

Farm Interests.

Threshing and Straw Stacking.—How to Manage the Grain Bins.

Mr. S. McRamsey, the most successful wheat grower in Warren County, in sending the following clipping for our Agricultural Department, writes the STANDARD the following explanatory note:

To the STANDARD. Mr. Stahl's communication may appear a little out of season. My object in having it published now is in order that threshermen's attention may be called to the importance of attaching stackers to their machines in time for the coming harvest. Wheat culture in our county has reached a point demanding the best equipped outfits for threshing. I am willing (all else being equal) to give the party who will bring a stacker and automatic grain measure with his machine to my place the coming harvest, the preference over others in future harvests. Doubtless others will do the same. S. McRAMSEY, Cor. Country Gentleman.

It is a rare sight now in Illinois, or in the States similar to it in agricultural conditions, to see a grain thresher driven by horse power. The large threshers operated by steam, and capable of a large amount of work compared with the horse power outfits, are generally used. Yet we are pushed as hard for time and labor in threshing season as we ever were. For a time we were pushed even harder; for the steam threshers required an increased force, and at the same time they popularized threshing from the shock. The pressure has been reduced to about the old gauge by the circular straw stacker—a very long straw carrier that is revolved in a semi-circle, thus depositing the straw on all parts of the stack. Only stackers are employed; the long row of pitchers formerly seen, whose hard task it was to pitch the straw from one to another to bring it within reach of the stackers, is no longer needed. This is a great saving indeed—of almost one-half the force required; and the straw stacker formerly offered the hardest positions, so much disliked that even extra wages failed to secure sufficient hands. I would not employ a threshing outfit that did not include a straw stacker. The straw is handled better and with less waste. The semi-circular form of the stack is no objection; it can be so situated as to make a splendid protection from winter winds and storms, and the demand is yet greater than the supply of stables. The chaff is distributed throughout the stack, and not a large part of it left in a heap, as it was formerly.

Threshing from the stack grows steadily in popularity. It is by long odds the most economical when it can be done in good season. The use of steam power in threshing, leaving the horses available for drawing the grain from the field to the machine, and the use of straw stackers and automatic grain measures, which reduce the amount of human labor required, have made it possible to thresh much more grain from the shock in good season. Half the labor of handling the grain is saved; the possibilities of the grain being damaged in stack are avoided, the threshing does not continually confront one while he is preparing ground for wheat or cutting ensilage or fodder. Not so very long ago we supposed that small grain had to "sweat," and that if we threshed before the grain passed through a sweat in the stack we must spread it out on floors, and shovel it around to prevent its damaging. We know better now. If the grain is dry when threshed it may be stored as usual, no moving it about is necessary, and it will go on the market in as good condition and sell as readily and for as high a price as grain that has been stacked or mowed.

Grain should never be threshed while damp. Of course the owners of the threshing outfit will grumble at the idleness of the machine, and urge that there will be no loss from beginning operations. Very like neighbors, who are waiting for the outfit, will also urge that the threshing proceed. But in justice to himself the reader should see that there is no threshing done until the grain is in good condition. When damp, no machine will remove it all from the straw. It is very easy to throw away \$25 to \$50 in grain in this way, the grain saved goes into the bin in a condition that it must be stirred or handled, else it will be damaged; and the damp straw will spoil in the stack.

This brings me to the saying of what has become trite, but it still

needs to be said often until there is a decided reform—save the straw carefully. Three pounds of oat straw have a potential feeding value equal to two pounds of average meadow hay. The value of wheat or rye straw per pound is but little less. For some years yet in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys the bulk of the straw will be stored out-of-doors, and considering the relative prices of feed and of lumber and labor, stacking is probably the most economical. The loss in a well-built stack is not great. But unfortunately a majority of the so-called straw stacks are unworthy of the name. They are only straw piles, and their contents are sadly damaged. The very best hands should be put to stacking. Two very serious faults are common: The stack is made too wide, and the middle is not kept so high as it should be. A stack always spreads; the straw will slip out somewhat in spite of all that can be done. If started as wide as it should be it will grow too wide, and then either the bulge must be sacrificed or it must be drawn in too fast. In either case the result is a poor stack. The middle always sinks the most as the stack settles, for there is the greatest weight upon it. If it is not kept high and well tramped, it will be lower when the stack has settled and the rain will be carried into instead of off the stack.

