

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN HUSBANDMAN

Vol. 9.

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MONTANA TERRITORY, MAY 8, 1884.

No. 26.

## Rocky Mountain Husbandman.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY.

R. N. SUTHERLIN, - Editor

W. H. SUTHERLIN, - Associate Editor.

TERMS, - - - \$4.00 Per Year.

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.

### ADVERTISING RATES.

	1-in.	1 1/2 in.	2 in.	3 in.	4 in.	5 in.	6 in.	7 in.	8 in.	9 in.	10 in.
1 week	\$2	\$3	\$5	\$7	\$9	\$11	\$20	\$30			
2 weeks	3	4	7	10	12	15	28	40			
1 month	5	8	12	18	22	28	48	60			
3 months	10	16	24	36	42	52	88	120			
6 months	18	28	36	48	54	65	120	200			
1 year	30	40	60	75	90	105	180	250			

Transient advertisements payable in advance. Regular advertisements payable quarterly. Twenty-five per cent. added for special advertisements.

Remittances by registered letter, post-office order or draft at our risk; but not at our expense. Any one failing to receive his paper regularly should notify us promptly by postal card.

A subscriber desiring to change the post-office direction of his paper must communicate to us the name of the post-office to which it has previously been sent, otherwise we may be unable to comply with his request.

## Agricultural.

**FLOWERY MAY.**  
BEAUTIFUL country homes.  
PEACE and plenty is the sure reward of industry.

The farmers wield the destiny of the nations of the earth.  
A GOOD living is assured to every one who tills the fruitful earth.

WHEAT should all be sowed by this date, but oats succeed well sown as late as May 15th.

Sow the land when fresh plowed so that the grain will come up without having to be irrigated.

EVERY farmer should have at least a dozen plants of rhubarb with which to supply his own table.

CARE should be taken not to sow cockle, wild sunflower and other obnoxious weeds among your grain.

CARE should be taken in planting garden seed not to get them so close together that the different varieties will mix.

The seed drill is preferable for May sowing, since the ground is beginning to dry out and the drill puts the seed down where it is moist.

In a country like Montana there is no excuse for not having the garden nice and clean. Put in good fix in the beginning it will remain so.

Our best farmers maintain that it is carelessness to allow fields to become set with wild sunflower. This can be prevented by proper cultivation.

Our natural soil is rich enough to grow a very choice variety of vegetables, yet by thoroughly enriching it, both quantity and quality of the vegetable may be improved.

The reports from the States say the spring is cold and backward. In some sections it is cold and rainy with raw winds. In Montana it has been dry and cool, days sunny and nights frosty.

The Rev Beecher, who seems to put little faith in Providence, has discovered a remedy to get rid of the Canada thistle. It is to plant it as a regular crop for profit, when it will soon be seen that worms will gnaw it, bugs will bite it, beetles will bore it, spiders will web it, birds will peck it, heat will scorch it, cold will freeze it, rains will rot it, and blight and mildew will cover it.

It has been suggested by Nebraska tree culturists that owing to the dry nature of our soil, trees that send their roots down into the earth are the best adapted to our country; but for all that, those whose roots spread out near the surface seem to flourish best. The mulberry is of this family and it is believed would make a nice ornamental tree and good wind-break for our farms.

A FARMER had better work four days in the week with good teams and good implements, directed by intelligence, than six days in the week with poor teams and bad tools, directed by brute force only.

CONSIDERABLE fence building may be done after the crops are all in. We have seen large tracts of land plowed and planted and the fence placed around it immediately afterward. There is usually some time for doing this work between the time for seeding and irrigating.

We have noticed that a number of persons who have planted shade trees have already irrigated them by pouring water around the trunks. This is wrong. The trees do not need irrigating at present. When they do, the water should not be poured against them. It is best to wet the ground in such a manner that it will become moist around the trunk and roots. Farmers make a great mistake in flooding young trees. Cut the ditches so that the water will run near the trunks, but not against them.

