

What Papers Do You Read?

H. B. Geer tells of a farmer who once said: "I don't believe in your book learning, study and all that; I'd rather learn by experience." He did. That man a couple of years later lost out as a farmer and moved to town, where he made a very poor living working by the day and doubtless working for men who studied and read and thought about their business, and applied in it, as far as practicable, that which they had learned from books, periodicals and the experience of others given therein. It is the men who read; the men who study; the thoughtful men who support the farm journals. They are the men who read books and papers on agriculture, fruit growing, poultry culture and bee-keeping. They are the men who stand in the front rank; the leaders in their respective communities. These men have found that it pays to read and study on any subject in which they are interested and apply their knowledge in their everyday work.



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FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN
BY **FETRIGG**
REGISTER, ROCKFORD, I.A.
CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED

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HE LOST OUT.

We recently noted the case of a farmer who had extensive building plans to carry out which required several carloads of lumber. In looking about for a place to purchase he ran across the advertisement of a house wrecking concern of a distant city, and, taken in by the glowing descriptions of the different items advertised, he ordered his material from the catalogue house without making inquiry of his home dealer. After his stuff came and he had paid spot cash for the whole bill and freight charges amounting to about \$200, he began to examine his order and compare it with what he could have got from the home dealer. He found that his doors cost him \$1.25 when he could have got exactly the same thing at home for \$1.15, with freight paid. The laths were thirty-two instead of forty-eight inches long, while dimension stuff, siding, flooring and finishing lumber, were perceptibly inferior in quality to like stuff in the home yards. Added to this was the handicap of being unable to return crooked or otherwise defective material, a privilege that he would have had had he negotiated with the home lumberman. The experience which this farmer had is not narrated in the hope that it will be of any benefit to him, though it probably will if he buys again, but it may cause some reader who is tempted to do the same thing to at least figure with the home dealer before placing an order with a distant house. And the principle applies to household furniture, to silk dresses and sewing machines just as pertinently as it does to big orders of lumber stock.

COWS AND FLIES.

Some years ago the Wisconsin agricultural experiment station conducted a test with a view to determining the results to be obtained from protecting cows from flies during the late summer months. One bunch of seven cows was confined during the daytime in a comfortable stable provided with screen doors and windows, while a second bunch was confined in a small lot provided with abundance of shade. Both lots were pastured at night and received the same kind and amount of grain feed, together with all the freshly cut sorghum and green corn that they would eat up clean during the day. While the cows confined in the stable ate considerably more green corn and sorghum, they lost more in live weight during the four weeks of the experiment than did the cows left out of doors. During the first two weeks of the experiment the cows kept in the stable produced 56.7 pounds of milk less than during the two weeks previous, while the cows not confined showed a decrease of only 40.4 pounds. The decrease in butter fat was .81 pound for the stabled cows and 2.14 pounds for those running at large. A consideration of the results of the test does not seem to show as great an effect on milk flow from the fly nuisance as is generally supposed.

HOW IT GETS A FOOHOLD.

There is hardly a town in the north central states but has alleys or vacant lots on which grow thrifty patches of that worst of all agricultural pests, quack grass. The grass is in full head during the latter part of June and early July. Unless it is recognized and precautions taken the seed is likely to be scattered on adjoining gardens or fed, thrown on the manure pile and put on gardens or plowed land. When once the seed is in the soil the mischief is done, and ten stitches will be required to eradicate it where one would have sufficed to prevent its being scattered on the land. Such patches in town and along the roadsides should be spotted and pains taken not only to keep them from going to seed, but to kill the plants themselves. Such small patches may be easily disposed of by covering with tar paper for sixty days and putting earth around the edges, so as to keep out the light and air.

THE DIGNITY OF COMMON TOIL.

Real worth in living consists not so much in doing some great work or performing some great service, but doing the little things and common duties in a noble and faithful way. The housewife who performs her routine duties faithfully and cheerfully, the woman who washes clothes the best she knows how and the man who digs ditches or saws wood, together with the multitude of workers in shop or factory, perform just as valuable a service for their fellows as others who may make the laws or administer them, teach school or preach the gospel. A doctrine that needs extensive preaching today is that which upholds the dignity and sacredness of the common toll of life of whatever character. Only on such a basis is life enduring and can it be considered worth the living, for it is the common work of life that most of us are destined to perform.

