

# REAL RURAL READING

WILL BE FOUND IN THIS DEPARTMENT.

Fungus Troubles That are Difficult to Reach—Make an Effort to Save Labor—A Cheap Creamer—The Cultivation of Fruit.

### Scurf on Sweet Potatoes.

Growers are beginning to ask of the experiment stations what can be done to prevent scurf on sweet potatoes, and rusty specimens are sent in with the question: If these are used in the hotbed for sprouts will they communicate the scurf to the next crop? This scurf, or russeted skin, says the American Agriculturist, is caused by a vegetable growth, and it is well to know this before considering any methods of attempting to prevent its appearance. The dark mold is a low form of fungus similar to the various kinds that grow upon all sorts of organic substances. It consists of microscopic threads, that penetrate the sweet potato for a short distance and then sends branches to the surface. The skin of the potato at the place infested takes on a brown coloration, due partly to the dark color of the fungus threads, but more particularly because the superficial layers of cells of the potato have been killed and thereby turned brown. The engraving will enable the reader to get



a clearer idea of the scurf fungus. At a is represented a potato partly coated over with the scurf, and at those places where the mold is worst the root has taken on a wrinkled appearance, due to the drying out of some of the juice in the cells near the surface, or its absorption by the filaments of the fungus that has been feeding upon them. This tendency to shrink of the affected potatoes, together with the less attractive color are the two chief disadvantages of the scurf. It is, however, true, that a scurfy potato, having, as it has, the skin more or less roughened and disorganized, is more subject to the attack of other forms of mold, some of which are very rapid in their work of destruction. Thus the soft rot fungus may get a foothold in the skin of a scurfy potato, while a smooth, healthy skinned one might go free. At b is shown a highly-magnified view of the surface of a scurfy potato, and several projecting filaments of the mold are represented. The branching, finer threads of the fungus beneath the skin are seen as indistinct and irregular lines. One of the free, upright, dark chains of cells is shown highly magnified at c, with two young filaments arising from the same base. At d is another chain, with less regular cells than at c, and a larger portion of the branched threads, from below the surface, shown at e. This scurf is upon the roots above the potatoes, extending sometimes to the surface of the ground. From the fungus nature of the scurf it is natural to suppose that the trouble may spread from the affected root to the sprouts, should a scurfy potato be used in the hotbed. It would be a wise precaution to exclude all but roots that are free from the mold. As seems to be true with the scab of Irish potatoes, so here the chief inducing condition is the presence in the soil of large quantities of rotting manure. Sweet potatoes, as has been abundantly demonstrated, can be grown profitably without so much manure, and, in fact, without any. Commercial fertilizers may be used much more extensively than generally supposed, to the special advantage of reducing the amount of the various forms of rot, decay, and blights of various sorts. In time it is hoped that some method of treating the hotbed, or the sprouts as they are set, or possibly the field plants, may be found that will materially diminish the scurf, the soil rot, and the black rot, while at the same time augmenting the profits from the crop. Fungus troubles that are located below ground are among the most difficult to reach with a positive remedy, and precautionary measures are, thus far, most to be depended upon.

### Farm Machinery.

So far as possible avoid leaving machinery standing out in the hot sun when not in use. One of the best paying investments on the farm is a good shed, under which machinery that is used more or less through the season can be kept when not needed in the field. The failure to give proper care to the machinery needed to carry on the work costs the farmer a good deal of money that could readily be saved. A few days' exposure to a hot sun is nearly or quite as injurious as one or two hard storms, and in many cases it would save time to bring it to the house and store under shelter rather than let it stand out, as more or less time is required to ad-

Just it properly. In a majority of cases machinery will prove cheaper than hand labor and can readily be made to pay a good profit on its cost, provided, of course, it is cared for, so that it can be made to do what should reasonably be expected of it. In harvesting and haying, especially, machinery is necessary when it is important to push the work as much as possible, taking all reasonable advantages to save time. It is very often the case that machinery is damaged more by want of proper care than by using. It costs less to buy machinery in good working condition as long as it is worth repairing than to use as long as possible without any work and then be at the expense of giving a thorough overhauling, saying nothing of the increased risk of a breakdown at a time that a considerable loss would be occasioned. It rarely pays to manage machinery on the make-shift plan; it should either be kept in good working condition or be discarded for something that is worth keeping in good repair.