Do not burn the meadows over if it can be avoided. The fire often burns too deep and destroys the roots. It is noticed that hay land burned over in the spring does not yield as much hay as where it is left alone. Whether the meadow is too short or not, it should be run over with the mower. Of course in opening new meadows it will be necessary to burn off the long dry grass the first time. We believe, however, the land in that case should be flooded enough to dampen the ground and prevent the fire from burning too close.

Do you want to grow strawberries of the largest size—as large as those we read about? Select the Sharpless or Longfellow or Jucunda or Lincoln and plant them in rich soil and keep them scrupulously free of weeds. Cut off every sucker as soon as it

appears as well as every blossom. In the Spring of next year permit a few flowers to set and then a little later cut off all but the largest. Water as often as needed at night with water which has passed through old stable manure. You will have berries which will surprise you and which will take the premium at the fairs.—Es.

Why may we not expect to see pears grown with success in Montana? They grow abundantly in Russia. Mr. Gibb, who has spent two years in that country examining into fruit growing there, says: "In the public square at Simbrisk, in latitude 54°, on the Volga, a climate as severe as at the city of Quebec, the wild pear is an ornamental tree, and seems the tree which suffers least from dryness of air and diminished rainfall. I must add also, that the one tree of largest diameter of trunk which I happened to see during a journey of nearly 1,000 miles on the Volga, was this wild form of pear—a tree at Saratoff nearly three and a half feet in diameter of trunk, measured near the ground. At Simbrisk it was, that we first met with extensive pear culture in extreme climates. Here there must be in orchard, I should think, 10,000, and these mainly of two wild forms. At Saratoff we find trees seven or eight inches in diameter of trunk, which appeared quite hardy, and said to bear good crops. We find an orchard here of 500 large pear trees, all but one variety in good healthy condition, and this in a climate as cold as at the city of Quebec, and so dry that irrigation is necessary for

profitable orcharding. Here the Bessemlanka pear was considered their best. The fruit is green with some russetty brown, tender, rather juicy, gritty at the core with few or no seeds, quite free from astringency, mild and pleasant, though not to say buttery.

PLUMS FOR OUR NORTHERN CLIMATE.

Few of our people have any confidence in making fruit growing a success in this latitude, yet judging from what is being done in Russia, it does not seem at all improbable, and we are satisfied it will prove a very superior country for all kinds of small fruits since these are found growing wild here. We find strawberries on every mountain slope, raspberries in every canyon, and gooseberries and currants fringing nearly every stream. We also find wild plums growing in some portions of the Territory; and it seems a great success might be made with this variety of fruit. Prof. Budd, who has been to Russia studying up the matter, says of the success of growing plums there: "South of Vladimir but still near to the 50th parallel, where the mercury reaches 50° below zero, the plum is raised in quantities absolutely immense. These plums vary in season and color, but they are all of one race, which seems indigenous to Northern Asia. Many of the varieties we met at Nistomy are equal to the best German plums, which they resemble in shape and texture of flesh. The color is red and the suture or seam at one side is peculiar to the race."

Mr. Gibb, who is also writing on Russian fruit growing, says: "In all our most Northern rambles in Central Russia, we find the plum grown in fair quantity, and supplying a certain amount to the local markets. In the severe climates of Moscow, Vladimir and Kazan, we find plums, and some of them of really fine quality, and we

are told that in the village of Gorbatovka, forty miles from Nipni Novogord, they are grown in large quantity for the Nipni and Moscow markets. These plums belong to a family, more or less nearly related to the Quetsche or prune plums of Germany and Hungary. Like the Vladimir cherry, these Northern forms of the plums are dwarf in habit of tree, often bushes, and this seems to be a provision of nature, for in these cold climates it a plum bush is killed to the ground, new shoots soon grow and bear. Of these plums there are a great variety; some are red, others yellow, but mostly blue; they differ widely in flavor, some, I would say, equal to the Lombard; some are early, some late; they are usually without any astringency, and generally freestone. I was not prepared to find such plums in the cold climates of Russia. The improved varieties of the wild plum of the Northwestern States I had expected to be the future plums of the Province of Quebec. I have some of them, heavy and reliable bearers, but of medium quality only. There are much better varieties than I have, for instance the DeSoto and others, but these non-astringent, fleshy, freestone Russians, have a combination of good qualities, which entitles them to extensive trial in our cold country."

