



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 prospect of a large fruit crop in Louisiana is better than it has been for a number of years.

The grape thrives well on rich, loamy soil, or on the poor gravelly hillsides. Like other vines, however, it does best when well cultivated and carefully managed.

From the present outlook, our farmers who raise wheat this year should not expect to receive more than ninety cents per bushel. If they can raise it for less than that they can make money.

THE HUSBANDMAN is doing for the farmers that which no other journal can do, and every person interested in agriculture should read it. Send in your names and the names of your neighbors.

If you intend to raise a crop next season, you should make all necessary preparations now when there is nothing urgent to be done, so that at seeding time you may begin early and put in full time.

NORMAN J. COLEMAN, editor of the Rural World and President of the Mississippi Valley Cane Growers' Association, recommended in his address the organization of a National Cane Growers' Association.

To raise grain cheaply farmers should be supplied with the latest improved farming implements. Gang plows, seed drills or broadcast sowers, and self-binding harvesters. They should also have lively-stepping teams.

MR. PURDY, of the Fruit Recorder, has a new strawberry which he calls the Jumbo and which he says is of great promise. It is large, very late, good quality, firm and a good yielder. If it pans out in accordance with all these promises, it will be a very valuable acquisition to the list.

Those farmers who have made a specialty of raising barley for brewers, may grow that grain with more certainty of a good market than any other crop, but those who are inexperienced will find barley raising an uphill business in this country, besides it is not all of our lands that are adapted to growing brewers' barley.

LAST spring we advertised for a month or two a variety of oats called the "Welcome Oats." A number of farmers sent for these oats for trial, and we would be glad to learn what success they had with them. Will some of our friends who tried them kindly inform us something about the experiment; whether or not the oats matured and how they compare with other varieties grown in this Territory?

THE Country Gentleman says two things are necessary for the growing of good asparagus, namely, plenty of room for the plant to grow and copious manuring. The latter is best applied to thick beds by covering the whole surface with manure two or three inches thick, late in autumn, and fork-

ing it in very early in spring, before the new shoots start. Thick beds, however, should not be planted, but the plants allowed three or four feet each way to each. Three by five is a common and suitable distance, and large stalks may be obtained in this way.

THE problem of what to do with the germ has never yet been solved. Recent articles in some of our contemporaries have sought to show that this portion of the wheat berry may be reduced to flour along with small particles of middlings, or perhaps of bran; flour not every white, it is true, but still nourishing, and too valuable not to be saved from the offal.—St. Louis Miller.

ALFALFA is being grown in Montana with good success, and farmers would do well to sow a few acres. It grows rapidly in warm weather, and should not be irrigated except in mid-summer, as too much water seems to retard growth. The most successful fields are upon high bottom lands near rivers, where the soil is of such a character as to afford sufficient moisture to the roots. It does not thrive well in marshy lands, yet it requires some irrigation for the first two or three seasons after sowing.

THE experiments conducted during the last season at the Missouri State Agricultural College fully demonstrate the advisability of mulching potatoes. We believe every experimenter so far reported gave a similar result. The cost of the materials for mulching is usually very small, leaves or straw being plentiful and cheap upon the farm. The materials muffle the ground; and mulching saves hoeing. The potato requires a cooler climate and moister soil than our latitude affords. Mulching tends to secure both. The result in every case has been largely increased yields of superior quality.—Ec.

NOTWITHSTANDING there is as yet ample free pasturage in all parts of Montana, our farmers are well aware that our grasses are gradually being fed down and that the time will eventually come when they will not be sufficient to sustain their stock, and in view of this fact they should begin to raise their own hay. It has been proven that timothy hay can be grown here with as good results as elsewhere in America, but it takes several years after sowing for it to become sufficiently rooted and thick enough to produce a full crop. The yield when fully set will be fully double that of our heaviest wild meadows. Therefore, to be supplied in the future with sufficient good feed for stock in winter, farmers should now begin to make their own meadows. In localities where blue joint grows plentifully it will not be necessary to sow timothy. But enough land should be allotted to growing hay and a sufficient supply of water turned on to enable the meadows to become well set.