### Care of Animals.

There is nothing lost by proper attention to animals. A little neglect at the proper time may be the means of losing an animal. Such an instance came under our observation only a few days since. A male colt had been castrated, and after a few days' confinement was turned to pasture and there allowed to remain during the changes incident to storms of rain. From some cause, probably the exposure connected with the condition of the animal in consequence of the operation of castration, the horse was attacked with lock-jaw, and not being looked after as he should have been, the case grew worse and worse until relieved by death. There should be no excuse for neglect of proper care, attention or treatment by the owner of an animal, and the law should take hold of the matter with sufficient force to compel proper care or else deprive such person of the ownership or custody of an animal. In this enlightened age, with societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals, there should be proper care bestowed upon them.

### Live Stock Notes.

Be sure the calves have shade and good water. SOUR swills cannot be fed to young pigs with profit. THERE is no single breed that possesses only good qualities.

THE use of pure-bred boars on common sows gives good results. IN building the hog shelters make them small and cheap.

IT is too often the case that the mania for crossing is carried too far.

A FATAL mistake is often made in inbreeding a boar bred on the farm.

NOW INCREASE the working team's grain ration and feed old, sound hay.

A VERY little care only is needed to teach the pigs how and where they can eat.

GIVE the hog what is in many cases given the dog and a better profit can be realized.

WHEN the pigs are weaned is one of the best times to castrate and spay; do not neglect.

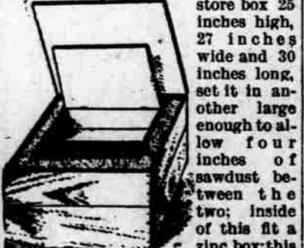
SCARCITY will not always govern prices, the cost of production often has much to do with it.

THE ordinary man cannot judge a horse when he first sees him. Before you purchase a horse lead him down hill, drive him, and watch carefully every movement.

Does it pay to buy feed for stock? asks a subscriber. It depends, of course, upon circumstances. If we purchase feed we can keep more stock, and that means an improvement of the land. Still feed may be so high and stock so low that it will not pay.

### A Creamer.

One costing much less than a \$15 patent one may be made at home and give such comfort to a family that it will seem indispensable if once used. Take a store box 25 inches high, 27 inches wide and 30 inches long, set it in another large enough to allow four inches of sawdust between the two; inside of this fit a zinc box; this is large enough to hold sufficient water and ice for four 18-quant milk cans (diameter 9 to 11 inches) and a number of self-sealing fruit jars filled at different times with butter, yeast, custard, fresh fruits, in fact, anything that it is desirable to keep at 10 degrees above freezing, through the summer. By tying a small cord around the jars and fastening the other end above water, there is no difficulty in bringing them to the surface when wanted. Two strips can be nailed along the bottom to slip cans under so the water will not raise them; on these strips can be set pans of milk that the cans may not hold or stones can be used to weight the cans down and dispense with the strips. Let those who delight in cold drinks and desserts in harvest time try an ice house and creamer.—M. H. Carpenter, in Practical Farmer.



### Small and Large Fruits.

Prompt, energetic action applied at the right time, is far more essential with the small fruits than the large ones. An apple or pear tree will struggle along and often successfully against weeds, drought and unsuitable soil, while a strawberry or raspberry plant would perish in a short time

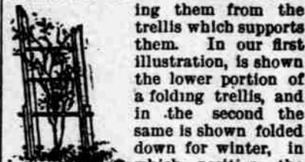
under similar circumstances. The public taste has not as yet been sufficiently cultivated to select the variety of fruit, and it is doubtful if the masses appreciate or care whether a fruit is up to any particular standard of quality that scientific horticulturists have endeavored to establish. Quantity and cheapness is evidently more highly prized than quality, especially if the latter is attended by scarcity.

