



AGRICULTURAL.

How to Make Boys Hate Farming.

A farmer wrote to a member of the New York Farmers' club, requesting him, if possible, to find for him a boy who is honest, truthful, not lazy, and who will be likely to love farming.

If a boy is justified in running away, most assuredly he would be when he is directed to go alone to perform a job every faithful laborer hates. If you wish to keep a boy on the farm never set him alone, when the birds are singing, the squirrels are chattering and the violets are unfolding their charming petals, at picking up stones in a large field.

The American farmer grows corn year after year, and it is sent to England, where it is converted into beef, mutton or pork for market, in doing which the farmers of England make such vast quantities of rich manure that by its application to the land the yield frequently doubles the rent, while the American farmer in cultivating his own land so weakens its production by not consuming his produce at home that it ceases to return him fair average crops—a fact which will be sorely felt by posterity.

The soil is the foundation upon which the hopes of the farmer must rely, but he must not expect it to dispense its gratuitous bounties unless he reciprocates its favors. Or it may be likened to a machine that converts dead, inorganic matter into vegetable life for our subsistence; we must supply the machine with plenty of grease (manure) in order to give scope to its greatest utility. Nor is this all; it needs also our care, attention, and the application of our skill and judgment before we can expect it to do good work.

The higher aim in farming. The higher aim of every intelligent tiller of the soil, should be the improvement of the productiveness of his land, until it reaches the point where maximum crops are produced at the least expense. Wise husbandry regards the farm simply as a machine for turning out crops. The machine is the matter of first importance. This is always to be kept in good running order, and its efficiency is to be increased by all economical methods.

When all Jim gets is an old straw hat. There is no precept and no reasoning that will induce boys to stick to the farm like the old-fashioned words "Come boys," always accompanied by an irreproachable example in leading the way. Strange as it may seem to some, boys are human.—Working Farmer.

Soil Inexhaustible.

We read and hear a great deal about the inexhaustible fertility of the soil, that the idea of exhausting the fertile prairies of the West it too much like trying to dry the ocean with a spoon etc. This doctrine may do very well for visionary theorists to teach, but the actual facts stand out in too bold relief to justify any such groundless assumption. The old system of selling everything off the land for other people to convert to their own use, has brought State after State into comparative impoverishment, till the evil is spreading to what was once called "the West"; for it appears that Ohio is already going down hill at a rapid rate, and other States of the West and South-west are following in the same track. What else can be expected of a system which exports everything from which is made the strongest and most enduring manures?

The soil of Illinois and other Western States, it is true, is deep and rich, but it is not all on top or near enough the surface to be available to crops; and we already hear from the most reliable sources that the soil of Illinois is giving out most unmistakably; and unless the system that now prevails is changed—the time is rapidly approaching when the lands in that State will also be obliged to succumb to its exhausting effect. It does not require the mental ability of a soothsayer or of a scientist to know that manure must be applied to maintain the fertility of any soil; otherwise continual cropping will soon run it down, despite all the thorough cultivation and deep tillage of a thousand theorists. Nor do we need any other constructor than the common law of nature to teach us that to take away anything from something lessens the amount, quantity, capacity, force, or any other property of the latter. Just so with the soil. It is no matter if its fertility is so great as to produce one hundred bushels of shelled corn to the acre, and its productive powers are reduced only the one hundredth part in as many years, its complete exhaustion would only be a question of time at last.

Do Plant an Orchard. No man has lived in vain who has built a house, planted an orchard, and raised a child. This is an old Spanish proverb expressive of homely truths. Fruit is the natural food of man. The molar and incisor teeth of man were given for a fruit and vegetable diet, and only a pair of cuspid or eye teeth are placed on either side for the purpose of an occasional diet.

Those animals which live together on flesh have teeth adapted to tearing, like the lions, cats, &c., while those destined to feed on grass, like the cow, sheep, &c., have only teeth fitted for cropping and masticating their food. Now if nature, through the structure of our teeth, stomachs, intestines, &c., tells us that fruit is man's natural food, is it not criminal in us as rational beings to attempt to falsify the laws that nature has ordained, and refuse to supply ourselves with what a beneficent Providence seeks to give us in abundance?

The head of a family who refuses or neglects supplying fruit for the little ones is unworthy the trust given him, and, sooner or later, is apt to pay the penalty of his poor stewardship. Do then, Grangers and farmers, plant fruit trees of every kind indigenous to the soil and climate in which you live, do strive to feed cheaply with healthy food those dependent on your judgment and support. Fall is the season of the year to begin an orchard or a garden if we want sure returns. It is also the time to prepare a vineyard, and plant a full supply of berries of every description. Ignorance, idleness, and sloth are these setting sins of that farmer who never has time to tend a garden or plant an orchard. If any of our readers are cursed with the sin, let us assist in the name of the country that he now throw it off, and show his repentance by at once preparing to set out fruit trees and berries of all kinds sufficient to give an ample supply of good fruit for his family, with some for his neighbors. Do this, and long will you be remembered in the land, and your name will be called blessed.—Louisville National Granger.

Effects of Cold in Fattening. A producer of pork in Muskingum county, Ohio, who has made an experiment upon which they are grown. In carrying out this aim, so as to realize these results, a man shows his skill as a cultivator. It is a comparatively easy thing, for any one who has money to improve the soil so that it shall produce crops paying for the labor of \$200 or \$300 an acre. Stable manure, enough well ploughed in, will do this. But it is altogether another matter to make this improvement pay for itself. Yet, it is a possible thing to do this, and there are farmers skillful enough to accomplish this result, and this we hold to be the true aim in the cultivation of the soil. The most judicious improvements, those which finally pay the largest profits, require several years to bring in their full returns. It is a matter of great importance that our farming population should not only be settled, but that they should feel settled, and plan all their operations upon the farm as if they expected to spend their days upon it.

