THE SEED BUSINESS.

How it is Conducted in the United States—Interesting Suggestions.

Although farmers are deeply interested in the seed and plant business, yet they know very little about the way in which it is carried on. At times there are complaints made by farmers and gardeners who are disappointed in their seeds, and for want of knowing how the business is conducted blame may easily be cast upon innocent parties, or indeed may attach to the purchaser himself instead of to the seller or grower of the seeds. In running over a list of the seedsmen in the United States and Canada we find about one thousand five hundred who are recognized as regular dealers in a mercantile sense; that is they make a special business of selling seeds. Of these about one hundred are growers of seeds as well as purchasers and sellers, producing in part the seeds which they sell and buying direct from farmers who make a special business of growing on contract for them other kinds which they do not grow themselves. Some few of these seedsmen are large importers, one of them alone often purchasing in one year as much as forty thousand dollars worth of cabbage seeds alone. The importation of seeds is a necessary part of the business, because there are some plants which thrive best and produce better seed in certain climates, as, for instance, field beets and mangels in England, sugar beets in France and Germany, cauliflower and cabbage seed in Germany, tuberose bulbs in Italy and Southern France, oats in Ireland and Scotland, and other seeds in variety from every corner and end of the earth, which is ransacked for novelties.

The production of seeds and bulbs is a business of great extent. One prominent seedsman cultivates over six hundred acres; another has a much greater area of land under cultivation, having a farm of about forty thousand acres in Illinois, where oats, corn, and other staple seed crops are raised. One prominent florist grows gladioluses in large fields, and one of the largest sights is to see his crops in full bloom. But by far the largest quantity of seeds sold is grown on the contract system by farmers who have special opportunities and abilities for the business. One farmer known to us grows every year about forty acres of evergreen sweet corn for one seed house, and under such circumstances that there is no possibility of any mixture with other kinds. This is an important point with seed growers and dealers who are anxious to secure perfect purity in their seeds as well as soundness and healthfulness. The growers of seeds almost always—and always should—test the quality of the seeds they grow by germinating them. The seedsmen are careful in making contracts to provide that all seeds grown for them should be subject to thorough tests, and throw around their business every possible safeguard and security. It may be comforting to farmers to know that, as a rule, the persons upon whom they depend for the goodness of the seeds they are obliged to purchase are honest and conscientious, and conduct their onerous and laborious business with the most scrupulous care to secure good seed. At times circumstances occur which will confound the wisest and the most cautious men. Some seeds, the product of a crop grown in an unfavorable season, will either fail or will produce poor and imperfect plants. We have known cabbage and carrot seed grown in a very dry year, to produce plants which run to seed the same year the seed is sown, and thus become annual instead of biennial. Thus at times no amount of caution and provision will secure imperfection. Some seeds too, as carrots, soon lose their power of germination, and when an unfavorable season happens there are two difficulties to encounter, upon one or two others' of which the farmer is almost sure to be struck.

Farmers have often been advised to grow their own seeds. They might as well become their own doctors and tailors or shoemakers as do this. It is a special business. One kind of seed alone may be grown upon a farm in a large quantity, at much less cost and with far greater certainty than a small quantity could be grown, and a farmer who would undertake to grow either his field or garden seeds would find a load of work and care upon him greater than that of all his farm besides, and with little probability of securing good quality or purity in the seed he should grow.—*Henry Stewart in N. Y. Times.*

BEEF.

The Profits of Live Stock Production on the Farm.

So much has been written during the past few years about the profits of beef production on the range and ranch that many farmers owning from a fourth to an entire section of land have come to the conclusion that they cannot successfully compete with the "beef barons" in supplying the market with meat. They accordingly rejoice that the President has turned these gentlemen out of the Indian Territory, and has ordered their fences removed on all parts of the public domain. That these orders will result in diminishing the profits of the range and ranch men and increasing those of persons who keep cattle on their own farms seems certain. In the future capitalists who are able to purchase several thousand head of cattle can not appropriate large tracts of land belonging to the Nation or included in Indian Reservations and devote them to pasturing cattle on which they pay no taxes. Persons who keep stock on their own farms will be nearer on an equality with the ranch and range men in the matter of expenses. They can not do as extensive a business, but the capital they have invested in it will pay as large dividends and be subject to fewer chances of loss. In all probability the competition of the ranch and range cattle will diminish year by year.