### Save Labor.

With the amount of work that is always required upon the farm, there should be an effort made to save labor by every means possible when it can be done without too great an expenditure of money. In planting corn, for instance, instead of resorting to hand labor, as is very frequently the case, make use of the planter. This may be done by applying manure during the preparation of the soil, and if special fertilizers are to be used, employ a planter that will drop both that and the grain at the same time. Planting with a machine is more satisfactory than hand planting for the reason that the depth of covering being more uniform, the corn is quite likely to come up uniform. The same may also be said regarding the planting of potatoes; machines that cut, drop and cover at one operation work quite satisfactorily, and the saving of strength and time is an adequate return for the expenditure necessary.

### Folding Trellis for Climbers.

At the North it is necessary to lay down, for winter, tender climbers like the clematis, ivy, etc., and it is desirable to do this without detaching them from the trellis which supports them. In our first illustration, is shown the lower portion of a folding trellis, and in the second the same is shown folded down for winter, in which position the vine is readily covered with straw or evergreen branches as desired. The stakes that are driven in the ground should be of durable wood, and thoroughly soaked in oil, to prevent decay. They should



FOLDING TRELLIS FOR CLIMBERS.

PROJECT LAID DOWN FOR WINTER, ABOVE GROUND AT LEAST ONE FOOT. The lower hinges may be bolts, while the upper pin or stay should extend across the trellis, as seen. It may thus be used for, and will act as a support to the vines, and when removed will allow them to be bent over without pressing, at right angles.—Agriculturist.

### A Neat Nest-Box.

A cheese-box with a square entrance cut in the side makes a convenient nest-box for either a laying or sitting hen. Convenient, because it can be moved easily and hides the hen.

### In the Poultry-Yard.

BREEDING birds should be kept in good condition. LESS pork and more chicken eating would give us less dyspeptics.

SAND does not make a good substitute for gravel in the poultry-yard.

LOOK for the white cap on the manure droppings as it signifies health.

FOWLS shedding their feathers should be fed a little sulphur in their soft feed.

BONES are valuable for poultry chiefly for the phosphate of lime they contain.

ONE advantage with ducks is that after they begin laying they usually lay very regularly every day.

IT is not wise to kill a fowl for the table that has been running at large until wanted. In all cases they should be cooped up for about ten days and fed on pure food.

THE fattening pen should have a slatted floor so that the dropping will fall beyond the reach of the birds. It is not uncommon for birds in confinement to eat their own droppings.

THE Poultry News rightly says: "In nine homes out of ten, pork and beef would go begging if a good fat hen were either made into a pot-pie, or nicely roasted or manufactured into one of those rich, juicy chicken pies."

### For Those Who Cook.

BREAKFAST CAKES.—Four and a half teacupfuls of flour, two teacupfuls of milk, one-half teacupful of sugar, one egg, one tablespoonful butter, one teaspoonful soda, two teaspoonfuls cream tartar and a little salt. Bake twenty minutes.

CANNED RHUBARB.—Peel the rhubarb, and cut into three-quarter-inch lengths. Weigh, and to every pound allow half a pound of sugar. Make a syrup of half a pint of water to two pounds of sugar, let it boil and skim. Put in the rhubarb and boil fast five minutes. Put into jars and seal.

STRAWBERRIES WITH WHIPPED CREAM.—Stem ripe strawberries, place a layer in a glass dish, cover with pulverized sugar, and put another layer of berries and sugar. Cover the top with a pint of thick cream, the whites of two eggs and a teacup of sugar, whipped together. Set on ice until chilled.

STRAWBERRY TAPIOCA.—Wash a cup of tapioca, cover with cold water and soak over night. In the morning put on the top with a pint of boiling water and let simmer until clear. Stem a quart of strawberries, and stir in the boiling tapioca, sweeten to taste. Take from the fire, pour in a dish and stand aside to cool. Serve very cold, with cream.

## FREE-TRADE AND PROTECTION DISTINGUISHED.

Now, there are two methods of levying duties upon imports. Our democratic friends wish us to follow the English method, which is to levy them for one purpose only—namely, to raise revenue.

The republican party would collect duties upon imports for two purposes; first, to raise revenue for the support of the government, and also at the same time to protect the industries and labor of our country from ruinous competition with the poorly-paid labor of foreign countries.

And herein is found the issue which the two parties join upon the tariff question.

