

BEAVER STATE HERALD

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Allow us to call attention to the coming vote on the normal school location. From the latest reports it appears that the demand for competent and trained teachers far exceeds the supply. Such a condition can only be met by providing a means whereby a person of such means as the ordinary person of teaching inclination affords, can meet the expense of preparation. Not many but one, and a good one. One that the state may be proud of and the product of which will rank with that of any state in the union. If we will be economical let it be in saving the best of what has already been expended for normal equipment by favoring the oldest, largest and most favorably located of the three—Monmouth.

A new course at the Agricultural College will teach boys how to plan and build a dairy barn that will be both sanitary and convenient. An unusual feature of the instruction will be that of aid to pupils in drawing plans in class for buildings for their own home farms. This instruction cannot be too highly commended for no person really becomes an observer of constructional detail, without having having faced a few such problems. Giving the boy or the girl something to do with home building, arrangement, and furnishing that will encourage a philosophical observation of such things will prove to be of increasing value to them.

One of our correspondents requests that her notes be printed just as she sends them in. That is not always possible. Want of time or want of space prevents the reproduction of the copy, in many instances, and not infrequently were we to put the correspondence into print just as it came in there would be still more serious complaint. The latter is not true of the write mentioned, but it is in some instances.

Another writer asks for material, and fails to sign a name. She or he, says that Mr.— is not going to pay for his paper since he was not mentioned as a winner at the Live Stock Show. That was probably the correspondent's fault. If he, or she, knew of the instance why did they not report it. It is utterly impossible for us to observe all that occurs, to recall and use all that we have seen, so if some one feels that he isn't getting proper notice, we hope he will consider that we are not omnipresent, and that there is more things to demand a man's attention, in this business, than any one unacquainted with it can imagine. We find it unwise to criticize people in the conduct of their own affairs.

The Willamette Valley produced 100,000 bales of first grade hops this season, as compared with a yield of 82,000 last year. Lane County has 38 lumber mills with an annual cut of over 200,000,000 feet.

An energetic campaign will be carried on throughout the Northwest for more hog raising. Following a conference at Spokane during the past week, it was decided to get the railroads, the agricultural colleges and the newspapers to work in co-operation to arouse interest among the farmers. An information bureau on the hog question will be maintained by the Portland Stockyards Company and a systematic effort made to turn the attention of the farm population toward this profitable industry.

The increase in livestock production throughout the northwest following the establishment of a market at Portland is shown in the receipts at the local packing plants. One day last week the receipts were over 4000 head. These animals came from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana and such deliveries show the money that formerly went east will now be kept at home.

A dairy cow may present a prettier and more natural appearance in the estimate of some folks with her horns on, but a fellow feels quite a bit safer when he has the handling of them if they are off.

It beats everything how a good, square meal or a night's refreshing sleep will change one's attitude toward the old world, things in general and in particular the task which one may have in hand.

You will now and then run across a farmer of the old school who still holds that a heavy frost about the 1st of October is a great help to the corn. The heavy freezing of the stalk does not help the corn at all—only kills it and in this way may possibly hasten the drying out process.

About the next surest investment after a government bond is a patch of alfalfa. During the growing season it is as bad as a family of eight kids and a washing about keeping a fellow at home, but with hay from three to six cuttings in a season and the hay worth from \$12 to \$20 a ton a fellow is compensated for having to stay at home. Another cause of the high regard in which alfalfa is held is that it is a soil enricher and not a soil robber.

With first class manure spreaders to be had at from \$85 to \$125 there is absolutely no good reason why thousands and hundreds of thousands of tons of farm fertilizer all over the country—one of the most valuable by-products of American farms—should be allowed to leach and weather and lose a good half or more of its fertilizing value before being spread on the land. The manure spreader is one of five or six farm improvements which a fellow is justified in going into debt for.

It's a pretty sane idea for parents to know where the boys and girls are after 7 o'clock p. m. In one nice little town we know of a bunch of boys, some of them from supposed best families, make a practice of meeting the 8:50 train, and by a prearranged plan the "newsy" furnishes these half baked kids with cigarette papers in direct violation of the state law. This thing couldn't happen if their parents were wide awake and the boys were at home, where they ought to be.

