

Farm and Garden.

Address all inquiries or communications in relation to agriculture to Dr. T. H. HOSKINS, Newport, Vt.

Editorial Notings.

WHITE SPECKS.—A Caledonia county correspondent of the Mirror and Farmer says she "positively knows" that either dried cream or hard curd may be the cause of white specks in butter.

UNQUESTIONABLY.—A writer in the Stockman and Farmer tries to emphasize a fact which no dairyman who thinks at all can doubt—the fact that nothing can come from the cow's udder that did not first enter her mouth.

THE QUESTION OF SIZE.—The same writer says that among his milkers he "has them from the little grade Jersey up to the thorough-bred Shorthorn, weighing 1,600 to 1,800 pounds, and all standing in the same barn and eating exactly the same rations, and we are obliged to confess that the cow which has the most voracious appetite is the cow which gives the most milk, being about equally divided in the matter of cream production.

DEEP MILKING AND HEALTH.—On this point he makes the declaration that "it is the constant eater which makes the deep milker, and it is such also whose digestive organs are constantly getting out of repair, and which the dairyman is obliged to continually watch that the machine keeps in motion, and that each part performs its function."

NOT QUITE ALL.—A dairy cow, however, continues in the production of butter fat more years than the steer in the production of beef fat, and she is consequently exposed to more risks, according to the prolongation of her existence.

SEED CORN.—In selecting seeds, especially of those classes of cultivated plants which had their origin in warm climates, it is best, when we can, to get it from some good farmer north of our own locality.

The Best Harrow.

A correspondent asks: "Is there any best harrow for all purposes?" Well, no; at least we prefer to have more than one kind—and in fact we have in use five different kinds of modern invention and make. Among them is a sixteen inch disk harrow that our hired men have thought a great deal of.

harrow for working among stumps in new land, etc. This spring we have added the Cutaway, and notice that certainly here is "a new broom that sweeps clean"—so clean that the only harrows any one on the "Memphremagog Seed Farms" seems to want to hitch on to now are the Cutaway, with the Thomas afterwards.

Those Jefferson County Cows.

Mr. Editor:—Your correspondent, N. G. Davis, in his recent article, appears disposed, I am sorry to see, to ridicule the attention which I have given to the "Cow Census" which Mr. Jennings made, and declares that I have "used this census for all there was of it," etc.

Before going further, let me say that Mr. Davis quotes us as giving the total number of our milk cows as 770,000, while that is the number of those I would like to see slaughtered, it being about half the whole number in the state of New York.

Eight quarts per day is 5,200 pounds in 300 days, and but a single one of the 1,183 factories reported by Dairy Commissioner Brown of New York surpassed such a record, while 101 factories came next, with a record of 4,702 pounds of milk per cow, or ten per cent below the point of profit fixed by Dr. Goessmann.

The dairy commissioner of Connecticut reports that the average sales of butter from 1,348 creamery patrons in his state, having 17,139 cows, was for the season 22.6 cents per pound.

Now a word as to the quality of the butter. Again and again it happens that while carloads of so-called butter are piled up in the commission houses of our larger cities, every pound of which costs in its production as much, or even more, than a first-rate butter

[SEE FIFTH COLUMN.]

Advertisements.

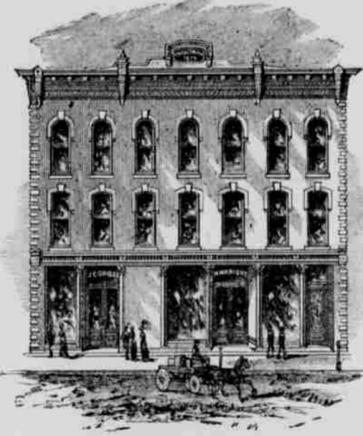


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does, yet these carloads await buyers at almost any price, while often the demand for good butter can not be met. To paraphrase the lines of the Ancient Mariner: Butter, butter everywhere, but not an ounce to eat. I wish to assure Mr. Davis and your readers that my sole desire is to learn from the mass of data collected by Mr. Jennings, and kindly placed at my disposal by him, all I can which may help to throw light upon the dairy industry and aid in making it more and more profitable.