The democratic or English method is to lay duties upon those articles which we cannot produce. They would restore the duty on sugar, which we produce but little of, and can produce but little of, on account of the character of our soil and climate; and they propose by this bill to take it from wool, leaving our farmers who raise sheep to compete in our market with the wool-growers of Australia, Asia, and the Argentine Republic.

They would restore the duty upon tea and take it from lumber, building-stones, farm products and manufactures. They would levy a purely revenue duty, which is always a tax upon the consumer, while a protective duty is paid almost entirely by the foreign importer.

The republicans, on the contrary, would levy duties upon such articles as we can produce in our own land, making the amount of duty equal to the difference between the price of labor in our own and foreign countries. And they would utilize our own raw material rather than buy raw material abroad.

Thus would we raise revenue to carry on our government and at the same time maintain our industries and keep up the wages of American workmen.

## WHY PROTECTION IF IT LOWERS PRICES?

From a Speech by Congressman Burrows.

But you say, if a protective tariff lowers prices why is it that the manufacturer comes to congress and asks for protection? Is the manufacturer so short-sighted as to ask that which will lessen his profits?

The answer is simple; he asks protection because without it he could not establish or maintain the industry at all. Take the instance of tin plate. With a revenue tariff of 1 cent a pound American capital could not safely venture to undertake the domestic manufacture, exposed to unrestrained foreign competition, as, if it did embark in the enterprise it was sure to be driven to swift destruction. Twice within the last quarter of a century, and before the act of 1890, we attempted to make tin plate under this revenue duty of a cent a pound, and twice were we compelled to abandon it.

In 1872 we were paying \$12 a box for foreign tin. Under the stimulus of such an exorbitant price we undertook its manufacture in the United States. To stop this competition the importer lowered the price in the American market to \$4 a box, below the cost of production, and at once arrested and destroyed the industry in this country. No sooner was this accomplished than the foreigner again advanced the price to \$10 a box. Again American mills started up and again prices fell to \$4 a box, and our mills closed. Then, in order to prevent any further effort to revive the industry in the United States, the importer notified his American customers that whatever American tin was offered for the foreign article would be furnished 25 cents less. And so under a free-trade revenue tariff the domestic manufacture of tin plate was arrested and destroyed and the American market secured to foreign producers. We have now imposed a protective duty, not for the benefit of the manufacturers alone, but for the benefit of all the people, in the confident belief and expectation that we will establish this industry in the United States and ultimately reduce the price to all the people.

## MODERN DEMOCRACY A BASTARD.

From the American Economist.

The platform adopted by the democratic national convention at Chicago opens with the following paragraph: "The representatives of the democratic party of the United States, in national convention assembled, do reaffirm their allegiance to the principles of the party as formulated by Jefferson and exemplified by the long and illustrious line of nine of his successors in democratic leadership, from Madison to Cleveland."

Our greatest historians do not for a moment allow the right of the democratic party of the present day to claim either Jefferson, Madison or Jackson as its founders or as the exponents of its doctrines. In the history of the United States there have been four democratic parties. The first, the party of Jefferson and Madison, was developed by the issues arising after the revolution, issues chiefly due to conflicting conceptions of governmental power. The second and third existed in the days of Jackson. They were the southern free-trade democracy, founded by Calhoun, and the national democratic party, of which Jackson was the leader, Jefferson the prototype, and which was more opposed in principles and doctrine to the Calhoun wing than it was to the whig party itself. The last is the Cleveland free-trade party of to-day, the legitimate successor of the Calhoun democracy, having as little right to trace descent from the party of Jefferson and Jackson as it has to call itself the successor of the party of Washington and Hamilton. We have spoken of this at such length merely to call attention to the hypocrisy of democratic leaders in alluding to Jefferson and Jackson as their patron saints, when they know themselves that on the issues of the present day they are occupying a position entirely op-

posed to that held by the illustrious patriots whose names they invoke.

## POWDERLY'S OPINION.

Terrance V. Powderly has recently been talking about the late troubles, and his views may be fairly regarded as the intelligent sentiment of his class. We quote a few of his utterances, as follows:

"Partisan papers are endeavoring to make political capital out of the terrible scenes which took place at Homestead the other day. The democratic papers are vehement in their denunciation of the republican party for enacting a tariff law under which protection was afforded to manufacturers. There is no love for workmen in the hearts of these editors; a desire to serve party interests alone actuates them.

