



Rocky Mountain Husbandman.

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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.

The outlook for a good peach crop in the State of Arkansas is said to be flattering.

STATISTICS show that one third of the entire broom corn crop of the United States is raised in the State of Kansas.

ROOFING felt, cut into suitable strips and placed around fruit trees, will, it is claimed, effectually prevent mice and rabbits from gnawing the bark.

The cultivation of the olive in California is proving very profitable. The estimated yield of an acre of eight-year old trees is \$1,250. South Georgia and Florida will grow them profitably.

In the future the demand for oats will not be as great as it has been the past two years unless there be a large increase in the development and working of mines.

Rest half of the farm alternate years, and take pains to till well that which you do plant. The comparative yield will be better and the work much lighter than where every acre is cultivated.

The good weather of the past month has been a blessing to the farmer, as well as the stock raisers. It has enabled him to make an early beginning at farm work when spring time comes.

A NEW YORK man is negotiating for 5,000 acres of land in Lyon county, Iowa, for the culture of Bermuda grass. A mill will be erected, and in the spring twenty steam plows will be set to work breaking the ground.

Now is an excellent season to prepare seed grain. Oats, wheat and barley should be thoroughly cleaned, and none but the best seeds should be sown. By using screens, all small, light and imperfect seeds may be taken out. Nothing pays better than to take care in selecting and preparing seed grain.

Now that the Northern Pacific Railroad passes through our most extensive grain producing valleys, placing them in competition with other countries, it will be a matter of some study to determine what crops will be the most profitable. A diversity of crops will undoubtedly be best in the future.

A WRITER in the *Okanadian Horticulturist* says: To prevent gooseberries from milledew, when the berries are say the size of a pea, dust the bushes and berries lightly with sulphur. The bottom of the bushes should also be kept free from rank grass, so that the air may circulate freely through them.

If pruning is performed in the winter or early spring, it is vitally important for the best results that all large wounds be smeared with melted grafting wax, or gum shell-lack dissolved in alcohol, or common boiled linseed oil. It prevents the loss of the juices which must take place from the unprotected wound. These juices are the vital blood of the tree, and all losses of the sap are so much taken from the next fruit crop.

THERE is no product that will add more to the comfort of the farmer than that of small fruits. The writer has noticed that the farmers of portions of Missoula county, as a rule, are better contented and enjoy life better than any other section, and the main cause of it is attributed to the fact that their tables are better provided with fruits than those in other parts of the country. Currants, gooseberries, raspberries and strawberries can be grown with success in all parts of the Territory, and our farmers, if they would enjoy life, should prepare to plant and grow them. The cost and trouble it will take is nothing compared to the luxury of such fruits.

The farmers of the United States may be proud of their work. Were it not for their work there would be but little to do for the thousands of ships which now traverse the "trackless way." Farmers in the United States have \$12,210,253,316 capital invested in their business. Of this amount the value of farms is placed at \$10,196,890,645, farm implements at \$408,516,902, live stock \$500,832,187, fertilizers \$28,587,856, and fences at \$79,754,723. From this enormous sum it is estimated that nearly one hundred millions of dollars are annually collected in taxation for the support of the local and national governments and purposes of education. The total contribution or production to be credited to the farmer foots up in round numbers, \$2,300,000,000.

ONE of the principal reasons why the raising of hogs and making of pork in Missoula county has excelled other districts is that hogs have been allowed to run at large and subsist upon wild camas, which grows in abundance in that county, and a second reason is that the want of a market for grain during a number of years past has made prices low, and the farmers have found their best remuneration through feeding it and marketing the pork. Now that the Northern Pacific railroad taps that country, it is placed on an equal footing with other sections, so far as the market for grain is concerned. But while swine are permitted to run at large and feast upon the camas roots this county will maintain the lead in producing bacon.

MR. CHARLES GIBB, of Abbotsford, Province of Quebec, writes to the *Journal of Agriculture*, of Abbotsford, from St. Petersburg, Russia, that the hardiness of a variety of fruit is not dependent upon the place of its birth, but upon hardy ancestry; hence he finds in England and France, under English and French names, apple trees of that early terminate growth and thick pubescent leaf, which show pure Russian or Astrakhan descent. At Reutlingen, in Wurtemberg, he found the Perry and cooking pears to be of a different race from those of Western France, and at Vienna a race of apples wholly new to him, with very thick, small plicate leaves, natives of Transylvania, some of which grow from cuttings, like currants.

THE position that farmers only can teach farming is a very safe one, and that some are more successful than others, and therefore competent to teach others, is equally correct. We have heard it often asserted that any person who has muscle and the will to work can farm, and that education and a thorough knowledge of such business is not necessary. This is a false idea. To succeed in farming one must give it his best thought. To make two stalks grow where one formerly grew, and to keep the land continually improving is too little thought of by the farmers of our beautiful mountain land. The true policy is to increase crops by increasing fertility and acreage. The introduction of agricultural papers has done much toward the improvement in husbandry, and especially mixed

farming. To succeed well every farmer should read the HUSBANDMAN.