If the average country plunger on the board of trade—more exactly, the fellow who sends his money to city commission men for investment in wheat or corn or pork or what not—could see the degree of affluence in which these fellows live, who neither toll nor spin, he would be a whole lot slower than he usually is in playing a game in which he usually gets pinched before he gets through. It's a bit slower and laborious making coin by swilling pigs and milking cows, but lots safer and surer in the long run.

Many a farmer planning to embark in the dairy business asks himself the question, "What is the best breed for me to keep?" If he has no special individual preference it will probably be best for him to select a breed of which there are the most representatives in his locality. Splendid results have been had with all of the leading dairy breeds, which in the last analysis means that success in dairying depends considerably more upon the man and the care he gives his cows than upon the breed chosen.

There's many a housewife who covers a cycle of twenty-four hours in the making of a batch of bread and who is never sure when she starts it what kind of a loaf she is going to take out of the oven. In many cases failure is due to the method, sometimes the flour and doubtless more often to poor yeast, from which it is as difficult to make good bread as a whistle out of a pig's tail. Bread made from live potato yeast, started with a fresh yeast cake or compressed yeast, can be made at 7 a. m. and baked with the dinner fire, and, more than this, if simple directions are followed the baked loaf will be uniformly sweet and light.

The slender wheat grass found in a number of the mountain states is a cousin of the quack grass. The seed heads closely resemble those of the quack grass, but are borne on longer stalks. The plant is a perennial—lives from year to year by means of its root system, but does not have running root stalks, which make quack grass such a persistent pest. The wheat grass starts early in the spring, producing a good growth of fine, tender leaves, which are greatly relished. As hay it is said to be equal to timothy. As pasture and hay grass it would seem to possess qualities which ought to commend it, especially where the rainfall is short.

According to a late decision of the acting attorney general, the cooking compound designated as "lard substitute," containing one-fifth animal fat and four-fifths cottonseed oil, has been declared as coming under the head of meat food products and as such must be marked "inspected and passed" before it can enter into interstate commerce. This view is one held from the first by Secretary Wilson, but which some manufacturers of the product have been disposed to dispute.

Two Forms of Tomato Trellis. A correspondent of the Country Gentleman wrote: Please tell me what you consider the best method of supporting tomato plants in a private garden. The above

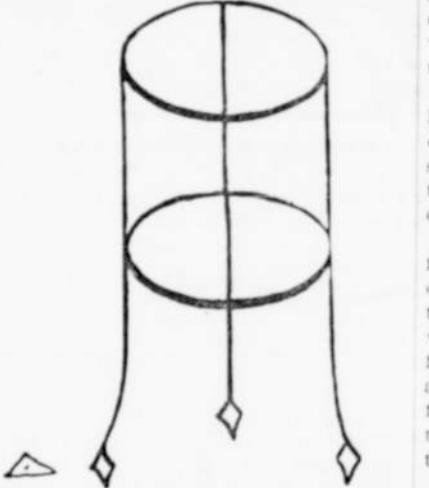


FIG. I.—ONE FORM OF TOMATO TRELLIS. sketch (Fig. 1) shows a method which has proved very unsatisfactory with me.

The answer was as follows: The best trellis for supporting tomatoes is the hinged trellis shown in the sketch (Fig. 2). This can be spread to accommodate the width of a row and

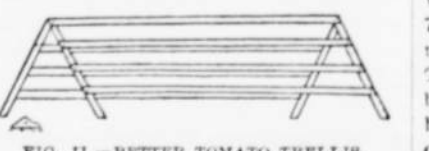


FIG. II.—BETTER TOMATO TRELLIS. can be used to support the plants in one or two rows as desired. The best length is ten feet and height four feet. The trellis is quickly made of wooden strips which are nailed together as shown by sketch and hinged at the top so that it can be closed together and stored away when not in use.

LOOKING AHEAD.

A Discussion of Our Food Supply and Demand.

A Paper Read Before the Centerville (N. Y.) Grange by Mr. S. D. Babbitt Which Contains Some Interesting Particulars on an Important Subject.

When we study the history of our country we are impressed by the great advancement which has been made along the lines of improvement during the short period of our existence as a nation.

