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ALFALFA AND HOGS.

The Sacramento Record says: Clover of all the forage plants seem to be the best adapted as feed for hogs, and of all the clovers with which we have had any experience alfalfa is the best. Small pigs will begin to bite off and eat the tender shoots of this clover sooner than any other feed, and, if continued in good feed until time to wean, may be weaned and will continue a thrifty uninterrupted growth until arriving at full size. A good fattening breed of hogs will keep in very fine condition for slaughter upon alfalfa with no stronger food. Hogs are even more fond of the roots of alfalfa, than the tops, and will, if not prevented, soon destroy a good setting by rooting it up and consuming that which supports them. This may be prevented by putting a ring in the rim of the nasal muscle with which the nose is furnished. This ring may be made of common hay baling wire, but, if the hogs have attained a good size this wire may require to be doubled to prevent it from breaking out. Especially must hogs be rung if they are to be kept on alfalfa field during the rainy season, for while the ground is saturated with water, it is so easy to get at the roots that they will be sure to take them all out.

A writer in the Animal Kingdom, a paper fostered by Mr. Bergh presents some statistics on the relation of cruelty and crime, and also points out the connection that exists between pets and kindness. Out of 2,000 convicts of whom inquiry was made all but 12 stated that they had no pets at home. This accords with the observations of nearly every intelligent person. The man who keeps a cross, surly dog, is generally a morose, surly fellow himself. The well-kept, well-trained spaniel is found to have a gentleman for a master. A policeman is seldom called to a house where there is a cat purring on the hearth, and a canary bird hanging in the window. Cruelty to animals is pretty certain to lead to crime towards men. The boys living about stockyards and employed in slaughter houses are the worst customers to be found in schools. They seem to delight in torture and giving pain. On the contrary, crime is almost unknown among shepherds.

TERRA COTTA.

But little is known in this country of terra cotta, which abroad enters so largely into ornamental architecture. In its manufacture, clay, flint, glass and fossil containing phosphate of lime, are powdered and mixed with water into paste, which is then ground and beaten until all air bubbles are expelled. It is then moulded directly by the artist and burned, having first been glazed and tinted to suit the taste. The material thus formed is both cheap and durable. Neither heat, cold nor any moisture affects it. And there is this further advantage in its use, that if can be moulded by the artist himself as if it were so much clay, whereas stone must be cut. There seems to be no good reason why terra cotta should not come into general use in this country. In England it has long been a favorite material, and it enters largely into parts of the elegant Albert Memorial Hall, as also of the South Kensington Museum. The prejudices of American architects against the use of terra cotta it is hoped will soon yield upon a thorough knowledge of its many admirable qualities.

THE CHESTER WHITE.

The Journal of the Farm says: It is very evident from the notes of our distant correspondents, and from our exchanges, that Chester White hogs are falling into disrepute. We regret this, because we know it is not the fault of the breed, but results from an almost indiscriminate shipment of all kinds of white pigs in Chester county. When the demand was at its highest point, dealers were scouring the country, and buying up any kind of pigs so they had no black hair, and shipping them abroad to the disappointment of purchasers, and discredit of the Chester Whites. They can scarcely be claimed to be a distinct breed, but are only the result of many years careful crossing, and not having their characteristics fixed, show a strong tendency to revert to their original state.

WHEAT AND RYE FLOUR.—Recent experiments have confirmed the supposition that the inferior quality of certain kinds of wheat and rye flour is frequently due to the action of the sunlight, by which, even when in bags or barrels, the gluten suffers a metamorphosis similar to that occasioned by heating in the mill. The tendency thus imparted to it to become lumpy, and to form dough without toughness, is similar to that of flour from moist grain, or of flour when it is too fresh, or made from grain ground too early, or when adulterated with barley meal. Such flour can be improved by keeping for some weeks.

A HORSE WITH A LONG MEMORY.

