Semi-Weekly South Kentuckian.

VOLUME X. HOPKINSVILLE, CHRISTIAN COUNTY, KY., OCTOBER 5, 1888. NUMBER 80

ISSUED EVERY TUESDAY AND FRIDAY MORNING BY

W. A. Wilgus,

PUBLISHER AND PROPRIETOR.

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One copy, one year, strictly cash in advance $2,00

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CONSUMPTION

TREES ON POOR LAND.

Why Farmers Need Not Expect Any Pecuniary Benefit from Them.

Much has been written during the past few years in advocacy of planting trees designed to furnish timber, posts and fuel on land so poor that it is of no value for producing crops. Farmers have been reminded that the pine, larch and hemlock are often found on land where nothing else will grow. Their attention is also called to the fact that rocky hills are generally covered with maple, beech, birch and hickory trees. They, too, are informed that the swamp oak, American larch, willow and poplar do best on land that is too wet to plow or even to produce good grass. The impression is given in various ways that timber trees do not do well on land that is rich enough to produce corn, potatoes, and the various kinds of small grains. Most of the first settlers on the prairies were of the opinion that common forest trees would not grow on them. They found them treeless, but they saw trees of various kinds on the elevations in the vicinity and along the water courses. They came to the conclusion that prairie soil was too rich for forest trees.

It is true that the sand plains and ridges of Michigan were covered with pines and other kinds of evergreen trees. So was the almost barren soil in many parts of New England and the Southern States. Almost all the mountain ranges in the country are covered with trees of some sort. Much of the very low land in the South is occupied by cypress trees, while cedar and tamarack trees grow in swamps in many parts of the North. It is not true, however, that these locations and these sorts of soil are the best for them. They flourish not because their conditions are the most favorable to them, but for the reasons that they can adapt themselves to unfavorable conditions and make the best of them. They show that they can make a brave struggle for existence and can succeed in spite of very unfavorable circumstances. They do not indicate the best places to plant trees to insure the largest or the quickest growth. In many cases they simply show that the stones, barren soil, or moisture, have prevented their being destroyed by fire.

Persons who see trees of considerable size on sandy plains or rocky hillsides or in swamps do not consider how long it took them to attain their growth. Many of them, in all probability, were growing and were of considerable size when the continent was discovered by Columbus. There is no perceptible change in their height or circumference during a decade. They did not pass from large to small trees during the lifetime of a man nor during a century. One of these trees represents the slow growth made during many generations of men. It may be well to set out trees on unsightly portions of land to which no manure has been applied and which has never been prepared for planting. But the planter should not expect that the trees will make a rapid growth or that he will ever derive any pecuniary benefit from them. The most that can reasonably be expected from them is that they will cover the nakedness of the land so that the owner will not be ashamed of it.—*Chicago Times.*

PRESERVING EGGS.

A Few Rules That Are Worthy of Notice and Consideration.

Although there are dozens of methods for preserving eggs, yet but few of them are worthy of notice. Limed eggs have been almost unsalable this year, and the lime method will soon be discarded. We give below a few rules that will enable our readers to preserve eggs in a good condition for at least three months, though eggs have been kept as long as six months by the process.

1. Always use fresh eggs, and do not rely on those from your neighbor. You must know that every egg is fresh, as one stale egg may injure all.

2. Use eggs only from hens not in company with cocks, as such eggs will keep three times as long as those containing germs of chicks.

3. Keep them in a cool place—the cooler the better. Anywhere near forty deg. above zero will answer, though sixty deg. will be cool enough for a few months. Only be careful that eggs do not freeze.

4. Turn them half over three times a week, to prevent them from adhering to the shells. The turning of the eggs is very important, and is one of the secrets of success.

5. No packing material is necessary. Simply lay them on racks or shelves; though, if preferred, they may be packed in boxes, in dry oats, and the boxes turned.

