



The very poor are thrice handicapped in that scarcity of food is usually accompanied by shortage of fuel and thinness of clothing.

A hot soapstone wrapped in a flannel cloth and put in the foot of the bed in a cold room is worth at least 25 cents per application and is about the only thing that makes life endurable in a below zero country.

The discovery a few years ago of large deposits of lignite or semi-formed soft coal in the Dakotas and the more recent manufacture of it into bricks or briquets give much promise to the Missouri valley country as a future manufacturing and industrial center.

The frost of winter cracks the water pipes, nips the vegetables stored in bin and cellar and kills tender fruits not well protected, but the service it performs in disintegrating and loosening the soil of the field and making it easy for the plowman to handle is beyond calculating, more than offsetting the harm it works.

While a majority of folks hanker for a larger measure of leisure than is theirs, the truth is that more people die from too little exercise than ever work after they reach the age of forty-five. Every person who can stand on two feet and move his hands is better off if he has some regular work and exercise, if it isn't more than walking.

A Wolf river apple weighing twenty-five ounces and measuring sixteen and five-eighths inches in circumference took first prize for size at the Spokane national apple show. A Spokane Beauty weighing forty-one ounces and measuring seventeen and one-eighth inches in circumference was exhibited, but it was disqualified because of bruises received in harvesting or packing.

Added to the fact that most corn-cobs are built too wide and without chance for proper ventilation is another cause which is responsible for the spoiling of much corn in the cribs during seasons like the past, when the ear does not dry out properly before husking, and that is a sloshy job of husking which leaves much silk and husks on the corn as it is cribbed, serving to still further prevent proper circulation of the air.

Hood river apple growers received the highest prices for their 1909 crop than for any yet recorded. They were bought by Steinhardt & Kelley of New York city and were handled through the local apple growers' union. Best Spitzenburgs brought \$3.25 per bushel, fancy Newtowns \$2.25 to \$2.40, fancy Jonathans \$2, fancy Baldwins \$1.90 and fancy Orleys \$2.25. The choice fruit was sold to Portland dealers at from \$1.75 per box and less.

There has been much criticism recently of the method which is followed by the government in the disposal of public lands, which requires the would be homesteader to travel hundreds or thousands of miles to register for a drawing when hardly one person in 300 can possibly be successful.

Every housewife should be in possession of "Care of Food in the Home," a very practical bulletin (farmers' No. 375) by Mrs. Mary Hinman Abel and prepared under the supervision of the office of experiment stations of the department of agriculture at Washington. The publication contains a world of information about a great variety of subjects, while the subject matter is tersely put, and to the point. It may be had free by applying to one's senator or representative at Washington.

One of the chief drawbacks to sod in the orchard or a mulching system which involves a lot of dry litter about the trees is the danger from fire, especially in the spring, when things have dried out by warm winds and before the green herbage starts. Where it is deemed best for any good reason to keep an orchard in sod this fire danger should be guarded against by having a strip plowed around the orchard, which will stop a fire originating outside, while occasional furrows in the orchard will prevent the spread of a fire from one part of the orchard to another.

It is probably safe to assume that if the true status of all dairy herds in the country could be known tuberculosis would be found one of the greatest sources of no profit cows. The dairyman who applies the tuberculin test to his herd and eliminates affected animals not only does the public a service by disposing of tuberculous disease, but in the long run puts dollars in his own pocket. Should he do to the tuberculin the Babcock test, to tell him what his cows are doing along the line of butter fat production, he will be able to spot every undesirable individual in the herd.

Experiments which have been recently conducted by the agricultural department show that fruit like oranges, grapes and apples may have their life considerably extended by cooling to a temperature of 40 degrees before shipment. Normally fruit is picked and packed under warm conditions and, while it cools during shipment, does not cool rapidly enough to prevent the rapid ripening of some fruit and the decay of other fruit. It seems clear that this precooling will not only extend the area over which such fruit may be shipped, but it will improve its quality and reduce the amount of ice required in refrigeration.

Farmers' bulletin No. 380, published by the bureau of plant industry, treats of loco weed poisoning and has been issued largely in response to demands of ranchmen of the western plain and Rocky mountain states where the loco weed is found. While investigations into the matter have not been completed, some of the findings are of definite and practical value. The bulletin states that of the two varieties of loco weed, purple and white, the former, although the more poisonous, affects horses almost exclusively, as cattle and sheep rarely eat it. The white is eaten by all three animals and produces disease in all of them. The worst effects of the disease are noticed in animals which acquire a taste for the weed and eat it when other herbage is abundant. Locoed animals may recover under careful feeding and by being kept on a range from which the weed has been eradicated. The cure is hastened by the use of Fowler's solution for horses and strychnine for cattle. Loco weed may be eradicated from fenced pastures by cutting the plant below the crown buds.

