

FLOUR and FLOWERS OF SULPHUR

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Parcels Post.

The Citigraph publishes the following paragraph:

A four pound parcel can be sent by mail to London, or any part of England, for 48 cents, but cannot be sent to San Bernardino for less than 64 cents. If congress does not soon give the people a parcels post at reasonable rates, pretty soon there's going to be a whole lot of new congressmen. A hint to the wise is always sufficient. The people will not much longer stand the frightful impositions of the greedy express companies.

The Orange Judd Farmer says: The rural mail carrier at Newark, Del., does a business which is typical of thousands of such carriers. He has a smart horse and buggy, but instead of going loaded, he carries daily only about a bushel of mail, including a few packages of merchandise upon which the rate of postage is 16 cents per pound. The government probably loses \$40 or \$50 a month on this carrier, and the total deficit for this service for the current fiscal year has been estimated to exceed \$12,000,000. But if this carrier had a proper vehicle and were allowed by law to carry from the Newark postoffice to the homes on his route, passengers and packages at a reasonable rate, as well as to bring back packages to the post-office, the carrier's outfit would be making money for the government and would be an immense convenience to the people. Congress should at least authorize a trial of this plan at a limited number of rural delivery offices of the country, the rate on such local parcels post to run from 1 cent for one pound up to say 25 cents for 200 pounds. We believe that such a test will prove that Secretary Cowles is right in his idea that the old post coach, or a modern adaptation of it, should be revived on the rural post route.

The Dog and Sheep Question.

We have frequently suggested that sheep raising would be very profitable in Florida, if it were not for the ravages of innumerable worthless curs. The editor of the New England Farmer expresses himself vigorously on the dog and sheep question. We endorse his idea that dogs running at large away from home, without an owner ought to be outlawed.

All dogs are not bad. A well-bred, properly trained dog is a very useful animal. But as a race they are a constant, annoying menace and source of serious losses to the sheep industry of New England. From every section come reports of flocks raised and ruined by blood-thirsty canines. It is a fact now generally admitted that there can be no successful development of sheep husbandry in the east unless more effectual means for protecting the flocks from dogs are provided.

The law reimbursing the owner on appraisal of damages affords partial protection from financial loss, but does not abate the nuisance. It is a palliative, but not a cure. Apparently, as one writer suggests, the only practical solution of the dog question is to recognize a dog as the legal prop-

erty of the owner so long as it remains on its owner's premises, but if caught away from home unless accompanied by its owner, the dog's right to further existence is forfeited. At any rate the worthless curs must go.

In the settlement of this matter the sheep owner and breeder of pure-bred dogs, instead of locking horns, should make common cause. It is to the interest of both that legislation be enacted in the several states which shall afford an efficient remedy. Our sheep flocks must be protected.

Milking and Milking Machines.

The Prairie Farmer published an article which may explain, to some people, why their cows go dry much sooner than was expected.

The great difficulty that a dairyman encounters, who has a large number of cows, is to get the milking done. Many farm hands dislike to milk, and some even will not work for a man who requires them to milk a considerable number of cows.

If this work could be done by a machine that would do the work of two or three men, thus saving considerable labor, the number of cows that would be kept would be on many farms greatly increased, and make dairying much more profitable. Men of inventive genius, knowing this, have for a long time been devoting their energies to trying to invent milking machines that would be practical in their operation.

The first milking machine that I have any knowledge of was invented sixty years ago by a man named Wright, who lived in Wisconsin. In theory it seemed to be all right, but it was a failure, for cows milked with it invariably run down in the flow of milk and went dry long before they would have done had they been milked by a good milker. And so it has been with all the milking machines that have been invented. There was the "Thistle milking machine." For a time it was claimed that at last perfection had been attained in this machine and it was confidently predicted that its use would give a great impetus to dairying. Some who used it claimed that the cows milked by it did even better than those milked by hand. But after a time, it was dropped and its use discontinued. It did not bring practical results in the long run.

Then came the milking machine that had for a time a great boom. It, too, has followed the fate of its predecessors. So have the dozen of other milking machines that have been invented from which great results have been anticipated, at least by their inventors. It is true that some of these machines perform the mechanical operations to perfection by imitating the sucking calf, therefore, in theory, being better than hand milking.

The truth is there is something of vastly more importance needed than mechanical manipulation of the udder and teats. The giving of milk is an operation of nature by which the mother feeds her offspring and there is love and maternal affection which goes with it, and the milker, to be successful, must in some measure take the place of the calf in the affections of the cow.

A man who hates cows and is rough with them is hated by the cow, and she will not do as well for him as she would for a milker who was kind and gentle with her and for whom she had a kindly feeling. Her milk will be less in quality and test less in butter fat. This fact has been demonstrated many times by actual test.

Some cows will at times "hold up" their milk, either the whole or a part, from the milker she is not in full sympathy with, but no one ever knew of a cow holding up her milk from her calf. She loved the calf, she did not love the man. We know that some cows will "hold up" their milk from one person and give it down freely for another.

I lived with a man when I was a boy, who had one cow which was a large milker. His wife more often milked the cow than he did. But sometimes, when the wife was busy the man would go out to milk. The cow would stand quietly for him, but frequently he could get only a little milk, when, altogether her udder was full, the supply would be shut off. He would work for a long time without success, then give up completely out of patience and go into the house and declare that he would "kill that old fool of a cow." After a while, when his wife got time, she would go out, talk to the cow and pet her, the cow at the same time showing her affection for the woman by caressing her with her tongue. Then she would sit down to the cow and get a brimming pail of milk that came as freely as though the woman had been her calf.

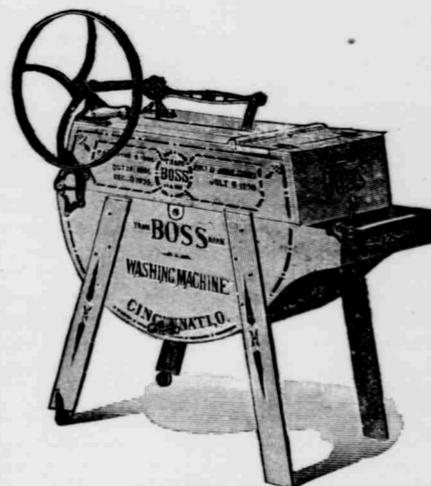
Some who read this may think this kind of talk is nonsense. But they are persons who do not really understand the nature of cows. They have feelings almost like human beings. Some are of a jealous disposition. Years ago, when I used to milk my cows out in the yard, I had one cow that was so jealous she would not allow me to milk another cow before I milked her. If I started to she would do everything possible to rid by giving me a punch with her horns.

A machine may work mechanically all right, but it takes flesh and blood, nerves and a heart to get hold of the affections of a cow, which is necessary for perfect success in milking. A machine may milk better than some men, but never can equal a good human milker.

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