6. Solutions, greasing the eggs, egg-preserving preparations, etc., are unnecessary, as some of them injure the appearance of the eggs.

7. Wash every egg clean before placing it with the others.

If the above rules are followed there will be no difference between eggs so preserved and those that are fresh. No person can succeed in preserving eggs who buys them from all sources, and who does not know just when every egg was laid, and it is on that point that so many failures occur. You can not place any dependence on eggs except from your own hens. Even your neighbor is sometimes unable to prevent getting a stale egg in among the fresh ones. Never use stale eggs as nest eggs, or allow sitting hens to be in the room with your layers. The greatest care should be exercised, and the eggs kept always cool.—*Farm and Fireside.*

—A farmer in Corinth, Mo., set a steel trap on one end of a long pole and fastened it to a tall tree, much frequented by the birds of prey of the neighborhood, arranging it so that the trap was a little higher than the tree, thus forming a tempting perch for the birds. The net results were nine hawks, three owls, and one crow.

—Don't forget to plant sweet corn, peas and beans for table use at intervals during July. They will "come in handy" in the fall.

FACTS FOR FARMERS.

—Farmers who must have hired men to help them in their farm work ought not to forget their overworked wives. There is as much need of extra workers in the kitchen as on the farm.

—Country boys ought to be taught the use and value of money. Many a farmer's boy is growing up to manhood with no knowledge of business, but little education and self-reliance. Such young men will be illy prepared to enter into the active business pursuits of life.

—There are two things a farmer can never have enough of: One is feed, the other is manure. Feed obviously makes manure, for it enables the farmer to keep more cattle, and some can always be purchased cheaply in the fall or winter, and make a good profit on the feeding.

—To secure a good crop of grass it is fully as necessary as with any other crop, that good care be taken to have the soil reasonably rich and well prepared before sowing the seed. It is quite a serious error to work upon the plan that land that is too poor to plant to any other crop can be seeded down to grass.—*Western Plowman.*

—Any domestic animal understands and appreciates kind treatment. It is no use to say they are "only dumb brutes." It is true they can not talk, but, like dumb or blind men, their intelligence in other respects is doubled. You can make friends of all your animals if you take the trouble to do so.

—All grass crops make the best hay if cut before the seed-heads form. When a plant produces seed it has performed its mission and stored much of its nutritious matter in the seed. To secure the largest amount of nutrition in hay the grass should be cut while the stalks and blades contain the elements that would otherwise be directed to the formation of seed.

—When stock is turned on the pasture and there left all day, the water supply must be looked after. A milch cow must have plenty of water. She can not wait until she is driven up at night. The water is a necessary constituent of the milk, and she must have it during the time the milk is being manufactured. If deprived of water during the warm days her supply of milk will fall off.

—One who has tried it states that burning scraps of old rubber, rubber boots or shoes, upon a pan of coals that is circulated among the trees of an orchard will cause all insects to depart. This is a very simple means, but we should fear that they would return after a little time. The claim was that there was a sort of consistence to the smoke that adhered to leaves, blossoms, and even the trunks of trees, which, being repulsive to insects, drives them away, and also holds its virtue for some time. If this is a reliable remedy it will be convenient to repel rose-bugs during their period of greatest injury.

—There are farmers scattered everywhere all over the land, who would be in independent circumstances to-day, instead of fuming and fretting around, trying to lift the mortgages on their farms, if they had adopted more system and method in their work, and therefore stopped the little leaks that have kept them behind, and always will. There must be system about the farm if we would have every thing running almost smoothly, without a jar or strain. In other words, there must be a place for every thing and every thing must be kept in its place.—*Ohio Farmer.*

COTTON-STALK PULP.

A Description of the Process Employed in Its Manufacture.

For several weeks there have been on exhibition in the office of the clerk of the Supreme Court samples of pulp made of the hulls and stalks of the cotton plant. The pulp is as white as snow, and can be converted into the finest writing paper. It is regarded as valuable, and is the product of parts of the cotton plant hitherto deemed valueless.

