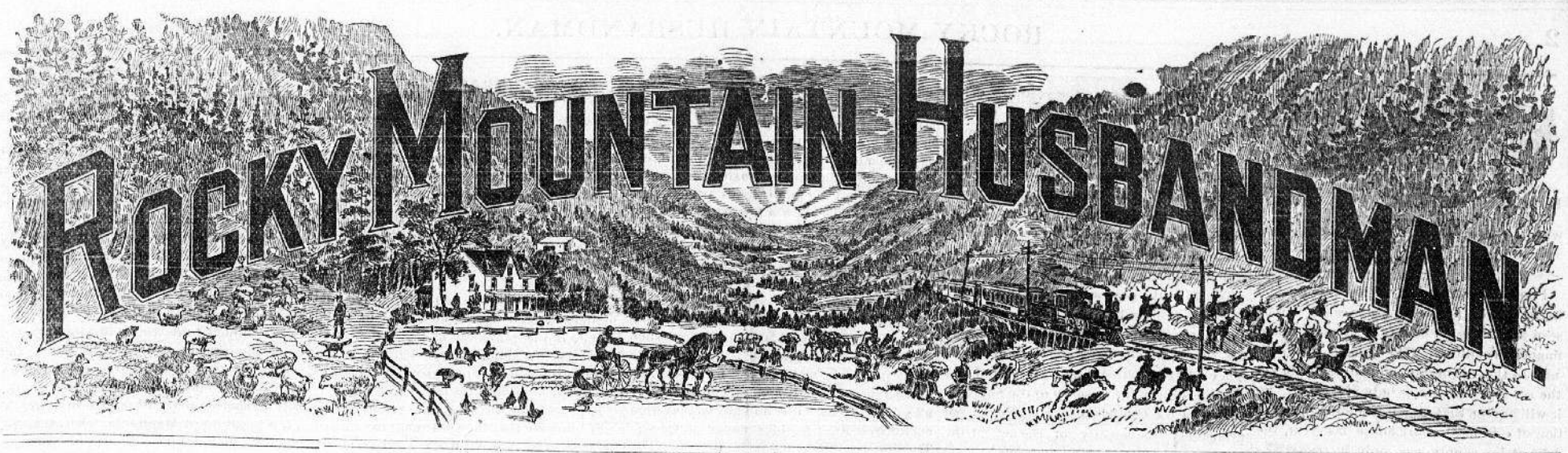
Historical Society



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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.

SEEDING the fertile acres,

SEE that the roses bloom about the farm house door.

SPRING wheat will produce a splendid crop sown on land cultivated in potatoes the previous year.

BEAUTIFY the house as well as cultivate the field, and happiness will be assured to every member of the household.

THE farmer should sow as large a variety of garden seeds as the market gardener, as his own table is as important a market as he can find anywhere, and should be supplied whether any other is or not.

THE Montana farmer may well be proud that his position is at the top of the heap. In other countries agriculture is quite as honorable, but we know of none where it compares so favorably with other industries of the country in a financial point of view as in Montana.

HENRY KERTZ, of the Musselshell, a good practical farmer, says that the farmers of Eastern Montana, who grow oats almost exclusively should by all means summer follow their lands, as oats are very exhaustive to the soil.

JAMES PERKINS, of the Jefferson valley, recommends the Golden Queen strawberry. Eighteen plants set out by him produced in one year 1,500 sets. The plant grows large and stands up well, and the berry is medium sized and very nicely flavored.

IN order to raise roses in perfection it is needful to feed them well and place them in the full sunlight, and not where they will be shaded by trees and shrubs; and after they have bloomed prune them closely, also when they commence to leaf out in the early spring.

WILL the husbandmen of Montana heed our columns of admonition, published week after week, year in and year out, or will they continue in the old way? We believe they will take heed, and that already we can see the beneficial effects of an agricultural journal upon the system of husbandry.

FARMERS realize now the great advantage to be gained by plowing their lands in the fall. Those who were equal to the emergency then are done seeding now, while he who neglected this very important matter has only fairly begun. This should teach them a lesson that they will not forget when fall comes again.

