

AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, DAIRYING AND STOCK RAISING.

Cultivate your farm well, but culture in the family is better. Make your family self-supporting and your farm self-sustaining. Read good newspapers and good books aloud in the home circle for general education. This department is a regular feature of the DAILY and WEEKLY JOURNAL. For reliable local and general market and crop reports, see other columns of this paper. Every farmer in reach of a daily or tri-weekly mail should take a daily newspaper. The age of the talow candle is past.

Farm and Home.

Have you clover enough coming on? Now prepare that fall garden. Order your winter's reading. Prepare shelter for all your stock. How can you make state fair attendance profitable?

See that there is food and water where young poultry can get it.

The grain that is sown in September and October makes more feed and yields a bigger crop.

Ask your road supervisor to cover the roads and fill the holes that will hold water or fix them so they will not hold it.

The experience of practical farmers is wanted for these columns. Most of the matter copied from writers for eastern farm journals is of no value to the man who is trying to make a farm pay here.

One of the best places for the poultry house is the orchard. The fowls are away from the garden and have a range where they can secure plenty of green food, bugs, worms and other insects, in destroying which they benefit the trees and fruit. The site for the house should be chosen with a view to insuring good drainage, as it is most essential that poultry have dry quarters in which they may roost or take refuge when it storms. On a farm it is no easy matter to give the fowl a good range and at the same time to keep them away from the garden, the hog pen and the stables. In many cases the orchard is the only good place for the poultry house. The fowls do better there, with the variety of food they secure, than if they were kept in more restricted quarters.

Depression Relieved by Live Stock. Among agricultural speeches recently recorded, few can compare in value to the speech of the Marquis of Huntly, at the luncheon of the Tarrant Agricultural Show, says Mark Lane Express. He stated that he had been perusing with great attention all the testimony given by practical farmers before the Royal Commission, and he found that they one and all agreed in the same conclusion, that, deplorable as had been the downfall in prices, and the enormous losses occasioned thereby, matters would have been much worse if farmers had not fallen back on the resources which live stock, breeding, dairying, and grazing unfolded to them. Those who grasped these enterprises with most ardour had been able to grapple most successfully with the difficulties of the times, while those who proceeded in the old course, taking no heed of the new departures so urgently requisite, had become involved in ruin and been compelled speedily to abandon their holdings.

The Marquis of Huntly pointed prominently to the evidence of Mr. Bowen-Jones, who admitted that, had he not been a breeder of Hereford cattle and Shropshire sheep, he must have gone to the wall long since. We believe that Mr. Bowen-Jones not only stated this much, but that there were large numbers of farm occupiers in the counties of Shropshire and Herefordshire who were exactly in a similar position. Their pure-bred cattle and sheep had proved their sheet anchor. Few of them had escaped wholly from loss under the trying circumstances of the past fifteen years, but they had kept clear of the quicksands and shoals which had shipwrecked so many others. Mr. John Treadwell in his evidence before the Royal Commission by no means attempted to disguise the fact that as times go it is a most difficult matter for farmers to make the two ends meet, but he was obliged to admit that his returns from ram breeding, milk selling, and grazing alone saved him from those fearful losses which those who depend wholly on corn growing are now subjected to.

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The Berkshire Hog.

From a paper prepared by Mr. James Riley of Thornton, Ind., at the request of the National Berkshire Record Association, we take the following extracts regarding the origin and early history of the Berkshire—a breed which has always been a favorite in this State.

Originally, they were represented as being of a buff, sandy or reddish brown color, spotted with black, occasionally fawn or white, spotted in the same manner. They were coarse in the bone, head rather large with heavy flop ears, broad on back, deep in the chest, flat sides and long in the body, thick and heavy on both shoulders and hams, well let down in the twist, bristles and long curly hair and rather short, straggling legs. Their meat was better marbled than that of any other breed of swine in England—that is, had a greater proportion of lean, freely intermixed with fine streaks of fat, which makes it much more tender and juicy than it would otherwise be. This very desirable characteristic of the Berkshire, namely, the excellent qualities of their meat, has been carefully maintained through various stages of improvements—so much so that at the present time they are superior to any other breed in this respect. They were from time immemorial preferred to all other swine there, as they are here at the present time for choice hams and bacon. They were slow feeders and did not ordinarily mature until they reach the age of two and one-half or three years.

Oregon farmers will for the next six months ship in a good many pure bred Berkshires.

The World's Progress.

