



TEMPERANCE

Give us wine, ruby wine, which it sparkles and glows, And rivals in perfume the scent of the rose; When it moveth itself in its smooth, gentle way, And adds to our pleasure, the joy of its sway.

Give us drink that is stronger by far than red wine, Its mildness and blandness with scorn we decline; Give us brandy to stir all our blood to new life, And drive out all thoughts of the world's strife and strife.

Give us headaches that drive all our senses away; Give us woes without number through all the long day; Give us sadness, and sorrow, and hot, burning tears; Give us days full of anguish, and nights full of fears.

Give us angry contentions and madnes and strife; Give us poverty's darkness to blacken our life; Give us wives in the mad house to curse us and die; Give us sad, hungry children with no place to lie.

Give us redness of eyes and some weakness of sight; Give us noses that shine out like beacons at night; Give us limbs full of weakness that reel as we walk, And tongues that with babblings and foolishness talk.

Give us visions of serpents and all creeping things, Of adders and vipers, each one of which stings; Give us scorpions and nettles wherever we lie, And the darkness of death many years ere we die.

Give us souls that in error and crime have been dipped, From which all of godliness long has been stripped, And a conscience that never shall stir us again; Give us torments of darkness, unending, and then, In eternity, what?

TO YOUNG MEN.

Testimony of a United States Senator as to the Ruinous Influence of Alcohol.

Some time ago, in a prominent social club in an adjoining city, I attended a distinguished gathering in celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of a political event. During the evening a very well-known United States senator, being called upon to speak, began by indulging in reminiscences of the time when this political event had taken place. He recalled the men, who, with himself, had entered public life shortly before that time—men of brilliant talents and high education, some of whom had been classmates with him in college, many of whom were members of distinguished families, who began with high prospects and noble ambitions; and then he said: "Almost all these men are dead, and the majority of them died of drink!" The remark was made in a company of men who had been drinking, and some of whom were drinking in the intervals of the talk. There were a hundred wine glasses around him, and, unless my memory is at fault, the senator had a wine glass before him, if not in his hand, when he said it; but it seemed to me that I had never heard so strong a temperance lecture as was that. These young men were the flower of the community, the highest and the best, according to all our standards of selection, fit to join in society and public life, fit to be useful for their fellow men and their country, and with sincere purpose to make the best of their opportunity and of themselves—and the majority had died of drink. Not one of them had ever contemplated or dreamed of such a thing when they began their career. Probably if such an ending had been held up before them they would have shrunk from it with the utmost horror. Every one of them would have resented with indignation the suggestion that such an end could possibly come to his career. But there was the awful fact, the majority of them had died of drink. The lights had gone out, the diamonds had turned to ashes, the usefulness to waste, the brilliant careers to disgrace, the hopes of themselves and their friends had been destroyed, the talents and the education, the ability and the strength, and the manhood, had been overthrown, quenched in everlasting darkness, and buried out of sight. The majority of them had died of drink. It was not what they had expected; it was not what they wished; it was not what they deemed possible. But this insidious foe had deceived them, and the saying of the wise man comes back with an awful significance, "Whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."—Hon. John I. Platt, in National Advocate.

Sunshine and Love. Sunshine is like love—it makes everything shine with its own beauty.—Wilson.

COMMON SENSE TALK.

Look Before You Leap! Is an Adage That Must Be Considered by Would-Be Farmers.

With enthusiasm for their capital, misled by the fatal lead pencil which figures "millions in it," many "would-be" ask us if we advise going into the poultry, cranberry, ginseng, fruit, goat or some other outdoor business. A good rule of life is "Don't get in a rut." Don't stay in a place just because you are in it. Another is "Don't change too readily. Look before you leap." We do not encourage the sailing of strange seas by unfamiliar craft, yet there are pioneers, and one wise man has said: "To retain youth, change your occupation every ten years."

