



### FRIEND TO FRIEND.

The personal recommendations of people who have been cured of coughs and colds by Chamberlain's Cough Remedy have done more than all else to make it a staple article of trade and commerce over a large part of the civilized world.

#### AN INSTANCE.

Lucy Suddreth, of Lenoir, N. C., had been troubled with a very bad cough for over a year. She says: "A friend bought a bottle of CHAMBERLAIN'S COUGH REMEDY, brought it to me and insisted that I should take it. I did so and to my surprise it helped me. Four bottles of it cured me of my cough."

#### ABOUT THE FARM.

If the \$200,000, more or less, that is spent annually in the farcical distribution of seeds of very indifferent merit by the congressmen who hope thereby to better their chances of reelection were divided equally among the several states and territories for use in practical and helpful experiment station work, it would be a far more serviceable disposal of the money.

Of an estimated total forest area in the confines of the United States of 700,000,000 acres the amount in state or national reserves is placed at 22 per cent, while the rest is in unreserved public lands or private tracts. The total area, however held, is deemed sufficient with right management by those who have made a study of the subject to eventually supply the lumber needs of the country, and this in spite of a continually increasing demand.

On every farm where grain is raised and where intensive methods have become imperative the seed drill should be used for all the small grains. Not only is less seed required where the drill is used, but by sowing the seed at an even depth and in moist soil a better and more uniform stand of grain is secured. Experiments conducted by the Illinois experiment station showed that an increase in yield of from five to seven bushels per acre was secured on plots of ground where the drill was used.

For a number of years following the introduction of the culture of sugar beets in this country in 1887 the industry was at a standstill. By 1893 the production of beet sugar had reached 22,344 short tons. In 1901 it was 184,006, while last year the total output was 590,000 short tons. The increase noted is due chiefly to the extending of the culture of the sugar beets in the irrigation sections of the west rather than to its adoption in sections where there is sufficient rainfall to produce the ordinary tilled farm crops.

With a view to freeing themselves from the dictation of beef prices by the Chicago packing-houses, a group of central Iowa farmers have lately shipped a carload of fine beefs direct to Portland, Me., where they will be loaded for shipment to England. A prior shipment direct to the Liverpool market resulted in their receiving such good prices that they were led to try the plan again. There would seem to be no good reason why this method could not be followed right along whenever Chicago or other packing house centers were not paying a fair price.

A report which we have seen circulated, but not yet verified, is that Iowa farmers are taking advantage of the excessively high prices of butter by selling their entire product at top notch New York prices and are importing for their own use oleomargarine from the Chicago packing houses. The writer is disposed to brand this as fiction, as Iowa farmers possess a reputation for good sense as well as a desire to make money in dairying. If the charge is true in any sense, it is probably the folks who don't have any cows at all that are lubricating their flapjacks with oleomargarine.

The total clip of wool in the United States for 1907 was 298,294,750 pounds, including the washed and unwashed product. Of the total output there were 130,359,118 pounds of scoured wool, valued at \$78,263,165.

About the easiest money made on American farms, entailing no drain upon the fertility of the soil, is that returned secured from the flocks of sheep which consume the largely waste vegetable growths to be found thereon.

There are four things that a farmer of good health is justified in going into debt for—namely, tilling the wet acres on his farm, a manure spreader, fences that will enable him to keep sheep and a soft water cistern for the good housewife.

The farmer and gardener, even though he may not have an aesthetic taste which would cause him to protect bird life for its sake alone, if he has but a thought for the size of his pocketbook will do all he can to shield the birds of the community in which he lives from their many enemies. Never before has the place of the birds in the system of nature's economy been more fully appreciated than now and never so high a value placed on the service which they render to man.

If the failure to get a start in clover is due to the same causes as with alfalfa, it is quite likely that in a good many cases insufficient seed is sown to give a proper stand. Especially is this the case where no nurse crop is sown and where, if the clover plants do not get a good start of the weeds, the weeds will swamp the clover and smother it out. True, clover seed is expensive, but this furnishes additional reason why, if it is worth while sowing the crop at all, enough should be sown to produce a satisfactory stand.

Of different food products for farm animals a chemical analysis shows dry alfalfa hay to be just about equal pound for pound to bran. In a ton of the former there are 220 pounds of protein, 792 pounds of carbohydrates and 24 pounds of fat. In the same weight of bran there are 244 pounds of protein, 772 pounds of carbohydrates and 60 pounds of fat. These figures explain why alfalfa is such a boon to those sections of the country where it can be successfully grown. Red clover hay is an excellent substitute for alfalfa, a ton containing 136 pounds of protein, 716 pounds of carbohydrates and 34 pounds of fat.

