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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.

CO-OPERATION.

It is plain that as business is now done all good and honest buyers have to pay more than they ought to do, because of the poor and dishonest ones. Most people in business have losses, and, whether they deliberately do it or not, these losses have to be divided among the good cash-paying-customers, or the store-keeper would have to fail. In brief, if every person honestly paid his debts all of us would get things much cheaper than we do. Out of this fact arises various co-operative movements, in which the shareholders buy for cash, and share out among themselves for cash what they buy—in this way saving the retailers' profit and the additional percentage from the failure of others to pay their honest debts. Wherever they have been honestly managed all round they have proved excellent things for all engaged in them.

Sometimes they are attempted on a small scale by a few persons in a local neighborhood. Some active fellow shows how much may be saved by all getting together, and they authorize him to buy and share. He takes on himself all this extra labor, without anything for his trouble, and, perhaps, in addition has to supply one who has not the money "just now," but will pay "in the morning," which never comes. In this way most of these local efforts fail.

On a larger scale they have done better. In these cases a clerk or agent is employed at a salary, and cash, strictly cash down, is enforced from all stockholders. So much depends on honor in these cases that failure often occurs. Still, it is wonderful how successful they often are. In Philadelphia there are an immense number of building associations on this principle. People own their own houses in time who could never get them in any other way. A number get together, subscribe a weekly sum, which must be promptly paid, and then they borrow their own money with which to build, paying simply as interest what they would have to pay as rent. Of course, the scallawag who never intends to pay rent if he can help it, does not care to get into those associations. They are made up of honest-hearted people who only want what they work for, and are willing to pay for what they get, and therefore it is a rare thing to find a dishonest man or defaulter among them. In Philadelphia a large number are not even incorporated. It is all a matter of trust with reasonable precautions.

One bank, in a district where these associations prevail, has had as much as \$500,000 a year on deposit from them. There is not however, much labor in affairs of this kind. Money is simply received and paid over, the conveyancer doing the real work to be done. Regular store business is too intricate, and the temptation to work for oneself, instead of for the company, is often too great for the agent. He either abandons the business and starts for himself, or does worse and ruin follows. There are, however, a few

cases where there has been a continued success.

In the fall of 1866 a co-operative store was started in Natick, Mass., which has proven a great success. It started with a capital of \$2,000—200 shares at \$10 each—with the idea of doing a strictly legitimate business, and this rule has never been departed from. It now has 630 shares of stock, held by 535 different persons. As an evidence of its success, it is but necessary to state that a share of the first stock at \$10 has drawn, in eight years, simple interest at six per cent., \$4.80, a stock dividend of \$10, a cash dividend of \$10, another of \$5, another of \$10, and is now worth a premium of \$3.75; making in all \$43.50 from \$10 in eight years, besides saving a large percentage on all goods purchased. Stockholders are allowed a discount of five per cent. on their purchases. The sales for 1873 amounted to \$104,176, and for 1874, to \$123,110. The net profits for 1874 were as follows: First quarter, \$1,156.45; second quarter, \$207.59; third quarter, \$238.22; fourth quarter, \$1,129.60; in all, \$2,731.85; and this, when the profits on many articles were as small as could be and make change.

But even here the success is admitted to be due to the faithful honesty of a Mr. Flagg, who has served the association from its inception to the present time. Co-operation in the hands of good men is a great gain. Those who live in the country districts may often profit by it, provided all the conditions are favorable.—*Thomas Meehan, in Weekly Press.*

THE FARMER'S GARDEN.

There ought to be a good garden on every well kept farm. It is a useful appendage and should be well located, convenient to the house, and receive as much attention as any other part of the farm. Almost any kind of soil common in this valley, with deep and thorough culture and an abundant supply of manure, will do. Successful garden culture is mainly dependent upon three things—first, an unlimited supply of well rotted manure, and the thorough preparation of the soil before planting; second, planting at the right season; third, a thorough cultivation and pulverization and a frequent stirring of the surface soil during the period of growth of the plants. But the first and most important step to be taken, to secure a good garden, is what most farmers would consider an over supply of well rotted manure, such as has been put in piles, sheltered from the rain, and frequently forked over to prevent what is called firefang. From ten to twenty tons of such manure is often applied by gardeners to every quarter of an acre of land, and is not thought by them to be any too much.

The size of the garden must be governed by the size of the family—one acre as an average, will be small enough. A little observation and calculation will convince any farmer that the products of a single acre, thoroughly cultivated, as it should be, will actually give more profit than any other acre on the farm according to the time and labor expended on it. But, in order to work the garden economically, it should be laid out with a few roads and avenues, so as to plow the land and till the crops as much as possible by horse power. Diligence is the price to be paid for a good garden, for in cultivating them it is important to begin the destruction of the weeds just after they have sprouted. We can go in with a cultivator at that time and feel like Samson, for we can slay our thousands and ten thousands. No matter if the garden contains only a quarter of an acre, let it be laid out long and narrow, work it by horse power as far as possible, and do it often.

A farm without a garden is something we dislike to see. The vegetables and small fruits which can be grown in them, promote health, comfort and enjoyment. Think of it, you who have been accustomed to having a good garden, of doing without a-paragus

and radishes in March, spinach and lettuce in April, followed by gooseberries, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, etc. We feel like agitating this subject until every farm, both large and small, has a good vegetable garden. More can, and we hope will, be said on this important subject.—*Colman's Rural World.*

The Agricultural and Industrial Exposition of the Southern States will be held in the handsomely laid out and improved fair grounds at New Orleans. It will open on the 26th of February, and continue ten days. The premium list is very extensive, and if all the classes fill, the show will be worth traveling many miles to see. The total number of prizes, medals and diplomas specified in the catalogue, is 1,350. In addition to these, a fund of \$3,000 is set aside as premiums for racing. February will be a pleasant time to visit New Orleans. In the latter part of the month the show will be at its height. Doubtless thousands of people from the North will run down to the Crescent City then, as the railroads will sell transportation tickets at reduced rates.—*Southern Home Journal.*

FLORICULTURE.

