

FARMERS' CORNER.

Horses and Mules.

There has been a rapid increase the last few years in the number and value of the horses and mules in the United States.

In 1900 there were 15,624,000 horses and mules in the United States. During the next five years there was an increase of 27.7 per cent, so that on January 1, 1905, the number of horses and mules had increased to 19,946,000, but the increase did not stop at that rate. On the first of January, 1907, there were no less than 23,594,000 horses and mules, showing an increase of 18 per cent during the two years subsequent to '05.

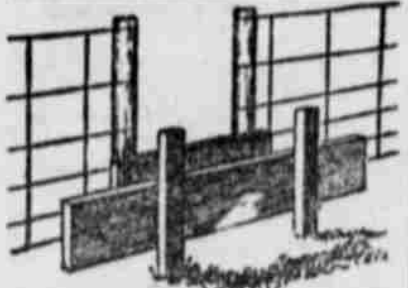
Those who are inclined to talk over-production at the present are confronted with the indisputable fact that during the seven years when the increase in numbers amounted to 50 per cent there was also an increase in price per head amounting to over 50 per cent. Thus on January 1, 1900, our horses and mules were valued at \$715,688,000, while on January 1, 1905, they were valued at \$2,374,642,000.

This is a phenomenal record and yet, notwithstanding this extraordinary increase in number and value, horses are in greater demand to-day than they have ever been before in the history of the United States.

Keeping Hogs in Pounds.

Here is an easy plan of keeping hogs from going from hog pastures to cow pastures, and at the same time allowing the cattle to go from one pasture to the other at will. As shown in the sketch, the opening in the fence may be as wide as desired. Two by twelve inch plank are nailed to the fence posts about four or six inches from the ground, and two extra posts are set out from the fence about a foot. The plank is nailed to the inside of these posts, and this plank should be about four feet longer than the one fastened to the fence so as to go by the opening at each end about two feet. The hogs

cannot jump the two planks, and small jump over, as they are lengthwise of hogs that go between them cannot the opening. The cattle will readily step over. The same plan may be used for sheep, only three planks may be necessary to retain them, although the writer uses only two for them also.—Farmers.



Mulching Helps.

A very intelligent and observing farmer says: The importance of a mulch to counteract a drought was presented to me in a rather forcible manner last spring. We had planted a few rows of early beans and after they had come up we had a cold spell, and in order to save the beans from the frost, they were covered with planks. After the danger from frost had passed, at one end of the rows the planks were laid between the rows and left for about two weeks, which was a dry season. At the other end the planks were moved clear away. The part where the planks were between the rows made double the growth of the others. The growth was evidently due to the moisture saved by the planks.

Transportation Charges.

The freight and transportation charges on a full car of strawberries from southern points are often from \$200 to \$300, while on a car of southern peaches the cost of refrigeration and the high priced packages that have to be used run the cost up above \$500 on each car that comes into the State; \$400 of this would be profit or increased income to the local grower.

The local grower can often sell direct to consumer; there are no heavy or refrigerator charges to pay, and these two items alone often eat up over one-half to two-thirds of the gross sales of fruit brought from a distance, while the local grower saves it.—J. H. Hale, Connecticut, in American Cultivator.

Loss of Manure.

An authority claims that fully one-third of the manure voided on the farms of the United States is lost. The fermentation of manure is caused by the action of two forms of organisms. One form is that which requires an abundance of oxygen and dies when exposed to it. The former thrives on the

outside of the heap and the latter in the interior. The latter's office seems to break up the more complex particles and prepare them for the action of the former. If the action of the former is too rapid a great deal of the nitrogen passes off into the air in the form of ammonia or free nitrogen, and is lost to the soil from whence it came.

Wintering Bees.

D. H. Stovall says a neighbor who makes a good living from his spiary successfully winters his bees through the cold months in a cellar provided for the purpose. He states that bees may be successfully wintered in cellars provided the cellar is given over entirely to the bees and used for no other purpose. There is always an unhealthy odor, that is as disastrous to bees as anything else, emitted from decayed fruits, vegetables and such things as are usually stored in cellars. The bee cellar should not be entered nor disturbed any more than is absolutely necessary; it should be made a quiet, unmoistened home for the little honey makers.

Fruit Picking Basket.

This basket is made from an ordinary Delaware fruit basket. A strap goes over the shoulder of the picker and leaves both hands free for gathering the fruit. It is bad practice to shake any kind of fruit from the tree. It should always be picked by hand and carefully placed in the package in which it is sent to market. By this method injury to the extent of 10 to 25 per cent may be avoided.



MARKET FOR FRUIT PICKING.

Corn Land for the Bean Crop.

Beans may be planted late and mature before a probably frost. For several years beans have borne a good price, and if the wheat crop proves to be as short as threatened at this writing the consumption of them is likely to be larger than usual. The planting, harvesting and thrashing of beans may be done by machinery now, which removes a former serious objection to their culture; and if the crop area on a farm has been made smaller than desired, by reason of the cold spring, a field of beans might be advantageously used in extending the season's crops. Good corn land is excellent for beans, and their cultivation does not differ materially from that of corn, hence it does not require any special instruction or skill to grow them successfully.