I would refer your readers to a paper presented by me before the Holstein-Friesian Association at its last annual meeting and published in its proceedings, in which I have presented somewhat fully the several points of practical interest, for which this "Cow Census" furnishes the data. All I claim is that Mr. Davis should admit that an honest purpose and a reasonable degree of intelligence has been exercised in discussing these data, and he will find that most, if not all, the points he has raised in criticism have been anticipated by me in the paper to which I call attention, and I would only say here that he may prepare himself for a surprise at learning that the costs of keeping of cows, whether grades or natives, bears apparently no relation whatever to the average earnings. PETER COLLIER, Geneva, N. Y., April 27, 1889.

Talks on Farm Topics—No. 2.

To everything there is a season, and the early spring is the time for the seedsmen's catalogues. I well remember the first seed catalogue I ever saw. One was Henderson's, and the contrast between the plain, cheap catalogue of twenty years ago with "Everything for the Garden" of this year is most striking. Most of the annuals of the seed-dealers are bewildering—so many things and so many kinds it makes one's head ache to try to decide what to get—and it is a real relief to get a catalogue that is brief, simple, plain, right to the point. Then, too, when one up here in Vermont sends to dealers further south or west, he may get northern-grown seeds or he may not, and it is much better to buy seeds that one knows are grown in the north. There certainly is no need of any of our people going to the stores to buy seeds. Such seeds may be good; too often they are a disappointment to the one who plants them. The greatest trouble about a kitchen garden is that after you get it nicely started the farm drives so that the garden is neglected. Planting in long rows in the field is a good way, only the busy farmer's wife does not want to go far to get vegetables for dinner. Where there are children to help, or many hands to make light work of such jobs, the garden may be a source of pleasure, instruction and profit. A weedy, neglected garden is an eye-sore, and one had almost rather have no garden than to see rank weeds and stunted vegetables. There is one vegetable, however, which can be grown by almost any one, no matter how busy he may be. It does not have to be sown, but the roots live through the winter, starting early in the spring. Hence it is ready to use before almost any other garden vegetable. The hens can not scratch it up; the more they scratch about it the better. If kept free from weeds in the spring, it can not be choked by them while the farmer is busy in the hay-field and elsewhere. Give it plenty of manure, divide the roots occasionally and you can grow rhubarb more easily than any other garden vegetable. It is healthful, too, and can be prepared for the table in many appetizing ways. It is more easily put up for winter use than almost any other vegetable. The wonder is that farmers do not more generally raise it, and lots of it, especially as it is so easily prepared for use. PLOWMAN.

Notes by the Way.

THE farmer or gardener who has a variety of peas that suit him in growing well, in yielding bountiful crops of large, well-filled pods, and which is early enough for his market, will do well to sow a few rows expressly for seed, and to allow none to be picked from them.

THERE is no reason why our eastern farmers should go West for more elbow-room. Their great drawback is not the want of more land; it is the possession of too much land. Every acre should be made to contribute to the net income of the farm. Otherwise it is a source of loss.

"DRIED corn fodder may be all right in theory, but there is too much labor and loss in practice. It is easier to raise and store 1,000 bushels of roots than to raise and thoroughly dry and secure two acres of corn-fodder, and there is much less risk in the root crop," says a writer. Has he ever tried ensilage?

A MINNESOTA farmer says: "The same team will haul two hundred of brick with greater ease and less exhaustion on a wagon having a three-inch tire than it can pull ten hundred brick on the ordinary narrow-tread wagon. The road on which I did my hauling was a smooth, hard surface dirt road."

SOME of the most important crops grown are those that are seeded after the summer opens. While certain plants may require the cooler weather of spring, with plenty of time for growth, any failure of the crops seeded in the spring does not necessarily cause a loss of the whole season, as some of the most profitable crops grown are put in as late as July.

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