

Intensive Farming

How great a revolution has been worked by irrigation in the West is shown by an investigation just completed covering San Joaquin county and applying to the whole Central Valley, says the Rural Spirit. In 1900 this county had 1966 farms, averaging 440 acres to a farm. Today the average has dropped to 208 acres, but that does not tell the statistician's whole story. For against 38 farms of less than 10 acres in 1900, there are now 362 of this size and 638 farms of less than 20 acres.

Here in a locality where a few years ago farming was on a vast scale, there are now 127 profitable farms of less than three acres each and 362 of less than 10 acres. This change, due principally to irrigation and the subdivision of farming lands into small tracts, has brought about an era of intensified and diversified agriculture, resulting in much higher land values, and more valuable products and amounting to an insurance against general crop failures. The small farmer pursues more scientific methods of culture and gets so much greater profit per acre from his holding than the old-style farmer ever received, that he can gain a good living from a very small parcel of land.

The change to small holdings has also the important results of multiplying settlers, for each needs but little capital. What land is required can be bought on time. In a few months the settler is established and within a year has an income from his own property.

ANDREW SCHENCK.

President of the German Fire Insurance Co., Recommended Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

I have used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy in my family for over a year, and can say that it never failed to cure the most stubborn cough or cold. I can recommend it to any family as a sure and safe children's remedy.—Andrew Schenck, Ayton, Ont. This remedy is sold by MARSH & MEDLER.

Parcels Post

Postmaster-General George Von L. Meyer, in a recent address before the Union League Club of Philadelphia, called attention to the recommendations which he purposes making in his annual report for consideration by the next Congress. Regarding parcels post he said:

"I shall recommend the same rate, 12 cents a pound, and the same limit of weight for parcels, whether intended for points in this country or abroad, which means a reduction of four cents a pound and increase in the maximum weight to eleven pounds."

Taking up the rural parcels post question, he said:

"I shall recommend a parcels post system on the rural delivery routes, a special rate to be charged on packages for delivery from the distributing offices of the rural route, or if mailed by a patron of any rural route for delivery to a patron on the same route or at the distributing office of said route. The rate would be five cents for the first pound and two cents for each additional pound, up to eleven pounds. This would be a great boon for the farmers."

Regarding postal savings banks, the Postmaster General said:

"As an evidence that it is not the desire of the government to compete with the private savings banks in obtaining deposits of the people, I shall advocate a rate of interest of two per cent per annum, or one per cent semi-annually, and a limit of \$500, not more than \$250 to be deposited in any one year. My own belief is that far from its being a detriment to the established banks, it would be in the end an advantage. Now, in order to get this money back into the channels of trade, I purpose to ask Congress for authority to place the savings in the National banks."

Fifty Years a Blacksmith.

Samuel R. Worley of Hicksburg, Va., has been shoeing horses for more than fifty years. He says "Chamberlain's Pain Balm has given me great relief from lame back and rheumatism. It is the best liniment ever used." For sale by MARSH & MEDLER.

FARM GARDEN

THE ROAD DRAG.

A Lively Interest in It—The Kind of Road It Makes.

The road drag has had a veritable boom this spring, and this is likely to continue, for it seems to be demonstrated that good roads can be made by proper and persevering application of the drag. If one has not already dragged the road now is the time to begin—in fact, any time is a good time to begin. The method of making and using the drag and the principle on which it operates may be very well understood through the following statements from National Stockman:

To maintain hard, smooth, oval earth roads practically throughout the year all that is necessary is to go over them with a drag after every heavy rain in the spring, summer and fall. Use the drag while the dirt is in a puddled condition, so that the device will smother it down in a sort of layer. When the



ROAD DRAG IN ACTION.

[This drag is made of plank. The split log is generally considered preferable.]

sun and wind act on this moist coating it hardens. Then the constant tamping by horses and fine wheels of vehicles beats it down as compactly as the dry mud balls which the boys make of clay and use in their slug shots. The next dragging places another layer of mud over the surface of the road to be firm in the same manner. This is repeated so often that the road finally requires a hide or shield which is almost impervious to rain, shedding water like a metal roof. After two or three years it will remain hard and smooth throughout the year, and drivers can go at a rapid clip over it any time except when covered with ice. The bottom never falls out of it. Vehicles and wagons can not cut grooves into it. Being smooth all over, traveling is distributed over the entire surface. Two or three bugles, for example, can travel it side by side. The road is of course higher at the middle than at either side. At the start it may be lower in the center than at the sides, though most roads on which the common four horse graders have been used are slightly elevated in the middle. The drag is made so that it will work up an elevation in the center. Four or five draggings will establish the oval characteristic in almost any road.

Clever Marketing.

