

FARM, ORCHARD AND GARDEN.

BY J. S. TRIGG.

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Sixteen head of high grade Short-horn steers sold for \$120.00 each at the Chicago stockyards the first week in October.

When an old man of 70 marries a girl of 18 and he gives her \$5,000 the day of the wedding, she may be said to have brought the "top of the market."

In this country there are 10,000,000 more people and 10,000,000 less cattle than there were in 1880. No wonder porterhouse steak has become an expensive luxury.

Country girls will please take notice that it is only town girls with large mouths who take to the gum chewing habit. Town girls with pretty mouths never chew gum.

Albert Lea creamery is shipping butter to China as an experiment. When John Chinaman sets his chopsticks into a ball of that fine western extra, we think we see him grin and say "belly god."

Lice are the bane of the henhouse and poultry yard. They are responsible for most of the ills which affect the fowls, and it is surprising the number of people there are who keep chickens who are ignorant of this fact.

The farther north an apple of any given variety is raised the longer it will keep. Thus the Wealthy apple, which in central Iowa is a strictly fall apple, is kept without trouble till February when raised in central Minnesota.

The Wisconsin experiment station issues a bulletin on the effects of the late hard winter upon the different varieties of apple trees. It is interesting to note that the Wealthy heads the list of the trees reported least injured.

There are lots of men who are thinking of going into sheep. A word of caution right here—go in light. A man can raise hogs and still make a failure of sheep. Start with a small flock, and these of the best kind, and grow into the business.

White clover is a weed killer as well as a honey maker. More of it should be grown. It is of no value for hay and will make the horses slobber if pastured on it, but for other stock, especially for sheep, it makes a most excellent pasture grass.

The calf crop of the country at large is 20 per cent short this year, and this fact effectually disposes of the supposition that cattle are being produced in sufficient numbers to bring the prices of meats down to their former level. Beef has gone up to stay.

The theory upon which a good deal of work is being done by the operators of the new road grading machines is to do the most work on that part of the highway where the machine works the easiest and best, and that is invariably where it is least needed.

There is not today very much if any difference in the profit to be made on the 2-year-old steer or the 2-year-old cow, assuming that both are well bred. The risk is less with the steer, and with our present barbarous method of fencing this is an important item.

The fine and tender varieties of tea roses can be budded upon the common wild rose with perfect success and so budded will bloom profusely. We do not, however, understand that the grafts are thereby rendered any harder or that they may be thus wintered out of doors in latitude 42.

Injury to fruit trees is almost always confined to the south side of the tree in all this northwestern territory. The action of the sun and of the hot southwest winds is mostly responsible for such injuries, and the fact suggests very plainly the wisdom of affording the trees a grove protection on the south.

We would burn the stubble from all grainfields where it is possible and safe so to do. A clean sweep of the stubble by fire is a great weed and insect destroyer, more than most people think. The value of the stubble as a fertilizer is very small, and even that is partially offset by the ashes left by the fire.

The English government has been in the Chicago horse market for 5,000 artillery horses to use in the probable war of subjugation in South Africa. We should think that were these American horses endowed with sufficient intelligence every one of them would balk when ordered into action on the firing line.

Improved methods are greatly improving the keeping qualities of both butter and eggs placed in cold storage, and this process is becoming to a greater extent than ever before a powerful equalizer of prices of both these commodities. May and June eggs and June butter are now held over for the winter market in almost perfect condition.

LAST DAYS.

