

Agricultural Notes.

A Montreal dealer ships tomatoes to England, where they bring good prices. The taste for tomatoes has been acquired, but the English climate will always be too cold for them to ripen.

Pasturing sheep or hogs in orchards is an excellent practice, less for the value of the pasture than for the benefit to the fruit by destroying wormy specimens. The animals should be fed liberally daily, but not late at night or early in the morning, so as to encourage them to make early forays for fallen fruit.

Broad tires have many advantages for farm wagons. They are indispensable for drawing manure on land at any season, and their advantage in road use is that they improve the road bed, helping to fill up ruts made by narrow tired vehicles. It is probable that broad tired wagons will in the future come into more general use for farm purposes.

Australia has 80,000,000 sheep, against 36,000,000 in this country. The wool yield of Australian sheep has been very light; but the improvements made by importing American breeding stock are rapidly bringing it up. Some fine wool breeders have shipped rams to Australia at \$100 to \$500 per head, and the crosses from these fully double the original wool clip per sheep.

There are other points in farm economy gained by shed and stable feeding. It takes less food to keep warm and in a healthful condition. A shivering animal is an appeal to both the pocket and the heart of the owner. Give the farm stock good, comfortable winter quarters and there will be a saving in feed, a better preservation of the manure and a kindlier feeling all around.

Give all animals, when in a barn, plenty of straw for bedding, keep them scrupulously clean and well fed, keep all drugs from them. It is a mistaken idea that drugs will improve their condition. Never allow any person to tease live stock in any way. Save all the manure carefully. Stock your farm to its fullest extent with horses, cattle, sheep and hogs, raise all the food possible and you have put your coarse grains, fodder and straw to the possible use in increasing the profits of the farm.

In determining the most profitable cows for the dairy, much depends upon the purposes for which the dairy is kept. The farmer who keeps a few cows to supply his own table with butter and milk and sell the surplus in the season of flush pasture in the form of butter, wants the cow that gives the largest proportion of casein in her milk; while the milk-seller wants the cow that gives the most milk.

Ostrich Farming.

Twenty-two ostriches, ten males and twelve females were taken to Central Park, recently, by Dr. Prothro, who will keep them there until he has settled a suitable place for an ostrich farm in America. The price of ostrich feathers, all of which are imported and pay 20 per cent. duty, is very high and in order to supply the trade the farm was started about four years ago, at Hoboken, by Mr. Charles Reiche.

There were only six birds on the farm, and for a while they thrived very well, but suddenly the birds began to fall sick, and in a short time all of them were dead. They were dissected, and it was found that they had gained fat rapidly, but not strength. Dr. Prothro was found the other day aboard the steamship Horrox, now lying in East river, and was asked by the reporter about his birds.

"We arrived from Buenos Ayres, said Dr. Prothro, with twenty-two ostriches on board. These birds are a part of a large cargo recently shipped by me from the southern part of Africa to Buenos Ayres. They are all about eight years old. Some of them have bred, and others are now ready to breed, but the cold weather will stop them from doing so. You probably want to know why I have brought the birds to this country. I will tell you. I have large ostrich farms in Buenos Ayres, and I have been extensively exporting ostrich feathers from there. The birds there are all brought from Africa. The idea now is to start a similar farm here in the United States. I will shortly go through the Southern States, and select the site for a farm. The birds can live here in any place where temperature does not fall 5 deg below the freezing point. The feathers are now sent from Africa, and, after 25 per cent. tariff is paid, there is still a good profit; so you can see what profit there will be if we can raise the birds. I think too, that the birds will multiply faster here than in South Africa, for there a drought frequently kills three-quarters of one's stock. I have known years there when not one drop of rain has fallen during an entire twelve months. Food is also very scarce in South Africa. Mr. Baker, United States Consul at Buenos Ayres, was the first person who gave me the idea of starting an American ostrich farm. If I am successful I will start extensive farms and will guarantee cheaper prices and much

more elegant feathers than are now seen on ladies hats on Broadway." "What is one of your ostriches worth?" asked the reporter. "I value them at \$1,500 each. They are very dear, but their feathers are of a much finer kind than any in New York. Feathers in general use here come from Barbary birds in the northern part of Africa."

"How often do you pluck the birds' feathers?" "Every seven months we cut feathers and allow quills to grow for about a month longer. White feathers are worth about \$175 a pound."

"What do you feed the birds on?" "Generally we give them grain and grass. If the weather is not too cold, I see no reason why the farms should not be started here. All the birds want is a place to run in and some bones, small stones and grass to feed on. The cost of keeping them is little or nothing."

Dr. Prothro further states that he would start the farm in New York, but that he expected in a few years there would be many farms in the South, and that on account of the high prices of rent here he would be unable to compete with them.—New York Herald.

A Peep Into the Future.