No Nurse Crop for Alfalfa.

Some people still think alfalfa should be sown with a nurse crop. Those who have had experience with it know better. A recent publication of the Arizona Experiment Station sums up the facts as follows: Nurse crops hinder the development of tops and roots of alfalfa, especially when by reason of a thick stand or rank growth shading effects are excessive. After the removal of the nurse crop the weakened and undeveloped alfalfa plants are poorly fitted to withstand drought and the stand may be lost. In the average instance the loss in yield of alfalfa due to a nurse crop probably more than offsets return from the nurse crop itself.

Missouri Sheep.

A new breed of sheep is said to have been developed by William Buckman near Clapper, Mo. The new breed has all the best points of Rambouillet, Shropshire and Cotswolds. To start with he used twenty Shropshire ewes and crossed them with a Rambouillet buck, and the ewes secured from this cross were then crossed with a Cotswold buck. It is claimed that they inherit the hardy traits of the Rambouillet, the mutton qualities of the Shropshire and the heavy fleeces of the Cotswolds.

Rock Salt for Horses.

For cattle and horses, rock salt placed in boxes or troughs in winter and scattered about the pastures on the grass in summer is preferable to any other way. Rain has little effect upon it and this will be found both convenient and economical. For sheep, however, this plan does not work so well. The rock salt is so slow to dissolve that they are not able to get a sufficient quantity of it to satisfy their wants, hence it is necessary to use the loose salt for them.

Merinos in Vermont.

The merino sheep industry in Vermont is again entering an era of prosperity that presages a boom. While by no means approaching the palmy days of thirty years ago, the industry is reviving and each year for a decade past has shown an increase in shipments of fancy strains of merino-breeding sheep to Africa and Australia.

FLASHES OF FUN

"Cheer up! There is a silver lining to every cloud!" "Well, what good is that? I haven't got an airship!"—Pick-Me-Up.

Howell—You seem to think that I will lose if I make the investment. Powell—My boy, it is just like indorsing a note for a friend.—Brooklyn Life.

Friend—So that is your little boy? He looks very intelligent. Proud Mama—Just as I was at his age. My daughter, now, is more like her father.—Nos Loisirs.

"Youngling is going to marry the widow Henpeck." "Why, she's twice as old as he is." "Oh, well, he'll age fast enough after the wedding!"—Town and Country.

"That fisherman is always talking about the whoppers he caught." "He doesn't catch them," answered Miss Cayenne. "He merely tells them."—Washington Star.

Boarder—You can divide a chicken with mathematical accuracy. Mrs. Washington, Mrs. Washington—Dividing it is easy enough. I wish I could multiply it.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

"Mamma," said Jamie, mysteriously, "did I ever have a little brother that fell into the well?" "No," said mamma. "Why?" "Why, when I looked down in the well I saw a little boy something like me."

"Miss Pechis," said Mr. Timid, at the other end of the sofa, "if I were to throw you a kiss I wonder what you'd say." "Well," replied Miss Pechis, "I'd say you were the laziest man I ever saw."—Philadelphia Press.

Tom—But perhaps she doesn't love you. Jack—Oh, yes, she does! Tom—How do you know? Jack—When I told her that I had no money to get married she offered to borrow some from her father.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

"Dear me, John, this is dreadful with hot weather on us and no money to go anywhere. Haven't you any country relations you can scare up?" "That's the trouble. I've scared all I've got already."—Baltimore American.

"Yes," said the young man, pensively, "a dog I once had saved my life." "Tell me about it," said the young woman, with eager interest. "I sold him for \$4," said the young man, "when I was nearly starving."—Tit-Bits.

"What made Brown marry that widow?" "Did you ever drop a penny in a weighing machine and then find the thing won't work?" "Yes," "That's the reason." "What do you mean?" Couldn't get a weigh.—Denver Post.

Wife (during the quarrel)—I don't believe you ever did a charitable act in your life. Husband—I did one, at least, that I have lived to regret. Wife—Indeed! What was it, pray? Husband—I saved you from dying an old maid.—Illustrated Bits.

Friend—I am afraid your husband has a very bad cold; he's continually sneezing. It's quite painful to hear him. Why don't you ask a doctor to see him? Matron—Well, I'm waiting just a few days because it amuses baby so to see his father sneeze.—Tit-Bits.

"You may not remember me, Miss Summers," he said, "but I was engaged to you once." "Indeed?" the summer girl replied coldly. "you have quite a memory for faces." "No," he replied, glancing at her fair hand, "but I have for the rings I buy."—Philadelphia Press.

"But," protested the space writer, "perhaps you could use this article if I were to toll it down?" "Nothing doing," rejoined the man behind the blue pencil. "If you were to take a gallon of water and boil it down to a pint, it would still be water."—Chicago Daily News.

"Well, anyhow," said Casady, "this new mill is fitted up fine. Shave, everything's in its right place." "Not at all," replied Casey, "when I went through there the other day I seen a lot o' red buckets marked 'Fur Fire Only,' an' fair, there was water in 'em!"—Philadelphia Press.

