

# AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

## A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

Some Information of Value to the Farmer, Stock-Breeder, Bee-keeper, Housewife and Kitchen-Maid.

### THE HOUSEHOLD.

#### Water at Meals.

**MODERATE** delay in the progress of digestion is by no means a disadvantage, but it is more than doubtful whether any such effect is in reality produced by drinking water during meals.

Water may do good by washing out the digested food, and by exposing the undigested part more thoroughly to the action of the digestive ferments. Observation has shown that non-irritating liquids pass directly through the "tubular" stomach, and even if food be present they only mix with it to a slight extent.

Pepsin is catalytic body, and a given quantity will work almost indefinitely as diluted, provided the peptones are removed as they are formed.

Water, drunk freely before meals, has another beneficial result—it washes away the mucus secreted during the intervals of repose, and favors peristalsis of the whole alimentary tract.

The membrane thus cleansed is in much better condition to receive food and convert it into soluble compounds.

The accumulation of mucus is especially well marked in the morning, when the gastric walls are covered with a thick, tenacious layer. Food entering the stomach at this time will become covered with this tenacious coating, which for a time protects it from the action of the gastric ferments, and so retards digestion.

The tubular contraction of the stomach, with its puckered mucous lining and viscid contents, a normal condition in the morning before breakfast, is not suitable to receive food. A glass of water washes out the mucus, partly distends the stomach, wakes up peristalsis, and prepares the alimentary canal for the morning meal.

Exercise before partaking of a meal stimulates the circulation of the blood and facilitates the flow of blood through the vessels.

According to Dr. Leuf, who has made this subject a special study, cold water should be given to persons who have sufficient vitality to react, and hot water to the other.

In chronic gastric catarrh it is extremely beneficial to drink warm or hot water before meals, and salt is said in most cases to add to the good effect produced.

#### Hints to Housekeepers.

A **COARSE** comb is good to smooth the fringe of towels, napkins, tidies, etc.

To **RESTORE** crushed velvet, hold it over the spout of the teakettle and let it steam well, then comb up the nap.

When you find a soap that is pure and suits your skin, continue to use it. Frequent changes are bad for the complexion.

**SIX** dresses should never be brushed with a whisk broom, but should be carefully rubbed with a velvet mitten kept for that purpose only.

**SALT** and water will prevent the hair from falling out, and cause new hair to grow. Do not use so strong as to leave particles upon the hair when dry.

**Canned** shrimps are used for salad they should be carefully looked over so as not to leave a bit of the shell, rinsed in cold water and mixed with the dressing.

**EQUAL** parts of bay rum, borax and ammonia make a nice preparation for cleaning the head; apply freely to the scalp with a brush and then wash in clear water.

**VERY** many attacks of sick headache can be prevented if those who are subject to them are careful about their diet and largely restrict the same to vegetables and fruits easy of digestion. They must forego meat, cheese, pastry, beer, wine, etc.; in fact, neither eat nor drink anything which is stimulating in character, and all likely to tax the digestive organs.

**GOOD** dressing for shoes is white of egg, or some good oil, olive or sweet oil, applied with a bit of flannel. It keeps the color of the leather, and shoes thus treated do not harden after being thoroughly wet. Oil is the proper dressing for patent leather, linseed oil, some shoe-makers say. It is first rubbed on and then polished with a dry flannel. Patent leather treated in this way does not crack or become dull after wetting.

The best way to prevent pickles from molding in the cellar is to set the jars upon blocks, so the air can pass under as well as around the jars. It is a good plan to cut pieces of writing paper the size of the mouth of jars containing preserves, apple-butter, or anything likely to mold. Grease the papers well and place within the jars right on the contents. The mold will form on top of the paper, and can be removed with it without loss of any part of contents of the jar.

### THE ORCHARD.

Suggestions for the Improvement of Fruits.

They need improvement. There has been an advance in some respects, but the general movement has been retrograde. Take the strawberry. Thousands enjoy them now, where a hundred years ago. But for this thank the culturist. The fruit has not improved. No variety is better, or yields more abundantly than any that were popular a quarter of a century ago. I know it is customary to smile at the retrospective fancies of elder folk. They are told that distance lends enchantment to the view, but I know that we could go to the strawberry bed without regretting that we did not bring a pound of sugar with us. We now have for the table, sugar flavored with strawberries; we had in those days strawberries for their own dear sakes. Is it not the same with most fruits? I say most, for in some lines, notably the grape, there has been a genuine advance, though even here we have not done much better for ourselves than the Catawba did for us in the days of which I write.

