

EDITORIALS

OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

BACK TO THE FARM.

AT last the cry has been raised in this country, "Back to the farm." The cities are over-crowded. Employment is difficult to obtain. Wages are insufficient to secure the necessities of life. The prices of all food stuffs are high. These conditions must be remedied, and, as the demand for industrial products is limited, recourse must be had to agriculture. The farm can be made more profitable than a city job.

A year or so ago when London was disturbed by bread riots, there arose among that city's poor a man who thought he could solve the problem. In a small way he began to lead London's poor into the country, establish them on small truck patches, teach them how to raise vegetables and fruit, and his experiment to-day has proven so great a success that London's poor are crowding to the country. The experiment has attracted attention in this country and now philanthropists of New York, Boston, Chicago and other great cities are maturing plans to send their poor into the country, place them on land, give them a start in farming, and thus help them to become self-supporting citizens. The movement in this country, although just begun, promises to be the most humanitarian of a generation, because it relieves actual suffering, both physical and mental, such as most of us know very little about. England is small; this country is large. If the experiment should prove successful in England, it certainly ought to here.

In raising the cry "Back to the farm" there is no disposition on the part of anyone to crowd the poor out of our large cities. The sole idea is to do good in a much more effective way than the methods that have been in vogue. Practical charity is what is intended, and, if assistance is received in the same spirit as it is offered, there ought to be, before many years, a measurable relief to the conditions that have obtained in our large cities, and made them the centers of widest contrasts of human existence.—Williamsport (Pa.) Grit.

THE CHURCHES AND SOCIAL REFORM.

SIGNS of the times are growing more and more apparent in the work of churches. Instead of devoting themselves to man's eternal welfare as used to be the case, they are growing more and more concerned with this life on earth. Once priests and ministers talked exclusively of heaven and hell. Now they discuss the manner in which men should live in this world, not so much with reference to a future existence as to justice and happiness here.

One Chicago Baptist clergyman, occupying the pulpit of one of the largest and most influential churches in the city, has gone so far in this direction as to convert himself into a social reformer, without consideration of religion as it was once known.

Churches, he says, are usually afraid to denounce injustice, because they are supported by men in positions

of wealth and power; but no fear affects him. He wants the government to take absolute control of all public utilities, to regulate all estates, so that it shall be impossible to pass an estate on to the third generation; to make large landed ownership impossible, and to pension widows, the aged and the helpless.

It is good to see the churches now finding an outlet from the place of indifference in which they are gradually being left by the masses of the people and plunging into questions that deeply interest every thinking man. The religion of the future will, of course, concern itself with man's destiny hereafter, but it will have much more to say than the religion of the past about man's state on earth.

If religious feeling can once be enlisted in the cause of social reform, it will give a tremendous impetus to the progress of civilization.—Chicago Journal.

EMIGRATION PROBLEMS.

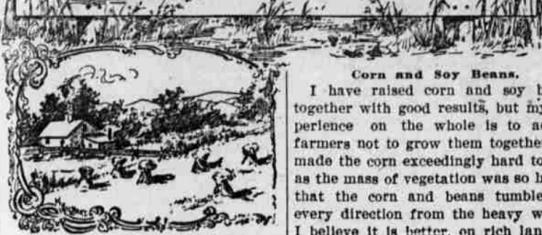
IT is not often that Americans consider the other side of the immigration question; yet the governments of the countries from which the people come here are troubled over emigration almost as much as immigration perplexes the officers in Washington.

For a number of years from one-half to three-quarters of a million Italians have been leaving home to go to South America or to the United States. Agricultural laborers have become so scarce in many provinces that it is almost impossible to till the land. Italian writers on the subject call attention to the fact that only the very young and the old in those districts remain, the best young blood having gone abroad in search of fortune. When these young men return they are too often broken in health from having submitted to hardship and privation to save money to spend at home.

Complaint of the depopulation of agricultural districts comes from Spain also, although Spanish emigration is small as compared with that from Italy. Germany is not pleased with the departure of hundreds of thousands of able-bodied young men who are needed at home, not only to serve in the army, but to assist in the industrial development of the fatherland and its dependencies. The decrease in population of Ireland is regarded as a striking commentary upon the result of British rule in the island. There are in the United States to-day more native-born Irishmen and children of Irishmen than in all Ireland.

