

FARM AND HOME.

Do Farmers Study Enough?

The subject of agriculture is one that demands full as much attention at the hands of the public as it gets. Indeed, no theme presents itself that is fraught with more real import, so far as regards our prosperity than the wants of the agricultural world.

Science can aid the farmer in raising corn or wheat just as much as it can aid the miller in grinding it; and the science to be applied in agriculture is nothing more than a study of the compositions of soils and the properties that are drawn from them by certain grains.

The man of to-day, who conducts his farm upon the same principle as did his grandfather, is doing himself an injury. First, because the old system does not apply; and second, land that is worth but \$500 to \$100 per acre needs to be tilled better than land that is worth but \$10 to \$20; upon the same principle that the more capital invested, the greater should be the income.

This desired study does not depend upon reading alone; men often study each other. Let agricultural societies be formed whose avowed object is for practical information. At this society let there be a full discussion of each other's wants.

It is too often the case that such appeals to the farming community are regarded in the light of "lunaticism." This ought not to be. The farmer should cure himself of the idea that reading and study are incompatible with his calling, and he should never again be heard to say that "John is going to college, and Jim has got learning enough because he's going to be a farmer."

BEST WAY TO SOW CLOVER SEED.—Clover is undoubtedly the most economical and valuable fertilizer that can be used in the West. We frequently hear of farmers sowing clover seed, but they complain that it don't take, so that they lose their seed; consequently, they become discouraged, and discontinue sowing their land, saying they cannot afford to sow seed to be lost.

FEEDING CATTLE IN KENTUCKY.—The Western Ruralist, Louisville, tells the story of a fine farm in that vicinity whereon some 120 bullocks are kept or grass during the summer, and stall-fed during the winter, to the great profit of the owner.

FEEDING COB NURSINS.—An exchange says: A most intelligent farmer of our acquaintance, who is very exact and inquisitive in all his plans for feeding a large amount of stock, both of horses and cattle, buys the nutbins from his neighbors wherever he can obtain them, for which he usually pays per barrel about half price of the sound corn.

STEWED BEEF.—Housewives who are in the habit of using only steaks and roasts, make a great mistake. A capital dish may be made out of the "chuck," as the butchers call it, or the neck, when well prepared. Select a piece of meat as large as the demand of your table may require, wash it well to remove all the blood or soil from the outside, have your dinner pot perfectly clean, salt and pepper the meat well, lay it in the bottom and cover it with water; boil it from two to three hours, or till it is thoroughly tender; add half an onion, a sprinkle of sage, thyme or summer savory.

Care must be used to turn it, and equal judgment is necessary in having it thoroughly well cooked.

The Georgia (O.) Democrat says that a small mess of vegetables, well salted, given once a day to cows will richly pay in time saved in churning and the increased quantity of rich yellow butter thus obtained.

The Sweet Potato—Brief Directions for Planting and Cultivating.

Select rolling or well drained land. It is an error to suppose, as many do, that sandy or gravelly soils only will do. Any soil that can be made and kept mellow from May to September, will do. New land is first rate. It is a common error to select land too rich—such as old garden plots. Such locations produce too much vine. Side hills too poor for a good crop will often prove the best of locations. Such side hills, however, almost invariably need MANURE.

It should be well rotted, and may be applied in hill or broadcast. On heavy lands use anything that will loosen the soil, such as ashes and leaf mould.

HILLS OR RIDGES? On very light soils ridges will do. On loamy clayey soils make hills by all means. I prefer them in all cases: 1. You are more certain of a crop. 2. The potatoes ripen earlier. 3. More bushels of large tubers can be obtained; and, 4. Early in the season, the large potatoes can easily be found by the bursting of the hills, and grabbed without injury to the crop.

The first idea that presents itself to many who attempt sweet potato raising, is a great ridge. In fact the first attempts of the mass of cultivators of this much-neglected esculent, are of such a nature as to bring the least possible return. I have often seen ridges five and six feet from center to center of plant acres, and the tips of hills only measure 24 ft. each way, and tend with horses. This makes hills the proper size. They should in no case exceed 3 ft.; and 24 is better. Make the hills as high as possible; dry weather never hurts sweet potatoes. The very weight of earth in large hills and ridges prevents the growth of potatoes, and accelerates that of the vines.

PLANTING. About the 15th of May, when danger of frost is over, we begin setting out plants, and continue until July. Put one plant per hill, and 15 inches apart in ridges. Set deep enough to have two or three buds below the surface, if cut down by worms they will grow anew. Never set when the ground is too wet to work—put the plants in the cellar with earth on the roots and wait. Choose a cloudy day, or afternoon after 4 o'clock; or early in the morning—especially foggy ones. Do not wait for rain. It is a common error to set plants in a muddy time. I plant very fast, thus: One to drop plants—one to pour water—never omit the water—and two or three to set. Make a hole large enough to hold the roots, insert the plant at the same time the water is being poured, fill the hole quickly with mellow earth without pressing. Do not use so much water as to have it run over the top of the hole; finish off with dry earth. Never water again; it is worse than useless. The philosophy of setting thus is: the water performs the triple purpose of floating the fibres into a horizontal position—carrying the fine earth among them, and putting the water in the only place needed.

