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H. H. WELCH,
The Population of Prussia.

Concerning the large and constant increase in the population of Germany in general, and that of Prussia in particular, the Royal Statistical Bureau gives the following figures for 1885: The total population on December 1, 1885, was 28,318,458. The births during the year numbered 1,064,400, the marriages 230,707, and the deaths 716,859. The natural increase, therefore, was 347,542, and the average number of births per 1,000 of population 37.6, of marriages, 16.4, and of deaths, 25.3. These figures, high as they are, as compared with those of England and Wales, show a surplus for the last-named country, whose population was 27,499,041, with 894,270 births, 197,745 marriages, and 522,750 deaths, making the actual increase per 1,000 in England (and Wales) 13.5, as against only 12.3 in Prussia.—Paris American Register.

The last remaining toll-house on the old Philadelphia turnpike was torn down last week, and for the first time in fifty years the great thoroughfare between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh was open its entire length without charge to the public.—Philadelphia Times.

AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

Devoted to the Interests of Farmers and Stockmen.

The Garden Spot.
In making preparations for the active farm operations of the spring too little attention is in many cases paid to the preparation of a kitchen garden. The fact is overlooked that in the garden is comprised the summer's living. Hundreds of families have lived during the greater part of the year on an almost unvarying diet of salt pork and potatoes, bread and pastry, and hundreds will continue such a diet during the year to come. It is reasoned that there is no profit in a garden simply because nothing that is produced therein will bring in money, while corn can be turned into pork, beef, or ready cash; wheat can be used in furnishing bread and the surplus sold for cash, and oats can be fed to the horses or sold as desired. Beside, it takes time to cultivate a garden, and a farmer's time is fully occupied in getting in, caring for and harvesting the field crops, making hay and doing the necessary chores about the barn and stockyard. Many farmers thus occupy their time and probably feel satisfied with pork and potatoes for breakfast, potatoes and pork for dinner and both for supper.

The fact that families have and do still subsist on such fare is no excuse for not having something better. It is said, and with some degree of truth, that the best butter and freshest eggs produced on the farm are sent to the village store and exchanged for family groceries, and when milk is used in the family it is after the cream has been removed that there may be no lack in the quantity of butter produced. If any person should enjoy good home living it is the farmer. The products of the farm may be had at their best, and it is fully to live on the husks and let others have the kernel. There are odd minutes, morning or evening, that may be employed to advantage in hoeing or weeding a vegetable garden—the minutes often devoted to hanging over the fence and gossiping with a passing neighbor over the latest local sensation or the prospects for rain, or some other trifling.

The industrious farmer will, at the earliest opportunity, prepare a garden spot where may be planted a patch of early potatoes, sweet corn, peas, beans, onions, lettuce, beans, radishes, cucumbers, salsify, summer squash, with a plot of cabbages, tomatoes, turnips, and, perhaps, melons. Sweet corn, peas and beans, for use as string beans, should be planted at several times during the season in order that one patch may be made available as another b comes too far advanced toward maturity for use when green. To this short list may be added such other vegetables as are advisable. No family should be without an asparagus bed, while a patch for strawberries and other small fruits will add much to the family comfort during the summer. A garden spot should be the best enriched and best cared for part of the farm, as it is the best paying in furnishing a fresh supply of the most healthful food during the season when hearty meats are not best adapted to the human system. Once a good garden is kept up it will become easier year by year because of the variety it furnishes on the table. There is yet time where no garden vegetables have been raised to enrich and prepare a plot of ground for this purpose, and by all means have it near the house where the good wife may readily make her selections of variety for the dinners in the weeks to come.—Exchange.

It is said there are over 2,000 varieties of the apple cultivated in Europe, its growth extending from thirty eight to sixty degrees, though the best fruit is grown between the thirty-eighth parallel and the forty-second.

Do not try to keep geese unless all the conditions are favorable. Geese may be kept at a very small cost or they may entail cost according to circumstances. A pond and pasture will enable them to secure their food with but little aid.

Cows need light, not only for their own health and comfort, but because good butter cannot be made from the milk of cows kept in dark stables. Air, light, cleanliness and warmth are four essentials of a cow stable where cows are kept for profit.

