

FLORIDA AGRICULTURIST.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Articles relating to any topic within the scope of this paper are solicited.

We cannot promise to return rejected manuscripts unless stamps are enclosed.

All communications for intended publication must be accompanied with real name, as a guarantee of good faith. No anonymous contributions will be regarded.

Money should be sent by Draft, Postoffice Money Order on DeLand, or Registered Letter, otherwise the publisher will not be responsible in case of loss. When personal checks are used, exchange must be added. Only 1 and 2 cent stamps taken when change cannot be had.

To insure insertion, all advertisements for this paper must be received by 10 o'clock Monday morning of each week.

Subscribers when writing to have the address of their paper changed MUST give the old as well as the new address.

WEDNESDAY NOV. 8, 1905.

Life Insurance.

Life insurance is a very desirable thing for any man who is not absolutely sure of being able to leave an abundant supply of money to keep his family in case he is taken away suddenly.

Last spring the Governor recommended, to the legislature, the passage of a law providing that this state should take hold of the life insurance business and run it on her own account. The proposition did not find much favor with the legislature, for they refused to pass such a law, though a bill was introduced for that purpose. Since the recent revelations of vast corruption in the management of the strongest companies, there has been a great change of sentiment on the part of the press of the state. These exposures do not show any weakness on the part of the companies, the policies are just as valuable as they ever were, and will no doubt be paid in full at maturity. But they do show an inexcusable waste of the policy-holder's money. The opinion has been expressed by several editors among our state exchanges that if the legislature were to be called in extra session now that they would pass a law for state life insurance as soon as it could be done. This week we have found, in a Northern agricultural paper, an editorial recommending that all the states should take hold of this business for the benefit of their own citizens. The advantages of this plan are claimed to be cheaper insurance, honest management, and the keeping of all the money at home. These are all good reasons, if they are valid. The subject is one that should be carefully investigated and if it is true that the business can be carried on safely by the state and be cheaper than the present method, then it would be the wisest thing that

we could do to try it. But we hope that nothing will be done hastily or without due consideration.

The Past And Present.

Did you think that your life, as a farmer, is an isolated one and lacking in the comforts and conveniences that are available in the cities? If so, we hope that you will read an article, printed elsewhere this week, on what one century has done. You may not have all the latest improvements, that your city friend has, but on the other hand consider how much better you live than it was possible for your grandfather to do, no matter how wealthy he may have been. There is an old saying that comparisons are odious, but in this case we think that you will find the comparison very comforting.

The Farmer's Table.

The abundant and varied dinner, described elsewhere this week, as being found on a farmer's table is not at all impossible. But it is unusual and we hope that our city readers will not take it as a sample of the regular bill of fare among farmers. We wish that it were true. There is no reason why farmers could not nor why they should not have an equally great variety on their tables most of the time. Chickens are easily and cheaply grown on a farm and there ought to be an abundant supply at all times. Mutton is not so easily had in this state, but the flesh of young goats cannot be distinguished from that of lambs and can be cheaply and plentifully produced anywhere that it is wanted. So much for the meat supply. The vegetables could be as easily grown if the will was not lacking. Possibly not all those mentioned, certainly not all at the same time, but if not at least a varied and bounteous supply. This matter of farmer's gardens is greatly neglected. The universal "hog and hominy" so unfailingly found on farmers' tables ought to have a rest.

The most important part of the article in question, is the comparison between the cost of living well on a farm and at a hotel or restaurant. Probably you had never thought of that. As the majority of farmers live, the hotel or restaurant affords an agreeable change, but it ought not to be so. We do not, as a rule, live up to our privileges. It is not too late to turn over a new leaf. We urged you to plant a fall garden, week before last. We wish to repeat the advice, by all means plant a garden. You can have fresh vegetables on your table every month in the year if you will only take a little trouble.

The Citrus Fruit Market.

The condition of the market for citrus fruits has changed but little since our last report. The Fruit Trade Journal says that there are too many oranges, a very unusual supply of Valencia late have been coming from California, these together with those from Florida and Jamaica have made an unusually large supply for the time of year, still prices have held up very well.

Some new Navels have been received from California, but are reported as green and not wanted. Mexican oranges sold in New York at from \$2.25 to \$3.70. Porto Ricos not so

good and sold lower. Floridas ripe and good color are quoted at \$3. to \$3.50.

The Fruit and Produce News reports that Florida oranges though still green in color are sweet and juicy. The Fruit and Produce News reports somewhat lower prices than are quoted by the Fruit Trade Journal.

Answer to Correspondents.

Editor Florida Agriculturist:

Please inform me whether Whale Oil Soap and Potash can be made strong enough to defoliate an orange tree without serious injury to the twig?

Yours truly,

Bradentown.