Japan has lately co-operated with the United States in an effort to prevent Japanese laborers from coming to America. The Japanese government gladly did this because it prefers that the people not content at home should go to Korea or some other dependency of the empire rather than cross the ocean to a country where they can do nothing to increase the prosperity of their own land. Even Russia is striving to induce the discontented population in the European part of the empire to migrate to the fertile and pleasant lands of southern Siberia.—Youth's Companion.

AGRICULTURAL



Growing Alfalfa.

E. C. Dameron, of Pike County, Mo., is credited by an exchange with the following suggestions on growing alfalfa:

"After several years' experimentation, with both success and failure, I unhesitatingly advise fall seeding. While I know of no plant that excels alfalfa in vigor of growth after it is once established, it is extremely timid about its association with other plants in its early life. Weeds and foxtail are its worst foes, and how to avoid them or to reduce them to the minimum is the problem before the alfalfa grower. It is with this in view that I advise the fall seeding. To my mind the piece selected for seeding down next fall should be upland naturally well drained and fertile. If the piece selected is land in wheat I should top dress it during winter with all the stable manure I could possibly get on it—not in great lumps, but well distributed. After the wheat comes off, in June I should disk it twice, once each way. After the first shower the weeds will begin to appear, then disk again. Keep this up until Sept. 1. Don't plow under any circumstances, but kill all the weed growth by surface cultivation. All this sounds like work, and it is work, but the best remunerated work a farmer ever did. About Sept. 1, if there be moisture enough for germination, sow twenty pounds of seed per acre. Use a wheelbarrow seeder and sow ten pounds each way. This covers 'skips' and gives a better distribution of the seeds. Then slant your harrow teeth and cover by going over the field at least twice."

Care of Animals.

As man has adapted different animals to different uses it does not infer that they are not subject to natural laws. On the contrary, the subject is more complete than before, and, as man has been the foster agent in changing the characteristics of most domestic animals, so must the hand of man be ever ready to render that assistance so essential to their well-being. The pasture, shelter and care must be suitable for the accomplishment of the purpose desired, and no neglect can be allowed. Not only must the utmost care be taken in selecting the animals that suit the farm best, but the farm itself must also conform to the animals. One should not attempt to improve unless prepared for it, as failure will be the result, but the preparation is easily made. Better stock means better farming, larger crops and greener pastures. With each year the crops become better, because the system forces them to be so. But those farmers who do not possess facilities for certain breeds of animals need not be discouraged, as all can have a privilege with some kinds that do not come up to the requirements needed. Improvement should be the object with every farmer, for even should the farmer lag behind, the time will arrive when he will be compelled to camp on the same ground that others long before occupied, but who have left it for something better. Keep pace with the time, and keep the flock to the best, by breeding with thoroughbreds and always culling from the bottom.

For Loading Farm Wagons.

Use a handy short stepladder with bent irons securely screwed to the end of the ladder, and that fit to the wagon



TO LOAD WAGONS.

end board. By using a ladder of this kind the loading is made much easier, and very often farm produce can be handled with far less danger of bruising. Very handy for many other kinds of work.

Place for Lanterns.

A place should be provided in every farm building where lanterns are used or likely to be used. Stretch a wire along behind the cows and horses with sliding wire hooks on to which the lantern can be hooked and moved as wanted. A hook of cheap, smooth fence wire can be fixed up without expense almost anywhere, and it is much safer than a nail, as it will generally allow the lantern to hang straight. Be careful that no hay, straw or other inflammable material is near lantern hooks or other holders. Don't set a lantern down.

Corn and Soy Beans.

I have raised corn and soy beans together with good results, but my experience on the whole is to advise farmers not to grow them together. It made the corn exceedingly hard to cut, as the mass of vegetation was so heavy that the corn and beans tumbled in every direction from the heavy winds. I believe it is better, on rich land, to grow each of the crops separately, says an Ohio farmer. When the land is not so rich and it is not desired to cut and shock the corn, soy beans can be grown to advantage to turn hogs or cattle on after the corn is gathered. The most satisfactory soy bean that I have tried is the early yellow variety known as Hollybrook; they are some three weeks earlier than the mammoth yellow, grow a fine quality of vine and an excellent yield of seed. It grows off more promptly than the mammoth and gets out of the way of weeds and grass sooner, and for the same reason it is not so much in the way in cultivating a corn crop, if it is desired to plant them in a cornfield. And one decided advantage they have over the mammoth, they do not shell so badly after getting ripe.