The Pinkertons existed before the Mills bill was introduced in congress, and that institution continues to flourish now that the McKinley bill is in force. Whether the tariff went up or down, disputes between employer and employed would continue. \* \* \* If our democrats who are so eager to make political capital out of this difficulty, will lend me their ears, I will whisper to them that Representative Watson, of Georgia, has had a measure before congress for the past four or five months, which aims at the abolition of the Pinkertons as a factor in the industrial life of the United States. The democratic party has a sweeping majority in congress; it has a full knowledge of the acts of the Pinkertons on previous occasions. I have presented evidence enough to congress to prove that the Pinkertons are an enemy to American liberty. That democratic majority has a knowledge of the existence of Watson's bill, and it has up to the present time dilled and dallied with it and has no idea of passing it.

"The McKinley bill reduced the duty on the articles manufactured at Homestead, and the democratic papers, in asserting that the trouble at that point is due to the McKinley bill are but condemning the very thing that they themselves advocate, and on which they base their claim to power—a reduction of the tariff."

These utterances from the official head of the largest labor organization of the country will not send a thrill of rapture through democratic breasts. Whatever the troubles of labor may be, workingmen well know that they never have received and never will receive any relief through the interposition or agency of the democratic party. The demagogic attempt to attribute the Homestead disturbances to the existence of legislation designed to uphold and protect labor is supremely absurd, and it is pleasant to observe that it is equally fruitless.

## PARTISAN BRUTALITY.

From the Kansas City, Mo., Journal.

The rejoicing of Sand-lotter Simpson, a braggart in peace and a coward in war, at the report that Chairman Erick, of the Carnegie company, had been killed by an assassin, was not the only rejoicing there has been over the deeds of blood in Pennsylvania. When word reached the state democratic convention at Topeka that more than thirty lives had been taken in an uprising of laboring people there was general exultation. "I wish a hundred had been killed," exclaimed one. "The more they kill the better it will be for us." Such expressions were then and have been since, frequent among the representatives and newspapers of a party which has never yet found anything too repulsive or inhuman to be used as an aid to the securing of votes and the gaining of authority.

No true American would ever say—would ever think—that Simpson said or that was currently remarked in the Kansas state convention. Were evidence needed to make this clear, it could be found in the press reports from Pittsburgh, which say that the few expressions of jubilation heard came from the lowest foreign element, and that the American laborers almost to a man condemned the coward's act.

Simpson is not an American, for he fled like a frightened whelp when the life of the nation was in peril.

The democratic party, whose people and press have gloated over occurrences which every friend of his kind and his country must deplore, is not American and never has been. It stole and oppressed labor before the war; it would deceive and oppress it now. It is recruited to-day from among the enemies of the country as the ranks of the Tories were during the revolution. As royalty, feasting with disease, has always clapped its hands at the apparent failures of republican government in Europe, so has it unclaimed progeny, the American democracy, manifested pleasure whenever a check seemed to have been placed upon our progress.

Those who secretly or openly rejoice at social discord and the indefensible shedding of blood are un-American and cowardly. In times now historic they were divided into two classes: One class was composed of fugitive Jerry Simpson; the other of the hidden copperhead. History has repeated itself and confirmed its accuracy.

## THE FORCE BILL.

Concerning the nature and purposes of the Lodge bill, there has perhaps no clearer statement been made than that of President Harrison. In 1890 Mr. Harrison said:

"The path of the elector to the ballot box must be free from the ambush of fear and the enticements of fraud; the count so true and open that none shall gain say it. Such a law (the elections law) should be absolutely non-partisan and impartial. It should give the advantage to honesty and the control to majorities. Surely there is nothing sectional about this creed, and if it shall happen that the penalties of laws intended to enforce their rights fall here and not there, it is not because the law is sectional, but because, happily, crime is local and not universal." And again: "But it is said that this legislation will

revive mob animosities, and some have even suggested that when the penal methods of fraud are made impossible they may be supplanted by intimidation and violence. If the proposed law gives to any qualified elector, by a fair weight, more than his equal influence, or detracts by so much from any other qualified elector, it is fatally impeached. But if the law is equal and the animosities it is to evoke grow out of the fact that some electors have been accustomed to exercise the franchise for others as well as for themselves, then these animosities ought not to be confessed without shame, and cannot be given any weight in the discussion without dishonor."