This reference to the grape brings me to the point, how best to improve our fruits? Shall it be by hybridizing or by selection? And if by selection, what are we to select?

We can get new races by hybridizing or crossing, but it is of little value as an

improving element. Hybridization or crossing is the foe of evolution. It is a conservative power, the deadly enemy of progress.

In the origination of new races it is, however, invaluable. There was a time when people believed hybrids were sterile. American horticulturalists surely know that hybrids are not necessarily sterile. Rogers of Salem, over a quarter of a century ago, produced a new race of grapes between two species. We all know this race is not sterile. This is the only case where we know of a certainty that the founders of new races were hybrid. Various raspberries and gooseberries have been hybridized, but no new race has sprung from them. But there are races from supposed hybrids, supposed hybrids with good reason. There can be but little doubt that the Kieffer pear and its kindred originated as a hybrid between two good species. The race of raspberries of which the purple cane is the type, is evidently between two good species, as also is the type of blackberry of which the Wilson is the representative. It is believed that the Siberian cranberry and common apple have given us a hybrid race, and there may be some others. Once we have the new race we must look to selection of seedlings for the improvements we desire. It is by no means clear that environment has anything to do with directing new forms.

The introduction of new species for hybridization, or the importation of new varieties from abroad, all have their uses of giving us new lines for starting on, but selection must be the chief weapon in our war against rough nature. It seems to me the duty of nurserymen to take into their own hands, more than they have done, the improvement of fruits, intelligently keeping in view desirable points, and ultimately selecting from seedlings till they accomplish their ends. It will surely pay.—Thomas Meahan.

### The Future Apple District.

Some of the States, notably Arkansas, are rapidly developing into apple growing regions, and that State is now the home of promising new varieties, among which may be named the Arkansas Black, Elkhorn, Crawford, Siloam, and Shannon. While the Western and Southwestern States will be at a disadvantage as regards the foreign trade, they will control the market in the great cities of the interior, and these with the numerous towns, will require a constantly increasing supply.

### The Niagara Grape.

Some growing Niagara grapes have this season realized an average price of ten cents per pound. As the variety is extremely prolific, this price is very profitable. Specimens of this grape sent to Europe have been pronounced superior to any other of our native American varieties. It will probably be extensively planted in France and Switzerland next year.

### THE FARM.

#### Farmers and the Mail.

One reason why the farmers of the present day are not fully in sympathy with the great blooming modern world is that they hold themselves apart from it too much, says a writer in the *American Agriculturist*.

Some think that they must leave their business and move into the town or village to gain free intercourse of ideas with their fellow-men; others despair, berate the farm, and settle down to what they consider their hard fate in life. But this is folly, when the farm is by far the best place in all the world to live. Farmers and their families need not live without society.

MAIL POST. If they will take half the pains to cultivate it that is displayed by townspeople. As for communication, country dwellers do not half employ the facilities for it which our present and many others have provided at a merely nominal cost. Thousands of farmers' families do not send or go for their mail oftener than once a week. Why? Well it is a mile, or two or three miles, perhaps farther, to the postoffice; all hands are busy indoors and out; it is a long distance to walk, and the horses cannot be spared. But a little thinking and contrivance would easily suggest better arrangements. Does a stage, milk team, or even an occasional neighbor pass the farmhouse daily? Arrange to have the mail carried and brought every day. Many enjoy this privilege now, and it is easy to note the difference in the intelligence of families so served, and those who only hear from the post-office on the day when the weekly paper comes.

CONVENIENT MAIL BOXES. comes—perhaps not then, but wait for a chance drive that way. In most cities the mail is delivered several times every day. Some communities send a person daily, or twice a day, to bring and distribute the mail. In others it is the custom to take turns in regular order. Under any condition it is well to have a bag carried. It greatly diminishes the risk of losing the letters, change sent for stamps, etc. The illustrations show some of the conveniences which are in actual use. A substantial post box being erected beside the road, a strong hook is set in it to catch the family or neighborhood mail bag, without stopping the team, as seen in Fig. 1, or a permanent receptacle is firmly nailed to it. In Fig. 2 is shown how one end of a starch box is partly removed and a roof made by springing the top over it a short piece of stove pipe or tin. Fig. 3 is roofed by two half-inch boards, one of which has hinges and a leather tag so it can be quickly lifted. In Fig. 4 is seen merely an old paint keg thoroughly dried and a part of one head removed. Whatever course is adopted, don't fail to use the mails freely and frequently. I have known several notices of deaths or funerals, and telegrams of importance, disastrously delayed when forwarded by postoffices to persons who rarely called.