AFTER CULTURE. After every rain, as soon as the land is dry enough to work, break the crust in close contact with the plants. I do this rapidly with both hands—clasping, raising and pressing the earth on tips of the hills. A smart boy can thus "hoe" 1,000 plants per hour. It answers all the purposes of a regular hoeing while the plants are young—breaking up ant holes, and giving life to the plant. Keep the surface clear of weeds. Be careful not to hoe too deep. The best potatoes lie immediately below the surface. Never cut off vines. If they root at joints lift them on sunny days. Dig before frost and put in a warm dry place to keep.

The above directions are given by W. W. Rathbone, a celebrated gardener and nurseryman of Marietta, Ohio, and he says that if they are faithfully followed, sweet potatoes can be raised with profit on any farm in Ohio, Kentucky or Tennessee.

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HORTICULTURAL.

Figures About the Flower Trade of New York City.

The Trade in Cut Flowers—Its Development and Statistics.

From the New York Times.] The artificiality of cities is well illustrated by the flower trade; for, whereas, the world over, cities excepted, summer naturally constitutes the floral season, in cities the order of the calendar is reversed. Greenhouses have triumphed over the thermometer, and the vast demands of society have made winter, in the Metropolis, the great season of floral activity.

The aggregate of primroses consumed in bouquets yearly is about 2,500,000; carnations, 1,500,000; camellias, 1,000,000; roses, 800,000; tuberoses, 500,000; violets, 1,250,000; cape jasmines, 500,000. An expert ventures a guess as to the wholesale valuation of these six staples:

Table listing flower prices: Camellias \$100,000, Tuberoses 50,000, Roses 50,000, Cape jasmine 30,000, Carnations 25,000, Violets 25,000.

Total \$280,000. A GREENHOUSE IN A GREENHOUSE.

His flower farm is situated near Flushing, L. I., and of the dozen large ones in the vicinity of the city, is the very largest. It is worth visiting, as the journal in question is worth perusing. Here are twenty-five greenhouses in all. Fourteen are 100 feet in length; five are 150 feet long; and the remaining six are in length fifty feet—making in all a greenhouse length of 2,450 feet. The five longest ones are devoted to the culture of the camellia and other large plants. The cost of erecting and fitting up the greenhouses was \$40,000, exclusively of heating pipes, furnaces and boilers which foot up \$10,000 more. Two and a half miles of cast-iron pipe, a third of a foot in diameter, diffuse the heated steam from the boilers, which, like land levelling, repose in their brick recesses, including in an occasional spout to provide their levitation. The winter consumption of coal averages 250 tons; and there yearly cut of flowers is about half a million. A table of their distribution will give an idea of the repertoire of the florist:

Table listing flower quantities: Double primroses 130,000, White stocks 80,000, Carnations 50,000, Violets 40,000, Roses 35,000, Tuberoses 30,000, Bouvardias 25,000, Eupatorium 20,000, Begonia 10,000, Ageratum 10,000, Geranium-leaf 25,000, Azaleas, Jasmines, Pelargoniums, Heliotropes, &c. 50,000.

Total 455,000. A flower farm like this is a sort of a world within a world.

GUESSES AND ESTIMATES.

The great sources of demand having been enumerated, the estimates of florists may be taken as to their pecuniary value. A prominent member of the trade, and, therefore, an expert, guesses: For Easter decoration \$400,000, Holidays, public and private consumption 600,000, Weddings 300,000, Theatrical bouquet throwing 250,000, Funeral occasions 200,000, Farewell presentations of all kinds 200,000, Dinner ornamentation, buttonhole wear, social presentation, balls and miscellaneous 550,000. Total \$2,500,000.

A NEW WRINKLE ABOUT THE AGE OF HORSES.—A short time ago we met a gentleman from Illinois, who gave us a piece of information in regard to ascertaining the age of a horse, after he or she had passed the ninth year, which was new to us, and will be, we are sure, to most of our readers. It is this: after the horse is nine years old, a wrinkle comes on the eyelid at the upper corner of the lower lid, and every year thereafter he has one well defined wrinkle for each year over nine. If, for instance, a horse has three wrinkles, he is twelve, if four, he is thirteen. Add the number of wrinkles in nine and you will get it. So says the gentleman; and he is confident it will never fail. As a good many people have horses over nine, it is easily tried. If true, the horse dentist must give up his trade.—Field and Fireside.

