow and pigs. All my boyish attention was given them; they became a part and parcel of my everyday life. Early in the morning and late in the evening I looked after them. They grew rapidly with such attention. This being a new country, they required but little feeding. They increased rapidly, and in less than three years my father sold his farm to move higher up the county, and so my hogs had to be sold. They were gathered up and sold for \$400. This was a great sum of money at that day for boys; but large as it was, I loved my blue-listed hogs more than money. This early training, the love I acquired for stock, has shaped my course through life. No man can succeed in any business unless he loves it. My first start as a boy was in hogs; next, fine horses; and last the Short Horns. I have been breeding this noble and useful animal for more than 20 years. No business that I have ever done has given me so much real pleasure. Their beautiful color, massive and finished form, their noble ancestry, everything connected with them is interesting.

The one unfortunate thing in house decorations nowadays, in the opinion of Mr. R. W. Edis, is the everlasting seeking after some novelty in papers, curtains, or other hangings. Everybody wants to have a room different from their neighbor. Decoration is being done as a fashion, not from a real love for it. Of course, we should not like to see room after room repeating itself in decoration, but why a few really good papers should not be the groundwork of true artistic decoration—when the narrowness of worldly circumstances prevents the more elaborate and more expensive hand decoration in paint or distemper—and let the rest follow from the design, there is no good reason. If that suggestion should be adopted there might be hope for real art decoration instead of the cold formality and everlasting interchange of two or three colors. As a critical writer on art decoration has said: "If the papers on our walls and the curtains we hang in our rooms were, even at second hand, but the record of the fresh impressions and the graceful fancies of artists of our day instead of being incumbered with mechanical pattern work struggling to be artistic, it would be better than all the present miserable striving after novelty." Not to have what your neighbor possesses is the bane of decorative art.

A tramp who had been badly treated at Whitechurch Workhouse, near London, wrote on the walls, which had just been whitewashed:

The Governor's name is Sutton,
The pauper's diet is mutton,
But you must not be a glutton
When you come here to lodge.
You'd better go to Andover,
Where you may live in clover,
By some far better dodge.

Bankrupt Laws.

The question of a bankrupt law is being extensively discussed by the press of the country, and the text of a bill on the subject has for some time been in course of preparation under the supervision of Judge Lowell of the U. S. Circuit Court of Massachusetts. He has consulted with the leading commercial associations and many of the prominent legal and business men of the country, and it is believed that a bill will be ready to present to the Congress to meet next week that will obviate the defects of former laws on the subject and include new principles based upon a proper regard for the rights of both creditors and debtors. While it would be pleasant to contemplate a state of things in which there would be no necessity for such laws, it has not been found convenient for the States to regulate the relations between the debtor and creditor classes without some sort of a local substitute in the absence of a general law on the subject. While each State may and does regulate these relations between its own citizens, it can have no authority outside of its own territory. A writer in the *American* gives a history of the bankrupt laws which from time to time have been enacted in this country and as often repealed, and makes a strong argument in favor of the passage of some law of this character by Congress. Three times has a bankrupt law been tried in the United States, and as often has it been repealed because of inherent defects and its failure to serve the purpose for which it was enacted. On April 4, 1800, Congress passed an act to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States which by its terms was limited to five years, but it worked so badly that it was repealed in December, 1803. Its great evil results prejudiced the honest public against all such measures, and not until 1841, was another bankrupt act passed. It operated but little better than the law of 1800. At the time of its passage the country was in a distressed condition, and debtors were not slow to take advantage of a law which enabled them to get rid of debts which were pressing them very heavily. The courts were kept busy grinding out bankrupts to the exclusion almost of all other business. As a specimen of the working of the law, it may be stated that in Massachusetts alone there were 3,389 debtors, with aggregate liabilities of over \$30,000,000, who filed applications to be adjudicated bankrupts during the year and a half that the law was in force. On March 3, 1848, the law, which in the meantime had been declared unconstitutional by a number of courts, both of the United States and the several States, was repealed. For a period of twenty-four years it was left solely to the State governments to enact laws for the protection of insolvent debtors. On March 2, 1867, the third and last bankrupt law was passed by Congress, and for over eleven years, until September 1, 1878, with certain amendments from time to time, continued in force. While the country continued in a state of prosperity, the law seemed to answer its purpose in a measure, but with the panic of 1873 there sprung up a crop of would-be bankrupts which, until the repeal of the law, and even until now, has kept the courts busy. No one who witnessed the scenes attending the last days of the old law will soon forget the long list of anxious but smiling debtors who waited at the doors of the courts in every city, to file their petitions in bankruptcy before it was too late. On the last day there were filed in New York City 494 petitions; in Philadelphia, 69; in Brooklyn, 130; in Chicago, 400; in Cincinnati, 100; and in Cleveland, 100, while other cities added their quota to the vast army of debt shirkers. But, continues the same writer, the evils that were born of the old bankruptcy laws are not arguments against a law which will protect the honest debtor and the creditor alike. The folly of the former laws was in their permitting rogues to ply their trade with the stamp of legality upon it. Experience should guard against the repetition of such folly, and in the case of Judge Lowell's proposed law it seems that the objection has been skillfully avoided. Another evil of the old bankruptcy acts, which has been struck at in the one under consideration, is the enormous expense which hitherto has attached to bankruptcy proceedings, and which always comes out of the creditor's pocket. An endeavor has been made also to accelerate the disposition of cases involving the settlement of insolvent debtors' affairs, and in this particular the proposed law stands