Good Roads into Fields. A farmer should take care to keep easy and safe ways of ingress and egress to his cultivated fields. More wagons are broken down by going through deep furrows or over ridges than by twice the travel on smooth highways. Often in repairing a road the pathmaster will, if

not prevented, spoil the way in or out of a field that the farmer has made. The farmer should not allow this to be done. The field, if good for anything, ought to load a wagon many times during the year, and will also require a good many heavy loads of manure. This easy entrance to the field may therefore be quite as important to a farmer as to have good roads in the middle of his highway.

### THE DAIRY.

#### Keeping Up the Flow of Milk.

It is an old saying, but, judging from the practice prevailing upon many farms, the *American Farmer* says, there are thousands of people who never heard of it, that a cow is simply a machine for converting food into milk. It is the too common idea that if one owns a cow he should have a constant and liberal supply of milk without reference to the quantity or quality of the feed. Such people realize there is a necessity of feeding something, but they experiment to see how little they can give and keep the cow alive; and once in a while we find a person who is giving his cow what he considers generous keep, in the shape of a free run to a straw-stack in a bleak field. Such treatment as this will surely bring disappointment at the pail. The cow cannot give more than she receives, and if the owner expects a full pail of milk of good quality, he can only hope to secure it by generous keep.

And when we say generous keep, we do not mean pampering. There is such a thing as overdoing in the keep of cows—that is, they may be fed in such a way that the feed is worth more than the milk. But no practical man will do this, and there is no necessity for doing it. The cows should have comfortable quarters, be fed and watered regularly, and not stinted in the supply of good wholesome food. Such treatment will be found not only the most humane, but the most profitable, making the conscience of the owner lighter and his pocket heavier.

Aside from this consideration of the returns to be realized at any time, the owner should consider that the value of a cow as a milker may be permanently injured or improved by the course of winter treatment to which she is subjected. An animal reduced to the verge of starvation five or six months in the year, and shivering through every storm in the questionable shelter of a fence, will not give so much milk as one that is well kept and fed during the winter. Once allowed to fall in milk a cow seldom comes back to full flow again.

### Dairy Notes.

Secure a good breed for stock, and then feed and treat them well.

The farmer, not the retailer, should have the main profit on milk.

Prof. SANBORN says in the *Manchester, N. H. Mirror*: In summer experiments with cows for a small dairy, I found it as cheap to go direct to the grain bin or hay mow for extra food to bridge over droughts or to maintain the milk flow in the fall as it was to depend upon the green foods, daily secured at much trouble. In a large dairy this element of inconvenience would disappear largely.

Some years ago one of the best dairymen in Herkimer County, N. Y., desiring to ascertain the profit he was realizing from different cows in his herd, instituted a series of tests. He had found from actual experiment that the average cost of keeping his dairy stock through the year was at the rate of \$35 per head, and this sum was embraced under the following items:

Two and one half tons of hay at \$8 per ton.....\$20.00  
Pasture during the season.....7.50  
Two hundred pounds ground feed in the fall.....8.00  
Interest on cost of cow at 4%, and depreciation ten per cent.....4.50  
Making, per cow.....\$35.00

### THE APIARY.

Blacks and Italians. This subject has been much discussed for some years, and while most modern bee-keepers admit that the Italians are superior, there are a few who still insist on hanging to the inferior (in my opinion) blacks. To avoid any ambiguity or unnecessary words, I will proceed at once to point out what I consider the merits and demerits of both races.

First, let us consider the difference in handling them. In handling Italians, if you lift out a comb gently, the bees adhering thereto will make no fuss whatever, but will go on with their work as though they had not been disturbed. If you get stung while handling such bees, it is most likely by a black robber from a neighboring hive. I have taken a comb from a hive of Italians with the bees adhering, and carried it a hundred yards from the apiary, and after keeping it out for quite a while, have returned it with the bees exhibiting but little excitement or uneasiness. Now try this on black bees. As soon as you raise the frame from the hive they will commence flying, running and falling off, and if you are looking for a queen among such bees, your chances of seeing her are very poor.