All fowls that feather slowly are usually hardy. For instance, the Brahmas. It is owing to the fact that the drain on the system occasioned by quick feathering does not weaken them. Slow feathering while growing is indicative of hardiness.

Iron is an important part of the blood, giving it its red color, but this does not necessitate taking solutions of iron for health. All well-developed vegetation contains some iron. It is the coloring matter of green leaves. In soils from which every trace of iron has been removed seeds will germinate, but they will be white. Pouring a solution of copperas or sulphate of iron on the soil will change the leaves to a dark-green color.

EDUCATED FARMERS.

What They Have Done for the Advancement of Rural Interests.

While it is not to be inferred that farmers are uneducated, or in any sense inferior to other classes in intelligence, yet there is room for greater educational expansion, which should not be overlooked. It has been but a decade since "book-farming" was derided as a pastime, resulting in great expense and no profit; but at the present day "book-farming" is considered indispensable in conducting practical operations on the farm. The "book-farmer," as the phrase is understood, may not have been an adept in the use of implements, may have lacked skill at the plow and in feeding, and knowledge of the proper mode of expenditure; but while he was lacking in "practical experience," he was always aiming for the best of every thing, and, by experiments, educated his neighbors. Though he knew nothing about milking a cow, yet he could, at a glance, separate the different breeds of stock and mate them for the best results; and his knowledge of fertilizers, varieties of plants and peculiarities of soils was often far in advance of his more practical neighbors. While his efforts were often failures, they always tended to a better system of cultivation and the introduction of superior stock in the section in which he operated.

If the skilled and practical artisan considers it his duty to make a study of architecture, mechanical drawings and specifications, with the advantage of books giving the experience and designs of others, there is no reason for the farmer to refuse kindred privileges for himself. A knowledge of the progress made in his calling can be gained only by study and practical experiment upon the theories advanced. There are hundreds of farmers who are experts in the management of a dairy, yet who give little or no attention to the classification of stock; and some of the most successful horticulturists have no idea of how the varieties of fruit cultivated by them were produced.

Though farmers, like all other classes, may be benefited by knowledge, they are not as slow as is generally supposed. Every season there are a great number of conventions held to consider agricultural subjects, but the masses are best educated not only by the study of agricultural literature, but by meetings in each locality. It is at such meetings that the practical and theoretical can be compared, and the experiments and opinions of every member given. A great advantage of local meetings is the facility of inspection of the farms of such sections and a direct comparison of the growing crops, as well as the live-stock possessed by each, which affords an opportunity also to the younger members, infusing in them a spirit of progress which is sure to result in benefit in the future, and to render agriculture more and more profitable.—Philadelphia Record.

GRASSES FOR THE PLAINS.

Successful Experiment with Blue Grass, Timothy, Red Top and Orchard Grass.

One of the most important questions for the farmer upon the great plains of the West is that of the proper grasses to replace the wild species. For some years the early settlers thought that the wild grasses could be depended upon for permanent pasturage and hay, but experience has shown that they will not endure the new conditions to which they are subject when the country is converted into farms. The cattle and horses of the West can not long depend upon the natural grasses; they must have forage which is more nutritious, as well as more productive.

A careful study of the problem upon the ground shows that Kentucky blue-grass can be well grown upon the soil of the plains. In the vicinity of the old forts, where many years ago the United States troops were stationed, Kentucky blue-grass has been growing for a long time. The seeds scattered from the hay used for feeding the horses germinated and took root upon the unbroken prairie sod, and in time actually crowded out the wild grasses. The hint thus accidentally given out has been acted upon, and to-day there are many fine blue-grass pastures upon ground which has never felt the plowshare. The usual practice now is to feed down the wild grasses as closely as possible, and then to sow thickly with good blue-grass seed. When once blue-grass is introduced upon a farm it is only necessary to scatter blue-grass hay upon the wild sod. For this purpose the hay should be cut late enough, so as to have ripe seeds; it may be well nigh worthless for forage, but its seed has a high value.