If any of the readers of these notes are planning to set out timber lots on a modest or large scale this spring, we would advise them to communicate with the directors of the horticultural department of their state experiment station or with the forest service bureau at Washington. From either source data will be forthcoming which will not only recommend the best trees to set out in a given locality, but will give details of the best methods to get the wood lots started and the care they should receive. The forestry question is a very live one just now, and both state and federal departments are more than anxious to aid any who desire to assist in the work of reforestation.

The present cotton output of Brazil is estimated at 80,000 tons, and, according to reports received from United States consuls living in that country, the industry is increasing rapidly. Primitive methods are still in vogue, however, and the quality of the product is poor.

A much more sensible and profitable type of agriculture will prevail than is general today when every quarter section farm in the country supports a herd of from thirty to sixty sheep. They are large consumers of waste vegetable growths—the byproducts of the farm—and for this reason every landowner should keep a flock.

If the farmer is in such straits financially that he must economize, let him go without socks and undershirt rather than scrip on the price of seed corn or oats that he has to buy this season. He would be far better off at harvest time or husking if he got good seed oats at 75 cents and seed corn at \$3 than he would to take poor seed of either grain as a gift. Economize if one must, but let it not be in seeds of any kind.

Every bit of clover seed that is bought this spring should be carefully examined under a microscope before it is paid for and put in the soil. The seed is bound to be high, and the temptation will be great to adulterate it with the seeds of other worthless or noxious plants and weeds. Buy it long enough before it is to be used so that if necessary a sample of the seed can be submitted to your state experiment station officials for inspection.

In the northern states alfalfa can be more easily started in the early part of August than in April, as when given the late planting opportunity is afforded during the preceding months to kill most of the weed seeds that may be lodged in the soil. The soil should be put in the best of tith and the seed either drilled in or dragged enough so that there will be sufficient moisture for purposes of germination. It is well to remember that alfalfa, like red clover, does not do well on low or undrained soils.

Owing to the light weight of oats in so many sections of the country where an excellent crop of this cereal is usually produced, the matter of getting good seed is going to be one of considerable difficulty this spring. Whether home or foreign grown seed is used, the grain should be put through a fanning mill under a good blast of air for the purpose of getting rid of the light, chaffy kernels, which, as a rule, have little or no germinating power. In the process a good deal of weed seed is also likely to be eliminated, which is a decided benefit.

One hundred and fifty thousand acres of irrigable land in Eden valley, Wyoming, will be opened for settlement under the Carey federal irrigation act June 1, and it is expected farmers from many sections of the country will flock there to make entry on the land, which promises to be very productive under the irrigation system which is being completed. The Eden valley project is the largest of twenty-four provided for in the state. The valley in question is situated twenty miles from Rock Springs, a station on the Union Pacific, whence it is easily accessible by stage.

While he may show a very humble and democratic spirit in so doing, a boy or man is a traitor to himself and the times in which he lives if he is content to do drudge work and does not take steps to fit himself to do the highest class of work of which he is capable. Not only is this argument justifiable from the standpoint of the wage which one will receive, but carried out extensively it will reduce the number of those who are by circumstance or necessity destined to do the rough work of life and thereby insure them better pay for their labor. One will always find a better paying position higher up in the industrial scale if he only fits himself to perform its duties.

A Minnesota orchardist, writing an agricultural paper in that state, expresses very serious doubts as to the hardness of the Northwestern Greening, which, while not an apple of high grade or quality, has been about the only hope of the apple men of the north central states when it came to a variety that would keep through the winter. He states that, all of the trees of this variety in two counties in the state which bore good crops of fruit in 1903 died the following year. If it should prove true that this apple is not hardy north of latitude 43, it will prove a distinct loss and a source of disappointment to orchardists in the territory mentioned, and those in particular who have planted it in commercial tracts in the hope that it would be a hardy winter variety and profitable.

A recent bulletin issued by the department of agriculture gives an interesting account of brome grass, or Bromus inermis, as it is scientifically called. For forage purposes this grass is considered as not quite so valuable as timothy, but it is superior to timothy in one respect—that it will flourish under semi-arid conditions where the latter grass will not grow at all. The brome grass makes a firm, tough sod, an excellent characteristic while it is in pasture, but which becomes a drawback when it comes to breaking the meadow up and putting it into a tilled crop, as it requires at least two years to thoroughly kill all the grass after it has once acquired a foothold. The bulletin states that brome grass furnishes more forage in the western parts of the Dakotas than the native varieties, and more forage in the eastern part of the states than Kentucky blue grass.