The beauty of the dying year still lingers with us. The snow king, the great north wind, the frost elves and the blizzard demon, while all ready to descend upon us, as did the Gauls upon sunny Italy in the olden time, still grant us a little respite while the Indian summer queen invests the landscape in a soft, delicious purple haze, through which the sun glows like a ball of carmine fire and the new moon becomes a bloody scimitar hung across the western evening sky. A hush of expectancy is in the air, a premonition of a coming change, a subtle feeling that today is surely the last, just as to the dying there comes sometimes a brief, uncertain moment of transcendent intelligence and rapture ere they pass away. All nature is hushed, for, save the pirate crow, the saucy jay, the cheery little chickadee and the sparrow, the birds have all gone, seeking a kinder winter home. Here and there in the woods a squirrel or a chipmunk may be seen these last bright days securing for his winter store a few more nuts and acorns. The prairies look cold and gray and dead, and the woods are full of the delicious fragrance of newly fallen leaves, while here and there among the all-prevailing sadder tones of color may be seen a stray leaf of a polonivy or a Virginia creeper, blood red and dying late, or a yellow festoon of partridge berry twining across some old, decaying stump like a golden chain, enlacing the breast of a skeleton, lone relics these of the late resplendent pageant of color and beauty left like fragments of decoration in some deserted festival hall. A little while, and the legions of the north will fall upon us, and as the snow king unfolds the earth in a mantle of ermine, and the great north wind roars tumultuously through the forest and over the prairies, and the frost elves trace fairy geometric pictures on the window and electroplate each tree and bush and smallest twig with a scintillant crystal, let us welcome the season of Thanksgiving, of holiday pleasures, of social intercourse, and cement anew around the freestone ties of love, friendship and neighborly regard which make life so well worth living.

The very best conditions for the growth and development of all orchard and deciduous trees are to secure for the roots of such trees as large an amount of moisture and coolness as possible. Forest trees grow under a perpetual mulch furnished by the trees themselves. There is a practical suggestion here for all tree growers.

A certain feeder, who more frequently than did any of his neighbors got the top of the market on cattle, said in reply to a query how he succeeded in so doing, that he let the calf suck for two months and then never let it get hungry afterward. It should be added that in his case he paid fully as much attention to breed as he did to feed.

We note that one man cut 245 acres of corn with a corn harvester this season, this acreage including his own crop and that of his neighbors. This work is the most distinctive and important advance in western agriculture the year 1899 has developed. Inside of two or three years shocked corn will be as common as shocked wheat or oats.

One hundred bushels of corn to the acre is a possibility under proper conditions in the corn belt. Thirty bushels per acre is above the average crop yield. Here is a margin of 70 bushels an acre for the corn raiser to work on. Given favorable conditions, 60 bushels to the acre, and nothing less, should satisfy the enterprising farmer.

We notice a very common mistake which is being made in shocking the fields of cut corn where it is in bundles as cut by the new machines—the band on the shock is put too low down, permitting the top to be opened by the wind. The shock to keep well should be in the shape of a perfect cone, to secure which it should be tied as near to the top as it is possible.

A man, one of the representative farmers of a western state, told us the other day that the ground was so dry on his farm that his fast walking plow team of three big horses made the share of his sulky plow so hot that all the temper was taken out of the metal and he had to quit. You can believe this story or not, just as seems proper. We will not O. K. it.

Because the northwest was visited with an unusually severe frost in September it is no sign that we are to have an unusually hard winter. We recall an October blizzard, a storm which stopped all railway traffic and brought ten days of genuine January winter weather in its trail, which was followed by one of the most mild and open winters the northwest ever had. Don't be a Jeremiah, always predicting trouble a-coming.

While New Zealand is a long, long way off, its people are not so very slow after all. A very curious constitutional provision allows the government to buy any man's land at 10 per cent above its market value. This, it will be seen, prevents real estate being undervalued for the purpose of taxation, as the owner never knows when the government may take a notion to buy his farm at 10 per cent above its assessed valuation.

A European syndicate composed of French, German and Russian capitalists has been formed, with a capital of \$20,000,000, to develop the hog business in the countries named. Attention will be specially directed toward the new country being opened up by the Siberian railway in Russia, where climatic, crop and soil conditions are similar to the Poland-China territory of the northwest. The American hog is today without a rival and has rooted his way into nearly every country on earth.