Timothy thrives upon the soil of the plains, and fields of it may be seen every year in Eastern Nebraska, which rival any ever seen in the East. It is now fast replacing the wild grasses for hay. On the low-lands bordering the Platte river, timothy furnishes a perennial pasture, which endures the treading of cattle almost as well as blue-grass itself. It is now known, moreover, that timothy will produce seed of superior quality in great abundance, indicating very strongly its complete adaptation to the climate and soil. Of the other cultivated grasses—red top, orchard grass and others—less com-

monly known—this much only need be said at present, viz., that, contrary to general expectation, they grow well and in some localities are being extensively sown. Red top grows apparently spontaneously in the sloughs, and needs but slight encouragement to make it extend its range. Orchard grass, while by no means a favorite hay grass, is grown with good success.—Nebraska Corn-American's Agr. Culturist.

HOME AND FARM.

—Cows that have no bedding are often injured in the knees by getting up or down, especially if the floors be wet and slippery.—Troy Times.

—Swine are populous in the United States. According to Statistician Dodge of the Agricultural Department there are about eighty swine to every one hundred of our population, while in Europe there only fifteen to each one hundred persons.

—A New York Tribune writer says that two ounces of saltpeter dissolved in a quart of warm water and thrown into the eistern will remove the offensive odor of the water.

—Potato crust for meat pies is made by adding one teacupful of cream to six large potatoes that have been boiled and mashed fine. Add four enough to roll, and a little salt, and handle as little as possible.—Cincinnati Times.

—For biliousness the editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal says a plain diet of bread, milk, oatmeal, vegetables and fruit, with lean meat and fresh fish, is best. Exercise in the open air. The victim of an acute attack will be righted by (1) abstinence, (2) porridge and milk, (3) toast, a little meat and fish and ripe fruit, thus coming to solid food gradually.

—Stuffed Potatoes: Choose some large potatoes, peel them, cut a small piece off the top of each, and scoop them out carefully with a knife and fill them with sausage meat; replace the top pieces. Grease a baking-pan with butter and lay the potatoes side by side in it, with a little lump of butter between each; bake them in a hot oven.—Good Housekeeping.

—Velvet Pudding: Five eggs beaten separately, one cup of white sugar; beat well together, then stir in four tablespoonfuls of corn starch dissolved in a little sweet milk, let it come to boiling point, then stir in briskly the other ingredients, then let it boil until it becomes quite thick, remove it from the fire, pour into your baking dish. When nearly done take the white of eggs, beaten to a froth with one cup of sugar, and pour over the top of the pudding.—Boston Budget.

—Under a forcing system of treatment the best hens in the world will quickly play out. You may get a large number of eggs within a given time, but the later layings will not give you average good chickens when you come to hatch such product. This result we have proved beyond peradventure in our past experience. Therefore, never force to any considerable extent your stock to lay an excessive or unnatural number of eggs, as it is exhausting, and will impair the vigor of the progeny.—Prairie Farmer.

—Fried Apples: Wipe a few nice, smooth-skinned apples, have ready a spider with a little butter and lard in it, let it get hot, and slice the apples thin, sprinkle a little sugar over them, and fry slow to a nice brown, taking great care not to let them burn.—Toledo Blade.

Cultivate the peach trees, and apply three hundred pounds of muriate of potash and two hundred pounds of fine ground bone per acre. If the soil is rather heavy this may be done in the fall, but where the soil is light one-half the quantity may be applied now and the remainder in the spring. The peach orchard should always be kept clean of grass and weeds.—Troy Times.

—In the absence of meat, potatoes boiled in milk, where there is plenty of the latter, is an admirable preparation for feeding to young, growing chicks. A mixture of one-third cornmeal and wheat bran with the above will make the young chicks grow wonderfully if given fresh every day. The best feed for setting hens is plenty of good, sound whole corn. They should have plenty of fresh water to drink.—Albany Journal.

—The best horsemen do not water a horse for an hour and a half after eating. The old saying is that a horse has more sense than a man—as he will not drink too much. This is one of the greatest mistakes in the care of the horse. He will drink too much when heated and the stomach empty. He will also drink too much when the first heat caused by digestion commences. Study these questions and learn how to feed and water horses during the heated term which has now commenced.—Rural World.