To all those who long for country life, we will say that as a business proposition any branch of farming is no different from other industries. The wise man does not say: "Lo, I will be a merchant prince," and forthwith rule the commercial world with a ready-to-wear scepter. The captains of industry have all risen from the ranks. If there is any better rule than "begin at the bottom of the ladder," we do not know it.

We do not understand the strange fatality which leads hopeful innocents to embark in bucolic enterprises with little money and no training. It must be the result of the popular misconception that "anybody can farm."

The whitening bones of countless failures show, where these luckless ones dropped by the wayside. They started across the unknown sands, without food, water or provision against the scorching noonday sun, or the deadly miasms of night, led on by the mirage of great profits.

It was once said of a very able lawyer that he was "the best farmer in the state—on paper."

To succeed in any branch of farm life the following requisites, while general principles only, may be of advantage to those who think of trying a new thing:

1. Good health.
2. Love for the work.
3. Persistent and patient endeavor.
4. Some capital.
5. Common sense.
6. A knowledge of the business.

The beginner may acquire health in the process; this will be his first victory. He may lose his first enthusiasm for the work; this will be fatal. "Persistent and Patient Endeavor" means work; we are not considering "gentleman farmers." "Some capital" is broad enough to suit all purses; sometimes the less the better. I don't know why it is called "common sense" when it is so uncommon; anyway it is indispensable. A knowledge of the business may be obtained after embarking, by study and experience, but don't look for success until the experimental stage is past; fortunate is he who lasts through this period.—Colman's Rural World.

HANDY IN HAYING TIME.

A Dumping Platform That Saves One Handling and Lessens Labor in Other Ways.

A Wisconsin correspondent sends the Farm Journal a model of a convenience for use in hay time. In wide mows or bays when the fork delivers the hay in the center in the usual manner it must be forked laboriously to the sides. To remedy this the correspondent has a board



DUMPING PLATFORM

platform (B), six by nine feet, nailed to a four by six-inch piece turned at the ends and pivoted at A, in blocks nailed to the plank (C). A rope is fastened to each end of the platform, so that it can be tipped to either side, as desired. Planks can be laid across each bent and sockets fastened to each one, so that the dumping platform and its attached roller can be easily moved. In order to be effective the bay must drop every time near the center of the platform. On a wooden track this can be effected by boring a hole in the track and putting an iron pin through it. On an iron track the same end can be secured by a clamp screwed on.

Two Classes of Farmers.

There are two classes of farmers, says a recent writer: First, the man who is bigger every way than his farm. To such a man it doesn't make much difference how many acres he has, he runs the farm on close practical business principles and makes a profit. Second, the man whose farm is bigger than he is. No matter how many or how few acres he has, he doesn't run the farm. The farm runs him. E. P. Snyder gives an account in the Ohio Farmer of a dairyman living near Toledo, who keeps 35 Jersey cows on 100 acres of land and has made them earn the past year \$4,400 gross, from which he has a profit of \$2,200. He makes butter and sells it in Toledo at 25 cents in summer and 30 cents in winter. His cows, counting butter, skim-milk and everything, earned him over \$125 apiece. This is an extraordinary herd.

Have ideas of your own. After hearing advice, if not convinced that you are wrong, put them into practice.



CORN DRYING HOUSE.

Description of One That Has Been Used Successfully in Ohio for Several Seasons.

Some time ago an inquiry was made about a sweet corn drying house. I have for several years been raising sweet corn, under contract, and the accompanying illustration will convey some idea of my drying house. It is also my granary, the upper floor containing grain bins on one side. The lower floor and south side of upper floor are arranged for sweet corn. The most essential part of drying sweet corn is to have a



IDEAL CORN DRYING HOUSE.

free circulation of air. Therefore I cut doors through, as shown. These doors are on both sides and on back. They are hung on hinges and can be opened and shut when needed. The sweet corn should be spread in layers, therefore we use racks made of 1x3 inch slats, placed 20 inches to two feet apart, one above the other. If the corn is green and milky when husked, it should be put on the racks very thin, not more than two or three ears in depth, and turned frequently; but if it is more matured and the kernels are glazed, it may be put on thicker. I can dry 500 or 600 bushels in this building.—D. L. Perkins, in Ohio Farmer.