Mr. Smoot lost no time in resorting to the remedy though it was somewhat different from the hypodermical treatment administered by the physicians. An old iron pot, of extra dimensions, such as are used in the Old Dominion, Mr. Smoot's place of nativity, was immediately brought into requisition and filled with the remedial agents. A dense smoke was raised from the burning wool, enough to smoke out all the Macleath witches in the incantation covenants, and with perfect success. Mr. Smoot desires his most heartfelt thanks to be returned to the kind-hearted sympathizer, and is happy to say he experienced the greatest relief in the application of the remedy. New life, as it were, and motion was restored to the afflicted limb, and he enjoyed a delightful rest after the operation. The facts of the case are sent to the Sun as of value to all who may be similarly wounded.

A Singular Remedy.

Mention has been made, says the Baltimore Sun, of the case of A. R. Smoot, commission merchant, who was so seriously injured a few days ago by jumping from some boxes, on Light street wharf, on a nail two and a half inches in length, which passed nearly through his foot, firmly clinching him to the floor. Mr. Smoot subsequently received per mail a postal card from some kind-hearted person, which read as follows: "Reading of your painful accident in this morning's paper (the Sun), I take the liberty of sending you a remedy which is considered infallible. It is simply to smoke the wound or bruise that is inflamed with burning wool or woolen cloth twenty minutes. The smoke of wool will take the pain out of the wound. I hope you will try the remedy and be benefited."

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Boys not Suited for the Farm. If the only good that a boy ever did about a farm was to repair the pump, hang gates, make mole-traps, put in rake-teeth, file the saw, and hang the grindstone, and he did these things well, obviously the farm is not the place for him—but the machine-shop is. If a boy will walk a half-dozen miles after the day's work is done to hear a political speech; if he takes the time from play to attend trials before a justice of the peace, and sits up half the night when he is going to school to learn declamations which bring down the house at spelling-schools, most likely he will do the world more good if you put a law-book and not a manure-fork in his hand. If he earns more money in trading jack, knives and fish-lines on rainy days than he does in hoeing potatoes and cutting grain in fair weather, give him a chance at the yard stick, and not have him around troubling the other boys who are handling horse-rakes and pitch-forks, and the like employments. Again, if a boy is skillful in skinning small animals and stuffing small birds; if he practiced making pills of mud when he was a child, and extracted teeth from jaws of dead horses with pinchers when he got older; if he read physiology while his brothers are deep in Robinson Crusoe, he will be far more likely to succeed with a lancet than with a scythe.—Phrenologica Journal.

Burying Potatoes. The Canada Farmer gives the following method of burying potatoes: Potatoes should be laid in compact heaps, and covered carefully with straw. Over the straw put about eight inches of earth, and over the earth a good thick layer of straw. Over all put six or eight inches of earth. Frost will go through almost any thickness of earth alone, but it will suffice to keep it in place. By using straw and earth combined, time is saved in uncovering when the roots are wanted to be got at. If the snow is blown from the heaps during the winter, and the cold is very intense, it will be well to cover them with a coating of coarse manure.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS. Valuable Recipes. FRICASSEED POTATOES.—Pare and slice, half an inch in thickness, into cold water, the required quantity of potatoes, and wash them well; put them into a clean sauce pan and pour over them cold water enough to half cover them, and close the pot tightly and let them cook fifteen minutes, then drain off every drop of water; have ready a half pint of cream or new milk, a large spoonful of good butter, a teaspoonful of chopped parsley, and some salt, and pour this over the potatoes and just heat up. Serve hot.

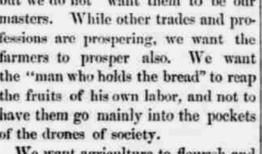
CURING HAMS.—A good receipt is to rub the hams with fine salt and sugar, and lay in a dry place. After five or six days rub again, putting on some new salt, as the old becomes dry and does not penetrate. At the end of eight or nine days apply the salt again. Use sugar only the first rubbing. Keep the salt on them until the shank looks white and the skin draws down tight; when this is the appearance the hams are ready to smoke.

The Grange Means Peace. In a late circular the Executive Committee of the Missouri State Grange very truthfully says: There are many professional and trading, and even some of our brethren, who seem to think that the mission of the Grange is to fight everything and everybody. Never was there a greater mistake. If any body of men mean "peace on earth and good will to men," it is the Grangers. We desire the prosperity of all good men. We have no antagonism to any honest calling, trade or profession. We want all to flourish and prosper; but we do not want them to be our masters. While other trades and professions are prospering, we want the farmers to prosper also. We want the "man who holds the bread" to reap the fruits of his own labor, and not to have them go mainly into the pockets of the drones of society.

We want agriculture to flourish and the tillers of the soil to be elevated financially, socially, and educationally. And why should we not try to build up ourselves, if we do not aim to pull down any body else who ought to prosper? There is no agrarianism in the Grange. Every Patron wants all the property he can get honestly by his toil. We do not wish to injure the lawyers, though one of our cardinal doctrines takes away a great source of their profit. One of our proudest achievements is to stop strife and lawsuits among farmers. Where Granges flourish lawsuits diminish, and the little breaches that arise between brethren are healed without litigation.—Farmers' Home Journal.

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