—Don't allow water to stand in the fields or in any sink-holes about the buildings or yards. In fact don't have any sink-holes about the premises to hold water. A scraper is a good thing to have about every farm. Many fields have little knolls and holes that might easily and cheaply be leveled by the use of the scraper. If much soil is taken from the place the manure cart must follow after the scraper. A depression of any considerable extent must, of course, be drained. Even a little surface drainage will often accomplish wonders.—S. E. Farmer.

OREGON NEWS.

Everything of General Interest in a Condensed Form.

There is not a vacant house in Pendleton.

Roseburg is to have a \$14,000 school house.

Weston expects to have a steam grist mill soon.

Asbland has 600 pupils enrolled in her public schools.

Albany is taking steps to organize a military company.

Hay sold as high as \$20 a ton around Albany the past season.

The assessment of Albany will amount to about \$800,000.

The crops in all parts of Douglas county are reported excellent.

Richard Meyers was drowned at the foot of Main street, Portland.

The peach crop in Jackson county promises to be the largest known.

Baker City has a brick-making establishment that turns out 30,000 per day.

The La Grand National bank is to have a new building in the near future.

The mail route between Grant's Pass and Crescent City will be relet, service to commence July 1.

The State fair authorities have put up \$500 to be competed for by the military companies of the State.

Lebanon proposes to build a telegraph line to Leng's station on the Narrow Gauge at a cost of \$500.

Vali, on the Oregon Short Line, near the Snake river, is the temporary county seat of the new county of Malheur.

N. A. Lundy, was found dead in his room at a Portland hotel. A bullet in the head and a revolver in his right hand revealed that he had committed suicide.

Miss Alice Durbin of Huntington, obtained a verdict for \$2,000, against the O. R. & F. company for injuries received by being run over by a train last summer.

George Smith, an old pioneer of Marion county, and a resident of Turner, committed suicide by swallowing a dose of strychnine. A short time since he suffered a paralytic stroke which affected his whole right side.

Miss Kate Trullinger, aged 14 years, of Mullino, was drowned in Mill creek. She had been subject to congestion of the brain, and it is supposed walked into the creek, while by some it is thought the bank gave way, precipitating her into the swollen stream.

John Cahill, a hod-carrier of Albina, aged 40 years, was run over and killed. He was going to a store with a coal oil can and was walking on the O. R. & N. track when he evidently heard a train coming behind him as he stepped from the main track to a side track, but he did not notice that a flying switch had been made, and was struck by two freight cars which threw him across the track and passed over him cutting off both feet and crushing his head. His death was instantaneous.

Schuyler Ford, aged 21 years, disappeared from Harrisburg, Oregon, about a month ago, and nothing has been heard of him since. He had purchased a lot at Coburg, upon which he had built a house to run a saloon, and for which business he had bargained of a firm at Harrisburg for a stock of goods. When last seen he had upon his person about \$700 in money and bank checks. His pistol and overcoat remain at the hotel, un-called for. His friends entertain fears that he has been foully dealt with.

Journal of Commerce: So great is the demand for prunes in this country that their cultivation promises to be one of the most profitable occupations that Oregon farmers can engage in. During the last four years the imports of prunes from foreign countries aggregated 228,513,098 lbs., value \$10,657,376. The Oregon prunes are said to equal any of the imported ones and they require no extra attention. Prunes will not grow everywhere and Oregon is one of the favored localities. Mr. Hidden, of Vancouver, has an orchard of 3 1/2 acres in extent which yielded ten tons of prunes last season, from which he netted some \$2,400. A few boxes were distributed at Moline, Ill., by the Immigration Board and since then there has been a constant enquiry for Oregon prunes from that direction.

An Indian woman named Annie, while in an intoxicated condition, visited the farm of Charles B. Reed, in West Kittitas, W. T. No one was at home but Mr. Reed's 17-year-old son George and some of the younger children. The squaw was disorderly and assaulted the young man, knocking him down with a club and assaulting him with a stone. Young Reed picked up his shot-gun and on the squaw making further demonstrations and threatening his life, he fired, the charge taking effect in the woman's face, killing her instantly. The coroner's jury brought in a verdict of justifiable homicide.