THE farmer who keeps but a few head of stock should endeavor to have the best. It pays as well to raise a few head of first-class animals as it does to raise a third more of common stock. In reference to horses and dairy cows more especially is this true.

FARMERS should not longer defer planting out shade trees and wind-breaks about their homes. There is nothing they can do that will add more to the comfort as well as the appearance of their homes. There should be a nice grove around every suburban and country home, and a double hedge around the stables and stock sheds to break the winter's blast.

A WRITER in the New York *Tribune* warns people against using petroleum on fruit trees and shrubbery. In the vicinity of flowing oil wells it kills all the trees; and an orchard in which the trees had been painted with it, showed handsome bark and fine fruit the first year, but afterwards declined. Nevertheless, a strong soapsuds, with a good mixture of kerosene in it, is a good wash for the trunks of fruit trees by aiding in the destruction of insects.

IT is reported that the larger part of central New York will be set out in hops this year. Thousands upon thousands of hop poles are now passing over the railroads leading from the region of Northern New York and Canada, some of the poles being mere scrubs, while others are almost large enough to be planted for telegraph wire supporters. The reason of this state of things is that the good fortune of the hop growers last fall has all but turned the heads of the farmers.

WILL hops grow in Montana? Have any of our readers tried the experiment; and, if so, with what success? Wild hops grow in Missoula county, and there is but little question that the region about Frenchtown could be made an immense hop field. Wild hops also grow very luxuriantly in the Judith and around the base of the Snowy Mountains, and we believe that this region can also be made a prosperous hop-growing country. The chief disadvantage to hop-growers will be the wind, but by setting the poles very firm, we believe this will be overcome. One great advantage to the business in Montana will be the abundance of poles, which are to be had at reasonable figures. We believe it would pay at least to make the experiment, and would be glad to report the experience of any who may undertake it.

HUMUS IN THE SOIL.

Prof. Pendleton, in his text book on Scientific Agriculture reaches the following conclusions concerning the use of humus or organic matter in an agricultural soil:

1. Humus renders stiff soils friable and open.
2. It absorbs moisture from the atmosphere and thus supplies plants with it.
3. It retains the moisture longer than any other ingredient of soils.
4. It furnishes a considerable portion of carbon to plants either directly or indirectly.
5. In its widest sense it supplies the mineral elements of decayed matter in soluble forms for plant food.
6. It absorbs and holds free ammonia and its carbonate, and thus supplies plants.
7. It absorbs lime and its carbonate and renders it assimilable as plant food.
8. It furnishes a solvent to the soil (carbonic acid) for the silicate of potash and phosphate of lime, by which plants are supplied with the two important compounds, phosphoric acid and potash.
9. In warm climates it cools the soil by the constant imbibition and evaporation of moisture.
10. It is in fact a prime agent in the laboratory of nature for carrying on chemical changes in soils, producing heat, evolving carbon, hydrogen and oxygen, as well as well as nitrogen obtained by absorption.

Perhaps, of all the benefits resulting from humus in the soil, this last is the most important. Each and every one of these effects have been again and again demonstrated by the author and others, not in flower pots simply, but in the open fields, and yet we find men assuming to be agricultural chemists who consider humus in a soil of no agricultural value. We give the foregoing quotations from Professor Pendleton, that readers may understand some of the reasons why an old, run out field, that has been mowed and then trampled by cattle at pasture till almost as hard packed as the clay in a brick, and the surface fed bare of all vegetation, will not at once respond satisfactorily to the use of manures in the form of highly concentrated commercial fertilizers.

We never enjoy working any kind of soil as well as one that is so filled with decaying vegetable matter that during the warm days in June it will remind one of bread dough that is set to rise before going into the oven. Pure sand and clear clay make a soil about as dead and inert as a box of bird shot. But mingle in a good portion of leaves of plants, straw, stubble, roots, stable manure, which contains, as it always does, large amounts of straw material, or even sawdust or shavings from the mills, and life immediately seems to be given to the whole mass. It is true that some plants, like the cactus, can live in soils composed of pure sand, but it sends its roots deep into the soil and can thus obtain some of the benefits of humus from the underlying moist strata.