We know of a farm located near one of our large western cities—which farm, containing 80 acres, is devoted to the production of common farm crops, dairy poultry and the like—which would sell today for \$48,000. The owner has lived upon it for half a century and absolutely refuses to sell an acre of it for any purpose. He says that he gets a good living from the farm, and that is all he wants, and so he milks his cows, makes his hay and plows his corn with the roar and rush of the business of a great city on three sides of him, happy and independent as a man can be. Fool, is he? Well, we don't know, for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth, but rather in contentment with that which he hath. The old man will die pretty soon, and then maybe the boys will make short work of the old homestead and what it brings. It is often that way.

REVENUE RULINGS.

Affect Railroads, Express Companies and Grain Dealers.

RECENT DECISIONS HANDLED DOWN.

Erroneous Impression That the Money Order Business of Express Companies Must Pay the War Revenue Tax.

Recent decisions handed down by G. W. Wilson, commissioner of internal revenue, will be of interest to railroad companies, express companies, expressmen and grain dealers. In some parts of the country who are in the habit of issuing receipts for grain sold. The decisions following are in regard to the stamp tax on the money order business of express companies; freight receipts given by railroad companies and grain tickets issued by grain dealers which are cashed by purported employees of the grain company. This latter decision was made in response to an inquiry from Dakota in regard to grain dealers who had been in the habit of giving receipts for grain bought which were cashed by local mercantile firms without the stamp being affixed, they receiving a small salary for that service.

Money Orders.

The ruling below quoted was made in response to letters from banks in different parts of the country asking a reconsideration of the ruling in regard to the exemption of the money order business of express companies from the operation of the stamp tax. The inquiry says that the ruling in "an unfair discrimination against one class of dealers in bills of exchange, and in favor of another class of dealers in the same. The commissioner in his ruling says: 'My opinion that these money orders or "traveler's checks," issued by express companies are not bills of exchange (upon which the complainants base their contention) finds support in an opinion of the attorney general concerning checks, in which, referring to a decision of the supreme court as to works on commercial law, he says: 'In commercial law a check drawn upon a bank is a different instrument from a bill of exchange, either inland or foreign, and that the distinctions are fully known and recognized in commercial transactions.' Continuing the commissioner says: 'If checks are not bills of exchange, it seems to me that for a stronger reason the money orders of express companies in the form and with the restrictions in which they are ordinarily drawn, cannot be regarded as bills of exchange.' The ruling further says that the objection of the parties to the former ruling was based upon a misconception of its purport and is strictly confined to the money order business of express companies and not in regard to bills of exchange which correspondents confuse with the former.

Express Receipts.

The next decision deals with express receipts and the inquiry upon which the ruling in asked states that a firm receives goods at a certain place consigned to a given point and points the receipt for the firm issued by the receipt to the shipper. The firm, however, give with each shipment a receipt to the party to whom the package is addressed, if the destination is the fixed point, and are taken to the point from which the package was shipped, where they affix and cancel a stamp, and then forward the package with the receipt, where it is signed by the one to whom it is addressed and placed on file in the office where it remains. Correspondents ask if this mode of procedure is correct. The commissioner calls their attention to the law and continuing says: 'You are advised that under the law it specifically states that it is the duty of a common carrier to issue to the shipper or the consignee a receipt, bill of lading or other evidence of receipt and forwarding for each shipment, and to said receipt or bill of lading, or other evidence of receipt and forwarding, and to each duplicate thereof, there must be affixed a 1-cent stamp. Therefore the practice followed, above described is contrary to law. They must issue to the consignee for each package received at the shipping point, for destination at the fixed point, or elsewhere, a receipt, and to such receipt they must attach a 1-cent stamp.'

