

Good Results of Farmers' Alliance. Washington Gladden in the Nov. Forum. He says the farmers will hold together in their alliance as difficult to predict. It may be that the discussions in which they must take part will show them that some of the measures of direct relief on which they are chiefly depending are impracticable; and it is conceivable that this discovery will tend to demoralize them. That they can become a permanent political force is not likely, for parties which represent only classes cannot live in a republic. But several results, by no means undesirable, may be looked for as the outcome of this farmers' uprising.

I. They will secure a thorough discussion of some important economic questions. They will force the people to consider carefully the problem of the state ownership of the great public highways. If the farmers can stick together and stick to their text long enough to get this business thoroughly ventilated they will do a good service.

II. They are loosening the bands of partisanship and opening the way for a rational co-operation of citizens for all desirable purposes. It is not improbable that it will lead to a reconstruction of parties.

III. They are helping to make an end of the sectionalism which has been a large part of the capital of a certain class of politicians. "Scarcely a vestige," they say, "of the old sectional prejudice of a few years ago is now visible within their ranks." The south and the west are coming into fraternal relations. The demagogic politician who now attempts to arouse sectional prejudices in order that he may keep farmers equally divided on important questions, is admonished that he is about to confront "a superior intelligence that will soon convince him that his occupation is gone."

The farmers' movement is not, probably, the deluge, but it will prove to be something of a shower—in some quarters, a cyclone—and it will clear the atmosphere.

**Fresh Farm Facts.** A hog will thrive much better if he comes to fresh feed every time, rather than to that he has missed over before. Moral: Feed only what he will eat up; clean at each meal.

**Leaves and Fruit.** An old neighbor of mine, a Yankee farmer of the old type, has an orchard of some hundred or more seedling apple trees, picked up in the fence corners and quite remarkable for the number of large kinds among them. He explains this by saying that in selecting his seedlings he gave preference to those having the largest leaves. Now, as botanists, in explaining the way this fruit is formed, say that each is composed of five leaves folded together, upon the inner surfaces of which is developed the pulp and core of the fruit, it would seem that this illiterate old man really detected a genuine relation between the size of the leaf and the size of the fruit, which is of considerable practical value, especially in the out-of-the-way places, and on the farms of men of small means who want only a few trees for home use. But the size of the leaf is no guide as to the quality of the fruit. T. H. Hoskins in *Orchards and Gardens*.

**Treatment of the Cream and Churning.** As milk will keep sweet a long while in ice water, the precise time for skimming will not be essential, unless the vessels are wanted for refilling. When the cream is taken off it better be kept in ice water until enough for a churning is obtained, and then all mixed together and warmed to sixty degrees and frequently stirred until a slight acidity is perceptible, and then churned in a churn which will at every revolution or oscillation operate on all the cream alike. This even ripening of the cream and even churning are essential to a complete exhaustion of butter from the cream. A little caution in regard to the relative fluidity of the cream may be useful to the inexperienced. If the cream is too fluid the fat globules will be too much separated by liquid to churn readily or evenly, and there will be too many scattering globules left unchurned in the buttermilk. If there be too little fluidity in the cream the churning will be a sort of grinding process that will injure the butter and cause gathering to begin before all is churned. The best and most exhaustive churning occurs when the weight of cream is about four times that of the butter, or when two quarts of cream will make one pound of butter. Jersey milk is sometimes so rich that churning the whole milk is preferable to skimming, but it is not generally so. —Prof. L. B. Arnold.