A pioneer farmer of this county has banded us the following to show that the world does progress:

Alexander Wells, an old citizen of our neighboring town of Wellsville, Ohio, has in his possession a copy of an interesting and novel document issued by the school board of the town of Lancaster, this state, in 1828. The question of steam railroads was then in its incipient stages of agitation, and a club of young men had been formed for the purpose of discussing the points at issue, and desired the use of the school house for purposes of debate. This was looked upon by the members of the school board as an innovation bordering upon sacrilege, as indicated by the reply of the body to the request, which is the document in the possession of Mr. Wells. It reads as follows:

"You are welcome to the use of the school house to debate all proper questions, but such things as railroads and telegraphs are impossibilities and rank infidelity. There is nothing in the word of God about them. If God had designed that his intelligent creature should travel at the frightful speed of fifteen miles an hour, by steam, He would clearly have foretold it through His holy prophets."

"It is a device of Satan to lead immortal souls down to hell!"

Such sentiments possibly reflected the feeling to some extent in the days of sixty-five years ago, but they sound strangely at the present time when the "device of Satan" is daily carrying people over the land at the rate of sixty or seventy miles an hour. The world has progressed somewhat since 1828.

Clover Growing.

Cultivar and Country Gentleman: Clover growing at the West is the key stone of successful agriculture, and through its use the fields are kept in a condition of fertility that enables them to produce the many crops of the farm—wheat, corn, &c. In New England, clover growing has been neglected for many years, and one sees comparatively few fields of clover in a ridge through the southern New England states at

least. One reason for this is perhaps the fact that many farmers sell loose hay in the markets, and any large quantity of clover with timothy injures the sale, as most of the hay sold is used for feeding city or town horses, and clover is objected to. For this reason, some farmers sow no clover seed whatever.

Another reason, and perhaps the chief one, is the fact that clover seedling often fails to catch and produce a good crop. Failure is so often the rule that farmers have gotten out of the way of sowing any clover at all—herd's grass (timothy) and red top being the principal grasses sown. This is to be greatly regretted, since of late years we have learned that the clovers and other leguminous plants secure their nitrogen mainly from the atmosphere, and therefore serve as an important agent in enriching our soils. All leguminous plants should be the protected helpers of every farmer, since they are capable of leading him such valuable aid. They are nitrogen traps set at all times of the day and night throughout the growing season to secure the valuable element of nitrogen which is ever seeking to elude the farmer's grasp.

The 200 P. and Cow.

Replying to "Why are Dairy Farmer's Discouraged," is the following: The first clue is that "stern fact" that a cow yielding only 200 pounds of butter a year will not do much to make her owner rich or proud. True every time and many intelligent contributors have been trying for years to get farmers to sell or give away such cows in case good feeding all the year will not make 300 or 350-pound cows of them.

They are unprofitable nuisances, and should be abated from every farm. But it is to be inferred that some have such cows, and have had them for many years, also, that they have aided largely to bring him into his present poverty; and that, so far, he has no idea of giving them up for cows that might do better. Indeed, he says that such a cow, kept on grass and hay, "is doing well!" The chief blame, he thinks, rests with the price of butter, 16 cents a pound. But most butter fanciers would hesitate to give even 16 cents for the butter of a 200 pound cow, because such cows are not fed on rich food, such as good judging consumers think is necessary to the production of first-class butter. It follows, naturally enough, that they are unprofitable, and they ought to be, because otherwise it would encourage and promote a shiftless and cruel mode of dairying. When the cow is capable of doing better work through good feeding and care, she is partially starved when she yields only 200 pounds of butter a year, and the owner is treating her cruelly, and ought to be punished in some way.

Farming Hillside.

How to farm hillside to prevent washing and waste of fertile soil is a great problem everywhere, and Oregon has a full share in it. We have local conditions and periods of rain

The Cures

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Hood's Sarsaparilla is a splendid medicine and I would recommend it to any one. Mrs. G. A. LaRosa, Oroville, California.

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fall, which is somewhat exceptional perhaps and readers advise for other conditions somewhat treacherous here perhaps, but still general knowledge of the subject is important to all who have such problems in hand. The Department of Agriculture has just issued a "Farmer's Bulletin" upon the subject of "Washed Soils: How to Prevent and Reclaim them." In the introduction it is noted that thousands of acres of land in this country are abandoned every year because the surface has been washed and gullied beyond the possibility of profitable cultivation. It is believed that the present bulletin, and the simple facts therein presented as to how this erosion washing may be prevented, and how washed and abandoned lands may be reclaimed, will serve a useful purpose.

Farmers who have hillside land will do well to address the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for a copy of this bulletin.

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