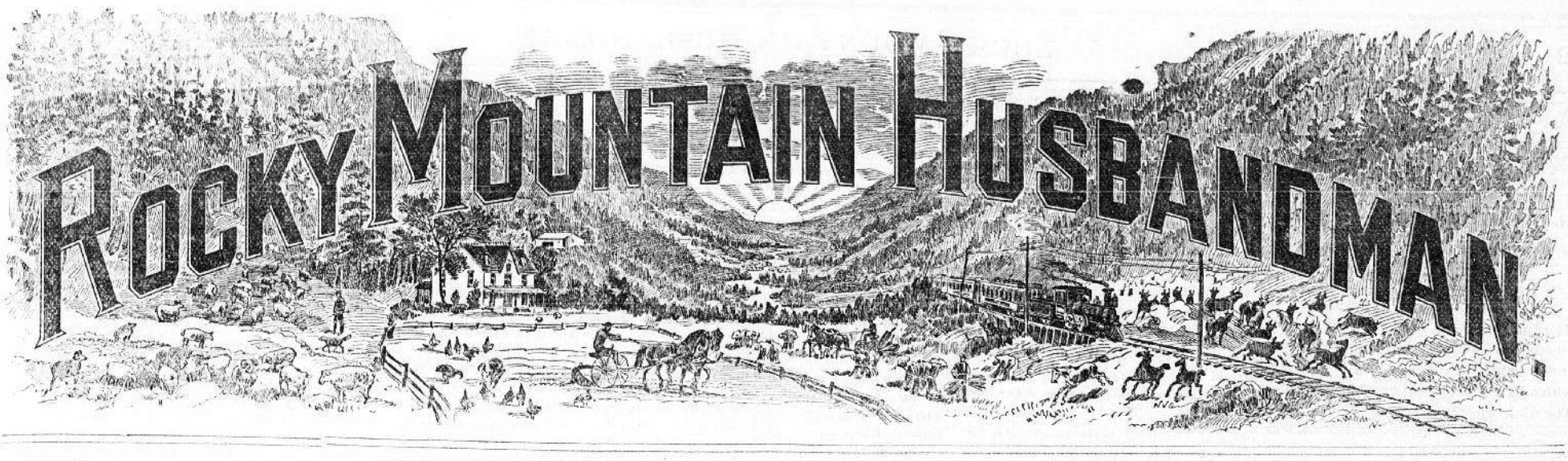

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The ROCKY MOUNTAIN HUSBANDMAN is designed to be, as the name indicates, a husbandman in every sense of the term, embracing in its columns every department of Agriculture, Stock-raising, Horticulture, Social and Domestic Economy.

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Agricultural.

MERRY is the farmer now.

Sow a small patch of turnips now for early use.

To make gardening pay good hot beds must be supplied.

You cannot have a sure crop unless you commence early.

THE garden must be rich in order to produce good vegetables.

Sow beet seed in light, rich soil early, and a good crop is assured.

ONION seed sown late does well for early onions the following spring.

Sow early and often, and do not procrastinate until the crop is all done.

EARLY sown grain has never yet in Montana failed to produce the best crop.

Do not procrastinate. A week gained now will be a big thing to any crop.

Sow early garden peas in rows, as they are much easier cultivated than if sown broad cast.

Now is the time for the farmer to make success certain by putting the seed in the ground early.

ALWAYS have the land in good shape for sowing, and do not fail to put grain in well. This is the only system of farming that will pay in any country.

IN putting in grain always run the drill, brush or harrow with which the finishing touch is added to field the way you wish the water to run when irrigating it.

THOSE who have late onions left in the ground all winter can supply the market with nice sweet onions at least two weeks ahead of even those who plant sets this spring.

AT the threshold of another year's operations in the field, the garden and on the small fruit plantation, it is well to consider how much the outcome depends upon good plans, good soil, good seed and good management.

MANURE for the garden should be well decomposed, otherwise it will not produce the desired results. Many farmers, not being aware of this fact, do not get the advantage of their attempt to enrich their gardens until the year following. A little attention to this matter will be very beneficial.