In many respects the man who keeps cattle on his own farm has a better prospect for success than one who keeps them on a ranch or free range. He can have the personal oversight of them all the time. If an animal is ailing he can take it from the herd and nurse it till it becomes well. He can recover his animals if they are stolen, though thefts will not be likely to occur in a civilized community. He can give extra feed to young cattle that do not thrive well on grass alone. He can inspect all his animals every day and note the condition of each. He will experience no losses by having animals stray away from the herd. He can furnish them with cut food during times of protracted drought. He can furnish them with protection during storms and throughout the winter season. He can keep them free from vermin. He can so manage that they have an abundance of pure and cold water at times when cattle on the plains greatly suffer from thirst. He can furnish them with salt with very little trouble or expense. He can protect them from the sun by raising trees or building cheap sheds. In short, he can keep them in the best possible condition to thrive and gain during the entire year. Few of these things can be done by persons owning large herds of cattle left to roam over the great Western plains.

Much has been written about the rapid increase of cattle kept on the range and ranch. But the increase on farms is still greater. Many calves are lost when a large herd is left in the hands of cowboys. Cows that have recently dropped calves are in an enfeebled condition and require special care. They are liable to many diseases, such as fever and caked bag. Unless they are taken from a herd and carefully nursed they are likely to die. A motherless calf on the range or ranch is almost certain to die. There are no facilities for bringing it up by hand. Good nursing is as necessary to the raising of a large herd of cattle as to bringing up a family of children. On the ranch and range "the fittest survive," but on the farm nearly all do. On a farm a cow will, in addition of bringing up a calf, furnish a large amount of milk to be used in the family, to be used in making butter and cheese, or to be fed to pigs. Calves can be weaned on the farm much better than on the range or ranch. They can at the proper age be isolated from the herd fed on skimmed milk or gruel, and gradually taught to eat grass, hay, and grain. The mothers, released from the care of their calves, will soon gain in condition and flesh. Range and ranch cows, however, are kept poor by their calves during the entire summer and fall.

Persons who raise cattle on farms will always enjoy a monopoly in supplying the market with choice beef. The flesh of cattle unprotected from storms and compelled to pick up their living during droughts and through the winter, will necessarily be much inferior to that of cattle raised on farms where they are protected from storms and cold, supplied with water at all times and furnished with all the food they need. It costs no more to transport an animal that sells for six cents per pound than one that brings but half that sum. There are but few legitimate branches of business that pay better or are attended by fewer risks than that of raising cattle on the comparatively cheap lands in the West. Without extra feed, with cheap protection and with only ordinary care, steers three years old will bring fifty dollars per head at the farm where they are raised. If properly fattened, as they may be on the grain raised on the place, they will bring fifty per cent more than the price named. The business of raising cattle on farms is not only profitable but pleasant. It calls for less labor than grain raising, and entails little expense for machinery.—*Chicago Times.*

Water for Plants.

In experiments performed by Sir J. B. Lawes be found that most plants exhaled during the four or five months of their growth more than two hundred times their dry weight of water, drawn up from the soil in which they grew. Dr. J. H. Gilbert stated that the amount of water given off by plants during growth might be approximately estimated as equal to a depth of three inches of rain for every ton of dry substance grown. Messrs. Lawes and Gilbert found by actual experiment that a crop of hay growing on land that had been manured, and giving about a ton and a half per acre, evaporated two inches more water than an unmanured crop of less than a third of a ton. These two inches were equal to two hundred tons of water. A heavy crop of barley evaporated nine inches, or one thousand eight hundred tons of water more than bare land lying alongside. These experiments show the importance of underdraining so as to keep the soil pulverized and mellow, to hold like a sponge the water which falls on it, and give it off to growing plants as they need it. A good growing crop keeps the soil in better condition than a soil without a crop, the latter being easily flooded, and again parched by drought; and without underdraining, either artificial or natural, the soil can not be brought into a good condition to absorb and hold surplus water.—*Country Gentleman.*

—A man who lives on Indian farm, Lewis County, West Virginia, is but seventeen years old, and his bare feet measure thirteen and a half inches in length.—*Louisville Courier-Journal.*

A Wonderful Substance.