Many years ago, Mr. Abram Dodge, of the town of Ipswich, Mass., owned a beautiful horse which was the pet of the family. He was admired by all who knew his playfulness and good qualifications. In the summer it was Mr. Dodge's habit occasionally to have a frolic with his horse in his barn-yard, then let him out alone, and he would go to the river, which was about one-third of a mile distant, where he would bathe, then go to a common and roll on the grass, then with the freedom of air start for his home. His stable was renovated for him while he was gone, and his breakfast put in his crib. If he met his master he would show some coltish pranks, bound for the stable, pull out the wooden pin that fastened the door with his teeth, and rush to the manager where he expected to find his food. One night the horse was stolen from the stable. After the expiration of sixteen years Mr. Dodge was at the tavern when a man drove a horse up to the door. Mr. Dodge at once recognized his horse, and he told the driver his reasons for believing it to be his; the man told of whom he bought the horse, and said that he had owned him for several years. Mr. Dodge claimed his horse, and it was finally agreed that if the horse would on being taken to his old stable, go through the habit of bathing, rolling on the grass, and pulling the pin from the stable-door as above described, that Mr. Dodge should have him. When the horse was let out into his old yard he reviewed the premises for a moment, then started for his old bath-tub, then to his green towel on the common, then to his old stable, pulled the wooden pin, wor his old meal, and his old master his favorite horse. These facts are vouchsafed for reliable old residents of the beautiful, picturesque old town, and show conclusively the long memory of our noblest animal.

GREASE YOUR NAILS.

One of the technical journals says: Every farmer who has had occasion to drive a nail into seasoned oak posts knows its liability to bend and break. If the point be moistened in the mouth it will usually drive more kindly. Oil is still better, but then it is inconvenient to dip each nail separately into it. Another point observed is that boards become loose eventually from the rusting of the nails, which communicating to the wood causes not only an enlargement of the nail hole, but the wearing away of the nail itself, rendering the fence or the building shaky and insecure. This may be prevented by heating any rough grease until it smokes, and then pouring it over the nails to be used. The grease will penetrate the pores of the iron, and cause the nails to last, without rusting, an indefinite period. Besides this, no trouble will then be experienced in driving them into the hardest wood. The reason is that the coating of grease prevents contact by air, and consequently, oxidation. Oxygen is the great destroyer of iron, and moisture its conducting cause.

PATRONS OF HUMBOLDT.

Following are the newly elected officers of the Humboldt Grange: W. B. Shelton, Master; C. L. Jewell, Overseer; W. Barnhart, Lecturer; J. DeSpain, Steward; Chas. Beely, Assistant Steward; A. Hill, Chaplain; E. Welch, Treasurer; J. H. Barton, Secretary; T. B. Wells, Gate-keeper; Mrs. Welch, Cook; Mrs. Storey, Pomona; Mrs. Jewell, Flora; Mrs. Bailey, Lady Assistant Steward. The following officers were elected and installed for the year 1874, by Greenview Grange No. 49, P. of H., Washington county: Wm. Wilson (re-elected), M.; Daniel Baker, M.; Lewis Green, Steward; G. H. Darling, A. S.; Mrs. M. J. Wilks, L. A. S.; J. Wilks, L.; John Johnson, C.; B. H. Ingles, Treas.; J. E. Pierce, Secretary; C. W. Purden, G. R.; Ellen Luceling, Cook; Jessie Wilson, Pomona; Anna Luelling, Flora.

Mr. George Hunter, Special Deputy, is now in Whitman county, organizing Grange of the P. of H. On the 14th instant he wrote to the Union saying that he had organized the following named Grange: Harmony Grange at Wheatstone Hollow, with Jas. Donaldson, Master; Battle Creek Grange, Hovey, L. Flowers, Master; Wm. Ayers, Secretary; Union Grange, Patoka Prairie, Levi Olliver, Master; George Greer, Secretary. This Grange organized with 30 male and 10 female members. Patoka Grange, Patoka Creek, J. L. Bounds, Master; P. M. Brierty, Secretary; fourteen members. All these are in Walla Walla county. In Whitman county Mr. H. organized Pioneer Grange—Full Grange—with Henry Spaulding, Master, and M. Pringer, Secretary. Excelsior Grange, Colfax—full Grange—S. P. Gilchrist, Master, A. H. Gordon, Secretary. Following are the officers of Milton Grange, Umatilla county, for the ensuing year: D. M. Drumheller, Master; B. H. Bliss, Overseer; J. E. Kirkland, Lecturer; R. A. Ritchie, Steward; Jesse Drumheller, Assistant Steward; Wm. Nichols, Chaplain; W. T. Goodwin, Treasurer; Thomas K. McCoy, Secretary; John Oster, Gate-keeper; Miss Jane Derrick, Cook; Mrs. S. E. Drumheller, Pomona; Laura Saunders, Flora; Mrs. Sarah Nichols, Lady Assistant Steward. In a letter to the W. W. Statesman, Thomas McCoy, Secretary of the Grange, says: "Milton Grange is in a thriving condition. The present class, numbering thirteen, was admitted to the first degree on the 21st inst. The farmers seem to be wide-awake to this, their last hope."

