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ABOUT THE MIDDLEMEN.

CHANGES LIVING PROTESTS AGAINST THEIR EXHAUSTIONS.

What Success Has Been Made—Room for Improvement—Observer's Notes—Prune the Orchard—Creamery Stock Investments—Some Things We Must Do—Feeding Cattle—"Sentinel" Pointers—Good Cattle and Good Cooking—A Collection of New Recipes.

The grange is a living protest against the unjust exactions of the middlemen. While this organization has many other objects, a fundamental one was the reduction of the charges that are placed upon the goods between the time when they leave the producer and when they reach the consumer.

Such a condition of things should not exist, and there is a radical wrong somewhere when such complaints are justifiable. The consumer of country produce is very sure that the farmer must be getting high prices and is prospering, while the farmer is troubled because city folks, as he thinks, are living too cheaply off his labor.

In the first place some blame attaches to us as farmers, and we should bear it patiently or remove the cause. The wants of such consumers are in that respect, they are not as desirable as those from competitors. We must offer what people want to buy and must cater to their prejudices and notions.

Then the farmer is right in laying much blame at the door of the middleman. The railroads are very human in their desire to charge "all the business will bear," just as we might do if we were to exchange places. The middlemen are not without blame. They too often interfere as public servants whose acts are without practical supervision.

Still, do the best we may, there is too much difference between growers and consumers' prices. Oftentimes one is double and even treble the other. The cheap exchange of goods is a problem yet unsolved. We need a more efficient and more continuous service.

Corn is the great American cereal crop. The United States produce about three times as many bushels of corn as wheat. A limited amount of corn is grown on the exceeding fertile and flat lands in which plant food has been stored through pastures, and on such soil many farmers have not had to study the question of crop rotation, or undertake to supply any artificial food for their corn plant.

There is another point that I regard as most important, although many may not agree with me. The most important thing I have ever grown and planted on corn is that it was not turned until the grass had made some growth in the spring. I believe that there is no finer manure for corn than a growth of spring grass.

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YOUR HEALTH. It depends upon the way you treat the worms that will destroy you. A few bottles of S. S. S. taken at the proper time may insure good health for a year or two.

"The Pace That Kills" is overwork.

is overwork. Using greasy and inferior soaps is one road to premature decay—sore hands—sore hearts—clothes never clean. Not so when



Kirk's AMERICAN FAMILY SOAP is used. Cheerfully proceeds the labor of wash-day with health and long life assured.

menting grass helps to warm up the ground and the grasses from it are ready to feed the corn plant. The result is that the growth of the corn is much faster than that on land turned in the fall or winter.

There is another advantage in fresh turned soil for corn. The cut worm is one of its greatest enemies. If the worm has other green matter for food it will not turn to the corn. When young grass is turned under the worm will feed upon it in preference to the corn, and by the time that the grass is fully rotted the worms have passed beyond the need of such food.

As corn is the chief American grain, its production should be profitable to us, but if one takes the average yield and price in the United States it is hard to figure out any profit in it for the country as a whole.

Some make a profit by feeding it. I am unable to see any particular profit in converting it into beef, but at present hogs have made corn bring big prices. It is not advisable, as the soil needs the manure. The question then is, to what kind of stock can we feed it to the best advantage?

Prune That Orchard. An authority upon the subject says that pruning for the purpose of thinning apples:

(1) More freedom of growth for the developing fruit.

THE HOUSEHOLD. Good Cutlery and the Best of Cooking Must Go Together. It seems to be a fixed idea in many households that anything is good enough for the kitchen, yet no mechanical device is equal amount of skilled work would be content for a moment with the average tools furnished to the average kitchen.

THE BEST COUGH-CURE and anodyne expectorant. AYER'S Cherry Pectoral soothes the inflamed membrane and induces sleep. Prompt to Act sure to cure.

What do our readers say? This is a much disputed point. We want to hear from our farmers. In no respect has the difference between the American people and Europeans been more pronounced than in the social and political intelligence of the farmer.

