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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.

FARMERS AND FARMING.

We farmers get a great deal of good advice. We are glad so many are interested in our welfare. Farming would seem to be the natural employment of mankind, and those who are unable, or unwilling, to gain a living and supply their own wants by cultivating the soil, are very willing to tell others how to do it. But often those who are least able to give advice, are the most profuse with their counsels. There is not much wisdom in their reproofs, no do they always fall on obedient ears. If those who walk with wise men become wise, then it is very essential that we receive our instruction from men wiser than ourselves. It we are to learn industry from the bees, and the ants, there can be nothing degrading in learning something from the humblest of mankind. But no teacher can impart much knowledge to his pupils, if he has not more intelligence than they. It will be conceded that farmers are the most numerous, the most useful, and the most industrious of all classes. And we think it can be proven, that they are not only the most honest, but decidedly the best business men in the commonwealth. We are told we work too much and think too little, that we have not the accuracy and energy of business men, that we ought to open a debtor and creditor side with every field on our farm, and know what every bushel of wheat, and every animal costs us. This is all very well in theory, we know something about books and prompt payments, and what we are doing. We want to look at the results, the facts and figures, to ascertain who are the safest and most reliable men in the community. It has often been stated that ninety per cent. of our merchants or business men fail, sometime during their career, to meet their obligations. We estimate that ninety per cent. of our every-day farmers, never fail to pay their honest debts, never defraud their creditors, nor take advantage of the bankrupt law. If this is a correct estimate, then young people when they go into business, may expect there are nine chances in ten, they will fail in business and defraud their creditors. And if they begin life on a farm with industrious habits, and a good moral character, there are nine chances in ten they will not fail to pay their honest debts, produce more than they consume, and add to their own, and the aggregate wealth of the community.

We are told farming is a slow business. Very few get rich; there are no millionaires holding the plow. We can plow very well without them. The greatest good to the community is not brought about by concentrating wealth, but by diffusing it. Are not a million of honest men, who produce more than they consume, and never let their notes go to protest, a million times more valuable to society than one millionaire who only gathers up the wealth that better men than himself produce, by some reckless adventure or fortunate speculation?

We do not write in a boastful spirit, for a good many of us farmers are in humble life, and have had a fair square battle with poverty and privation. But we provide honestly for those of our own house, and do not like to see so many leaving the farm, and becoming discontented because a few men get very rich in business.

Has there been so much progress and improvement of late, that the young of the present generation are too good and great to live on a farm? Washington and Webster and other great men were not above farming. The hills and dales, the green fields, and the blue sky, never tainted any pure heart or dwarfed any master mind. It is not gold and greenbacks, but a pure and honest life that constitutes a first-class man. When men become rich by exchanging one thing for another, there is nothing added to the comfort of humanity. It is a pity when a few absorb the wealth of a great many. Farmers produce by lawful industry the wealth that brings peace and plenty to themselves and associates; they do not rise on another's ruins.

Wealth of heart and moral worth are far better and more enduring than material riches. If we can leave a good name and a stainless reputation, when we have done with all things that are of the earth, earthly, it will be of comparative little importance whether we leave twenty dollars or twenty thousand.—*Interior.*

WHAT FARMING IS AND WHY SOME FARMERS FAIL.

If any one considers "what farming is," or what it ought to be, they would come to the conclusion that farming ought to be the managing of land so as to keep it in condition to pay for occupation, and there may be many farms which pay for occupation which will not pay for cultivation: that is, there are vast tracks of country which, from the nature of the soil, from the high price of labor, and from its adaptability to remain in permanent actual grass, would pay exceedingly well to graze with any kind of live stock and by raising stock, dairying, fattening and wool growing, etc., money could be made very fast—this would be farming, and any system of cultivation and course of cropping on good, free working land, which would keep the land rich in plant-food and allow of selling enough to cover expenses and pay interest of capital and also profit to occupier, would be farming, and good farming too. Therefore, it is easy to say what farming is; but robbing the land is not farming—it is a running down of God's beautiful earth and although many men purchase a fine tract of land and accumulate a fortune from the fine crops the new virgin soil produces, if they take crop after crop without some system of reimbursing it for the drain upon its productive powers, they are not farmers in a strict sense of the word, but real despoilers of their country's wealth, and are deserving of reprobation.

Farming, to be worthy of the name, should be conducted so that the manure made on the farm be applied to produce a very heavy quantity of some nutritious food for cattle or sheep; thus, the converting of such an extra growth of vegetable food into dung and urine again adds to the richness of the soil, so that a rotation can permit the sale of some valuable crop, and the end of the term of course will find the land better than before, and the manure made on the farm will have increased because the produce from which it has been made has been more and consequently, on an improving system, the manure will augment in proportion to the crops.

Market-gardening is not farming—fruit-growing is not farming; for horticulture and agriculture are not one and the same, and it is seldom this kind of mixed farming that does any good. Near to any great supply of manure from livery stables and other city sources, of course the soil can be compensated

and, indeed, be forced to such a degree of fruitfulness, that it is not of the least consequence how frequently crops of the most exhausting characteristics succeed each other.

The truth is, farming requires to be carried on as all other successful ways of business are. Any shop-keeper, if a man of business, will have such articles in his store as sell readily, and as he finds that one particular class of goods pay him best for having always on hand, he takes pains to have an inexhaustible supply; therefore, if fine, powerful draught-horses, good milch-cows and heavy long-wooled sheep pay those who raise them, and the first and last mentioned pay duty and freight from Canada, he has only to use his natural common sense, save duty and freight, and make money, instead of grumbling at hard times.—*Rural New Yorker.*

POTATOES MIXING IN THE HILL.