The Chicago Herald issued recently a special copy of its daily of date Nov. 25, 1883, which, in its way, was extremely unique and interesting. A dispatch from Pressurtown, Niagara was headlined "Niagara Drying Up," and was as follows:

The diminution of water-power at Niagara Falls—an evil which has been foreshadowed for some time in the Herald dispatches from this point—is at last becoming a very serious matter. It threatens the interruption of manufacture throughout the United States. For the past two days dispatches have been pouring in from the most remote industrial centers, such as New Orleans, San Francisco and Portland, Oregon, complaining that the force supplied by the Universal Electro-Dynamic Water-Power Company at Niagara is inadequate to the movement of the heavier machinery in those cities. In New Orleans the manufacture of sorghum molasses has been almost suspended and in California nearly 500,000 Chinamen have been laid off from work in the Pacific Slope Shoe and Last Company's factory.

The Herald correspondent called this morning upon Mr. Orrin Potter Edison, the superintendent-general of the water-power company, and from him ascertained that the difficulty is due to the extraordinary consumption of water at Chicago. Lake Michigan it seems, since Chicago's enormous development, has been so reduced that the source of the nation's industrial energy bids fair to be cut off at its very fountain head. In other words, Niagara Falls are running dry and unless something is speedily done to avert the calamity the national Electro-Dynamic Water-Power works at the falls will have to stop and the wheels of American manufacture will stand still for very lack of motive power to turn them.

A balloon inspection of the falls yesterday revealed that some 7,000,000-000 gallons of water had been diverted since the last official examination, and at the point where the rotary-disc comes in contact with the magnets under the falls the friction had become so slight that it was scarcely appreciable, the main cause of the continuance of motion in the entire system being the impetus imparted by the revolutions of the large drive-wheel, whose axis projects from the upper edge of the precipice. This wheel has a sweep equal to twice the height of the falls, and its force is therefore very considerable. Furthermore it has been swinging now without interruption for over half a century, by a nice application of the principle of perpetual motion, does not easily stop.

Since the solution of the perpetual motion problem the efficiency of the water-power service has been very greatly enhanced, but the question now is whether the perpetual motion principle will be sufficient for the projection of mechanical energy on a scale so elaborate as that involved in running the machinery of the entire country.

The company is now considering the feasibility of drawing in water from Hudson Bay through the subterranean channel discovered in 1836 by Professor Colbert Elius, but it is probable that the work would require at least three days, and, in the meantime, should the machinery stop the manufacturers of the United States would suffer a loss which, it is estimated, would not fall far short of \$79,007,620,000. This, though but a bagatelle of the national productivity, is a loss not to be courted, to say the least and the waterpower management will put forth the most strenuous efforts to avert it.

Another rather discomfiting phase of the difficulty is that not only would manufacturing throughout the country be interrupted, but the electric lights, which—though it is not generally known derive all their power from the falls, would be extinguished both in this country and in Europe and in Australia as well so that the world would be in darkness as in that imaginary era when

The bright sun was extinguished, and the stars did wander darkling in the eternal space.

This, however, would not be an insuperable difficulty, for since the perfection of Professor Stellar's back acting solar reflector it has been found possible to bring sufficient of the sun's rays around from the other side of the earth at night to mitigate all but the most intense darkness. The chief inconvenience in event of the extinction of the electric lights, therefore, would be in the theatres and large buildings, such as hotels, into which as yet the Professor has not succeeded in diffusing his borrowed illumination. However, the superintendent of the Niagara Falls system mentions the progress of this branch of science as likely to result finally in a solution of the water-power problem, for should the electric light be superseded by nocturnal sunlight one channel of demand upon the force of the falls will be removed and the increased power thus secured might be applied to the movement of machinery.

However, it does seem a little hard on the moon to "get left" so effectually.

When a Boston young lady wishes to express that she has the "blues," she simply remarks "I have azure distemper."

A Minister on the Newspaper.

The Rev. M. J. Savage, of Boston, in a recent sermon on the newspaper, said: "I believe that the daily newspaper is an engine of incalculable power; and that in the main and in the long run, its power is exerted for the enlightenment and lifting up of mankind. I believe that it only needs that public opinion should be so developed as to make it a losing process for any newspaper to be guilty of those things I have indicated. It only needs this to make it what it claims to be, the most potent factor in molding and guiding the life of the world. And we, of all others, have reasons to rejoice in this. For the modern newspaper, in drifting the latest teaching of science, in revealing the religious condition of other races, past and present, in scattering knowledge common to the few best thinkers of the world so as to make it the common property of men, is preaching our gospel and doing our work. If true to this function, it cannot help preaching the Gospel, first, of intelligence—wide free, fearless intelligence; and then the Gospel of public good, which means, translated into Biblical phrase, the Gospel of everlasting righteousness."

Diffident punctuation—Putting a stop to a gossip's tongue.

"AN AMBITIOUS INDIVIDUAL."

"Oh! I'm boiling over to do some good act" shouted a politician the other day, as his red nose protruded from a face ornamented with unhealthy blotches. "Well, sir," replied a friendly listener, "unless you want to be an animated sign for a drug store, and make the passers-by sick, I would advise you to use Swayne's Ointment and be cured of that skin disease." The ambitious man acted upon the advice, and is now a living exemplification of what this excellent remedy can accomplish.

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1883. NEW YORK. 1883.

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