Until farmers and gardners learn to appreciate the value of vegetable matter in soils, for the many purposes alluded to by Professor Pendleton, and can economically supply it by plowing in green crops or otherwise, it will not be quite clear how it is that chemical fertilizers will not quite supply the place of ordinary stable manure. This explanation, however, is being gradually accepted by farmers, and methods are being adopted that accord with the facts in the case.—*New England Farmer.*

FRUIT TREE CULTURE.

1. Instead of "trimming up" trees according to the old fashion, to make them long-legged and long-armed, trim them down, so as to make them even snug and symmetrical.

2. Instead of manuring heavily in a small circle at the foot of the tree, spread the manure, if needed at all, broadcast over the whole surface, especially where the ends of the roots can get it.

3. Instead of spading a small circle about the stem, cultivate the whole surface broadcast.

4. Prefer a well pulverized, clean surface in an orchard, with a moderately rich soil, to heavy manuring and a surface covered with a hard crust and weeds and grass.

5. Remember that it is better to set out ten trees with all the necessary care to make them live and flourish, than to set out a hundred trees and have them all die from carelessness.

6. Remember that tobacco is a poison, and will kill insects rapidly if properly applied to them, and is one of the best drugs for freeing fruit trees rapidly of small vermin.

7. Finally, do not neglect to set out as many fruit trees of different varieties as you possibly can. It will pay. If you have but a small farm put out the fewer number of trees, but put out as many as you can find space for. Larger farm, more trees. Fruit evaporators are comparatively inexpensive, they are very easily operated, and properly dried fruit is always saleable. If your farm is near a railroad you will be able to sell every bushel of fruit for city consumption that you may happen to raise, and you will realize satisfactory prices for it. By all means plant all the fruit trees that you may find room for, and raise all the fruit that you can coax your trees to bear.—*Planter's Journal.*

HUNGARIAN GRASS AND HAY.

Hungarian grass is yearly growing in favor with dairymen and stock growers as a valuable substitute for hay as a winter food, and in the place of, or in connection with, fodder corn for soiling in midsummer, or whenever grass fails from drouth. The largest varieties are best, but all are valuable. It will flourish in any good corn land, but a sandy loam suits it best. If properly managed on such land, it will produce more food value to the acre than meadow on the same land would do. Four tons of cured grass to the acre is no uncommon yield. The average quantity of seed to the acre is half a bushel, but some sow more and others less. The time for sowing is not till permanent hot or summer weather sets it—from June 1 to the middle of July. It is emphatically a hot weather plant, and sowing should always be delayed till frosts are all out of the way. It has a fine seed and special preparation of the ground is required or its minute roots and leaves dry up and perish if a ready and strong hold of the soil is not obtained.

A very fine tilth is absolutely essential to its successful growth. There is no use sowing it on cold and wet ground, nor on ground that is dry, hard and lumpy. On such ground the seed will not be likely to come up at all, and if it does, it will perish in its early growth and leave the ground free to the hardier weeds which will follow it. On light, fine rich soil, it makes a quick and heavy growth. The value of the crop for fodder depends very much upon the time of cutting. If left standing till the seed begins to fill, it becomes so full of woody fibre as to make it harsh to the mouths and stomachs of animals and greatly to reduce its value. It is most profitably cut for fodder when the heads are well started out, but before they get their full size, and certainly before blossoming. If left till blossoms are out, it will be past its prime, and will quickly become worthless as straw. When cut thus early it is an unusually rich fodder, and makes excellent milk, butter and flesh. It is one of the best crops grown to mix with fodder corn for ensilage.—*Corr. N. Y. Tribune.*

The Poultry Yard.

LITTLE chicks are as healthy in Montana as in any country.

INDOLENCE is noticeable quicker in the poultry yard than anywhere else about the farm.

POULTRY keepers will find that it is perfectly natural for fowl to lay if in good condition and supplied with comfort.

WHEN living gets cheaper and farmers get better fixed, eggs can be produced as cheap here as in the Eastern States.

WHEREVER a flock of fowls that have good quarters and are well cared for, you will find owners that are well pleased with poultry, and who will maintain that they are profitable.

ONCE hatched, there seems to be no trouble in growing chicks, we care not how early they come out. After the first few days they thrive without extra care.