A FARMER says that he planted potatoes on new ground and that the product was quite scabby. The following year he planted the same land in potatoes again and the product was comparatively free from scab. What is the experience all around. There is wisdom in a multitude of council.

THOSE who grow onions from the seed should drill them very thick. The onion will be small, but will mature well and not go to neck and top, as when sown thin. Some gardeners fairly heap the seed together. The soil, however, must be rich and the seed sown early.

"LIME in the fall," is an old adage, but lime in the spring is effectual also. All soils are benefitted by it, and although it is said that "lime enriches the parent, but impoverishes the sons," we doubt if a single case can be pointed out in which lime has been injurious. It is cheap, easily applied, and lasting in effect. It is urged that the soil must be well manured when lime is used annually, or else it will prove exhausting, but no necessity arises for urging farmers to follow such a practice, as it is only the tritty farmer who uses lime, and whenever we see it freely used on a farm we look no further, as its application implies that in addition to it, manure and green crops help to keep up the fertility of the farm.—*Ex.*

ON the hotel tables throughout the Territory there are a great many watery potatoes served. Is this the fault of the cook or the tuber. It would appear to be the fault of the cook, since on our farmers tables we find potatoes that are dry and mealy and well flavored. It is not reasonable, however, that this should be the case. The only way we can account for it is that farmers keep their best potatoes for home use and sell their late and inferior ones. We believe if potatoes were planted early and properly cultivated that we would not notice this defect in the potatoes served up on our public tables. There is something in the variety. If this is allowed to deteriorate, the cooking qualities will be injured. We would urge our farmers to get good varieties and keep them pure. There is no country on earth that produces a better quality of potatoes than Montana, and an effort should be made to keep the general production up to the proper standard.

THE general opinion with Montanians is that Chinese sugar cane cannot be made a success in Montana, yet we are quite certain that there are localities where it will grow with sufficient thrift to be made profitable. It is a very hardy plant and stands the first light freezes of autumn without injury, and if it only grew to a height of four or five feet for the tall varieties and three or four feet for the short ones, it would be found very profitable to farmers of limited means, since it would supply the home need for sweetening. It is grown in this laritude in the States with profit, and though it often freezes and is not worked up until spring, the flavor is not impaired. It would be well for some of our farmers to try the experiment. The Chinese sugar cane, we believe, is the hardiest, yet the amber cane, being of short growth, might suit Montana best. Who will try it and report their experience.

GROWING POTATOES IN MONTANA.

FORT MAGINNIS, March 16, 1883.

Editor Husbandman:

You have occasionally something to say about raising potatoes. Below we give you the plan we have adopted after an experience of seventeen years in Montana, as the one by which we can raise the most potatoes with the least labor and consequently for the least money:

We select good, dry, rich, loamy bottom land that has been in crop about two years; prefer it plowed deep the year before or the previous fall; plow again about the last of April with straight, even, uniform furrows, about six inches deep, and plant the seed—two eyes in a piece, cut from good, sound, well-matured, fair-sized potatoes—about 18 inches apart, in every third furrow, close up to the land side or under the colter, eye side up, and press them down a little with the hand or foot. This is to keep the furrow horse from disturbing them with his feet. After they are well sprouted, but before they come up harrow thoroughly with a short-toothed harrow the same way the plow went. This is to kill the weeds that are starting and to level and mellow the soil. Nothing further is done until they are well up and need irrigating. Then a small furrow, or rather scratch, is made between the rows with the point of a shovel plow, drawn by one horse, and barely deep enough to carry water. It it is dirty and slums up the small furrow when irrigating so it can't settle into the rows, the shovel plow is run through again about an inch deeper. They are hoed once if weedy, and irrigated when needed until the first of September, the ground is then allowed to dry until they are ready to lift or dig, which is done by two horses attached to the same shovel plow, one going on each side of the row, after picking them up the bottom and sides of the rows are scratched over by a bent potatoe fork, in the form of a hoe, to get what is covered up. You will see by the above that this is what might be called flat culture. No hilling, they need less water and it is kept higher and nearer the roots by running in shallow furrows. We have raised 1537 bushels of good potatoes on three measured acres of good land, with no more labor than is described above—except killing the Blister beetles which was done by shaking them off the vines into a common pressed milk pan, and then destroying them. We principly plant the Early Rose, or some of its improved seedings for early use, and the New England seedling a long, smooth, white shallow eye variety, introduced into Montana by Robert Barnes, of Prickley Pear valley for late use. Great care must be taken about the seed, for potatoes will freeze enough to destroy their vitality, and not be percentible to the taste when cooked.