A CORRESPONDENT of *Purdy's Fruit Recorder* recommends the following recipe for grafting wax: "Take one pound of resin, one ounce of beef tallow, one ounce beeswax and melt and stir together thoroughly. Remove from fire and add seven ounces of alcohol and one tablespoonful of spirits of turpentine. Stir until entirely cold. Bottle air-tight in a large mouthed bottle. Apply with a brush.

THE vegetables that are the first in the market in the spring are the ones that bring the highest prices. It costs but very little more of labor, time or trouble to produce very early vegetables than it does those that do not get to market till later in the season. Money received from the sale of early vegetables is usually very acceptable, coming as it does after the demands of a long winter have been met. A forcing bed, covered with glass, with stove and everything complete, sufficiently large to answer the purpose, ought not to cost more than \$40 or \$50; and such a one ought to last for many years. In one of these the seeds of such vegetables as are most in demand in the early season can be planted, and the plants from them become of quite large size when the time comes that they can be set in the open ground with safety.—*Midland Farmer*.

THE *Miller's Gazette* of London does not think there is much likelihood of declining values of wheat. In its issue of January 23d, that journal says:

"There can be no doubt that it is the phenomenal character of the present winter, and the unfavorable outlook for the next crop, both here and on the Continent, which has created the speculative spirit now apparent; as far as regards the United Kingdom, the decrease in the area could have but proportionately little effect on the world's supplies, but seeing that a similar state of things exists in France and Germany, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the present range of prices rests on a solid basis in spite of the fact that there is plenty of wheat for all requirements of the present season. France, however, it she has any idea of a short crop this year, will soon be to the fore in making provision, and this will be quite sufficient to make present purchases for forward delivery safe."

AN OPINION ABOVE CHEAT.

S. Leonard, in the *Farming World*, gives the following opinion about cheat.

The cheat question is not a cheat. Your correspondents are intelligent, honest, earnest, pleasing, and their information is profitable. Some things are hard to comprehend. We believe many things we do not understand.

One of our best farmers and very large land owner drilled in a field of wheat. It was well done. Harvest time came—no wheat. He mowed the cheat for hay. That year there was a large quantity of degenerated wheat, or chaff cheat. One year I helped a man harvest a field of wheat on new ground—the first crop. In some places there was a heavy growth of cheat. I asked for the cause. Answer: log and brush heaps had been burned there.

Some children are intelligent and active, while others of the same family are not. In the brute creation we sometimes see a prodigy. The vegetable kingdom is not without its wonders. Wheat pomologists called "sports," are not confined to wheat. One of your clever correspondents quotes, "Whatever a man soweth," etc. I have been raising broom corn for a number of years. One year I planted some dwarf seed; dropped it by hand, one row at a time; covered it with a hoe. This kind has a large short stalk, sometimes not longer than the brush. This is incased in the leaf or blade, half or more of its length. Across some of these rows, at nearly right angles, there were some hills no more like dwarf corn than chess is like wheat. They were small, tall stalks, the head a number of inches above the leaf, much the shape of a tree-top. This was a degenerate, inferior variety, as is cheat. Whether either by cultivation could be brought back to its original purity

I do not know. There was a cause—here was an effect. All speak at once and tell the cause. I have some of the stalks. Sometimes a little water run across those rows.

For more than fifty years I did not think that wheat would degenerate or produce such an inferior variety. At seventy-five I have changed my mind.

The Poultry Yard.

BUCKWHEAT is useful as a change in the diet of hens. It must be fed in moderate quantities, and it has a tendency to fatten and also toward egg production.

A NEBRASKA lady tells Fannie Field, the celebrated poultry fancier, that she made a profit of one dollar per head on 80 hens last year.

THE census of France shows that there are in that country 40,000,000 hens, and the production of eggs is estimated at \$48,000,000. The total value of eggs, hens, capons, ducks, geese, turkeys and young chickens amounts to the astonishing sum of \$80,000,000 per annum.

POULTRY HOUSES.

Editor Husbandman: Some time about the new year you had a few lines in your poultry column, saying that some neighbor had built a root house above ground, with double walls and an air-space between, and recommended the same plan for chicken houses. The writer took exception to the plan; said such a root house might do in a mild winter, but would not stand heavy frosts, and unless well ventilated it would simply be a charnel house for chickens, and gave his experience with two different chicken houses for several years, at the same place and at the same time—a cold, well ventilated and a warm one. As the communication has not appeared in the HUSBANDMAN, it was probably lost by the burning of the post office in Broadwater, McNamara & Co.'s store at Fort Maginnis, so I will try and give you the rest of the article from memory.