SHOULD a fowl become crop-bound, it may be immediately relieved by making an incision in the crop and emptying it. When emptied, wash out with warm water. If the incision is large take a stitch in it. The bird will experience no difficulty from the operation.

FARMERS' daughters who expect to spend their days on the farm will find the care of poultry a healthy, lucrative and pleasant pass-time. They all like to have eggs and early fried chicken to set before their friends who come to see them, or to make the home glad with two or three times a week, and it will be a source of pride to them and their parents to know that their own care has produced them.

NESTS AND SETTING HENS.

Experience teaches us it is a good plan, no matter what size of fowl you prepare the nests for, to select the safest and cleanest place in which to deposit eggs and which affords the surest preventive against the hens eating their eggs or those under the sitters, and the safest place from disturbances, which is somewhere in the dark or in the darkest and most secluded part of the hatching room or hen house.

Hens should not be disturbed unnecessarily during hatching. See that they come off once a day at least for feeding, dusting and drinking. Many times an egg gets broken by the sitter or by other hens trying to lay in the nest. If by accident or otherwise, it must be taken out and the eggs that have become smeared washed in tepid water and returned at once to the nest. If the nest is soiled, fresh bruised straw should be put in place and everything made as snug, clean and comfortable as before, without frightening the sitter.

Do not allow the laying hens to have access to the nest if possible, but if you have not a hatching place secure or away from intruders, place a screen or latticed door in front to keep out those that have no business there, and mark the eggs all around the middle with light streaks of ink or pencil, and you can easily detect a fresh one laid by an intruder. All nests not made upon the bare ground should have a damp sod or loose earth at the bottom. This dampness is beneficial, as it supplies the moisture the eggs lose during the process of hatching, the shells are more easily broken by the confined chicks, and it is more cleanly in every way.—*Ex.*

MILLET FOR CHICKENS.

The food of chickens is often unsuitable to them. They are left to shift for themselves on many farms, and get only what their mother gets and can provide for them. The value of millet as a food for chicks is hardly appreciated as it should be. The variety of diet that should be sought for the chickens is much aided by feeding millet seed. It is nutritious easily obtained and digested, and much liked by the little creatures themselves. After they once become used to eating it. The golden millet is generally conceded to be the best adapted for this use, being a large seed and very productive. It is by many preferred to rice for them, though the latter is much esteemed for the purpose while they are young.—*Indiana Farmer.*

The Household.

French Soup.—Take a sheep's head, remove the brains and steep the head. Put it into a saucepan with three quarts of water, one teacupful of pearl barley, six onions, one turnip, one carrot, a bunch of sweet herbs, and a few cloves. Let the whole simmer gently for about five hours, then remove the head; strain and rub the vegetables through a sieve, or leave them whole, according to taste. Let the soup stand all night, and, when cold, take off every particle of fat; cut up the meat from the head into small pieces, and warm it up in the soup; season to taste, add a wine glass of white wine, a little mushroom catsup, and thickened with butter and flour.

Lemon Pie.—Juice and grated rind of one lemon; one cup of sugar, one cup of hot water, put on the stove to heat or put in a tin quart basin in boiling water. Beat the yolks of two eggs with two dessert spoonfuls of corn starch, add this to the water and lemons, let it cook till thick. Cover a pieplate with paste, and bake it; pour in the above mixture. Beat the whites of the two eggs stiff, add a little powdered sugar. Spread it over the top and brown in a hot oven.

Squeaking Shoes.—Her nice new shoes squeaked so she was mortified every time she walked across the floor. Her brother John bored little gimlet holes through the bottom soles, and poured in a few drops of sweet oil. Then the shoes ceased squeaking, and she was once more happy.

Cabbage for Salads.—When you cannot obtain celery for salad—and this is sometimes the case—cabbage may be used in place of it, with extract of celery for flavoring, or celery salt may be used; choose the firm, white part of the cabbage, and chop it fine.

Tablespread.—For the common sitting room a tablespread made of canton flannel is useful. The border is made of the figured or brocaded canton flannel, which is a novelty in the stores just now; or you may trim it simply with a stripe of cretonne.

HICCOUGH can be immediately relieved by administering a lump of sugar wet with vinegar.