H. K. Hansen, Secy. of the Jackson County Agricultural Society, has received from the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, four quarts of bonneted oats, four quarts of soft oats, two quarts of red clover, two quarts of Probuser, barley, and a lot of garden seeds, which he will distribute among the farmers.

LETTERS FROM DANIEL CLARK, ESQ.

SACRAMENTO CITY, Jan. 29th, 1874. Editor Willamette Farmer: Having a few moments of leisure, I will drop you a few lines that may not be wholly without interest to your readers. I have already told you of the organization of two Granges in Jackson county. I left Ashland on the evening of the 20th with two fellow travelers in the stage. We crossed the Siskiyou Mountains that night; snow four feet deep at 10 o'clock. On the morning of the 21st, we took breakfast at Yreka; you may be sure we had a cool night of it. We continued our journey without stop or hindrance, except having to dismount from the stage into the snow to let the coach pass a land slide in the mountains. The second night at 1 o'clock, the morning of the 23d, we reached Redding or the Northern end of the California Pacific Railroad at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes A. M. The iron horse was tilting down the Valley of the Sacramento. You may judge what the temperature was when I tell you that the ice was to be seen in the ditches alongside the railroad until the middle of the forenoon. I saw some large fields of wheat that looked well, and I also saw a large number of plows at work as we passed down this noble appearing valley. We reached this city a little after the middle of the day. I expected here to meet the Worthy Master of this State Grange, and have his company across the country, but he was unavoidably detained, to look after some of the interests of the Order in San Francisco, and will be here to-day, and we expect to start together to-morrow afternoon for St. Louis. My time here will be worth to the order all it costs. Having met here a number of the Executive Committee of this State Grange, we have been preparing plans for future co-operation between the Patrons of the two States. There has been an abundance of rain in this State this winter, the ground has been so wet. In many parts, that they have not been able to plow for a month, and if it should not rain any more it will be two or three weeks yet before they will be able to plow on account of the wetness of the ground. It rained hard yesterday and last night, but is clear and pretty to-day.

ON BOARD THE U. P. R. R. CAIS, HUMBOLDT VALLEY, January 28th, 1874.

As you are aware this is a large extended plain and to all appearance a barren waste, but upon inquiry I learn that cattle which appear in very large numbers in the upper end of this plain not only live but fatten on the wild sage which is the only product of those plains except in the small bottoms along the margin of the river. Those bottoms increase in size as we ascend the river. The grass is a round wily species of the Nimble-wily variety. It is cut and used for hay, making, as I am informed, a poor article. The stock looks to be in very good condition, and I think, from what I can see of it as we pass along, that it is of the Spanish breed. This entire country, both mountains and plains, is entirely destitute of timber. The largest bush to be seen for hundreds of miles being a few willows in places along the margin of the Humboldt, the largest of which do not exceed one inch in diameter and ten feet in height. This plain is covered with snow, but not deep. Except at stations along the line of the road that are at long intervals there is only here and there a lonely cabin or miserable Indian hut that indicates that human beings do inhabit this forlorn region. At the Palisades, distant from San Francisco 573 miles in a narrow barren canyon bound on either side with high rocky cliffs, a fine corporation is building a narrow-gauge railroad to Eureka, distant from the latter place 85 miles. To look at the country a person would naturally conclude that there would be but little business for a side track here, but from the number of freight wagons there are to be seen here we must conclude that there is a large business done in the direction of Eureka. DANIEL CLARK.