The small house was about 16x14 feet, with low walls built of dry hewn logs, well chinked, and plastered inside and out, had a dirt roof, was under a cattle shed, protected on the northeast by said shed and stables. The other was about 16x18 feet, part logs and part boards, plastered on one side; had board roof, high ceiling and very open. The small house had about sixty chickens, the large one about a hundred and forty. The chickens in both houses were fed alike, viz: besides the scraps from the house and the run of stables and corrals and plenty of good water, they had good, carefully boiled potatoes and other vegetables mashed up with a little pepper for breakfast, cooked and raw meat and mashed soft bones for dinner, and plenty of good wheat, with occasionally a few soaked peas, for supper; and all the milk they would drink at all times.

Both had a good part of the winter, but those in the large, dry, open house, acted more like wild fowl, cared less for the cold, would stay out in colder weather, wade through the snow or run through the storm to their roosting place, while those in the smaller house appeared to get easier chilled, had less energy. When a sudden storm came up they would huddle down in some corner, where they would freeze their feet, or probably freeze to death, if we did not look them up. In short, they did not lay as many eggs, caused us a great deal of most trouble, and we had from six to eight die every winter out of the small house, for one that died out of the large one. Those in the cold house probably ate the most, but not enough to notice it. One day a neighbor said they were losing chickens. I asked, "What kind of a chicken house have you got?" "First-rate; close and warm." "Does it smell bad in the morning?" "I don't know; my wife opens it. I will open it myself to-morrow morning and see." "If it does, take out a small chinking on the south side, above the chickens' heads, and let in a little air below." The next time I saw him he said it smelled very bad when he opened it, and there were more dead chickens; that he knocked out the chinking

as advised, and had not lost one since. From all this it will appear that chickens can stand a great deal of cold, provided they are kept dry, well fed, and above all, have plenty of fresh air. MONTANA.

PRODUCT OF TWENTY-NINE HENS.

Mr. Gerry Valentine, Hammon, N. J., forwarded the following figures regarding his poultry experience for the year ending Nov. 1, the American Institute Farmers' Club, as reported in the *New York Sun*: "I have twenty-nine hens which have laid 4,364 eggs, and if my arithmetic is right, they averaged 150 and a fraction over. I raised sixty chickens, worth \$30. The eggs averaged 24 cents a dozen, making \$87.28 for eggs. Add \$30 for chickens and you have \$117.28. The cost of keeping I am not so sure of, as the count has not been kept so exact, but it was about \$55. The hens are a mixture of several breeds, but none pure. The White Leghorn and Brahma predominate. The feed has been corn and wheat screenings, with some hog cheese and wheat middlings, pounded oyster shells, etc."

The Household.

If the water in which new cabbage is boiled be change once or twice, it will be more digestible.

Peach Ice Cream.—Delicious peach ice cream is made by rubbing through a sieve one dozen whole canned peaches, or what is equal to that number, and six ounces of white sugar; and one pint and a half of sweet cream should then be mixed with the pulp. After a thorough beating freeze it as you do common ice cream. If you wish to make the fancy complete and have the cream a peach color, a few drops of cochineal can be used; or if you object to that, the cream may be colored with the juice of the red raspberry.

Corn Oysters.—Grate young sweet corn into a dish, and to a pint add two eggs well beaten, one teaspoonful of flour, and a teaspoonful of salt, half a gill of cream if the corn is dry. Mix it well together. Fry it exactly like oysters, dropping it into the fat by spoonfuls about the size of an oyster. Eat hot.

Salting Beef for Family Use.—For one hundred pounds of beef take eight pounds of salt, four pounds of brown sugar, make a brine, boil and skim, add two ounces of soda, two ounces of saltpetre, one-half ounce of cayenne pepper, let it cool, then pour over the beef, packed firmly in a barrel. Let the brine cover the meat.

Carpets and Rugs.—Spring will soon be here with its usual extra work, and before the house-cleaning and gardening are on the programme, we have a lull in the work, which should be employed in odd jobs that we have not had time for before. Carpet rags should now be cut and sewed in balls and put away secure from moths and mice. Then when you are ready to get it woven you will not be so rushed with work that you will vote rag carpets a nuisance.

Old faded carpets may be colored any shade, from slate to black, with soft maple bark and coppers. This will harmonize with nearly any other color, and is as durable as any color you can get on cotton. A carpet half drab and half blue rags, and wasp, and nicely arranged in stripes or checks, is very nice. Now, when we get a nice new carpet we need some good rags to save the wear and tear of many feet.

To make a nice fringe mat take old knit hose, and after coloring it any color you fancy, cut in strips an inch in width, and beginning at one end ravel out to within two stitches of the edge. Sew the fringe onto strong cloth by this edge until your pattern is finished. The burl will stay in for years.

One or two braided ones will be serviceable and nice for a change. Finely cut rags, crocheted either oval or round, are very pretty, or draw into coarse canvas to imitate Persian rugs.

When the colors fade they may be made to look like new by dipping a brush into the dye and matting the surface each corresponding color.