ROSES FOR WINTER BLOOMING.

In growing roses for the window the plants should be procured in the spring; they should be of small size, and, as a matter of course, should be perfectly healthy at the start. We thus obtain a cheaper and really better foundation for future operations than when a large plant in full bloom is procured. The soil is an important item, and should be composed of thoroughly decayed sods and surface soil, (not, however, from a garden,) well enriched with good old rotted manure, mixing the same with a little sharp sand. The little plant should be potted into a size larger pot than the one in which it had been previously grown. Place it in a warm, sunny window, soak it thoroughly at first with water, and protect it from the strong light with paper until the leaves no longer wilt.

As soon as the weather is sufficiently mild, plunge the pots up to the rim in a cold frame, whitewash the glass, and attend to the ventilation, and watering every day, regulating the same by the state of the weather. Once a week give them a weak solution of manure water, and occasionally turn them out of the pots to examine the state of the roots; if they are white and growing no fear need be entertained about the tops being green and flourishing. As soon as there is an abundance of fibres around the outside of the ball of soil the plant may be shifted into a size larger pot; but always bear in mind that one inch larger in diameter will always be sufficient, as plants are not infrequently injured by giving them too large a size.

In watering, always sprinkle the foliage well, it refreshes and invigorates it wonderfully. Some growers often mulch the surface of the pots with a little tan-bark, or, what is better, rotted manure (never use it fresh from the stables;) this tends to keep the soil moist and cool in hot weather. As the excessively hot weather approaches, the frame should be made to slope to the north, and during the middle of the day the sash should be raised up to an angle of 45° and fastened with a short prop, but as the sun declines it must be lowered, and closed entirely at sunset.

Insects, of course, will annoy the novice, as they do the old gardener, but the green fly is easily killed with a slight fumigation of tobacco smoke, care being taken not to burn the foliage by allowing it to blaze, and mildew may be driven off by dusting the foliage with flour of sulphur. Earth worms in the soil are sometimes very annoying; to obviate this plague the pots should be sunk in coal ashes. If at any time a plant should look sickly, and cease to grow, the best plan

is to head it back, curtail the roots, and give it a smaller pot with fresh soil. By autumn we thus have usually a strong, healthy plant for our winter enjoyment, and it will be a never-failing source of pleasure if kept in perfect health.

In selecting varieties, by all means choose the tea rose; they are much better adapted for pot culture than any other class, are usually very profuse bloomers, exceedingly fragrant, delicate in color and compact in growth. A truism in rose growing is, that those who really love flowers always have good luck, for the fact is such always tend them well.—*A Rose Grower in N. Y. Tribune.*

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

TO PREVENT HAIR FALLING OFF.—A very simple preventive is to wash the head with salt and water, being careful not to have the salt water too strong, as that dries the hair.

Another excellent remedy is, one ounce of sage, one and one-half pints of rain water; boil twenty minutes, strain into a bottle and add a tablespoonful of white Castile soap, cut fine, and a teaspoon not quite full of powdered borax; shake well and when cold rub on the scalp thoroughly, twice or three times a day.

OYSTER STEW.—Drain the juice from one quart of oysters. Measure the juice, and if not half a pint in quantity, add water enough to fill the measure. Place over the fire in a porcelain stew pan, adding a piece of butter the size of a large walnut. When it comes to a boil remove all scum that may arise. Put in the oysters and let them heat through, not cooking them enough to shrivel them; and a little more than half a pint of cream, let it scald through again, and season to suit the taste. New milk will do instead of cream, and the stove should be very hot, so as to cook them quickly.

TEA CAKES.—Rub a quarter of a pound of butter into a quart of flour, then beat up two eggs with two teaspoonfuls of sifted sugar and two teaspoonfuls of yeast; pour this mixture into the middle of the flour, adding a pint of warm milk as you mix it. Beat it up with the hand until it comes off without sticking, and set it before the fire, covering with a cloth; after an hour, make it up into cakes about an inch thick, set them on tin plates to rise before the fire for ten minutes, and then bake in a slow oven.

NICE CREAM PIE.—One cup of white sugar, two-thirds of a cup of cream tartar, half teaspoonful soda. This will make seven thin cakes, between which spread the cream. For the cream, take half a pint of milk, put into a basin of hot water on the stove, beat one egg with white sugar enough to sweeten, and add two tablespoonfuls of corn starch; stir this into the milk when hot, and flavor with vanilla or lemon. When cool, put between the cakes.

HAM CAKE.—A capital way of disposing of the remains of a ham and making an excellent dish for breakfast is: Take a pound and a half of ham, fat and lean together; put into a mortar and pound it, or pass it through a sausage machine; boil a slice of bread in half a pint of milk; and beat it and the ham well together; add an egg well beaten up. Put the whole into a mould, and bake a rich brown.

CREAM FOR FILLING.—One cup of flour, two cups of sugar, one quart of milk, four eggs. Heat the milk, and when scalding hot, add the eggs, sugar and flour, well beaten together, stirring as the mixture is poured in. Flavor to suit yourself when the custard is cool. Make an opening in one side of each cake and put in the cream with a spoon, taking care to put in enough. Be sure that the cakes are thoroughly baked, yet not scorched. A quarter of the recipe given makes ten or a dozen cakes.

One tablespoonful of salt in an ordinary lamp adds brilliancy to the light and saves coal oil.

Historical Society