Thus it will be seen that we are neither too far north or in too dry a region for the successful growing of this fruit, and we would not be surprised some day to see Montana the plum orchard of the Great West.

## SCABBY POTATOES.

The man who learns all that ought to be known concerning the potato scab, will have learned something well worth seeking for. Many believe that the rough, scabby skin of some potatoes is due to the work of angle worms; others contend that wire worms do the mischief, while a few charge it to the common white grub. Some believe that hog manure is a certain cause, and very many are inclined to the opinion that all animal manures will tend to produce scab. Dr. Henry Stewart, in an article in the *Rural New Yorker*, seems to teach us that the fertilizer men can make a compound that will grow smooth potatoes in spite of the worms, which would like to destroy them. We have found but one man who feels sure that he has solved the scab problem, and we think he is liable to change his mind after his method is tried by others upon other kinds of land. To guard against this difficulty, we would plant upon new ground, that is, upon ground that was recently in grass, and had not produced a crop of potatoes for some years, and we would prefer chemical fertilizers in place of strong stable manures of any kind. But then we could not feel at all sure that we would promise our customers smooth potatoes in the fall. Last year we planted a field, giving it uniform treatment throughout, but at harvest time we found the potatoes at one end of part of the rows almost ruined by scab, while in other parts of the field the tubers were as clean and smooth as one could wish. The scab is a serious trouble to the potato grower, and is worthy the careful study of all who can give it intelligent attention.—*New England Farmer*.

Eggs that have been transported by railroads should be set at once if possible after receiving them.

year, but ought to lay half that certainly, or 120. Eight eggs will weigh a pound, and 120 will weigh fifteen pounds. A hen will eat about the equivalent of two bushels of wheat. In the country, where chickens have the run of the farm, they pick up worms and other insects, eat grass and pick up grain that would be otherwise wasted, and hence cost less. But the cost must be based on the supposition that they are fed the year round, and that we have done. When eggs are plentiful they may often be substituted for meat to the great delight of the children especially, and to some advantage to all, so far as health to the consumer is concerned.

## MANAGEMENT OF YOUNG CHICKENS.

It is wonderful, the unerring instinct manifested by chickens in a day or two after coming out of the shell. They will quickly begin to scratch and dig and roll in the soft earth and grass—if you offer them the opportunity. Naturally they are exceedingly fond of earth worms, little grubs, spiders, and any insects to be seen or dug up from the ground's surface. The mother encourages them to make this search, from the hour that they are fairly launched upon their new state of existence. And they will follow this habit to the hour of their death, whenever and wherever they have a chance to enjoy this luxury. It affords them exercise. It furnishes them (in the grass or pasture run) with a thousand little particles of insect life, that can in no other way be supplied, and which are not only grateful and conducive to their thrift, but which help to feed them with what no artificial hand or cunning can provide.

Varied food, in all cases, is most desirable, and this plan should be neither neglected nor slighted, if the best results are aimed at. Ample supplies should be furnished regularly, and the early feedings should be frequent. They should have milk, too, if possible. When the corn-meal mash is made up it should not be a very wet, sloppy, scouring swash.

All the sunshine they can have, from early morn to sunset, warmth in the coops at night, and security from rats or cats should be afforded. These provisions are required, in order to rear good healthy chickens. In the Northern States they may be allowed to run abroad and forage during the pleasant days of April and May. The grass will have fairly started, the ground is alive with insects, and the chicks will grow rapidly, if we continue to feed them regularly, and afford them their liberty to range, also.

The hen-mother will wean them in the course of the second month after hatching, and she will go to laying again. The chicks will continue to thrive, and all will progress prosperously, barring the little accidents that may occur.