Continuing the correspondents state that railroad and steamship companies decline to recognize local expressmen as common carriers, and on issuing to them a receipt for the transfer and forwarding, issue an unstamped receipt, treating it as a transfer. This leads to confusion and makes it uncertain to local expressmen as to what is required of them, resulting in some cases in a double stamping, and in many cases the issuing of receipts by local expressmen to which no stamp is affixed. The commissioner in the ruling handed down says: 'You are advised that when a local expressman receives a package, its destination being a point outside the limits of the city in which said local expressman has his office, the local expressman must issue a receipt and to said receipt must affix a 1-cent stamp. If said receipt is sufficient to carry the package to its final destination, although it may require several intermediate lines to complete the shipment, but one stamp is required. If, however, said receipt is only sufficient to carry the package to, say, Boston when it is delivered to a railroad, steamship or express company, said company must give a receipt covering the transportation of the package to its final destination, and to said receipt they must affix a 1-cent stamp. If a local expressman accepts a package for delivery to a railroad, steamship, or other express company within the limits of the city in which said local expressman has his office, no receipt is required to be issued by said local expressman, but the company re-

ceiving the package must issue a receipt or bill of lading and affix a 1-cent stamp.'

Grain Tickets.

The next ruling was made in response to a communication from a deputy collector in South Dakota in which he stated that several grain companies having headquarters in Minneapolis and St. Paul have placed money in the hands of local merchants to use in the payment of grain receipts, which have not been stamped. The letter says the merchants are not employees of the grain company but receive a small salary for cashing the receipts; that they are not in the grain business and the transactions are made with the intention of defrauding the government. The ruling says: 'You are advised that this office has ruled that grain tickets can be cashed by a regular employe of the company issuing same without the liability of the stamp tax, but if cashed by a bank or any person other than a regular employe, then said tickets would require each to be stamped with a 2-cent stamp. In connection with the above you are advised that neither a bank, nor banker, nor an employe of a bank, would be considered a regular employe of a grain company; and would a merchant who receives a nominal salary for cashing grain tickets be considered a regular employe.' The commissioner then directs that steps be taken to ascertain the number of receipts so issued by the grain companies and report the same to the office for taxation.

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY.

The Action of the Board of Control Not Likely to Affect the Factories.

Des Moines, Nov. 2.—If that pearl button incident had come at any other time than the week before election, it would have excited little attention, and as it is, no great fuss need be made over it, for the warden and the board of control are but following the settled policy of the state in letting the labor of the convicts to the best practical advantage. They are hiring out the labor of fifty convicts at 55 cents per day for five years to do the rough part of the work of making pearl buttons. The contractor furnishes all the machinery, tools, etc., and the state the labor and a building to work in. These convicts are now idle—a year ago last summer there were about seventy men in what was called "the idle room," a place where they had nothing to do because the contracts for labor had not called for men enough to employ all the convicts. The board resolved to find something for these men to do as soon as possible to make them self-supporting to some extent and to give the men a chance for improvement. A convict kept in idleness becomes desperate.

The men doing rough work in the button industry cannot affect it enough to be noticed by any person now engaged or employed in that industry. It is such a small matter as to be hardly worth a thought by the most interested person. But it is the principle of the thing that some object to, while the republican leaders are fearful lest it will not be understood before election and will lose the party votes under a misunderstanding and gross exaggeration of what the board of control and the warden have done. Chairman Weaver, of the republican state committee, was not specially pleased with the attitude of the board, and in response to numerous telegrams and letters from points along the Mississippi river, he telegraphed that the republican party would not endorse any action tending to injure a white industry. He did this after consultation with prominent republicans who advised him to say what he did; and that the legislature would stand by him if it ever came to the point.

Chairman Larrabee of the board and Judge Kinne, the democratic member, are strongly in favor of the policy that has heretofore been in force in Iowa of hiring the convicts out to be worked on private work. They are opposed to the state going into the manufacturing business to any considerable extent, because it is required for the needs of the institution. Judge Kinne has just returned from an extensive eastern trip having given special attention to a month's inspection of the institutions of many states to the employment of convicts. He is very pronounced in his opposition to yielding to the sentiment that opposes convict labor. So there is no partisanship on the matter. Mr. Cowley is out of the city, so his personal views could not be ascertained, but there was no reason to doubt that he agreed with his associates. The board of control law was by no means a partisan measure, having been favored by both parties. How then, can the republican party be held responsible for this pearl button contract, supposing it to be wrong to enter into it? Why should Governor Shaw be blamed for something he had nothing whatever to do with? And why should the republican legislative nominees, who never had the least opportunity to incur responsibility in the matter be held responsible? It would seem that the good sense of those who condemn this action would prevent them from being led to vote any differently than they would had it never come up. Indeed, if they want to make an impression in the discussion, the question, the thing for them to do is to acquire standing with the majority of the legislature by sending republican representatives who will have something to say about how it shall be settled.