The process by which it is made is new. It is a process by which the ligneous substances of the hulls and seeds are dissolved. By this process over 50 per cent. of the fiber is extracted from the hulls, which have been rigarded as fit only for fuel in the mills or for feed and fertilizing purposes, and which were sold for $4 a ton. These, converted into pulp, will be worth $40 a ton. From the stalks usually left to rot in the fields this new process utilizes about 38 per cent. of fiber at a very small expense. It has been settled that there are fertilizing properties in the oil of the cotton seed, and it is asserted that the fiber will not decompose for six years and can not be used as a fertilizer. This is why the woody matter eliminated from the stalk and hull is much more valuable as a decomposing fertilizer than the entire seed. By the same process the ramie plant and its troublesome cousin, the bagasse stalk, is not and overcome. By the decorticating process the fiber was crushed and torn out by a slow and expensive process.

In the new process the ligine is simply dissolved out, and the snowy films of the ramie and the tawnier threads of the sugar cane are coaxed out as easily as the infantile kitten to its milk.—*Atlanta Constitution.*

Give the Boys a Colt.

Let your boy own a colt. Let it be a blooded one if you can afford it—at least let it have a good sire. Encourage the boy to keep it in good condition and handsome in appearance, thus getting him accustomed to habits of care which will stand him in good stead when he comes to handle other kinds of stock. Encourage him to develop his steed in every way except one—and that is in speed competitions. Whatever you do keep him out of the fair ground trot or pace, and teach him that he is not to learn how much value a good horse can be to a jockey, but of how much use it can be to a man. Nine out of ten farmers' boys who get into the speed-ring are worsted by its associations and tendencies, and we can not close the paragraph better than by urging every father to keep his boy out of it.—*Kansas Farmer.*

THE LOCO WEED.

How to Treat Animals Suffering from Its Dangerous Effects.

The loco or "crazy" weed, about which ranchmen give various and sometimes conflicting statements, is the subject of a paper by Prof. Sayre, of the Kansas State University, and incorporated in a report of the State Board of Agriculture. According to the professor there are two plants known as the crazy weed common in Kansas, Colorado and New Mexico, the astragalus and oxytropis, both belonging to the natural order of leguminosie. Both are attractive plants, and keep their color all winter. The astragalus grows on high ground, it blooms about June, bearing a bright-hued flower; there are a great many stalks proceeding from the base. These stalks are compressed, reclining towards the base and erect and recurved above, with soft, silky pubescence. The leaflets, usually in pairs except the upper one (composed of from ten to twenty pairs), are somewhat densely clothed with soft, silky hairs, more woolly on the under side. The flower stalk is usually longer than the leaf stalk, naked below, bearing a rather thick spike of flowers.

The following is a summary of the effect of loco, based on personal inquiry among ranchmen, by Prof. Sayre: The animal unaccustomed to the weed will not touch it as long as good feed is to be had, but after once partaking of it—driven to it in early spring by the want of green vegetation—soon comes to prefer it to any other food, and finally refuses any other, leaves the herd and wildly searches for loco. The first effect upon the animal is hallucination. When led or ridden up to some trifling obstruction, such as a bar or a rope lying in the road, he stops short, and if urged on leaps over it as if it were a rail fence four feet high. Seemingly the optic nerve is affected; all sense of distance and dimension seems to be lost; a barn near at hand is to him afar off, and one a mile away near by. He will go headlong against a barn or a rock, or over a precipice, as if he were totally blind. The animal will, perhaps, let one get close to him, then suddenly and wildly run away at full speed and as suddenly stop, turn around, and it may be, come right back, stop short, stare, "and act like mad."