To get a good stack it will be necessary for the farmer to oversee closely its building; and he will make big wages by having to do, while the threshing is going on, nothing more than to oversee the work. If he does the overseeing properly he will be kept very busy, and he will save waste and have work better done.

The pins should be prepared for the grain beforehand. I have not had the least trouble with weevil or any other granary pest since I adopted this plan: A week or ten days before threshing, the empty bins are swept clean and scrubbed, sides as well as bottoms, with strong brine at the boiling point. I am careful to get this into all crevices and corners. When it has dried, the bins are white-washed into nooks and cracks. The rough of the whitewash is rubbed off just before the grain is put in. Grain should not remain longer than a year in a bin. If held over, change it to another bin. My bins are made of seasoned white-oak lumber, and I find that the mice do not gnaw through them. I keep at least one cat about the granary, that is not allowed to remain about the house, and that is supplied with milk only. I very rarely see mice about the granary, but as Tom keeps fat and sleek, I suppose he makes their acquaintance before I do.

In locating the threshing place, we must take into consideration the probable accumulation of manure. Many make a pretense of feeding the straw by allowing the animals to run to the stack. Some straw is eaten, while more is trampled under foot. This may be excused on the ground that there is greater need of manure than of feed. A plan that under existing conditions in this territory is commendable, is to fence the stack from the animals and feed the straw from managers made near the stack, that the labor of filling the mangers may be reduced to the minimum. The mangers may be made of poles, notched where one rests upon another, to prevent rolling, and the upper courses pinned down. Even when the straw is so fed there will be an accumulation of manure near the stack. Hence we should select a level spot for the threshing place, that the manure may not be leached, as it will if the ground is inclined.

In many localities it is the custom to serve threshermen with very elaborate meals, prepared by much household labor. This makes threshing time the dread of the housewife, who feels herself compelled to keep for hours over the stove, cooking fowl, pies, cakes, etc. This is a foolish injustice to the women—all the greater because the threshermen cannot properly appreciate the women's efforts. A succession of hot fowl when the thermometer in the shade stands near the hundred point, of warm dishes of vegetables, of pies and cakes and coffee, is not near so palatable or wholesome as a meal of cold meats, plain dishes and cool milk. I sincerely hope that every man who reads this will talk the matter over with his better-half, and that there will result a determination to ignore this custom, that would be more honored in the breach than in the observance and to serve the threshermen with plain, every-day dishes, well prepared and abundant, but not evidencing the transformation of the household queen into an overworked household drudge. JOHN M. STAHL, Adams Co., Ill., July 16.

Wealth of the Soil.

Prof. I. P. Roberts is reported to have stated at a Farmers' Institute in Eastern New York, that one acre of the soil, going down one foot deep, contained 2,700 tons in the 40,000 cubic feet or more of the soil, or about 124 pounds to the cubic foot. This quantity of earth contains 4,000 pounds of phosphoric acid, 8,000 pounds of potash and 16,000 pounds of nitrogen. These ingredients, purchased at the present market prices, would cost 4 cents a pound for the potash, 7 cents for the phosphoric acid and 16 cents for the nitrogen, making for the three ingredients \$2,600 an acre. Hence the importance of adopting such a course or rotation in cultivation as will not exhaust these ingredients, but keep them there, and which will increase the fertility of the land without exhausting it. We could not afford to purchase and apply the above quantities in the form of fertilizers.

Make Glad Hearts That Are Sad.

