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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

The ROCKY MOUNTAIN HUSBANDMAN is designed to be, as the name indicates, a husbandman in every sense of the term, embracing in its columns every department of Agriculture, Stock-raising, Horticulture, Social and Domestic Economy.

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AGRICULTURAL.

A GREATER interest is being manifested by northern farmers in the production of sugar than ever before. The Chinese sugar cane, so popular during the war, has again come to the front. The object of the farmer seems to be turning more and more towards making the farm self-sustaining. The hard times and low prices of farm products make this necessary. Sugar is a staple and quite as essential as bread, and its production on every farm would greatly increase the luxuries of the farmer's table and reduce the cost of living. Colorado, keeping pace with the Atlantic states, is also introducing sorghum, but Montana, we are sorry to say, can scarcely rely upon this plant. There are sections perhaps where it will mature well, but we seriously doubt if it is ever made a practical success in the territory. But this does not place the means of making our territory self-sustaining in the production of sugar beyond our reach. There is no country in America, perhaps, better adapted to the cultivation of the sugar beet than Montana, and we certainly think there is enterprise enough in some of our agricultural valleys to put up a refinery for making beet sugar. Let some enterprising individual organize a stock company to purchase and put up the necessary machinery, and locate in the midst of some of our most thrifty agricultural districts, and there will be no difficulty in getting a supply of beets. In view of the urgent necessity of our territory becoming self-sustaining in the matter of sugar, will not some one take hold and push such a project through to completion?

HARROWING LAND.

A farmer writing to the *Prairie Farmer* says:

Of all the implements used on the farm there is but one, the plow, that is as necessary to good cultivation as the harrow, and, as a general thing, there is none that there is so little account made of by farmers. Good plowing is of the greatest importance in preparing the soil for any crop, but it is a well known fact that there is too little good plowing done in the West, and, after a poor job of plowing has been done, a great deal depends on our being thorough with the harrow. This, also, we are a little negligent about, especially in preparing the land for corn. Our best planters do good work where the land is smooth and well pulverized, but we cannot expect them to do good work where the ground is in bad condition. In my opinion, the principal points of improvement made in harrows is in the greater number of teeth now used. This, more than any other one thing, is essential, as the object is to work the surface.

Most harrows in use have about 40 teeth, and that is not enough. My way is to have the frame made of small-sized scantling, and teeth not over $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and not less than sixty of them. We do not expect to work deep, and consequently a heavy frame

and few teeth will not pulverize as well as a lighter frame and more teeth, while the draft is about the same. I have been using one made in three sections of 2x2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch stuff, four bars in a section, with 27 adjustable steel teeth. By adjustable, I mean that when the draft bar is attached to one end, the teeth stand perpendicular, and, having a greater number of them, it does much better work than the old Scotch harrow. By attaching the draft at the other end, the points of teeth drop back four inches and make it a first-class smoothing harrow. This harrow retails at about twenty dollars. A big price compared with the old-fashioned 40-tooth affair, but cheap when the working value of each is taken into consideration. I speak of this one of mine as an illustration, and knowing that it is a good tool, perhaps other makers have as good, perhaps better ones than this. I think no farmer should be satisfied to use a poor harrow because it is cheap in price. Buy the best, if it costs more, as the difference in price will soon be made up in the extra work it will do.

Another fact is, we do not harrow our ground enough. Who ever heard a farmer say he had got his ground too smooth and fine? And how often do we think that we ought to lay out more work in putting in our crops? I would never buy a harrow that has less than sixty or seventy steel teeth, and one that has a simple and reliable arrangement of draft.

THE SOIL BETTER THAN GOLD.

Despite the immense yield of gold in California, it is now shown that her tillable soil produces more actual wealth than her richest mines. Her grain and her fruits exceed in value the best of her placers. Her grape crop this season will be so very large that preparations are making to convert one thousand tons of grapes into raisins. Most persons think of California as a gold-bearing state, and it is pleasant to know that her agricultural resources are beyond those of her mines. Agriculture is apt to pay better than gold or silver, seeking in any fertile, well cultivated region; but there is a sort of fascination about the precious metals which allures men the world over, and blinds them to the more rational and legitimate branches of industry. It is said by those in position to know that one man in fifty who has dug for gold on the Pacific Slope has procured any considerable amount. The fortune makers, for the most part, have been, and are still, the speculators in San Francisco and Sacramento. The great majority of men who have gone to California to get gold, from 1849 to the present time, have not, it is declared, secured as much as it cost to reach there and return. The hardest possible way to obtain gold is to look for it in the ground. It is much easier to get it, generally, by staying away from the mine.—*Ex.*

DRILLING BARLEY.

Whatever may be thought of the value of drilling small grains generally, there is no doubt of the value of drilling barley. If the ground has been fall plowed so much the better. Cross-plow lightly in the spring, harrow fine, and drill across the plowing. This will give you a chance to open the drain furrows, as they were in the fall, and facilitate carrying off surplus water.

Drilling saves seed, induces a strong growth of straw—an important matter—promotes a uniform growth of head and thus reduces the amount of light grains. If the seed is of first quality, one and a half bushels per acre is enough to be drilled, and as good as three bushels sown broadcast.

Many farmers make a mistake in sowing barley too early. It should be sown immediately after oats, and just before the time of sowing flax, and on fresh-worked land, for the reason that after germination it should not receive any serious check until ripe. If two little seed is sown insects may

seriously deplete the crop. If too much is sown the crop may suffer for want of dew, light and air. The farmer should know something of the relative condition of his soil as regards fertility and freedom from insects.

THE POULTRY YARD.

THE PRODUCTION OF EGGS.