**Cross Breeds as Winter Layers.** The pullets of the cross breeds, Plymouth Rocks and Brown Leghorns, have proved such excellent winter layers that I would like to say a word in their praise, writes a farmer's daughter to Country Gentleman. Some of them began laying before they were six months old and have continued steadily ever since. The winter has been usually mild, I know; still I think some credit is due my improved stock because my nearest neighbor who has about the same number of hens gets only one-tenth as many eggs as I do. It makes me feel proud to bring in a nice basketful every day. While she can put all she gathers in the palm of one hand, I took her out to the poultry yard the last time she came to see me and showed her my pretty red-combed beauties; they

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are so gentle that they always come running when they see me, and range themselves as if on exhibition, so as to show off their bright glossy plumage and dazzling combs and wattles to the best advantage. The color of the cross breed is either a dark Plymouth Rock with white lobes and moderately tall combs, or the pretty Brown Leghorns with sometimes the larger, and sometimes the falling, combs peculiar to that breed. In either case the cross is larger than the Brown Leghorns, though smaller than the Plymouth Rocks, but it has always a pretty trim shape and an upright graceful carriage. I am sorry to say, however, that the pullets inheriting the Plymouth Rock color also retain the propensity to sit, so characteristic of that breed. They are much more easily broken, though, than those of the pure breed, two days of solitary confinement being usually amply sufficient.

**The goat.** May it not be that the American people are neglecting a very useful animal and a source of much profit and utility by not paying more attention to the goat? That this is a useful animal may be justly inferred from the fact that Europe raises about half as many goats as sheep. Spain, from which we get our Merino sheep and whence came the Mexican, is reported to have 4,000,000 goats; Greece 2,000,000; Germany about 3,000,000; Italy, 2,000,000; and Austria and Bulgaria more than 1,000,000 each, a total of 13,500,000. Were there no profit in them, surely they would not be kept. They furnish milk, meat, fleece and pelts. We imported last year \$7,608,472 worth of goat skins. The goats of Malta are noted for milk production and sometimes sell as high as \$30 a head. Rufus King, of Green Bay, Wisconsin, writes from Italy to the department of agriculture that the Maltese goat gives as high as six to eight quarts of milk a day, and the milk of good quality. Many a family with small children might keep a goat, if they could not keep a cow. If the goat of Malta would not flourish among New England hills, there is reason to believe that the Angora goat would.—*Mirror and Farmer*.

**Spirit of the Press.** Some miscreant with a meanness outwitting "old covey loof," has punched at one eye of Mrs. Van Buren's cow. Such a person is meaner than the devil wants him to be, for his Satanic Majesty would not consent to such villainous conduct.—*Roseburg Placer*.

An effort will probably be made next winter to get a large appropriation through the legislature to take the Oregon exhibit to the World's Fair at Chicago. While this movement is somewhat meritorious, it is too small as far as the benefit accruing from this exhibit would inure to Portland's benefit. It might be just a little more equitable if Portland would make an appropriation of say one-half of the amount asked, then the state at large the remainder.—*Bo Press*.

The resolutions adopted at the favor of an Enabling Act by the legislature for organizing Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Companies is a popular expression that will no doubt be supported by farmers' generally. Such companies, insuring nothing but detached farm property, have been for many years successful in states east of the Rocky mountains, and have already saved the farmer millions of dollars. In no part of the United States are such organizations so much needed as in California.—*Rural Press*.

Undoubtedly the press are alive to the true interests of Oregon, and since the convention of editors and publishers in Portland there has been a unanimity of sentiment in forcing this state into the front rank of progress and against the plan heretofore adopted of lagging in the rear. The power of the press will be felt, and a few more heavy blows at obstacles which block the way, and our own state will not be behind the other members of the progressive Northwest.—*Times Mountaineer*.

The Oregonian systematically robs the country papers of their news, and runs the items as if they were original under the head "Oregoniana" without giving credit to the paper that furnished the news. It makes the country editors feel kindly toward that paper—just like they would feel toward a man who stole their private property. It is so unselfish an act that it helps to make the country overlook Portland's selfishness.—*Forest Journal*.

**NORTH PACIFIC NEWS NOTES.** CALIFORNIA. William O'Toole was another death in the mud of a slough, near Astoria, on Sunday. The Lick Face Bath was opened

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