in a commendable light. Judge Lowell may not have succeeded in reaching the happy mean which an equitable bankrupt law should occupy, but he has taken a long stride toward it. Such defects as this law may have can be discovered only after it has been in operation, but it may be predicted confidently that they are not so fatal as to leave the law unworthy of a fair trial.

Sources of Disease.

The ignorance or indifference of house builders and house buyers is responsible for most of the diseases arising from sewer gas. The trap alone is no protection, as it is exposed to such accidents as "sneaking out," evaporation, and choking up. It is a fact, too, that a water trap will transmit sewer gas, absorbing it below and giving it off above. Without a large and perfectly straight pipe extending from the drain to the top of the house, giving a free escape for all vapors formed in the sewer, no trap will afford any degree of protection. The traps are thus relieved from pressure and made reasonably secure. These are the commonplaces of sanitary science, but the number of householders who take the trouble to inform themselves upon such matters is exceedingly small. There is no doubt that any connection between the street sewer and the interior of the house is a source of peril, even with the "best generally approved constructions" to prevent the entrance of sewer poison. These connections should be reduced to the smallest possible number. Sinks do not need to connect with the sewer. The waste from all the sinks in the house is best disposed of through a pipe discharging, not into, but over, a well-tapped cess-pit in the back yard. If the cess-pit be properly tamped, and care be taken to keep it free from grease, no offensive odors will come from it. The general adoption of this plan would be followed by a marked diminution in zymotic diseases. In the most city houses there are sinks in the main sleeping-rooms, or in the closets connecting with them. These sinks invite the deadly poison to enter the dwelling and do its work upon the occupants when their systems are least able to resist its effects, during the night. All sinks, whatever their construction, and particularly kitchen sinks, should be often and thoroughly freed from grease and decomposing matters.

To any thoughtful person it is amazing that people in general are so wholly indifferent to the commonest sanitary observances. The board of health is a late product in the development of human society. The machinery for protecting life and property from lawless violence had existed in a highly organized form, ages before there was such a thing as sanitary science, and even now that science is understood by few. As for the masses, they go on heedlessly contaminating their homes, buying and using impure milk, unwholesome meat and vegetables, and unadulterated food. As a result of the exertions of a few wiser ones, we have sanitary officers, but it is not thought worth while to give them the necessary means of compelling obedience to the laws. No doubt much has been accomplished by the energy and perseverance of some of our health officers; but, after all, against many sources of disease all they can do is to meet and resolve that any person who shall keep such a nuisance "shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."—*New York Times*.

PRIMEVAL MAN.—Prof. Dawkins has come all the way from England to tell the Boston people, in twelve lectures, what he thinks he knows about the primeval man in the coeene age. He professes to know something about it, by a study of the rocks, and the flora and fauna of the world. In the miocene stage of the world's history, there was no place for man; but "we will get nearer and nearer the period of man after a while, although we may not at first recognize him as he originally appeared." In this connection the Curator of the Peabody Museum at Cambridge observes, in the tenth annual report: "Dr. Abbott has probably obtained data which show that man existed on our Atlantic coast during the time of, if not prior to, the formation of the great gravel deposit, which extends toward the coast from the Delaware river, near Trenton, and is believed to have been formed by glacial action. From a visit to the locality with Dr. Abbott, I see no reason to doubt the general conclusion he has reached in regard to the existence of man in glacial times on the Atlantic coast of North America."

The Irish journals recount with glee that a noble lord in the neighborhood of Belfast had announced his intention to pass the winter in Ireland. The prospect was not pleasing to Milady's French maid, so she forwarded a threatening letter to His Lordship, who at once "ordered his carriage, drove to the station and flew off to London," journeying from his residence to the station "with a revolver primed, capped and loaded by his side, two other friends accompanying him with loaded rifles inside the carriage, while a gallant colonel, armed to the teeth, sat on the box by the coachman." The French maid in a rumble behind laughing internally to a degree fatal to corset laces.