J. F. & S.

WATER RIGHTS.

In compliance with the request of many subscribers, we reproduce an article by Col. A. M. Woolfolk, of the Helena *Independent*, on the principle governing water rights and the appropriation of water for irrigating. It is considered a correct digest of the subject. The Legislature spent most of its session on a bill regulating water rights, but it died at the hands of the new Governor. Two small bills, however, became laws. One was published in these columns last week. The other was of minor importance. We have not seen it, but we believe it provides that water rights shall be recorded, and that the record shall be taken as evidence in court. Mr. Woolfolk says:

The rights resulting from appropriation will date back to the beginning of the work. For instance, as between conflicting rights, where the question of property is at issue, it may be that of two ditches one was first completed and yet be subsequent and subordinate to the other, for the simple reason that work was begun first upon the ditch completed last. Surveying and staking a line of ditch, blazing trees, etc., where followed in a reasonable time by actual work, will be evidence of appropriation. In such cases the appropriation will relate back to the beginning of the survey or other work first manifesting the intention to appriate.

Many water rights originate in the following way: A man or his grantors dig a ditch capable of carrying, for instance, 150 inches of water. To this extent he has the oldest right on the stream. But four or five years afterward he finds that he needs more water, and so he goes to work to enlarge his ditch to the capacity, say, of 300 inches. Now, to the extent of his original 150 inches he has an undoubted right, but other subsequent locators who appropriated before the ditch was enlarged have a prior right to all water above the 150 inches.

It is true that a man may manifest his intention to appropriate, say, 300 inches of water, and yet at first his ditch may only carry 150 inches, on occount of obstacles which interfere with the flow of water. If the general capacity of the ditch, however, is 300 inches and these obstacles are removed within a reasonable time, the extent of his appropriation will be limited and governed by the average or general capacity of the ditch, and he will be allowed to retain the 300 inches of water if such was the general capacity at the time of construction. In all cases where the law requires work to be done or certain improvements made in a reasonable time, the question as to what is such reasonable time will be one for the jury to determine.

The common law of riparian proprietors would not allow any diversion from a stream. Each land owner through whose premises it flowed was entitled to use the water for culinary, domestic or stock purposes, but had no right to divert or render the water unfit for the use of the parties below him on the stream. But the necessities of countries requiring irrigation compelled a change of this law in such localities, and it was so modified as to permit water to be appropriated like any other property, the party first reducing it to possession having the best right to the extent of such appropriation.

The Poultry Yard.

GATHER your eggs every day.

Do not neglect your birds because the weather is good.

SEE that the hen you give a nest of eggs to sit on is free from vermin.

THE demand for improved poultry has never been better than now. This is an age of progress, and he who would keep up with the times must improve not only his poultry, but other stock as well.

WE devote considerable space to the poultry interest, because we believe poultry and eggs better food for the human family than beef and pork, and we want to see them supersede these articles in a great measure on our famers tables.

STANDARD FOWLS.

Breeding fine poultry has become as much of a science as breeding any other kind of live stock, even though it does not require a tithe of the outlay or expense, and those of limited income can indulge their tastes in that direction, being reasonably sure of making the fowls pay their way, and in some cases realizing quite snug little profits. A mistake too often made by novices, is to buy a pair or trio of first premium birds, at some large poultry show, and then expect to raise from them the following season nothing but chicks which will be as meritoious every way as their parents. Very often it is desirable to get these prize-taking birds for breeding purposes, if the fitting of them for exhibition has not impaired their health or strength in any way, for from such birds many fine chicks can be reasonably expected, but if from ten to fifteen per cent. of the offspring can be rated as extra "standard" birds, the breeder has every reason to feel well satisfied. In procuring choice breeding stock, however, we would not make it a point to buy the exhibition birds at the shows, but rather visit the yards of some prominent breeder, who breeds the variety or the varieties you wish, and there select what you need. By this means you select the choice bird, just as they are "at home," without having been pampered or fixed up for exhibition. As to varieties, that is a matter which must be decided by each individual, but it is a very bad policy to try more than one breed at a time, for if the breeder attends to the birds properly he will find all his time and skill required to perfect one breed. It is far better to be able to sell extra specimens of one kind to purchasers, at a round price, than to supply customers with many kinds at a low price, and a corresponding low grade.