Unlike the histories of some countries, it is not the number of wars or conquests or bloody battles fought which most impresses us, but it is the marvelous advancement made along the paths of peaceful progress.

It is safe to say that no other country in the world can furnish a parallel to the progress of our own country along the line of the peaceful arts, which in reality are the only elements which tend to make a nation powerful and progressive. When noting the rapid development in other ways we must also consider agriculture. In no other industry or occupation have we made such strides as in the art of agriculture, for in recent years it has

actually become an art. When considering the past we can but conjecture what it will be a hundred or even a much less number of years from now. We are already approaching the time when the methods and conditions of farm life are to undergo a great change from what they now are and have been in the past.

This change will not be entirely due to the farmers, but rather to meet an economic condition which has just arisen within recent years. Last year the value of all our farm products was the largest it has ever been, reaching the enormous sum of over \$8,000,000,000. Although this sum is larger than that of any previous year, yet our exports were not so large as those of previous years, while the agricultural imports were the largest they have ever been. This is the first time in the history of our country that we have had this condition to contend with. Hitherto our agricultural exports have far exceeded the imports, but the time is not far distant when the exports will not even equal the imports. Ever since our ancestors first crossed the Allegheny mountains and commenced the cultivation of the so called "unlimited western plains" has the United States been looked upon as the principal granary of the world.

This was a natural condition. The overcrowded countries of Europe were unable to produce food products enough for their own use, and their people were obliged to search in foreign lands for the products which they needed. The United States was in every way well fitted to supply their wants. Instead of their overcrowded condition and lack of land we had millions of acres of the best agricultural lands in the world, which needed only to be cultivated. Thus we supplied our own growing population and at the same time furnished a large part to the people of Europe.

Under this condition the natural result was to settle the west as fast as possible and consequently to encourage the extensive instead of the intensive cultivation of the soil. But at that time our population was nearly 4,000,000 people, while now it is nearly 100,000,000 people. For many years the increase in population nearly corresponded to the increase in the cultivated acres, but of late years this condition has disappeared. There are two reasons for this result. First, the natural increase is greater each year than in the one preceding it, and, besides, we have nearly a million immigrants coming to our land annually. This causes the home consumption to be much greater each year. But not only this, the "unlimited western plains" have ceased to exist. We can no longer bring the vast number of acres of virgin soil under cultivation as formerly.

All the best part of the western land has been taken by the home seekers excepting that which has been reserved for the Indians. The best territory now left is the irrigation, which can be claimed but slowly. With this condition and the demand for our own products coming from our own people it is a natural result that the tendency should be reversed toward intensive instead of extensive farming. It is estimated that within a dozen years we will not produce the food crops for our own use, while in the past we have been producing for the people of all parts of the world.

Probably the most noticeable example of this case is in the meat supply. In order to produce large quantities of meat cheaply we must have an abundance of good grazing land. With the settling and cultivation of the west the industry of herding has been the first to be affected. The United States has been producing one-fourth the beef of the world and five years ago exported 731,000,000 pounds, but this has been reduced by half in the last five years. This is mainly due to the vast ranges being divided into small farms for the homesteaders. One-third the food of our people is meat, and we are facing a condition like that in Europe, where only the wealthy can afford it regularly and among the poorer classes it is practically unknown. The government is now considering a scheme to introduce the hippopotamus into our southern swamps to postpone what they term the inevitable meat famine.

The question of food supply concerns over 19,000,000 families and during the next half century will completely change the methods and conditions of farming. Our population will then be nearly double what it now is, and the effects of this change can only be met by more intensive methods of farming. All the older, more thickly settled countries of the world have already had to do this. All the countries of Europe produce more grain to the acre than we do, and none of them has the natural advantages and facilities we have.

There is no land in the world with so many advantages for progress and advancement, so many prosperous cities, so many fine harbors, so many railways and navigable rivers, with such broad and fertile valleys and far-reaching plains, with such varied and vast mineral wealth, with so many good institutions for learning, and, above all, with such a pure, noble and emancipating and protecting form of government, binding them all into a nation leading in the progress of the world.

Americans have long led in the making of inventions, and before many years have passed economical devices will save nearly all our present fuel waste, while the tides, waterfalls, sun's ray and even the interior heat of the earth will all be utilized and harnessed to help promote our progress.

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