



The hog which will not eat is a pretty sick hog—been sick for a week, probably.

For the flower garden there is no soil so nice as the upper four inches of any timbered bottom land.

One hundred and forty skunks and civet cats were trapped the past winter on one Iowa farm. Sweet scented place that.

The problem of good roads does not bother those countries which do not have over twenty inches of rainfall. Good roads are one of the compensations for drought.

It is worth noting that during the month of February last only 18,000 bushels of wheat left Atlantic ports for Europe, while 1,187,964 bushels went from ports on the gulf of Mexico.

The tsetse fly, a fly no bigger than a common house fly, is the great scourge of South Africa, and has done more to retard the white man's conquest of that country than any other one thing. It is death to stock.

Nothing is better for filling the silo than common field corn. While special types of fodder corn, clover, alfalfa, cowpeas and other green stuff may be kept in the silo, the field corn will be found to be the most satisfactory.

If you have an evergreen grove, you will be sure to have lots of mourning doves, which will seek the grove of conifers as a breeding place. You may also have crows, which like such a grove equally well, and that is a nuisance.

The three months of winter when the man on the southern farm can do any sort of farm work give him a very permanent and distinct advantage over his northern brother, who during that period can do nothing but stuff stoves and stock and consume the earnings of the previous year.

The wild grape, the plum, the rose-bush, the crabapple, all native to our northern latitude, are extremely hardy. No extreme of either heat or cold impairs their vitality. Perhaps some day we will develop types of better fruit which will possess the same degree of hardiness. We have not got them as yet.

In April of this year a man who lived near the state line between Iowa and Minnesota could shoot all the ducks he wanted in Iowa, while he could not lawfully catch a fish, while in Minnesota he could catch all the fish he wanted, but could not shoot a duck. This will illustrate the need of general laws for the protection of fish and game.

The objection to the Leghorn hens is that they cannot be kept under control, driven, herded and secured at night as can other breeds. They are great wanderers and foragers, stack strippers, tree roosters and garden destroyers. No fence stops them. And while for egg production no breed excels them they are of little value for the table. The Wyandottes, white or silver laced, the Plymouth Rocks, barred or buff, are better fowls for the average man than the Leghorns.

Notwithstanding the good prices which hogs have brought for the past year 2,000,000 more hogs have been sold than for the previous year. The most profitable business on the western farm for the past two years has been producing pork. Assured of 5 cents a pound and no cholera it is an agricultural bonanza. It is a far country and a strange, uncivilized people where the product of the American Poland-China is not found in some form or other. The Jew and Mohammedan are his worst enemies.

A western agricultural college has lately issued a bulletin stating that a Danish method of making butter has been discovered whereby a much larger per cent of water is worked into the butter than is common under the American system. It is said in connection that the quality of the butter is improved thereby. While this may be good news to the dairymen and the creameries it is no cause for rejoicing to the consumer, for what he wants and what he buys is better fat, not water.

Many folks run store bills all their lives; think they have to. There is in every way a better method—pay cash as you go. It will save you 10 per cent in the long run, 5 per cent in not buying things and 5 per cent in securing the lowest prices the grocer or merchant has to offer. If, as so many are doing, you are setting up this month that which you expect to earn next month, do penance and fast for thirty days, get even, pay cash and eat what you have earned. This suggestion is worth good money, at least \$25 a year, to any man who will try it.

Norman Williams will not be hanged here on July 22, since his attorney, Judge Henry E. McGinn, is perfecting an appeal to the supreme court, which will delay the execution perhaps six months. If the judgment of the lower court is reversed the case will be remanded here for retrial, but if the judgment is sustained Judge Bradshaw will fix some future date for carrying out the judgment of the court.—Mountaineer.

Miss Zoloto Kelsey, after spending the past week with Miss Prudence Patterson, left on the boat this morning for her home in Hood River. She was accompanied by Miss Katherine Williams.