In attempting to rear standard fowls, it is absolutely essential to hatch out the chicks as early each season as it possibly can be done, to enable them to have the entire season to perfect themselves. Of course chicks hatched out in March require more care and attention while in the downy state, become fully feathered, than do those brought out in May. With many breeds the experienced breeder can, while the birds are very young, pick out those chicks which will or should meet the requirements of the "standard," and to these he can give extra care and attention, to induce a rapid and healthy development, the others being given ordinarily good care, and consigned to the kitchen as they are needed and become fit. It may seem rather hard to cull close, frequently selecting but ten or fifteen birds at first from a flock of forty or fifty, and consigning the others to separate quarters as a mere food supply for the house, yet in no other way can improvement be assured. And those who wish to raise standard birds, but do not yet understand the desirable qualities of the breed they wish to rear, should post themselves thoroughly in the matter; first by reading upon the subject in the different periodicals devoted to poultry; then by studying the standard of excellence" for poultry, which gives the "ins" as well as the "outs" of each recognized breed of domestic poultry; then by visiting the prominent poultry shows and carefully noting the size, shape, weight and markings of those which carry off the honors, and lastly by purchasing a pair of standard birds, as a model to breed to, rather than as stock from which to produce all standard chicks. Those who have been successful in a pecuniary point of view in rearing poultry for mere food purposes, cannot always make a success of it in attempting to breed thoroughbred fowls to a high degree of excellence, for the simple fact that not only must the best of care and management be bestowed, and the food and feeding be all that is desired, but there are certain requirements in the way of plumage, markings, shape, style and weight which count very heavily in the show-pen. While the show-room will go far toward teaching many valuable items of knowledge to the novice, making repeated visits to some well known and successful breeders of thoroughbred fowls will do far more, as many of the practices there in vogue can be seen and learned, the breeder rarely refusing to show the visitor his birds, and how he conducts his operations.—*American Agriculturist.*

The Household.

Oat Meal Porridge.—Soak two cups of oatmeal all night in water; in the morning strain it and let it boil briskly for about half an hour, then add about two cups of milk, and salt to your taste; let this boil up once or twice; sweeten or not as the patient may prefer. This may be assimilated by a very weak stomach, and is not only refreshing, but nourishing. When straining the oatmeal, before cooking, rub it in the sieve with a spoon, so that all the soft part will be saved.

Pudding Chop.—One pound of salt pork, skin off the rind, chop fine with two pounds of bread crumbs, moisten with water until thin enough to stir like cake dough; add three eggs well beaten, pepper, one teaspoonful of soda dissolved in water; add a little flour; turn this mixture into a pudding dish and bake one hour with slow oven. Serve hot or cold.

Potato Soup.—Pare and cut potatoes into small pieces; clean one-third as many onions and slice thin; put both into a kettle, add water sufficient for the consistency of soup when done and boil well three-fourths of an hour.

Ammonia.—Ammonia is very useful in the kitchen. A few drops mixed in the water will take off any grease from plates, dishes, etch., better than soda, and does not injure the skin of the washer, as the constant use of soda does. Sponges, hair-brushes, etc., are best cleaned with diluted ammonia—in fact, it is a very useful thing for many purposes in the house.

Coffee.—Heat the grounds hot in a mess pan, one tablespoonful for each person and one for the pot or kettle; then pour on boiling water, one cupful for each spoonful of coffee. Cover tight and stand where it will keep hot, but not boil, for fifteen or twenty minutes. Then strain into the cups. The coffee should never be boiled. "Coffee boiled is coffee spoiled."

Bean Porridge.—Is made by cooking dried beans in plenty of water till they are quite boiled to pieces, and thicken the broth with Graham flour or Indian meal, in a batter with milk.