DR. SHAW, President of the Colorado Horticultural Society, makes the following suggestions in regard to planting trees:

When trees are received in the fall, open all bundles, dip the roots in thin mud and bury them in a pit in dry soil with roots two feet deep and tops even with the surface; work the soil well among the roots, and fill up and mound over the tops six inches deep. After the ground is frozen put a little manure over the pit. Grapes and small fruits—except strawberries—are kept in the same way. In the spring raise the trees early and heel in, covering the tops with straw to prevent too sudden drying, and plant when the ground is warm. If your trees and plants don't arrive in the spring till the ground is warm and buds are well started and broken, don't be frightened; it is just the time. Plant carefully according to directions and you will be surprised at their quick, healthy growth.

TOO MUCH WHEAT GROWN.

There seems to be a widespread opinion that American wheat can be profitably disposed of in England at less than five shillings a bushel, which will have the immediate effect of forcing English farmers in very large numbers to suspend the further cultivation of this grain because they have no money to waste in extravagant agricultural pursuits, and the estrangement between the land-owning interest and the tenant farmer is becoming more and more pronounced every day. Our great agricultural success has been most flattering in the past few years. We have increased our wheat crop 100 per cent. since 1875, but in doing so we have not thrust out of cultivation a like proportion of any of the wheat acreage of

other countries, and during that time Europe has had an almost unprecedented succession of crop failures. Had the crops of other countries been on an average during this period, our largely increased crops would have produced a serious depression in domestic farming, and the progress of wheat growing would have received a check. It would seem that we were on the eve of a severe practical test of the question of comparative ability to compete. If our wheat crop is kept up to anything near our present magnitude, we may have a range of prices that will starve our growers on either side of the Atlantic.—Milling World.

ALFALFA.

Mr. George W. Rust, formerly connected with the National Live Stock Journal, now residing in Colorado, writes to the Breeder's Gazette: "Alfalfa is regarded in Colorado as our most valuable forage plant. Every description of stock appears to like it and thrive well on it. Both horses and cattle will reject all other kinds of hay when alfalfa is in the manger. Horses when using it can be kept with one-half the grain they would require when on hay. Sheep like it. Hogs can be fed on it the whole year; i. e., they will graze upon it in summer and eat the dry hay in winter."

In speaking of the soil upon which alfalfa grows, Mr. Rust says: "As to soil, it is planted here on every kind we have, and aside from a peculiar sensitiveness to alkali, appears to do well everywhere. It does well upon the up clay soils and upon the alluvial deposits in the creek bottoms, but does not take hold well in a boggy places where the soil is cold and wet."

WEAK WHEAT

In quality, our last winter wheat crop is decidedly inferior to what may, in this respect, be termed a good crop, as it also is largely short in quantity. The grain in many States is shrunken, light in weight and deficient in gluten, and therefore, will make less and poorer flour per bushel than in ordinary years. With good milling, it turns out a white handsome flour, but it is very deficient in strength. This is especially the case with flours made from the Clawson and Fultz varieties of wheat, and such flour branded extra on account of its color, has lately been sold in this market as low as \$3.25 per 100 pounds in bags. There is plenty of this weak stuff left, and except at a very material reduction in the price from that obtainable for strong flour of no better appearance to the eye, sales of it are extremely difficult.—Millers' Journal.

FARMERS MUST READ.

Did ever a lawyer or physician succeed in his profession without much reading and study? Every lawyer has his library, and must not only be posted as to what "the code" says, but must keep himself posted concerning the new laws which pass Congress and the Legislature of his State. If he neglects to keep up his reading and study he will soon degenerate into an antiquated pettifogger.

The doctor, after years of reading, courses of lectures, etc., etc., must have his books and medical journals at hand, and must read and study them. After years of practice, as new forms of disease and new remedies appear, he continues to find to the end of his life, that there is something to learn. If he discontinues his reading he will soon be called a quack or an "old fogy" and deserves the name.