A treatment recommended by Dr. Harding and given by the Professor for a locoed animal is as follows: "Pulverized extract belladonna, 10 grs; corrosive sublimate, 1 to 1½ grs.; licorice, 1 oz.; glycerine, q. s. Mix. Make a thin paste, and give a tablespoonful. The belladonna and mercury may be increased according to the severity of the symptoms. Opium combined with the belladonna might be advantageous at the beginning of the disease. Mild and non-irritating articles of food only should be given, such as oil cake, etc." A veterinarian in Garden City recommended the application of a blister behind the ear. This might be good, as also any counter-irritant application along the spine, adds Prof. Sayre.—*N. Y. World.*

POULTRY PARASITES.

Helpful Hints in Relation to the Various Lice Infesting Hen-Houses.

The chief of the lot is the red mite, which is a very small parasite. Unless very close examination is made, this little fellow will escape observation. Many persons suppose that the birds are free from his depredations because he is so diminutive as to escape notice, but give him a few days' grace, and he and his mate will multiply so rapidly that countless millions will be present, and in every crack and crevice. It will be only necessary to place a white rag on the walls of the poultry house, or even touch any part with the hand, to find out if they are there. They do more damage at night than during the day, and as their small size enables them to hide almost anywhere, the best way to destroy them is to make a thin, hot whitewash, add a tablespoonful of strong liquid carbolic acid to each gallon of whitewash, and, with a watering can, sprinkle (or pour, if necessary,) it into every portion of the poultry house, and then follow with a swab or brush. Let no part of the house escape—roosts, walls, nests, floors and even the roofs must be deluged.

The tick louse is a large fellow, nearly one-eighth of an inch in length, dark in color with legs near the head. He prefers the heads of chicks, and sticks close to his victim. He does not like grease, and a mixture of lard three parts, crude petroleum one part, and carbolic acid one-tenth part, rubbed on the head, around the vent, with a drop under the throat, and a good dusting of the chick with Persian insect powder is more than his constitution will endure, and he quickly succumbs or leaves.

The flesh louse, so called because it is nearly the color of the flesh of the fowls, is very active, long in shape, and feeds close to the roots of the feathers. A good dusting with Persian insect powder renders his location very unhealthy, and once he is out of the way, the dust bath will prevent his return.

The flat louse is buff in color, and eats portions of the feathers, often stripping the quills clean, giving the birds the appearance of having lost their feathers. Dust the fowls freely with insect powder, and repeat three times a week.

It is important to keep the quarters clean. The whitewash solution should be applied every week. If this is done with a sprinkler, it will require but a few moments' time. Dust Persian insect powder over the whole of the interior of the poultry-house, weekly, also, and do not forget the outside of the poultry-house.

Never grease any part of a fowl or chick except the top of the head, the throat, around the vent, and the legs, as grease on the body often kills chicks. Provide a clean dust bath of dry dirt, to each bushel of dry dirt adding half a pound of insect powder and a tablespoonful of carbolic acid, mixing the whole well. Keep the house clean, and the birds will free themselves of lice with the dust bath. —*Farmers' Magazine.*

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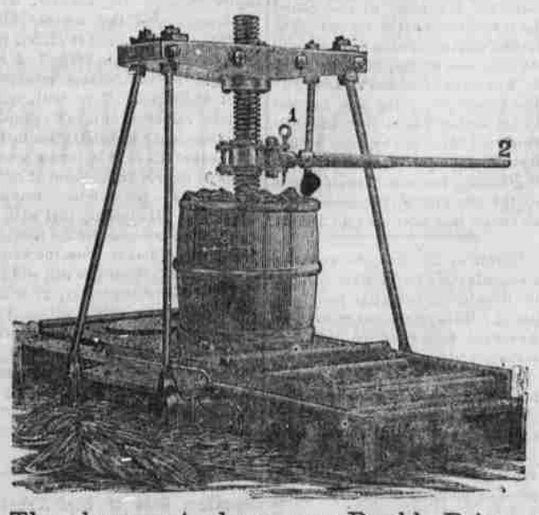

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