Some of the advocates of black bees claim that this is an advantage when extracting, and so it is; but taking all things into consideration, I very much prefer to have the bees stay on the comb and remain quiet until I want them off, when I can use brush. That the Italians are more gentle than the blacks I think no one who has had experience with both can doubt, and the nearer you come to the uniform three-banded worker the gentler you will find the bees.

While working in the apiary during a scarcity of honey, if you have both races of bees, you will be apt to have one or two bees buzzing in front of your nose, ready to sting you without cause. Investigation will show that these are almost invariably black bees, even though they are the minority of the apiary.

When Italians find that there are any sweets to be found that they can use, they are quick to take advantage of the situation, perhaps even more so than the blacks, but they are not everlastingly hanging around the looker for any bit of honey that may be spilled, as the blacks are.

I have seen Italians getting honey and increasing in numbers, while blacks in the same apiary, were decreasing and did not have a cell full of honey in the hive. This was only last year, when it had got to the survival of the fittest with bees. G. M. Doolittle, in an article on this subject, says that black bees can take their honey whiter than Italians. This, of course, is an advantage to the comb-honey producer, as such honey will bring a higher price. I have taken no observations in this line, but have no doubt that Mr. Doolittle is correct, as his word is almost law among bee-keepers. I believe, therefore, the only advantage that can be claimed for them is, S. E. Miller, in *Farm, Field and Stockman*.

# CITIZENS' ALLIANCE.

## AN ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

"A Government by the People, for the People"—The Object of the Organization—The Aid and Assistance of All Citizens Solicited.

To the voters of the United States: It is the immortal founders of this Republic issued their famous declaration of independence when they framed that truly wonderful and inspired instrument, the constitution of the United States, they gave to the world what would have been to-day, had their intentions been faithfully carried out, the best government that man has ever seen. They doubtless went as far as it was possible for mortal men to go with the light which God at that time had given them; they saw as far as it was possible for human wisdom and foresight at that time to foresee. And there can be no question raised at this day that would impeach the assertion, that that document was intended to protect every individual in those rights that had been ably defined in the declaration of independence, upon which it had been framed, viz.: "That we hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." And had these grand truths been as sacredly guarded by their posterity as they were earnestly fought for by their fathers, their children might to-day be enjoying the fullness of the fruits for which they bled. But unfortunately for the present generation, such has not been the case.

When this government was formed it was composed of but little over 3,000,000 of people, stretching along 1,300 miles of the farthest point to exceed 300 miles. Since that time we have extended this area until it is 2,000 miles one way from the great lakes to the gulf. We have multiplied the population twenty fold. At that time there were no special privileges granted by the government, save those of the citizen. Since that day we have multiplied these special privileges a thousand fold, in the form of railroads representing thousands of different corporations, comprising something like 200,000 miles of improved highways with an aggregate capital in stocks and bonds of upward of \$9,000,000,000, and Poor's Railway Manual, which is standard authority, places the fictitious portion of this at one-third. And every one of these corporations receives its power to exist from the fountain head of government, our legislative bodies.

Then come the thousands of cities and towns, deriving their powers to exist from our legislative bodies, state and national. Following them are the thousands and thousands of street railways, gas and waterworks companies, each deriving its power to live by a statute law enacted by some legislative body. Again, there are the great insurance companies of the land, with a combined capital of \$1,315,000,000, and risks to the amount of \$10,248,000,000.

Then last, but not by any means least, are the great banking interests of the country with a capital of \$77,000,000. One of these, the special pet of the government, the national banking interest, derives its very existence from a special privilege in the form of a franchise, that with a capital never to exceed \$650,000,000 has in twenty-four years paid its stockholders upward of \$2,000,000 in dividends. At the present time it has a surplus of \$187,292,469.97, and other undivided profits amounting to \$88,302,639.01. This franchise alone has been worth more to the stockholders of these banks during the twenty-four years that they have held it than the total national debt at the close of our last war.

Every one of these corporate powers that have been enumerated, receives its power to exist and live from the fountain head of government, and every one of them is constantly looking to their mother, the state, for increased powers at her hands to despoil the people of their inheritance, until the state herself has become weak and is begging and entreating to be let alone.

