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R. N. SUTHERLIN,

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The ROCKY MOUNTAIN HUSBANDMAN is designed to be, as the name indicates, a husbandman in every sense of the term, embracing in its columns every department of Agriculture, Stock-raising, Horticulture, Social and Domestic Economy.

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AGRICULTURAL.

SINCE the days when our first parents walked among the fruitful groves and flowery vales of Eden, agriculture has been the honored occupation of man. A deluge swept the face of the earth, but the survivors returned again to rural pursuits. The dark and middle ages of the world's history have come and gone, and still, in the midst of the enlightenment of the nineteenth century, the primitive calling of our fathers is regarded as the most honorable of all occupations.

At times during the progressive history of man, its devotees have been ridiculed and sneered at, and there may yet be a small class of the human family who look with contempt upon those who till the soil. Like the fool who hath said in his heart, "There is no God," they mock at their betters, revelling in the vanity of their birth or position, but never, in a whole life time of indolence, idleness and luxury, have experienced the calm serenity and happiness which one hour's rest brings to the toiling millions who by their honest labor feed the world. It is not an irksome drudgery to till the fruitful earth, but it is a delightful science; one in which, as we advance by degrees, developing the marvelous intricacies of its several branches, instead of dulling our sensibilities, stunning and dwarfing our intellects, dragging us down from the exalted position to which we were created, leads us onward and upward higher unto the great Fountain of Life, which is God himself.

All animal life turns to the earth for food. Were the fields left uncultivated, the orchards and vineyards unpruned, our prosperity would crumble away to dust, civilization hault and turn back upon its march, and the proud nations of the earth return to a state of semi-barbarism. But by care and culture, by delving deeper into agricultural science, national progress, moving hand in hand, keeps up her onward strides, and civilization soars phoenix like to Jove.

THE WHEAT crop for the year, as shown by the October returns of the Department of Agriculture, is short, being about twenty per cent. less than last year's production. Should the average continue the same as thus far reported, the total crop will sum up in the neighborhood of 264,000,000 bushels, or about 62,000,000 under last year's yield. In quality the crop averages fourteen per cent. below sound condition. The corn crop this year falls four per cent. under the product of 1874, while the oat yield is five per cent. greater. The potato product is very extraordinary. Buckwheat is about an average, but barley is thirteen per cent. below last year. Tobacco is two per cent. above average.

COMPTON'S Surprise is, the London Gardener's Chronicle thinks, one of the best late-keeping potatoes in cultivation, though ungainly in shape and of rough exterior. It bolls mealy, is full-flavored, but should be grown on light and somewhat early soils, and by those especially who keep it over till the spring and opening summer.

THOUGHTS FOR PROGRESSIVE FARMERS.

The long looked for hard times have come in the more active business world; at least, suspensions, assignments, and failures are occurring on all hands, and generally among the most active trading class of men. Those who were the richest in their own and public estimation, and who were controlling trade, and arrogating to themselves great power and wealth are now not unfrequently the poorest, the most utterly broken and prostrate.

This condition of things has caused the prudent business man to look around and think of the effect it is to have on trade.

The farmers have the greatest burden of taxes to pay, and the national debt to dig out of the ground—for there is no other place to get it from—all wealth has to come from that source.

While on an extended tour among the farmers of Northern Kentucky, I was often questioned as to the duty of the frangere. My answer was, educate yourself as to the nature of your soils. Let there be read before each Grange, essays on soils, crops and finance. Let each member commence practicing the most rigid economy, and train up your sons to look on farming as an honorable occupation, and that farming should stand at the head of all professions. Subscribe for agricultural journals, read them, and explain to your sons the great field of knowledge to be gained by a practical life spent amid the details of stock raising, the cultivation of fruits, field crops, and learning the nature of the various soils. Every farmer should possess some general knowledge of soils and the nature of plants, in order that he may so adapt these to the several sort of soils, and thus secure the best results. Here, indeed, is to be found a most important, not to say indispensable part of the farmer's training, and without information such as that here referred to, the greatest care and labor will often prove of little avail. According to an obvious law of nature, every species of plant flourishes best and attains the most speedy and perfect development in that description of soil which is most congenial to its peculiar nature and habits of growth. So intimate, indeed, is the relation subsisting between soils and the vegetation they sustain, that the agricultural chemist is enabled to ascertain the character of the timber spontaneously produced by a soil, and also, in a like manner, he can immediately decide as to the value of that same earth for cultivation, as regards anything that may be named.

A London gourmand will tell in what parish or shire the mutton he is eating was bred, whether on the chalk hills or on the downs. The wine taster will tell you where the grapes grew that the wine was prepared from, and the nature and composition of the soil.

The principal soils are silica, sand or earth of flints, lime or clay, magnesia, a mineral substance; with these are blended vegetable or animal matter in a decomposed and composed state, and saline acid or alkaline combinations. The nature of silica or sand is dry and hot, and that of clay or alumina cold and wet. Hence, combination or amalgamation of the two tends greatly to the improvement of both. When a soil is light, dry and porous, with little adhesiveness subsisting between the particles, it can only be made capable of producing a valuable crop by an admixture of clay, or some agglutinating material that will serve to render it more humid and adhesive. And when there is too much humidity with little or no friability, the remedy is sand. Cold and sterile clays, by the application of a sufficient quantity of this ameliorating material have been rendered highly valuable for various purposes, and when filled with warm and invigorating manures, are probably the best and most lasting soils a farmer can possess. Some Granger will say "This is all Greek to us; call things by their right names." You are, Mr. Granger, taking your stand side by side with the learned doctors who do their farming in the moon, and converse on agriculture

and soils according to the words used in chemistry.