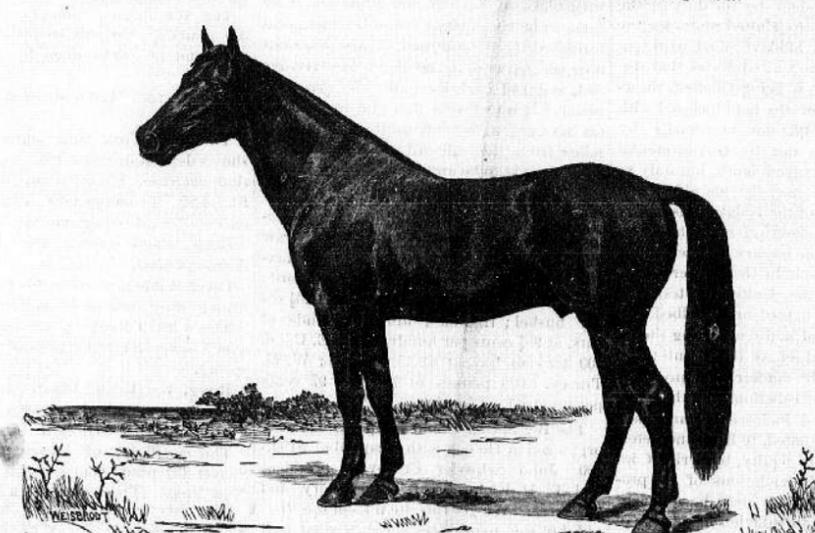
At from two to three months old, they will need more spacious quarters than they have heretofore enjoyed at night. The old coop will by this time be crowded when the brood gather together at evening to roost. During the period previously mentioned, the coop should have been frequently moved about—from place to place—to give the growing chicks a fresh, clean bit of ground.

These suggestions are intended to apply to no particular kind or breeds of chicks, although there are fanciers who have found certain varieties more delicate than those of other colored birds, and noticeably more difficult to raise.—*Poultry World*.

## SCALY LEGS.

The unsightly affection known as "scaly legs," that so disfigures fowls, need never be seen to any extent in the poultry runs if the disease is taken in hand seasonably. It is easily cured in its incipient stage; and breeders should always be on the lookout for this, as they should be for roup or other irregular conditions which their fowls are more or less liable to from time to time. This is, in character, parasitical. The scales are occasioned by myriads of small insects, invisible to the naked eye, but clearly made out by the microscope. They huddle in whitish-gray blotches, at first, upon the shanks of the fowl, and if not removed or destroyed early, will increase very rapidly, until they and the dandruff-like scales, which the irritated skin matures and throws off in great quantities under such circumstances compose lumps like the carbuncle on the neck of the turkey-cock, but of hornier and rougher substance, which finally terminate in lumpy, white sores, like aggregations of salt rheum.

There are a number of remedies for this complaint, coal oil being effective. Mercurial ointment is good, and lard will often cure it. The *Poultry World*, of Hartford, Conn., sells a preparation at 25 cents a package, that is very effective.



"ALMONT," THE GREAT SIRE OF TROTTERS. Owned by Gen. W. J. Withers, Lexington, Ky.

## The Poultry Yard.

LEGHORN chicks will feather out in two weeks and are therefore more hardy than Asiatics. However, it takes about two of them when half grown to be equal to one Brahma.

PLYMOUTH ROCKS are an excellent bird for the farm; so also are the Asiatic varieties; but we would prefer non-setters for village use, as town-folks give their attention principally to the production of eggs.

A GREAT many poultry raisers are troubled with barren eggs, especially in the early spring. Barrenness is the result of several circumstances. The one least often recognized is the lack of green food. This explains why the eggs are most often barren in the spring; later the hens find green food for themselves. A little will suffice. Use cabbage leaves, chopped turnips, onions, etc.

It costs twice as much to make a pound of pork as it does to make a pound of eggs, and a pound of eggs is worth three times as much as that much pork. This looks like a strong statement in favor of eggs, but it is nevertheless true. An egg, like milk, is a perfect food itself. If fed on eggs alone young chickens are furnished all the necessary elements for the production of flesh, bone, muscle, feathers and all that goes to make a perfect chicken. As to the cost of production: A hen may lay 240 eggs in a