SMALL GERMAN FARMS.

Owner of a Quarter Section Is Considered a Wealthy Person in the Old Country.

G. W. Grimmer, a farmer and feeder at Greeley, Kan., who is a native of Germany, in commenting on the visit of the German student of agriculture to this country at this time said to a Drovers' Telegram representative:

"If a German farmer; that is, the average countryman, has a ten or 15 acre tract of land, he is considered somebody. Many farmers own only five acres, but they plant so many different kinds of grains, vegetables and the like and till and fertilize the ground so well that the five acres is ample to support a generous-sized family throughout the year. A quarter section of land is a moderate-sized farm in America, but in Germany the owner of such a tract of land would be considered a very wealthy person. Another thing in which American and German farm life is different is that the German's farm is rarely in one body. The land there is so valuable and it is divided into such small tracts that a farmer often finds himself owning a couple of acres in a body, an acre or two half a mile away and four or five acres in another direction. The farms are thus nothing more than good-sized gardens. Many a western Kansas farm has a larger garden and family orchard than the average German farm. A farm in the old country costs from \$200 an acre up."

COMMON SENSE HINTS.

- Swap your dogs for pigs.
- Sharp tools make work easy.
- Study, experiment, weigh results.
- Thin sugar beet fields early. It pays.
- Don't think you know it all. Your neighbor may have an idea worth two of yours.
- Many of the little unpleasant things which vex one so much may be overcome by using a little common sense.
- The extension of the electric car line is destined to enlarge the limits of the city and to increase the number of one, two, five and ten-acre farms at the expense of flats and tenement houses. The suburban home will bring light and hope to millions of children.—W. J. Bryan.

An advisory board, to be appointed by farmers' institutes, and to be composed of men of widest experience, to whom could be referred difficult problems connected with the business management of the farm, would prove a Godsend to inefficient, inexperienced and youthful tillers of the soil.—J. H. Watson, in Farm and Home.

The Modern Potato Planter.

The potato planter of to-day would make a farmer of a generation ago sit up and rub his eyes. It requires that the potatoes be supplied, but will do all the rest of its own initiative. It picks the potato up and looks it over—or seems to—cuts it into halves, quarters or any desired number of parts, separates the eyes and removes the seed ends. It plants whole potatoes or parts thereof, as desired, as near together or as far apart as the judgment of the farmer on the driving seat suggests. Having dropped the seed it covers it, fertilizes it, tucks it in like a child put to bed, and paces off the next row with mathematical accuracy.—Farmers' Voice.

LITTLE WASTE PLACES.

Ohio Farmer Tells How They May Be Utilized for the Production of Paying Crops.

On most farms there are small plots of ground in out of the way places which may be dug or spaded up and utilized in various ways, returning a handsome profit for the labor and care bestowed upon them. It is surprising how many of these bits of ground may be found around the average farm, which, instead of lying idle, might be yielding the choicest vegetables and small fruits. Our farm is not large, but the "scraps" of ground yield no small sum.

Along the fences, in corners and on slopes which for any reason the plow cannot reach, I spade up the soil, applying manure from the poultry house plentifully and working it thoroughly through the soil. In these plots I first plant radishes, lettuce, peas or other early vegetables, and when these have been removed I sow turnip seed or sweet corn.

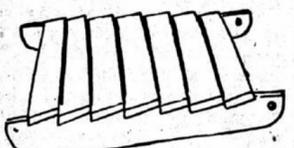
On a strip of land five feet wide and 250 in length, where weeds formerly grew (the leaves and stalks of which have formed a loose, rich soil), I planted several rows of Gregg and Cuthbert raspberries, a bed of strawberries of a self-pollinating variety, in rows two feet apart and the plants 15 inches apart in the rows and a number of gooseberry and currant plants. From this strip, which I gave especial care, I supplied our table throughout the season, and sold several bushels of fruit. I do not refer, of course, to the first year's product, which was small. Rhubarb and asparagus, too, I find are excellent for fence corners and furnish many a toothsome dish. The asparagus bed once established requires little care, only an occasional weeding and thinning being necessary.