How is it with the farmer? A man living on a farm, plowing a few acres of ground and keeping some stock is called a farmer. He may never have gone through any training for the business, and never read much about that or anything else; but it is "no trick to be a farmer," and he goes at it blindly, and calls it good luck when he succeeds and bad luck when he fails. No lawyer or physician more needs a course of reading than he. The soil he tills is a study fully as intricate and instructive as Blackstone. The improvement of his stock and the best manner of making that improvement is another study and so on indefinitely. Success in each department requires study.

Farmers should not be satisfied with books on agricultural topics alone. They should not only have them, but each family should take two or three or half a dozen agricultural papers, and should read them and profit by what they teach. The few dollars spent in this way will be like bread cast on the water—it will come back again. If farmers make a study of agriculture they will be

able to detect the mistakes which appear in some of these papers. For instance, some farmer reports to his paper some experiment he has tried, and some other farmer finds when he tries the same thing that it "won't work." He should study out the reason why the process is at one time a success and at another a failure. In short each one should study and know for himself.—American Farm and Home.

The Poultry Yard.

FOWLS which are expected to lay during the winter months must be amply fed with good nutritious food. Many costly fowl houses fail to keep healthy their inmates, principally because of the absence of thorough ventilation. The Bronze turkey is the smallest departure from the wild turkey in respect to color, and a decided improvement on it, both in size and lustre of color.

JOHN W., of Fredericksburg, Ohio, writes to one of our exchanges, saying: "As some contributors have been publishing egg records, it is now my turn. I have a hen that in one successive laying, laid 82 eggs without wanting to hatch. If any one can beat that for common stock, let him speak out."

ONE EGG FOR TEN PEOPLE.

One ostrich egg for ten guests is the pattern of the California ostrich farm. "One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten," said Dwight Whiting, counting the guests he had invited to spend the day at the ostrich farm with him. "I guess one egg will be enough," and having given utterance to this expression, he wended his way to the paddock, and soon brought to the house an ostrich egg. For a whole hour it was boiled, and though there was then some mis-giving as to its being cooked, the shell was broken, for curiosity could no longer be restrained, and a three-pound hard-boiled egg was laid upon the plate. But aside from its size there is nothing peculiar about it. The white had the bluish tinge seen in duck eggs, and the yolk was of the usual color. It tasted as it looked—like a duck egg—and had no flavor peculiar to itself. But it was immense! As it takes twenty-eight hen-eggs to equal in weight the ostrich egg which was cooked, it is evident, that the host knew what he was about in cooking only one. There was enough and to spare; and before leaving the table the party unanimously agreed that ostrich egg was good.—Anaheim, Cal., Gazette.

CHICKEN CHAT.

Somebody says that Plymouth Rock pullets are not always early layers, for they often grow for ten or twelve months before laying, though some lay as early as six months after hatching."

Well that's news to us, and we have kept Plymouth Rocks quite a while, too. We have had Rock pullets commence laying at six months, and once we had a few that didn't do a thing toward earning their own living till they were almost eight months old; but seven months is nearer the average and that is what we count on when selecting the pullets that are to be kept for winter layers. The pullets that are hatched from the first of March up to the first of May, commenced laying all along from the middle of September to the first of December. Pullets that we want to commence laying in February, are selected from those hatched in July. It would really be very gratifying to me if the people who know no more about the Plymouth Rocks than they do about the fate of Charley Ross, would keep their twaddle out of print.

One of my correspondents is very anxious to know if the Langshans are the "coming fowls." Hardly. Fanciers who have tried them pronounce them the "best bird that were ever imported from China," which is pretty high praise, but all the same they are not popular with farmers. They will never hold the place that the Plymouth Rocks hold. Since you wish to buy tows of the breeds for which there will be the greatest demand next season, I should advise you to get Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes. These, in addition to the Light Brahmas and Brown Leghorns that you already have, will give you the four breeds that are the most popular, and if you have good stock, and let people know that you have got eggs for hatching, you will probably have orders for all the eggs that you will care to sell.—Fannie Field in Prairie Farmer.