Please take your dictionary and hunt out all the words of which you do not understand the meaning, as to soils. Then you can take your place among the learned, and your wife and children will look up to you as somebody.

A deep and absorbing interest is now felt among the farmers as to how they are to educate their sons so as to make farming a success, and to enable them to use all the benefits resulting from a thorough study of science.

Those who have graduated at the agricultural college have spread a greater interest for a general education of all.

Let our district schools be elevated and improved, and made what they should and may be. And we urge as one improvement, almost indispensably necessary to the farmers, that there should be, and must be a department devoted to agriculture. We can discover no reason why it should not form a regular branch of common school education, nor why every college and academy in the State should not have their professorship devoted to agriculture as a distinct branch of study and education.

Is there anything in the subject that precludes this? Is there any difficulty in reducing to a regular science, and of so arranging and classifying its different branches, as to permit it being made a part of the educational process of the young? I think not; but on the contrary, agriculture is a science, possessing in all its ramifications, distinctive features, is governed by fixed facts and unerring principles, which the young farmer should learn by study and close application of his mental faculties. They should be engraved on his mind when it is young and plastic, and capable of receiving and retaining impressions, and this subject may, I imagine, be introduced into every district school of the State, without any detriment to the branches now taught in those schools, and without interfering with the regular course of common school education.

Much reflection has satisfied my own mind of the great importance of the subject. I regard it as an essential step towards the elevation of the farming interests, a necessary ingredient in lifting up to their real position the farmers of this country.

The State has been benefitted in her school funds, but the farmer has not as yet had his full share of the benefits accruing from them. He has been content to look on listlessly, and let other classes reap the harvest which his own industry has provided. Let him now arise from his lethargy and bring this subject before every Grange, and petition the Legislature to so amend the common school law that there shall be taught agriculture in the higher classes of the district schools of the State.

It seems to me that the farmers have a right to use a portion of the money which belongs to them to advance their own calling; not, indeed, to tear down or prejudice others, but to elevate their own business to the dignity of a science, to be taught and learned in the schools of the State.—L. J. Bradford, in *Farmers' Home Journal*.

THE TOTAL amount of flour and grain on hand in the State of California, Oct. 1st, according to the report of the Secretary of the San Francisco Produce Exchange, was: 50,900 bbls. of flour; 5,450,200 centals of wheat; 1,480,000 centals of barley; 114,500 centals of oats; 130,900 centals of corn; 15,680 centals of rye.

The Bulletin says: "Exporters still think we shall have 6,000,000 centals for shipment abroad, over one-third of which has already gone forward, and there will probably be less than 2,000,000 centals left for export in the last half of the year."

AN ENGLISH correspondent of the *Garden*, London, has high praise for Snowflake, one of Mr. Bliss' latest introductions, which he declares clearly deserves, owing to its many good qualities, to be considered "the potato of the period."

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

The non-appearance of the annual reports of this Department is explained in its monthly report for September:

"The statistical correspondents of the Department have endured patiently the delay of Congress to provide their quota of Reports of Agriculture for 1872 and 1873. After a year's delay an appropriation for the publication of editions of those volumes for the use of the Department was made, and one of each was sent to county correspondents and their assistants, and two copies extra have recently been sent to each county. Many correspondents, knowing that the report of 1874 was made to Congress last January, and properly expecting its receipt in printed form, have deemed the sending of duplicates of 1873 a mistake. The annual for last year is indeed printed, the Senate having ordered an edition of 1,200 copies for its own use, the largest number obtainable without a joint resolution, but no provision has as yet been made by Congress for any distribution whatever. The Department should be promptly supplied with an edition for its official distribution, and exchange, especially to its faithful and gratuitously working correspondents. As to a general distribution, the English plan of sale at cost should be adopted, but not unless the rule is made to apply to all documents."

THERE IS A GOOD TIME COMING.

Will not our farmers and stock-growers take courage from the following cheerful manner in which the *Buffalo Live Stock Journal* views our situation:

"The last two years have been quite equal in thrift to the farmer with an average of the last ten years. The ten years succeeding a financial crisis usually show a more prosperous decade for agriculture than the preceding. It is more in financial depression that people examine the basis of things, and when they do, agriculture feels an impulse.

We predicted a prosperous period for agriculture, dating from the great panic of 1873. The first two years have been quite satisfactory, and the balance of the decade is likely to be still more prosperous. Our means of transportation are constantly increasing and cheapening. We are to have a large trade in live stock with Great Britain, and probably with Germany and France. It seems highly probable that the facilities for transporting live stock will be so much improved that this trade, in the near future, will be much greater than our trade in meats has heretofore been, and this latter trade is not likely to fall off but to increase. We are the greatest meat-eating nation upon the globe, but our capacity for meat production is even greater than our market. We can supply a million head of prime steers to Europe, besides our home demand. Europe is hungry for the beeves, and the transportation problem will be solved. We have even a greater capacity to supply meat than wheat. Nutritious grasses grow all across the continent, and only require cattle to devour them. These are easily supplied. Cotton was once called king, but grass is crowned now. It is not improbable that within a half century our exports of live stock and meat will exceed that of the cotton crop. The South may take a large hand in the profits of this future exportation. This cattle trade has everything to recommend it over that of the exportation of our grain crops. The grain largely eats itself up in the carriage. Ten dollars' worth of meat may be sent at the price of \$1 in corn; we shall then send concentrated grass or concentrated corn—the manufactured goods instead of the raw material. The agriculture of the United States is establishing itself on a basis above and beyond panic."

If grass is king, the Rocky Mountain region is its throne, and fortunate indeed are those who possess it.

GRACE is always grace, but it never seems so gracious as when we see it brought to our unworthy selves.