BANKRUPTCY PRECEDENT.

One Established by Judge Shiras at Dubuque.

Dubuque, Nov. 1.—Judge Shiras refused to Grant Dwight H. Skinner a discharge from bankruptcy. On the trial of a civil case in a state court it was shown that Skinner had transferred his property to his wife, without consideration, and with intent to defraud his creditors. After doing this he filed a petition in bankruptcy. The property transferred to his wife was included in his schedule of assets, and for this reason the court declined to grant him a discharge. The ruling establishes a precedent in bankruptcy.

Read the Courier for news.

PROF. HERRON QUILTS

Iowa College Professor Resigns After a Long Controversy.

HIS OWN STORY OF THE TROUBLE

The Grinnell Institution Will Still Retain the Generous Endowment for a Chair of Applied Christianity.

Des Moines, Nov. 4.—Professor George D. Herron, who has held the chair of applied Christianity in the college at Grinnell, has resigned, and the trustees accepted the resignation by unanimous vote.

The session of the trustees was marked by spirited discussion, not so much over the action of Professor Herron as over the conditions named by Mrs. E. D. Rand, who endows the chair he has filled.

By the terms laid down by Mrs. Rand the endowment will all remain with Iowa college. The one condition is that the salary be all paid to one man. Professor Herron will remain with the institution until the close of the school year. In the meantime a new head for the department will be secured. Professor Herron will continue to live at Grinnell, and will devote his time to lecturing and writing books.

In his letter of resignation to the trustees, Professor Herron gives a history of the long fight against him and among other things says:

When the department of applied Christianity and its conditions were accepted by you seven years ago next May, I frankly said to you that I felt sure my teachings and public utterances would bring attacks upon Iowa college. I also stated that I could make no promises or enter into no covenant, save to be true to the truth as I should understand it, at whatever cost. When you established this department I came to it in all good faith, thinking you were prepared for whatever might come, and hoping that in time my academic work might take its normal and organic place among other departments of the college, and I held myself individually responsible for my public words, through books or from the platform. * * * The presence of the department has not prevented the interior development of the college in all that is best, though it may be that a large number of students have been kept away by the department's teachings. None the less, your position as trustees is made more serious and difficult each year by the recurring demands for the removal of the chair of applied Christianity and its occupant. These demands come not only from the press and from public men who feel indignant at my teachings concerning property, but from old and sincere friends of the college who feel that its well being is being jeopardized because of the lack of support from men of financial means and of influence among the churches. The self-sacrifice and devotion of these old friends of the college demand my full and sympathetic consideration. Whether they be mistaken or not, it seems to me the now generally accepted opinion of your constituency that men who have money will not give to the college while I remain in its faculty; that the churches will not support the college because of my interpretation of the teachings of Jesus. The reports of the secretary and of the faculty committee, at the last annual meeting of the board of trustees, seem to verify this opinion. The college is outgrowing its equipment; its needs are rapidly increasing; yet the money to supply these needs cannot be had while I continue to teach in the college. At least this is what men of means almost universally say when approached, and it is what you as trustees are given every reason to believe. You are thus forced into a position of choosing between my retention as a teacher, and the retention of the support and good will of the financial constituency of the college.

TELLS OF PROSPERITY.

Director of the Mint Asserts the Nation is Enjoying Good Times.

Des Moines, Nov. 1.—"By all the standards of the past," said George E. Roberts, director of the mint, in an interview yesterday, "the country is enjoying great prosperity. The world never saw such production of wealth, such multiplication of the comforts of life, or such widespread distribution of them as is going on now in the United States."