It is an interesting fact that, while the exports of bacon from the United States to the United Kingdom have fallen off from 450,000,000 pounds in 1894 to 197,000,000 pounds in 1904, with but the exports were 45,000,000 pounds in 1890 to 170,000,000 pounds in 1904.

Of the agricultural products imported into the United States during the past year plant products constituted \$43,000,000. Of this amount the chief items were: Sugar and molasses, \$94,000,000; coffee, \$78,000,000; vegetable fibers, \$62,000,000; fruits and tobacco, each \$26,000,000; vegetable oils, \$15,000,000.

There is one thing that is in worse taste than sending a statement of account or "dun" to a debtor, and that is for the debtor to allow the account in question to run until his creditor finds it necessary to resort to this means of collecting. There are many who seem to take offense at a dun who are not able to see the other side of the proposition.

A friend writing us states that he is at a loss to understand why high priced land in so many sections is left lying idle for lack of proper tilling. He states that it has cost him but \$15 an acre for the land he has actually tilled, while the land thus drained has become the most productive of his whole farm. Our friend states that under no circumstances would he lay a smaller tile than four inches in diameter, a smaller size being at times unable to do the work required of it.

The common red squirrel is a relentless enemy of bird life, and the farmer and gardener will be ahead at the end of the season if he exterminates all these animals that frequent the wood lots in the vicinity. It is probably because of these graceful and cute yet cruel little rascals so many varieties of birds shun wood lots as nesting places, preferring dwellings of man, whither these enemies come less frequently to disturb them. Squirrels are all right in a pie; elsewhere we prefer the birds.

A nearby nurseryman writes us that he considers the common mole one of his best friends and never thinks of killing one of the little fellows. He has learned by experience that their chief article of food is the white grub, or larva of the June bug, which not only works havoc in strawberry beds, but also in flower and vegetable gardens. While he admits that the mole now and then makes the lawn look somewhat unsightly in his search for grubs and worms, it is his view that he does vastly more good than harm in nature's economy.

It is estimated that 300,000 cage birds are imported into the United States every year. Most of them come from Europe, Germany in particular, where the industry is carried on in a small way by the housewives, who carry it on as a side issue in connection with their household duties. The birds require relatively little care, yet bring a handsome revenue. Officials of the department of agriculture are of the opinion that these birds could in a short time be raised in this country instead of being imported from European countries in case proper attention were given to the matter.

There are two or three things that ought to be remembered in making the hotbed, or cold frame, as it is perhaps more properly called. First, use fresh horse manure that will heat. Sock it down and let it warm up considerably before putting in the earth and don't pack the earth down so tight as to prevent the heating process. Three or four inches of soil, depending somewhat upon its texture, ought to be sufficient. Let the earth warm thoroughly, before planting the seeds. Water frequently and raise the sash on warm days, and be sure to have horse blankets ready when the thermometer goes down to zero.

The person who sets out an orchard for the first time usually makes the mistake of selecting too many varieties. It is far better and more satisfactory to select two or three hardy standard varieties, fall or winter, as the case may be, and pass up the job of using several acres as an experimental plot for thirty or forty varieties that the nurseryman may urge upon you. Perhaps the wisdom of having but two or three varieties is not fully realized until the trees come into bearing and one has the marketing of the fruit to attend to. With many varieties and as many seasons of ripening there is much delay and putter work in picking and disposing of the fruit, while the prices one can get for little dabs are not so satisfactory as for good sized consignments of but two or three varieties.

If the children are given proper training in the home it will include, among other things, the inculcating in a firm and gentle manner of traits of promptness, obedience and respect. It may for the time being be easier for the parent to follow the line of least resistance and allow the child to have his own way, but in the long run this is simply but a postponement and multiplying of problems of government. Conditions surrounding the child should be such that respect and obedience will not have to be insisted on in violation of the child's sense of justice, which, while it may not be worked out into a theory, is nevertheless keenly developed. Crowning and gracing all relations between child and parent, there should be a strong bond of sympathy and good fellowship that will serve to make the training of the child a relatively simple matter and the development in him of respect and obedience a simple and natural outgrowth.

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