Friend—One of your clerks tells me you raised his salary and told him to get married, under penalty of discharge. Business Man—Yes; I do that to all my clerks when they get old enough to marry. I don't want any of your independent, conceited men about my place.—Tit-Bits.

Landlady (to new boarder who is rather stout). I am glad to hear that one of my former boarders recommended you to my house. Stout Boarder—Yes, he spoke very highly of it. After telling him that I had tried all kinds of antifat without success he advised a short stay here.—Ally Sloper.

Mistress—Norah, I told you to give that man with the hand organ a quarter to go down to the next block and grind his machine in front of Mr. Upps-Tart's house—and he's out here on the sidewalk again! Norah—Yis, mum. He says 'th' leddy in the next block gave 'im half a dollar to come back here, mum.—Chicago Tribune.

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An effort is being made to encourage the diamond cutting industry at Cape Town. The work has been heretofore done almost exclusively at Amsterdam, but at present a great deal of this work is being done in the United States.

Not Worth While.

Austere Person—I can't tip you, young man, unless you have change for a tender. Waiter (sliding him up)—Keep your dime, sir; I haven't a nickel about me.

Under the Stars.

"Don't be serious, Jack. Let's change the subject. What is that bright star?" "That's Sirius, too, dear."—Chicago Tribune.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo J. S. Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of J. S. Frank & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.

FRANK J. CHENEY, Sworn to before me and subscribed to by my practice, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1906. (Seal.) A. W. GILMAN, Notary Public.

Data Lacking.

"O, Julie! Julie!" sighed the despairing youth. "How many more times have I got to ask you to marry me?" "How can I tell, George?" she faltered. "You haven't asked me this time yet."

Too Much for Him.

It was the closing hour of the long weary trial. The courtroom was packed to suffocation to hear the venerable Judge's charge to the jury. There was a minute's silence before he cleared his throat and began to speak. "Gentlemen of the jury," he said in part, "in arriving at a verdict in this case you must take the testimony of the witnesses for the defense into consideration and give them full weight."

At the words "full weight" one of the jurymen fainted. He was a coal dealer.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Useless.

Once there was an old hen that dwelt in the yard back of a cold storage warehouse. But she never laid any eggs. "What would be the use?" she clucked. "Nobody would believe it."

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The total length of railways in Japan is now over 4,500 miles. The gauge is three feet six inches.—London Engineer.

More than Rede.

"The society of the Black Hand is very rude, is it not?" "In what respect?" "Its members seem to have such an uncalculated way of cutting their acquaintances dead."—Baltimore American.

The Eternal Sea.

Edith is one of the children in a household where Sabbath observances are of the old-school type of severity. "I shall always stay here," she declared at the close of her second day at the beach, "because they don't put the sea away on Sunday."

BAD BLOOD

THE SOURCE OF ALL DISEASE

Every part of the body is dependent on the blood for nourishment and strength. When this life stream is flowing through the system in a state of purity and richness we are assured of perfect and uninterrupted health; because pure blood is nature's safe-guard against disease. When, however, the body is fed on weak, impure or polluted blood, the system is deprived of its strength, disease germs collect, and the trouble is manifested in various ways. Pustular eruptions, pimples, rashes and the different skin affections show that the blood is in a feverish and diseased condition as a result of too much acid or the presence of some irritating humor. Sores and Ulcers are the result of morbid, unhealthy matter in the blood, and Rheumatism, Catarrh, Scrofula, Contagious Blood Poison, etc., are all deep-seated blood disorders that will continue to grow worse as long as the poison remains. These impurities and poisons find their way into the blood in various ways. Often a sluggish, inactive condition of the system, and torpid state of the avenues of bodily waste, leaves the refuse and waste matters to sour and form uric and other acids, which are taken up by the blood and distributed throughout the circulation. Coming in contact with contagious diseases is another cause for the poisoning of the blood; we also breathe the germs and microbes of Malaria into our lungs, and when these get into the blood in sufficient quantity it becomes a carrier of disease instead of health. Some are so unfortunate as to inherit bad blood, perhaps the dregs of some old constitutional disease of ancestors is handed down to them and they are constantly annoyed and troubled with it. Bad blood is the source of all disease, and until this vital fluid is cleansed and purified the body is sure to suffer in some way. For blood troubles of any character S. S. S. is the best remedy ever discovered. It goes down into the circulation and removes any and all poisons, supplies the healthful properties it needs, and completely and permanently cures blood diseases of every kind. The action of S. S. S. is so thorough that hereditary taints are removed and weak, diseased blood made strong and healthy so that disease cannot remain. It cures Rheumatism, Catarrh, Scrofula, Sores and Ulcers, Skin Diseases, Contagious Blood Poison, etc., and does not leave the slightest trace of the trouble for future outbreaks. The whole volume of blood is renewed and cleansed after a course of S. S. S. It is also nature's greatest tonic, made entirely of roots, herbs and barks, and is absolutely harmless to any part of the system. S. S. S. is for sale at all first class drug stores. Book on the blood and any medical advice free to all who write.

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