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FARM FURROWS.

Farmer and Stockman.

Winter has a way of lingering in the lap of spring, here of late years, until it gets kicked out. After March 1st winter is an unwelcome guest.

Let a storm come any time in March and it seems that fate rules that every sow or cow on the farm soon to farrow gives birth to young just at that time. This is one "sign" that invariably proves true.

With the newspapers filled nearly to overflowing with politics now, I am left to wonder what their condition, as to real news, will be in four or five months from now. Time was when I also tore my shirt over political candidates, but that time is past. I have learned that the politician who is solicitous of my views and feelings before election is hardly liable to speak as we pass after election, so I now take an after-election view of the fellow before election.

There is only one way to know seed corn: That is to know that it will grow. To guess that it will grow may prove costly. Get a hard and fast line on it before you plant.

When I buy a piece of machinery I like to see the maker's name stamped on it in bold letters, as if to say that the maker is not ashamed of it. When you have to hunt around for the name, and perhaps find only some jobber's name then, it is a pretty good sign that there is some No. 2 or No. 3 stuff embodied in the makeup of that machine, and that it will prove costly at any price.

The old-fashioned man who sows clover on the "last snow" will soon have to be keeping his weather eye peeled for the last spring performance of the "beautiful." I always have wondered how it was possible to tell when the "last snow" had arrived.

It is surprising how much can be gotten out of a gallon of gasoline. Furrows' folks have a washer and wringer that is run by a small gasoline engine. A gallon of gasoline furnishes power to run through four big washings. The gasoline costs me twelve cents a gallon, and I know that it is cheaper to furnish three cents' worth of it than to do all that work by hand.

I am convinced that there is such a thing as a progressive and a stand-pat farmer. The progressive does not stand around and knock on every new thing or new law that comes up, but he believes in making progress by giving all new ideas, ways and contrivances a fair trial. The stand-pat is ever for the ways of yesterday, would not progress a step in the road if he lived for a century and is forever grumbling about something and complaining that "things are not as they used to be." When I die I hope folks can really and truly say, "He was a progressive farmer."

Horseradish time is approaching. It's the first thing "harvested" in our garden in the spring, or used to be until it was all harvested. A new "start" will be set out this spring, and in the meantime I find it convenient to call upon a neighbor frequently, who has a row of it in his garden. By the way, how many of the school children can tell why it is called horse-radish?

Talk about hard luck, one of my neighbors lost three valuable horses from Saturday night to Wednesday morning. The veterinarian called it "blind staggers." My unfortunate neighbor is diligently searching for the cause of the sudden attack.

In some states the crow is protected by law and in other states a bounty is placed upon his head. This represents the varying feelings of people towards any one thing. For my part, I am glad a bounty is offered on the black rascals where I live, for they scatter hog cholera, kill young chickens, pull up and corn and do other damage.

When a politician who has accidentally acquired a high office boldly proclaims that we are not capable of governing ourselves, it is a pretty good sign that he is one of the kind who is not afraid to rush in where angels fear to tread. Pigs is pigs, but let us leave our pig raising long enough to see men are elected who will not make it necessary for us to take up arms and fight like a Latin-American insurgent in order to get honest and equal laws.

The ground hog will soon be with his "I told you so" sticking out all over his face. It seems rather queer, but all weather prophets make good guesses once in a while, and when they do they are all, even the ground hog, as proud as fighting cocks until they make a poor guess.

March 1st is moving day for nearly

all renters in this vicinity and this year they found "hard sledding" in more ways than one. Moving is never pleasant, but when both the roads and the weather are at their worst it must be something like war.

The hired man problem does not seem to grow any easier as the years roll by. This year they are getting from \$35 to \$40 per month for eight or nine months, with board and washing extra, which may not be any too much in this age of high living, but it looks like a lot of money to those of us who put in some pretty hard licks for half that amount and thought we were being well paid for our work.

It would be interesting to hear from those who are using hollow brick silos this winter regarding the ability of their silos to keep out the frost. We are all more or less acquainted with the wood silo, but the hollow brick silo is still in the experimental stage and all the information we can get about them from actual users is more than welcome.

The grain drill can hardly be regarded as a labor-saving machine, but it is a crop maker and a seed saver. In order to do good work on fields that were in corn last year, the ground should be double disked so that a fine seed bed will be prepared before starting the drill. Dragging before seeding will usually do more harm than good, because the stalks will be liable to be left in piles that will raise the disks and leave the seed on top of the ground.

If the silo comes to stay, there will be a great change in barn building in the future. The hay loft will be made a great deal smaller and the stock room made larger and more airy because the feeding of silage makes it necessary to keep the cows in a good share of the time during the winter. Frozen feed, ice water and standing around in a cold wind is not a balanced ration for the production of milk and beef.

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