My experience the past season confirms the belief that the way to make money out of melon growing is to build up a reputation for shipping good goods and have your own brand or trademark. We made eighteen shipments to our commission man and had goods in every shipment that sold at the highest prices. This result was secured by holding up the quality. As the season progressed we culled closer and closer. This naturally gave us a smaller proportion of fancy and No. 1 melons, but we had the satisfaction of getting the top price from first to last for our best goods—that bore our trademark. A month after the melon season was over the salesman who had charge of selling our fruit said it was a pleasure to handle such goods. It hurt the customers at first to pay more than they could get other melons for, but after they once got started they almost fought to get our fruit before it was gone.—W. B. Loyd, Illinois.

Nest Double Poultry House.

When the lightweight breeds, like Hamburgs, Leghorns, etc., are kept in small pens a high wall is no certain protection against escape. The bare yard inside is too great a contrast to the fine pastures in sight, and fowls which would not cross an ordinary pocket fence when on wide range will sometimes fly a six foot netting of a small run. The illustration shows a very neat double coop and covered run suitable for two flocks of a dozen fowls each.

Each yard is 8 by 12 by 6 feet. To cover the top use three sixteen-foot



OPEN FRONT POULTRY HOUSE.

[With covered runs. A good summer arrangement for the high flying breeds. Easily adapted for winter by use of curtain or board front.]

A COMMERCIAL CROP.

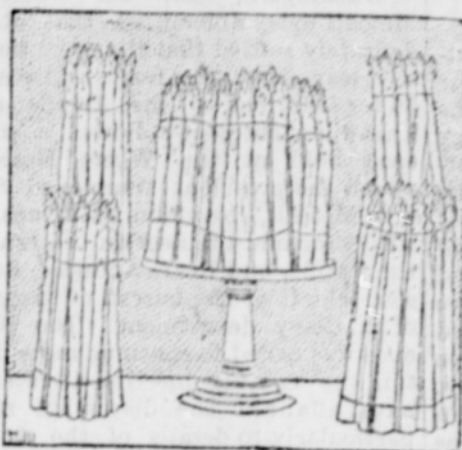
An Acre of Asparagus Better Than \$1,000 in the Bank.

In the spring of 1891 I planted three acres of asparagus, one each of Palmetto, Barr's Mammoth and Conover's Colossal, planting four feet by three to ten inches and about five inches deep. For the first two years we only cut enough for home use. As we could cultivate both ways, the cost of growing was quite low. The third year asparagus to the value of \$225 was cut. The increased vigor each year until we were selling \$500 worth. Then the rust reached Nebraska.

At the experiment station some twenty foreign varieties were planted, with several of our American varieties. I looked over the plantings and found Palmetto to be the largest and least affected with the rust. The same is true on my place.

We have reduced the cost of cultivation by the use of the new reversible orchard disk, with five disks on a side. For part of our work I remove one or two disks.

An acre of asparagus is better than \$1,000 in the bank or out at interest. You can draw on your bed every spring wet or dry, for a good sum over and above cost of production and marketing. Bad storms of hail or wind only stop marketing one day. By letting part of your bed grow up in the spring cutting the tops in the middle of August, you can market during September as a fall crop. The same will sell high, and the average will be quite as good. This part of your bed will be



PALMETTO ASPARAGUS.

[Seven bunches grown in Nebraska. The weight of these bunches was twenty-eight pounds and the average length one foot.]

late in starting the next spring and should be let to grow for another fall crop. You are only using what nature has stored in the fall rather than in the spring.

The demand for asparagus is rapidly increasing. People troubled with kidney diseases receive much benefit by its liberal use. In bunching such large quantities as we have some will be defective for market. We use the tips—say two inches long—sometimes as much as half a bushel being cooked.

Every owner of land should plant at least 250 plants, and 500 is better for a family. Use as a regular dish six days in a year, covered with good Jersey cream, it is one of the best productions of the vegetable garden, concludes an Orange Judd Farmer correspondent.

Single Germ Beet Seed.

Efforts to produce a single germ sugar beet have created considerable interest among sugar beet growers, and so many inquiries have been received in regard to the progress of the undertaking that the department of agriculture has issued some information on the subject in bulletin No. 73 of the bureau of plant industry. Encouraging progress is reported, and "it is only a question of time when beets will be grown commercially from single germ seed." Those having the work in charge expect to produce this year a crop of seed beets from their selected single germ seed of last year and to silt these beets in the autumn for next year's seed production. It will be remembered that it takes two years to produce a crop of seed.

A Lost Warning.

"It is imprudent to leave loaded guns within your son's reach like this."

"Oh, he doesn't even know they are guns; he was using them for stilts the other day."—Pete Mele.

It is estimated that there are 70,000,000 Europeans who wear wooden shoes. Basswood is ordinarily employed for sabots, but willow is the best material.

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REFERENCES: Oregon Trust and Savings Bank, Portland. The Bradstreet Company. Dunn's Commercial Agency.

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