It looks as if the price of cotton is to be permanently higher, just as will be the price of corn.

One thousand American bred hogs have been sent to Europe the past year for breeding purposes.

We have always favored the placing of a sufficient tax on dogs so that men sustaining damage by them could be indemnified.

It looks as if the making and use of the new cement blocks for building purposes will seriously affect the cut stone and brick industries.

It requires cows, pigs, poultry, fruit and vegetables to make high priced land pay. It cannot be profitably used in the production of cereal crops of hay to sell.

A crop of corn of fifty bushels to the acre, worth 40 cents a bushel, is a very reasonable proposition, still it makes the land which will produce it easily worth \$100 per acre.

The Austrians and Italians who come to this country become, unless restrained by force of law, the most merciless slaughterers of our best song birds. They will kill every bird they can find.

It looks as though the orange business is being overdone. More oranges are being produced than the people can consume. They have been as cheap as potatoes all through the west during the winter.

The wonderful and continued prosperity of the south is one of the most interesting features of the present economic development of the country. It seems strange that it has been so long delayed.

We never until this year heard of a swarm of bees starting out on a hunt for a location early in April, when winter still had a good grip, but this spring a swarm took possession of a vacant space in a cream hauler's wagon thus early in the season.

If a man can secure a good tenant on a term of years the farm so rented, if let on shares, will one year with another bring in a much better income for the landlords than where it is rented for cash, but one needs the right sort of tenant and the long lease.

Not many people keep poultry with profit in town. The range is so circumscribed, all food has to be bought, and unless great care is taken the enforced confinement impairs the laying ability of the fowls. A dozen hens may perhaps be profitably kept on the average town premises, but not many more.

The problem of what to do with the old and faithful horse that has outlived his usefulness and become an expense to keep is a very common one. Some trade him to a horse jockey; some let him live and starve; some finish him up with hard work. Better by far humanely kill the old servant.

It has been found that the mockingbird of the south is a sworn enemy of the cotton boll weevil, and some of the cotton growing states have passed very stringent laws for the protection of this bird. Nearly all of our insect pests would be held in check by some form of bird life if man were only wise enough to permit the birds to live.

A rather significant fact which is brought to our attention is that of a man who is farming only twenty acres of land, who is building a new home with all modern conveniences, while his neighbor who tries to farm a half section is worrying about taxes, interest and hired men and gets but peace and comfort. It will be a good thing when men come to learn that it is the small farm which is the profitable one.

A man who had several fine spruce and pines in his front yard took a notion to trim them up. When the job was done his trees were spoiled, for an evergreen on top of a ten foot tree is the most unsightly and unattractive of all lawn trees. Their beauty lies in their heavy base, and to have these asymmetrical bases the trees must have room to develop, and when they are planted eight or ten feet apart they can never develop satisfactorily.

The west, the prairie section where the dirt road is the only road possible, is to be indebted to a Missouri farmer for a cheap and very simple device—a ten inch log, ten feet long, split, and the two sections fastened one behind the other—to be used in smoothing down the rough and rutty highway, and from the use of which most satisfactory results are obtained. It is the rut which holds the rainfall and makes the mudhole. Banish the rut and we get rid of the mud. This is so simple and cheap that it should come into general use at once.

Strawberry Planting. A strong sandy or light clay loam seems best to suit strawberries, though they thrive on many kinds of soil. Plants may be set as early in spring as the ground can be worked, in rows three and one-half feet apart in the row, according to the habit of the plant in forming runners. The soil should be made firm around the plant. If the weather is hot and dry at planting time the older leaves are best removed. The blossom stalks should be cut and the runners kept to a space of about one foot during the first season.

We have been selling a lot of potatoes this spring for \$1.20 per bushel. This is the most extravagant price for purples we have ever known. Nobody can afford to eat them at this price, and only their use for seed justifies it.