In the Senatorial contest in New York the Conkling faction holds the State Committee and the machinery of thirty-three counties. Its opponents count on a majority of two in the nominating caucus. Levi P. Morton leads the Conklingites. Channey M. Depew, his chief rival, has for fifteen years managed Vanderbilt's legal and political interests.

Unquenchable Fires.

The failure of all the attempts to extinguish the fire which has been raging in the Keeley Run colliery for several weeks, it is feared, will add another to the perpetual burning mines that now exist in the Pennsylvania anthracite regions. The greatest of these is probably that in the jugular vein, near Coal Castle, this county. This has been burning since 1835. Louis F. Dougherty opened this vein in 1833. The upper drift of the mine was above water level, and a huge fire was kept in a grate at the mouth of the mine in winter to keep the water from freezing in the gutters. One night in the above year the timbers of the drift caught fire from the grate. When it was discovered the fire had been carried down the air hole to the lower drifts and was beyond control. Two miners entered the mine, hoping to recover their tools. They never came out. The mine was abandoned. No effort was made to mine any of the coal near the burning vein, although it was considered the best coal in the region, until 1856. Then John McGinnis put in a slope on the east side of it, below water level. He struck the vein at a place where the coal was so thick that two miners could keep a large breaker supplied. When five hundred yards of gangway had been excavated, the heat from the burning Dougherty mine began to bother the miners. McGinnis attempted to open an air-hole. The heat became so great that the men were paid double wages to induce them to work. They worked entirely naked and were relieved every ten minutes. Finally the heat became so intense that work was abandoned. The mine was flooded. After being pumped out men could again work for a few days. The mine was flooded nine times. McGinnis finally failed and the mine was then abandoned. The fire has been raging in the vein ever since. An area of half a mile in every direction has been burned. No vegetation grows on the surface. In places the ground has caved in, forming chasms a hundred feet deep. There is but a thin shell of earth over the pit of fire. At night blue, sulphurous flames issue from the ground. It is dangerous to walk across the spot. Several persons have mysteriously disappeared in the vicinity during the past twenty years. It is believed that in a majority of the cases they have fallen into the burning mine. Dougherty, the original proprietor of the mine, attempted to go across once. He sank to his armpits through the crust, and was only saved by courageous friends who ventured to his assistance. The stones on the ground are hot, and snow never rests there. Rain turns to vapor as fast as it falls on the burning mine. Millions of dollars' worth of the best quality of coal have been consumed by the fire. The Summit Hill mine, near Maunch Chunk, has been burning for twenty-five years. It is believed that this mine was set on fire by discontented miners. Thousands of dollars have been expended in fruitless efforts to extinguish the flames. The Butler mine, near Pittston, has been burning three years. It was set on fire by a party of tramps, who built a fire in the mine in 1877. The fire is in the upper drifts. It is confined to an area of forty acres by an immense ditch forty feet wide, which was excavated between the burning drift and connecting ones. The digging of the canal cost \$50,000. But for that obstacle the fire would have communicated to some of the most extensive mines in the Lackawanna valley, and a subterranean conflagration would have swept under the whole of West Pittston. Miners have worked in the lower drift of the Butler mine since the fire broke out, and there are but forty feet of rock between them and the field of the fire above. The water that trickles through the roof is scalding hot. The temperature is so high that the men can wear but little clothing.—*[N. Y. Sun]*.

THE WORLD'S GRAIN SUPPLY.—Everybody is, or ought to be, interested in the world's supply of bread—the farmer, especially, the price of whose wheat crop depends on the amount of wheat grown. For the same reason the consumer has a like interest in statistics bearing upon this subject. The following carefully-prepared estimate of the wheat crop of 1880 is from Bradstreet's statistician, W. F. Ford. He says that in spite of an apparent surplus of 27,000,000 bushels over the world's needs, prices probably will be well maintained. The gross yield of this country has been 455,649,000 bushels, of which about 190,000,000 bushels will be available for export. The countries most noticeably short are Great Britain, 120,000,000 bushels; France, 42,000,000; Germany, 20,000,000; Holland and Belgium, 14,500,000; and Italy, Switzerland, Spain and Portugal, together, about 11,000,000. The remaining European States have small surpluses, the greatest, Austro-Hungary, reaching about 20,000,000 bushels, while in no other case does the excess go above 6,000,000 bushels. Russia is credited with a surplus of 5,000,000 bushels. Mr. Ford asserts that even this trifling amount is more apparent than real, since a very large import of rye and Indian corn will be necessary to make good the failure in these staple crops.

Judge John V. Wright, the defeated Democratic candidate for Governor of Tennessee, has written a manly and patriotic letter, saying that he bows without murmur to the verdict of the people, while he rejoices that so large a majority of both parties have declared in favor of the "strict maintenance of the public faith, State and National." He hopes for a reunion of the regular and repudiating wings of the Democratic party of the State upon a debt-paying platform.