Among the most interesting developments which have followed in the wake of the discovery of petroleum is the immense trade which has sprung up in ozokerite, or ozocerite, as Webster has it. No fairer substance ever sprang from most unpromising parentage than the snowy, pure, tasteless, opalescent wax which is evolved from the loud smelling, pitchy dregs of the petroleum still. The *Mining Review* thus sums up the many uses to which this remarkable substance is applied: This comely, impressionable article, with all its smooth, soft beauty, defies agents which can destroy the precious metals and eat up the hardest steel as water dissolves sugar. Sulphuric and other potent acids have no more effect on ozokerite than spring water. It is alike impervious to acid and to moisture. Its advent seems to have been a special dispensation in this age of electricity.

Every overhead electric light cable or underground conduit, or slender wire, cunningly wrapped with cotton thread; all these owe their fitness for conducting the subtle fluid to the presence of this wax. And in still more familiar forms let us outline the utility of this substance. Every gushing school girl who sinks her white teeth into chewing gum chews this paraffine wax. Every caramel she eats contains this wax, and is wrapped in paper saturated with the same substance. The gloss seen upon hundreds of varieties of confectionery is due to the presence of this ingredient of petroleum, used to give the articles a certain consistency, as the laundress uses starch. So that a product taken from the dirtiest, worst-smelling of tars finds its way to the millionaire's mansion, an honored servitor. It aids to make possible the electric radiance that floods his rooms; or, in the form of wax candles, sheds a softer luster over the scene. It polishes the floor for the feet of his guests, and it melts in their mouths in the costliest candies. For the insulation of electric wire, paraffine wax has to-day no successful rival, and the growth of the demand for this purpose keeps pace with the marvelous growth of the electric lighting system. A single Chicago firm buys paraffine wax by the car load. Its price is but half that of beeswax, and yet the older wax yields readily to sulphuric or other acid, this being a test for the presence of beeswax in paraffine. The demand for paraffine for candles as yet heads the list.

Then comes the needs of the paper consumers. In 1877 a single firm in New York handled 14,000 reams of waxed paper. Not only for wrapping candy is this paper valuable, but fine cutlery, hardware, etc., incased in waxed paper is safe from the encroachment of rust or dampness. Fish and butter and a score of other articles are also thus wrapped, and there seems literally no end to the uses found for the paper saturated with this pure hydrocarbon. In the chemist's laboratory it is invaluable as a coating for articles exposed to all manner of powerful dissolvents; brewers find it a capital thing for coating the interior of barrels, and the maker of wax flowers simulates nature in sheets of paraffine. And yet, until Drake drilled his oil well in 1859, the existence in this country of this boon to civilization was unsuspected, and it lay in the depths of Pennsylvania rocks, where thousands, possibly millions, of years ago it was stored by the hand of an all-wise Creator.—*Scientific American.*

Acupuncture for Cholera in China.

The employment of acupuncture and cauterization by Chinese doctors forms the subject of an article in one of the last numbers of the *North China Herald.* A native public writer not long since claimed that a skillful physician in this department of medicine could cure such diseases as imbecility, fits, cholera etc. The principle of cauterization is simply that of counter-irritation, and the English writer bears personal testimony to its efficacy in the case of a slight sunstroke, although the operator was a simple Manchu peasant and the instrument a couple of copper coins. Very extraordinary cures are attributed to acupuncture by the Chinese. It is first performed in the hollow of the elbow of each arm. If the puncture draws blood there is no danger, but if no blood appears the case is regarded as very grave. But before abandoning the sufferer puncture of the abdomen is tried. Seizing a handful of flesh, the operator drives the needle right through it, and then draws it backward and forward a few times. If the patient manifests any sense of pain, or if any blood is drawn, a poultice of egg and buckwheat flour is applied over the puncture, and recovery is regarded as almost certain; but if no pain is felt and no blood flows the case is declared hopeless, and the sufferer is left to die. The case is then quoted of a young Chinese, educated abroad, who was attacked with cholera: his extremities became cold, and cramp set in, in a somewhat alarming manner. The barber surgeon who was called in, commenced by running a needle into the pit of the patient's stomach, a jet of very dark blood following; he then punctured the calf, the two breasts, and the forehead of the sufferer, freeing a certain quantity of blood at each prick. The relief is said to have been instantaneous, and in two days recovery was complete. The Chinese explanation of this treatment is that when the blood is in the poisoned condition which induces the choleraic symptoms it becomes thick, and accumulates in certain portions of the body. A clever surgeon knows exactly how to put his fingers on the particular spots, and by skillfully "opening the mouth of the heart," as the operation is called, sets free the poisoned fluid which causes all the mischief. It is noteworthy that faith in the efficacy of this mode of treatment is not confined to the masses, but is shared by Chinese who have been abroad and have had ample experience of Western medical practice.—*Nature.*

FACTS AND FIGURES.