ALONG THE COAST.

Devoted Principally to Washington Territory and California.

A new shipyard is being established at Port Madison, W. T.

The Thompson Opera Company went to pieces in San Francisco.

A site for a sugar refinery has been selected at San Diego, Cal.

Nearly \$25,000,000 worth of candy was made in California the past year.

It is estimated that about 110,000 Montana sheep froze to death the past winter.

Mrs. Langtry, it is stated, will take up her summer residence in San Francisco, Cal.

Hiram White, an old resident of Taylor, A. T., accidentally killed himself while handling a rifle.

There are about 800 bales of hops left in Washington Territory of which Yakima county has 150 bales.

Contract has been awarded for the delivery of 25,000 piles for the jetty at the mouth of the Coquille river.

The Provincial Legislature of British Columbia has passed the bill authorizing the loan of \$1,000,000.

Robert Fulton, a blacksmith, at Port Hadlock, W. T., lost an eye by a piece of steel entering it while at work.

Judge Freer, at Oroville, Cal., sentenced the stage-robbor, George Henderson, to fifty years at San Quentin.

A dozen Bob White quails have been turned loose in Kittitas county, W. T. They came from Whidby Island.

Near La Center, W. T., recently, a young man named Charles Anderson was struck by a falling tree, which he had chopped down, and received fatal injuries.

The loss to cattle in Northern Montana is 25 per cent, and much greater in the southeastern portion of the Territory.

Leo Roberts was found dead on the trail between Tunnel city, W. T., with two companions. He is supposed to have been murdered.

The nine-year-old son of Henry Hamilton, who lives near Grayson, Cal., was instantly killed by the accidental discharge of a gun.

John Lemper, of the Salvation Army, who struck a citizen of Sacramento, Cal., on the head with a rock recently, has been sent to Folsom for two years.

Thomas E. Harvey has sued Nelson Bennett for \$5,000 damages. On September 24, 1886, Harvey broke a leg while working on the Cascade tunnel for Bennett.

At Lathrop, Cal., T. H. Odell, familiarly known as "Doc" Odell, was shot and instantly killed by his brother-in-law, Wm. Moss, during a dispute over a mortgage, at his ranch.

M. Yager, a teamster jumped off a street car in front of a switch engine of the Southern Pacific Railroad company at Los Angeles, Cal., and was almost instantly killed.

Charles Goslow, convicted of the murder of Henry A. Grant, at Los Gatos, Cal., on the 10th of January last, was sentenced by Judge Belden, to be hanged on the 20th of May.

Samuel B. Branson committed suicide at Monterey, Cal., by shooting himself in the right temple with a pistol, dying immediately. He was 60 years of age and a Mexican war veteran.

The trial of Alexander Goldenson at San Francisco, Cal., for the murder of little Mame Kelly last November was concluded by a verdict of murder in the first degree, and the penalty fixed at death.

The brick fire wall alongside the Tacoma mill, W. T., has been completed. It is 90 feet in length, 35 feet high and two feet in thickness. There was used in the construction of the same 120,000 brick.

Yakima paper: An experienced tobacco grower is coming out from Wisconsin to take charge of the Moxee company's essay at tobacco culture. They will plant seven acres to the weed as a starter.

A little five-year-old son of W. T. Simms, of Riverside, Cal., attempted to board a loaded train and was run over and killed. His mother is very low from nervous prostration and is liable not to survive long.

A man named Harry H. Osborn, of Tulare, Cal., aged 23, br keman on a freight train, jumped from the train at Goshen and fell against a truck, throwing him under the train. His head was severed from his body.

In getting off a train at Caliente, Cal., Ed. Mills, a car repairer, fell between the cars and the train passed over his legs severing them from his body. No doctor being near an engine was sent with him to Sumner, where he died. English capitalists are negotiating for the purchase of the Minnie Moore mine at Bellevue, Idaho, in the Wood River country. The price set on the property is \$3,000,000, and it is thought the sale will be consummated. The mine was originally sold for \$20,000, and has since produced about \$2,000,000.