J. V.

The above was referred to Mr. F. D. Waite of Palmetto who is a large user of Whale Oil Soap and he sent us the following reply which we trust will not only be information for Mr. V. but others.

Editor Florida Agriculturist:

"In regard to using enough Whale Oil Soap to remove foliage I would not recommend it, and unless the leaves are crusted with scale it won't do it, but when they are, then the wood is badly infested and the leaves will drop and small limbs will die. I have used 36 pounds to 100 gallons and on very scaly tree two-thirds of the foliage dropped and one-half of the fruit wood was killed, also a great many limbs. While trees free from insects ("scale") did not show bad any effect, but the spray killed fully 80 per cent of Fly in Larvae state. On pine land it might be different. Trees can be defoliated with Kainit and at a certain strength not injure the wood. However this is dangerous as you may get too much salt.

This is the best I can do along these lines."

Yours truly,

F. D. Waite.

Editor Florida Agriculturist:

Can you tell me where I can buy a good press for nailing orange boxes which will not bruise the fruit in nailing?

David J. Caldwell,

Higley, Fla.

Here is a chance for a dealer in such implements.—Editor.

Milk Supply of Southern Cities.

The following, from the American Cultivator, makes a rather poor showing for the dairies around the Southern cities.

An interesting Government account of the milk supply of twenty-nine Southern cities throws some light upon the general dairy situation in that section. The use of milk is much less general than in the North, the city of Richmond using only one and one-half pints per inhabitant daily, and Mobile only one-half pint, while the sale of cream is exceedingly light. No doubt the introduction of butter-milk under better conditions would immensely improve the market. The figures are suggestive as showing that the sale of milk is greatly affected by conditions of supply.

In the South milk is carelessly handled and carelessly put upon the market while the price is high. In the North the best sale of milk is during hot weather and a hot season improves the milk market. Naturally the Southern markets should be better than those of the North. Two features are especially mentioned by the author of the account—one the keeping of cows in small enclosures within the city limits and the other the delivery of warm milk. These two items show suggestively how backward is the milk business of the South. These practices were outgrown in the North a generation ago.

Rules for Awarding Prizes on Citrus Fruits.

Editor Florida Agriculturist:

DeLand, Florida.

Dear Sir:

At the Tampa Fair, which will be held this month there will be assembled one of the finest collection of citrus fruits ever brought together in the State.

In general, the fruit this year is of superior excellence. The crop, although not as heavy as it might have been under other circumstances, is still of great credit to the industry in the State. The various citrus growers, who will compete for prizes at this exposition, naturally have some ideal fruit in mind when they prepared their exhibits. This matter has been fully discussed from time to time, and people who have had wide experience in this connection have brought their ideas together, and in the form of rules have designated what they consider to be a perfect fruit. In all awards at expositions of this kind some form of schedule must be agreed upon before the judges are able to make an intelligent report.

The number of exhibits is so great that it would be absolutely impossible for any committee to keep in mind all the good points of any of the collection.

The standard adopted for judging fruits in Florida is somewhat different from that which has been adopted for judging fruits in California. In the main the two are very similar. The following tables of standards has been taken from Prof. Hume's very admirable book on "Citrus Fruits and Their Culture."

OFFICIAL SCALE AND RULES OF THE FLORIDA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR JUDGING CITRUS FRUITS.

Scale.	Points.
Size, 2-1/2 to 3-1/4 inches	10
Appearance, skin fancy and silky	10
Juiciness, must sink in water	10
Thickness of peel, 3 thirty-two inch	10
Seedlessness, one point off for two seeds	15
Sweetness	15
Acid	15
Tissue	10
Bouquet	10
	100

The scale for judging pomelo, or grapefruit, must necessarily be different from that of judging oranges.

PROPOSED SCALE FOR POMELO, OR GRAPEFRUIT:

Scale.	Points.
External Characters—	
Size	10
Color and form	10
Weight and juiciness	15
Rind	10
Internal Characters—	
Seedlessness	10
Freedom from fiber or tissue	10
Juice Qualities—	
Flavor	
Sweetness	15
Acidity	10
Bitterness	10
	100

1. Size Standard—4 to 5 inches.
2. Color Standard—Bright, uniform, light yellow.
3. Form Standard—Round or slightly oblate.
4. Weight or Juiciness Standard—Heavy, sinking almost entirely in water.
5. Rind Standard—3 sixteenth inch in thickness.
6. Seedlessness Standard—No seeds. Deduct one point for each five seeds.
7. Freedom from Fiber and Tissue Standard—Free from rag.
8. Flavor Standard—A harmonious blending of sweetness, acidity and bitterness.

Yours truly,

P. H. Rolfs,

Pathologist in charge of Subtropical Laboratory.