One of the New Breeds of Fowls.

Thinking to improve the Barred Rocks, we crossed them with Buff Cochins, then used what we supposed were pure Black-Breasted Red Games, with them. As part of these games had yellow legs and pea combs, we now feel sure that they had been mixed with the Cornish Indian Game before we got them, and here where we got the pea comb. This mixup produced a bird or two red as foxes, with yellow legs, and I conceived the idea of raising a whole flock like them.

As layers the Buckeye Reds are simply peerless. Heat or cold has no terrors for them, as their small combs do not suffer from frost. They have a long body from the wishbone back upon which to carry plenty of meat. They are not coarse or bony, yet males weigh from nine to ten pounds and females from five to seven. They have the rich yellow skin and legs so dear to the American epicure, and the skin is not thick and tough as in some yellow-skinned fowls. They are vigorous from the shell, alert and gamy, though not inclined to fight among themselves, says Mrs. F. Metcalf of Ohio in American Agriculturist, in which a Buckeye Red of ideal shape is illustrated. The surface color of the male is a dark rich velvety red, approaching cardinal or garnet, never buff or brick, head, neck, hackle, back, saddle and wingtips richly glossed with metallic luster, under color a lighter shade.

Food Value of the Peanut.

Prof. N. E. Jaffa, the nutrition expert of the State University at Berkeley, Cal., has issued a bulletin saying 10 cents' worth of peanuts contain more protein than a meal of roast beef, and six times the amount of energy involved in a big fat porterhouse steak. Prof. Jaffa punctures the old idea that salt eaten with nuts makes them more easily digested, says a Berkeley dispatch to the New York World. He also explains why nuts seem to upset the digestive organs.

"With the exception, perhaps, of dried beans and cheese no food material has such a reputation for indigestibility," he says. "Discomfort from nuts is largely due to insufficient mastication, and from eating them when not needed, as after a hearty meal or late at night."

Brood Hens.

If broody hens are properly treated nine out of ten will begin to lay again within two weeks after being removed from the nest. But if they are half-drowned, starved a week, or bruised and abused, it is more than likely they will get even with their owners by declining to lay a single egg until they have fully recovered from their ill-treatment and acquired their customary tranquillity.

Care of the Pig Pen.

The hog is not able to endure severely cold weather, yet it is kept in the most uncomfortable situation of any other animal. The pig pen should be well littered and dry, and the shelter should contain no cracks or openings for draughts of air.

Poultry Notes.

For rapid growth feed the chickens often. Lice brood, breed and hide under the roosts.

Gravel should always be supplied to fowls that are fattened in confinement.

Of two things, the breed and feeding, the latter is the more important.

Dry salt is as good as any material that can be used for preserving eggs.

Ducks may be picked when four months old and every six weeks afterwards.

Select the stock of pullets you intend to keep as soon as they are well developed.

HOW WRINKLES ARE REMOVED.

Simple Operation Takes Away Folds and Bags Under the Eye.

"Folds and wrinkles about the eyes may be easily removed," says a writer in the Medical Brief. "Results have invariably been good in my hands, and I see no reason to fear untoward consequences from the operations I practice. Preparations for these operations are simple. Any physician may equip his office so that he can do the work satisfactorily and the technic calls for only ordinary surgical dexterity.

"A hypodermic syringe, a keen scalpel, small, sharp scissors; fine cambric needles and fine sterile silk represent the instruments absolutely necessary for the operation.

"Cleanliness is essential to prompt and satisfactory healing. The face of the patient and the hands of the operator should be scrubbed. Antiseptics may be used, though they are not essential.

"These operations are painlessly performed after the tissues have been infiltrated with a weak cocaine solution. A great deal of nonsepsis has been written about sterile water. I do not deny that sterile water will produce an absolute insensibility to pain.

"We have all known this for a good many years, but the injection of sterile water under ordinary circumstances is not a painless procedure. As a rule the injection of sterile water produces considerable discomfort. To obviate this a trace of cocaine is added to the sterile water, and then the injection is painless after the needle has been coaxed into the skin.