One-seventh of the population of Kentucky is colored.

—The coming corn crop is estimated at 1,297,000,000 bushels, against 852,666,000 last year and 812,771,000 in 1882.

—Most of the more than 4,000 women employed in the Government service at Washington are from the Middle and New England States.

—If all the locomotives in the United States were placed in line they would make a train more than 200 miles long, worth $30,000,000.—*Chicago Herald.*

—The supply of postal-cards this year will cost the Government $232,000, and it will require $7,300 to pay for their distribution and the expense of the agency.

—The sugar consumption of the United States averages forty-five pounds a year to each inhabitant. One-fourth of all the sugar produced in the world is consumed in the United States, where the sweet tooth seems to be in everybody's mouth.—*N. Y. Sun.*

—If the engines, passenger and freight cars of the United States were placed in line they would reach 5,400 miles, or form one solid train from New York to San Francisco, with lateral trains reaching from Chicago to St. Paul, to New Orleans and Washington, D. C.—*Chicago Herald.*

—In 1871 there were 300,000 deaths from cholera in Russia; in 1873 there were 16,000 deaths in Poland; in 1872-73 there were 140,000 deaths in Hungary; in 1872-73 there were nearly 27,000 deaths in Prussia; in 1865-67 there were 143,000 deaths in Italy. In Paris the mortality from cholera has been as follows: In 1832, 18,654 deaths; in 1849, 19,184; in 1853-54, 8,096; in 1865-66, 12,082; in 1873, 885. In England in 1849 the deaths from cholera were 70,000. In 1817 the army of the Marquis of Hastings lost in India 9,000 men in twelve days from Asiatic cholera.

—Officers of the United States army on the active list: One Lieutenant-General, three Major-Generals, fifteen Brigadier-Generals, twenty-three Aids-de-Camp, one Military Secretary, sixty-six Colonels, eighty-five Lieutenant-Colonels, 241 Majors, 311 Captains (mounted), 301 Captains (not mounted), thirty-four Chaplains, fourteen Store-keepers, forty Adjutants, forty Regimental Quartermasters, Adjutant and Quartermaster of Engineer Battalion, 218 First Lieutenants (mounted), 350 First Lieutenants (not mounted), 145 Second Lieutenants (mounted), 300 Second Lieutenants (not mounted), 180 Acting Commissaries of Subsistence.—*N. Y. Herald.*

WIT AND WISDOM.

—It is a wise young man who early makes up his mind that gamblers know more about gambling than he does.—*Din!.*

—A little school girl's definition of scandal: Nobody does nothing, and everybody goes on telling of it everywhere."—*Troy Times.*

—True wealth consists in health, vigor and courage, domestic quiet, concord, public liberty, plenty of all that is necessary and contempt of all that is superfluous.—*Fenelon.*

—"Do cats reason?" asks a writer in natural history. We don't know whether they reason or not, but for pure, unadulterated argumentation they take the cake.—*Burlington Free Press.*

—Justice is blind according to the old tradition, but it looks a little of late as though it was only blind in one eye and that the big rascals succeeded in getting on the blind side every time.—*Philadelphia Times.*

—He—If I were to live my life over again, madam, I would do very differently. She—Indeed—and what would you do? He—I should marry nobody, madam—nobody at all. She—You would make a great mistake if you did that. He—I don't think so. She—Yes, you would. I married nobody when I married you.—*N. Y. Graphic.*

—A writer in the Providence *Journal* says we "must wait until 1892 for Jupiter's next perihelion." Well, if we must we must, though it seems pretty rough. We don't suppose the writer could induce Jupe to perihele next year? There may be two or three persons right here in this town who wouldn't murmur greatly if Jupiter were to defer the exhibition until 18,920. They would be willing to wait.—*Norristown Herald.*

—"Say, Pat," said a gentleman to his hired man, who had many domestic quarrels, "with whom would you sooner fight, the English or your wife, Biddy?" "Och, bedad," was the reply, "whin the English declare war a mon foinds it out in advance, an' he gits a chance ter run, but whin Biddy declares war, niver a bit do I foind it out until I have recoovered. D'yez understhand?" The gentleman comprehended the peculiar position of his domestic.—*Scissors.*