The youth of both sexes that find themselves in a state of ill health at that interesting period when they reach manhood and womanhood, should not let themselves despond. Away with gloomy melancholy! Life is before you, and with proper treatment and care perfect health will be your portion. A perfect man! A perfect woman! The noblest work of God! Keep clear of quack doctors and their pernicious medical literature. They seek to rob you of your purse and to gain this end would frighten the very life out of you. All you need at this time of life is an occasional use of that excellent strengthening medicine invented by that eminent physician Dr. John Bull of Louisville, Ky., called Dr. John Bull's Sarsaparilla. It is a complete regulator of every organic function, giving health and power to every part, and assuring perfect self control. How glad hearts that are sad will be when they know this.

A majority of the railroad companies of the country are doing away with the old system of advertising by means of posters, cards and other such means, and are advertising more heavily in newspapers than ever before. Several companies have tried the experiment, and are well satisfied with the results of newspaper advertising. Several of the large railroad corporations of the country will confine their advertising business for the present year to newspapers.—Saginaw (Mich.) Herald.

A Scrap of Paper Saves Her Life.

It was just an ordinary scrap of wrapping paper, but it saved her life. She was in the last stages of consumption, told by physicians that she was incurable and could live only a short time; she weighed less than seventy pounds. On a piece of wrapping paper she read of Dr. King's New Discovery, and got a sample bottle; it helped her, she bought a large bottle, it helped her more, she bought another and grew better fast, continued to use it and is now strong, healthy, rosy, plump, weighing 140 pounds. For fuller particulars send stamp to W. H. Cole, druggist, For-Smith. Trial bottles of this wonderful Discovery Free at Ritchey & Bostick's Drug store.

It is not possible for us to live always in the early morning. Spring blossoms into summer, and summer flows into autumn which, in its turn, is lost in the death of winter; and the gladdest day that ever broke must of necessity end in night. But we can delay somewhat, and utilize always. It rests with ourselves how much enjoyment we get out of life, and how much work we do between dawn and dark. If we take advantage of the first beginnings and live with the sun, we expand and garner by just so much more.

Many women find great difficulty in arranging their hair becomingly, because of its harsh and coarse texture. By the use of Ayer's Hair Vigor, the hair becomes soft, pliant, and glossy. The Vigor is the most cleanly of all hair preparations.

Every mother knows, though many heed not the fact, that unless she transfers some household duties to the daughter, she encourages her child to grow up in sloth and ignorance. An English proverb thus utters the warning: "A light-heeled mother makes a heavy-heeled daughter."

In a nursery wherein all is life and laugh instead of crying and fretting, there is sure to be found Dr. Bull's Baby Syrup. Price only 25 cents.

Neuralgic Persons And those troubled with nervousness resulting from care or overwork will be relieved by taking Brown's Iron Bitters. Genuine has trade mark and registered pollution on wrapper.



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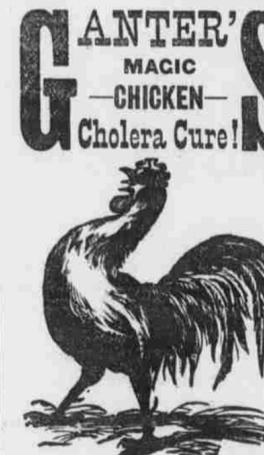
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East Tennessee, Virginia & Georgia Ry. NEW TIME TO FLORIDA. 3 Daily Trains. CHATTAHOOGA TO ATLANTA.

Table with 5 columns: In Effect Oct. 12, 1890, No. 11, No. 13, No. 6, No. 8. Lists train schedules for various routes including Chattanooga, Atlanta, and Florida.

THROUGH CAR ARRANGEMENTS. No. 4 carries Pullman Buffet Sleeping Car Cincinnati to Jacksonville. No. 11 carries Pullman Buffet Sleeping Car Chattanooga to Jacksonville. No. 13 carries Pullman Buffet Sleeping Cars Chattanooga to New Orleans, and Pullman Compartment Cars Atlanta to Birmingham. B. W. WRENN, General Pass. & Tkt. Agt.



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