A New Hampshire farmer tried an experiment in planting old and new seed potatoes. He obtained seed produced 200 miles distant, and an equal quantity of the same variety of seed from potatoes that had been grown on his farm for 12 years. From the new seed, 41 lbs., he obtained 423 large and 630 small potatoes, and from the old seed 380 large and 780 small tubers. The difference in the weight of the two products was but one pound, but in the quantity of marketable tubers the difference was 428 to 380, or 12 per cent. in favor of the new seed. This difference is worth attention, though it is not so great as we would have supposed.

BUFFALO RACES.—Buffalo, N. Y., is determined to be ahead on the racing business. Last year the managers of the Horse Fair gave \$25,000 in premiums. The Courier says they have determined to give \$40,000 this year, being nearly twice as much as was ever offered by any other association. Thirty thousand dollars is offered in one purse for horses that have not beaten 2:30 in public previous to the day of the races. The time is set for the second week in August, commencing August 9th, and continuing four days.

TESTING FLOUR.—An exchange gives the following simple mode as the proper way to test flour: "Place a thumbful in the palm of your hand, and rub it gently with the finger. If the flour smooths down, feeling gentle and slippery, it is of an inferior quality; but if the flour rubs rough in the palm, feeling like fine sand, and has an orange tint, purchase confidently. It will not disappoint you."

To prevent a horse from breaking his halter, procure a small, hard, strong cord, from eight to ten feet long; put the harness on the horse; buckle the girth tight; make a slipping noose on one end of the cord and put it around the horse's tail, close to the body; slip the other through the terrib and biting, and hitch the horse to a post, and leave him to himself. Two or three lessons will cure any horse.

A schoolmaster in Ireland advertises that he will keep a Sunday-school twice a week—Tuesdays and Saturdays.

An Insane Woman Burns Her Child.

NEW CASTLE, IND., Thursday, April 7.—Our town was this morning the scene of a most heart-rending homicide. The wife of Mr. William Redding has been insane for some two years, with occasional lucid intervals. She has at numerous times attempted to take her own life, well nigh succeeding once by hanging, and once by cutting her throat. But never until this morning has she made any serious attempt to take the life of any one else, although her husband had lived in continued fear for the safety of his three children. Seldom has he ventured to leave them for any time in her care. She has seemed rational enough now for some time; has been attending to the duties of her house, and it was hoped she was in a fair way to entirely recover. This morning about 7 o'clock while her husband was working just outside the house, at the yard-fence, she was dressing the children. The baby, nine months old, was in her lap. She spoke to the eldest boy (some ten years old), and asked him, "What if I should burn the baby?" The boy answered that he would go and tell pa if she did, and immediately started out where his father was. No sooner was she left alone than she deliberately put the baby into the stove, and shut the stove door, and then went out and told her husband what she had done. He instantly rushed in and took it out. Its face and arms, and all the front part of its body, were burned into a crisp. Death came to the relief of the little sufferer at 10 o'clock.

Grant and his party, with the intention to attend the funeral of General Thomas, The Press and Herald heads its article "Distinguished Dead-Heads." The who's story from beginning to end is false, as the following statement from the New York Times shows:

"There is no truth whatever in the report published in some of the papers that Hudson River Railroad conductor name Harry Stevens demanded fare of President Grant or any of his Cabinet, or any one accompanying him, and it was refused. Neither is it true that Conductor Stevens formed any one of the Presidential party that if the fare was not paid the party would be put off the train, or the car containing them would be left behind. The party left Thirtieth street Thursday night between 11 and 12 o'clock, the train, by special arrangement, having waited for them beyond its time for departure. A entered a sleeping coach and at once retired, leaving an aid-de-camp in charge. To this aid-de-camp Conductor Stevens applied for tickets for the party, but he none. He so informed the conductor, as still further informed him that he supposed that an arrangement had been effected for the car and fare. Conductor Stevens had of no such arrangement, and when the train reached Poughkeepsie, a messenger was dispatched to Superintendent Toussaint, and the train proceeded."

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Circuit Court—Clinton. BILL FOR DIVORCE. State of Tennessee—Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Anderson county—Term at Clinton, April 8, 1870.

JOHN HERRALD, complainant, against NANCY J. HERRALD, defendant. IT APPEARING FROM AFFIDAVIT FILED IN this cause that defendant Nancy J. Herald has fled to parts unknown: It is therefore ordered that she enter her appearance herebefore or within the first three days of the next Term of said Court, to be held on the second Monday of July, 1870, and plead, answer or demur to complainant's bill, or the same will be taken for confessed as to her and set for hearing ex parte; and that a copy of this order be published for four consecutive weeks in the Knoxville Chronicle.

L. C. COX, Clerk Circuit Court.

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