Our legislators have by statute laws given these corporations upward of 300,000,000 acres of land; they have loaned them the government credit to the extent of nearly \$100,000,000 more. They have farmed out to them the privilege of common carriers, by which they have extorted from the people thousands of millions of dollars in the form of excessive freight rates. In the meantime they might be able to reach large returns upon fictitious bonds and stocks. They have farmed out to banking corporations the governmental function of issuing money, and by which they have by vicious methods caused the stringency in the money market that has strewn the pathway of 101,332 business men with financial wrecks to the amount of \$3,919,304,824 during the last quarter of a century. And by the same process the great loan and trust companies have been compelled to foreclose the mortgages upon our landholders to the extent of several billions more during that period of time, until our nation is fast approaching that state of things which Rome experienced during the eye of her downfall, when the land of the people had been taken from them by usurpers, and her titlers of the soil were compelled to leave the country and congregate in the city, and while her seven hills were bedecked with the palaces of the rich, thousands upon thousands of her toilers were sleeping on the streets at night, with nothing but the broad canopy of heaven for a shelter.

These gigantic corporations are constantly gnawing at every tissue of the government. They are sucking the blood from every pore. Their mailed hand is thrust into every convention of the two predominating political parties. They fashion the party platforms. They dictate the issues that shall be discussed by their party orators during the political campaigns. They dictate who shall be speaker of the house of representatives. They command who shall be the chairmen of the committees in our legislative halls. They make and unmake presidents and cabinets. They elect and appoint judges, and if the reports of the daily press are to be relied upon, they are now secretly packing the supreme court for the furtherance of their despoliations. They compel the national campaign committees of both parties to execute a mortgage upon every candidate of both of them in a presidential campaign, and foreclose the same as soon as they are installed into office. They have, with their gold, degraded, debauched and prostituted the youths of

# SELECTING THE LAND.

## Preparations for the Choosing of Land for South Dakota's Institutions.

PIERRE, S. D., Jan. 20.—The state board for the selection of the state's endowment lands, lately appointed by Secretary Noble, is now holding its first session in Pierre. It is composed of the following members: Gov. A. C. Mellette, Auditor L. C. Taylor, land commissioners: Thomas Ruth, for state land; M. D. Thompson, for Vermillion State University; L. W. Valentine, for the Spearfish State Normal; Don C. Needham, for the Rapid City School of Mines; E. W. Howe, for the Plankinton Reform school; Fr. K. W. Havie, for the Sioux Falls Deaf Mute school; Prof. A. E. Hitchcock, for the Mitchell Agricultural college; M. M. Soule, for the Madison State normal.

The principal work of this body is the selection of the state's lands for its various institutions. The expense of this in the state's present condition of finances will not be inconsiderable. Commissioner Ruth estimates that the land office fees alone will not be less than \$10,000. Then there will be the traveling expenses of the persons who select them, and for this the state will have to make an appropriation. It is very important that this work should commence at once, as the lands that the state may locate now are every day becoming less. The best ones remaining are in the Black Hills. None of the lately ceded reservation lands are open to location by the state. Commissioner Ruth will put 1,600 sections of school land on the market in a short time now, which cannot be sold for less than \$10 per acre. Some will bring as high as \$100. All this goes into the school fund. These lands are provided for in the state's enabling act, and comprise some 350,000 acres. The agricultural college will have four times as many as any of the other institutions. Then there are \$170,000 acres to be selected for the state. The state will be divided into districts and one assigned to each of the commissioners. After the lands have been selected the governor, secretary and land commissioner will constitute a committee to divide by lot the lands to the various institutions.

### DAKOTA HOUSE BURNERS.

Thrifty But Unscrupulous Farmers Chop Up Their Neighbors' Houses for Fire Wood.

REDFIELD, S. D., Jan. 20.—Special: Some of the farmers are saving fuel expense by hauling the houses off of the deserted farms and utilizing them for fire wood. This has led some of the parties financially interested to make a large sized kick, and the county commissioners at their last meeting decided to offer \$50 reward for each and every conviction of those engaged in the not laudable business. When a person gets to chopping up his neighbor's house for fire wood during his absence he may expect that it will stir up animosity and strife, and also tend to cause a lack of confidence in the country. This thoughtlessness on the part of some of the rural residents is appalling, and it may be that a course of treatment by the sheriff in the county jail may be necessary to bring some of the offenders to a realization of what his neighbor's house is not to be used as a public wood pile.

Swan & Stacy, artisan well contractors, have contracted to finish the Day and Baker wells near Mellette. They have their machinery on the ground and expect to commence work this week. These wells were put down some 600 feet, but at that depth the machinery employed proved to be too light, and work was suspended. As Swan & Stacy have successfully put down several wells in this portion of the state, the Mellette gentlemen feel assured that water from the wells will soon be flooding their farms.