It is the little things like those I have mentioned that return the largest profits. The willow leaf lima bean is a profitable variety which may be grown also for ornament. It may be planted around a porch and trained upon cords or wire netting. The pods are borne in large clusters and the beans are of extra large size. I find a constant demand for them at 20 cents a quart, shelled. Any of the fruits and vegetables I have named may be grown on ground usually left to weeds, in sufficient quantity to supply a family. The result from a ten by ten plot will surprise those who have never attempted intensive culture.—Nathaniel G. Saxton, in Rural World.

HANDY TOOL TO HAVE.

Excellent Clod Masher Which Can Also Be Used for Hauling Rocks from the Fields.

An excellent clod masher and smoother can be made by taking two pieces of oak timber 2x8 inches and six feet long; every eight inches cut in two inches on one edge with a saw,



EXCELLENT CLOD MASHER.

and slant the notches from one cut to the other, spike on 2x5 oak boards five feet long in the notches, so as to make a solid bottom, and one edge of the bottom pieces will be sunk into the side timbers. Turned down this makes an excellent soil smoother and firmer. Turned bottom up, if the side pieces are slanted up at the end, it makes a handy arrangement for hauling rock or for hauling tools to and from the field.—A. J. Legg, in Epitomist.

ALL AROUND THE FARM.

- Keep busy. This is the season big licks count.
- Have a fixed purpose to make the farm pay.
- Don't crop the farm to death. Raise some stock.
- A merry whistle is a wonderful shortener of long furrows.
- Hard-pan in the corn field makes bread scarce in the kitchen.
- Dragging the roads makes a wondrous improvement in them.
- The farm implement or machine which will earn 25 per cent. on its cost yearly, as very many will, is a far safer investment than bank stock or deposits. We must learn to do business with the farm.
- It is thought by some of our best corn raisers that ten acres is sufficient for one man to tend. Others think from 20 to 40 acres makes a fair summer's work; but I have generally noticed that the ten-acre man makes the biggest profit.—Farm and Home.

The Self-Growing Barn.

An esteemed correspondent, writing from Danville, Ky., tells of a novel industry, which will probably soon spread as far as Billville. Tan Crawley, a farmer in the Coral Hill neighborhood, has a barn which is growing rapidly. The structure, which is a capricious affair, was built several years ago. Willow posts were used on the ends and along the sides. Being in moist and virgin soil, the posts took root, and the entire structure has flourished like a green bay tree. It ascended nine feet in the first three years and Mr. Crawley was compelled to lay a second floor, using the first as a loft. The second floor is now too elevated for use, and next year a third floor will be added. The innovation has proved advantageous, and a large crop of barns will be planted this spring by farmers in that vicinity.—Atlanta Constitution.

We are going to cut our roses back this fall to within six inches of the ground and then cover them with leaves and earth instead of laying the long canes down, as we have usually done. The bloom of next season is all made on the new growth of wood anyway, and this latter method makes it easier to protect them.

There is no more profitable business connected with western farming than the raising of hogs, which will sell for 5 cents a pound or over at seven months old or about \$12 per head. Any man who will combine the cow and the hog with corn, clover, rape, barley or peas can make his land pay him big interest on a valuation of \$100 per acre.

As a whole, the soil of the north is more fertile than the soil of the south. One reason of this is that the north is locked up tight for five months during the winter season, and the soil escapes the destructive erosion which the winter rains inflict upon the uncovered soils of the south. This is one of the compensations of severe winter weather which are rarely considered.

The straw piles of the grain fields should be used in the barnyard during the winter for two reasons—one that it will contribute greatly to the comfort of the stock, another that it will make a most valuable lot of fertilizer. This letting stock run to a straw pile in the open field is a poor shift anyway, as it leaves a spot in the field which will grow nothing for a couple of years save weeds.

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