THE FIRST PATENT.

It is said that the first patent issued by the United States was granted to Samuel Hopkins on July 30, 1790, for the manufacture of pot and pearl ashes. The third was to Oliver Evans, of Philadelphia, so famous for inventions in high pressure engines, of whose inventions President Jackson remarked that "it was too valuable to be covered by a patent, and there should be no patent for a thing no one could afford to do without after it was known." This was in December of the same year in which Hopkins obtained his patent. For many years after this date the patent office was but a clerkship in the State department.

The Oregonian gives the particulars of the arrest and trial of Murphy and Kelly, at Astoria, from which it seems that they committed a robbery on Tuesday night, garroting a farmer on the street there, were immediately arrested, and court being in session at the time, were indicted, tried and convicted within three days. On the fourth day they were on the way to Portland and the morning of the fifth saw them lodged in the penitentiary at Salem. Quick time.

NEWS ITEMS.

A letter from Linkville to the Jacksonville Sentinel, dated January 26th says: "Our snow storm is one of the heaviest for years. On Saturday morning the thermometer stood at twelve degrees below zero. Yesterday it was warmer, snowing all day, with a heavy wind from the south. Snow from 18 to 28 inches deep in Link river valley, over three feet at an lake, and two feet deep on Sprague river. Without doubt by this time the roads between here and Goose lake are impassable. Unless the storm abates and the weather moderates soon, one-half or more of the stock in this country must perish. The Island Mills, of Union County, are now shipping immense quantities of flour to every part of the mountains. The demand upon these mills is greater than ever before. The people in the vicinity of Baker City are predicting an early spring. Old settlers say that plowing will commence the 1st of March. Baker County quarries were all hard at work in their respective ledges. The Virtus mill is crushing quartz this week for James Gordon, which is turning out very well. The numerous friends of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Baker City and vicinity have completed arrangements for the building of a church edifice this spring. The building is to be erected on the east corner of the town, and will cost about \$2,500 or \$3,000 when completed. The work of hauling the lumber for the new bridge across Main Powder River is now in progress. The bridge is situated four miles above the county bridge, on the Baker City and Sparta road, and is to be free to all. The estimated cash outlay will be four hundred dollars, and the work will be completed in about two weeks. It is estimated that locally are donating all the labor, transportation of lumber, etc. A correspondent of the Oregonian says the Rev. Morrison and Charles Clancy, in a meeting of Hillside, had a meeting on last Saturday, and initiated 23 new members. This is about as large a number as have been received into the Order in this county for any Grange to the State. After the initiation the ladies connected with the Grange spread a "mid-winter lunch," consisting of the greatest profusion of edibles, of which something over 60 persons partook, and still enough was left to feed many more. All present were exceedingly well pleased, and felt profited by the occasion, which was one of the grandest social enjoyments experienced for a long time. The Grange of Deserod, of the 1st, at the school on the James Gordon quartz ledge is now down fifty feet or more and develops a well defined ledge. The rock continues to present as well as the ledge, and will be closed up. The discovery of the ledge. One of the batteries of the Virtus Mill is now running on rock from this ledge, and will crush fifty tons by the 1st of February. The mill will be closed up. Rev. H. K. Hines and M. Baker are holding public meetings in Grande Ronde Valley for the purpose of soliciting aid for a University at La Grande. A primary Sunday School was organized