"Wrinkles, folds and bags beneath the eyes are eradicated by the removal of a crescent of skin beneath the eye. The convexity of the crescent should be downward, and the concavity of the crescent should lie close to the lashes along the lower lid. The width of the crescent varies according to the depth of the wrinkles or the size of folds or bags.

"The first incision should be made with a sharp scalpel along the lid. The skin should be divided entirely, and loosened somewhat. It should then be drawn upward, the operator observing carefully just how much must be removed to overcome entirely the condition demanding the operation; then with the scissors the skin is cut away so that the crescent is made complete. Just sufficient skin is left along the margin of the lid to permit the stitches being passed in closing. The line of union is brought in this way under the shadow of the lashes and is entirely invisible."

COYOTE'S HOME LIFE.

Often Have Several Dens—Father's Devotion to the Young.

The favorite denning place of the coyote pair is dug by themselves in some sunny bank; but they may use an abandoned badger hole, says Ernest Thompson Seton in Success. The entrance is about 10 by 20 inches and is commonly concealed in the bushes. The actual nest is sometimes lined with a little grass and fur, and sometimes quite bare. Mr. Barton sends the plan of one which he examined.

Apparently it had been dug by the present owners, and was much the same as the dozen or so others he had investigated. The air hole, located after close search, was, as usual, an old gopher hole, enlarged from below and directly over the nest; he supposes it is made to admit fresh air to the cubs.

I have not seen this ventilator, but may have overlooked it, as I had not heard of such a contrivance when last I examined a coyote's den. It is well known that a family will have several dens, some of which are, as Mr. Barton says, "sleeping places for use during the heat of the day, which is one reason why so many attempts to dig out coyotes' dens often fail of results."

Usually the young are born during the first half of April; April 9 in the New York Zoological Park and April 20 at Washington Zoo represent the extreme dates on hand. They number from three to ten, but are usually from five to seven. They are blind and helpless, but covered with close, dark ash-colored fur.

It is generally believed that the father is not permitted to enter the home for some days after their birth, but I have not been able to confirm this belief. However, he is never far away, and his devotion is vouched for by all who know him.

Dr. W. T. Hornaday informs me that the father of the brood born April 9 took a keen interest in the young, and became very officious, even vicious, in their defense. Their eyes opened on the eighth and ninth days variously. When about three weeks old the mother would carry them out into the sun, or about the yard and back again. At five weeks they were old enough to walk alone. They were not fed by regurgitation at any time, so far as known.

Increased Responsibility.

"So you want more salary?" said the museum manager.

"Yes, sir," answered the employe in a determined voice.

"But all you have to do is to deliver a five-minute lecture on the various freaks."

"That's true. But look at the risk I run of being called down any minute, as a nature faker."—Washington Star.

Natural Prejudice.

Gertie—Why do you object to the word "obey" in the marriage ceremony?

Clara—I was reared in the country and have acquired a prejudice against male orders.—Kansas City Times.

MERELY MAKING WORK.

"In recent years," said an ordnance officer to a New York Times reporter, "everything on a war vessel gives way to target practice. The one thing a commander is more interested in than anything else is the record that his men can make at the ranges. But there was a time when the 'man behind the gun' was not recognized as the most important element in the efficiency of a fighting ship.

"To illustrate: I was junior officer on the old Essex many years ago. In those days we had target practice once a quarter. We were forced by regulations to expend so many rounds of ammunition every three months, and—well, that was about all there was to it. It was a perfunctory kind of practice, and every one was glad when it was over.

"One day we went out for the quarterly practice, anchored the target, and went at it. The targets we used in those days were three planks fastened in a triangle, a spar stepped in the center to hold the canvas which formed the target proper.

"Now the gun captain of the forward pivot rifle was an excellent marksman, and on his first trial he sent a shell through the spar, which smashed it into splinters. That, of course, stopped the practice, and out went a boat to tow the wrecked target alongside for repairs.

"When it had been patched up, it was towed back to its place and firing was resumed.

"Again the same gunner had the first shot, and again his shell brought down both the spar and the canvas.

"The boat was again sent out, but when the repaired target was being towed back to the range, the captain, who was much out of humor by the delay, spoke his mind.

"Tell Gunner Blank," he commanded, "that if he hits that target again I will put him in the brig!"

How to Make Hop Poultices.