The use of paint is entirely justifiable not only from the standpoint of the looks of the buildings, but because of the protection which is thus afforded the wood.

Honesty, integrity and sobriety are the qualities that are sought after by employers. These things, being attainable by you, will upon them hang upon you, give you employees' mental or physical qualities of equipment.

There is a vital connection between pure fresh air in the dairy barn and milk flow in that fresh air means a good state of health, a vigorous disposition, together with larger powers of digestion and assimilation, which result directly in an increased flow of milk.

A Tegna farmer who is today could own the alfalfa king of the west. His son growing the legume twelve years ago on a tract of five acres. Later his farm contained 100 acres, while now it stretches over 1,400 acres. Last year his receipts from his alfalfa ranch were \$109,000.

An old fashioned hardy rose of the double pink variety growing in the neighborhood in which the writer lives is said by old residents of the place to have been sent from shoots from the same roots continuously for the past thirty-five years. The rose in question is the bush variety and is never covered.

Time was when most any kind of milking and handling of the milk in the stable were put up with provided the cream was handled properly in the dairy. It's different now, there being a full realization of the fact that dirt or odors which get into the milk in the stable cannot be eradicated in the churning or process of buttermaking.

Reports from one province of Japan are to the effect that there is at present growing before a temple of Buddha in one of its cities a pine tree which is said to be 1,200 years old. The tree was planted in front of the pagoda by a zealous devotee as a sort of perpetual free will offering. In all the succeeding centuries the conifer has been carefully tended.

The best way to fight the knot or crab grass which sometimes gets a foothold in the lawn in the summer months is to water the lawn frequently if rainfall is insufficient, thus keeping the lawn grass in a thrifty condition, and cut quite often. Being a hot weather, deep rooted grass, the crab grass flourishes under conditions in which the blue grass will remain at a standstill.

A family of blackbirds which have nested in the writer's yard this season, the location of the nest not being discovered until after the young were nearly ready to fly, have broken up a robin's and a mourning dove's nest and would have treated a catbird's nest similarly had not timely assistance been rendered. The blackbird and bluejay are pirates and should be treated as such.

There are quite a lot of pretty good girls from many points of view who seem to overlook the fact that when a young fellow looks around for a wife he directs his attention to the one who has sunshine in her heart and deftness of hand rather than artificial blushes or powder on her cheeks. There is no deception which is so crude and raw and ill concealed as this. A fool, running, can spot it at a glance.

Next year's raspberry patch will be in a great deal better shape and produce much more fruit if the tips of this year's new shoots are snipped off when they have reached the desired height, from three to four feet. This treatment not only makes them less spindly, but greatly increases the fruit bearing shoots for next year. If allowed to grow in their own way some of the black varieties, especially the Older, will attain a length of ten to twelve feet.

The habits of thought and work that a boy acquires at from ten to fourteen years are quite likely to be largely determining and molding factors in all his after life. On this occasion it is well for the parents to give wise direction in these formative years and for the boy to take himself in hand with a view to developing his powers and talents in the best possible ways. The boy that runs loose and wild during these years without restraint of any kind cannot be expected to develop into a good man any more than a colt similarly handled can be expected to make a tractable and valuable horse.

A friend who sowed rye last fall on a plot of ground—several acres—from which he took a crop of potatoes the latter part of September tells us that, while he pastured this piece well into the winter and turned his cows on it early last spring and did not take them off until the 1st of May, the stand of the cereal is so heavy and the heads filling so well that he anticipates a yield of close to thirty bushels per acre. In addition to furnishing a good bite for his stock when green food was scarce, the putting of the rye on the piece of ground has resulted in keeping it very free from weeds. After the rye is cut he will be able to grow a crop of buckwheat, millet or turnips. We believe that rye might be used a great deal more than it is in the above manner and the weed nuisance abated considerably as a result.

F. E. Trigg

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