Young men find a changed condition of affairs, and they are inclined to leave farming to others, and to engage in other work. Some of us see the changes, and it is a matter of vital interest to us that farming shall be both honorable and remunerative.

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Feeding Cattle. In answer to an inquiry, Prof. Morrow writes as follows concerning cattle feeding in Illinois: It is difficult to give the average daily ration.

There is great variation in practice as to length of time cattle are fed. Many commence grain feeding early in the fall, with the corn, to cattle still on pasture, continuing this until winter is fairly established—three months or more.

Feeder expect a profit, in part, from the increased value of the whole carcass, and also from the pork made by the pigs, which almost always have access to the droppings of the cattle.

Let the air and sunshine get into your orchard. Isn't six inches deep enough plowing for corn? Early Hackensack is a choice variety of muskmelon.

How about commission houses? Do you find them trustworthy? Let the lamb have some bran and oats in a trough by themselves.

"Female Sufferers—Hear me. Many times I wished I was dead before I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I was discouraged, broken-hearted, I was so ill with female trouble I could not walk or stand, and had to be assisted to my feet when arising from a chair.



Every woman troubled with uterus or womb troubles can be cured, for it cured me, and will them."—Mrs. Kerhaugh, Juniata St., Nicetown, Pa.

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the potatoes, stir until smooth, season with salt and pepper and serve immediately. Omelets—All manner of omelets, stuffed and otherwise, are well suited for luncheon dishes; indeed, eggs under almost any shape whatsoever.

Crester Soup—Have ready about three pints of good fish broth; mince one large leek and two onions; color them in a pan with an ounce of butter and some oil.

Russian Julienne—Cut up an Italian onion and a head of two of celery, parsley, carrots, turnips, and some dried mushrooms previously soaked in water.

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LITCHFIELD, ILL., WRECKED BY A TERRIFIC EXPLOSION IN THE PLANET FLOURING MILL.

Property Worth \$1,000,000 Destroyed and Many Business Houses and Dwellings Damaged by the Concussion—John Carve Burned to Death and Others Badly Hurt.

LITCHFIELD, Ill., March 21.—An explosion resembling an earthquake and destroying nearly a million dollars worth of property occurred here this morning. The loss of several lives and the injury of a number of people resulted from the catastrophe.

At about 3:15 a. m. an alarm of fire was turned in, and upon investigation it developed that the Litchfield planet mill, located in the southwest part of the city, and said to be one of the largest, if not the largest, single flour-making establishments in the world, was in flames.

The head millwright, Mr. John Carve of Waterloo, in making an effort to secure his tools from the burning building, was struck by the explosion and was blown to escape, was pinned against the smokestack and burned to death.

A number of serious but not necessarily fatal accidents are reported. Mrs. V. Hoffmann had a leg broken and Mrs. E. Eichelbrock, jr., head mached.

Excursion trains from all the neighboring towns are bringing in hundreds of visitors to see the remains of what was yesterday the pride of Litchfield.

The theory that the explosion was occasioned by flour dust finds no favor among local millers. "I know nothing about the particulars," said Mr. H. Smith, "but I am certain that flour dust was not the cause.

John W. Kaufman said: "I do not think it possible that the explosion was caused by flour dust." The mill was considered the largest red winter wheat mill in the country.

St. Louis, March 21.—The information received by the Keilor Bros. regarding the Litchfield fire indicates a loss to the owners of \$500,000, almost covered by 300 policies

in 100 companies, represented by Markham & Sons, who refuse to give a detailed statement until advised as to the losses.

VICTIM OF HYPNOTISM. Henry W. Dickson Made to Give up His Property—The Suit.

Chicago, March 21.—A proceeding which reads more like a story of fiction than an action at law was being in the circuit court today. It was brought at the instigation of James W. Dickson of New York City, who seeks the courts of Chicago to wrest, as is claimed, the person and property of his brother, Henry W. Dickson, from the fraudulent undue possession of Henry A. Root, a New York lawyer.

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