Although the provisions of the bill were eminently just, the idea of surrounding the ballot box with armed soldiers did not seem to strike the country pleasantly, even though it was to put a stop to notorious outrages. Consequently the measure was defeated in the senate after it had passed the house.

The republican platform this year does not call for a revival of this so-called force bill. The democratic howl is without a basis or warrant. But even if the republican party were again calling for the Lodge bill it would not be committing any crime or wrong, as Mr. Cleveland would have the country believe. It would merely be demanding justice for a people whom the constitution has promised to protect, and who are still, year after year, robbed and defrauded of their rights by ruffians and murderers in the service of the democratic party.

## RAILROAD RATES REDUCED.

One of the foremost propositions in the people's party, that in the extreme nations have done nothing to the benefit of the public of the weight of 2,000,000 tons of steel is taken up by a contribution of 200,000,000 dollars he is on the Capital and reduced a Bird's Point absurdity which all the threads for one party assume under an assumed name, fact or logic.

From the returns of the department it is shown that from 1880 to 1890 both freight and passenger tariffs were reduced in every part of the United States, and that in the district comprising Kansas and that part of Missouri south of the river freight tariffs were cut down 43 per cent, or nearly one-half. In the same territory passenger rates were reduced 25 per cent, or one-fourth.

It is also shown that if the freight rates of 1880, averaging 2 cents a ton per mile, had been applied to the tonnage of 1889, when the average rate was 1.17 cents, the shippers of the country would have paid in freight charges \$570,435,952 in excess of what they did pay. With the rates of 1880 the passengers in 1889 would have paid in fares \$78,565,979 more than they were called upon to pay.

These sums aggregate a saving to the people of \$649,001,931, or \$10 per capita; and this saving was due to the establishment of railway commissions by the republican party and the enactment of republican laws.

As the Hon. Thomas Brackett Reed once sentimentally observed, "Whenever there is anything to be done the republican party does it."

## A REPUBLICAN TITLE WANTED.

From the Topeka Capital.

A prominent citizen of Topeka, who has been traveling in Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire, writes the editor of the Capital that few Kansas people can understand the importance of getting rid of the calamity cloud on our title unless they have had an opportunity to talk with the moneyed men of the east who own Kansas securities, or to those who have been solicited to invest in new enterprises. Until the uncertainty of the campaign is over, and the complexion of the legislature and state government has been established, eastern capital now ready for investment will come to Kansas very slowly. This correspondent writes us that nothing less than a strong republican victory will re-establish confidence in Kansas securities. Members of the people's party who have mortgages to renew will do well to think of this business side of our state politics.

## WAS REBEL HIMSELF.

The Larned Optic, a leading democratic paper of western Kansas, tells why it will support the ex-confederate for congressman-at-large, and says:

"We will support Colonel W. A. Harris, the democratic and farmers' alliance candidate for congressman at large with a great deal of enthusiasm and earnestness. He is an ex-confederate brigadier who is in the saddle to win, even in bleeding Kansas. We were raised somewhat of a rebel brigadier ourselves, but it is the first time we have ever had an opportunity to vote our sentiments straight out, and you can bet your boots we will do it now with a great deal of satisfaction."

The Kansas City Star (demomug) asserts that tin plate never can be made in this country unless the tariff is kept up to the necessary figure. Well, it is a good deal of a concession for an organ of the Star's kind to acknowledge that tin plate can be made here at all. That is more than free traders generally do when they talk tariff. When the duty on tin plate was under discussion in congress they told us that we could never make tin, and they told us the same thing about plate glass, and yet we not only make both, but have cheapened the price by making them in this country. This history will repeat itself in the tin plate industry.

This newspaper organ which have been insisting that President Harrison's international silver conference is only a trick to save of the silver question all after election, should explain how the president managed to enlist the cooperation of all the great European powers. The general impression has been that Europe was not favorable to republican success in this country on account of the tariff.