The sprouted kernel of oats is a tender thing, and it is probable that the early sown crop of the west, subjected as it was to very severe freezing after germination, is seriously injured. Wheat and rye will stand what oats will not.

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TREE PLANTING. There are many mistakes made in the matter of tree planting. A very common one where trees are being set in the home lot for shade and decoration is to set them in straight rows instead of irregularly in groups, the best pattern to follow being nature's method of artistic irregularity; then, the trees being small, so many seem to forget they will grow to be large, and so set them too near the house, only to bury the house in a dense shade and shut out the sun, and it is rare to find a man with sense enough to cut down the handsome trees which he planted twenty years previously. Then mistakes are made, and bad ones, in the selection of varieties. No man ever regrets planting a white elm, a hard maple, a white ash, a catalpa, a blue spruce or white pine if they are planted in the right place, but the Lombardy poplar, the Balm of Gilead, the cottonwood, the box elder and the willow very soon outlive their usefulness; then it quite often happens that one may combine profit and aesthetic beauty by planting a fruit tree instead of a deciduous forest tree. No tree is better suited for a lawn decoration than the cherry, either tame or wild, while the plum will brighten the lawn with its bloom in the spring and reward all who seek its shade later on with its fruit. For street planting probably no tree gives such general satisfaction as the American elm. We would not, however, discourage any one from planting the poor varieties if that is the very best they can do, for any sort of tree is better than none at all.

COUNTY FAIRS. The real and the only object of the county fairs should be the promotion of the agricultural, mechanical and horticultural interests of the community, and where they fail to do this we doubt if they are of any real value whatever. Wherever these fairs are held there is an almost irresistible effort made by a certain class to make the racing, the sideshow, the sensational risk of human life, the gambling and the immoral superstitious and obscure the legitimate object of the fair. Fancy prices are tendered the management for the privilege of plucking the gullible public by a hundred fraudulent schemes, while the horsemen—the racing craft—are quite apt to want to be considered the whole show and appropriate the bulk of the receipts. Some day there will come a time when the real purpose of the county fair will be properly recognized and men will take an interest and attend such fairs for the educational value which it should possess along agricultural lines. A certain state fair in a western state only a few years ago so catered to this demand for the grotesque and sensational that a track was laid, locomotives were bought and a real collision, head-on, was advertised and given as one of the attractions. The management has learned better now. Fair officials who will license gambling schemes of any sort should be promptly indicted and removed from office.

THE DUAL PURPOSE COW. A Minnesota dairyman who for twelve years has been trying to build up a herd of dual purpose cows says he has failed and that the thing is a practical impossibility. The trouble is that the heifers from such a herd will almost always take one tack or the other—run to either beef or milk—and we are not dual, as desired. Once in a while a cow is found which most happily combines the qualities of both meat and milk, but it seems to be almost impossible to fix such a strain as a distinguishing trait of a breed. The very makeup of the cow tends to defeat such an attempt, the good milkster from a physical necessity being almost a deformed beast from a beef standpoint. If a man is going into the dairy business for profit, there is little doubt that he will best promote his interests by getting cows of the dairy type.

FROST PROOF STRAWBERRIES. A friend in Colorado writes asking us to name some varieties of strawberry which will be frost proof in June and July on the highlands of that state, where he states they have a frost every year in June and July. We cannot help him out, for we know of no berry which, when in bloom or when the fruit is formed, will stand a hard frost. He cites the fact that wild strawberries grow there in abundance, but neglects to state, what is probably a fact, that these wild berries grow low down among other vegetation and are to a great extent protected from frost. The frost condition to which he refers sometimes catches our crop of berries in late May, and the best way to prevent damage is to start a smudge of the old winter covering around the bed or else throw it back on the plants to remain until danger is past.