at Canemah on last Sabbath, under the leadership of Rev. M. J. July, about fifty in attendance. The Rev. Smith will leave for the Eastern States on the Ajax, to purchase a flock of Aro sheep for his Walla Walla ranch. The Oregonian says miners from our country must pay duties on their supplies, taken to the Northern mines. The schooner Eliza Anderson has been chartered by the Oregonian to carry a cargo of coal to the monthly trips from Victoria to Fort Vancouver. She has been overhauled and refitted for the purpose. The schooner Hera has arrived at Portland from San Francisco, with an assorted cargo. The Umatilla county jail is empty. Monies are very prevalent in Umatilla county. La Grande supports a Women's Prayer Meeting. An Episcopal Church is to be built at La Grande, to cost \$1,500. The Universalists are to have a church at Cove, to cost \$1,000. The Central Grange Association has rented a fine hall at Albany. Umatilla county is said to owe \$10,000 and makes a large amount of money. The dots was considerably reduced in 1873. The Albany Manufacturing Co. has organized; capital, \$60,000. Incorporators, E. Atkins, M. L. Johnson, J. Wheeler, T. Montague, H. Foster, D. M. Thompson, who propose to manufacture all sorts of goods, wares and merchandises. The Courier says Rev. T. A. Wood's labor at Lafayette is crowned with success. He baptized twelve candidates last Sabbath, eleven of whom were ladies. The Oregonian gives the Police summary of Portland for the month as 143 arrests; drinks, etc. 74; larceny 17; assaults 19, and the rest various misdemeanors. The Oregonian has sold the Fairmount farm, bought of Judge Thornton, for \$5,000. Senator Kelly has introduced a bill in Congress to pay W. A. White \$2,000 for services as Clerk in 1872. In relation to a telegram from Portland to Astoria, the W. U. T. Co. offer to build it and turn it over to citizens of those places at cost. Dr. Plummer will examine the company's routes at an early date, and will give his findings to Mr. Gosselin, Superintendent of the Company. Geo. Hafferty, of East Portland has offered to his business a piece of conglomerate found in the hills near the Columbia river, which came from South America, which contains a veritable six pound cannon ball. He wants now to learn the history of the missile, which may have been age-old. Excitement exists at Portland over the report of a case of small pox on board the schooner Hera, from San Francisco. The vessel is partly discharged but the rest of the cargo will have to state a while. She has been towed below the bone-yard out of the way. The steamer Ajax has arrived with a full freight and is expected to return Friday February 21. When she left Astoria the Oregonian was still in the bar, but was getting up steam. The Oregonian's three children have been sent from Wymouth Territory to attend the Bishop Mont Grammar School and St. Helen's Hall of Portland. The Mountaineer says: The citizens of Oregos are circulating a petition, which will be presented to the County Court of this county, asking for the location of a road from that valley to the summit of the Cascade mountains, with the proposed road from Salem to Eastern Oregon. This is a move on the part of those people, to free themselves from the extortion, now exacted upon the Columbia. We trust their efforts will meet with favor at the hands of our county officials. If we cannot aid them in becoming free, let us, for local selfishness, hinder them in their efforts to get out of the hands that now hold all the people on this side of the mountains. If the people of Marion county, can and will do more to assist these people, than those who live along the Columbia river, let them not retard them. They do not aid in breaking the ruinous thrallings of a relentless monopoly. A young Scotch soldierman, the Right Hon. Walter C. Kerr, a son of the Right Hon. Lord Charles Kerr, of Kinnaird, Perthshire, Scotland, arrived here last week in company with Mr. A. G. Cook, of Vancouver, W. T. He has purchased the farm of Mr. H. M. McVerry, situated on the opposite side of the river, containing some eight