CHICKENS IN COLD WEATHER.

When the fowls are compelled to roost in their own house and have not the warmth of cattle or other stock to fall back on at night, their home must be built warm enough so that their combs and feet will not freeze. Fowls that are not comfortable and warm cannot lay eggs for their owners. Stove heat is not needed to get eggs in winter, but warm, sunshiny quarters, with a varied diet of warm mush and buckwheat, with chopped up meat scraps. A feed of wheat screenings once a day is an agreeable change and is a good food to produce eggs. Five cents worth of cheap meat a day will supply thirty laying hens with all the meat they want. The fowls should be sorted out and all the hens that are going to be kept through the next summer put with a good, active, strong constitutioned cock, and the other cockerels and pullets and old fowls that are to be fattened or sold, put by themselves and fed liberally—all they will eat—and got rid of as soon as possible. It will be found profitable to put a new cock, a thoroughbred, with the flock, every year.—Farmer's Advance.

IMPORTED EGGS.

Eggs are coming to this country from Europe and have been for the past twelve months or more, and the average farmer will be surprised to learn that an opening exists in which this new industry is apparently flourishing. The value of eggs imported last year is placed at a round million dollars. This sum is doubtless above the actual figures, but admitting that it is only half a million, this is a sum which appears to the average reader should be kept at home. This character of competition was wholly unexpected, and discloses the fact that eggs are much scarcer and higher here than the circumstances warrant, and it is not creditable to the industry or enterprise of our farmers, that a portion of the community should be eating the necessarily stale eggs that are imported 2,000 to 3,000 miles. This matter furnishes food for reflection and may serve to call attention to a somewhat overlooked industry that could be made profitable. The idea of the United States importing eggs is monstrous.—Dirigo Rural.

The Household.

Mending Rubber Boots.—Get a piece of rubber—an old shoe will do, but vulcanized rubber will not do—and cut into little bits. Put these into a bottle and cover to twice the depth with spirits of turpentine or refined coal tar naphtha—not petroleum naphtha. Stop the bottle and set it on one side, shaking it frequently. The rubber will soon dissolve. Then take the shoe and press the ripped or cut edges close together, and put on the rubber solution with a camel's hair brush. Continue to apply as fast as it dries until a coating thick enough is formed. Spirits of turpentine are slowest in dissolving the rubber, but the cement, formed by their means is the most elastic.

Sweet Bread Cake.—Dissolve an ounce of German yeast into half a pint of tepid water, work gradually into a pound of flour; let this rise, and then add two ounces of dissolved clarified butter, a quarter of a pound of sugar, a little finely shredded candied orange peel, caraway powder, and ground cinnamon. Let the cake rise for half an hour, then put into a well buttered tin, and bake slowly until a golden brown (the oven should be very hot at first, and then be considerably slackened, or the cake will not be a good color). The addition of a beaten egg is an improvement which should be added when the butter is mixed in.

Cream Puffs.—Boil half a pound of butter and two cups of water, and three-quarters of a pound of flour and cook one minute. When quite cool add first the yolks and then the whites of six eggs, and bake ten minutes.

Cold Veal.—Cold veal is an abomination, but it can be made into a very good dish. Put a piece of butter as large as an egg into a saucepan, and when it is melted put in a teaspoonful of flour. Be careful to have it thoroughly mixed with the butter, but do not let it brown; add salt, a little mace and pepper; pour in one cupful of hot water, then put in the veal sliced very thin, and heat over a gentle fire. Just before serving stir in the yolk of an egg. French cooks often add a few drops of vinegar.

Oatmeal Cookies.—Very good cookies for children may be made by substituting two-thirds oatmeal for wheat flour in any of the ordinary recipes.