WHEN AND HOW TO PRUNE. It is a good time now to prune the fruit trees where they need it. The water sprouts at the base of the trunk should be all removed; also all cross limbs and deformed ones. A light, fine toothed saw is the best tool for this work, and it is a good idea to have a little pot of paint along to give the wound on the tree a dab. Pruning done at this season (May) insures the quick healing of the cuts, as the sap is about in full flow. The work of pruning should never be delayed so that limbs over an inch in diameter have to be removed.

Some men still plant by the moon and swear by the long range weather prophets.

The tramping of the soil by stock is absolutely fatal to a large share of our forest and fruit trees.

The good horse and the good boy are quite likely to both belong to the good man. They are one of his earthly rewards.

It is of small profit to work hard to plant \$2 worth of garden seeds and then depend upon a scythe to keep the garden clean.

We sow radishes every ten days from early spring up to July and then again in September for fall use. In this way we always have them nice and tender.

All living things have their uses, we are told, but we know of some dogs and some men whose utilitarian relation to the world could be made a proper subject for debate.



PAUL STRAIN.

COLORADO'S LOSS OREGON'S GAIN

Paul Strain, who has just returned from the monopoly-ridden mining districts of crushed Colorado, says that the state affairs at Victor and Cripple Creek is almost heart rending. Fear is on almost every face. If men stop and talk one with another, in the street or elsewhere, where they may be seen, officers arrest them and they are thrown into the foul bull pen or banished from the commonwealth they helped to build. Distress is pictured on the countenances of women and children, homes are desolate and the suffering of the masses is beyond human thought at these distances from the seat of all these troubles. Mr. Strain says that when he was there, there was no such thing as free press or free speech. He says, indeed, that he was reminded of Siberia and the military authority of the czar in this trust-ridden state of Colorado. He says that the stores of Cripple Creek, Victor and Goldfields are nearly all closed. The small provision stores are afraid to keep their doors open, because they have not the means to sell on credit, and no one has money to pay for anything in these camps at this time.

"I bought the two large stocks of clothing, hats, caps, furnishing goods and shoes of the Colorado Clothing Co., which did business in Cripple Creek and Victor. I also bought a very select and handsome stock in Goldfields. These goods were received at about the time the mines were closing down, and the stocks were almost in tact. The Colorado Clothing Co.'s stores were well filled to the ceiling with the best selection of merchandise I ever saw outside of the largest cities of the country. The inventory showing a value of \$147,000 and all this immense stock was knocked down to me for \$28,000 spot cash. This, it will be perceived, is less than 19 cents on the dollar of the wholesale cost of the goods.

"Business men are leaving Colorado with the intention of never returning. The hard hand of vexation and of need is upon them, or me is rampant everywhere. Life is insecure, confidence obliterated and business dead. Men look on their neighbors with suspicion; husbands have been dragged away from their families and wives from their husbands. Chaos is visible everywhere. Men who are guilty of no offenses whatsoever, are hurried before military tribunals that remind one strongly of the stormy days of the French revolution. I noticed that the men who were banished under military guard had not the appearance of foreigners, but seemed to represent the best types of American manhood I have ever seen. They seemed to me to be natives of such states as New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, and possibly Missouri and Kentucky. I saw no drunkenness whatever and could scarcely realize that these fellows were under the ban of the law. General Bell appeared to me as a very austere commander. If he had been trained in the military schools of Europe I could have understood his bearing; but it was strange to me to behold such conduct in an American.

"However, in a mercantile way, Colorado's loss will be Portland's gain. These tons of goods you see around me come from that sorrowful region to make glad the hearts of patrons of the Hub and Sarsine, and from 8 o'clock tomorrow morning until every dollar's worth of goods have been disposed of, tremendous slaughter will be the watchword here.

"And Mr. Strain turned away to direct his little army that seemed to obey his command as implicitly as the soldiers obey the commands of General Bell. They were marking down and stacking up goods in every direction, and will doubtless be ready for the multitudes who will be with them in the days to come, beginning with tomorrow morning.—Portland Journal.

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