hundred acres of land, all under fence, a good house and barn, twenty-five head of milk cows, etc., for the sum of six thousand dollars in gold. We find an account of this young man's coming in one of Mr. William Reid's letters to the Oregonian, dated at Dunbar, Scotland, December 22d, 1873, in which he is spoken of in the highest terms. We feel him welcome and hope that he may find the country all that it has been represented. Capt. W. R. Cussons, of Empire City, died at this place on the 18th instant, of dropsy. The Steamer Hera, at North Bend, are building a large full-rigged, double-deck clipper ship, to run in the grain trade between Portland and Liverpool. The Albany Register will be an eight page sheet after its next issue. Articles of incorporation of the Albany Manufacturing Company were filed last Tuesday. Capital, \$60,000; shares, 2500. The river rose three feet at Eugene last Wednesday. The citizens of Eugene were much pleased with Mrs. D. K. Xanth's lecture on "Whiskey." Benton county is going to have an Almanac for 1874, some time. The mountain road to Ales is in bad condition, in consequence of snow and fallen timber. The Railroad says: Hon. T. McF. Patton of Salem is in that place last week. Some fine pulls endeavoring to persuade an "influential citizen" of Beavercreek to give them half a dollar to buy whisky. The Coos Bay mail had been delayed two weeks by snow on the mountains. The election will be held in Douglas county on the 27th and 28th of February, by order of H. C. Simpson, State Superintendent. A Hillside correspondent of the Independent says: "The citizens of Hillside are 'dissolved' in that place lately, 'was well attended and attentively listened to.' The employees on the West Side road were discharged because they would not pocketed charges for taking care of passengers' baggage. The Subscribers says eight inches of snow fell and also melted there week before last. The passengers by the Astoria Express have been published, congratulating him upon making the trip from the Golden Gate to the Columbia river in 48 hours, which they say is the quickest time on record. The Columbia river is unusually low for the season. It is said that some Oregonians are about to purchase and publish the Vancouver Register. The Oregonian's Coos Bay correspondent sends the following items: A. M. Simpson & Bro. are commencing to build a 1,200 ton ship to be put on the grain trade in Liverpool. Schooner Laura May was wrecked six miles north of Coos Bay bar on Saturday morning, from San Francisco, and little hope of saving her. No lives lost and little injury. The steamer J. Bretham has been towing vessels over the Umpqua. H. H. Lum is building a side wheel steamer to run on the bay. Capt. Cussons died suddenly on the 18th at Empire City. The rival steamers Messenger and Satellite have run their race and the Messenger makes a satellite of the other. L. N. T. Miller, Swamp Land Commissioner, has secured 41,500 acres of land. B. F. Dowell had started to make his annual campaign against the Treasury at Washington. Latest advices report that a good condition for the Klamaith basin, and some stock as having perished. Mumps now prevail at Jacksonville and many other points up the valley. Some very severe cases have occurred. The Jacksonville Sentinel, the oldest paper in Southern Oregon, has closed its 15th volume. It is to be improved and enlarged by the publication of the State from Ashland Lake City, via Linkville, now runs semi-weekly, leaving Ashland every Monday and Thursday mornings. No arrest of the man who killed Hiss, at La Grange or the 18th ult. has yet been made. John Corbell is supposed to be the man who fired the fatal shot. Isaac Vandoren had his right hand crushed so badly, a few days ago, while cutting out Little Apple, in Jackson county, that it was necessary to amputate one of his fingers. No stock, we are informed, has suffered for food in Wasco county this winter. Hay is quite plenty there, but further east there is less hay and consequently some destitution among the large herds. The Jacksonville Times says: "The late rains have placed the ground in a good condition for plowing, and the farmers are busy at work. Although there remains a large surplus from last year, there will undoubtedly be a great area again just in grain this year." Phoenix McKenzie, who had occasion to visit Salem and the surrounding country Monday, the 26th ult., informs the Jacksonville Times that a regular winter hurricane raged there the Sunday previous, falling trees, demolishing fences, and laying "smash" generally. What makes the affair more curious than ever, is that the same day in Jacksonville, less than eight miles distant, was very calm, no wind being perceptible. POTATOES IN DRILLS.—A correspondent in Rural Home writes: To test the difference in yield between planting in drills or in hills, I planted six rows across the field three and a half feet apart and hills two feet nine inches in the row, and by the side of them six rows in drills, with seed once in twenty inches, and rows about the same as the other. The yield of weight proved to be two and a half bushels or twelve and a half bushels to the acre in favor of the drills, although they had been damaged some by the horse having to turn around on them when cultivating these in hills. A former year I had thirty bushels to the acre more in favor of the drill planting. This experiment was with Early Rose. LARGE PIGS.—A correspondent of the Western Farmer writes: The following are the dressed weights of four-grade Poland-China pigs raised by me the past summer: 250, 300, 317 and 327; average weight 300 lbs. They were eight and one-half months old and acknowledged to be nearly perfect in shape and proportion. Their feed was mostly corn and whey, while no extra trouble was made to force them, except that they were fed corn meal for the last two weeks. The pork cut up was satisfactory.