"Doubtless there will be better times in the future, for with more capital constantly available for use and the genius of man forever at work to devise new means to increase production, there must be more and more to divide. It is a great mistake to imagine that such multiplication of the comforts of life can only find employment by serving the millions."

"Of course there are people who do not know prosperity when they see it. It is nothing new that a great many do not recognize a good thing until they have lost it, but I think there are enough practical voters in the country to put a veto on any experimental policy for years to come. The country cannot afford to exchange certainties for uncertainties. It wants a steady course. The people ought to be able to leave what the government may do out of the account in planning their business operations. They can do it if it is clear that McKinley will be re-elected, while if there is a possibility of getting Bryan and a democratic congress all will be upset."

Down east the democrats opposed to Bryan have practically settled down to his nomination. There will be a revival of hope among them if Nebraska should go republican next month, but they have made up their minds that he will be on the ticket, and also to defeat him again. They hope that will end him and his doctrine.

"Bryan has a free and easy way of settling difficult problems to his own satisfaction. He talks about establishing a republic in the Philippines as easily as he talks about establishing bimetallicism at it. While the conditions are just as impossible, it is an old saying that you cannot make an omelet without eggs, and you cannot create a republic without a homogeneous and intelligent people, educated to some knowledge of self-government. It is always best to deal with facts as they exist. It will take generations of culture and advancement to afford the various stages of self-government before the tribes of the Philippines are welded into a nation."

Cure for Insanity.

Centerville, Nov. 1.—Dr. R. Bernard, whose cure of insanity by resecting a bone in the patient's neck has excited great interest among the physicians of this section, has been invited to visit the state asylum and examine the patients there.

At a professional dinner in this city last night Dr. Bernard declared his belief that two-thirds of the insanity cases could be cured by the resecting of diseased bones.

The patient whose cure has brought Dr. Bernard into notice is a wealthy farmer named Bart Neal, of Flano, who suddenly became maniacal and was declared to be incurable. Dr. Bernard had him restored to reason twenty-four hours after resecting the diseased bone in his neck. Several other physicians were present.

department of applied Christianity can remain in the college only by my voluntary retirement from the chair or by my removal by the three special trustees of the endowment. To this voluntary retirement Mrs. E. D. Rand has finally consented. I am entirely unwilling to take this endowment of \$35,000 from the college, and am happy to be able to leave it, through Mrs. Rand's generosity. Upon my retirement the endowment will be so changed as to be turned over to the college, without any conditions attached thereto. I would only ask that the faculty and trustees, in selecting my successor, give the gracious consideration due to Mrs. Rand's wishes in such a selection. I trust that, under more conservative teaching, the department may have a noble and abiding history in the minds and ideals of the generations of the students who shall come and go. And I pray that my nearly seven years' relation to Iowa college may count for something in the service and memories of the college.

Out of justice to you as trustees, I feel that I ought to say to you that I am not sure but that those who refuse to support my presence and freedom to teach in the college may have a right to refuse such support. Anyhow, without regard to the right of either of us, controversy is not a good influence to be about a college or university. And, aside from controversy, I question whether an existing college or university is any place for the sort of work I am trying to do. As a college educator, I have no organization, however, I question any man's right to teach that which the college constituency does not want. He may as an individual teach the people who care to hear him, but not as a member of an educational institution which he does not represent. In any case, I am as sure of the right of men of wealth, and of conservative political and religious opinions, not to want me here, as I am of my right to want to stay. And, though I cannot remain in Iowa college in peace, I leave it in peace, and my deepest love will abide with it. In whatever ways I may serve the college without injury, I trust I may be permitted to do so. I want to be counted as a devoted and abiding friend and defender of the college into which I have put no little of my life, and in which I have spoken words that are blooded with conviction and suffering."

By the terms of the endowment the trustees, Professor Herron will remain with the institution until the close of the school year. In the meantime a new head for the department will be secured. Professor Herron will continue to live at Grinnell, and will devote his time to lecturing and writing books.

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