There has been much reason and argument on this subject, but not enough of clear and careful experiment. We have always believed that while potatoes cannot mix in the hill by the proximity of the roots, they may and will mix while growing in the hill by cross impregnations through the blossoms. How much of this cross will be visible in the potatoes the same year, has not yet been determined. The experiment is easily tried, and should not be confined to isolated plants, but to a hundred or a thousand hills, with two very distinct sorts in color, shape and quality—one-half of which should have all the benefit of mixing. The experiment might be varied by cutting off the blossom of one or the other, so as to ascertain which was the fertilizer, and which the fertilized.—*Country Gentleman.*

The following extract we clip from a very interesting address delivered by Major Wm. J. Sykes, in Brownsville, Tennessee. "To be a perfect farmer, a man should combine reading, observation and practice. A man may work in the fields all his life and be a poor farmer. We should gain knowledge by reading and study, and also by what we see around us, and then this knowledge must be put in practice. Our views, if they will not stand the test of actual experiments, are worthless. All sound theory is based upon practice, and all sensible practice is the result of well grounded observation whether learned from our own observation, or from the experience of others. That theory that will not stand the test of experience is worthless, and that practice which is not based upon sound theory is equally worthless."

H. F. BIDWELL, secretary of the South Haven, Mich., Pomological society, has been appointed by the State society to take charge of the exhibition of Michigan peaches at the Centennial Exhibition.

PRESIDENT CLARK, of the agricultural college at Amherst, has been given a year's leave of absence to go to Japan for the establishment of an agricultural college there on the same plan with the Massachusetts institution.

MR. W. HAMILTON, while boring for stock water on his farm near Florence, Marion Co., Mo., last week, struck a vein of strong salt water at a depth of 90 feet, and now has 50 ft of brine, instead of the pure water he had hoped to have.

We have received a package of seed of the Hundred Day Tomato from J. A. Foote, Terre Haute, Indiana, who assures us it is fit to bear fruit within one hundred days from planting. Mr. Foote is one of the most reliable seedmen in the West.—*National Granger.*

THE Iowa Agricultural College farm of 3 acres produced 3,660 bushels of corn 1, 3 bushels of oats, 127½ tons of hay, 27½ tons of roots.

FLORICULTURE.

HOME FLORIST.

Long Bros., Buffalo, N. Y., send out specimen pages from a treatise on the cultivation, management etc., of flowers and ornamental plants, and with a leaf containing the following directions for drying leaves and flowers, which our lady readers will appreciate:

To be able to preserve beautiful flowers and leaves for years, by means of drying them, is very desirable for the botanist, as well as all lovers of plants and flowers. A collection of dried specimens that have been fixed to sheets of fine white paper is called a Herbarium, and where the names, place and time of collection of each is given, and all are systematically arranged under their general orders, etc., it becomes very interesting. The materials used for drying fresh or green specimens are simply a soft, unsized paper, such as will absorb moisture quite readily, and a press of some sort. What is known as blotting paper would be the best kind of paper for the purpose, but something much cheaper will answer very well. Most kinds of paper used for newspaper printing are good. Touch the tongue to it and if the moisture left on the surface is quickly absorbed, then it will answer. Of course the sooner it shows itself to be absorbed, the better is the paper. The paper should be cut into sheets sufficiently small to handle well, and the greater part of these may be made into driers, consisting of a dozen or so sheets held together with a stitch or two of thread. The specimens to be dried should not be long picked from the plant before placing them to press between the driers. The pressure may be applied by a regular screw-press, or by simply placing weights on the matter to be pressed when all is ready. A pressure of fifty pounds would do for small operations. By having it too heavy the more delicate parts of the leaves or flowers will become bruised. First, lay down one of the paper driers, on top of which place a single loose sheet. On this the leaves or flowers to be preserved should be placed. If the specimens to be preserved are small, a number may be laid on one sheet. Then lay another loose sheet directly on the specimens, and on this another drier, continuing in that manner until one-half the driers are used, and then apply the pressure. The object of all this is to have the paper absorb all the moisture in the leaves as quickly as possible. After six or ten hours the press should be opened and the specimens taken out and placed between the driers which have not been used. The single sheet next to the specimens above and below may, for convenience in handling, remain in the new making up of a form for pressing, especially if the specimens be small and consequently difficult to handle individually in their partially dried condition. The driers taken out will be found to be quite damp and should be hung up to become thoroughly dried for use again. After the specimens have been pressed for twelve hours the second time, then they should again be taken out and placed between the first driers, which ought to be dry by this time. After one, two or three more pressures, always substituting the newly dried driers for the damp ones taken out, at each change, the specimens will be found sufficiently dry. Then they can be fixed in the Herbarium with the aid of a little glue or mucilage.

COLOR ARRANGEMENT.—A few simple rules in the arrangement of flower-beds will materially enhance the effect produced. Among these are: 1. Avoid placing rose-colored next to scarlet, orange or violet. 2. Do not place orange next to yellow, or blue next to violet. 3. White relieves any color, but do not place it next to yellow. 4. Orange goes well with blue, and yellow with violet. 5. Rose color and purple always go well together.—*Canada Farmer.*