—"What in the world brought you down here to-day, Charlie?" exclaimed the surprised Miss Fussanfeather to young Crimsonbeak, who had quite unexpectedly presented himself at the resort where she was stopping. "I was drawn toward you, dear," replied the blood, in dulcet tones. "How, Charlie? What drew you toward me?" "The cars, dear." "Oh, no, you provoking fellow; I mean what was the motive that brought you here?" "Oh; the loco-motive, dear!" and they went out to perform the hammock act alone and unobserved.—*Yonkers Statesman.*

—On a back street in Saratoga is a little meeting-house for Free Methodists, who aim to be extremely primitive, and who have undertaken to reform the frivolities of fashion as displayed by the summer residents. Every afternoon a small company of women, plainly clad, kneel solemnly in prayer for their sisters who delight in more elaborate clothes. There is thus far no perceptible effect.—*Troy Times.*

LIFE AND CRIME OF BILL FOX!

The life and murderous crime of BILL FOX, one of the most noted criminals ever in the west, executed at Nevada, Mo., December 28, 1883, has been publishd in pamphlet form, illustrated. The book gives the full details of the trial of Fox for the murder of T. W. Howard, May 20, 1883, and the confession of his murder, implicating the woman, Mrs. Rose.

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GERMANY.

Why She Takes the First Place at the Head of the Nations.

Germany keeps her place at the head of other nations because of the superior intelligence of her people. The proportion of illiterate people is less in that country than in any other on earth. All the young men impressed into her armies grade higher in intelligence and education than in the most favored nations. Of a hundred and fifty thousand recruits tested, only one and one half per cent. could not read or write. In some provinces, such as Wurtemburg, not an uneducated person could be found. We Americans have vaunted our superior education, but some seventeen per cent of our population are illiterate. In the years 1883 and 1884, thirty thousand, four hundred and nine books and maps were published in Germany, against only seven thousand, five hundred and sixty-nine in the United States. This shows the superior literary activity of the Germans; and what is still more mortifying to our national pride is, that most of the works published in the United States are stories and romances, while a larger portion of the new German literature is scientific and philosphical. It is no wonder, therefore, that Germany is not only the arbiter of Europe, but that it is making its influence felt in every part of the globe. The English merchant has heretofore taken the leading position in trade circles in all quarters of the earth, but he is rapidly giving place to his more intelligent and thoroughly trained German rival. The expansion of the German power in the way of colonies and commerce is because of the greater mental activity developed by the education of the German people. The German military system would be very unpopular should an attempt be made to naturalize it in the United States, but the training it involved has worked wonders for the German character. The drill and discipline has been an education itself. It has taught the Teuton how to command as well as to obey; physically, mentally, and morally the German race has been wonderfully improved, not only by its thorough education in letters, but because of the inculcation of solderly virtues due to the discipline of the barrack and the camp.—*Demorest's Monthly.*

—Several trees on the Battery, New York, are not far from a hundred years old.

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TRUSTEE'S SALE.

Whereas, Wm. W. McDonough and Mary F., his wife, by their certain deed of trust dated the eighth day of January, 1881, and recorded in the recorder's office of Pettis county, at deed book 18, page 153, conveyed to O. A. Crandall, trustee, all their right, title, interest and estate, in and to the following described real estate, situated in the county of Pettis, state of Missouri, viz: Ten acres off of the east side of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section thirty-four, and ten acres off of the west side of that part of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section thirty-four, which lies on the south side of Muddy creek, in township forty-six range twenty-three, and whereas, said deed of trust provides among other things that upon the refusal to act of said trustee, the then acting sheriff of said county, upon the request of the legal holder of the note secured thereby, his agent or attorney, shall sell the said real estate, and whereas, said trustee now refuses to act, and whereas, said conveyance was made in trust to secure the payment of one certain promissory note in said deed described, and whereas, said note has become due and is unpaid, now, therefore, in accordance with the provisions of said deed of trust, and at the request of the legal holder of said note, I shall proceed to sell the above described real estate at the court house door, in the county of Pettis, state aforesaid, to the highest bidder for cash, at public auction, on

WEDNESDAY THE 14TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1885,

between the hours of nine o'clock in the forenoon and five in the afternoon of that day, to satisfy said note, together with the cost and expense of executing this trust.

L. S. MURRAY,
Sheriff of Pettis county, Mo, and acting trustee. 9-22-w4t.

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