The grand champion fat steer of the 1909 International was King Ellsworth, a two-year-old pure bred Angus sown by the Kansas Agricultural college and weighing 1,750. The same animal was exhibited last year, when he weighed 1,400 pounds. His ration the past year has been corn, bran and oilmeal, with alfalfa hay. In the ear lot exhibits the Shortorns had the best of it, not only winning the championships in the fat and feeding classes, but the grand championship carload, the first time in the history of the big show, the prize bunch being a carload of yearlings.

The great agricultural labor of the coming years will not be devoted to developing virgin lands so much as conserving and restoring the fertility of soils already under cultivation.

The danger of vegetables in the cellar freezing on the severest nights may be reduced by having a tub or two or three pails of water there. Water is more susceptible to the action of frost than vegetables and will therefore freeze first.

Owing to the fact that very many of the Danish cows are tethered while at pasture, their owners drive the water to them instead of driving the cows to water, as is customary in America and some other countries where larger pastures are the rule.

There is probably no factor in the winter feeding of the flock of poultry that has more to do in getting results in eggs than in making the hens scratch for what they get to eat. A loafing hen stuffed chiefly with corn never has laid to speak of in the winter or any other time and never will.

The fact that a fellow names his farm is no proof that he is boastful or stuck on himself, but simply that he considers what he is doing sufficiently worth while so that he is not ashamed to have the public know to whom the place belongs. If a fellow doesn't believe in naming his farm, there is doubtless a practical reason for it that is not far to seek.

The 1909 corn crop is far and away the most valuable ever raised, its worth being placed at \$1,720,000,000. While in quantity it is less than the crop of 1903, there was still a total of 2,767,000,000 bushels, which is 3.5 per cent greater than the average for the past five years. The value of the 1909 crop exceeds by 36 per cent the value of the crops for the past five years.

Careful investigations which have been carried on in California in connection with the pear thrips show that from 70 to 73 per cent of the thrips may be destroyed by means of deep plowing in the fall and from 90 to 97 per cent of the remainder by proper spraying under high pressure in a downward direction with a combination spray of dilute tobacco extract and distillate oil emulsion.

The grower of spring or hard wheat on land worth \$50 an acre, with a yield that the past year averaged but fifteen bushels per acre in the spring wheat belt, is up against a practical proposition—namely, his returns at prevailing prices after expenses are paid don't leave him a fair return on his investment. He must either raise a variety of wheat that will yield more bushels to the acre or quit raising wheat altogether except in a three or four year rotation.

It is strange that the stock judges at the big shows don't insist that animals outside of the fat steer class ripe for slaughter should come before them for honors in normal breeding trim instead of the overstuffed, fat and logy condition which characterizes so many animals in the show ring. Especially is this true of the heavier breeds of cattle, which have to be stuffed and polished for weeks and put into an unnatural condition in order to fit them for exhibition. The harm in the system lies in the fact that it gives a wrong impression and leads many a breeder to believe that unless an animal has mountains of fat on it it is not well bred, which is as far as can be from the truth.

John Sundberg of Iowa, whose record of producing 155 bushels of corn per acre the past season was mentioned in these notes, will have to take a back seat for Mr. Batts of Wake county, N. C., who the past year raised 220 2/3 bushels on an acre of ground, as certified to by the state commissioner of agriculture and the chairman of the Raleigh board of trade. This corn would not rank high as viewed by corn show standards, but it delivered the goods—the shelled corn. The variety was Coker's Prolific, which on the acre in question averaged four ears to the stalk, some stalks carrying as many as eight ears. The blue ribbon for the highest yield in 1909 was carried off by a grower in the same county, with 181 bushels.

TURKEY POISONS FAMILY
Cumberland, December 28.—Poisoned by eating cold storage turkey for Christmas, John Cromer, his wife and five children were found helpless yesterday on the floor of their home in Frostburg. Callers found them groaning in pain unable to get out to call assistance. Physicians who were called restored the sufferers with stomach pumps. Several of the family are in a critical condition.

COMMITTED SUICIDE
Cumberland, Md., December 28.—Philip Foutz, aged 30 years, foreman of mine No. 3 of the Consolidation Coal Company at Frostburg, committed suicide on the front porch of his home at 2 o'clock this morning. He lived with his feeble mother, upon whom Dr. Linger called yesterday. The doctor thought Foutz needed medicine, but he insisted it was not worth while, as one bad cold followed another with him. His mother took his rifle from him because he said he intended to kill his dog and himself. She hid it under a mattress, but he found it and, placing the muzzle under his chin, sent a bullet through the top of his head.

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