Hens, to lay well, must be well fed. A stimulating food is necessary to keep up a constant flow of eggs. After the necessary support which the body requires, the extra stimulus goes to develop the production of eggs, one of which is usually detached from the ovary each day, and slips into the oviduct or egg-sack, where it becomes full-sized, and the shell is formed and hardened. The hen does not carry the egg long after it is once perfected.

Hens that are out of condition or advanced in age are apt to drop soft-shelled eggs. This is unnatural, and the bird often suffers much before she can rid herself of the load. Injuries often produce bad results with laying hens, causing them frequently to drop misshapen eggs or corrugated shells, from the effect of which they seldom recover. It is a serious mistake to allow hens that are laying to become badly frightened, from the effects of which they seldom recover.

Since hens are machines for laying eggs, why allow them to waste time in idleness? Apply the feed and gather the eggs, for if the embryo egg be not fed and stimulated it goes to waste, and with it the little feed that has already been expended. A steady flow of eggs will surely follow a judicious system of feeding, if only patience be exercised and the fowls be right. If poorly fed birds be non-sitters, they will only mope about and doze and dream away their lives, dropping an egg now and then. A pullet, after she is fully matured and settled down to business, should drop an egg every day for at least four days in succession, and then miss a day, after which she will go on for four days more. To do this, the bird ought to have the best feed from the shell, and quiet, peaceful resorts. Whole corn is not the best feed for egg-production. Almost any other grain is better, except rye. A certain amount of corn, however, should be allowed as a staple, but not a whole feed of it. To keep hens constantly in laying requires perhaps more feed than many are aware of, besides some expenditure of time. For this purpose we should select fowls with small bodies and pay no attention to fancy points. No amount of profit to the common farmer is ever gained by breeding for fancy alone. It is well enough, if one likes to indulge in a few choice birds to gratify the eye of taste and pleasure and breed them up to a point that suits their owners, but it is better not to expend too much time or money to this effect, thinking to retrieve it by the sale of choice birds at fancy prices, for sooner or later disappointment will result, and bring with it a disgust for the business, which should not exist.

Where small profits and quick returns are the aims of the business better satisfaction is maintained, and many mortifying results are escaped. Market poultry and eggs should be the base of production. In this there is seldom a disappointment, if entered into with that zest which is prophetic of success. When we can train our ambition and curb it to the idea of small profits, we have attained a happy compass in every transaction of our lives. We are naturally selfish; we expect too much and give too little. Out of our business we must obtain our enjoyments as we go along; see the beauties and pleasure spread before us and teach our grasping propensities to be quiet, and in the poultry business as well as all others.—*Country Gentleman.*

HOW TO MANAGE CHICKENS.

For chickens I would recommend for the first week after hatching, a hard-boiled egg to be given, chopped fine, at least twice a day, wheat steeped in milk, and coarse Indian meal, bread crumbs, canary and millet seed, etc. A change of food is not only advantageous, but necessary, and I would advise that twice per week the food be changed, substituting cracked corn for wheat. They must also have constant opportunities of picking among grass and other herbs. They should only be fed so long as they will run after their food; as soon as they are careless about it they have enough. Fowls in confinement will pine to death with heaps of corn around them unless they have these opportunities.

As the chickens get older they will require feeding less often, but they must never be allowed to fall off in condition, and after from ten to twelve weeks in the summer, or from fourteen to eighteen in the winter, they will be ready to fatten if required.

Next, as to water. It is too much the idea that any description will do, and that provided there be some within their reach, though it may have been standing a week, nothing more is required. This is a mistake. Water for fowls and chickens should be very clean; the vessel containing it should be well rinsed out every morning; it is a good plan to put a little gravel at the bottom, and it should be changed twice a day. I am aware many will be disposed to think this unnecessary; but I will ask any one who has the opportunity to try whether where there is a stream of water running through the yard, they can cause the poultry to forsake it by placing water nearer to their haunts; it will always be found they prefer going to the stream, to drinking out of the pan or tub.

There is little doubt many of the diseases of poultry arise from the filthy water they are often obliged to drink from ponds full of decayed vegetable matter, and tainted by the fall of leaves in autumn from overhanging trees.—*Saunders' Domestic Poultry.*

THE HOUSEHOLD.

To Glaze Linen.—A hint for the laundry: Linen may be glazed by adding a teaspoonful of salt, and one of finely-scraped soap to a pint of starch.

Cosmetic.—An infusion of horseradish and milk, as a correspondent informs us, will make a most excellent, harmless and effective cosmetic. It is certainly very easily tried.

The Skin.—Skin cleanliness is a great preservative against epidemics and visitations of any infection whatever. Cleanliness is a great virtue and a great safeguard for health.

Chloroform.—It is, or should be, known to every physician at least, that electricity—a shock from the battery—is about the only means to revive a person under the dangerous effect of chloroform alone altogether.

Potato Crust.—One teaspoonful of cream to six good-sized potatoes boiled and mashed fine, and salt and flour enough to roll; handle as little as possible.

Fried Diamonds.—Cut stale bread into small diamonds; fry them in boiling drippings; drain well; place them in the bottom of a tureen, and turn soup over them.

Cake Without Eggs.—A recipe for eggless cake may not come amiss when eggs are up. Two cups of sugar; one-half cup of butter; two cups milk; one cup raisins; four cups flour; one teaspoonful soda; spice to suit the taste.

Cementing to Metals.—Any fibrous material can be stuck to metal of any kind by an amalgam, composed of glue dissolved in vinegar, hot, and one-third of its volume of white pitch pine, also hot.

Ink Spots.—White soap diluted with vinegar is a good thing to take out ink spots.