South Dakota is at present unrepresented at Washington, both senators are at Pierre and ditto with our congressmen. When the silver bill passed the senate it was discovered that our senators were paired with free coinage men, and as both Mr. Moody and Pettigrew are in favor of free coinage it reduced the majority in favor of that measure. We raised a great howl because we were not represented during the last days, but we now see the spectacle of the entire South Dakota delegation lobbying a state legislature. No wonder Col. Sheafe roars!

### TOWN AND COUNTRY.

The Interests of All Laboring People Are Mutual and They Should Work Together.

We have a great many readers who reside in towns that are taking quite an interest in the farmers' rebellion. Why should they not? The farmers are looking for a way out. The overproduction theory advanced by the politicians does not seem to satisfy them. The tariff question has two sides and settles nothing, the panic has struck the farmer and the town people are feeling it, and commencing to inquire if this movement is for the interest of the whole people. The politicians are crying class legislation to divert the attention of the town people from the real issues. Our town readers would do well to give the subjects that are being discussed in the alliance a thorough reading. Too long has the interests of these two classes been kept apart. Each has been fighting the other because of imaginary differences. When it is well known that the laboring classes, whether in the country or town, are alike affected by the depression caused by the monopolistic tendency of the times, it is not necessary to be specific; we have frequently pointed out the effect of the combines on the laboring people of the cities and towns; the small merchant, the grocer and manufacturer are also affected. It matters not how you stand politically, the depression visits you as the rain from heaven falling alike on the just and unjust. Will our town people commence to study these economic problems as the country people are now doing. Have you no interest in better conditions? Is there one of our town readers who is not effected and would not readily join hands with the farmers if the way was open. The work of the political leaders of the land will have to be overcome and the town people will have to join hands with the farmers in the overthrow of the politicians' rule. Let the town people commence to agitate as the farmers are doing and it would take very little time to bring about a union of the laboring classes that would remedy the evils from which the country is now suffering.—*Wm. (L.) Plow and Hammer.*

It may be interesting to the "common people" to know that a syndicate of capitalists own and manage a farm of 1,500,000 acres in Louisiana. The farm extends 100 miles north and south and 25 miles east and west, and is operated entirely by steam machinery. Each laborer plows and cultivates on an average ten acres a day, for which he receives about 75 cents. Talk about Ireland—*Evansville (Mo.) Union Be.*

### Fruitful Sheep Raising.

HURON, Jan. 20.—J. S. Oliver, superintendent of the Dakota Central division of the Chicago & Northwestern railway, is becoming greatly interested in sheep raising and wool growing. He owns a large ranch near this city and has a flock of 300 sheep. A few days ago he shipped a carload of fat lambs to Chicago, realizing a good price for them. In telling of his experience in the sheep business in this country, Mr. Oliver said: "In the fall of 1886 I bought 158 grade ewes at \$4 each, \$532, and 2 rams at \$25 each, \$50, making \$582. I estimated that I fed 20 tons of hay, at \$3 a ton, \$60 and 160 bushels of corn, at 40 cents, \$64. Total cost April 1, 1890, \$696. Have sold 1,220 pounds of wool at 18 cents, \$219.60, and raised 150 lambs, worth Nov. 1, at \$2.76 each, \$385; making \$604.60. Have on hand 153 ewes, 2 rams and 140 lambs—300 head."

### Dakota Briefs.

THE demand for houses exceeds the supply at Deadwood.

THERE is complaint of poor local mail service in the Black Hills.

PIERRE and Bismarck are popular health resorts for politicians.

WILLIAM H. HAGER, aged 78, died on the 10th inst., near White Lake.

THE railway mail messengers going into Deadwood have a run of 342 miles.

JAMES HOSKING, an old resident of the Black Hills country, is dead at Galena. D. C. ACKERMAN, a pioneer of the Black Hills, is dead at this home near Piedmont.

A. M. MORSE, a prosperous ranchman and pioneer of the Black Hills, is dead at Deadwood.

THE Brule county board has leased the skating rink and will fit it up for a court house and county offices.

THE Deadwood Independent says Miss Charity Martin returned home from the east a mere shadow of her former self.

R. M. SPRAGUE, formerly cashier of the First National bank of Larimore, is in custody, charged with the embezzlement of \$1,235 from the bank.

A BRADLEY county lady of large experience in the west and plenty of it in Beadle county, says that more than nine-tenths of the distress cases in Dakota grows out of the fact that so many have imbibed in the notion that life is unbearable without a "good, easy place" and big wages.