Hop poultices have always been used with splendid effect for all sorts of pain. An old fashioned one is made as follows: Put a handful of dried hops into one cup of water and let it boil until the water is reduced to half a cup, then stir in sufficient Indian meal to thicken. Apply very hot.

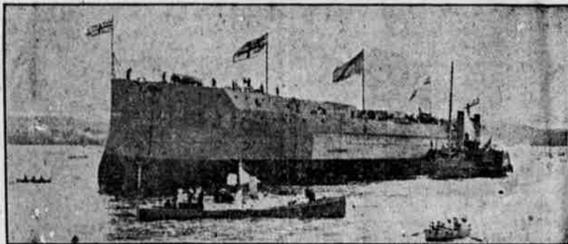
As to Nurses.

"Which is best for a sick man, a beautiful or an ugly trained nurse?"

"Doesn't make much difference; if she is ugly he will hurry to get well so as to get out from under her care, and if she is beautiful he will make a quick recovery in order to marry her."—Houston Post.

You hear people say sometimes they do not care much for compliments. Nothing in it: All of us love a compliment.

LATEST AND BIGGEST THING IN WARSHIPS.



BRITISH WARSHIP BELLEROPHON, BIGGER THAN THE DREADNAUGHT.

The latest and biggest thing in the way of seagoing fortresses is the warship Bellerophon, of the British navy, which was christened by Princess Henry of Battenberg, King Edward's youngest sister. Thought of the class of the Dreadnaught, the Bellerophon is of 18,000 tons, 700 more than the earlier ship. A third battleship of this giant class, the Temeirale, was recently launched.

ALBINO BROWN TROUT.

Extraordinary Lot of Little Fellows Now in Gotham Aquarium.

Extraordinary among fish freaks is a lot of 133 albino brown trout now at the aquarium, says the New York Sun. These queer little fishes were hatched out in the aquarium's hatchery in February. Originally there were 150 of them, of which fifteen died in the first two months. In the last four months only two have been lost, one of these by jumping out of the tank to fall on the floor. Something of the success that has thus far attended the rearing of the fishes hatched from them must be attributed to the facilities which this model hatchery affords for looking after both eggs and fishes; for here with comparatively small lots of eggs, it is possible to give them almost individual care and to insure that all the little fishes shall be properly fed.

Another extraordinary thing about these little albino brown trout is their number as compared with the total number of the hatch of eggs from which they were hatched. Albino fishes are not very common among such varieties as brook trout and lake trout and among brown trout they are very rare, but these 150 albino brown trout were hatched out of a lot of 5,000 eggs; a very remarkable proportion of albinos.

The little albinos are here to be seen all in one tank, while near them is another tank of brown trout of their natural color hatched from the same lot of eggs. Seen thus the little albinos with their almost colorless bodies but with dark set eyes become all the more striking.

The albinos are now growing faster than their little brown brothers, but what will happen to them later nobody can tell, for albino fishes are not so long-lived as fishes of their natural color; they are more delicate and as a rule they die young. If an albino trout

should survive after six months and should grow to maturity it could not be expected to live more than half the life of a fish of natural color.

The aquarium has now four albino lake trout surviving out of a lot of eleven albinos of this species received a year ago from the State fish hatchery at Saranac Lake. The largest of these four albino lake trout, which are now between 3 and 4 years old, is now about ten inches in length. They are all striking albino specimens.

Housewifely Instinct.

A Massachusetts man tells a story illustrating the ruling spirit of a Yankee housewife.

Late one night her husband was awakened by mysterious sounds on the lower floor of their house. Jumping out of bed, the husband took his revolver from a drawer and crept noiselessly to the head of the stairs. Presently the wife herself was awakened by a loud report, followed by a mad scurrying of feet. Much agitated, she in turn sprang from bed and went to the door, where she met her husband returning from the scene of the disturbance, and wearing a very disappointed expression.

"Richard," she asked, "was it—was it—?"

"Yes, it was a burglar."

"Did he—did he—?"

"Yes, he got away."

"Oh, I don't care about that," was the wife's rejoinder. "What I want to know is, did he wipe his feet before he started upstairs?"—New York Times.

Not Purse-proud.

"They accuse us of being purse-proud!" said Mr. Cumrox.

"How very unjust," replied his wife.

"Anybody knows that the amount which could be put into a purse, or even into a suitcase, would cut no figure with us whatever."—Washington Star.